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DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint pain
- Severe muscle pain
- Stomach pain
- Reddened eyes
- Stiff neck
- Small red spots on the skin
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Severe skin pain on the back, chest, arms or legs

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

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CM Omar Abdullah condemns Billawar civilian killings

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed deep concern on behalf of the House over the recent civilian killings in the Billawar area of Kathua.

While condemning the tragic loss of innocent lives, the Chief Minister stated, "As the leader of the House, I want to formally express our collective concern over the killings in Billawar and extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. We mourn the loss of all three innocent civilians who were killed in this incident, as well as the two others who lost their lives in a similar incident before this."

Calling for a thorough investigation, he emphasized the need to ascertain "how and why the incident occurred and who was responsible for it."

He also stressed the importance of taking

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Budget Session 2025 | Question Hour in LA Tourism in border areas has revived: CM Omar Abdullah

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and international border has led to a revival of tourism activities in frontier areas. Replying to a supplementary question raised by Member Sajad Shafi regarding his Uri constituency, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, informed the House that as the border areas are slowly opening after the ceasefire along the LoC and border, tourism is witnessing a positive trend due to the prevailing peace in the region.

"It is true that Uri has huge border tourism potential. Tourists have started visiting areas like Uri and are eager to explore places such as Aman Setu and other scenic locations. Our priority is to



enhance tourism infrastructure in these regions," Omar Abdullah said.

In response to a starred question from the member, he stated that the feasibility of establishing a Zipline or Cable Car project from Lagama to Baba Farred Garkote in Uri Constituency would be assessed by the Tourism Department. However, he

clarified that no such proposal is currently under consideration.

The Chief Minister further said that the development of locations such as Rustom and Nambla Waterfalls, with their inclusion under the Border Tourism Programme, would be considered in the future, subject to feasibility and

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Protests in Assembly over Billawar killings, Gulmarg fashion show

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The Legislative Assembly on Monday witnessed uproarious scenes and heated exchanges over civilian killings in Kathua and an objectionable fashion show in Gulmarg.

As soon as the House assembled this morning, as per news agency, NC and Congress MLAs stood up and demanded discussion over Billawar killings and condemnation of assault on MLA Bani Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

Amid the commotion in the House, MLA Bani Dr. Rameshwar Singh, who was assaulted on Saturday night at Billawar where he had gone to meet families of the deceased civilians, tried to storm into the Well of the House but was stopped by the Marshals from entering into it.

The Speaker repeatedly asked NC and Congress members to take their seats but they continued with their protests.

Amid commotion in the



House, MLA Kupwara Mir Muhammad Fayaz demanded stringent action against the organisers of the objectionable fashion show in Gulmarg.

"They should be taken to task," he demanded and accused the NC and BJP of stifling the voice of the opposition in the House.

Pointing to the Treasury and Opposition Benches, Mir said, 'One(NC) of them is ruling here, and the other(BJP) is ruling in New Delhi.'

As disruptions continued in

the House, the Speaker said he has received two adjournment motions over Billawar killings and assault on MLA Bani.

He said the House cannot discuss the Billawar killings, stating that the matters fall outside the domain of the Assembly. He cited Section 32 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019, under which "police" and "public order" fall outside the domain of the Assembly.

"The LG has already

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'No plans for new veterinary centres in J&K as of now'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said there are no plans to open new veterinary centres in the Union Territory at present.

Replying to a question from MLA Showkat Hussain Ganie, the Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, said no decision has been taken regarding the establishment of new veterinary centres.

As per the news agency, the minister said setting up new centres involves multiple processes, including the creation of posts, acquisition of land, construction requirements, and a series of inter-departmental consultations, which have not been initiated as of now.

Replying to another query, the minister said 16 veterinary centres are currently functional in the Zainapora Constituency. He said the sanctioned staff strength for these centres stands at 53, and all 53 positions are fully staffed. "Five trial centres are operational in the constituency, and they are functioning effectively through internal adjustments," he said. KNO

'Over 3.70 lakh unemployed youth registered in J&K'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday said that it provided employment opportunities to 4,893 skilled and unskilled youth in the past two-years through job fairs conducted across the Union Territory.

An official data, accessed by the news agency revealed: "In two years 2,760 companies participated in 246 job fairs and 1,36,200 job seekers registered themselves during these events. Of them, 39,782 candidates were shortlisted for second-round counseling, while 4,893 youth secured on the spot

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Gulmarg fashion show was a private event, no Govt involvement, enquiry ordered: CM Omar Abdullah

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that the controversial fashion show at the famous skiing resort of Gulmarg was organized by a private party at a private hotel, with no involvement of the government at any stage.

The Chief Minister, who is also the Leader of the House, made this statement in response to concerns raised by various members regarding the controversial event held during the holy month of Ramadan.

Informing the House about the matter, he said, "An inquiry into the matter was promptly initiated, and some preliminary findings have



come to light."

Providing further details, the Chief Minister stated that a fashion show was organized by a private entity on March 7 as part of a four-day event.

He noted that the actions during the event hurt public sentiments, a concern that

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CM's close relative owns Gulmarg hotel which hosted fashion show, claims LoP Sharma

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10 (KNO)

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Monday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, accusing him of feigning ignorance about the controversial fashion show held in Gulmarg.

Sharma said that it was impossible for the Chief Minister to be "unaware of the event," especially since the "hotel where it took place is reportedly owned by a close relative of the Chief Minister."

Sharma while speaking to reporters here, according to the news agency, claimed that the fashion show was a part



of a pre-visit preparation for the Chief Minister, who was scheduled to attend the event in the coming days. "Now that the controversy has erupted, Omar Abdullah is trying to distance himself from it. The liquor served at the event was provided by the Excise Department under his control. Deception is in the DNA of the

National Conference (NC)," Sharma claimed, as per KNO.

The BJP leader also accused the ruling NC of attempting to mislead the public and create unrest.

Speaking about the recent Kathua episode, Sharma alleged that the Deputy Chief Minister was sent to escalate tensions. "Our legislator, Satish Sharma, was on the ground for the past three days, communicating the Union Home Minister's message to the affected families. We will not allow the NC to play communal cards or stoke Hindu-Muslim tensions," Sharma said, as per KNO.

Sharma accused the NC of being responsible for the bloodshed in Kashmir, particularly referencing the

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Slew of measures taken to prevent rising air, water, noise pollution in J&K: Govt

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said a series of measures have been implemented to control the rising levels of noise, air and water pollution across the Union Territory.

Responding to a question from MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also oversees the Housing and Urban Development Department, said that noise pollution is regulated under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. He said strict regulations are in place to ensure that noise levels do not exceed prescribed limits.

"Authorities have been given the power to take action against violations, and measures have been taken to prevent the installation or use of public address systems and audio devices without sound limiters," the CM, as per the news agency, said.

Regarding air pollution,

Abdullah said that industries in J&K are regulated under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, requiring them to install Air Pollution Control Devices. Air quality is monitored at 45 stations across the UT for PM 10, PM 2.5, NO₂, and SO₂ levels. Diesel generator sets ranging from 61 kW to 800 kW are required to install emission control devices that achieve at least 70% particulate matter reduction.

"Random vehicular emission checks are being conducted regularly, and the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is being implemented in Jammu and Srinagar to reduce particulate matter concentrations. A Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) has been installed in Rajbagh, Srinagar, for real-time air quality monitoring," he said.

To further curb air pollution, the Chief Minister said the J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) has imposed a moratorium on new air-polluting industries in Khrew,

Khonmoh, and Ghatti Kathua. High-pollution Red Category industries are prohibited from setting up operations, while only select Orange and Green Category industries are permitted.

The adoption of Zig-zag Technology has been made mandatory for brick kilns to minimise emissions, he said, adding that the introduction of e-buses, e-autos, e-rickshaws, and a Public Bicycle Sharing System aims to reduce vehicular emissions.

The government has also implemented an Intelligent Traffic Control System to minimize congestion and emissions from idling vehicles. Awareness programmes and plantation drives are being conducted regularly as part of the environmental protection strategy.

On the issue of water pollution, Omar said industries are regulated under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, which mandates the

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Kashmir upper reaches receive snowfall, rains lash plains



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10 (KNO)

Even as Kashmir upper reaches received fresh snowfall and rains lashed plains on Monday, the Meteorological department (MeT) predicted erratic weather conditions for the next six days, forecasting intermittent rain and snowfall till March 16.

According to the news agency, several areas including Sadhna Top, Machil, Keran sector, Gulmarg, Gurez Valley, Razdan Top, Zojila Pass, Sonamarg and other

higher reaches received fresh snowfall.

Rains lashed the plains including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, which led to the temperatures plummeting across the Valley.

Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad while talking to KNO said, "Intermittent spell of light to moderate rain and snow is expected at many places from March 12 to 14."

Moreover, he said that the weather conditions are expected to remain dry

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'Govt merged 4,358 zero enrolled, rented schools in JK'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10 (KNO)

The government Monday said that at least 4,358 schools in Jammu and Kashmir have been merged with the nearby institutions under the rationalisation scheme.

In response to a question by MLA Rajiv Jasrotia, Education minister Sakina Itoo, as per news agency said that among the closed or merged 4,358 schools, 1,274 institutions are from Jammu region and 3084 from Kashmir region.

The government said that the highest number of closed or merged schools in the Kashmir division were reported from Baramulla district and in the case of the Jammu region, the highest number of closed schools were reported from the Jammu district respectively.

About the criteria followed and adopted by the authorities to merge such institutions, the minister said those schools functioning in the same vicinity or those having rented or no building were merged with the nearby institutions.

It also said that those schools with zero and less enrolment were also merged with the nearby institutions. "The surplus teachers are deployed and rationalised as per the actual need of the area or zone or district," the minister said.

In the meantime, the education minister in a reply to the question regarding vacancies of teaching posts in the school education department said that in Jammu division 1665 master posts were lying vacant.

It also said that 2218 lecturer posts and 402 headmaster posts were also lying vacant in the Jammu division. Besides, 40 principal posts were also vacant in the region.

The education minister said, "All the vacancies of teachers have been frozen in terms of SAC Decision in 2018 for transition of RRETs into Teacher Grade-II. As such no new recruitments could be made against the posts

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Rs 1.17 cr financial assistance provided to registered workers in Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 10

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today released financial assistance of Rs 1,17,01,457.00 in favor of the wards of registered construction workers.

The financial assistance has been provided under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board schemes, covering death and funeral assistance as well as educational assistance.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the efforts of the Labour Department in extending financial support to economically disadvantaged laborers. She emphasized the need to ensure that the maximum number of beneficiaries avail the government welfare schemes.

Stressing the govern-



ment's commitment, she stated that the economic and social security of the labour class is a top priority.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Annie Vaid highlighted the core objective of the BOCWWB scheme, which is to provide finan-

cial assistance under different components to support the livelihoods of registered construction workers. She further stated that the initiative also aims to enhance the economic potential of laborers, ensuring their financial stability.

Mega enrollment drive conducted at HS Hapatnard Zone Aishmuqam



J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MARCH 10

As part of the ongoing District-wide Mega Enrollment Drive, a grand event was organized on the third day at High School Hapatnard in Cluster HSS Salia, Zone Aishmuqam.

The campaign aimed to enhance student enrollment across educational institutions in the district.

The Chief Education Officer Anantnag graced the occasion, accompanied by Zonal Education Officer Aishmuqam, Principal HSS Salia, Headmaster HS Hapatnard, Headmaster HS Khayar, Zonal Nodal Officer Aishmuqam, and other HOIs and officials & other stakeholders from Cluster Salia and Zone Aishmuqam. Their collective participation highlighted the commit-

ment of the education department to ensuring maximum student outreach.

During the drive, more than 150 students were enrolled on the spot, showcasing the overwhelming response and effectiveness of the enrollment campaign. The initiative is expected to significantly boost student participation and strengthen the educational framework in the region.

The Chief Education Officer Anantnag lauded the efforts of all stakeholders involved and urged them to continue their dedicated efforts in enhancing literacy rates. He emphasized that such enrollment drives are pivotal in providing accessible education to every child in the district.

Special deworming camps held in schools, AWCs across Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 10

National Deworming Day was observed across all health facilities in District Doda today. The events were organized under the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer and the supervision of Block Medical Officers.

On this occasion, special deworming sessions were conducted in schools, health facilities, and Anganwadi centers, where children and adolescents aged 1 to 19 years were administered deworming tablets free of

cost. The initiative aimed to combat parasitic infections, prevent malnutrition, and improve overall health among children.

Health professionals, school authorities, and Anganwadi workers played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth implementation of the campaign. Parents and caregivers were encouraged to support this initiative for the well-being of their children.

For those who missed the scheduled deworming, a Mop-Up Day will be conducted on 17-03-2025 to ensure 100% coverage across the district.

National Deworming Day: DC launches drive to cover 1.79 lakh children across Poonch District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 10

The District Administration Poonch today commenced the deworming drive to cover 1,79,404 children from government and private schools, Madrasas and Anganwadi centers.

The inaugural ceremony took place at the Government Middle School and Anganwadi Center near Sheesh Mahal, featuring active participation from local health institutions.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal officially launched the event, administering Albendazole tablets to children aged 1 to 19 years.

It was informed that children in 1,726 educational institutions including 1,391 government and 267 private schools and 68 Madrasas, besides 36,209 children enrolled in 1,419 Anganwadi Centers would be provided the medicine to protect them from parasitic worm infections.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the National Deworming Day aims to protect children from parasitic worm infections, thereby promoting their overall health. He emphasized the importance of this program, which is being implemented across the district to ensure that children remain physically



and mentally fit, ultimately growing into responsible citizens.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner urged all parents to ensure their children receive the deworming tablets, highlighting the importance of keeping them free from worm infections.

To maximize coverage, a mop-up round is scheduled for March 17, 2025, to reach any children who

may have been missed during the initial implementation phase.

The event was attended by PO ICDS Khalid Husain Wafa, CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Chief Education Officer, CDPO Abdul Aziz, and members of the DPM Unit NHM, all of whom underscored the collaborative effort to enhance the health of the district's children.

GCOE hosts Inter-college Symposium Competition

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Government College of Education (GCOE), in collaboration with Live for Others and Talla Jewellers on Monday organized an Inter-college Symposium Competition on the topic "Unleashing potential: women's leadership & participation in decision-making". The event aimed to provide students a platform to express their views on the subject and enhance their public speaking skills.

Among the outstanding participants, Taranpreet Kour from SPMR College secured the first position and Aseesabjot Kour from Government College for Women Parade clinched the second position, while Ayushivi Sharma from host college secured the third position with her commendable presentation.

The event was held under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. Jyoti Parihar, who served as the Chief Patron. NSS

Coordinator of the University of Jammu Hema Gandotra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest along with NSS Coordinator Cluster University of Jammu Prof. Amitpal. The competition was meticulously judged by esteemed panelists, Anuradha Kalsi, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, and Atiya Syed, who brought their expertise to evaluate the participants fairly. The entire programme was coordinated by Vivek Parihar (Director, Live for Other Foundation), Rithik Majotra, Sarita Dogra (NSS PO), Dr. Davinder Kour (Convener Sparsh Committee).

The symposium witnessed active participation, engaging discussions, and insightful presentations, making it a remarkable intellectual event. The organizers extended their heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and collaborators for their valuable contributions in making the event a grand success.

DC Ganderbal chairs Road Safety Committee meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 10

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review and strategize road safety measures in the district.

The meeting deliberated on key aspects, including the Road Safety Action Plan, Road Safety Act, road signage, and traffic calming measures.

A comprehensive report on road safety and traffic management activities was presented, highlighting the need for interdepartmental coordination to enhance road safety.

The authorities were directed to rectify black spots, erect crash barriers, install road signage, and enforce traffic regulations, particularly in accident-prone areas.

It was informed that black spots have been identified in the district, mostly along the highway from Sumbal to Sonamarg.

Officials from Beacon apprised that short-term measures have been implemented, while proposals for long-term solutions have been submitted to higher authorities for necessary action.

The Superintending Engineer (SE) R&B was instructed to prepare a revised road safety plan within a week for approval.

Additionally, the Traffic Department was directed to ensure strict traffic management in the town, deploy sufficient manpower, and take action against habitual offenders to ease congestion and enhance commuter safety.

The concerned departments were also asked to identify roads merging with the highway and explore the construction of speed breakers at accident-prone locations.

The meeting was attended by SE R&B Circle Ganderbal, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, R&B, and PMGSY, ARTO, and other committee members.

Shahid Saleem conducts extensive tour of Dal, Nigeen Lakes

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar after assuming charge as Vice Chairman J&K LCMA along with all officers of the Authority took an extensive tour of the Dal & Nigeen Lake to assess the measures being undertaken by the LCMA for the conservation and management of the lake.

He also visited various interior areas/back water channels and passed instructions to the officers on the spot for solid waste collection, and also directed to organize a massive deweeding drive for important inflow/ outflow channels.

Moreover, civil society was also requested to extend cooperation and monitor solid waste collection/de-weeding

by forming Mohalla committees which will also ensure that no solid waste is dumped into the Channels/ Lake.

He also undertook inspection of various Mechanical equipments including lake cleaning Machinery and directed the concerned division to keep the machines functional and in a state of readiness to carry out deweeding operations in a well-planned manner under proper supervision before the onset of de-weeding season.

He stressed that my priority would be to make sincere efforts for restoration/conservation of Dal and Nageen Lake.

He also emphasized the need of stopping the menace of illegal constructions and encroachment, if any, in the jurisdiction of LCMA.

International Women's Day: GCW Nawa Kadal organizes week-long commemorative programme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

To celebrate International Women's Day, Government College for Women NawaKadal has organized a week-long program within the college premises, here.

The Women's Development Cell of the college organized an event on the theme 'Accelerate Action for Gender Equality' on 8th March in the College auditorium to impart awareness to the participants on gender equality and discuss ways and means to address gender issues in our spheres of activity.

Principal of the college, Dr. Huda Galzai delivered the special address, emphasising the importance of gender equality, gender issues and contributions of women in shaping the society and the world at large. She also stressed on removing gender biases, stereotypes and fostering an equitable society.

On this occasion, Sleet Shah, Deputy Superintendent of Police Headquarters Srinagar, invited as the guest of honour, delivered an inspiring address on new criminal laws, sharing examples and experiences from her own career, which was well received by the audience.

Earlier, the programme commenced with a warm welcome by the WDC Coordinator Prof. Pinu Andrabi. She gave a brief background of the International Women's Day and stressed the need for ensuring gender equality.

Dr. Riffat Aman, Head, Department of Education discussed the history of gender sensitive movements, the evolution of thought and literature in this field and the contemporary status and challenges faced by females and other genders in our society.

Dr. Asmat Ara, Head, Department of Music shared insights on Women empowerment, gender sensitivity and workplace inclusivity in religious perspective.

Students also shared the stage and expressed their beliefs and thoughts on Gender equality. They shared personal experiences and challenges faced by them in their lives.

The event concluded with a pledge of gender equality where students, faculty members and guests took an oath to respect genders, work against discrimination and advocate equality in all spheres of life.

DLSA Ganderbal organizes Legal awareness program at Subsidiary Jail Dignibal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 10

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal today organized a legal awareness program on the vital topic 'Bail and Legal Aid for Undertrial Prisoners (UTPs)' at Subsidiary Jail, Dignibal Ganderbal.

The event, held under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, aimed to educate under trial prisoners about the legal provisions and procedures related to bail and legal aid for UTPs.

Sajid Irfan, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC) Ganderbal, high-



lighted the importance of providing free legal advice on the process of applying for bail and the availability

of legal aid for UTPs. He emphasized that the program aimed to educate UTPs about their rights,

including the right to a speedy trial under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

During the program, Sajid Irfan made aware all the UTPs about the different types of bail, including bail on personal bond, surety bail, anticipatory bail and regular bail.

He provided information about the legal criteria that courts use to grant or deny bail. He also raised awareness about the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which guarantees free legal aid for indigent prisoners, including UTPs, in all matters concerning legal representation and bail applications.

He also emphasized the importance of legal aware-

ness and the role of District Legal Services Authorities in providing free legal aid to undertrial prisoners.

In addition to the awareness program, Deputy LADC Ganderbal, also interacted with all twenty-eight prisoners who were presently lodged in the jail.

All prisoners were represented by their counsels. During the interaction, Deputy LADC Ganderbal found two prisoners lodged in preventive detention. He promptly contacted their family members and provided legal advice to them.

The program was attended by Jail authorities, PLVs and under trial prisoners.

Training on implementation of Carbon Neutral Panchayat Plan commences in Rajouri

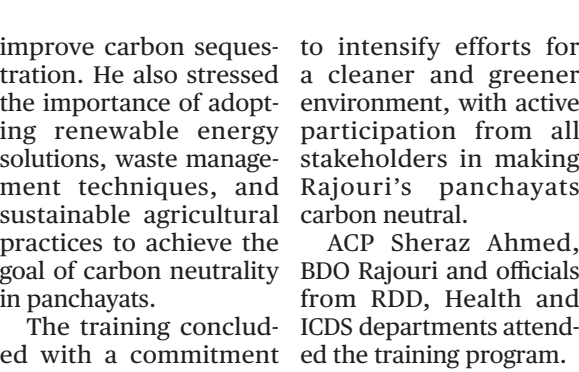
JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 10

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa today chaired the inaugural training session for the implementation of Carbon Neutral Panchayats plan in the district.

The training focused on strategies to reduce carbon emissions at the grassroots level, promote sustainable practices, and enhance environmental conservation efforts in rural areas.

The session evaluated the preparedness of master trainers assigned with the task of implementation of the initiative. The ADDC emphasized the need for capacity building and conducting effective awareness campaigns to ensure the success of the program.

Dr. Thapa directed experts and stakeholders to discourage the use of old, high-emission vehicles and promote afforestation initiatives to



improve carbon sequestration. He also stressed the importance of adopting renewable energy solutions, waste management techniques, and sustainable agricultural practices to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality in panchayats.

The training concluded with a commitment

to intensify efforts for a cleaner and greener environment, with active participation from all stakeholders in making Rajouri's panchayats carbon neutral.

ACP Sheraz Ahmed, BDO Rajouri and officials from RDD, Health and ICDS departments attended the training program.

07 Days training program on 'Scientific Beekeeping' concludes

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

The seven day training program on 'Scientific Beekeeping' organised by Agriculture production and farmers welfare department in collaboration with National Bee Board under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) concluded today at Agriculture complex Lal Mandi Srinagar.

The seven days training program that commenced from 3rd March attracted beekeepers, farmers, stakeholders, students, unemployed youth and FPO members.

The programme was inaugurated by Director Agriculture Kashmir (Mission Director NBHM) Mohammad Ilyas Khateeb.

Today while addressing the concluding ceremony, Director Agriculture said that the program was aimed to promote latest trends and technologies in the field of apiculture, schemes in Agriculture for beekeepers, besides financial assistance schemes for farmers. He highlighted the significance of beekeeping



in enhancing the farm productivity and sustenance of rural livelihoods. He described Beekeeping as a promising agri-allied activity. He said that under HADP special projects/programs are being implemented by the department for the development of the concerned sector.

Participants were informed about financial incentives, including 80% subsidy on beekeeping units, aimed at bolstering the sector in the region.

The training program witnessed sessions on overview of beekeeping in

Kashmir, value addition of hive products, challenges in beekeeping, Modern scientific beekeeping, schemes in agriculture for beekeepers, technical discussion and valedictory cum distribution of certificates among the participants.

Joint director agriculture (extension) Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Deputy Director Agriculture central Waheed-U- Rehmaan; Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Apiculture Development Officer Srinagar also participated in the concluding ceremony.

GDC Vijaypur screens Documentary on Int'l Women's Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, MARCH 10

In continuation to the series of activities being organized under the celebration of International Women's Day, Department of English Govt. Degree College Vijaypur organized a documentary screening on the importance of celebration of International Women's Day. The programme started with a welcome address by English Lecturer Dr. Sana Farooq Lone. She highlighted the incredible contribution of women and their long struggle for equality, respect and justice.

The documentary helped the students to understand the challenges women face to achieve what they are and where they are right now. A proper historical background was provided through the documentary whereby the importance of 8th March was highlighted. Moreover, the programme also highlighted the women's fight

for equality and liberation along with the women's rights movement.

The College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Verma expressed her admiration for the courage, potential and strength of women. She highlighted the significance of such events in acknowledging women's achievements, promoting discussions on gender bias and advocating substantive transformation.

The programme was organized under the able guidance and supervision of esteemed Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta. The programme was carried out with the support of the senior faculty members Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science), Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HOD English), Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences). It was coordinated by Dr. Sana Farooq Lone (Dept of English), Dr Noreen Jaral (Dept of Education) and Dr. Sonia Jamwal (Dept of History).

365 Medical Officers appointed in November 2024, 181 more in process: Sakeena Itoo

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the government is upgrading the existing healthcare infrastructure and facilities to strengthen the medical facilities at the grassroots level.

The Minister said this while replying to a starred question raised by Shagun Parihar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that, at present, the District Hospital Kishtwar is functioning as 100 bedded Hospital and an additional 100 bedded Hospital building is under construction adjoining to the existing IPD Block of the DH Kishtwar.

While speaking on Traumatic Centre facility in DH Kashmir, the Minister said that a Designated Trauma Care Centre nearest to Kishtwar is situated at Thathri at a distance of 30 Km. She informed that all the trauma cases are being handled by the Emergency Room of DH Kishtwar where all specialist Doctors like Surgeons, Ortho, Anaesthetists and Physician and ample number of Medical Officers and

Para-medics are posted for handling the emergencies 24X7.

The Minister further informed the house that currently DH Kishtwar has 11 consultants, 8 medical officers and 2 dental surgeons for the patients besides other paramedical staff.

The Minister remarked that the department has fast tracked the recruitment process of doctor and medical professionals. She highlighted that in the month of November 2024, 365 selectees were appointed as Medical Officers in the J&K Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Services, who have been posted in the far-flung/peripheral healthcare facilities to strengthen the medical facilities at the grassroots level.

She also informed that the department is also in the process of operating a waitlist in respect of 91 selected Medical Officers, whose services will also be utilized in the underserved areas across the UT of J&K.

Moreover, the Minister informed that 181 posts of Medical Officers are still to be received from Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission and upon receiving these selections, the selected doctors



will be posted in the health institutions experiencing staff shortages.

196 Govt Educational institutes functional in four zones of Baramulla: Sakeena Itoo

Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that there are 196 Government Educational Institutions functional in the four educational zones of Baramulla district including Higher Secondary, High, Middle and Primary Schools in educational zones of Baramulla, Chandoosa, Fatehgarh, Singhpora-Kalan catering to educational needs in the district.

The Minister informed that only three Principal and five Headmaster posts falling in Zone Baramulla, Chandoosa and Fatehgarh are vacant.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by

Javed Hassan Beig in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that as many as 22 buildings have been declared as unsafe in education zones of Baramulla District. She said that about 29 construction works were initiated under Earthquake Reconstruction Programme 2005 and SSA to facilitate better educational infrastructure facilities to students in Barmulla.

The Minister further informed that the construction of new buildings for abandoned ones and completion of incomplete buildings are being proposed under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, Capex and District Capex UT. Besides, the process for rationalisation of teaching staff in district Baramulla like other districts has been initiated and is expected to take effect soon.

She said that about 90

lower rung teaching and non-teaching staff has also been promoted to the next higher level through DPCs in district Baramulla during the last two years.

Strengthening healthcare facilities, filling vacancies being undertaken: Health Minister

Minister for Health, Sakeena Itoo, today affirmed Government's commitment towards strengthening the existing health infrastructure and filling up of all vacancies in the health sector.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that J&K is one of the top runners among the large States/UTs (with population more than 1 crore) in health institution density in the country. She informed that the report published in 2023 by MoHFW, GoI, indicates that J&K has health institution on every 3500 souls against an average 6000 souls at national level. Moreover, the feasibility for up-gradation and establishment of new ones are examined in terms of IPHS-2022 norms.

Referring to the healthcare services in Rajpora

Constituency, the Minister informed that out of a total of 34 health facilities 31 have been upgraded to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) to provide improved packages of services to the local population.

She said that the CHC Rajpora, which is in proximity to District Hospital Pulwama (11 km), is already catering to secondary-level healthcare services to the residents of the area.

Regarding the manpower, the Minister informed that the CHC Rajpora has sanctioned strength of 07 specialists, 12 Medical Officers, and 54 paramedical staff.

The Minister maintained that the upcoming Tertiary Care facility AIIMS, Awantipora, Kashmir, is also strategically located at a distance of 25 Km. So, it would be improper to say that the healthcare facilities in Rajpora Constituency have not been upgraded to next level in so many years, she maintained.

The Minister informed that, as of now, J&K is working on consolidation of existing healthcare facilities as around 4000 health institutions at various levels (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) exists.

Rs 1276 cr, 200 Cs water lifting scheme not taken up due to non-availability of funding agency: Javed Rana



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, today said that the proposal for lifting 200 cusecs drinking water from Chenab River for its use in Jammu city with an estimated cost of Rs. 885 crore was not funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the

year 2013-14. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Sham Lal Sharma in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister informed that a revised estimate to the tune of Rs. 1276 crore was prepared in August 2022. However, the same could not be taken up further because of the non-availability of funding agency, he added.

JKBOSE teams conduct surprise inspection of exam centers

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Continuing its inspection drive to ensure fair and transparent examinations, the teams of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education conducted surprise inspections at 100 examination centers across all 20 districts.

During the inspection, as many as 95 students were found resorting to unfair-means practices

and were accordingly booked.

The Board has expressed its commitment to ensuring fair, transparent and smooth examinations with the cooperation of center superintendents and invigilators.

The Board is presently conducting examinations of 10th, 11th and 12th class, which are under way and are scheduled to be concluded by end of March 2025.

Awareness-Cum-interaction program organised for Artisans at Thakrie

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 10

The Department of Handicrafts Kishtwar organized an insightful Awareness-cum-Artisans Interaction Program at Thakrie aimed at enlightening local artisans about various government schemes and the registration process for availing these benefits.

The session was led by Assistant Director, Handicrafts Pardeep Shan, who took the opportunity to share vital information



with participants regarding the department's initiatives designed to uplift and support the handicraft community.

Artisans were encouraged to register with the department to access a wide array of benefits and schemes designed to foster growth and sustain-

ability in the handicrafts sector.

The attendees were briefed about various schemes available to artisans, including the Credit Card Scheme, Financial Support Scheme, Karkhandar Scheme, and Education Scholarship Scheme for the children of artisans

and weavers. Additionally, the formation of Off Farm Producer Organisation (OFPO) clusters for different handicrafts and the benefits of the National Handicrafts Development Program (NHDP) were discussed.

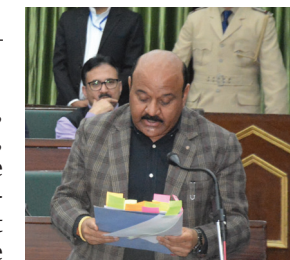
Renowned artisan Nir-mala Rana, an established figure in the handicrafts industry, attended and contributed to the program, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by local artisans.

Work on Shopian-Aglar road project to resume as weather improves: Dy CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that the work on the Shopian-Aglar road project would resume once the weather improves.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Advocate Shabir Ahmad Kullay. He informed that the Shopian-Pinjora road under nomenclature of "Shopian to Aglar road"



was approved under PMGSY Incentive Fund during 2024-2025 and the allotment has been issued in October 2024. He apprised that 3.50 Km road length has been completed before the winter

season while the remaining work will be resumed with improvement in the prevailing weather conditions.

The Deputy Chief Minister further informed the house that the Shopian to Keegam (9 km) is being maintained by the PWD as part of NH-444. While as Keegam-Daramdora and Daramdora- Mazhama-Gaberpora-Yedpora roads were taken up and completed under NABARD RIDF XXVI in the year 2021-22. Both the roads are

in good condition and also in DLP, stated the Minister.

He said that the Keegam-Hajicheck-Marheng road was taken up under NABARD RIDF XXVII and completed in the year 2022-23 and the road is in good condition and also in DLP.

The Deputy Chief Minister further said that the Chowan-Batfojan road was constructed under PMGSY and is in good condition and renewal coat on the road was laid during 2021-2022.

Manhas Mahasabha Holds Annual General Governing Body Meeting

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The Manhas Mahasabha convened its Annual General Governing Body Meeting at its headquarters at Baba Shri Daleep Singh Manhas Complex, Paloura, Jammu. The meeting saw the enthusiastic participation of community leaders, executive members, commoners and prominent members of the Manhas Biradari from various regions including Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Poonch etc. Through a unanimous resolution, the General Governing Body with a voice vote, approved the post-facto working of all Executive Committees that have served the Sabha since 2017. This decision ensures the validation of past administrative actions and organizational efforts undertaken

in the interests of the Manhas community.

Furthermore, the governing body ratified the current Executive Committee for the ongoing term for the years 2023 to 2025, reaffirming its trust in the leadership to continue guiding the Mahasabha with integrity and dedication.

Recognizing the need for enhanced governance and strategic direction, the meeting also established a 21-member Executive Council. This advisory body will play a pivotal role in providing guidance to the Executive Committee, ensuring the effective functioning of the Mahasabha and addressing key concerns of the community. The general governing body also impressed upon the existing Executive Committee to keep the government informed



about the working of the Manhas Mahasabha from time to time.

One of the most significant resolutions passed during the meeting was the commitment to frame a comprehensive constitution for the Manhas Biradari in India

in general and Jammu & Kashmir in particular. For this purpose the general governing body directed the existing Executive Committee to immediately frame a five members competent Committee for undertaking the task. This initiative

aims to create a structured framework for community welfare, cultural preservation, and socio-economic development.

Addressing the gathering, senior members emphasized the importance of unity and col-

lective progress, urging all community members to actively contribute towards strengthening the Manhas Mahasabha. Discussions also touched upon initiatives for youth empowerment through holding of con-claves, educational support, and

socio-cultural activities to promote the heritage and values of the Manhas community.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all members for their continued support and commitment. The Manhas Mahasabha reaffirmed its pledge to work for the upliftment of the community and uphold its traditions while embracing modern development. The meeting took place on Sunday the 2nd of March 2025 at the Sabha headquarters at Paloura Jammu. Around more than 100 prominent Biradari members from all over the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir participated in the general governing body meeting. The meeting concluded in a peaceful, result-oriented and evolving manner. These notable in the meeting were Sh.

Shiv Dev Singh Ex-MLA, Sh. Balbir Singh Sarpanch, Adv. Balbir Singh, Sh. Rajinder Singh, Sh. Thakur Balwant Singh all former Presidents, Sh. Dayal Singh incumbent President Mahasabha, Sh. Ashok Singh Ex-Corporator, Sh. Raghubir Singh Gen. Secretary, Sh. Raman Kant Singh and Sh. Balwan Singh both Sr. Vice Presidents, Sh. Girdhari Lal Manhas retired lecturer and former Sarpanch Doda member executive council, Sh. Manohar Singh, Sh. Ranjeet Singh Executive members, Sh. Ajit Singh Vice President and Lambardar Akalpur, Sh. Jagdish Singh Secretary, Sh. Rattan Singh Treasurer, Sh. Daljit Singh Pujari, Sh. Ajit Singh, Sh. Balvinder Singh Yuva President and special invitees Sh. Kuldeep Singh and Thakur Satish Singh Manhas columnist.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

Tourism in border...

availability of resources.

Highlighting the potential of adventure tourism, he noted that Bijham and Limber Waterfall/Limber Wildlife Sanctuary are well known for attracting adventure enthusiasts.

The Tourism Department has undertaken several initiatives for the holistic development of these areas, he said.

The Chief Minister said that while the department does not directly operate paragliding activities, it facilitates them through private adventure tourism operators.

Additionally, capacity-building programs are conducted for aspiring trainers, and permissions for paragliding are granted after a feasibility survey.

Regarding camping facilities, the Chief Minister informed that the Tourism Department facilitates and grants permission for setting up of camping colonies at the Gantamulla reservoir on the banks of River Jhelum.

The government has already developed key tourism assets to facilitate visitors traveling from Baramulla to Salamabad, Uri.

These, he said, include the development of Khadinyar Park, a tourist cafeteria and TIC at Boniyar, a tourist cafeteria at Salamabad in Uri, and a Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) at Salamabad. Additionally, the gutted cafeteria at Eco-Park Khadinyar has been reconstructed.

Protests in Assembly over...

ordered an inquiry into the matter," he said.

The Speaker also said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has already ordered an inquiry into the fashion show. "This cannot be discussed as matters under inquiry cannot be taken up in the House," he added.

The Speaker said the House condemns the assault on MLA Bani Dr. Rameshwar Singh and a thorough inquiry should be held into it. KNO

Gulmarg fashion show...

he acknowledged as both understandable and justified.

Omar Abdullah emphasized that the organizers failed to exercise sound judgment, disregarding the sensitivities of the people, the significance of the location, and the timing of their event. "There have been concerns that such an event should not have taken place during Ramadan. I completely agree. However, I would go a step further and say that such an event should not have been held at any time of the year in a place, given the cultural and social ethos of our region," the Chief Minister said.

He further clarified, "Moreover, I must categorically state that the government had no involvement in this event whatsoever." Providing further information, the Chief Minister stated that the event was privately organized in a private hotel.

"The government was neither approached for permission nor did it provide any financial or logistical support. No government infrastructure was utilized and no government officials were present at the event," he said.

"Despite this, the administration has been instructed to examine whether any legal violations occurred. If any provisions of the law have been breached, the authorities will take appropriate action," he added.

The Chief Minister reiterated, "There was no government involvement in this event. Had the matter been brought to our notice beforehand, we would not have permitted it."

CM's close relative...

2010 unrest. "The National Conference is a party whose hands are smeared with the blood of innocent Kashmiris. It was Omar Abdullah who spearheaded the killing of 110 young boys in Kashmir in 2010. It is the BJP that has brought a sense of relief and stability to the people of Kashmir," he added. KNO

Slew of measures...

installation of Effluent Treatment and Disposal Systems. Water quality monitoring is being conducted under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at 53 locations in Jammu and 118 locations in Kashmir.

He said the government is also actively monitoring

sewage treatment plants and potable water sources. "The Clean River Campaign is an ongoing initiative led by the J&K PCC to protect water bodies. Additional steps include the construction of interceptor drains, sewage networks, and sewage treatment plants (STPs) in a phased manner, as well as pond rejuvenation and rainwater harvesting projects," Abdullah said.

The CM further said that seven sewage treatment plants have been constructed or made functional in J&K in the past two years. These include four STPs in Jammu: a 4 MLD plant at Belicharana, an 8 MLD plant at Baryal, Udampur, a 4 MLD plant at Omara Morh, and a 1.6 MLD plant at Pittanbarh. He said a 1.2 MLD STP has been set up at Karlah, Patnitop. In Srinagar, two plants have been made functional: a 6 MLD plant at Alluchibagh and a 2.21 MLD plant at Rajbagh. KNO

Rs 10516 crore investment made in J&K since 2019: Govt tells Assembly

The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Monday disclosed that an investment of Rs 10516 crore has been made in the Union Territory since 2019.

In a written response to question of MLA Budhal Javed Iqbal Choudhary, minister in-charge Industries & Commerce Surinder informed the House that an investment of Rs 10516 crore has been made in the Union Territory since 2019-20.

Of which investments worth Rs 3407.63 crore have been made in Kashmir and Rs 7108 crore in Jammu, the minister said.

He said an investment of Rs 164.37 crore has been made in Kashmir in 2019-20, Rs 148.89 crore in 2020-21, Rs 125.87 crore in 2021-22, Rs 737.36 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 1423.17 crore in 2024-25 upto February 25, 2025.

The minister said an investment of Rs 132.27 crore has been made in Jammu in 2019-20, Rs 263.85 crore in 2020-21, Rs 250.89 crore, Rs 1416.07 crore in 2022-23, Rs 1966.20 in 2023-24 and Rs 3079.57 crore in 2024-25.

The minister also said that several policies and schemes have been implemented to attract investments in the UT.

The policies include the new central sector scheme for the industrial development of the Union Territory of J&K 2021, J&K Industrial Policy-2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30. KNO

Kashmir upper reaches...

from March 17 to March 21.

"Peak activity or most rain and snow is expected on March 13, 14 & 15. Few higher reaches may receive heavy snowfall as well," said an independent weather forecaster, as per KNO.

In its advisory, the MeT has advised travellers, tourists and transporters to follow administration and traffic advisory while farmers have been asked to suspend farm operations from 10th March onwards till 16th March. "Avoid sloppy & avalanche prone areas," the advisory reads. KNO

'Govt merged 4,358...

of teachers for the last 5 years."

Similarly, in the Kashmir region, the government said that 1671 master posts were lying vacant. "1957 lecturer posts and 300 headmaster posts were also lying vacant in the Kashmir division." KNO

CM Omar Abdullah...

appropriate action regarding the attack on MLA Bani.

Questioning the circumstances surrounding the visit of the Leader of Opposition (LoP) while his Deputy Chief Minister was not allowed to visit the affected area, Omar Abdullah remarked, "If I am correct, the Leader of Opposition visited the area. It appears that a political narrative is being attached to the situation. Yesterday, I spoke to the Deputy Chief Minister, who was advised against visiting the area due to the prevailing situation. I told him that as responsible individuals, we must ensure that our presence does not escalate tensions. If the situation is volatile, it is prudent for both of us to refrain from visiting."

The Chief Minister further stated that a senior police officer of Kathua district had informed Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary that the situation remained tense and that he could visit the area in 2-3 days once normalcy was restored.

"What is beyond my understanding is that if the

situation was indeed so volatile that the Deputy Chief Minister was advised against visiting, how was the LoP allowed to do so? We demand answers from those who allowed the LoP's visit while preventing the Deputy CM from going there," he asserted.

'Over 3.70 lakh...

employment."

"In the financial year 2022-23, the department organized 84 job fairs with the participation of 878 companies and 45,447 job seekers. As a result, 14,014 candidates were shortlisted, while 1,761 job seekers got on-spot placements, and 2,978 youth were recommended for skill training," the data revealed, as per KNO.

"In the subsequent year (2023-24), the government increased the outreach, conducting 106 job fairs, engaging 1,412 companies and 72,175 job seekers. This resulted in 20,754 candidates being shortlisted, 1,902 getting on-spot placements, and 2,807 being recommended for skill training," it added.

"In the ongoing fiscal year 2024-25 (up to February 2025), 56 job fairs were held, 470 companies participated, and 18,578 job seekers registered. Among them, 5,014 were shortlisted, while 1,230 candidates secured on-spot placements. Additionally, 855 youth were recommended for skill training," the data revealed.

Replying to a query posed by MLA Sham Lal Sharma during the ongoing Assembly session, Minister Incharge as per KNO, confirmed that the government intends to devise a policy focused on job creation in the private sector through multiple schemes and initiatives designed to enhance employment opportunities for the youth.

He stated that the registration of unemployed educated youth on the "Employment Portal" is a voluntary process, allowing job seekers to avail self-employment schemes and job opportunities provided by various departments.

"As of January 2025, a total of 3,70,811 unemployed youth have been registered on the Employment Portal," the government reply disclosed, as per KNO.

4.73 LAKH INDIVIDUALS NOT WORKING BUT WILLING TO WORK

Additionally, as part of a Baseline Survey, the government revealed that a total of 4.73 lakh individuals, within the 18-60 age group, have reported being "not working but willing to work" across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. This figure emerged from a survey that covered 54.8 lakh individuals.

According to the official data, the highest number of registrations have been recorded from candidates with educational qualifications up to 10+2, totaling 2,24,495. This is followed by 66,628 graduates, 47,114 postgraduates, and 15,396 degree holders who have enlisted themselves in search of employment.

The data also highlights that 9,884 diploma holders, 1,589 draftsmen, and 2,883 ITI trained youth are part of the registered unemployed workforce. Additionally, 1,021 candidates possessing skills other than ITI training have also been registered.

The department clarified that the registration process is purely voluntary and not mandatory, indicating that the actual number of unemployed youth in the UT could be higher than the recorded figures.

It is noteworthy that, under Mission YUVA, the department has surveyed a total of 4,73,936 individuals across the Union Territory (UT) to assess their educational qualifications and employment status.

The survey indicates that the highest number of individuals surveyed belong to the Higher Secondary (10+2) category, with 1,26,059 individuals, followed by 98,466 graduates and 70,428 postgraduates.

According to the survey, 95,914 individuals had completed secondary-level education, while 44,908 individuals had only completed middle-level education.

Additionally, 10,994 individuals were recorded with primary-level education, while 1,745 individuals had education below primary level.

Interestingly, the survey also recorded 24,594 illiterate individuals across the UT, while 828 individuals were found to be literate with formal education.

The Labour and Employment department reiterated that the government is aiming to effectively utilize the workforce through initiatives like Mumkin, Tejaswini, and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiatives under Mission Youth to promote self-employment opportunities. KNO

Sat Sharma releases Second Edition of Balbir's Dogri Poems

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

In a simple literary event, Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma (CA), along with former minister Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar, and other prominent leaders, released the second edition of Dogri poems authored by Balbir Ram Rattan.

Balbir Ram Rattan is not only the spokesperson of the BJP but also a writer and columnist. He is also the National General Secretary of Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth, the General Secretary of the Indian Branch of the British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and a member of Begumpura Vishwa Maha Sabha.

During the release ceremony, Sat Sharma (CA), highlighted that Guru Ravidas spread the message of humanity, equality, and devotion. He opposed caste-based discrimination and preached love, compassion, and truth. He believed that God is one and that all human beings are equal. His teachings promote harmony in society. Praising Balbir's literary contributions, Sat Sharma emphasized that he is actively working to spread Guru Ravidas Ji's teachings and messages to the masses. He underlined the importance of preserving and promoting regional languages and the lives of great saints. He stated, "Dogri is an integral part of our identity, and such literary works help keep our heritage alive for future generations." He also reiterated that the BJP is committed to support regional languages and ancient literature. Former minister Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar commended the poet's devotion and literary contributions, stating that his poems depict traditions and emotions. He remarked, "The poet's words resonate with people and inspire them to connect with their cultural roots."

Expressing his gratitude, Balbir Ram Rattan said, "This second edition of Dogri poems symbolizes my respect and love for Guru Ravidass Ji and my mother tongue. I sincerely thank all the dignitaries present today. Literature has the power to connect people, and I hope this effort will promote the Dogri language and inspire the youth to learn about the lives of great saints." Several prominent BJP leaders who attended the event, included Vikram Malhotra, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Jaideep Samyal, Anu Bhasin, Ashok Gandhi, Yashpal Shivgotra, Hansraj Loria, Parshotam Amit Manhas, Premnath, Puran Chand, and Sanjay Bakshi.

Adv Purnima lauds Indian Cricket Team on ICC Champions Trophy Victory

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

Advocate Purnima Sharma, spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir, today extended heartfelt congratulations to the Indian Cricket Team for their remarkable victory in the ICC Champions Trophy held in Dubai. In a statement, Advocate Sharma expressed immense pride in the team's performance, highlighting the pivotal role played by the spin bowlers in the final against New Zealand. The combined efforts of the team laid the foundation for India's successful chase, culminating in a well-deserved triumph.

"This victory is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and unity of our cricket team. They have made the nation proud, and we celebrate this momentous achievement with great joy," Advocate Sharma stated.

In addition to her congratulations, Advocate Sharma criticized the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the absence of its officials from the Champions Trophy 2025 final's presentation ceremony. She remarked that while Pakistan aspires to host international events, the current state of its cricket infrastructure tells a different story. She asserted that stadiums in Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi were not adequately prepared to host international matches, with ongoing construction and renovations falling behind schedule. The senior BJP leader asked Pakistan to cease its support for terrorism on Indian soil, warning that failure to do so could lead to the nation's decline, mirroring the deteriorated condition of its cricket grounds. She emphasized the importance of fostering peace and stability in the region for the betterment of all.

DC discusses Forest protection, conservation measures in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 10

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting here in the DC Office to review and discuss important forest-related issues.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) apprised the meeting about the functioning and achievements of the Forest Division Poonch. He highlighted that the district covers a geographical area of 1,674 square kilometers, with forested land comprising 951 square kilometers, which is 56% of the total area. The DFO noted that there are three territorial ranges: Haveli, Surankote, and Mendhar.

Key issues discussed included the demarcation of forest boundaries, forest fire management,



Forest Rights Act (FRA) cases, and the potential for adventure tourism in designated forest tracks across the district.

It was reported that out of 121 total forests, the survey and boundary pillar installation have been completed in 27. Deputy Commissioner Revenue

Commissioner Kundal directed the concerned revenue and forest officers to con-

duct joint surveys during the demarcation process and to expedite the construction of boundary pillars.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Poonch, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), DFO (Territorial), Tehsildars, and all Range Officers.

Farmers provided agricultural equipment, seeds under HADP at Paddar

JI NEWS SERVICE
PADDAR, MARCH 10

In a significant event held here today under the leadership of Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dr. Amit Kumar, Agricultural equipment and seeds were distributed among local farmers here as part of the input subsidy under the Holistic Agricultural Development Program (HADP).

The initiative targets the organic clusters of Karthie and Garh, aiming at improving agricultural practices and sustainability in the region.

The SDM stressed the importance of diversifying farmers' income by encouraging the adoption of a range of agricultural practices.

He underscored that a sustainable approach is crucial for the growth of the agriculture sector, urging the agriculture department to focus on



enhancing production while ensuring the long-term viability of farming in the region.

SDM Paddar also directed the agriculture department to organize training camps and on-field sessions for farmers.

These initiatives will provide essential knowledge, encourage the adoption of government schemes, and

empower farmers with the tools they need to succeed.

Highlighting the collaborative efforts across departments, SDM Paddar emphasized that such coordinated actions are critical not only to increasing agricultural production but also to ensuring that government support reaches every farmer in the region.

DDC reviews implementation of RDD Sector schemes in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MARCH 10

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik, convened a meeting today to review the progress of the Rural Development Department (RDD) sector in the District. The review focused on major initiatives such as MGNREGA, the CAPEX budget, PMAY-G and the ADF.

The DDC emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of quality and transparency in the execution of the projects. She instructed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to closely monitor the ongoing development works and ensure strict adherence to quality standards.

Stressing on field presence, she asked BDOs to survey the PMAY-G beneficiaries to confirm their genuineness. "This will



ensure that the benefits of the schemes reach the rightful beneficiaries" she added.

The DDC further directed BDOs to take proactive steps for maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in their respective offices and surroundings. She emphasized the need for action against the burning of waste, which poses a serious environmental hazard.

Additionally, the BDOs were instructed to submit weekly reports, outlining

compliance with these directives and detailing the measures taken to uphold sanitation and quality standards.

The review meeting underscored the district administration's commitment to ensuring transparent and efficient implementation of rural development programs.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, BDOs and other concerned officials.

DIC organises awareness camp on PMEGP at GDC Ramgarh

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 10

An Awareness Camp cum special drive under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme was organized today by District Industries Centre (DIC) Udhampur at Government Degree College Ramnagar. Over one hundred students participated in the programme.

The special drive, held under the overall supervision of General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, focused on encouraging students to act as ambassadors of PMEGP Scheme in the society and moti-

vate out going graduates to avail self employment opportunity under the scheme.

Industrial Promotion Officer Rajeshwar Singh, the resource person, provided detailed presentation and insights into the eligibility criteria, application process, financial assistance, and subsidies available under PMEGP. The GM DIC also emphasized the importance of government initiatives in supporting young entrepreneurs.

The Principal of the College Dr. Bhavnaish Chand Anthal rendered full support and active

co-operation to make the programme a success. He encouraged students to act as active messengers to disseminate the information about the PMEGP scheme among the local un-employed youth. He also highlighted the role of the scheme in promoting rural and urban entrepreneurship, thereby, contributing to economic growth and employment generation. The faculty members Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Dr. Kewal Kumar, Dr. Rakesh Pandita, Dr. Puyesh Kant, Manmohan Singh, Anise Choudhary and Tanmeet Kour also attended the programme.

Col Mahan condemns terrorist killings in Billawar, assures enhanced security measures

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 10

Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, Chairman of District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, has strongly condemned the recent killings of three innocent villagers in the Malhar forests of Billawar Sub-District. Preliminary investigations and public sentiment suggest that these heinous acts were perpetrated by terrorists, reflecting their cowardice and disregard for human life.

In a show of solidarity and support, Col Mahan Singh attended the cremation ceremonies of two victims, Master Varun and Darshan Singh, who were found dead in the Malhar forests. The ceremonies took place in their native village of Deotha, where hundreds of villagers, including those from distant areas, gathered to pay their final respects amidst an atmosphere of profound grief and mourning. Demonstrating unwavering commitment to his constituents, Col Mahan, accompanied by DDC Member Tajinder Goldy,



traversed over 20 kilometers on foot to reach the remote village. This journey underscored their dedication to personally console the bereaved families and stand in unity with the affected community during this tragic time.

During his visit, the DDC Chairman engaged directly with residents, attentively listening to their grievances, particularly concerning security issues. Acknowledging the community's heightened fears and the pressing need for safety, he assured them of comprehensive support and reiterated the government's steadfast commitment to addressing these serious concerns.

Col Mahan emphasized that such acts of terror aim to disrupt the peace and

harmony of the region but affirmed that the resolve of the authorities and the community remains unshaken. He called for enhanced vigilance and cooperation between villagers and security forces to thwart any attempts by malicious elements to destabilize the area.

The DDC Chairman also highlighted the importance of developmental initiatives in remote regions, asserting that progress and prosperity are vital tools in combatting the influence of terrorism. He pledged to accelerate development projects in these areas to improve infrastructure, education, and employment opportunities, thereby strengthening the community's resilience against extremist ideologies.

DLIC approves 54 cases under Mission youth schemes at Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 10

Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh on Monday presided over a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee on Mission Youth schemes.

A total of 54 financial assistance cases were approved, including 5 under the Tejaswini scheme, 39 under the MUMKIN scheme and 10 under the Spurring



entrepreneurship scheme. The ADDC highlighted the government's commitment to empowering unemployed youth through these schemes, providing them with opportunities to carve a niche in soci-

ety. He asked stakeholder departments to encourage the maximum number of unemployed youth to capitalize on government-sponsored schemes to realize their dreams and aspirations.

Students and Scholars of JU celebrate CM Omar Abdullah's Birthday

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The students and scholars of Jammu University, under the chairmanship of Vikshay vashist and Gourav Partap Singh University unit President NSF gathered on campus to celebrate the birthday of Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah with great enthusiasm and reverence. The event was marked by heartfelt, prayers, and the distribution of sweets as a gesture of admiration for their beloved leader.

The celebration was graced by the presence of NC Provincial Joint Secretary Ankush Abrol as the chief guest, while Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary of the National Conference (NC), attended as the guest



of honour. The occasion saw a significant turnout of students and scholars who expressed their appreciation for the Chief Minister's contributions to the welfare of the youth and the state as a whole.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol assured the students and scholars that their concerns and issues would be conveyed to the government. He emphasized the importance of student welfare

and pledged his support in addressing their needs.

Dr. Vikas Sharma, while addressing the gathering, commended the love and respect shown by the students and scholars for Omar Abdullah. He noted that even before Abdullah assumed the position of Chief Minister, his birthday had been celebrated annually at the university, reflecting the deep bond between him and the youth.

Jammu IDSP Team participates in 14th National Conference of Indian Association of Epidemiologists



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

A team from the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) Jammu Division participated in the 14th National Conference of the Indian Association of Epidemiologists (IAE), in New Delhi from March 7-8, 2025.

The prestigious conference, organized by the Indian Association of Epidemiologists in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), New Delhi, focused on the theme "Epidemiology in Public Health for Viksit Bharat 2047."

Under the guidance of Mission Director National Health Mission (NHM) J&K Nazim Zai Khan and Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra, and with the support of State Surveillance Officer IDSP Jammu Division Dr. Harjeet Rai, the conference was attended by Dr. Simran Nag, State Epidemiologist, IDSP Jammu Division, Umar Anayat, District Epidemiologist, IDSP Doda & Dr. Sonia Bajaj, District Epidemiologist, IDSP Samba.

The team made significant contributions through research presentations at the conference which included an Oral Presentation on Epidemiological Investigation

of Chickenpox Outbreak in Village Ghata District Doda - A detailed study on the outbreak dynamics and response strategies and two E-Poster Presentations namely Integrating Human and Animal Health Data for Action in Samba District, 2024-A study highlighting the One Health approach for zoonotic disease surveillance & Unraveling Cholera Outbreaks in 3 Districts of Jammu Division: A Comprehensive Epidemiological Study - A deep dive into the recent cholera outbreaks in three districts namely Udhampur, Reasi & Ramban and interventions made in promoting Viksit Bharat Sankalp of sustainable public health, safe water access and resilient communities.

The participation of the State Surveillance Unit IDSP and District Surveillance Units of Jammu Division team at this national platform underscores Jammu & Kashmir's commitment to strengthening disease surveillance and public health preparedness for a healthier future. The conference served as an opportunity for epidemiologists and public health experts to exchange knowledge and strategies to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through enhanced disease surveillance and response mechanisms.

Joint Enforcement Drive conducted in Jammu North; 71 vehicles Challenged

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

A joint traffic regulation enforcement drive was conducted today in Jammu North tehsil under the supervision of Additional District Magistrate Anusya Jamwal and under the overall direction of District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

The crackdown, led by ADM Anusya Jamwal and SP Rural Brijesh Sharma, aimed at enforcing traffic laws and curbing violations, was carried out by teams of the district administration constituting officials from Motor Vehicles Department, District Police and Traffic Police.

Officials inspected nearly 280 vehicles and issued 71 challans for violations, including tinted windows, triple riding, failure to wear helmets or seat belts, unauthorised music systems in public transport vehicles, pressure horns on motorcycles, modified tyres and lights, and tampered number plates. Authorities seized 16 vehicles for serious infractions, removed black films from cars and dismantled loudspeakers installed in matadors. The estimated total from the fines is Rs 1,70,800.

The enforcement team also included ARTO FS Bipen Singh Charak, Deputy SP Traffic North Anubhuti, Naib Tehsildar Saleem, Motor vehicle inspectors Azad Hussain

Budget Session 2025 Legislative Assembly condemns attack on MLA Bani

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Jammu and Kashmir, Legislative Assembly, on Monday condemned the attack on MLA Bani, Dr Rameshwar Singh.

"This is a genuine concern for all of us which the members have raised. We condemn the attack and it should be thoroughly investigated," Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said in the Assembly.

The issue was raised by Rameshwar Singh,

later supported by other MLA's, at the start of the session and demanded a time-bound inquiry into the attack.

The Bani MLA was manhandled on Saturday night by a group of protestors when he visited the sub-district hospital at Billawar to meet the families of three deceased civilians.

However, the Speaker said that any matter in which an inquiry has already been ordered shall not be discussed in the House.

EDITORIAL

A 'Misstep' in the name of tourism?

The picturesque ski resort of Gulmarg, known for its breathtaking landscapes and winter sports, has found itself at the center of a major controversy following a fashion show held amid the ongoing holy month of Ramzan. The event, which featured models in semi-nude attire walking on the snow, has ignited sharp criticism from religious leaders, political figures, and the general public alike. The outrage over the show is not just about fashion—it is about the perceived insensitivity towards local cultural and religious values. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has taken serious note of the public outcry and has ordered a detailed report on the matter within 24 hours. His prompt response underscores the gravity of the situation and the need to address growing resentment among the people. Critics argue that such an event, especially during Ramzan, reflects a lack of awareness and respect for local sentiments. In a region deeply rooted in Sufi and saint traditions, the decision to hold a fashion show with scantily clad models appears to be a blatant disregard for religious sensitivities. The backlash has been swift and widespread. Senior separatist leader and valley's chief priest, Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, has condemned the event as "outrageous" and demanded accountability for those responsible. Similarly, Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has termed it a "cultural invasion in the disguise of tourism," urging strict action against the Tourism Department officials and the event organizers, Shivan & Narresh. The event has also drawn criticism from social activists like Raja Muzaffar Bhat, who questioned the Tourism Department's role in permitting such a show. His concerns go beyond religious sentiments, touching upon the broader issue of cultural erosion. Many fear that promoting events that disregard the region's traditions may lead to alienation rather than fostering inclusive tourism. Tourism is a crucial economic driver for Jammu and Kashmir, and Gulmarg, in particular, thrives on visitors from across the globe. However, tourism promotion should not come at the cost of hurting local traditions. The authorities must strike a delicate balance between economic interests and cultural sensitivities. A more thoughtful approach would be to promote events that align with the ethos of the region, ensuring that tourism development remains respectful of the local population's values. The Gulmarg fashion show incident should serve as a lesson for policymakers and event organizers. Before approving such initiatives, there must be a thorough assessment of their potential impact on local sentiments. Greater community engagement in decision-making processes will help prevent similar controversies in the future. Additionally, the Tourism Department must exercise caution in selecting events that align with the cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. The outrage over this event is a reminder that while modernization and global influence are inevitable, they should not come at the expense of deeply held traditions. Moving forward, authorities must ensure that tourism initiatives are both progressive and respectful, fostering an environment where economic growth and cultural integrity coexist harmoniously.

SHAINY SHARMA

In today's fast-paced and consumer-driven society, the accumulation of clothing has become a significant issue, leading to what is commonly referred to as cloth clutter. The ease of online shopping, the rise of fast fashion, and the influence of social media have all contributed to an excessive and often unnecessary collection of garments.

Unlike previous generations who have always valued durability and longevity in clothing, today's generation - the Gen Alpha born between 2010 and 2025, is caught in a cycle of overconsumption, leading to cluttered wardrobes, financial waste and severe environmental consequences.

Cloth clutter or fashion hoarding refers to the excessive accumulation of clothing, often resulting in disorganised spaces filled with unused or rarely worn garments. With trends changing rapidly, many individuals feel pressured to keep up with fashion, leading to impulsive purchases contributing to

a growing pile of clothes.

Unlike past generations who owned fewer but high-quality garments, today's generation is surrounded by cheap, trendy options that encourage frequent buying. Moreover, the convenience of online shopping, where clothes are just a click away, has made it even easier to accumulate unnecessary clothing. The result is overcrowded closets, confusion in outfit choices, and a constant feeling of having nothing to wear despite an overflowing wardrobe. There is no denying that the fast fashion industry thrives on quick production cycles, offering new styles almost every week at an affordable price.

This rapid turnover has created a sense of urgency among consumers to buy more before trends change, leading to excessive clothing accumulation. Above all, online shopping platforms such as Amazon, Myntra, Meesho and many more offer constant discounts, such as buy-one-get-one deals, and fast delivery, making it incredibly tempting to buy clothes even

when they are not needed. Subscription-based shopping models and exclusive online sales have also encouraged unnecessary purchases, filling wardrobes with items that may never be worn.

Today, with the increased stress, boredom or emotions imbibed among many individuals, the concept of mindless shopping is being used, leading to impulsive buying decisions. This has resulted in wardrobes filled with clothes that were purchased out of momentary excitement but have no long-term use.

Various studies and research have shown that a cluttered environment negatively affects mental wellbeing, making it harder to focus and feel at ease. Today, the textile industry is one of the largest contributors to pollution.

Overproduction of clothing has led to increased carbon emissions, water consumption and waste. Many discarded clothes end up in landfills, as most fast fashion items are made from synthetic fabrics that take decades

to decompose. Constantly buying new clothes without fully utilising existing ones results in unnecessary expenses.

As a result, many individuals end up spending large amounts on fashion while struggling to save money for essential needs. Adopting a minimalist approach to fashion will encourage owning fewer but high-quality, versatile pieces that can be mixed and matched.

This will not only reduce the clutter but also promote mindful consumption. Choosing sustainable brands, buying second-hand clothes, and donating unused garments can significantly reduce the impact of fashion waste.

Supporting ethical fashion brands that prioritise durability over trends can help break the cycle of overconsumption. Donating, selling, or repurposing clothes instead of hoarding them can also free up space and prevent unnecessary purchases.

Asking questions like "Do I need this?" or "Will I wear this at least 20 times?" before making a purchase can help in

avoiding impulsive buying. Cloth clutter is a growing problem among today's generation, fuelled by fast fashion, digital influence, social media influencers and impulsive shopping habits.

While the allure of trendy and affordable fashion is strong, it comes at a high cost—both personally and environmentally. By embracing mindful consumption, adopting sustainable fashion choices, and prioritising quality over quantity, individuals can break free from the cycle of cloth clutter, leading to a more organised, stress-free, and eco-conscious lifestyle. There are various reasons for it.

Cloth clutter can arise from various factors, such as: Buying more clothes than needed, holding onto clothes that no longer fit or are out of style and above all reluctance to ward off the old clothes.

It may look innocuous but cluttering can have a negative impact on your well being and mental state. It also has practical issues arising from the problem of plenty.

One can have reduced

storage space and difficulty accessing clothing and one can experience the a sense of being overwhelmed and disorganised. It often leads to stress and anxiety which can impact your overall well-being. But there is solution to it. To combat cloth clutter, you may start declutter your wardrobe regularly and get rid of the items you no longer wear or need.

Besides, organising your clothing storage, using bins, shelves, and drawers effectively declutters your storage space.

One of the easiest way to declutter is to avoid mindless purchasing and buying only what you need and love. Indeed it is not a big problem or something which cannot be dealt with but it must be acknowledged and taken into stride.

It is a lifestyle problem arising from our inability to be mindful of our actions. And don't forget there are people who need your clothes so why not give it to people who need them and experience the feeling of gratitude.

Let your wardrobe smile!

Bangladesh's National Citizen Party: A new dawn or fleeting revolution?

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

On February 28, 2025, Bangladesh witnessed the birth of the National Citizens Party (NCP), or Jatiya Nagorik Party (NJP) in Bengali. Emerging from the embers of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement (ADSM)—the very force that toppled former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024, the NCP represents both hope and uncertainty.

The National Citizens Party (NCP) or Jatiya Nagorik Party (NJP) in Bengali, was born in Bangladesh on February 28, 2025. It is a progeny of the student leaders who spearheaded the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement (ADSM) that ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina from power on August 5, 2024, and the National Citizens Committee (NCC) or the Jatiya Nagorik Committee (JNC), that emerged from the same political cradle on September 8, 2024.

The country was pregnant with it for almost seven months. A report by Reuters, datelined August

16, 2024, and issued under the heading 'Student protesters plan new party to cement their revolution,' quoted Mahfuz Alam, who then chaired a committee charged with liaising between the interim government, which had assumed office on August 8, and groups like teachers and activists, that the decision to form such a party would be known in about a month. It further quoted Alam, who had been a key leader of the ADSM and is now an adviser to the interim government, as saying, "People are tired of the two political parties (obviously the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party). They trust in (sic) us."

According to the report, Nahid Islam, another of ADSM's important leaders, who resigned as an adviser on February 25 and is now the convener and leader of the NCP, said that the spirit of the students' movement was to build a new Bangladesh where no fascist or autocrat could return. He had added, "To achieve that, we need structural reforms, which will

undoubtedly require some time." Nahid further stated that the government was not heeding calls by the Awami League and BNP to hold new elections as early as the fall of 2024. Another Reuters' report by Ruma Paul, Krishn Kaushik, Devjyot Ghoshal and Krishna N Das, carried under the headline "Insight: Bangladesh student protesters eye new party to cement their revolution" and datelined August 16, 2024, however, cited Alam as having said on Facebook that his statement to Reuters "had come out wrong" and that "We are not thinking about political organisations right now."

The main focus was to maintain the spirit of the mass uprising and to consolidate the government. Others also expressed the same view.

Statements, denials and volte faces—nothing new in politics—often reflect tensions and conflicts kept under wraps. Was Alam under pressure to retract or deny his statement? One does not know. There, however, have been indications of differences

among both leaders—called coordinators—and rank-and-file of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD), the moniker given to the organisation emerging out of the ADSM, even in the heady immediate aftermath of the formal formation of the interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

Thus, a report in The Daily Star, datelined August 16, 2024, stated that a coordinator and four assistant coordinators of Chittagong University's ADSM had resigned from their posts, alleging that the central coordinators took unilateral decisions and ignored their demands. According to another report in the Daily Star datelined January 3, 2025, eight persons were injured in Khulna town in a clash among ADSM supporters.

There have been several reports of internal conflicts and tensions. According to a report in Prothom Alo English, adherents of the ADSM blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway for an hour on February 24, 2025, demanding the dissolution of the organisation's new district

committee announced earlier in the month. Not surprisingly, though a consensus was subsequently achieved, there have been reports of arguments and tensions over the naming of the NCP's office-bearers and members of the central convening committee.

Wrangling and power struggles seem programmed into the genes of all political parties. In the case of the NCP, however, factional fissures are accompanied by the presence of incompatible ideologies.

The NJP includes alumni of the Shibir, Jatiotabadi Chhatradal (Bangladesh Nationalist Students Party) affiliated with the BNP, several students' organisations of both leftist and fundamentalist Islamist outfits and those without any political involvement prior to joining the ADSM. They seem to be sticking together because they feel that the future belongs to the new party. What would happen when the latter loses its sheen with time? Signs of trouble are already manifest.

Questions have been asked as to how

the enormous amounts of funds needed to mobilise for the gargantuan rally that marked the NCP's formation were found. According to a report in The Daily Star datelined March 2, 2025, the Pirojpur district administration had requisitioned several privately owned buses to facilitate local students joining the NJP's inaugural rally on February 28.

It was a partisan act and a grim pointer of this becoming a regular factor if the NJP comes to power. Besides, the declaration of the party's vision for Bangladesh raises questions. It talks of a "cruel fascist" regime—obviously referring to Sheikh Hasina's—ruling for 15 years, destroying state institutions and democracy, and making all-encompassing corruption and money laundering a part of state culture.

A lot of what it says—relief to marginalised and disadvantaged communities, the protection of fundamental rights, preserving ethnic, social, gender, and cultural diversity, and ensuring strong safeguards against poverty, inequality, and abuse of power—is unexceptionable.

A trade deal between India and the US remains a strong possibility

K S TOMAR

The strategic partnership and geopolitical compulsions of both India and the United States could significantly contribute to clinching a long-awaited trade deal, laying the foundation for future cooperation. While President Donald Trump has positioned himself ideologically closer to Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un—thus isolating European nations—his administration saw the need to counter China's growing influence in the Asia-Pacific, making India a crucial ally.

US Demands and India's Position

US Commerce Secretary, Howard Lutnick has stressed the necessity of India opening its agriculture market, asserting that this sector could not be "off the table" in trade negotiations. He advocates a broad, macro-level trade pact rather than product-specific agreements, arguing that aligning India's tariff policies with the US would be more beneficial for both

nations.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal recently concluded productive trade discussions in Washington with US counterparts, including Trade Representative Jameson Greer and Secretary Lutnick. The talks hold significance as both nations move towards negotiating a bilateral trade deal. During Prime Minister Modi's recent US visit, India and America committed to doubling bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, targeting the completion of the first phase of a trade pact by fall 2025.

In 2023, US-India trade in goods and services reached \$190.08 billion, with India enjoying a \$43.65 billion trade surplus. Trump, echoing Lutnick's optimism, emphasised that a trade deal is within reach, underlining its strategic importance.

The Indian Diaspora's Growing Influence

Reports suggest that the Indian diaspora in the US has emerged as a significant economic and politi-

cal force, subtly shaping US-India trade policies. Indian-Americans, one of the most prosperous and educated ethnic groups in the US, have wielded considerable influence in strengthening bilateral ties. In a shift, a notable portion of the Indian diaspora supported Trump in the November elections, affecting the political calculus. As of 2021, the average household income for Indian-Americans was \$123,700—surpassing all other ethnic groups.

Between 1995 and 2005, they founded more technology and engineering companies than immigrants from the UK, China, Taiwan, and Japan combined, contributing significantly to innovation and job creation.

The Indian-American population has grown from 2.3 million in 2005 to approximately 4.4 million by 2023, making them the second-largest immigrant group in the US. Their increasing economic and political clout has played a pivotal role in strengthening US-India relations, including current on-going trade deal

dialogue.

Trump's Foreign Policy and Its Impact on India

Trump's foreign policy has been defined by an "America First" approach, often at the cost of traditional alliances. His controversial actions—isolating European allies, supporting Russia in the UN by refusing to name it as an aggressor, and potentially attempting to pull Russia away from China—signal a major shift in global geopolitics. These moves could have far-reaching consequences, impacting not just Europe and Asia but also India's strategic positioning.

If Trump successfully distances Russia from China, India stands to benefit. Moscow has historically been a key defense and energy partner for New Delhi.

Europe's Strategic Shift under Trump

Trump's presidency has been marked by tensions with European allies over defense spending, trade policies, and multilateral

agreements like the Paris Climate Accord. His criticism of NATO and demands for Europe to shoulder more security costs have strained US-Europe ties.

Trump's questioning of NATO's Article 5 (the mutual defense clause) could leave Eastern European nations vulnerable. Europe might be forced to increase defense spending and coordination, but a lack of American support would weaken the alliance's deterrence against Moscow.

Indo-Pacific Security Dynamics

In the Indo-Pacific, key US allies like Japan, South Korea, and Australia rely on Washington to counterbalance China. If Trump reduces support for alliances like AUKUS and Quad, these nations may strengthen security ties with India and European powers like France and the UK. Trump's retreat from alliances could create a vacuum that China might exploit. Beijing has been expanding its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), offering economic and military incentives to countries in

Asia, Africa, and Latin America. If US allies feel abandoned, China might step in, further eroding American influence.

Trump's Alignment with Russia

On the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, US support for Moscow at the UN exposed a growing rift with European allies. Washington sided with Russia, North Korea, and Belarus in opposing a Europe-backed resolution condemning Moscow. The motion still passed 93-8, with 73 abstentions, including China. Furthering this shift, the US pushed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the war—conspicuously avoiding any reference to Russia's invasion.

Trump's alignment with Moscow signals a potential unravelling of America's transatlantic security commitments. His pivot to Russia, ostensibly to end the war, side-lines Kyiv and Brussels, making lasting peace unlikely, though pressure tactics may yield results. Meanwhile, China sees a

strategic advantage in this shift, hoping to mend its strained ties with Europe and Washington as the global order tilts towards an authoritarian axis.

The Future of India-US Trade Relations

While Trump may attempt to realign US-Russia relations, Russia's deep economic and strategic ties with China make a complete pivot unlikely. However, his policies could still reshape global trade and security dynamics in ways that affect India. A trade deal between India and the US remains a strong possibility, driven by economic and geopolitical imperatives.

The Indian government will need to carefully navigate these complexities to safeguard its trade interests while ensuring strategic autonomy. As the global power balance shifts, India's ability to leverage its relationships with the US, Russia and China will determine its long-term geopolitical and economic standing.

Management Committee of Rehan Basera pays rich tributes to Savitri Bhai Phule

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Rich tributes were paid to Krantijyoti Savitri Bai Phule by management committee of Rehan Basera on her death anniversary. Jenab Sohail Kajmi Sr. Journalist and Editor-in-chief of Daily Taskeen was chief guest on this occasion. While speaking on this occasion Sohail Kajmi ji threw light on the life and mission of Krantijyoti Savitri Bai Phule. He said that a mother is equal to hundred teachers, Women have unique capability and patience we must respect women for their unique contributions. While addressing in gathering Shamlal Basson said that women had no right to enter school. It is a universal fact education changes fate line. Education is such a weapon with which you can change the world. Savitri Bai Phule was nine year old at the time of marriage Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule gave education to Savitri Bai Phule at home Phule couple opened girl school on 1st January 1848 at Bidhewada Pune. As per the thinking



of orthodox people women cannot enter school. Savitri Bai Phule became 1st lady teacher of country. The people used to throw cowdung, garbage on Savitri Bai while going to school. Phule couple was expelled from their house because they were imparting education to girls. Phule couple did not stop their mission rather opened 18 school from 1848 to 1852. Savitri Bai Phule fought for the rights of women and eradications of social evils. The window ladies had no right of remarriage they were shaved by barbers. She established Bal Hatya Parivandhak greh. She was mother of Indians feminist. She strived to abolish discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender.

Sh. Subash Gupta retired Judge expressed views regarding social evils for which Phule couple fought for whole life. He said that education plays important role for overhaul development Savitri Bai Phule got training at an institution run by an American missionary, Cynthia Farror in Ahmednagar and 2nd course was at a Normal School in Pune. Madam Sunita Bangotra - Principal Savitri Bai Phule Modern School Bari Brahmana spoke on this occasion. She said that Savitri Bai Phule was a great poet. She published Kaya Phule in 1954. She established the Mahila Seva Mandal to raise the awareness for issues concerning women's right. She was also an anti-infanticide activist. Dr Yograj Parveen

expressed his views and told some unknown facts regarding Savitri Bai Phule. He told that Savitri Bai was born on 3rd Jan 1831 at Naigaon in Satara District and expired on 10th march 1897. She has fought throughout her life. Dr Yograj Parveen is learned spokes person having good knowledge of great Mahapurush. Madam veena Bakshi manager Rehan Basera extended vote of thanks. She told about the achievements of Krantijyoti Savitri Bai Phule. She fought for the rights of women throughout her life. We should follow the teaching of Savitri Bai Phule University of Pune has been named after the name of Savitri Bai Phule. Many Colleges, Schools opened on her name. Those who paid tributes to Krantijyoti Savitri Bai Phule included Smt Rita kumara retd matron, Sudesh kumar, Om Prakash, Daljit Singh, Rajni Devi, Veena Devi, Rattan Lal, Parmila Gupta, ANITA Devi, Aditya Kumar, Col. Mohan Lal, Baldev Raj Nargotra, Bhawna, Rajni Devi.

CRC Jammu, PMDK, 3rd Bn Mahar Rgt jointly celebrate Int'l Wheelchair Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

CRC Jammu (Samba), along with PMDK in collaboration with 3rd Battalion Mahar Regiment, Kulliyian, R.S. Pura, Jammu, celebrated International Wheelchair Day by organizing a special assessment and distribution camp at Mahar Regiment, Kulliyian, R.S. Pura, Jammu for Persons with Disabilities (Divangjan). The event was held to provide assistance and empower people with disabilities, ensuring they have access to the necessary tools to lead a better life. A total of 31 beneficiaries, along with their guardians, participated in the camp, where essential mobility aids were distributed. In total, 18 wheelchairs, 1 motorized tricycle, and 1 manual tricycle with cost of Rs. 1 Lac 99 Thousands were handed over to the beneficiaries making a significant difference in their mobility and daily activities.

The camp was attended by esteemed group of individuals, including the Mr. Naveen Gupta, Administrative Officer, Mr. Vijay Kumar, Assistant and Mr. Neeraj Singh, Orientation and Mobility Instructor from CRC Jammu (Samba), as well as the Mr. Rahul Singh, USW from PMDK. The Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion Mahar Regiment, along with their team, also graced the event with their presence, offering their support to the cause. The entire programme was carried out under the able guidance of the Director, CRC Jammu, ensuring the smooth execution of the event and providing much-needed support to the deserving individuals. CRC Jammu remains committed to its mission of helping people with disabilities and enhancing their quality of life through initiatives like these. The organization continues to work towards creating an inclusive and accessible environment for all.

Indian Army distributes Solar Lights to Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Seoj, Triangle Ghat & Marmat, Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA: 10 MAR 2025

As part of ongoing outreach and helping local population, the Indian Army unit located at Bholderwah has taken an initiative to conduct 'Distribution of Solar Lights for Gujjar & Bakkarwals at Seoj / Triangle Ghat' wef 08 Mar to 09 Mar 2025. Seoj, Triangle Ghat, and Marmat are located in the foothills of the Himalayas at an altitude of 1650 meters. The region is known as mini Kashmir due to its pristine beauty and rich cultural heritage. The region witnessed an insurgency during the peak of militancy, however, the situation has been peaceful and normal for

more than a decade now. Due to the presence of large number of Educational Institutes to pursue higher education and the literacy rate of the area, it is also termed as Kerala of J&K. The region has also been accorded status of additional district considering its vast area, prevailing peace and separate identity. Good communal harmony exists between both the communities who are in almost equal ratio. A popular demand for provision of Solar Lights had come from the people of both communities from villages of the remotest area of Seoj, Triangle Ghat, Bholderwah & Marmat. A total of 40 solar lights were distributed to the civil population by the Indian Army.

Tony raises alarm over injustice to fair price shop dealers

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony has raised serious concerns over the prolonged hardships faced by the Fair Price Shop (FPS) Dealers Association of Jammu and Kashmir. In a strong statement issued today, he urged the Minister for Food, Satish Sharma, to prioritize and resolve the long-pending demands of the FPS dealers without further delay. The senior Congress leader highlighted that the FPS dealers have been continuously appealing to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA)

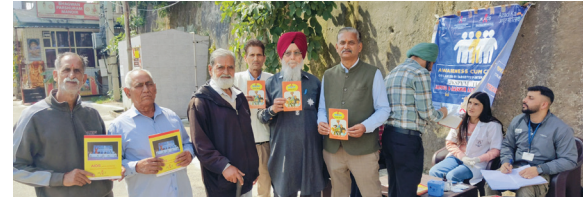


for the clearance of their outstanding liabilities, which have been pending since 2019. These include payments related to Centre Share, handling losses (wastage), genuine monthly commissions for the distribution of Mid-Day

Meal Rations, and other miscellaneous charges, none of which have been received till date. Expressing his displeasure, Tony emphasized that despite funds being reportedly available for the year 2024-25, the deliberate delay in payments amounts to misappropriation of funds. He condemned the indifferent attitude of the FCS&CA Department, accusing them of pushing the FPS dealers into severe financial distress. He further stated that ignoring the legitimate claims of the dealers not only reflects poorly on the administration's efficiency but also questions its commitment to transparency and justice.

"In view of the above backdrop, it is imperative that the government takes immediate steps to fulfill the demands of FPS dealers, who are an essential link in ensuring food security for the people. The ongoing delay and harassment faced by them at the hands of the FCS&CA Department is unacceptable," Tony asserted. Tony appealed to Minister Satish Sharma to intervene directly and ensure the swift disbursement of all pending dues, thereby preventing any further harassment of FPS dealers. He called upon the administration to act responsibly and resolve the issue at the earliest to restore the confidence of the FPS dealers in the system.

JKSPYM, JKACS, organize CBS Camp near Brahman Sabha, Gangyal, Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The camp focused on raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), Hepatitis, and opioid substitution therapy (OST). A key part of the initiative was tuberculosis (TB) screening, helping to detect and address health concerns early. The goal was to reach underserved communities, including high-risk groups (HRGs)

and their spouses, who often miss out on regular healthcare services. To promote better health, the TI team emphasized the importance of safe practices—both in sexual health and when using injections—helping individuals make informed choices for their well-being. We thank Sh. Satish Sharma ji, Corporator and local population of the area to help us in organising the camp successfully.

Indian Army organizes Medical, Veterinary Camp in Border Areas of Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU: 10 MAR 2025

"Serving with strength, healing with care" Tiger Division organized a Medical & Veterinary Camp at Bhurechak Stadium, Mandal, delivering essential healthcare to remote communities and addressing livestock well-being—the backbone of local livelihoods. A joint team of Army doctors, Medical specialists including Cardiologists, Dermatologists, Orthopedics, Paramedic Assistants, Dentists and Veterinary Specialists provided free medical consultations, medicines, and checkups to over 300 residents and their livestock from far-flung villages. The camp also featured awareness sessions on preventive



healthcare, hygiene, and livestock management, led by Army Medical Officers, Cardiologists, and Senior Veterinary Surgeons. This initiative, in synergy with the Civil Health Department, reinforced Army's Unwavering commitment to Serving communities, Fostering Trust, Harmony, and Resilience in the region.

Indian Army furnishes Two Class Rooms of Little Angles School at Bholderwah, Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA: 10 MAR 2025

As part of ongoing outreach and helping local population, the Indian Army located at Bholderwah has taken an initiative to conduct 'Furnishing of Two Class Rooms / Pre-Fabricated Huts for Little Angles School, Bholderwah Campus Jammu University' wef 25 Feb to 08 Mar 2025. To Win the Hearts and Mind of the budding civil populace who affects the future of the country, it will be justified to consider the realistic request which may lead them for betterment and they can contribute positively towards the main stream of the nation. The School faces severe overcrowding and lacks adequate infrastructure, affecting the quality of education. Pre-fabricated huts

provide a cost effective, durable and weather appropriate solution to address these challenges. The initiative will enhance learning conditions, increase enrollment and improve literacy rates. The urgent need for infrastructure at Little Angles Schools, Bholderwah, where overcrowded classrooms hinder effective learning. Pre-fabricated classrooms offer a quick, durable and cost efficient solution suitable for the region's hilly terrain and harsh weather. Improved facilities will enhance the quality of education, encourage higher enrolment and positively impact literacy rates. By investing in education, the Army strengthens civil-military relations, contributing to long-term peace and progress in this sensitive area.

Jammu is being forced to be separate: Shiv Sena

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

All the claims made in the recently presented budget about the betterment of Jammu division and boosting the economy have once again proved to be hollow. Like Ladakh, Jammu division is also being forced to demand a separate state for its rights, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit. In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that discriminatory attitude towards Jammu division remains the same. In the recently presented budget by the Omar government, no special package was announced for the development of tourism, religious places and boosting the economy of Jammu. At the same time, no special amount was announced for the maintenance of



Ranbir Canal and Dogra heritage sites, the life line of farmers. The BJP MLAs along with the government remained silent on the promotion of Dogri language and culture. The hue and cry over the liquor ban in the temple city of Jammu did not go beyond the politics of pressure on the vendors. Sahni said that the time has come that all the well wisher organizations of Jammu should raise their voices in unity for the rights of Jammu division. Sahni said that as soon as the budget

session is over, Shiv Sena and Sainik Samaj Party will jointly launch the "Jammu ko do Apna Haq" campaign, know the public sentiment on the demand of making Jammu the permanent capital and the status of a separate state. Sahni said that if the Omar government wants to keep Jammu with Kashmir, then Jammu should be declared the permanent capital. Otherwise, like Leh Ladakh, the Jammu division will be forced to raise the demand of creating a separate state for its rights.

Dr Ritu Singh launches Rajmata Tara Devi Ji Sankirtan Mandal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Amidst the serene ambiance of the ancient Shri Raghunath Ji Temple in Jammu, where the air is filled with the fragrance of incense and the soft glow of oil lamps illuminates intricate carvings, the Rajmata Tara Devi Ji Sankirtan Mandal, under the leadership of Chairperson Kunwari Ritu Singh, organized a grand Maha Aarti at the Temple premises in Jammu. This auspicious event coincided with the 94th birthday celebration of Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh ji, former Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu & Kashmir. On the occasion, Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh ji was the Chief Guest while M.K Ajatshatru Singh, R.K Ranvijay Singh, Kunwari Dr Ritu Singh, Rajkumari Adhishree Singh, Brig RS Langeh, President J&K Dharmarth Trust, Ashok Sharma, Secretary

and prominent people of the society were present. The Maha Aarti was conducted in the traditional style reminiscent of ceremonies held in Haridwar, Rishikesh, and Kashi. Renowned singers Seema Murti, Sonali Dogra, and Raghuvir Raghuvanshi captivated the audience with their melodious performances. Seven specially trained Pujaris from Purmandal led the Aarti, which encompassed five distinct rituals: 33 Koti Devi Ki Aarti with Aggarwati, Ganga Maiya Aarti, Bhagwan Shiv Aarti of Mantalai, Shiv Tandav Stotra Aarti, and Bhagwan Ram Ji Archana. The Pujaris also sanctified the devotees by sprinkling Amrit Jal while chanting Vedic mantras. Students of Shri Ranbir Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya Birpur, run by J&K Dharmarth Trust also participated in the programme and chanted Vedic Mantras.

Speaking on the occasion, Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh ji lauded Dr. Ritu Singh for her dedication in organizing the Maha Aarti, stating that it was the first time he had witnessed such a Grand ceremony at the Shri Raghunath Ji Temple. He highlighted the temple's significance, noting that it enshrines 365 deities and houses 12 lakh Shaligrams of Lord Narayana, symbolizing the sacred abode of 33 crore deities. The temple's sanctum resonated with divine chants during the ceremony. Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, in her address, emphasized that the establishment of the Rajmata Tara Devi Ji Sankirtan Mandal aims to revitalize the spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir by organizing events like the Maha Aarti. She expressed that this Aarti was to reconnect people with the ancient temple.

Hakeem Yaseen slams Govt's 'ignorance' over Gulmarg fashion show

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 11

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Monday strongly criticized the government for claiming ignorance about the controversial fashion show held in Gulmarg during the holy month of Ramzan.

Terming the government's stance as highly irresponsible, Hakeem Yaseen questioned how Chief Minister Omar Abdullah could be unaware of such an event when he holds the tourism portfolio.

"It is a matter of serious concern. How can the Chief Minister claim he was not aware of the event? If he doesn't know what is happening under his watch,



what kind of governance is this? How can we expect such a government to safeguard the interests of the people?" he asked.

Hakeem Yaseen also raised concerns about the security protocols under which such an event was conducted, given that Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg are being held under tight security.

"If security agencies are meticulously screen-

ing activities in Gulmarg, how was this fashion show allowed? Who granted the permission? The government owes an explanation to the people," he asserted.

Reacting to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's statement in the Assembly, where he claimed the government had no role in organizing the event and that it was held at a private venue, Hakeem Yaseen said such clarifications were insufficient.

He demanded an impartial probe into how the event was approved and who facilitated it.

"Merely distancing the government from the controversy is not enough. The administration must reveal who authorized the event and under what pretext it was allowed to proceed," he stated.

He further criticized the

government for failing to uphold the sentiments of the people and questioned whether such events were part of a larger agenda to erode Kashmir's cultural and religious identity.

"The people of Kashmir will not tolerate such blatant disregard for their beliefs and values. This government has repeatedly shown that it is disconnected from the aspirations and sensitivities of the people," he added.

Hakeem Yaseen urged the administration to take swift action against those responsible for permitting the controversial event.

"This is a direct affront to the religious sentiments of the people. The government must take immediate corrective measures and ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future," he added.

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Government College of Education (GCOE), in collaboration with Live for Others and Talla Jewellers, successfully organized an Inter-college Symposium Competition on the topic "Unleashing potential: women's leadership & participation in decision-making" in the college premises. The event aimed to provide a platform for students to express their views on the subject and enhance their public speaking skills.

Among the outstanding participants, Ms. Tarantpreet Kour from SPMR College secured the first position, followed by Ms. Aseesabjot Kour from Government College for Women, Parade, who bagged the second position. Ms. Ayushivi Sharma from GCOE, Jammu, secured the



third position with her commendable presentation.

The event was held under the patronage of Prof. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of GCOE, Jammu, who

served as the Chief Patron. Hema Gandotra, NSS Coordinator of the University of Jammu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest along with Prof. Amitpal,

NSS Coordinator Cluster University of Jammu. The competition was meticulously judged by esteemed panelists, Anuradha Kalsi, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, and Atiya Syed, who brought their expertise to evaluate the participants fairly. The entire programme was coordinated by Vivek Parihar (Director, Live for Other Foundation), Rithik Majotra, Sarita Dogra (NSS PO), Dr. Davinder Kour (Convener Sparsh Committee).

The symposium witnessed active participation, engaging discussions, and insightful presentations, making it a remarkable intellectual event. The organizers extended their heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and collaborators for their valuable contributions in making the event a grand success.

IIM Jammu concludes Empyrean 2025 – A Celestial Odyssey with unforgettable Music, Culture, Celebration

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu concluded its much-anticipated annual cultural festival, Empyrean 2025 - A Celestial Odyssey, with grandeur and enthusiasm. The three-day extravaganza, held at IIM Jammu's Jagti campus from 07th March 2025 to 09th March 2025, brought together a vibrant mix of music, art, creativity, and talent, establishing new benchmarks in cultural engagement and student-led initiatives.

The festival commenced with a spectacular musical evening featuring acclaimed singer Jubin Nautiyal, who delivered an enthralling performance blending soulful melodies with Bollywood chart-busters. His captivating voice and magnetic stage

presence electrified the atmosphere, making it a night to remember.

The first day evening was graced by the presence of Shri Atal Dulloo, IAS, Chief Secretary, J&K, Shri Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP, Jammu & Kashmir, and Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu along with faculty members, officers, staff, and students at the Institute. Their presence added to the grandeur of the event and set a celebratory tone for the festival.

The second day of Empyrean 2025 featured an exciting array of competitions, cultural showcases, and musical performances. Students across institutions participated in events including Solo, Duet, and Group Musical Performances; Consensus, Finedge, and Aapoorti



(Flagship business competitions); Debate, Extempore Speech, and Buzzer Quiz; Inter-College Music Competition; Scribble & Swap, Doodle the Wall, Mystery Box Art, Reverse Art Challenge; Fashion Showcase - Round 2

The cultural events provided a platform for students to express creativity and talent while fostering a spirit of collaboration and competition.

As dusk set in, Rauhan Mallik, a celebrated singer,

performer, and composer, took center stage with his band. Performing his hits such as Ishq from Lost & Found, Bezubaan, and a medley of popular Bollywood numbers, he captivated the audience with his energetic performance.

The event was graced by Shri Manish K. Sinha, IPS, ADGP HQ & Coordination, Jammu & Kashmir, as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. Their presence further inspired

students to continue striving for excellence in all spheres.

The final day of Empyrean 2025 ended on a euphoric note with a DJ Night, featuring renowned artists DJ Carnivore and DJ Holy.C, along with a mesmerizing performance. The event transformed the campus into a high-energy dance floor, with dazzling lights, electrifying music, and a vibrant crowd celebrating the culmination of three days of festivities. The event was graced by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU and Shri Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu.

The DJ performances created an exhilarating atmosphere that brought together the entire IIM Jammu community in celebration, perfectly wrapping up the cultural odyssey.

Several people join BSP

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The state Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will celebrate the birth anniversary of party Founder Honorable Sahib Kanshi Ram on March 15 by organizing programs in the district headquarters and regional headquarters and on this day special campaigns will also be run by the party to strengthen the party. On Monday, in a meeting held in the region under the chairmanship of the party Jammu and Kashmir president Darshan Rana, discussions were held on celebrating the birth anniversary of party Founder Kanshi Ram. During the program organized in Bishnah Assembly constituency, a large number of people left other political parties and joined the Bahujan Samaj Party who were welcomed vigorously by the state president



of the party. Addressing the meeting on this occasion, BSP state chief Darshan Rana said that the birth anniversary of party founder Kanshi Ram will be celebrated on March 15 and in this connection, a program will be organized in the party office of District Jammu to pay tribute to him and also discuss his contribution to the development and progress of the country. He said that apart from the district level, the party founder will be remembered by organizing programs at the regional level as well. He said that with the aim of strengthening the party,

a special campaign will also be announced on this day. Welcoming the people who joined the party, he said that today people have left various political parties and joined the Bahujan Samaj Party, which will strengthen the party a lot. Rana said that in the coming days, the party will organize programs at the assembly and panchayat level and more and more people will be associated with the party under the membership campaign. He appealed to the party workers to participate enthusiastically in the program organized on the birthday of the party founder. On this occasion, senior party leader Swarn Lata expressed her views and welcomed the women who joined BSP. On this occasion, senior party leaders Jagdish Bhagat and Tarsem Lal, along with others, also expressed their views.

NC committed to equitable devp, progress of rural, border, remote areas: Rattan Lal

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta, reaffirmed the Party's commitment to ensuring equitable development & progress for rural, border, and remote areas across Jammu and Kashmir.

He was addressing a gathering during a joining programme held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu. Today along with supporters, including Panchs and Sarpanchs led by Manoj Kumar Gupta, Prominent social activists from Billawar, joined the National Conference in the presence of Mr Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President and other senior party leaders.

Welcoming the new entrants, Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta criticized the previous government's hollow policies that have left the youth and rural populace in distress. He pointed out the widespread neglect faced by people in these areas, stating that basic infrastructure and essential services remain a far cry. He added that the National Conference Govt, under the leadership of



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has always prioritized the upliftment of these marginalized areas and will continue to do so with renewed vigor.

"The people residing in rural border and remote areas have been victims of false promises made by the previous dispensation. The National Conference is dedicated to reversing this trend by implementing inclusive and development-oriented policies," he said. He highlighted the achievements of the Omar Abdullah-led government, which focusing on pro-people policies, including improved healthcare, education, and infrastructure facilities in the far-flung regions of the Union Territory.

Rattan Lal Gupta also underscored the party's ambitious plans to boost employment and indus-

trial growth in the region by initiating Yova Mission. "More than 46 industrial areas are proposed to be developed by Omar Govt across Jammu and Kashmir, which will create approximately 4.25 lakh jobs for the youth," he announced. He asserted that the present dispensation, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed to transforming the economic landscape of the Union Territory by encouraging industrial investments and providing adequate skill development opportunities for the youth.

The Provincial President urged the newly joined members to work dedicatedly at the grassroots level to strengthen the party's base and spread awareness about its policies. He emphasized the importance of unity

and collective efforts to defeat divisive forces and restore peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the workers Mr Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President emphasized the need to strengthen the party at gross root level and hoped that the people were joining the party would work for the betterment of the party in their respective areas.

Manoj Kumar Gupta, while addressing the gathering, assured Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta of unwavering support to the party's vision for a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the people of Billawar have reposed faith in the leadership of National Conference due to its proven track record of transpar-

ent and effective governance.

Among those who joined the party fold include Jagdev Singh Sarpanch, Joginder Kumar Sarpanch, Satish Sharma Naib Sarpanch, Abdul Rashid, Sultan, Shoqat Ali, Ruksar Ahmad, Sohan Lal, Jagan nath Sundan Social Activist.

Those who were present on the occasion included: Qazi Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Pardeep Bali, Arif Mir Provincial Secretaries, Ankush Ahol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Dr. Vikas Secretary Central Zone and Coordinator District Jammu, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Vikram Gupta, Surinder Kumar, Rahul Gupta, Sanjay Anand and others.

ABS demands immediate repair of Iron Bridge on Balol Nallah near Bagh-e-Bhour

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Aadarsh Bhartiya Samaj, a social volunteer organisation working to promote education, environment, health and nationhood among the general masses and students community in particular by organising different kinds of activities and highlighting general / basic problems faced by the society under the guidance of Col R K Sharma (Retd) Chairman and Sardar Daljeet Singh, President. ABS noted it with concern that base sheets of Iron bridge on Balol River near Bagh-E-Bhour are damaged, rusted, dilapidated and tattered at multiple places and people are facing hurdle in crossing damaged bridge but due to non-option to reach their destination they cross the bridge at the risk of life and property as it is only approaching point over Balol River. Protecting iron guards on the both ends of the bridge are already damaged / lifted by the operators of Tractor Trolleys and is totally damaged, posing ugly face and showing bad image near tourist place, it is feared that base sheets of the bridge may fall any time and cause accident.



It is reiterated that there is a dire need of repairing / construction of bridge at place. Through the medium of your esteemed paper attention of the authorities

concerned is drawn for resolution of the genuine and basic demand / problem faced by the people of area as a welfare measure.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor introduces Hilux Black edition

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has announced the introduction of the new Hilux Black Edition in India, to cater to the desires of the customers seeking an incredible lifestyle utility vehicle that is best suited for off-roading adventure drives on tough terrains and everyday city use. Designed to keep up with evolving customer expectations, the new Hilux Black Edition aims to deliver an aggressive and sophisticated all-black theme, while retaining its legendary toughness, power and performance.

At the heart of the Hilux Black Edition is a 2.8L Four-Cylinder Turbo-Diesel Engine, available with a 6-Speed Automatic Transmission (500 Nm torque). It's 4x4 drivetrain ensures a seamless off-road experience, making it the

perfect combination of performance, power, and sophistication. Toyota's world-class engineering, advanced safety features, and best-in-class comfort make the Hilux Black Edition a standout in its segment, offering segment-leading 500 Nm torque, an innovative multi-purpose vehicle (IMV) platform, and an exceptional 700mm water wading capacity.

The Hilux Black Edition features all-new black-themed exterior, giving it a dominant road presence. Key design enhancements include a black-coloured front radiator grille, muscular bonnet line and 18-inch black alloy wheels with customized hub caps. The additional styling elements such as the black ORVM covers, door handles, fender garnish, and fuel lid garnish contribute to a sleek, aggressive look. The front bumper features

an Under Run adding a sporty touch. Completing the modern and premium aesthetic are the sharp swept-back LED headlights and LED rear combination lamps, ensuring a distinctive lighting signature.

Safety remains a top priority in the Hilux Black Edition, featuring 7 SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TC), Electronic Differential Lock (EDL), and Automatic Limited Slip Differential (ALSD) for superior handling and control. Additionally, Hill Assist Control (HAC) and Downhill Assist Control (DAC) provide enhanced safety on inclines and rough terrains. The front parking sensors add convenience in tight spaces, ensuring a confident and secure drive.

Inside, the Hilux Black Edition offers a driver-focused premium cabin, blending comfort with

cutting-edge technology. The interior is finished in luxurious leather upholstery, complemented by a dual-zone fully automatic climate control system for personalized comfort. The vehicle is equipped with an eight-inch infotainment touchscreen featuring Android Auto and Apple CarPlay for seamless connectivity. Additional comfort-enhancing features include an eight-way powered driver seat, electrochromic IRVM for automatic dimming, and a reverse parking camera with audio display for enhanced visibility.

For added convenience, the Hilux Black Edition incorporates Smart Entry with Engine Push Start/ Stop Button, automatic headlamps, and electric adjust & retract ORVMs (now black coloured to match the new design). Cruise control ensures effortless long-distance

driving, making the Hilux Black Edition an ideal companion for both urban commutes and rugged adventures.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa - Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "At Toyota, our commitment to delivering ever-better cars is rooted in a deep understanding of our customers' diverse mobility needs and preferences. Through extensive market research and consumer insights, we recognize the evolving demand for vehicles that seamlessly blend power, sophistication and rugged versatility. The Toyota Hilux has long been an icon of durability and performance and with the introduction of the Hilux Black Edition, we are taking this legacy even further. The striking all-black exterior enhances

its bold and commanding road presence, making a powerful statement that resonates with adventure seekers and lifestyle enthusiasts alike.

This exclusive Black Edition is not just about aesthetics—it embodies Toyota's world-class engineering, cutting-edge safety, and best-in-class comfort, offering an unparalleled driving experience for those who are passionate for thrill, exploration, and memorable journeys. Whether conquering off-road trails or navigating cityscapes, the Hilux Black Edition stands as the ultimate 'go-anywhere, do-anything' vehicle. We are confident that this refreshed look, combined with Toyota's legendary toughness, will deeply connect with our customers looking for both performance and style in their mobility experience."

Women's Day Celebrated at Amar Singh Club, Jammu – Prominent Women Honored



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

A grand function was organized today at Amar Singh Club, Jammu, by former corporator Anu Bali to celebrate Women's Day. The event saw the presence of several distinguished guests, including BJP State President Sat Sharma as the chief guest. Other notable attendees included Dr. Vikrant Sharma, Additional Director RSS; Chairperson Rajyogini BK Sudershan Didi; MLAs Yudhir Sethi, Arvind Gupta, and Shagun Parihar; BJP leader Priya Sethi; special guest Bhanu Mahajan, Mahila

Congress Working President of Jammu & Kashmir; and Dr. Aatika Gupta Bali, along with RSS officials.

During the event, women who have made significant contributions to society and earned recognition in Jammu & Kashmir were honored by the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Anu Bali emphasized the importance of celebrating women's achievements and acknowledged the dedication of those honored. She expressed gratitude to the esteemed guests for their participation and support in making the event successful.

BVP Prakash branch holds annual elections

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

The Annual Election of BVP Prakash Branch was successfully conducted today at K.C. Orchid under the supervision of Prant Observers Arun Kumar Sharma, National Project Member - NGSC, and Ashok Gupta, National Project Member - Sampark. In a unanimous decision, Devinder Kumar was elected president of the branch for the 2025-26 term while Dinesh Gupta and Chanan Mohan Gupta were elected as general secretary and finance secretary, respectively.

Before the election proceedings commenced, Arun Kumar Sharma and Ashok Gupta were honored with bouquets and mementos in recognition of their contributions. While overseeing the election, both observers praised the branch's



efforts and commended the team's dedication and hard work.

The Newly re-elected General Secretary, Dinesh Gupta expressed his gratitude to the members for their trust and assured them that the leadership team would work diligently to further strengthen the branch.

Echoing this sentiment, President Devinder Kumar elaborated on the branch's ongoing initiatives and emphasized the team's commitment to fostering growth and success.

The branch also felicitated Dinesh Gupta for his remarkable achievement

of being unanimously re-elected as General Secretary of the Chamber of Traders Federation for the third consecutive year—a milestone that brought immense pride to the organization.

The event was successfully coordinated by senior member Dr. V.K. Gupta, ensuring an efficient and well-managed function. The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks presented by M.L. Vaid, the senior-most member.

The gathering concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem, followed by light refreshments for the participants.

Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa today conducted a comprehensive tour of Sunjwan and its surrounding areas today.

The MLA was accompanied by key officials from the PHE Department, Executive Engineer (XEN), Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Junior Engineer (JE), and other staff members. This initiative was undertaken to address the pressing issue of water scarcity that has been affecting the local communities.

During the visit, Randhawa engaged directly with residents to understand their challenges related to the inconsistent water supply.

Randhawa vows to address water scarcity in Sunjwan, surrounding areas

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He emphasized the importance of sustainable water management practices to ensure the availability of this vital resource for future generations. Highlighting the rapid depletion of groundwater levels and the diminishing state of other water resources, he urged the community to use drinking water judiciously.

The tour included a detailed assessment of the existing water infrastructure in Sunjwan. Randhawa and the PHE officials identified several critical areas that require immediate attention, including the need for infrastructure upgrades, prompt detection and repair of leaks. They also discussed the importance of community



engagement in promoting water conservation practices.

Randhawa expressed his commitment to resolving the water scarcity issue by collaborating closely with the PHE Department and ensuring active community participation. He stated that access to clean and sufficient water is a fundamental right of every citizen and that the hardships faced by the residents of Sunjwan are unacceptable.

Vikram Randhawa emphasized that the Modi government is steadfast in its commitment to enhancing water infrastructure across the nation. He assured the community that effective solutions would be implemented promptly to address the water scarcity once for all.

The Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended. Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working alongside the Awam in their fight against the medical related issues. The Indian Army at Samote organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Kandra Hill on 10 Mar 25. A total of 36 locals including 15 men, 13 women and 08 children from village of Kandra Hill availed the benefit of free medical treatment & free distribution of medicines.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Locals at Kandra Hill, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 10 MAR 2025

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Randhawa expressed his commitment to resolving the water scarcity issue by collaborating closely with the PHE Department and ensuring active community participation. He stated that access to clean and sufficient water is a fundamental right of every citizen and that the hardships faced by the residents of Sunjwan are unacceptable.

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Youth Congress stages massive protest in Jammu over Kathua Killings

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

J&K Youth Congress (JKPYC) on Monday staged a massive protest in Jammu against the central government following the recent killing of three youth in Kathua district by terrorists. On the direction of IYC President Uday Bhanu Chib and IYC Incharge J&K Maan Singh Rathore, the protest was organised by JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney. The protesters expressed outrage over the rising terror incidents in the Union Territory and criticized the government for its failure to protect civilians. Amid slogans against the ruling dispensation, the demonstrators burned an effigy of the Union Home Minister as a symbolic gesture, demanding accountability for the increasing security lapses. The Youth Congress members stated that terrorism, which was previously concentrated in the Kashmir Valley, has now shifted dangerously to the Jammu region, raising serious concerns about the security situation.

Speaking at the protest, PYC State General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney stated, that it is alarming



that terror attacks are now increasing in districts like Kathua, Udhampur, and Rajouri, where such incidents were rare in the past. The government claims to have brought stability to J&K, but the reality is that terror activities have only increased since 2014. More than 390 civilians have lost their lives in terrorist attacks since then, and there have been at least 1,750 terror incidents in the last decade. The government is doing nothing to prevent such attacks. Instead of ensuring security, they are busy making hollow claims of normalcy, he stated. He further added that the government must provide a clear plan of

action to protect civilians and not just resort to temporary measures each time an attack takes place.

Sawhney also criticized the LG administration of J&K and stated, "Is this why Jammu and Kashmir was turned into a Union Territory? The law and order situation has not improved in any way, in fact, the opposite is true. Crime in Jammu city is at an all-time high, terrorism has now gripped the Jammu region as well, and even the LG administration is unable to control the situation. The central government cannot continue to ignore these facts. People in Jammu and Kashmir are living in fear, and the failure of security

agencies to prevent such attacks raises serious concerns about intelligence and operational preparedness.

Speaking during the protest, Divyansh Singh, Ranjith Singh and Amit Sial said that J&K Youth Congress calls for the resignation of the Union Home Minister, Sunny Parihar, Tanveer Singh, Anmol Kohli, Rishabh Kohli, Gaurav Sharma, Sardari Lal Bitti, Akhil Bogia, Raghav Khajuria, Anuj Sharma, Nishant Sharma, Tableen Bhoparai, Mahmood Kadri, Rahul Sharma, Rakesh Chamial, Sahil Dogra, Rohit Gupta, Amir Rathar, Aditya Sharma and others participated in the protest.

The people of J&K should not be treated as second-class citizens under an unelected administration. Also speaking during the agitational protest, Ajay Lakhotra said that the government must act now and take concrete steps to eliminate terrorism instead of using J&K as a political tool, they asserted. He further said that the JKPYC leaders have vowed to continue their agitation until their demands are met and will continue to urge the government to take security concerns in J&K seriously before more innocent lives are lost. He stressed that the government must answer why terror attacks continue to rise despite its claims of development and security improvements.

Youth Congress leaders including Surinder Kumar, Divyansh Verma, Happy Randhawa, Rahul Tandon, Sunny Parihar, Tanveer Singh, Anmol Kohli, Rishabh Kohli, Gaurav Sharma, Sardari Lal Bitti, Akhil Bogia, Raghav Khajuria, Anuj Sharma, Nishant Sharma, Tableen Bhoparai, Mahmood Kadri, Rahul Sharma, Rakesh Chamial, Sahil Dogra, Rohit Gupta, Amir Rathar, Aditya Sharma and others participated in the protest.

37th Academic Council Meeting held at SMVDU

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) held its 37th Academic Council meeting. The meeting was presided over by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar, SMVDU. The meeting was attended by eminent academicians, including Prof. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice President of Research Relations & Academic Affairs at Elsevier (India), and Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean of Academic Affairs, University of Jammu. Other external members Prof. Majid Jamil from Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof. S.K. Verma from BITS Pilani, Prof. Rina Surana from MNIT (Jaipur), Prof. Pranav and Prof. Madhusudan Singh (DTU, Delhi) joined the meeting in virtual mode. Registrar, Finance officer, Deans and Heads of various schools of SMVDU, Faculty Incharge Examination, CEO TBIC, Program Coordinators of DYD and B. Design were also present to deliberate on the academic reforms and initiatives. The meeting was focused on key academic decisions and new initiatives aimed to strengthen the university's educational framework. The meeting started with a welcome note followed by



introductory remarks by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU highlighting the university's achievements over the past year. Prof. Kumar emphasized the institution's commitment to academic excellence, research development, and student-centric policies. The agenda items for discussion were presented by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs and Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Assoc. Dean, Academic Affairs, leading to several significant decisions. The council approved the inclusion of B.Sc. Computer Science as a major under the 'Design Your Degree' program, allowing students greater flexibility in tailoring their academic pathways. Another key development was the approval of ordinances governing the SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) and its associate hospital, marking an important step in

strengthening medical education and healthcare services at the university. Further, it was decided that a new postgraduate program, M.Sc. Chemistry will be introduced from the 2025-26 academic session, expanding the university's offerings in the sciences. The council also deliberated on introducing B. Tech programs in Robotics & Automation, Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence and M. Arch programs aimed at equipping students with skills to meet the demands of the 21st Century. The 37th Academic Council meeting marked another milestone in SMVDU's pursuit of academic excellence and institutional growth. With these developments, SMVDU continues to strengthen its position as a leading institution committed to quality education, academic innovation and research-driven education.

JKHBAJ honours Rohit Shastri for promoting Sanskrit, Indian Culture

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association (JKHBAJ) organized a special ceremony to honour Mahant Rohit Shastri (State Awardee), President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sanshan Trust, Raipur Thather, Bantlab, Jammu & Kashmir, in the presence of JKHBAJ President Advocate Nirmal Kotwal, Vice President Advocate Baldev Singh, General Secretary Advocate Pradeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Advocate Anshu Mahajan, and Treasurer Advocate Rahul Aggarwal.

The primary objective of this felicitation ceremony was to recognize Mahant Rohit Shastri's exemplary contribution towards the preservation and promotion of Devvani Sanskrit Language and Indian Culture. Mahant Rohit Shastri has made continuous efforts to promote the Sanskrit language and uphold Indian traditions, inspiring the younger generation to connect with their cultural roots.

On this occasion, Advocate Nirmal Kotwal stated that Mahant Rohit Shastri's work towards promoting Sanskrit is commend-



able. He emphasized that Sanskrit is not merely a language but the soul of Indian culture and civilization, which needs to be preserved and enriched.

Vice President Advocate Baldev Singh praised Mahant Rohit Shastri's efforts to popularize the Sanskrit language, calling them remarkable. General Secretary Advocate Pradeep Majotra stated that the promotion of Sanskrit will give the new generation an opportunity to connect with their cultural heritage. Joint Secretary Advocate Anshu Mahajan also appreciated Mahant Rohit Shastri's work and said that his contribution has increased interest and respect for Sanskrit in the region.

During the ceremony,

Mahant Rohit Shastri expressed his gratitude to all the office bearers and stated that he remains committed to the upliftment of Sanskrit and Indian culture in the future. He remarked that promoting Sanskrit strengthens the values and traditions of Indian culture.

Finally, Advocate Nirmal Kotwal thanked all the members and guests present at the ceremony and stated that the Association will continue to support such initiatives for the promotion of Sanskrit and Indian culture in the future.

On occasion advocate pawan khajuria, Ravinder chib, Advocate Nittin, Aditya Abhiraj Sharma and other dignitaries were also present.

ABS, CUJ celebrates International Women's Day with Special Lecture

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

The Apex Body of SPARSH (Sensitization, Prevention, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment), Cluster University of Jammu, under the patronage of Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, and the guidance of Chairperson ABS, Dr. Vandana Khajuria, organized a special lecture on the theme "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment" to mark the celebration of International Women's Day 2025 at GGM Science College, Jammu.

The event was graced by Ms. Ankur Mahajan (JKAS), Registrar, Cluster University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Vishav Raksha, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Jammu, was the esteemed guest speaker. This special lecture served as the culmination of a week-long celebration of International Women's Day 2025, during which various activities such as signature campaigns, poster making, symposiums, and slogan writing competitions were conducted across the constituent colleges and schools of



the university.

The programme commenced with an inaugural address by Dr. Vandana Khajuria, who formally welcomed the guests and introduced the audience to the objectives of the Apex Body of SPARSH, highlighting its role in fostering awareness and ensuring a safe and inclusive educational environment. As part of the cultural segment, two students from GGM Science College, Sumeet Kumar and Mohd. Ayoub Jan, presented self-composed poems on the theme of women empowerment, adding a creative and inspirational touch to the event.

In her insightful lecture, Prof. Vishav Raksha emphasized the Gender Positive Initiative in Higher Education and underscored the need for both gender equality and gender equity. She encour-

aged students to become active agents of change, fostering a more just and equal society.

Addressing the audience, Chief Guest Ms. Ankur Mahajan highlighted the contemporary relevance of gender sensitization and praised the efforts of ABS in empowering students and faculty through such initiatives. She commended the university for its commitment to creating an inclusive academic environment.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and students from various constituent schools and colleges of the university. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Meenu Sharma, Member Secretary, ABS, while Dr. Roshni Charak successfully conducted the proceedings of the event.

Santoor maestro Dr Veethika casts spells on audience in classical concert



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Dr Veethika Tikoo, highly talented Santoor Specialist, the only youngest female santoor vadika and daughter of the soil who has received many awards, scholarships and fellowships casted spells on the audience during a Classical Santoor Concert organised by AROHI Sangeet Vidyalyaya, a prominent voluntary cultural society in collaboration with Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Regional Branch, J&K and Government Women's PG College, Gandhi Nagar, here today.

The objective of the Concert was to bring cultural revolution in Jammu and Kashmir, besides discovering remarkable talent untapped and unexploited in and outside the Union territory since 1986 and inculcating awareness of rich traditions of Indian culture among children on the eve of the International Women's Day.

Dr Veethika has the honour to perform in almost all states of India and many countries outside india and is the first female artist to perform a santoor recital in the European Parliament invited by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The daughter of the soil was also invited to play classical solo santoor recital in the festival of young musicians and dancers organised by Government of NCT, Delhi wherein the then Chief Secretary as a chief guest had appreciated her extraordinary talent to carry great traditions of Hindustani music and sufiana Gharana of Jammu Kashmir to future generations.

Dr. Veethika has the distinction of being the first and the only female classical santoor exponent, composer, conductor and

santoor educator from UT of Jammu Kashmir. She has also acquired academic credentials and is BA and MA in santoor from Prayagraj, M Mus in sitar and Phd music from Delhi. She has many published papers to her credit and also performed and experimented on music therapies.

In today's Concert, Dr Veethika Tikoo presented Raga Charukeshi, in the way of compositions set in Teen Taala in vilambit, drut and ati drutt gat, which was followed by a semi classical in Punjabi Theka.

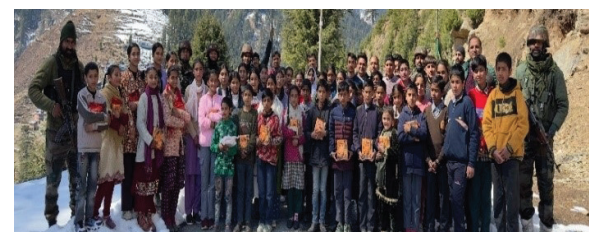
She was accompanied by Neeraj Verma, virtuoso tabla player of Jammu and Kashmir and on Tanpura Chandhi and Gurpreet Singh.

Chief Guest, Dr Darakshan Andrabi, Chairperson JK Waqf Board, Minister of state on the occasion praised Arohi Sangeet for organizing classical santoor recital to inculcate music awareness among the students, She praised Dr Veethika for her striking talent to carry great traditions of classic music and sufiana Gharana of Jammu Kashmir to younger generations. Dr Andrabi also praised Neeraj Verma for his artistic tabla talent.

The Guests of honour and the Special Guests including Ch Vikram Randhawa, MLA, Bhau Constituency;

Director Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Neha jalali; Secretary JK Cultural Academy, Harvinder Kour; Dr Arvind Kirwani, Commissioner, Relief and rehabilitation; Prof Dr Padmini Tikoo, Sitar Maestro, UT of Jammu Kashmir; Convenor Rotary Club Start, Jammu Zone Pooja Malhotra and Senior BJP Leader Rekha Mahajan praised Rajaji, AROHI President for his concrete efforts to carry forward cultural diversity to future generations and assured support to carry forward classical music and folk culture.

Indian Army organizes Quiz Competition at Chingam, Kishtwar



JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR: 10 MAR 2025

The Army organized a Quiz competition at Chingam, Kishtwar. The event was aimed at boosting the confidence of students and aiding in their mental development. The children participated with great enthusiasm in the event. The same proved once again that given an opportunity and a platform, children are able to showcase their inherent talent. A

total of 07 teachers and 58 student including 36 boys & 22 girls from various schools of Chingam area participated in the event. The winners of the competition were awarded prizes. The children and the school staff thanked the army for organising such an event. This initiative and more events on similar lines would go a long way in encouraging students in developing their reasoning skills and boost their confidence.

BJP censures Tariq Karra for ignorance laden mischievous statement on Pandits: GL Raina

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Former MLC and spokesperson of BJP Girdhari Lal Raina has strongly condemned statement of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra made in the legislative Assembly.

PCC Chief was referring to the Kashmiri Pandit community during his speech on the proposed budget for the financial year 2025-26. His comments on voting and votes of the Displaced Community of Kashmiri Pandits were full of ignorance and mischief. Tariq Karra also referred to 'Kashmir Files' movies albeit indirectly. This clearly shows that his visible concern for



Displaced Community was cosmetic and superficial aimed to achieve political objectives, GL Raina said

Wondering how the president of Congress party can be so ignorant about the votes of the Displaced Community, Ex-MLC recalled that the Kashmiri Pandits from the very beginning of displacement continued to be ordinarily voters of their

native territorial constituencies in Kashmir.

GL Raina remembered that the election Commission of India had devised a special mechanism for voting

of the Displaced Community in 1996 because the community was not able to exercise their Right to Franchise at their native place nor had it abandoned the resolve to return back to the place of origin. The only reform that ECI took recently was to plug loopholes and allow the Displaced voters to cast their votes in person at des-

ignated polling stations. It was done to eliminate scope for manipulation and reduce the burden of filling M-Forms every time elections were held.

More than ignorance it seems to mischievous statement aimed to cut the limited connection of the community with their homeland, GL Raina feared.

Asking PCCI president to support community demand for one place settlement and collection of scattered votes of the Displaced Community at one place and a high-powered commission to look into the reasons for displacement, GL Raina stressed till that the statement will be meaningless. The community will continue its struggle to expose real culprits, he added.

Yudhvir slam NC Govt for unfulfilled promises, misleading, befooling people in J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Yudhvir Sethi, BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, has strongly criticized the ruling National Conference (NC) government, accusing it of deceiving the people of Jammu and Kashmir with unfulfilled electoral promises. He emphasized that the BJP, in contrast, designed its manifesto with the Union Territory's status in mind, ensuring realistic and achievable commitments but the NC has deceived the people with its hollow promises.



Speaking at the ongoing Assembly session in Jammu, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted that the NC government had pledged to provide free gas cylinders, ration supplies, and monetary assistance to the public. However, when it came time to fulfill these promises, they cited financial constraints as an excuse, which Sethi dis-

missed as mere pretexts. He pointed out that the NC's announcement of providing 200 free power units to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries and increasing marriage assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 was ineffective, as only 42 individuals in his entire constituency qualified for both benefits. This, he argued,


questioned the government's commitment to the broader population and underscored the need for transparency.

The senior BJP leader also criticized the budget presented by the Omar Abdullah-led government, labeling it as useless due to the lack of region-wise mapping.

Continuing his roaring

speech, Sethi emphasized that while Kashmir is often referred to as a paradise on Earth, Jammu is equally deserving of this title. He recounted the legend of Raja Jambu Lochan, the founder of Jammu, who witnessed a lion and a goat drinking water peacefully from the same pond, inspiring him to establish the city at that spot. He accused the NC leadership of discriminating against the people of Jammu for over 60 years and warned that if such discrimination continues, the BJP will take to the streets in protest.

Furthermore, Yudhvir Sethi asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that no one should be barred from becoming part of the region under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative. He underscored the BJP's stance on national unity and its opposition to policies perceived as exclusionary.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
AGROSTOLOGY WING, FOREST DEPARTMENT, SIDHRA

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SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

S. No	E-NIT No. and date	Name of work	Advertised cost (in Rs.)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest money (in Rs.)	Bid start Date	Bid end date	Bid opening date
1	12 of 2024-25 Dt. 08-03-2025	Development of Fodder Production Units in Co. No. 171/Mendhar, Kandi Saintrar Part-I, II, III, & Kalaban & Co. No.167/Mendhar Behra in Poonch District by way of Fencing, Planting of Grass slips, PB Planting, & Bush clearance under HADP 2024-25.	2582000	600	51700/-	08-03-2025 at 03:30 pm	15-03-2025 at 10:30 am	15-03-2025 12:30 Noon

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Sd/-
(Suresh Kumar Sharma)JKFS
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Agrostology Wing, Forest Deptt;
Jammu.

No: Ag/J/Tender/2106-08
DIP/J-10899/24
Date: 10-3-25

Dated: - 08 -03 -2025

Nothing Phone (3a) sale starts on 11 March; Available for as low as Rs 19,999

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Nothing, the London-based technology company announced the open sales for the Nothing Phone (3a) Series across Flipkart, Vijay Sales, Croma and all leading retail stores in India, starting 11 March. As a special introductory offer on day 1, Phone (3a) will be available for as low as 19,999, and the Phone (3a) Pro for as low as 24,999 (including all offers).

Nothing launched the Phone (3a) Series globally on March 4, 2025, with major camera upgrades. The Phone (3a) features a 50MP main sensor, a Sony ultra-wide sensor, and a 50MP telephoto lens with 2x optical zoom, while the Phone (3a) Pro with a periscope camera, boasts 60x ultra zoom. For self-



ies, the Phone (3a) has a 32MP front camera, while the Pro model features a 50MP sensor with 4K video recording.

Both phones feature the Snapdragon® 7s Gen 3 Mobile Platform and 5000mAh batteries delivering up to two days of

with 387 pixels in every inch of screen, and a fluid 120Hz adaptive refresh rate. The display offers 1000 hz sampling rate in gaming mode making gaming smooth and responsive.

The Nothing Phone (3a) Series runs Nothing OS 3.1 on Android 15, optimized for stability, utility, and customization. It includes updates to the Nothing Gallery, Camera, and Weather apps and guarantees six years of updates—three years of Android updates and six years of security updates. The series also introduces Essential Space, an AI-powered hub for notes and ideas, and the Essential Key (on the right side of the phone) for quick access—press to save content, long-press for voice notes, and double-tap to view saved items.

use on a full charge. With upgraded fast charging now at 50W, the Phone (3a) Series delivers a full day's power (50%) in under 20 minutes. Furthermore, both phones boast an immersive display of 6.77 inches with Full HD+ resolution. Visuals look crisp

Celebration of “International Women’s Day” by NSS Unit of SKUAST-Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The NSS Unit of SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha celebrated International Women's Day under the dynamic leadership of Prof B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu and Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare. This year the theme of International Women's Day was “For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.” This year's theme calls for action to unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and an inclusive future where no one is left behind. In addition to this, it is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. The country is witnessing a transition from



women's development to women-led development, ensuring equal participation in national progress. NSS volunteers from Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Jammu organized awareness programme for women's empowerment and gender equality. The students participated in the event through short speeches, quiz competitions, debate on creating awareness and emphasized that education is the key to women's empowerment and econom-

ic independence. The programme conducted as part of the regular NSS activities was successfully coordinated with the support of Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, University NSS Coordinator. Dr. Veena Sharma and Dr. Rakesh Kumar, NSS Programme Officers highlighted the that women are now playing a crucial role in shaping India's socio-economic landscape, breaking barriers in education, health, digital inclusion, and leadership roles.

Indian Army organizes Medical, Veterinary Camp for Locals at Kelad, Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA: 10 MAR 2025

As part of ongoing outreach and helping local population, the Indian Army located at Bhaderwah has taken an initiative to conduct a Medical and Veterinary Camp at Kelad, Doda on 09 Mar 2025. The camp was inaugurated by Officer of Indian Army, who assured the locals of unconditional and everlasting support of Army to the locals. A medical team from the unit including Medical Officer/Nursing Assistance provided the much needed medical cover to the gents, ladies, children and elderly people during the camp. A large number of patient's turned up for the medical check-up from the nearby villages. This medical camp was organized by making necessary arrangements including various types of medicines, medical equipment and facilities for examination of patients. Wide publicity was given to ensure that maximum people avail this opportunity in the camp. During the camp a total of 137 patients and various animals were treated which included 45 x ladies, 64 x gents and 28 x children including Gujjar & Bakarwal community. The local population were grateful to the Army for their concentrated efforts and assistance in providing medical aid at their door step. The Army also gave information about Health, Nutrition and Child Care to the parents in order to spread medical awareness amongst the general populace.

UPI Transactions and Credit Card Spending reach record highs: Er. Khatana



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 10

Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha Member Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana highlighted the significant growth in UPI transactions and credit card spending, marking an all-time high.

He stated that in January 2025, UPI transactions surpassed 16.99 billion, with a total transaction value of Rs 23.48 trillion. The cumulative UPI transactions for the financial year 2023-24 exceeded 131 billion, with the total transaction value crossing Rs 200 trillion. He further noted that 62.35% of UPI transactions in January 2025 were person-to-merchant, while 37.65% were

person-to-person. 80% of retail payments are now facilitated through UPI.

Over 641 banks and 80+ apps are integrated into the UPI ecosystem.

80% of UPI transactions were for amounts below Rs 500, highlighting its role in everyday payments. Additionally, credit card spending reached a record Rs 1.86 trillion in January 2025, with key investment segments witnessing a 69% growth over the past two years. Er. Khatana emphasized that these figures reflect India's rapid digital financial transformation, reinforcing its position as a global leader in digital transactions.

Community Meet organized to strengthen Civil-Military Cooperation at Pallanwala



JI NEWS SERVICE
PALLANWALA: 10 MAR 2025

The Indian Army organized a community interaction meet in the border areas of Pallanwala, bringing together Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris, Sarpanches, and the local populace. The event aimed to address various issues raised by the community, provided updates on concerns resolved from previous meetings, and reinforce the importance of local residents as the eyes and ears of the defence forces in the region. During the meet, grievances related to security, infrastructure, welfare schemes, and community development were discussed in detail. The Indian Army assured

prompt action on the concerns raised and provided updates on the issues successfully resolved from the previous interaction, showcasing a strong commitment to community welfare. The Army emphasized the crucial role of the local populace and ex-servicemen, in maintaining security and strengthening the intelligence network in the border areas. Veer Naris were also honoured for their sacrifices, and special initiatives for their welfare were discussed. The meet reinforced the deep bond between the Indian Army and the local communities, ensuring a collaborative approach towards security and development in the region.

Indian Army conducts Welding Training for unemployed Youth at Samote, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 10 MAR 2025

Indian Army organised training on welding for unemployed youth of Samote under National Skill Development Program. The training aimed at imparting vocational skills to enhance employability and promote self-reliance among local youth. The training was scheduled for a duration of 50 days from 19 Jan 2025 to 09 Mar 2025 for 15 enthusiastic youths of nearby villages. The training curriculum included both the theoretical and practical aspects of welding, followed by on-the-job training and assessment by representatives of the National Skill Development Centre. A well-qualified and experienced instructor from MSME was engaged to



ensure professional training in welding fundamentals. This initiative by the Army has empowered the youth with essential skills, enabling them to seek employment opportunities and become self-sufficient. Upon successful completion of the training, participants were awarded certificates by Satyamave Jayate Charity Trust under National Skill Development Centre which is registered under Directorate General of Training, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship,

Government of India. This skill development initiative is expected to have a significant impact on the lives of unemployed youth, equipping them with the necessary skills to secure employment. The cadre received an overwhelming response from the local community who expressed their gratitude towards the Army for taking this initiative and affirmed that they look forward to more such opportunities for skill development in the future.

India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' concludes

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI: 10 MAR 2025

The 6th edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise, Dharma Guardian, concluded successfully at the East Fuji Training Area in Japan. The exercise, held from February 24 to March 9, 2025, marked a significant milestone in bilateral defence cooperation, as it was conducted on an enhanced scale with the participation of troops at the company-strength level.

The closing ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General Toriumi Seiji, Commanding General of the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) 1st Division, who conveyed his appreciation to the participating troops for successfully meeting all objectives of the exercise. General Toriumi expressed his satisfaction with the joint training, which has further strengthened the operational readiness of



both armed forces and deepened the India-Japan defence relationship. He emphasised the exercise's role in fostering greater cooperation and mutual understanding between the two nations' defence forces.

The joint exercise focussed primarily on counter-terrorism operations in urban terrain, a key area of collaboration. Additionally, activities related to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), were also rehearsed. Troops engaged in a series of tactical drills, exchanged

knowledge and expertise on operational conduct, and forged lasting ties of friendship and trust.

During the course of exercise, troops from both sides also engaged in cultural exchange activities. This included a special Yoga session organised by the Indian contingent for the Japanese side, display of Kalari Pattu by the Indian troops and Japanese martial arts by the Japanese troops.

The exercise concluded with a 72-hour validation phase, in which troops from both nations demonstrated their capability through a simulated joint counter-terrorism opera-

tion in an urban setting. The operation incorporated specialised techniques such as heli-borne insertion, slithering, and storming, during which the troops successfully met the desired operational standards.

Exercise Dharma Guardian provided both sides with a unique opportunity to learn from each other's best practices for conducting joint operations. The exercise also reaffirmed the shared commitment of India and Japan to regional peace, security, and stability, strengthening the longstanding partnership between the two countries.

Kavinder condemns tragic deaths in Billawar; asks people to remain vigilant against evolving threats

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Kavinder Gupta, Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, has expressed profound grief and strong condemnation over the recent deaths of three individuals in the Billawar area of Kathua district.

In a press statement issued here today, the BJP leader said, "The loss of these lives is a matter of grave concern. Such incidents not only disrupt the peace and harmony of our society but also instill fear among the residents. The BJP stands firmly with the bereaved families during this challenging time."

Kavinder emphasized that terrorism, which has been effectively countered in the Kashmir region, will not be allowed to resurface in Jammu. He highlighted that terrorists are adopting new tactics, aiming to create confusion and fear without necessarily resorting to traditional weapons. "We must remain vigilant against these evolving threats and ensure that peace and stability are maintained across all regions," he added.

The former Deputy Chief Minister called upon law enforcement agencies



to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice swiftly. He also urged the public to cooperate with authorities and report any suspicious activities to prevent such tragedies in the future.

He reiterated the BJP's commitment to safeguarding the interests of the people and ensuring that the region remains free from the scourge of terrorism. He assured the citizens that the party, in collaboration with security forces, will take all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

The senior BJP leader also appealed to the community to maintain unity and not succumb to fear, emphasizing that collective resilience is crucial in the face of such challenges. He encouraged citizens to uphold communal harmony and support each other to preserve the social fabric of the region.

CCI Jammu strongly condemns killing of three youths in Kathua



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

In a meeting of Office Bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry held today Sh. Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce & Industry while reacting on the killing of three youths from a village in a Kathua district who were missing since last few days while attending a wedding ceremony and day before yesterday their dead bodies were found from the Ishu Nalah in remote area of Malhar in higher reaches of Kathua district strongly condemned the killings and said that it is a clear case of target killing and called it a deep conspiracy aimed at disrupting the peace, tranquility and brotherhood among the different communities but at the same time he expressed confidence that

people of our UT would resist these nefarious designs and uphold the principals of secularism.

He further said that such heinous acts have no place in our society and the increasing crime incidents is a matter of serious concern. The government must intensify the anti-terrorist operations to neutralize the terrorists operating / hiding in the forest for the last about one year.

The meeting observed two minutes silence in the memory of three youths and extended sympathies to the bereaved families in this hour of grief.

The other office bearers present in the meeting include Sh. Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Sh. Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

DC Rajouri reviews execution of District Environment Plan ; Seeks focus on Cleaner, Greener surroundings

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 10

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the District Environment Plan here at the VC Room of the DC Office.

The meeting focused on strategies to enhance environmental conservation efforts, waste management, afforestation initiatives, and pollution control measures across the district.

Emphasising the need for coordinated efforts, the DC asked stakeholder departments to mitigate environmental degradation and ensure sustainable development. He directed concerned officers to strengthen pollution control measures, promote afforestation drives,



and ensure proper waste disposal mechanisms in urban and rural areas. Stress was laid on community participation in environmental conservation, urging stakeholders to raise awareness about eco-friendly practices. The officers apprised the DC of ongoing initia-

tives under the District Environment Plan, including solid waste management strategies, afforestation programs, and measures to regulate mining activities. The Executive Engineer PHE was instructed to ensure the cleanliness of drinking water sources

and to take strict action against illegal mining activities near filtration plants, dug wells, and other water bodies, including lodging FIRs against violators. The EO Municipalities were directed to keep a strict check on grey and black water discharge to prevent contamination and ensure proper sewage management. Additionally, the District Pollution Officer was directed to submit a revised water bodies plan for Rajouri town, ensuring better conservation and management of local water resources. DC Rajouri instructed all departments to submit

progress reports on their respective environmental initiatives and directed EO Municipalities to ensure strict enforcement of waste segregation and disposal guidelines in their jurisdictions.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to implement the District Environment Plan effectively, with a focus on sustainable and eco-friendly development across Rajouri.

Among those present were PO ICDS, Fareed Kohli; DMO, Mohammad Sayeed; DPO, Ch. Mohd Nawaz; District Pollution Officer, Arshed Malik; DFO Rajouri, Rajeev Magotra; DFO Nowshera, Shewata Deona; CEO Rajouri, Iqbal Hussain; EO Municipality Rajouri, Yusuf Ul Mir; and EO Municipality Sunderbani, Dilip Kumar.

Training on Carbon Neutral plan implementation begins in Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 10

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Phulail Singh today inaugurated a significant training session for frontline workers of the District on achieving carbon neutrality. The session, held here in the Conference Hall, aimed to empower frontline workers with the necessary knowledge and skills to promote carbon-neutral practices in their respective Panchayats.

In his inaugural address, the ACD emphasized the critical importance of adopting sustainable practices, urging the participants to fully engage with the training and commit to achieving zero carbon emissions in their communities.



The frontline workers from various line departments gained valuable insights from Master Trainer Imran Lone. The pro-

gram was a step forward in the District's ongoing efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development.

Education Deptt Kupwara holds mega enrollment drive at BHSS Nagri Zone Drugmulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 10

Education department Kupwara today organized a Mega Enrollment Drive in Education Zone Drugmulla, aiming to enhance student enrollment and ensure quality education for all.

The event witnessed significant participation from education stakeholders, local authorities, and the community.

The drive was graced by the presence of the Joint Director North, Hakeem Tanveer, Principal DIET Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, DEPO Kupwara, ZEO Drugmulla and ZEO Kupwara. Teachers, parents, and students were also present.

The initiative focused on raising awareness about the importance of education and encouraging parents



to enroll their children in Govt. schools.

During the event, officials addressed the gathering, emphasizing the government's commitment to strengthening the education system. They highlighted various schemes

and incentives available for students, including free textbooks, mid-day meals/uniform and scholarships to support underprivileged children.

The speakers urged the community to take active participation in the enroll-

ment process to ensure that no child is left out of the education system.

The Joint Director North appreciated the efforts of the education department and the local administration in organizing the drive and stressed the need for continuous efforts to improve literacy rates in the district.

Local teachers and volunteers also played a crucial role in the outreach efforts, conducting door-to-door campaigns to encourage maximum participation. Parents and guardians expressed their appreciation for the initiative, acknowledging the importance of education for the future of their children. The Mega Enrollment Drive concluded on a positive note, with a substantial number of new enrollments recorded.

DC Poonch reviews progress of development works in aspirational Blocks, Panchayats

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 10

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal convened a meeting today in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex to review the progress of the development works taken up under Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) and the Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP).

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner evaluated the current status of key performance indicators across several sectors, utilizing data from relevant portals. The sectors reviewed included Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Services, Basic Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Social Development.

Vikas Kundal empha-



sized on strict adherence to guidelines of the programs and regular updating of data on the portal to reflect accurate progress.

In a focused directive, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the Chief Edu-

cation Officer (CEO) to engage with the Heads of Schools in the aspirational blocks. He mandated them to certify the availability of toilet and drinking water facilities in their institutions and highlighted the importance of increasing the transition rate

of school-going children within these areas.

Furthermore, DC Kundal stressed the necessity for concerned officers to enhance efforts in areas requiring improvement. He called for immediate action to elevate the performance indicators and achieve the set targets. The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of channeling resources towards the modernization and overall development of the aspirational blocks and panchayats. The meeting was attended by various officials, including the PO ICDS, ACD, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, XEN Jal Shakti, ACP, CEO, CMO, CAO, CAHO, LDM Banks, AD FCS & CA, Tehsildar Balakote/Mankote, CDPO Mendhar/Balakote, BDOS, and other concerned officers.

Work on Centre of Excellence in Precision Vegetable, Floriculture, Farming takes off at Krishi Bhawan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

The work on Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming took off today with groundbreaking ceremony (Bhoomi Poojan) here at Vegetable Improvement Scheme -Krishi Bhawan Directorate of Agriculture Talab Tillo.

The ceremony was performed by Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinnder Singh Reen.

The Centre of Excellence is being established under the NABARD, RIDF-XXX scheme, with an investment of Rs. 5.92 Crore. It would feature a state-of-the-art polycarbonate greenhouse spanning 3511 square meters. The construction work is being executed by JK Agro and is expected to be completed within the next six months.

This Centre of Excellence will play a pivotal role in boosting the region's agricultural capabilities by providing high-quality, high-yielding vegetable and floriculture seed-



lings to farmers across the Jammu Division. Through this initiative, farmers will gain access to advanced farming techniques, which will significantly enhance productivity and improve the quality of crops, thus benefiting the local farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture Jammu emphasized that the facility will provide farmers with the necessary tools and knowledge to excel in precision farming. "The Centre will also encourage entrepreneurship in the vegetable and floriculture sectors,

helping farmers embrace modern farming practices and access sustainable agricultural solutions," he added. The project is in line with the government's ongoing efforts to enhance the agricultural sector and ensure economic growth for farmers by integrating innovation, technology, and sustainable practices. This Centre will serve as a hub for training, research, and development, offering expertise and resources to farmers in Jammu Division.

The Bhoomi Poojan ceremony was attended by Joint Director Agricul-

ture (Extension) Satish Sharma, Deputy Director (Central) Jammu Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Agronomist (VIS) Jammu Vikas Padha, Divisional Manager (P&S Jammu) Er. A.H Salaria, Divisional Soil Survey Officer Suresh Kumar Khajuria, Potato Development Raj Singh Sumbria, Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma, Assistant Agrostologist Amit Sharma, SMS-RL Dharmesh Vaid, other officers and staff from the agriculture department, as well as representatives from JK Agro and other concerned authorities.

DC Budgam chairs District level coordination cum implementation Committee meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 10

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo presided over a meeting of the District Coordination cum Implementation Committee (DCIC) to review the progress of approved projects under phase II, and approve and identify the new projects under "scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and heritage in the District.

As part of the agenda, the committee finalized 9 new heritage projects for taking-up under Phase-III.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held, and the committee approved several heritage projects including Ziyarat shareef peth makhma Beerwah, Syed Alla ud din Astan, Iskanderpora, Ziyarat sharief Nowroz baba khag, Ziyarat shamas fakeer Khanshaib, Ragneya Mata Asthan Temple Raithen Khanshaib, Nanak charan Astan Gurudwara at Beerwah, Ziyarat Samad Mir Sahib Kremshore, Swami



Nand Lal Ashram Hushroo Chadoora, Ziyarat Syed Qasim Shah Balkhi at Nowbugh Chadoora.

Additionally, a comprehensive review of the projects undertaken in Phase-II was conducted to assess progress of projects in the district.

The DC emphasised the need for preserving cultural heritage while ensuring smooth and timely execution of ongoing initiatives. Officials were directed

to streamline processes, enhance interdepartmental coordination, and fast-track implementation to achieve desired outcomes. He emphasized the need to adhere to the stipulated time frame to ensure the swift commencement of work on these projects.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, Executive Engineers of R&B, RDD, CEO, DSEO and other members.

Ramadan: 04 FBOs recommended for compounding at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MARCH 10

To ensure public safety during the ongoing holy month Ramadan, Food Safety Department (FSD) Anantnag has been carrying out intensive market checking inspections across the district.

During the checks, the department encountered several instances of non-compliance with food safety regulations. As a result, four petty Food Business Operators (FBOs) found violating provisions under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 were recommended for compounding under Section 69 of the Act. Several food samples were collected for analysis at a NABL accredited laboratory to monitor food quality and safety standards.

The department's focus has been on food establishments dealing with chicken, fresh fruits, vegetables, and other edible commodities, ensuring they comply with food safety standards.

The ongoing inspections are part of the Food Safety Department's commitment to providing safe and wholesome food to the general public, as per the guidelines of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, and its regulations.