

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Headache and continuous fever above 102°F
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A skin rash
- Disorientation
- Severe pain in joints, muscles, eyes or ears
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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MHA declares Awami Action Committee, Ittihadul Muslimeen unlawful associations under UAPA

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 11 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced that Awami Action Committee and 'Jammu & Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen' have been declared unlawful associations under UAPA.

"Jammu & Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen" and 'Awami Action Committee' have been declared unlawful associations under UAPA. These organizations were found inciting people to cause law and order situations, posing a threat to the unity and integrity of Bharat. Anyone found involved in activities against the nation's peace, order, and sovereignty is bound to face the crushing blow of the Modi govt," Shah, according to the news agency wrote on X.

The Awami Action Committee (AAC) is led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, while Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM) is led by Masroor Abbas Ansari.

Meanwhile in two separate notifications, the Union Home Ministry, said that both the organizations have been banned for 5-years.

It cited the organisations' involvement in activities that



threaten the sovereignty, integrity, and security of India.

According to the notification, AAC members have been supporting terrorist activities, propagating anti-India narratives, and mobilizing funds for secessionist movements in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government also accused the group of inciting violence, promoting disaffection against the Indian state, and encouraging armed resistance.

The ministry listed multiple criminal cases against AAC and its leaders, including charges of sedition, unlawful assembly, and incitement of violence.

"Cases have been registered at various police stations in Srinagar, including Nowhatta, Safakadal, and Kothi Bagh,

against Umar Farooq and other AAC members for delivering speeches against the Indian government, promoting election boycotts, and instigating protests," the notification reads.

"The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also filed a chargesheet against AAC spokesperson Aftab Ahmad Shah and others for their alleged involvement in anti-national activities. "The government believes that if not curbed, AAC will continue to support militancy, disrupt public order, and fuel separatist movements in Jammu and Kashmir," the notification states.

"Invoking Section 3 of the UAPA, the government has imposed a five-year ban on

AAC, effective immediately," the notification stated, adding that "the ban is necessary to prevent the group from further engaging in activities detrimental to India's national security."

"This move follows a broader crackdown on organisations accused of fostering separatism and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir," it adds.

Similarly, the government said that members of JKIM have been actively supporting terrorist activities, engaging in anti-India propaganda, and mobilizing funds to promote separatist and secessionist agendas in Jammu and Kashmir. The government also accused the group of inciting public unrest, advocating violence, and working against the constitutional framework of the country.

The MHA stated that if JKIM's activities are not curbed, it would continue promoting anti-national sentiments, disputing Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India, and disrupting public order. Citing these concerns, the government has banned the organization for five years, effective immediately, under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. KNO

>> Budget Session 2025

This is a humanitarian issue, not just a financial issue: CM



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today announced to constitute a committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to devise a roadmap for the regularization of daily-rated wagers.

Replying to the discussion on Budget 2025, the Chief Minister said, "Through this House, I am announcing the formation of a committee under the Chief Secretary, with the Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Commissioner Secretary GAD, Planning Secretary, and Law Secretary. Within six months, we will finalize a framework, determine the exact number of daily wagers, and legally and financially assess how they

can be regularized. Then, the policy will be discussed here in the next budget."

Speaking about the plight of daily wagers, the Chief Minister emphasized that this is not merely a financial issue but a humanitarian and social concern. Referring to the use of force against protesting daily wagers in Srinagar and Jammu, he remarked, "What happened to them yesterday, I do not want to repeat. But I must ask—why did the situation reach this stage?"

He recalled that during his previous tenure as Chief Minister, his government had initiated a framework for regularizing daily wagers. However, he noted that the 2014 elections and the devastating floods had

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

50MVA GIS Grid sub-station proposed for Pahalgam under 2022-27 transmission plan: CM

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the Legislative Assembly that a 50MVA, 220/33kV GIS Grid Sub-Station at Batkote (Pahalgam) has been proposed under the perspective transmission plan for Jammu and Kashmir for the period 2022-27.

While responding to a starred question by MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Power Department, stated that the projects under the transmission plan, including the Batkote Grid Station, are being implemented in a phased manner.

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

India has made rapid strides in healthcare in past 10 years: LG

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Shri Birendra Rai Hospital at Areraj, Motihari, Bihar.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his felicitations to the family members of Late Shri Birendra Rai and everyone associated with the hospital which will offer services in specialties, using latest cutting-edge healthcare technology.

"Shri Birendra Rai Ji's family has steered this esteemed institution for public service and care. I convey my good wishes to Shri Rajeev Kumar, Dr Sanjeev Kumar and his family for the dedicated service that they are doing," the Lieutenant Governor said.



Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the rapid strides made by India in healthcare, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the past 10 years.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Our innovations in technologies and treatment are

rated amongst the best and our healthcare professionals have demonstrated excellence and they are competing with leading health institutions of developed countries.

The high standard of our care practices, along with equitable, integrated

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

Magadha is the life element of our ancient culture: LG

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the 'Holi Milan Samaroh' at Sendhwa, Jehanabad in Bihar today.

Holi in Jehanabad is celebrated with gaiety and enthusiasm. The Lieutenant Governor extended his greetings and best wishes for a brighter future of all.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the rich spiritual, educational and cultural heritage of Magadha.

"Magadha region is the life element of our ancient culture. It has a prominent place in the history of modern India due to its ancient tradition and cultural values and the invincible strength of this land adorned with the richness of philoso-



phy, language and literature is guiding us.

From this holy land, the principles of industry, trade, commerce and urban development emerged and reached beyond the shores of India through scholars who came to Bodh Gaya from all over Asia," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people from all sections of the society to work together to revive the glory of ancient Magadha region.

"According to Vedic literature, there was 'Magadha' in the south-west, 'Anga'

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

Shri Krishna Singh was the creator of modern Bihar: LG

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended 'Bihar Kesari Samman' Samaroh at Patna and felicitated eminent personalities with the prestigious award for their distinguished services.

The award is given in the honor of Dr. Shri Krishna Singh, the great freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Bihar.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to Dr. Shri Krishna Singh and recalled his significant contribution to the development of Bihar and the nation building.

"Shri Krishna Singh was the creator of modern Bihar. By initiating agricultural reforms, river development projects in the first

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

Each MLA to get Rs 3 crore as Constituency Development Fund

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 11 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to allocate Rs 3 crore annually for each Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme.

This decision, according to the news agency will enable MLAs to recommend and oversee the implementation of key development projects in their constituencies.

The funds will be used to support infrastructure development, public welfare projects, and essential services, with a clear focus on ensuring the timely completion of all approved works.

The Finance Department has issued a detailed circular outlining the guidelines for the implementation of the CDF scheme. Under these guidelines, each MLA can propose development works worth up to Rs 3 crore (Rs 300 lakh) annually to the District Development Commissioner (DDC) for execution in their constituency.

Additionally, nominated MLAs have the flexibility to recommend projects in any part of the Union Territory.

The allocated funds are specifically designed for capital expenditure and cannot be used for revenue-related expenses, creation of posts, or payment of salaries.

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

Protests in Assembly over LoP's remarks on July 13 Martyrs

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11 (KNO)

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed protests from treasury benches as well as Kashmir-based opposition after leader of the opposition Sunil Sharma again called martyrs of July 13, 1931 as traitors.

During discussion on the budget, as per news agency, NC legislator Showkat Hussain Ganie slammed BJP for what they have done in Jammu & Kashmir for the past few years and mentioned 1947.

As Showkat was speaking, BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma asked him to talk about 1931.

"They are our heroes," Altaf



Kaloo of NC responded.

Countering him, BJP MLA Sunil Sharma said that they are traitors and will remain traitors, triggering strong protests from NC and Kashmir-based

opposition parties.

Amid protests over remarks of Sharma, CPI (M) leader Muhammad Yosouf Tarigami urged the Speaker to take

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

Gol reiterates its commitment to make J&K terror free

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 11 (KNO)

The Government of India on Tuesday reiterated its commitment to make Jammu & Kashmir terror-free by eliminating terror networks, dismantling financing mechanisms and preventing infiltration.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, outlined key measures proposed in the Budget to enhance internal security, including steps specifically focused on J&K.

"The government plans to modernize law enforcement by integrating new criminal laws into a digital system, enhancing crime prevention,

and improving criminal investigations. Also, mobile forensic labs will be deployed in every district, and state forensic labs will be modernized to strengthen evidence-based policing," the reply stated.

"To bolster cyber security, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) will be expanded, along with cyber fraud mitigation centres and a National Cyber Threat Intelligence system to counter digital threats," it added.

"Border security is also a key focus, with plans for technological upgrades, including drone surveillance, advanced monitoring systems, and fencing along vulnerable border areas to curb infiltration.

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

DDC reviews implementation of Self-Employment schemes in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MARCH 11

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today reviewed the status of various self-employment schemes at a meeting held here in DC Office Complex.

The DDC took stock of cases approved under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Credit Card Schemes for Artisans and Weavers, PM Weavers Mudra Scheme, Tejaswini, Mumkin, HADP, schemes. She emphasized the need to process more cases under PMEGP to maximize benefits for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The DDC stressed the importance of promoting success stories of beneficiaries on social media platforms to create



awareness and encourage more people to avail the schemes. Reviewing the progress of the Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), she directed the concerned officers to achieve all set targets within the stipulated time frame.

The DDC stressed the importance of promoting success stories of

beneficiaries on social media platforms to create awareness and encourage more people to avail the schemes. Reviewing the progress of the Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), she directed the concerned officers to achieve all set targets well in time.

DDC also instructed the Cluster Head of Banks to

ensure better cooperation in finalizing the self-employment schemes so that eligible individuals can avail benefits without unnecessary delays. The District level implementation Committee on mission youth scheme headed by the DDC also approved 28 cases under Mission youth schemes.

The DDC reiterated the administration's commitment to fostering self-employment opportunities and urged all stakeholders to work in coordination for effective implementation of these schemes. The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Gupta, CAO Harbans Singh, DSWO, AD Employment and other concerned officers.

Mega enrollment drive conducted at in Shangus

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MARCH 11

As part of the ongoing district-wide Enrollment Drive, a Mega Enrollment drive was successfully conducted on Day 4 at two different venues in Zone Shangus High School Chowgam (Cluster HSS Chittergul) and Higher Secondary School Chaklipora (Cluster Chaklipora).

The campaign was graced by Chief Education Officer Anantnag, along with Principal GHSS Nowgam, ZEO Shangus, Headmaster HS Chowgam, Headmaster HS Brimmer and other Heads of Institutions and officials from Cluster Chittergul, Cluster Chaklipora, CEO Office Anantnag, and ZEO Office Shangus. During the drive, a significant milestone was



achieved with the on-spot enrollment of more than 150 students, marking a remarkable response from the community. The initiative aims to enhance educational outreach and ensure maximum student participation in govern-

ment schools.

The Education Department, Anantnag, remains committed to expanding access to quality education and urges parents to take advantage of this drive to secure a bright future for their children.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 11

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out installation of poles and shifting of 11kV line near 33kV isolator Gantry of tap line of Children Hospital, the shutdown of 33kV Bemina-JVC line shall be observed due to which 33/11kV Receiving Stations at JVC, PC Depot, JVC Hospital, 500 Bedded Children Hospital shall remain off while power supply to JVC Hospital, Children Hospital, State Motor Garage, Haj House, Forensic Lab, PC Depot, Qamarwari, Barthana and adjoining areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 16 March, 2025.

Similarly, to carry out installation of 11kV VCB Panel for PHC Hermain, erection of ST Poles & laying of ACSR Conductor under stabilization of 33kV Landoora, the shutdown of 33kV Laspipora-Landoora line shall be observed due to which 33/11kV Receiving Stations at Landoora, Moman (pertains to STD Bijbehara) shall remain off while power supply to the Landoora, Man-

GDC Vijaypur organises cultural programme to commemorate Int'l Women's Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 11

In continuation to the series of events being organised under International Women's Day, Government Degree College, Vijaypur organised a colourful cultural programme, here today.

Students of the college participated in the programme with great enthusiasm and presented various cultural items including songs, dance and poetry recitation depicting the importance of women in every sphere of life.

Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Verma said that International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8, commemorating women's fight for



equality and liberation along with the women's rights movement. International Women's Day gives focus to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women.

The programme was organised with the sup-

port of senior faculty member Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (HOD Sociology). The whole event was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences), Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HOD English).

DDC reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Scheme in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MARCH 11

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik chaired a crucial meeting here today to review the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The scheme, aimed at promoting the solar energy use among households, has emerged as a key initiative in the district's sustainable energy strategy.

In the meeting, DDC Nidhi Malik highlighted the importance of raising public awareness to ensure maximum participation and registration under the scheme. She called for intensified outreach efforts and directed concerned officials to educate the public on the multiple benefits of solar power, urging them to



take full advantage of the program.

Further emphasizing smooth implementation, the DDC instructed the relevant authorities to streamline the registration process, addressing any challenges faced by applicants. The meeting

also reviewed the current status of solar installations and outlined the roadmap for meeting the district's targets under the initiative.

DDC encouraged all stakeholders to work collaboratively and proactively to empower residents

with clean, sustainable energy solutions that align with the government's vision for a greener future.

Present at the meeting were ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Gupta, XEN PDD, AE PDD and other concerned officials.

DC reviews progress of work on Jal Jeevan Mission Projects in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 11

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a crucial meeting to review the progress and implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) projects in the district.

At the outset, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Poonch presented updates on both financial and physical progress achieved under the Mission.

The discussions focused on the ongoing water supply schemes, including the current status of mechanical, civil, and electrical works, as well as the progress of borewell installations, tank construction, and pipe network installations. Comprehensive reports on sub-division and scheme-wise analyses were also reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to conduct on-site inspections of water supply schemes, incorporating geo-tagging for accurate record-keeping. He emphasized the need to assess work quality and identify barriers affecting the progress of ongoing schemes.

Highlighting the signifi-



cance of JJM as a flagship program, the DC urged executing agencies to demonstrate dedication in ensuring the smooth execution of projects in their respective areas. He stressed the importance of collaboration among the Jal Shakti Department, contractors, and other stakeholders to overcome any challenges.

The meeting concluded with a directive for timely completion and target achievement under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulic Poonch, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Executive Engineer Ground Water, Executive Engineer JPDC, along with AEEs and JEs of Jal Shakti and Mechanical Sub-divisions.

Govt focusing on niche crop, exotic vegetable cultivation in Udhampur: Agriculture Minister

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

Minister for Agriculture Production, Javed Ahmad Dar, today informed the House that the Government is focusing to enhance area expansion under Niche Crops (Hill Garlic) and promotion of traditional and exotic vegetables across the Udhampur district under CAPEX Budget and HADP 2024-25.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Balwant Singh Mankotia in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that the Blocks of Sewna and Latti have been prioritized under the CSS scheme "National Mission on Natural Farming" during the FY 2025-26, while promotion of hill garlic, maize, medicinal aromatic plants and pulses and vegetables under project JKIP in Chenani and Latti blocks is under due consideration for the 2025-26 fiscal.

The Minister added that area expansion by plantation of High Density Plants of Apple, Walnut, pear and Kiwi have been planned in due course of time in these areas to enhance farmers income. Besides, irrigation infrastructure such as Check Dams, Water

Storage Tanks, Water Harvesting Tanks and Potable Geotags is being planned under HADP and CSS during 2025-26.

He informed that the rejuvenation of old senile orchards are being planned to be converted into high-density orchards of Elite Cultivars in due course of time.

The Minister said that about 20031 beneficiaries have been covered under different Agricultural schemes across the Chenani Constituency of Udhampur district. He said that all agriculture schemes including Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Capex and HADP projects are being implemented by the Agriculture Department across the district.

He informed that 1150 beneficiaries have been covered under different projects of HADP in 2024-25 and 366 beneficiaries have been covered under PDMC, PKVY, SMAM, RKVY, NFSM in 2024-25 in Chenani constituency.

The Minister further informed that 18515 farmers have been covered under PMKISAN and majority of them are linked with KCC for further financial inclusivity and economic empowerment



in Chenani. He said that the Horticulture department is implementing various schemes for hand-holding and support of farmers under UT Capex, HADP and CSSs, MIDH and PMFME schemes. He said that 57 beneficiaries have been covered under HADP and 165 under MIDH, PDMC, NMEO-TBOS and UT Capex during 2024-25.

The Minister informed the House that the Agriculture department is planning for Lavender cultivation in the foothills and wastelands of Latti Block on experimental basis and the plantation of Lavender

has been undertaken in Farmer Producer Cluster (FPC) covering 08 Ha area in the panchayats of Block Latti under HADP during 2024-25 benefitting 44 farmers.

The Minister said that 05 blocks of Chenani Constituency among other blocks of Udhampur district and other districts of J&K are dependent on rainwater. However, the irrigation facility is being provided by the Command Area Development on the potential created by the Irrigation department by constructing field channels in plum concrete in

the farmer's field for conveyance of water up to the tail end. He informed that the total Irrigation potential created in these 5 blocks of Chenani Constituency is 1360.00 Ha (approx.) and Irrigation potential utilized is 714.09 Ha by Constructing Field Channels up to the farmer's field by Command Area Development.

In order to provide irrigation facilities in these 05 blocks and other blocks of Udhampur district, the Horticulture Department has provided Deep Borewell, Dugwell, Gravity feed drip irrigation, Geo membrane tanks and Water Harvesting Tank for harvesting rainwater to various beneficiaries at subsidized rates (50% subsidy) under HADP, UT Capex, MIDH and PDMC.

The Minister added that the Government is providing subsidies on water lifting devices and micro-irrigation infrastructure (sprinkler/drip irrigation) under PDMC and HADP.

Legislators; Sham Lal Sharma, Surjit Singh Slathia, Prof Garu Ram Bhagat and R S Pathania raised supplementaries calling for undertaking measures to tackle monkey menace in their respective areas.

Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDC Jammu has informed that the power supply to Keerian Local, Keerian Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 12 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Kathua Town, Hatlimorh, Kalibari, Ludanckack, Janglote, Patel Nagar, Sawan Chack, Shastri Nagar, Chack Pratap, PHE installations and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 12 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Logate (Industrial Area), Kumbri Kathera, MES Janglote, IIDC, Govindsar, Nagri, Palli, Nicer Paper Mill and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Smailpur, Rahya, Gurah, Utterbehni, Mandal, Central University and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 12 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Industrial area Bari Brahmana, Bari Brahmana Town, Kaluchak and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Channi Himmatt and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 18 from 7 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Jakh, Jogpur, Sarore, Patli Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 13 and 16 from 10 am to 3 pm.

International Women's Day celebrated at GGM Science College

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Women Empowerment and Development Cell of Government Gandhi Memorial Science College celebrated International Women's Day under the patronage of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and the guidance of Prof. Yasmeen Mughal, Convener of the Cell.

The event, centered on this year's theme "Accelerate Action," aimed to highlight the significance of women's empowerment and the need for progressive change in society.

Secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People (Now PEG) Sapna Kotwal was the Chief Guest.

The programme commenced with a formal welcome address by Prof. Yasmeen Mughal, who

emphasized the role of education in empowering women.

The College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, in his address, appreciated the Committee for organizing the event. He encouraged students to actively participate in initiatives promoting gender equality and creating an inclusive environment for women.

The highlight of the event was a Symposium in which ten speakers across semesters expressed their views on the theme in Dogri, English, Hindi, and Urdu, showcasing their progressive thoughts and linguistic and intellectual diversity.

The symposium provided a platform to young minds to engage in meaningful discussions on women's empowerment.

An Art Exhibition was



also organized by the Cell displaying a range of artworks, posters, collages made by talented students. Mohd. Zaigham Salaria and Ishit Kaur. The Postgraduate students from the Department of English also contributed their creative expressions to the exhibition, which was widely appreciated.

Later, a felicitation ceremony

was held to recognise the achievements of meritorious students in different fields. For excellence in literary and cultural domains, Manmeet Kour, Sumeet Kumar, Chakshu Sharma, Maithly and Mohd. Ayoub Jan were presented mementos and certificates of appreciation.

Mohammad Zaigham Salaria and Ishit Kaur

were felicitated for excellence in Fine Arts. Their artwork on display was highly appreciated by all.

Certificates of Participation were presented to speakers Innayat Kour, Sanchu Devi, Rahul Kumar and Tanisha Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest shared her inspiring journey, highlighting the challenges and triumphs

of women in leadership roles. She encouraged students to break barriers and work towards a more inclusive and equitable society. Her speech resonated deeply with the audience, reinforcing the importance of taking concrete steps towards women's empowerment.

Dr. Revika Arora presented the formal vote of thanks while the proceedings of the programme were managed by Mohd. Ayoub Jan and Maithly-the students of semester VI.

The programme was successfully organised by the dedicated efforts of the organizing committee members, including Dr. Mona Sethi, Dr. Revika Arora, Dr. Neha Mahajan, Prof. Akanksha Parihar, Prof. Reetika Rani, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Preeti Verma, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj and Dr. Varun Arya.

DC Budgam conducts spot inspection of ongoing dev projects



JJ NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 11

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today conducted a field review of various ongoing developmental projects at the District Headquarters.

DC reviewed the ongoing construction of the Court Room, Public Waiting Room and Electric Control Room along with other allied works at the District Headquarters.

The works on all the projects are going on at an accelerated pace and have reached their final stages.

The DC instructed the executing agencies to maintain the momentum and ensure completion with full compliance to safety standards and quality.

He also inspected the Sheikh-ul-Alam Skill Centre and said that since the construction work is completed the centre will be made functional soon.

The upgraded hall will serve as a hub for skill development and capacity-building programs for the youth of Budgam.

During his visit to the Old DC Office Complex, the DC expressed satisfaction

with the progress of renovation work, which is also nearing completion. He reiterated the importance of preserving the structure while ensuring its functionality to cater to the needs of public in the district.

The DC further inspected the Public Toilet Complex, where the construction work is almost completed.

He stressed the need for ensuring accessibility, cleanliness, and proper maintenance once the facility becomes operational for the benefit of visiting public and to provide improved sanitation facilities.

These projects will improve infrastructure and public services, making daily life easier for residents. They will enhance facilities, ensure better accessibility, and address community needs, he said.

By upgrading essential services, they will contribute to the district's overall development. The goal is to create a more efficient and well-equipped environment for the public, added DC.

Besides, ADDC, ADC, ACR, CPO, Dy.DEO, JE R&B and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

Div Com felicitates women leaders, achievers as Jammu University hosts Shakti Parv to mark Int'l Women's Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today attended 'Shakti Parv' organised by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies University of Jammu, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) to commemorate International Women's Day.

On the occasion, women leaders and achievers from different walks of life were felicitated, honouring their strength, resilience and achievements across different fields.

The event also brought together distinguished speakers, scholars, and students to engage in thought-provoking discussions and storytelling sessions, emphasizing the pivotal role of women in

the society.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar was the chief guest, while Devyani Rana was the special guest.

In his address, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the challenges women face due to societal biases at different stages of life.

He emphasized the urgent need to break these deeply ingrained stereotypes and urged the audience to ensure that women's empowerment is not just acknowledged for a single day but is reflected throughout the year in societal attitudes and actions.

Many women speakers also voiced their views. Devyani Rana shared her journey of breaking stereotypes in the media industry and spoke about the representation of women in the media industry. She



also emphasized the need for diverse voices in storytelling, which is an important part of journalism.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies Prof. Garima Gupta highlighted the significance of the event, stating,

"Shakti Parv is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of women who continue to inspire change and challenge societal norms and also the men who play a pivotal role in women empowerment. It is only the synergy of both that can create a truly empowered society as a whole."

Regional Director IGNC A Shruti Awasthi said, "Women have always been the driving force behind societal progress, and Shakti Parv is a tribute to their unwavering strength, creativity, and leadership. Through cultural narratives and academic discussions, we aim to highlight their invaluable contributions and inspire future generations."

Women security guards, auto drivers, and women shopkeepers were felicitated, acknowledging their hard work, perseverance, and significant role in society.

Chairperson, MIER Group of Institutions Renu Gupta said that there is a need to accelerate efforts toward achieving gender equality. Renowned singer Aasha Kesar shared her personal journey, reflecting on the challenges and

social restrictions faced by women in earlier times.

Nirmal Vikram spoke of women's empowerment as a gradual transition rather than a sudden revolution. Similarly, Fozia Akhtar stressed upon the role of Islam in empowering women, addressing common misconceptions about the religion's stance on women's rights.

Rolie Khanna, Bureau Chief Amar Ujala Jammu, discussed the evolving role of women in journalism, the challenges they face, and strategies to overcome gender bias in the workplace.

Others present on the occasion included, Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai, Prof. Shalun Sharma, Dr. Parddeep Singh Bali, Dr. Ramiyan Bharadwaj and Kumerjit Chajgotra, faculty and students of Jammu University.

Rs 16.89 cr flood protection works for Ningli Nallah under execution: Jal Shakti Minister

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, today informed the House that flood protection works worth Rs. 16.89 crore, approved under NABARD for Ningli Nallah, are currently under execution.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Irshad Rasool Kar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that a DPR for an amount of Rs. 44.85 crore has been prepared and shall be part of the shelf of projects to be taken up under NABARD funding for modernization of Zaingeer Canal. Besides, one work has been completed under FMP Phase II and one work is under execution under UT Capex.

He said that the survey for framing of DPR for the Khursi Nallah D/s National Highway (Sopore constituency) has been completed and DPR will be framed accordingly.

He informed that WSS Zaingeer, WSS Shiva (proposed) and WSS Saidpora

(proposed) are partly dependent on Zanageer canal as the source, WSSs Mazbugh, Checkpora Nowpora, Nowpora Kalan, Bohripora Sheeraz Colony, Bohripora Hamdanabad and Sidiq Colony and Model Town, Wadoora and Nathipora are dependent on Pohru Nallah as the source while WSSs Takiybal Wagub (under execution) and Sharkwara Rural are dependent on Ningli Nallah as the source.

He said that the DPRs are based on a detailed survey that included assessment of quantum and quality of the source. He said that in these schemes, provision of rapid sand filtration plants has been kept to meet the BIS 10500 quality parameters. Besides, surface water has been taken as a source that has sufficient discharge capacity thus ensuring sustainability.

While sharing details of expenditure, the Minister said that an amount of Rs. 3.80 crore has been expended for maintenance and upkeep of various Nallahs of Sopore Con-



stituency under various schemes like FMP Phase II UT Capex, M&R and PRI grants besides NABARD.

2 WSSs worth Rs 106 cr under execution in Tosamaidan areas: Javed Rana

5 filtration plants at different stages of completion in Khansahib Constituency Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, said

that two Water Supply Schemes, taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission at an estimated cost of Rs. 1060.89 lakh, are presently under execution for providing potable water supply to Habbar, Lassipora and Tosamaidan areas.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Saif-ud-din Bhat. The Minister said that an amount of Rs. 7.80 crore has been

expended so far, which included Rs. 7.27 crore incurred on procurement of pipes for utilization in these schemes.

The Minister further informed that Khanpora village falls under the WSS Iskenderpora Lolipora, being executed under NABARD at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.78 crore against which an amount of Rs. 3.80 crore has been expended till date, including Rs. 3.44 crore incurred on procurement of pipes.

The Minister further informed that there are five filtration plants taken up under JJM in Khansahib Constituency, which are at different stages of completion. He said that the completion of all these schemes and the filtration plants will depend on the availability of funds under CSS and corresponding UT components.

Rs 143 cr Tawi River Front Project to be completed by April 2025: Javed Rana

85% of works on Tawi Barrage/Artificial lake accomplished

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, today informed the House that the Tawi River Front Project (Phase I) shall be completed in April, 2025 with an allotted cost of Rs 143.00 crore.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Arvind Gupta in the Legislative Assembly.

He informed that 96 percent and 94 percent physical progress has been achieved on the left bank and right bank of the river respectively.

Regarding the Tawi Barrage works, the Minister said that the works have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 64.80 crore and Rs. 36.15 crore have been expended, so far. He said that 85 percent of the works of Tawi Barrage and Artificial Lake stand completed.

The Minister said that in order to prevent the direct drain discharge into the Ranbir Canal, a detailed DPR for an amount of Rs 34.06 crore has been prepared for execution of 10 works.

DC Udhampur reviews performance of banks at DLRC & DCC meeting



JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 11

To assess the performance of banks for the quarter ending December 2024, the District Level Review Committee cum District Consultative Committee meeting was held today chaired by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by bankers and district officers from stakeholder departments.

A detailed discussion was held on several key issues, including the issuance of Kisan Credit Cards, sector-wise lending in priority and non-priority sectors, the bank-wise position of deposits and advances, special credit facilities for street vendors, the district's financial inclusion plan, and the implementation of the Stand-Up India Programme launched by the Prime Minister.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to organize financial

literacy awareness camps in coordination with various departments across all blocks of the district to ensure that maximum benefits reach the grassroots level.

She directed the bankers to consult the concerned departments before rejecting any sponsored loan cases, as these departments act as a bridge between beneficiaries and banks, facilitating smoother loan approvals.

She urged the bankers to proactively reach out to stakeholders and ensure timely financial assistance, particularly to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the underprivileged sections of society.

The DC also instructed officials to adopt a public-friendly approach and work in close coordination to achieve the desired results at the grassroots level.

She directed officers to activate their field staff to identify left-out farmers and enhance awareness about various government schemes.

Adv. Sajra Qadir expresses condolences over Mahore Accident

JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAR 11

Advocate Sajra Qadir, Vice Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Reasi, has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic accident in Mahore that claimed precious lives and left several others injured. The devastat-

ing incident has cast a shadow of grief over the entire region, leaving families shattered and communities in mourning.

In her condolence message, Adv. Sajra Qadir extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, acknowledging the immense pain of losing loved ones. "This tragedy has left a deep wound in

our hearts. The loss of innocent lives is an irreparable sorrow, and my thoughts and prayers are with the families who are going through this unbearable grief. No words can lessen their pain, but I pray that they find strength in these difficult times," she said.

She also emphasized the

urgent need for improved road safety measures, particularly in hilly areas like Mahore, to prevent such heartbreaking incidents in the future. Calling upon the administration, she urged for better road infrastructure and strict safety regulations to protect travelers.

Furthermore, she assured

all possible assistance to the injured and their families, hoping for their swift recovery. "We stand by the victims and their families in this moment of sorrow. The administration will ensure that those injured receive the best medical care and support needed for their recovery," she added.

As a leader committed to the welfare of the people, Adv. Sajra Qadir's words bring comfort to the grieving families, reminding them that they are not alone in their pain. Her message of solidarity and support reflects the shared grief of the community and the resolve to work towards a safer future for all.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

This is a humanitarian...

disrupted these plans. Taking a dig at the opposition, he questioned their inaction, stating, "What did you (the opposition) do? I reviewed past budget speeches from your tenure and found no mention of daily wagers except in the fourth budget speech, where you vaguely spoke about 'sustainable livelihood'." He further pointed out that even after the issuance of SRO-520, only 577 daily wagers were regularized.

Challenges in Regularization

The Chief Minister highlighted that, over the past decade, opposition which were in power then failed to address the issue, despite having both state and central authority. He accused them of prioritizing the 7th Pay Commission over the regularization of daily wagers, making the situation more complicated.

"Then came the J&K Reorganization Act, which effectively shut the door on their regularization. Now, we must reopen this issue. But in these years, their numbers have changed, making it difficult to determine an accurate count," he said. The government must start from the scratch to resolve their concerns, he said.

Budget 2025: A Realistic approach, not pessimistic. Addressing criticism that his budget speech was pessimistic, the Chief Minister clarified that it was, in fact, realistic. "Some members termed the beginning of my budget speech as pessimistic. I believe it was not pessimistic; it was realistic.

I told the truth—I said my whole body has wounds. Pessimism would have been if I had said, 'The body has so many wounds, death would be inevitable.'" Instead, he explained, "I said, 'The body has so many wounds, and I don't even have enough balm for them.' This is not pessimism; this is our reality."

He stressed the financial constraints facing the Union Territory, adding, "Do I have enough money to take all the power projects into my hands and start working on them? No. Can I provide free electricity to all the people? No. In today's age, we don't even have the budget to ensure 24-hour electricity for Jammu and Kashmir. We are forced to buy electricity. We have worked on increasing social benefits for the poor. But is this truly enough to meet their needs? No."

Fiscal responsibility and future growth

Quoting an English saying, "Cut your coat according to your cloth," the C

hief Minister explained the necessity of managing within available resources. "My words were not pessimistic; they were realistic. I presented the truth. We don't have enough money, but we have prioritized welfare measures that will have a meaningful impact on the people."

He acknowledged that the budget would not yield instant results but assured that long-term growth had been set in motion. "This budget serves as our foundation. Over the next five years, we will build a strong and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir."

Opposition's response and criticism

Responding to the opposition, particularly BJP members, the Chief Minister remarked that instead of focusing on the budget, their speeches were centered around Article 370, Maharaja Ji, and July 13.

"Initially, I thought his speech had substance, but in reality, there was nothing related to the budget," he said, referring to a BJP legislator's remarks.

A 'Love Letter' to the People of J&K

Addressing the interpretation of his budget speech, Omar Abdullah reiterated, "My budget speech is a love letter—to the BJP, to the PC, to the PDP, to the AIP, to Congress, to the CPI(M), to independent MLAs, and, above all, to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Why do we write love letters? To express love. And do we not love those who are in need? Through this budget, we have tried to extend that love by addressing their challenges and aspirations."

"I am not ashamed to call it a love letter. In fact, for the next five years, we will continue writing such love letters—letters of commitment, of progress and of transformation for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Acknowledging Central Government support

Responding to criticism about acknowledging financial support from the Centre, the Chief Minister stated, "The central government has extended financial support to us. Should I be ashamed to admit it? No, I will not. The reality is that we are not yet self-sufficient. We are not financially independent. That is our challenge. And that is precisely what we must work toward." He stressed that Jammu and Kashmir had always relied on central funds, but the goal was to achieve financial self-reliance in the long run. "This is not a new struggle. Our past budgets reflect the same reality. But we aspire for more. We aim for a future where Jammu and Kashmir stands on its own feet." To achieve this, the government has focused on developing new tourism destinations, industrial estates, and encouraging start-ups and entrepreneurship.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes: A reality check

Dispelling the misconception that Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are fully funded by the Government of India, the Chief Minister explained that the UT also contributes significantly. He cited the PM Golden Card, which covers only BPL families under central funding, while the remaining 18 lakh families are supported by the UT. Similarly, under the National Social Assistance Program, 1.43 lakh BPL families receive pensions from central funds, but 8 lakh additional pensioners are covered by the UT's own resources. "These are not mere figures; they represent our responsibility toward our people."

The Chief Minister emphasized that after years of struggle, the budget of Jammu and Kashmir was finally

being discussed within J&K itself, instead of just being passed in Parliament. "This is an achievement in itself. Some may argue that we still do not have a government of our own. But let me remind them—this budget is for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and it is being debated where it truly belongs."

Restoring people's dignity and empowerment

He concluded by reaffirming his government's commitment to restoring dignity, empowerment, and self-reliance for the people. "Some may see these initiatives as mere drops in the ocean, but history has shown that even the mightiest oceans are formed by countless drops.

With these small but meaningful steps, InshaAllah, in five years, we will restore the dignity of our people and build a financially self-sufficient Jammu and Kashmir." "This is our vision. This is our commitment. This is our love letter to our people."

Earlier, MLAs Qayser Jamsheed Lone, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Javed Iqbal Choudhary, Shagun Parihar, Abdul Majeed Larmi, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Sajad Lone, Zafar Ali Khatana, Baldev Raj Sharma, Saif Ud Din Bhat spoke on the budgetary provisions on Tuesday and also put forth their views and suggestions.

50MVA GIS...

depending on load growth and technical feasibility. "As per the current guidelines issued under the Ministry of Power/Tariff Policy, projects exceeding the threshold limits set by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) can be executed through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) mode. Based on JERC regulations, which fix Rs 100 crore as the threshold limit, the most suitable mode for the project is being examined, and a decision will be taken in due course, considering the prevailing price levels," the Chief Minister stated.

Regarding land acquisition, the Chief Minister informed the House that the identification of land for the proposed Grid Substation is currently underway.

India has made...

and people-centered, comparative cost advantages and efficient services have made India a favourite destination for medical treatment."

In view of the emerging challenges in health sector, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised on paying special attention to developing specialised human resource, and extending quality and affordable medical care to all through a close collaboration between the public and private sectors.

"We should now focus on expanding the coverage of health services and giving access to affordable medical facilities to the people in far flung areas while ensuring quality service across a vast spectrum of healthcare," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Magadha is the life...

in the east and 'Videha' in the north. The first description is found in the 14th verse, 53rd Sutra of the third Ashtak of the Rigveda and it has been called by the name Keekat.

Many historians have also tried to highlight the fact that the integration of Vedic culture and Vratya culture first took place in Magadha. Along with this, the tradition of Rajrishis started from Magadha and the first was Rajrishi Vishwamitra," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the dedicated efforts made under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for the inclusive development of Magadha region and the state of Bihar.

Shri Krishna Singh...

five-year plan and subsequently building the monuments of modern Bihar like Barauni Refinery, Heavy Engineering Corporation, Barauni Fertilizer Plant, Barauni Thermal Power Station, Damodar Valley Corporation, Patratu Power Station, Scooter Factory, Garhara Locomotive Shed, First Railway and Road Bridge of Independent India Rajendra Setu, Natarhat School, Engineering Colleges in Muzaffarpur, Jamshedpur, Sindri, Gaya, Motihari etc., he made Bihar the powerhouse of the country's progress.

Shri Krishna Singh was fondly called Shri Babu. His name is recorded in golden letters in the tradition of great personalities who were born in Bihar and dedicated themselves to nation-building. He laid the foundation for industries and infrastructure.

Shri Babu had independent consciousness right from his teenage years and I believe that it was this spirit which helped him become an embodiment of good governance. During his tenure Bihar became one of the fastest developing states," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted public welfare and empowerment of poor and underprivileged sections of the society by him.

"Shri Babu was a true statesman who worked hard to eliminate discrimination in the society and looked at Bihar in its entirety and created its new existence through good governance. He was the harbinger of good governance. He worked hard for social equality and social unity and made it the most powerful state of the country.

Be it the abolition of the Zamindari system, making the poor and marginalised farmers self-reliant or the

overall welfare of workers, Shri Babu was dedicated to the welfare of the people and liberated a large population from exploitation after independence," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the enlightened citizens and every section of the society, especially the youth to unite for the cause of public good and give new direction to India's development journey.

"I want people to keep our civilisational values alive. History bears testimony to the fact that Unity always ensured progress and overall development.

We need to understand that those who pursue a divisive agenda want to divide us to stall the journey of Viksit Bharat. We must stand up as One and dedicate ourselves for growth and prosperity of the nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further emphasised that Rural India should be the focus for sustainable and equitable path of growth.

He said, "To accelerate socio-economic growth, we should focus on forging public-private partnerships. Our rich inheritance of values of harmony is a solid foundation of inclusive development.

Today, we have to start thinking about the future of tomorrow that we want to build. Societal attitude needs to be changed towards the contribution in this journey. Holistic Development is a collective responsibility of the society".

Each MLA to get...

This ensures that the funds are spent on tangible developmental works.

Projects under the CDF must be completed within one year. In areas with limited working seasons, such as high-altitude regions, the DDC, with the MLA's approval, may extend the timeline, allowing work to be completed within two working seasons, but not exceeding two years.

The scheme encourages MLAs to recommend projects with costs not exceeding Rs 10 lakh per work, although higher-value projects may be considered for certain infrastructure investments, provided they are completed within the specified time.

A wide range of development activities will be supported, including the construction and upgradation of government buildings such as schools, hostels, libraries, and sanitation facilities, as well as the provision of computers for educational institutions. The fund will also support the construction of roads, irrigation facilities, power infrastructure, and housing upgrades for the underprivileged.

The government aims to make a significant impact on the local infrastructure by allowing projects such as: Construction and upgradation of roads, including approach roads and link roads, with funding upto Rs 15 lakh. Projects for water table recharging, irrigation, and drainage, with support up to Rs 20 lakh.

Strengthening power infrastructure with a budget of up to Rs 50 lakh.

Assistance for housing upgrades for tribal and BPL populations, with funding of up to Rs 20 lakh for each project.

This initiative also focuses on improving rural areas by allowing the creation of kachha roads where local needs dictate.

To ensure proper utilization of funds, the scheme, as per KNO, includes provisions for strict oversight. Payments for completed works will be made only after the necessary verification and the successful completion of a Defect Liability Period (DLP), if applicable.

The scheme, according to KNO, also emphasizes the importance of efficiency, requiring that at least 80% of the allocated funds be utilized within the financial year.

In cases where the prescribed threshold is not met, funds will be withheld until the target is achieved, and future allocations will be contingent upon meeting these goals.

Certain projects will not be eligible for funding under the CDF, including office or residential buildings for government departments, memorials, creation of posts, or any kind of revenue expenditure. The funds will not be used for works related to places of worship either.

By giving MLAs the autonomy to choose projects and ensuring proper monitoring, the CDF scheme aims to foster a more localized and responsive approach to development. This initiative represents a significant step forward in empowering elected representatives to directly contribute to the growth and well-being of their constituencies. KNO

Protests in Assembly...

note of his words.

"Derogatory remarks were used against Martyrs of 1931. 1931 Martyrs were called traitors. You are the actual traitors," Tarigami said, pointing to BJP legislators.

Amid commotion in the House, MLA Langate Sheikh Khursheed demanded expunging of remarks made by the BJP leader.

Later, the speaker expunged the remarks made by Sharma. KNO

Gol reiterates its...

These measures, as part of a multi-pronged national security strategy, aim to enhance law enforcement capabilities and ensure long-term stability in J&K," the reply said. KNO

TATA.ev to boost India's Charging Infrastructure to 400,000 Charge Points



JJ NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MAR 11

TATA.ev, the leader of India's electric vehicle (EV) revolution, today announced a bold, groundbreaking initiative to transform the nation's charging infrastructure. Building on the success of surpassing 200,000 EV sales, TATA.ev boosted its commitment to make EVs more accessible and convenient by more than doubling the number of available charge points to 400,000 by 2027.

Since 2019, TATA.ev has been at the forefront of advancing India's EV charging infrastructure. First, by partnering with Tata Group companies to introduce seamless private/home charging solutions and then kick-starting public charging infrastructure in and around cities with the fastest EV adoption, providing the crucial support and encouragement for early adopters to switch to EVs.

To drive the next phase of growth, TATA.ev launched its 'Open Collaboration' framework in 2023, forging strategic partnerships with Charge Point Operators (CPOs) and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). This collaboration focused on expanding charging infrastructure across key hotspots, particularly along highways, to ensure seamless long-distance mobility. As a result, the number of public charging points in India has more than doubled in just 15 months, surpassing

18,000 chargers. TATA.ev's cumulative impact includes the installation of over 1.5 lakh private/home chargers, 2,500 community chargers, and 750 chargers at TATA dealerships across more than 200 cities.

And now, to fully unleash the exponential potential of EVs in India, charging infrastructure must grow manifold and at pace. With over 5 billion kilometers driven nationwide, TATA.ev has gained invaluable insights into the exact needs of EV users and where charging infrastructure is precisely needed.

Through 'Open Collaboration 2.0', TATA.ev is accelerating India's EV charging ecosystem with an ambitious goal: to more than double the number of charging points to over 400,000 within the next two years.

To achieve this, TATA.ev is strengthening its collaboration with key Charging Point Operators (CPOs) to install 30,000 new public charging points. These charging stations will support all EV makes and brands, ensuring widespread accessibility, convenience and a mutually beneficial ecosystem for all EV users, charge point operators, and infrastructure planners. This expansive, seamless network of public, community, and private/home chargers will meet the rising demand for emission-free mobility, accelerating EV adoption and fast-track India's shift towards green, sustainable future.

Forest Department launches sale of conifer plants



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 11

J&K Forest Department launched sale of conifer plants for the general public, here today to enhance the tree cover outside forests which include Towns, Urban and Peri-Urban areas of Kashmir Valley.

The sale was inaugurated by Conservator Forests, Srinagar Circle, Tawheed Ahmad Deva at Sheikhbagh Forest Complex, Srinagar. The event was attended by forest officials and officers including Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar Dr. Sheikh Mehraj and DFO Planning and Publicity Division.

Speaking on the occasion, Conservator Forests, Srinagar Circle highlighted the need for intensive plantation and empha-

sised planting indigenous species of conifers including Deodar, Kail and Fir. He underscored the role of the public for helping the Forest Department to increase the green cover especially outside forests.

It was informed that the sale centres have been established for the convenience of the general public and plants will be made available for sale in the valley during the season at a subsidized rate of Rs.13.50 per sapling.

The sale centres have been set up at PC Depot, Sheikh Bagh Forest Complex in Srinagar and at all District and Divisional headquarters besides, mobile vans will also be deployed for the sale of conifer plants within the Srinagar City. The sapling will be available at these centres up to March 31.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of works under JJM

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 11

In order to take stock of progress achieved under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of concerned officers of the Jal Shakti Department at mini-secretariat, here.

During the meeting, DC reviewed both the physical and financial progress of the works being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

The S.E Hydraulic Circle Anantnag gave a detailed brief of all the works under execution under Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

It was informed that under the JJM, the district has a total of 143 schemes encompassing 219 works, with 149 works already completed till date.

Emphasizing the



are to be made functional before the end of this financial year.

The DC instructed the concerned to ensure timely completion and target achievement under Jal Jeevan Mission.

He emphasized on the functional audit of all completed schemes, besides sought service facilitation among the different agencies completing the schemes.

importance of JJM as a flagship program aimed at covering all households, officers were instructed to work in coordination to ensure the smooth execution of JJM works in their respective areas by the DC.

The chair was apprised

of various issues regarding testing and commissioning of Rapid Sand Filtration Plants of different water supply schemes.

It was given out that water supply schemes including Boh-Drigdan, Parigam, Ahmadabad and Shalipora Tarigam

was attended by ADDC, Altaf Ahmad; SE PHE Mechanical Anantnag, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti Kulgam, Qazigund, Ground Water Div, Mechanical, KPDC, Quality Control & Procurement, CEO, AEEs and other officers.

DC reviews implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Samba



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 11

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district. The meeting was held in the conference hall of the DC office complex.

At the beginning, Chief Agriculture Officer S Madan Gopal Singh, presented a detailed update on the progress across various sectors, highlighting key initiatives such as the promotion of vegetables and exotic vegetables

under open and hi-tech protected cultivation, bee-keeping, and the development of rainfed areas. He also emphasized efforts to encourage the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, alongside promoting millets, mushrooms, commercial floriculture, and oilseed production to diversify farmers' income sources.

The DDC reviewed the list of eligible beneficiaries under HADP from the Agriculture and Allied Departments who had applied through the HADP portal. A total of 676 beneficiaries have been approved under various programmes aimed at strengthening the agricul-

tural sector.

The DDC urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards fostering sustainable agriculture and rural development in Samba. He also directed banks to prioritize loan cases under HADP, ensuring proper support and guidance to the beneficiaries. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Smt. Champa Devi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, and General Manager DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, and other concerned officers.

GCOE Jammu concludes Int'l Women's Day events

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

The SPARSH Committee of Government College of Education (GCOE) Jammu, in collaboration with the Psychological Counseling Cell, organised a series of events from March 7th to 11th to commemorate International Women's Day.

The activities featured awareness lecture aimed to raise awareness on "What is SPARSH?", by its convenor Dr. Davinder Kour; a symposium on the impact of sexual harassment on mental health; a poster-making competition focusing on sexual harassment against women and its legal consequences; a short film, "Astivta", emphasizing women's empowerment

At the closing event the College Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students and commended the efforts of the SPARSH Committee and Psychological Counseling Cell for successfully organizing these events, which played a crucial role in promoting awareness, empowerment and safety among students.

Chairperson DDC Kulgam vows support for specially-abled children

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 11

Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parray today presided over the Environment Building programme on Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

The event was organized by the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Kulgam in collaboration with the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kulgam at the DIET building, here. The programme saw the participation of several officials, including the Principal of DIET Kulgam, Principal of HSS Malwan, and other dignitaries from DIET Kulgam.

Discussions focused on the challenges faced by differently-abled individuals and the need for stronger educational support.

Speaking at the event, Chairperson DDC raised various concerns regarding the education and well-being of differently-abled children.

He emphasized the government's role in ensuring their welfare and urged parents to support and encourage their children rather than discriminating on ability.

Highlighting the crucial role of teachers, he stressed the importance of inclusive education in shaping the future of such children. He assured that, as Chairperson of the DDC, he remains committed to taking all necessary steps for their betterment, pledging to leave no stone unturned in advocating for their rights and opportunities.

The event concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to work towards a more inclusive and supportive educational environment for differently-abled children in Kulgam.

DC reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 11

A review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was chaired today here by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

At the outset, engineers from the Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDC) informed that over 8,000 consumers have registered for the scheme, with 2,550 applications already received. Additionally, it was reported that 180 applicants have successfully availed bank loans to install solar setup for electricity.

Expressing concern over the slow installation and insufficient manpower deployed by the Vendors,



the Deputy Commissioner directed the JPDC authorities to organize seven-day training program at ITI to train the students for the task.

"The initiative aims to engage the youth, providing them with skills that will make them self-reliant and earn a livelihood, while also contributing to the success of the scheme," he added.

The meeting was

attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Kishtwar, Shah Nawaz Bali, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) of the Power Development Department (PDD), Electric Division JPDC Kishtwar, along with registered empaneled vendors, including M/s Mallik Solar, AD Agency, M/s Nehru Solar Solutions, M/s Sanjeet Sharma, M/s Adil Butt and M/s Aditya.

Seminar on procurement & marketing support scheme for artisans held in Udhampur



JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 11

To raise awareness among artisans about government schemes aimed at supporting micro-enterprises, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development and Facilitation Office, Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Udhampur and Directorate of Handicraft & Handloom Jammu organised a One-day seminar-cum-awareness programme on procurement and marketing support scheme here in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai was the chief guest at the Seminar attended by GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Director, Handloom & Handicrafts, Ujwal Singh; Assistant Director IEDS Rajesh Kumar; A.D IEDS Devender Kumar

Tyagi and FM DIC Radhika.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner emphasized the government's commitment to uplifting the artisan and farming communities through various flagship schemes such as PM Vishwakarma, PMEGP, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, JK Samadhan, and MSME initiatives. She encouraged artisans and farmers to actively participate in these schemes and avail themselves of their benefits for economic empowerment.

She also commended the Handloom & Handicrafts Department and MSME -DFO office for organizing the seminar and creating awareness about opportunities available to the artisan community. She assured full support from the District Administration in facilitating access to these schemes and urged arti-

sans to register with the concerned department to maximize their benefits.

At the onset, Assistant Director, Handloom & Handicrafts, Ujwal Singh welcomed the chief guest and Dignitaries.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting various schemes available for artisans and micro-entrepreneurs by MSME-DFO team including IEDS Rajesh Kumar and Devendra Tyagi. He expressed gratitude to the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and reiterated that the primary objective of the seminar was to inform and empower artisans through government welfare programs.

Meanwhile experts from various departments MSME, DIC, Handicrafts, Gem, NSIC provided valuable insights into modern techniques, marketing strategies, and business growth opportunities.

Work on Satwari to Last Morh Gandhi Nagar Flyover takes off

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

The Traffic police have issued an advisory for commuters mentioning diversion of traffic movement in view of construction of flyover from Satwari Chowk to last Morh Gandhi Nagar, which started from today (March 11, 2025)

"As intimated by Project Director NHAI, PIU-Jammu, the construction work of flyover from Satwari Chowk to last Morh Gandhi Nagar will be undertaken by the concerned executing agency from March 11, 2025. In this regard, the tube coming from Satwari Chowk towards Last Morh Gandhi Nagar shall remain restricted for the movement of General Traffic during the said construction work. Hence for ensuring hassle free movement of traffic, the traffic diversions have been placed on ground," an official handout stated.

As per diversion plan, all interstate vehicles coming from Samba/Kathua via Kunjwani, Gangyal bound for Jammu City shall be diverted from Satwari Chowk towards MH Hospital Road - Beli Charana - 4th Tawi Bridge - Asia

Crossing / Canal Head and further towards their destination.

Similarly, all kinds of vehicles coming from R.S Pura, Miran Sahib and adjoining areas bound for Jammu City shall be diverted from Satwari Chowk towards MH Hospital Road - Beli Charana - 4th Tawi Bridge - Asia Crossing/ Canal Head and further towards their destination.

The traffic plying on the road stretch from Bikram Chowk upto Satwari Chowk shall remain through for one way traffic movement however the traffic plying will be diverted from last Morh Gandhi Nagar in the Right Tube towards Satwari Chowk.

The traffic coming from 4th Tawi Bridge bound for Satwari side shall not ply via Beli Charana rather shall be diverted to Ware House - Asia Crossing - Last Morh Gandhi Nagar and towards Satwari Chowk.

The General Public has been requested to cooperate with District Administration and Police to maintain better traffic management.

For any traffic related assistance the General Public can contact TCU Jammu 0191-2459048, 94191-47732.

DDMA Samba plans wide-ranging measures to reinforce disaster readiness



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 11

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Samba today chalked out a comprehensive plan to reinforce readiness, including constitution of a specialized disaster response force.

A crucial meeting, chaired by District Magistrate Rajesh Sharma, brought together key officials and stakeholders to formulate a coordinated approach to disaster mitigation and emergency response.

Key outcomes of the meeting included directives to all departments to conduct regular mock drills to test emergency response protocols, comprehensive review and necessary amendments to existing disaster management plans, discussions on forming a specialized disaster response force for the district, mandates for departments to develop detailed disaster mitigation

and response strategies. The DDMA's proactive approach reflects its commitment to safeguarding lives and infrastructure in Samba district against potential natural and man-made disasters.

"We are taking concrete steps to ensure that Samba is prepared for any emergency situation," added the DM. "By strengthening our coordination mechanisms and community awareness initiatives, we aim to build a disaster-resilient district."

The meeting saw participation from senior officials including Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kusum Chib, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, and representatives from essential departments such as Health Services, Fire and Emergency Services, Forest, PDD, PHE, Police, SDRF, NDRF, Flood Control and Security Forces.

DC Kulgam reviews PMMVY scheme

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 11

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday reviewed the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) in a meeting with Officers at the mini-secretariat, here.

While reviewing the scheme, DC directed the ICDS department to expedite the Aadhaar seeding of the pending beneficiaries at the earliest.

He stressed collaborative efforts of field staff at block level to get all the eligible beneficiaries enlisted



in the scheme.

It is worth mentioning that PMMVY is a centrally sponsored scheme under Poshan Abhiyan under which financial support is being provided to lactat-

ing mothers.

The meeting was attended by DPO ICDS, all CDPOs, District Lead Bank Manager, DIO and a representative from LIC.

NOTICE

One person, namely Kuldeep Singh, S/o Late Shri Vikram Singh, R/o Malhori Jagir, Tehsil and District Jammu, went missing, and a missing report was entered in the Police Station Nagrota, on 22.09.1982. Despite several attempts, the missing person has not been traced to date. It is requested to the general public that any person (s) receive any information or find the missing person may contact his brother, Onkar Singh, on his mobile 8492859653 within a period of seven days of this notification.

EDITORIAL

Heading towards normalcy?

Jammu and Kashmir, often referred to as the 'Paradise on Earth,' is witnessing an unprecedented resurgence in tourism, signaling a return to normalcy and tranquility in the region. With a record-breaking 2.36 crore tourists visiting the Union Territory in 2024, the sector is thriving like never before. Among them, 65,452 were foreign visitors, 5.12 lakh embarked on the sacred journey to the holy cave shrine of Shri Amarnath, and 94.56 lakh paid homage to Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra, Reasi district. The recent Economic Survey Report highlights the instrumental role of the J&K Tourism Department in driving this growth. Extensive promotional campaigns, both within and beyond the Union Territory, have reaped significant rewards. Participation in national and international tourism events, coupled with a robust digital and social media presence, has resulted in a remarkable 300% rise in foreign tourist footfall. The third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20 also brought Jammu and Kashmir into the global spotlight. Recognizing the indispensable role of tourism in J&K's economy, the sector has been accorded industry status, further boosting investment and infrastructural development. The Amarnath Yatra recorded its highest number of yatis in a decade, reflecting renewed faith and confidence in the region's security and hospitality. While iconic destinations like Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam continue to attract millions, offbeat and border tourism spots are also gaining traction. These lesser-explored destinations not only diversify tourism offerings but also generate employment opportunities for locals, thereby fostering economic growth. The Vista Dome Service, launched on the Baramulla-Banihal railway stretch in collaboration with Indian Railways, offers tourists a unique and scenic travel experience. Sustainable tourism is also a priority, with eco-mobility carts introduced in Sonamarg for eco-friendly visits to the Thajiwas Glacier. Additionally, a Rs 25.07 crore vertical lift project from Peerkho to the Mubarak Mandi Complex is underway to facilitate better access to historical sites. Infrastructure for winter sports continues to expand, with new drag lifts in Sonamarg and Gulmarg enhancing skiing opportunities. Meanwhile, the hospitality sector is evolving to meet growing demand, with the government encouraging homestays and tented accommodations. A total of 2,246 homestay units, offering 16,455 bed spaces, have been registered, providing tourists with authentic and diverse lodging options. The remarkable surge in tourist footfall is not just a testament to the region's unmatched beauty but also a reflection of its journey towards peace and stability. With diversified tourism initiatives, improved infrastructure, and sustainable practices, Jammu and Kashmir is on a promising path toward long-term economic growth. As the region continues to reclaim its glory, the message is clear—Jammu and Kashmir is open, thriving, and ready to welcome the world with open arms. The record-breaking influx of visitors is not just a statistic; it is a sign of renewed hope, resilience, and a future brimming with possibilities.

Sanatan Culture's Environmental Wisdom Inspiring the World



PROF. MAHESH CHAND GUPTA

There is an age-old relationship between Indian Sanatan culture and environment. It is only Sanatan culture in which nature is not only considered the basis of existence but is also considered worship-worthy. The environmental balance that is advocated in modern science has been maintained in Sanatan traditions for centuries. In Sanatan culture, every natural element is considered divine. For us, the sun, water, air and vegetation are all like gods. The humility to ask permission of trees before cutting them in times of need and to apologize politely while plucking Tulsi leaves is only found in our culture. We do not pluck flowers and leaves after sunset because at that time they are in a state of rest. Not only in India, but the Hindu community settled abroad is also fulfilling its responsibility towards environmental protection. This thing is now being accepted in foreign countries as well and people are taking inspiration from it. This conclusion has come out in a recent study conducted by Britain's Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL).

The study report mentions that the Hindu community in Britain is the most active in comparison to other communities on the issue of environmental protection. Most Hindus are doing something or the other for the environment. The belief in the presence of God in every particle is their source of inspi-

ration. 64 percent Hindus are involved in 'rewilding' i.e. giving new life to the eco-system. 78 percent Hindus change their habits so that the damage to the environment is reduced. 44 percent Hindus are associated with environmental organizations.

The study has analyzed the environmental attitudes and activities of Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities. The report shows that 82 percent of Christians in Britain associate religion with environmental protection but their protection-related work is the least. 31 percent Christians deny climate change, which is the highest among any religious group. 92 percent Muslims and 82 percent Christians believe that their religion gives them the responsibility to take care of the environment, but their thinking does not translate into practice. If Hindus are active for environmental protection, then the main reason for this is that the feeling of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' is inherent in Hinduism, which teaches to see the entire creation as one family. This feeling develops a sense of unity towards nature in us. Today, when the whole world is grappling with the challenge of climate change, then this thinking and behavior of Sanatan culture can become an inspiration for humanity.

This study is very important in view of the environmental crisis and the dangers of climate change. This study not only reveals the relationship between Sanatan culture and environment, but it also proves that Hindus who settled abroad for work decades ago have still imbibed their culture. In Hindu Sanatan Dharma, environment is not limited only to spirituality or worship, but it is imbued with a deep awareness and sense of respect towards the entire cre-

ation. In our culture, emphasis has been laid on the conservation of nature and animals, considering them worshipful. Hence, environmental conservation in Hinduism is not only a moral duty but also an integral part of religious faith and daily life.

How much our ancestors loved the environment is known from the beliefs established by them. In Sanatan Dharma, it is believed that the entire universe is made up of five elements, earth, water, fire, air and sky. Keeping these five elements balanced is the basic objective of life. That is why maintaining the purity and balance of the environment is an important part of Hindu philosophy. In Sanatan culture, measures have been taken to protect the environment at every step. The tradition of earth worship on the pretext of Bhoomi Pujan and Govardhan Puja has not been formed by chance. The intention behind worshipping rivers as goddesses is to maintain the purity of all rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Narmada, Krishna etc. The feeling of purifying the environment lies behind using natural herbs in havan and yajna.

Our ancestors have explained the importance of clean air through yoga and pranayam in such a scientific way. The ancestors considered the sky to be the source of infinite energy and gave the message of maintaining its balance through meditation and sadhana, and the reason behind this is also the reverence for nature. The reason behind worshipping trees and plants by considering them as gods is the feeling of their protection. Our ancestors started the tradition of planting Tulsi in every house centuries ago considering it to be the form of Goddess Lakshmi, and even today scientists accept its medicinal properties.

In our country, planting forests in the ashrams of sages was given priority in ancient times and even today tree plantation is being followed in temples and ashrams as a sacred work.

In our country, environmental protection has been a part of our education system since ancient times. Our sages used to perform havan-yajna to keep the environment pure. This helped in keeping the environment clean and in timely rain. There are examples even in modern times when rain has been seen after havan-yajna. In the present times, there is a greater need to follow ancient traditions because the water of rivers is getting less and polluted. Glaciers are melting. The sea level is rising and there is a fear of many coastal cities of the world getting submerged. In ancient Gurukul, emphasis was laid on environmental conservation, and in the present times too, research and study on environmental conservation, planting more and more trees and clean environment for environmental friendliness are being given priority in colleges and universities. We believe that Lakshmi resides in a pure and clean environment and this brings prosperity, this idea of ours has been adopted in foreign countries. The large, open campuses of universities in various countries and the dense greenery there are proof of this.

In Sanatan culture, while cow has been given the status of mother to maintain biodiversity, their importance has also been accepted by worshipping snakes on Nag Panchami. The message of maintaining water purity has been given through festivals like Ganga Dussehra and Kartik Snan. In Ardh Kumbh, Kumbh and Maha Kumbh, emphasis has been laid on the cleanliness of rivers and their importance.

The study report says that

Hinduism is based on karma. It believes that what we do in this life affects our next life. Good deeds erase bad deeds and the next life is better. That is why there is a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Our youth are at the forefront in this. 46 percent of religious youth aged 18-24 years see God as an environmentalist.

Today the whole world is grappling with the problems of climate change, pollution and ecological imbalance. The solution to these problems can be found in Indian Sanatan culture. Our great traditions can become important guides for environmental protection in the entire world. The tradition of reusing old clothes and items in Hinduism is nothing but an ancient form of recycling and waste management. Vegetarianism was promoted here because our ancestors knew that promoting vegetarianism reduces carbon emissions and maintains environmental balance. In our culture, the importance of water and sun in Chhath Puja, sesame and jaggery in Sankranti and natural colours in Holi are indicative of the conservation of biodiversity.

Hindu Sanatan Dharma and the spirit of environmental protection are deeply interconnected. This connection is not limited to following religious rules but is a complete lifestyle that gives priority to gratitude, respect and conservation towards nature. If the whole world adopts these principles today, not only can the environmental crisis be reduced but challenges like climate change can also be dealt with. Protecting nature is not only our religion but also our moral responsibility.

(The author is a renowned educationist, speaker and thinker. He is the coordinator of Delhi University Foundation.)

India must lead in AI for the South Asian Region

VINIT UTPAL

At the AI Action Summit in Paris, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged global leaders to collaborate on setting AI standards that benefit everyone particularly in the Global South. He emphasized the need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards that reflect shared values, mitigate risks, and foster trust. On this occasion, Modi also announced that India is developing AI applications for the public good and is building its own large language model (LLM) to address the country's diversity across various sectors.

In January, Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, announced also at the Utkarsh Odisha Conclave that India would build native generative AI models within six to eight months. He revealed that India had secured more than 18,600 high-end GPUs to build the AI infrastructure and scale its computing capacity. Among the 18,600 GPUs, there are 12,896 Nvidia H100 GPUs, 1,480 Nvidia H200 GPUs, and 742 AMD MI325 and MI325X GPUs as comparison to DeepSeek AI was trained on 2,000 GPUs, ChatGPT was trained on 25,000 GPUs.

GPUs or Graphics Processing Units are specialized hardware designed to accelerate the rendering of images and videos, but their parallel processing capabilities make them ideal for a range of complex computational tasks, including machine learning, scientific simulations, and crypto currency mining. Leading manufacturers of GPUs include



NVIDIA, AMD and Intel, with NVIDIA being especially dominant in AI and machine learning through its CUDA platform and hardware like the NVIDIA A100 and Tesla series. India has already implemented the DeepSeek-R1 AI model and experts are currently evaluating the technical report to better understand its capabilities.

Meanwhile, Large Language Models (LLMs) have become foundational for AI systems. These models enable machines to learn human-like intelligence, facilitating more diverse and sophisticated interactions between machines and humans. LLMs have immense potential in various governance sectors, including health, education, transport, defence and security. However, creating LLMs requires massive funding, along with strategic resources such as semiconductors,

which complicate the process.

The race for LLMs began with the launch of OpenAI's models in the USA, Google's Bard, Meta's AI and Microsoft's Copilot, initiatives supported by large tech giants in Silicon Valley with substantial funding. Yet, a notable disruption in the LLM market has come from the Chinese start-up DeepSeek. It has created an affordable open-source LLM that has challenged the dominance of Western tech giants and sparked a global reassessment of AI research policies. This shift is particularly relevant for smaller countries in South Asia, particularly India's neighboring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

DeepSeek's success demonstrates that the AI race is not limited to countries with vast technological and financial resources.

However, DeepSeek's AI models are not entirely free in terms of data analysis. Due to China's strict internet regulations and content controls, these models are designed to avoid discussing politically sensitive topics, such as democracy, human rights or global conflicts. As a result, China's AI models often reflect the country's geopolitical interests, shaping user behavior, especially in countries that lack their own AI infrastructure.

India, with its 22 officially recognized languages and numerous dialects, faces both opportunities and challenges in AI development. Country's linguistic diversity offers a chance to create more inclusive AI systems, but also poses challenges in ensuring that AI models can effectively support a wide range of languages. Several years ago, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

worked on RESPIN Project. It was said that this is worked for speech recognition in agriculture and finance for the poor is an initiative predominantly to create resources and make them available as a digital public good in the open source domain. This was speech recognition project in nine different Indian languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Bhojpuri, Kannada, Magadhi, Chhattisgarhi, and Maithili. At that time, there are several inputs required from such experts including assessment of sentence quality in a language, pronunciation of the people from whom recordings are done etc.

To create indigenous LLMs that cater to India's linguistic pluralism, it is crucial to ensure that AI systems are culturally relevant and accessible to a broader population. By providing services in multiple languages, such

models could improve public services, enhance educational resources, and facilitate more effective communication. Furthermore, developing homegrown LLMs would help preserve linguistic heritage and promote digital inclusivity. Geopolitically, investing in domestic LLMs would reduce dependence on foreign technologies, thereby bolstering national security and technological sovereignty.

Many global AI models struggle to support smaller languages. While Chinese models prioritize Mandarin and regional dialects, and Western models mainly focus on English and other widely spoken global languages, an AI model developed in India would likely include languages like Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Awadhi, and Newar, among others. Such a model would increase the contextual relevance and accuracy of voice recognition, natural language processing (NLP), machine translation, and AI-driven content creation.

At this juncture, South Asian countries need to collaborate with Indian leadership to develop autonomous LLMs that respect their unique languages and governance systems, ensuring a fair and open AI ecosystem. Relying on censored AI models is very risky for objective knowledge, foreign digital dependencies and regional technological sovereignty.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor and Course Coordinator of Digital Media at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu. The views are personal.)

Once stronghold of mafia Prayagraj transforms into model city: Yogi

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, MAR II

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said Prayagraj, once dominated by the mafia and criminals, has evolved into a model city in recent years while highlighting the transformative impact of Maha Kumbh on the city.

During a conclave held at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow, the CM said that Prayagraj has undergone complete transformation with major development projects giving the historic city a modern identity. He also attributed this change to the linking of faith and economy through Maha Kumbh.

Meanwhile, he felicitated sanitation workers, showering them with flowers at the event. Calling them the foundation of cleanliness, he said, "They have successfully brought the message of a Swachh Kumbh to life."

Yogi lauded the first public event felicitating sanitation workers, calling it a truly commendable initiative. He emphasised the crucial role of sanitation workers in making the



Maha Kumbh a grand and divine success.

He said, "After any work is completed, people often move on, thinking about the next task. While everyone lives in a building, the foundation stones are forgotten. But the sanitation workers who strengthened the foundation of Maha Kumbh deserve recognition. Their efforts made this event possible and this programme to honour them is truly heartwarming."

Highlighting the power of collective effort, the CM said, "Any event reaches great heights only when people come together with a shared vision. When we view collective efforts positively, they become an inspiration for society. This is exactly what happened in Prayagraj."

shared statistics of the crowd turnout on each holy bath.

Criticising misinformation and negative narratives, he said, "The more people spread rumours and negativity, the more devotees flocked to Prayagraj with even greater determination."

The CM narrated an incident where a YouTuber tried to highlight the difficulties faced by devotees but was met with a resolute response. "A YouTuber asked a devotee from Karnataka how far he had walked and he replied, 'five kilometres'. The YouTuber then informed him that he had another five kilometres to go. The devotee responded, 'Even if I have to walk 50 km, I will,'" he said.

He said, "When the YouTuber suggested that the government should have arranged better facilities, the devotee replied, 'I am walking, so why is it bothering you? Reaching God's abode on foot is a form of devotion for me.'"

Yogi mentioned that Sanatan Dharma is rooted in gratitude and every visitor considered Maha Kumbh as their own

event, rather than just a government-organised festival. "This was the largest human gathering in history, sending a powerful message to the world. It demonstrated that such massive events can be successfully managed, that faith can be linked to livelihoods and that millions of lives can be transformed," he said. He recalled his visit to Prayagraj on February 27, after the completion of the event. "Along with both Deputy CMs, I led a cleanliness drive as a gesture of gratitude to Maa Ganga. We performed a ritual in her honour, acknowledging that her blessings made this grand event possible. Sanitation workers were honoured, shared a meal with us and we pledged to improve their wages. Their revised minimum salary will take effect in April and a bonus has also been announced," he said. The CM urged sanitation and contract workers to ensure their children receive proper education. "Send your children to school. If you have any bad habits, don't let them pass on to your kids. Educate them well and work with dedication," he said.

DMK MPs hold protest against Dharmendra Pradhan over his remarks on NEP, demands apology

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR II

DMK MPs on Tuesday held protest against Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and demanded "apology" over his remark in Parliament on NEP and the three-language formula.

All DMK MPs sported black dresses in protest against and termed as "offensive and undemocratic".

Speaking to the media, DMK MP Kanimozhi said, "The Union Govt is withholding the money that has to be given to Tamil Nadu, saying that we have to sign the three-language policy and the NEP. They are ruining the future of the children of Tamil Nadu. They have no right to withhold the funds which have to come to the children of Tamil Nadu" he added.

"Yesterday, he responded in a very abusive way, saying that we are dishonest and that the people of Tamil Nadu are uncivilised. This is not the language we expect



him to be speaking. This is totally undemocratic. We expect an apology" she added.

On Thursday, while responding to the New Education Policy and three language row.

Dharmendra Pradhan said, "They (Tamil Nadu) are uncivilised, undemocratic people and not committed to the Tamil Nadu students. They are ruining their future. They are dishonest to the people of Tamil Nadu."

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva called the statement of Dharmendra Pradhan "misleading" and said it is unethical and unparliamentary. We are also against three-language policy. Nobody can

impose it on us." "Tamil Nadu Education Minister already clarified it...we are wearing black today and going to have a demonstration condemning the observations made by him" he said.

Congress also jumped into the issue. Karti Chidambaram said, "Tamil Nadu is very clear that a two-language curriculum serves us very well. Tamil preserves our identity and is our mother tongue, English is our link language to the world of commerce and science... we don't need a 3rd compulsory language...The Minister should have apologised, he withdrew it but he should have apologised too."

EC invites party presidents, senior leaders for interaction to strengthen electoral processes

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR II

The Elections Commission of India (ECI) has invited suggestions from all national and state political parties by April 30 to strengthen the election process.

As per the notification, the Commission has called for an interaction with the party presidents and seniors to further strengthen the electoral processes in accordance with the established law.

This comes after the opposition parties raised questions over the duplicity in some electors' photo identity cards after the Maharashtra polls.

Earlier, during an ECI conference last week, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had instructed CEOs, DEOs and EROs of all states and UTs to hold regular interactions with political parties, resolve any suggestions received in such meetings strictly within the legal framework.

The Commission has also urged political parties to proactively use this mechanism of decentralised engagement.

"Political parties are one of the key stakeholders amongst 28 stakeholders identified by the Commission as per the Constitution and statutory framework covering all aspects of electoral processes," said ECI.

Centre revokes suspension of Wrestling Federation of India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR II

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Monday revoked the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), restoring its recognition as the National Sports Federation (NSF) with immediate effect. The decision ensures Indian wrestlers' participation in upcoming international events, including the 2026 Asian Games and the 2028 Olympics.

The WFI had been suspended on December 24, 2023, due to governance lapses, including violations of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, and a lack of transparency in operations. In response, an Ad-hoc Committee appointed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had taken over the federation's responsibilities.

The suspension was lifted following a ministry review of WFI's corrective actions, findings from a spot verification committee, and legal observations from the Delhi High Court. Additionally, United World Wrestling (UWW), the global governing body for the sport, had reinstated WFI's membership on February 13, 2024, with conditions such as the re-election of an Athletes' Commission and the assurance of fair selection processes.

As part of the reinstatement, the ministry issued key directives to WFI to ensure good governance and transparency. The federation must revert amendments made during the suspension period within four weeks to restore a balanced power structure.

Moreover, non-elected individuals, including former office bearers and terminated officials, must remain completely dissociated from WFI and its affiliated units. All selections for international events must be conducted in a fair and transparent manner, adhering to the Sports Code and UWW regulations.

The government reaffirmed its commitment to upholding good governance, ensuring compliance with the Sports Code, and prioritising athlete welfare to foster a robust sporting ecosystem in the country.

Immigration bill introduced in LS, Opposition claims legislation violates fundamental rights

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR II

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai introduced The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday amid demands from the Congress and other Opposition parties that the legislation be withdrawn as it violated fundamental rights.

The opposition also demanded the bill be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)/

Congress member Manish Tewari said the bill "is a violation of our fundamental rights on many counts".

"Either this bill should be withdrawn or should be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for very careful consideration, because it violates multiple articles of the fundamental rights under the Constitution of India," he said.

He said the provisions of the bill can be potentially misused by any government of the day if it feels that the political views or the ideological

beliefs of any individual or conscientious dissenter do not conform to the views of the incumbent establishment.

TMC member Saugata Roy also criticised the bill, arguing that its provisions are too stringent for foreigners. He further pointed out the absence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the House.

In response, Rai stated that concerns had been raised regarding the legislative competence of the bill. However, he asserted that the bill aligns with the legislative authority and falls within the provisions of the Indian Constitution.

He said the bill is not intended to bar any foreigner but rather to ensure adherence to the country's laws. He emphasised that it is the government's duty to safeguard the nation's security, progress, sovereignty and overall safety.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla later sought the House's opinion on the proposal to introduce the bill, which was approved by a voice vote.

Gunmen attack Jaffer express in Balochistan

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, MAR II

Gunmen attacked the Jaffer Express passenger train in Kachhi district of Pakistan's Balochistan province on Tuesday, injuring several people and prompting a security operation in the area, media reports said.

The assault occurred near Ab-e-Gum area of Mach Town, where around six armed men opened fire on the train, spreading panic among passengers, the Express Tribune reported.

Meanwhile, the Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for carrying out what it called a "strategic operation" and claimed that its activists have seized control of the Jaffer Express by derailing it. During the resistance, six military personnel were killed, while over 100 passengers have been taken into BLA custody.

Among the hostages are active-duty personnel from the Pakistani military, police, Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF), and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)—all of whom were traveling to Punjab on leave, the BLA claimed and warned that if the any military tried to intervene, all hostages will be executed.

Himachal Assembly passes Rs 17,053.78 cr supplementary budget for 2024-25

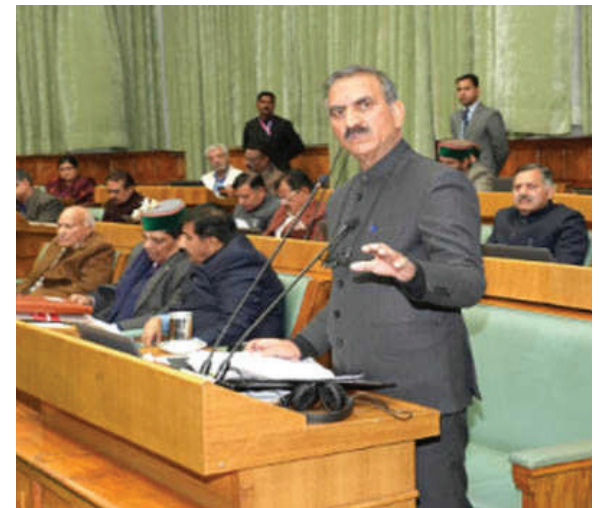
AGENCIES
SHIMLA, MAR II

The Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday passed a supplementary budget of Rs 17,053.78 crore for the financial year 2024-25.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who holds the portfolio of finance, presented the first and final installment of the supplementary budget, which was approved without discussion.

The House also passed the Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, granting the government authority to utilise these funds.

Out of the total amount, Rs 15,776.19 crore is allocated for state schemes, while Rs 1,277.59 crore is designated for centrally sponsored schemes. The key allocations under state schemes include Rs 10,137.07 crore for wage and means advances and overdraft payments, Rs 1,033.63 crore for power generation and infrastructure repair, and Rs 814.94 crore as subsidies for fare concessions and electric bus purchases for Himachal Road Transport



Corporation. Additionally, Rs 763.26 crore has been allocated for pensions and retirement benefits, Rs 455.91 crore for medical colleges and healthcare schemes, and Rs 329.44 crore for water supply and sanitation projects.

Furthermore, Rs 303.67 crore is earmarked for disaster relief, Rs 173.25 crore for tourism development, Rs 150.19 crore for school infrastructure repair, and Rs 142.83 crore for grants to rural local bodies. Other allocations include Rs 135.88 crore for road and bridge construction, Rs 130.16 crore for women's hostels and

welfare schemes, Rs 127.77 crore for government buildings, and Rs 124.50 crore for railway projects.

Under centrally sponsored schemes, major allocations include Rs 296.56 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Rs 207.71 crore for disaster management, Rs 207.23 crore for compensation to Renuka Dam displaced families, Rs 90.28 crore for rural housing, and Rs 53.39 crore for MGNREGA. The supplementary budget was passed by voice vote, ensuring funding for key development projects and welfare programs.

PM Modi gifts Banarasi saree, makhana, holy water from Maha Kumbh to Mauritius President, wife

AGENCIES
PORT LOUIS/NEW DELHI, MAR II

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a Banarasi silk saree in a Sadeli box to Mauritius First Lady Vrinda Gokhool, and gifted makhana, a traditional food from Bihar, to Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool, during their meeting in the State House in Port Louis today.

The Banarasi saree, originating from Varanasi, is known for its fine silk and zari work, while the Sadeli box from Gujarat features intricate inlay craftsmanship. PM Modi also gifted holy

water from the Sangam from the Maha Kumbh in a Brass and Copper Pot to Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool, as well as a Ganesha statue.

According to a statement, "The two leaders exchanged views on deepening the special and close bilateral ties between India and Mauritius."

"In this context, they recalled the shared history between the two countries and the existence of strong people-to-people linkages."

Prime Minister Modi noted that it was an honour for him to attend the National Day celebra-

tions of Mauritius as Chief Guest for the second time. In a special gesture Prime Minister handed over OCI cards to President Gokhool and First Lady Vrinda Gokhool.

"Prime Minister also visited the Ayurveda Garden in the State House, established in collaboration with the Government of India. Prime Minister noted that Mauritius is an important partner for India in advancing the benefits of traditional medicine including Ayurveda."

"After the talks, President Gokhool hosted a State lunch in honour of Prime Minister."

Speaking at the luncheon, PM Modi praised the taste of the "Mauritius thali" cuisine, and said it reflects the composite culture of the Indian Ocean island nation.

He said the thali also reflects the shared history of both nations, and that their bilateral friendship is also reflected in the hospitality of Mauritius.

Thanking President Dharambeer Gokhool and First Lady Vrinda Gokool, the PM reiterated India's commitment to its friendly ties with Mauritius.

The MEA spokesperson posted on X:

"At the State House, PM @narendramodi was warmly received by President Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool of Mauritius. President also hosted a state lunch in the honour of PM."

"The leaders exchanged views on deepening bilateral ties between India and Mauritius that is anchored in shared history, civilizational linkages & ever growing people to people ties."

"PM also visited the Ayurvedic Garden at the State House, a symbol of India-Mauritius collaboration in traditional medicine."

Badrinath meets SDPO RS Pura to discuss growing concern of drug abuse

J I NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, MAR II

A delegation led by former Sarpanch Badrinath Sharma today met with the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of RS Pura to discuss the growing concern of drug abuse in the area to find ways to curb the drug menace and protect the younger generation from its harmful effects.

Speaking on the occasion, Badrinath observed that RS Pura police have been actively working to combat drug abuse, organizing awareness programs and conducting surprise inspections to ensure strict surveillance. The police have also recovered heroin and sharp-edged weapons from drug peddlers in the past. Badri-



nath further said that issue of drug abuse in Tehsil RS Pura has been highlighted as a serious concern that requires collective efforts to address. It is essential to acknowledge the severity of this problem and its far-reaching consequences on

individuals, families, and the community as a whole. He said that to combat this menace, support from everyone, including government agencies, civil society organizations, educational institutions and individuals, is cru-

cial. A collaborative approach can help raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, identify and support vulnerable individuals, strengthen law enforcement efforts, provide accessible rehabilitation services. By working together, it is possible to uproot drug abuse and create a safer, healthier environment for everyone in Tehsil RS Pura, added Badrinath.

Badrinath observed that meeting with the SDPO is a significant step towards addressing the issue, as it involves collaboration between community leaders and law enforcement agencies. By working together, they can develop

effective strategies to prevent drug abuse and ensure a safer environment for the younger generation. He appealed to civil society to address drug abuse is a crucial step in tackling this widespread issue. Drug abuse has severe consequences on individuals, families, and communities, affecting not only their health but also their social and economic well-being.

Badrinath said that impact of drug abuse is multifaceted as it leads to family breakdown, child neglect, and increased crime rates, ultimately affecting the community's overall quality of life. By working together, we can create a safer, healthier environment for everyone and reduce the devastating impact of drug abuse, added Badrinath.

Suri condemns Kathua killings, demands strict action against terrorism

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH II

BJP Executive Member Raman Suri has strongly condemned the brutal killing of three innocent people, including a teenager, in Kathua district, terming it a cowardly act aimed at disturbing peace in Jammu. He expressed deep anguish over the rising terrorist activities in the region and urged the administration, security forces, and elected representatives to step forward and address the concerns of the people.

"The sacrifice of the villagers must not go in vain. The government and security agencies must channel the anger of the people into a united fight against terrorism," Suri stated. He warned against certain elements attempting to portray this heinous mas-



sacre as an accident, urging the government to swiftly address public doubts and ensure their security.

Highlighting the shifting strategy of terrorists, he pointed out that after increased pressure in Kashmir, many districts of Jammu, including Kathua, Reasi, Doda, and Rajouri-Poonch, have become new hideouts for terror modules. "Security agencies have acknowledged that dozens of terrorists are hiding in the mountainous terrain of these districts and have carried out multiple attacks over the past year. Despite the government's strict stance, these elements remain a threat

that must be neutralized at the earliest," he added.

Raman Suri also criticized those who are trying to derail the counter-terrorism efforts of security forces. "Some people are unhappy with the firm actions taken against terrorism and want to obstruct operations against these terrorists. A separate strategy must be devised to deal with such elements so that the peace of Jammu is not jeopardized by this poisonous vine of terror," he asserted.

He called upon the administration to actively engage with the affected people, listen to their grievances, and assure them of full security. "The people of Jammu must not feel abandoned. Their safety is paramount, and the government must act decisively to eliminate terrorism from the region," he concluded.

Viksit Yuva Samelan- Y20 Summit held at Shri Ram School

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR II

The Shri Ram Universal School, in collaboration with the Nations Development Association (NDA), affiliated with MYBharat-NYK under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, successfully organized the 'Viksit Yuva Samelan' under the Y20 Summit with the theme "Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance." The event aimed to empower young minds by fostering discussions on democracy, governance, and leadership, providing a platform for youth to engage with experts, policymakers, and industry leaders.

The seminar commenced with a warm welcome note presented by the Principal of The Shri Ram Universal School, Ms. Sonika Mahajan. The event was graced by Ms. Sunaina Mehta, Principal, Revenue



Training Institute, as the Chief Guest. Shilpa Dubey, DDC Member Vijaypur, attended as the Special Guest, further adding significance to the occasion. The esteemed panel of experts included Aijaz Qaiser (Joint Director, Tourism), Anissa Nabi (Senior Project Manager, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission), Ekshu Sharma (District Information Officer), Dr. Akshay Parihar (BDO Khellani), Maansi Gupta (Director, MG Design), Jasleen Kour

(Founder & CEO, Branding Elves), Abheet Sangotra (Youth Advisory Council Member), and Apurv Gupta (Director, JKMS). Prominent speakers such as Heena Mahajan (Writer and Co-Convenor of Duggar Baradaari- Team Jammu), Sannak Shrivats (State Secretary, ABVP), Ananya Manyal (Production Strategy Head, The Unheard Mehfil Podcast), Dheeraj Sharma (Social Activist), Sunita (Assistant Professor), Dr. Swati Maha-

jan (Medical Officer, RBSK), Sahil Bharti (Advocate), and Tabassum Nabi (BSc Nursing) shared their invaluable insights on the role of youth in democratic governance. Throughout their speeches, speakers and panelists highlighted the significance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing their relevance in governance, leadership, and youth engagement.

The event was further enriched by the presence of esteemed delegates, including Preeti Choudhary, Narinder Singh, Tarun Uppal, Rahul Kumar, and Rakshant Balotra and Sahaj Sabharwal, who contributed to the meaningful discussions on youth-led development.

Adding to the grandeur of the occasion, the Chairman of The Shri Ram Universal School, Mr. Sanjeev Mahajan, and Director, Ms. Rajni Gupta, graced the event with their esteemed presence. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation, with around 200 young individuals attending as an engaged audience. The event concluded on a high note with a Vote of Thanks delivered by the Headmistress, Ms. Shivani Vaid, and the Chief Functionary of the NDA, Mr. Sushil Singh Charak. Their words of gratitude acknowledged the collective efforts of all dignitaries, panelists, speakers, and the young attendees in making the event a resounding success.

The 'Viksit Yuva Samelan' stood as a testament to the power of youth in shaping a participatory and inclusive democracy. Through insightful discussions and knowledge-sharing, the event inspired young leaders to take an active role in governance and policy-making, fostering a brighter future for all. The initiative aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, which emphasizes the promotion of inclusive and participatory governance. By engaging youth in democratic processes, the event reinforced the importance of accountable institutions and active citizenship, paving the way for a more just and sustainable society.

Senior BJP leader and former Jammu and Kashmir state secretary, Pawan Sharma, has vehemently denounced Omar Abdullah's budget presentation, citing its detrimental impact on the public and its mockery of Jammu and Kashmir residents' aspirations.

Pawan Sharma Slams J&K Budget for Ignoring Daily Wagers, Contractual, and Consolidated Employees

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR II

Sharma pointed out that the budget has failed to provide any relief to these employees, who are facing immense hardship due to their uncertain employment status. "The government's failure to regularize their services or provide them with job security has worsened youth unemployment in the state," he said.

Sharma demanded that the government take immediate action to address the concerns of these employees. "The government must regularize their services, provide them with job security, and ensure that they receive their dues on time," he said. "The BJP will continue to raise its voice for the rights of these employees and ensure that they receive justice," Sharma said.

Pawan Sharma emphasized that the budget has completely ignored the plight of daily wagers, contractual, and consolidated employees, including NYCs, who are struggling to make ends meet. "Sharma said. "This is a clear indication of the government's insensitivity towards the welfare of these employees."

SMVDU showcases Digital Presentation of Architectural Documentation of Amar Mahal at 3rd Tawi Festival

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR II

The School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) made an lasting mark at the 3rd Tawi Festival with its pioneering digital presentation of the documentation of Amar Mahal's architectural splendor. This remarkable digital presentation, "Unraveling the Architectural Grandeur of Amar Mahal," was delivered by Ar. Aditi Sharma, Assistant Professor, SoALD, SMVDU, whose extensive research on Jammu's heritage structures infused the study with unparalleled depth and authenticity. The festival, inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the iconic Amar Mahal Palace, also heralded the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Amar Mahal Museum and Library, commemorating 50 years of its cultural and historical significance. Hosted by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust (HTCT), the event brought together an elite gathering of intel-



lectuals—renowned artists, historians, academicians, literary figures, and policymakers—engaging in profound dialogues on the region's rich heritage. The occasion was graced by Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister and Chairman of HTCT, alongside distinguished trustees, senior officials from the police and civil administration, and other eminent dignitaries. With four months of meticulous effort, students of SoALD, guided by Ar. Aditi Sharma, undertook an exhaustive documentation of Amar Mahal's architectural intricacies. Their comprehensive study encompassed detailed plans, elevations, sections, and cutting-edge 3D visualizations, shedding light on the palace's evolution and adaptation through time. The digital

presentation was further elevated by an immersive video, offering a dynamic glimpse into the craftsmanship and artistry that define this architectural masterpiece. Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Head of the School of Architecture, played a crucial role in mentoring students through this rigorous endeavor, ensuring a seamless blend of academic excellence and hands-on heritage conservation experience. His leadership fostered a transformative learning environment, empowering students to engage deeply with real-world architectural preservation. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, lauded the team's extraordinary achievement, underscoring the project's significance in bridging academia and heritage conservation.

SAP Club, GCW Udhampur organize Poster Making Competition on 'Cyber Hygiene for a Safer Tomorrow'

J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR MARCH II

The Swachhata Action Plan (SAP) Club in collaboration with Computer Application Department of Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organised a poster making competition on the theme Cyber Hygiene for a Safer Tomorrow at the college campus here today.

The event emphasized the importance of cyber hygiene and encouraged students and professionals to adopt safe digital practices to protect personal information, devices and online identities from cyber threats.

The event was organized under the convensorship of Prof. Rachna Bharti with the primary objective of encouraging all students and professionals to stay informed and proactive in securing their digital footprint.

Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania was the chief guest on the occasion. She appreciated the efforts of SAP Club and Department of Computer Applications for organizing this important event in her college. She called upon the students to spread the message of cyber security among



the general public. She urged to organize more such events in educational institutions for general awareness of the youth.

Dr. Preeti Dubey, Head, Department of Computer Application in her message expressed that technology is deeply integrated into our lives, practicing cyber hygiene is no longer optional—it is essential. As we embrace the vast opportunities the internet offers, we must also be aware of the risks that come with it, including cyber threats, data breaches, and online fraud. Cyber hygiene is basically to adopting safe and responsible online practices to protect our personal information, digital identity, and critical data. Simple steps such as using strong passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication, avoiding suspicious links, and keeping software updated can significantly reduce cyber risks.

A poster-making com-

petition allows students to creatively express the significance of cybersecurity in today's digital world. A total of 14 students participated, presenting insightful posters on best practices for maintaining cyber security and cyber hygiene.

To acknowledge and encourage the efforts of participants, participation certificates were distributed to all the students, and cash prizes were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The cash prizes were generously sponsored by M/S Ajay Construction (Solar Rooftop Solutions), an Authorized Vendor under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, Jammu, as part of their corporate social responsibility initiative. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the benefits of solar energy while encouraging and appreciating students for their efforts.

Similarly, students of

the host college presented a theme based skit to create awareness about various cyber security issues which was highly appreciated by the audience.

The organizing committee, comprising Prof. Sunil Magotra, Dr. Om Parkash, Prof. Manju Bala, Prof. Pooja Bharti, and Prof. Yash Kumar and faculty from Department of Computer Application Dr. Rudhrika

Kalsotra, Ms. Akshi Gupta, Mr. Parshotam Ji, played a key role in making the event successful.

The Proceedings of the event were conducted by Ms. Palak Sharma and Ms. Rashmi Devi of B.Sc. Computer Applications, Semester 6 students. The panel of judges included Dr. Indu Khajuria (H.O.D Department of Chemistry), Dr. Shivani Suri Verma (Department of English) and Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma (H.O.D Department of Maths).

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. Rachna Bharti, Convener of SAP Club, who emphasized the importance of following healthy online habits and adopting best cybersecurity practices while using the internet.

Billawaria attends Workshop on ONOE at Doda and Kishtwar as main speaker

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR II

A workshop was organized in District Doda and District Kishtwar regarding One Nation One Election. During the workshop, former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, who is taking the campaign forward was present as the main speaker. Through this workshop, where efforts are being made to connect people with this campaign. In the workshop, the importance of the "One Nation One Election" initiative was emphasized and collective efforts were encouraged for its successful implementation.

On the occasion, District Doda Council Chairman Dhanant Singh Kotwal, Vice-Chairman Sangeeta Bhagat and council members Babu Ram, Gajey Singh Rana were present from District Doda. District Council members, Kishtwar Municipal Council members, Chuni Lal Shan, Suresh Kumar Sharma were present from District Kishtwar. Former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria provided information to the people about the One Nation One Election by the government.

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

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 Rs 19,999, and the Phone (3a) Pro for as low as Rs 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

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

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.

SMVDU hosts Students from PM Shri GGMS, Jindrah

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) had the privilege of hosting students from PM Shri Government Girls Middle School, Jindrah, for an enriching campus visit. The visit was meticulously organized by the NSS and NCC units of SMVDU, ensuring a well-rounded and informative experience for the young visitors. The coordination of the event was led by NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and NCC Coordinator, Dr. Varun Dutta, along with NSS & NCC Student Volunteers. Throughout the day, the students, accompanied by their teachers, explored various state-of-the-art facilities within the university. They were given an in-depth tour of various labs, the central workshop, the central library, and the networking centre. The



tour also included a visit to the university's impressive auditorium, where the students could envision themselves participating in future academic and extracurricular activities. The visit served as a significant motivational boost for the students, encouraging them to aspire to join higher educational institutes upon completing their class 12th. Er. Deepak Byotra, Workshop Superintendent, along with the staff members, emphasized the importance of technical skills in shaping the future workforce. He welcomed the students and encouraged them to develop practical exper-

tise alongside theoretical knowledge. The volunteers briefed the students about different aspects of university life, workshop operations, library resources, and the network centre. They also highlighted the role of technical and professional skills in career development. Expressing enthusiasm about the initiative, School Incharge Shamash Din emphasized the importance of such visits in broadening students' perspectives. He stated: "Experiencing a university campus at an early stage plays a significant role in shaping students' aspirations. This visit has given them a glimpse of

academic excellence and career opportunities that lie ahead. We hope that such initiatives will continue to motivate our students to strive for higher education and professional success." The school administration extended heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, for providing the students with this invaluable learning experience. They also acknowledged the efforts of faculty members, coordinators, supporting staff, and NSS volunteers who contributed to making the visit a memorable and insightful experience.

Arvind inaugurates development work in ward-27

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Reaffirming his commitment to infrastructural development and public welfare, Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West today inaugurated the completed work of paver tiles and gratings at Ward No. 27. The much-needed project, executed at an estimated cost of Rs 26 lakhs, aims to enhance urban infrastructure and provide better amenities to the residents.

During his visit, MLA Arvind Gupta conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 27 and Ward No. 28, personally inspecting the ongoing developmental projects and interacting with local residents. He attentively listened to public grievances and assured timely redressal of their concerns, reiterating that the BJP-led government remains dedicated to holistic urban development and citizen welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Arvind Gupta emphasized the BJP's



vision of transforming Jammu into a model city with modern infrastructure and robust civic amenities. "Development is our priority, and we are ensuring that every ward receives the necessary attention and funding for essential works. The paver tile and grating installation will significantly improve accessibility and drainage in the area, benefiting the local populace," he stated.

With several infrastructural projects underway in Jammu West, MLA Arvind Gupta reaffirmed his commitment to accelerating progress, promising continued efforts to uplift the constituency and enhance the standard of living for its residents.

The locals extended their gratitude to MLA Arvind Gupta for his proactive approach in addressing civic concerns and ensuring the execution of vital infrastructure projects. They lauded the BJP leadership for its unwavering focus on urban transformation and pledged their support towards the party's developmental agenda.

Among those who were present included BJP Mandal President Kushant Daffara, Karan Sharma, Mohit Vaid, Happy Sharma, Hardev Singh, Ajay Anand, Indresh Gupta, Anupam Gupta, Gaggan, Arun Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Vinod, and Neeraj Verma.

Samsung announces 'exciting' offers & deals on AI-powered TVs

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

Samsung has announced its exclusive Festive Campaign to celebrate Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, and Holi with incredible deals on its premium AI big-screen TVs, including Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K, OLED, and Crystal 4K UHD TV models. Running from March 5 to March 31, 2025, this campaign presents consumers with unmatched offers to upgrade their home entertainment experience. Elevating home entertainment to the next level, Samsung's premium range of TVs offer AI-powered picture quality, immersive sound, and sleek designs. Consumers can also avail a free TV worth up to Rs 2,04,990 or a free soundbar worth up to Rs 90,990 on select purchases. To make these innova-

tions more accessible, Samsung is offering up to 20% cashback, zero down payment, and easy EMI options starting at just INR 2990 for up to 30 months. Additionally, they can enjoy up to 45% off on Samsung Soundbars with the purchase of any Samsung TV, making it the perfect opportunity to upgrade to a cinematic viewing experience. These offers will be available on Samsung.com, leading online portals, and select Samsung retail outlets across India.

"At Samsung, we continuously strive to enhance the consumers viewing experience by offering cutting-edge technology combined with attractive deals, bringing best-in-class technology into their homes. Our premium AI-powered TVs redefine entertainment, offering unparalleled

picture quality, immersive sound, and seamless connectivity. As we celebrate the month of festivals with Awesome India, we are excited to offer exclusive deals on Samsung's range of AI-powered TVs. Through these exciting festive offers, we aim to make premium home entertainment more accessible, allowing consumers to elevate their viewing experience and celebrate with their loved ones in the most immersive way possible," said Viplesh Dang, Senior Director, Visual Display Business, Samsung India. Samsung's latest festive offers, running in the month of March, are designed to make AI-powered home entertainment more accessible. The premium TV range ensures consumers enjoy immersive visuals with advanced

AI upscaling, lifelike color accuracy, and superior sound quality. Samsung TVs, equipped with Dolby Atmos and Q-Symphony, deliver multidimensional audio, making every scene more captivating. Moreover, with Samsung Knox security, users can enjoy a secure and seamless smart TV experience. Powered by AI and Quantum Matrix Technology, these TVs deliver superior contrast, clarity, and brightness, transforming any living room into a home theatre. Samsung's festive campaign underscores its commitment to innovation and consumer delight, offering the perfect blend of technology, design, and value. The offers are available on 55" & above TV sizes across the Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K, OLED TV and Crystal 4K UHD TV range.

Road Safety Club of GCOE Jammu, organizes Awareness Rally

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

The Road Safety Club of Government College of Education Jammu, under the guidance of Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar and convener Prof. Roopa Kumari, successfully organized an awareness rally on the theme "Road Safety Rules." The event aimed to emphasize the significance of road safety and responsible behaviour among commuters.

The rally witnessed active participation from students and faculty members, who marched with banners and placards displaying messages promoting safe driving practices, adherence to traffic rules, and the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts. The initiative sought to instill a sense of responsibility among the public and encourage adherence to road safety measures to prevent accidents.

Abdul Qudir Kundria expresses condolences over Mahore accident tragedy

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAR 11

Renowned Dogri and Urdu writer Abdul Qudir Kundria has expressed deep sorrow over the devastating accident in Mahore, Reasi district, that took away precious lives and left several others struggling with injuries. The tempo, traveling from Jammu to Sangliktot, met with a tragic fate, plunging families into an ocean of grief.

Kundria, deeply moved by the heart-breaking incident, extended his heartfelt condolences to those who lost their loved ones. He described the accident as a dark moment for the community, where dreams were shattered, families torn apart, and happiness turned into unbearable sorrow. He emphasized the urgent need for improved road safety measures to prevent such heartbreaking losses in the future.



Speaking about the tragedy, Kundria said, "Every soul lost leaves behind a void that can never be filled. The cries of those mourning their loved ones echo in all our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with the families enduring this unbearable pain. In times like these, we must come together, not just in grief, but in support and solidarity, offering strength to those who have lost everything in an instant."

He also urged authorities to take immediate steps to enhance road safety in the difficult terrains of Mahore,

ensuring safer travel for residents. He prayed for the injured, hoping they receive the best possible medical care and find the strength to heal from both their physical and emotional wounds.

As a literary figure who has long captured the struggles and resilience of Jammu and Kashmir, Kundria's words come as a beacon of solace in this moment of darkness. His grief was evident as he spoke of the families torn apart by fate. "A home that loses a loved one is never the same again," he lamented. "No words can ease the agony of a mother who lost her child, a father mourning his son, or a child left orphaned. May the departed souls find peace, and may those left behind find the strength to carry the weight of this unbearable sorrow." His heartfelt message serves as a reminder that in the face of tragedy, unity and compassion are the only true sources of strength.

MoU of Central Sanskrit Universities will become a Milestone: Prof. Srinivas Varkhedi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

A two-day meeting of the three Central Sanskrit Universities was successfully organized at National Sanskrit University, Tirupati. The discussions focused on the implementation of NEP 2020, standardization of UG and PG curricula, exchange of library and knowledge resources, formulation of uniform research guidelines, and the facilitation of joint degrees and student mobility. Additionally, faculty exchange programs, the global promotion of Sanskrit through mutual cooperation, and the recognition of online courses were also key points of deliberation. Other significant topics included associate research initiatives, the planning of Utkarsh Mahotsav, the implementation strategy for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the organization of All India Regional Socio-Educational Competitions, scholarship provisions, and quality enhancement measures aimed at improving the universities' rankings at both national and international levels.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Srinivas Varkhedi, Vice-Chancellor



of Central Sanskrit University, along with Prof. Murali Manohar Pathak, Prof. GSR Krishnamurthy, Prof. RG Muralikrishna, Examination Controller Prof. Pawan Kumar, Academic Dean Prof. Madanmohan Jha, and deans and senior officials from all three Central Sanskrit Universities. During the discussions, the Vice-Chancellors, Deans, and top officials extensively analyzed various academic and administrative aspects and reached a consensus on their implementation.

Prof. Srinivas Varkhedi, Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, emphasized that maintaining high educational standards, fostering col-

laborative research, and demonstrating a unified commitment to Sanskrit's rich heritage are the pillars of this initiative. He stated that the MoU would streamline resource sharing, facilitate student and faculty exchange programs, and mark a new chapter of collaborative excellence by ensuring the effective implementation of joint initiatives across all three institutions. Highlighting the importance of skill development, he stressed the need to make traditional courses more employment-oriented while integrating research-driven innovations. He underlined the necessity of teamwork in building a world-class

Sanskrit university and urged all institutions to work collectively towards this vision.

Prof. Varkhedi also pointed out that, considering the global scenario, Sanskrit universities must align their efforts with international expectations. He called for collaboration with local and small-scale industries to enhance student skill development, facilitate internship programs, conduct refresher courses, and provide teacher training to ensure that faculty remain updated in their fields. This, he noted, would not only attract students to Sanskrit education but also improve the overall quality of academics.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of signing MoUs with other universities to elevate the quality of higher education, introduce innovative measures for livelihood, and incorporate new research areas to contribute to the vision of a Developed India.

Prof. GSR Krishnamurthy, Vice-Chancellor of National Sanskrit University, and Prof. Murali Manohar Pathak, Vice-Chancellor of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, shared insights on the implementation of NEP 2020 and various academic innovations introduced in their respective institutions. The meeting also witnessed the presence of several distinguished academicians, including Prof. Sarvarayan Jha, Prof. Sudesh Kumar Sharma, Prof. Banmali Bishwal, Prof. Lalit Kumar Tripathi, Prof. Ramakant Pandey, Prof. Lalit Kumar Sahu, Prof. PV Subramaniam, Prof. Narayan Simha, Prof. Madhukeshwar Bhatt, and Dr. D. Dayanath. The discussions concluded with a strong commitment to advancing Sanskrit education and fostering collaborative excellence among the three Central Sanskrit Universities.

Hakeem Yaseen slams formation of yet another committee on daily wagers' regularization

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 11

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Tuesday strongly criticized the formation of a new committee for the regularization of daily wagers, calling it a repeated exercise with no tangible outcomes.

Reacting to the announcement made by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah regarding a high-powered committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Yaseen stated that merely forming committees will not address the plight of thousands of daily wagers, ad hoc, and casual laborers who have been waiting for years for their regularization.

"Committees have been formed in the past as well-



be it during the tenure of CM Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, CM Ghulam Nabi Azad, or even the National Conference governments. Yet, the issue remains unresolved. Daily wagers were expecting a concrete announcement about their regularization today, but instead, they have been given old wine in a new bottle," Yaseen remarked.

He further emphasized that previous governments had already collected data on daily

wagers, and rather than setting up another committee, the administration should verify the existing records and resolve this long-pending issue once and for all.

Yaseen said that the data is already there. What more needs to be assessed? The government should move directly toward implementation," he added.

He also criticized the previous PDP-BJP coalition government for failing to address the issue despite making commitments in budget documents from 2015 to 2018.

"It is disappointing that instead of concrete action, we are witnessing another delay tactic. The daily wagers have been struggling for years, and it is high time the government moves beyond committees and takes decisive action," Yaseen said.

Indian Army organizes Medical, Veterinary Camp for Gujjar, Bakkarwals at SeoJ & Dharamkot, Doda

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA: 11 MAR 2025

As part of ongoing outreach and helping local population, the Indian Army located at Bhardwah has taken an initiative to conduct a Medical and Veterinary Camp for Gujjar and Bakkarwals at SeoJ & Dharamkot. The camp was inaugurated by Indian Army, who assured the locals of unconditional and everlasting support of Indian Army to the locals. A medical team of this unit including Medical Officer/Nursing Assistant for providing 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 organised 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 to attend the camp. During the camp a total of 140 x patients & 12 x animals were treated which included 61 x ladies, 56 x gents and 23 x children

wal community. The local population were grateful to the Indian Army for their concentrated efforts and assistance in providing medical aid at their door step. Army also gave information about Health, Nutrition and Child Care to the parents in order to spread medical awareness amongst the general populace.

Indian Army organizes Lecture on "Womens Health and Hygiene" for Girl's at Kotranka, Rajouri



JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 11 MAR 2025

As part of its ongoing efforts to educate and empower young students, the Indian Army organized an informative lecture on "Women's Health and Hygiene" at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Kotranka. The lecture aimed to educate adolescent girls on the importance of personal hygiene and overall well-being while addressing common health-related concerns faced by young women, particularly in rural areas. The lecture covered essential topics such as the importance of maintaining cleanliness, proper nutrition and preventive health care. The lecture also discussed the various challenges faced by women, especially in rural and remote areas and provided practical guidance on maintain-

ing hygiene in resource-constrained environment. Additionally, lecture emphasised the role of women in society and the need to promote gender equality and empowerment. Post lecture, a free medical camp for girls was also organised. A total of 56 girlbstudents and 08 teachers from JNV, Kotranka participated in the session showing keen interests and actively engaging in discussion. The students appreciated the valuable information and guidance provided during the lecture. This initiative by the Indian Army is a significant step towards empowering young girls with awareness and confidence, helping them make informed decisions about their health. Such programs strengthen the bond between the Army and the local community, ensuring a brighter and healthier future for the younger generation.

Kavinder credits Modi Govt for revival of tourism in Border, IB areas

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, has lauded the Narendra Modi-led central government for the significant revival of tourism in the border and International Border (IB) areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He attributed this positive development to the government's robust policies and the empowerment of security forces, which have effectively curtailed ceasefire violations along the Jammu borders.

Kavinder Gupta made these remarks during a meeting at the BJP Party Headquarters in Jammu, where he discussed the current scenario of border tourism. The meeting was attended by prominent party members, including Vice President Aseem Gupta, Chander Mohan Sharma, Sanjita Dogra, Rajiv Charak, Vinay Gupta, Perdesuman Singh, Balbir Ram, Vikas Bhatti, and Harbhajan Singh Pamma.

Reflecting on the period before 2014, Kavinder Gupta noted that the Jammu region witnessed numerous ceasefire violations, which not only endangered the lives of residents but also hampered economic activities, particularly tour-



ism, in the border areas. He emphasized that the frequent disturbances deterred tourists from visiting these regions, leading to economic setbacks for local communities.

"The scenario has markedly changed since the Modi government assumed office in 2014. The strong and decisive policies of Modi government, coupled with granting a free hand to our security forces, have resulted in a significant reduction in ceasefire violations along the Jammu borders. This newfound peace and stability have paved the way for the revival of tourism in our border and IB areas," he added.

Kavinder highlighted that the decrease in cross-border tensions has restored confidence among tourists particularly after the abrogation of Article 370, leading to an increase in visitor numbers to the picturesque border regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He

also pointed out that the government's focus on infrastructure development and promotional initiatives has further bolstered tourism prospects in these areas.

"The resurgence of tourism has not only rejuvenated the local economy but has also fostered a sense of normalcy and optimism among the residents of border areas. This positive trend underscores the efficacy of the Modi government's policies in ensuring the safety and prosperity of our border regions," he added.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also lauded the security forces for their unwavering dedication and service, acknowledging their pivotal role in maintaining peace and security in the region. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to the continued development and welfare of Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on harnessing the tourism potential of its border areas.

ADGP Armed visited IRP 22nd Battalion Kishtwar

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

Shri Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed J&K along with Ms. Sarah Rizvi, IPS and Rajinder Singh, SSP APCR Jammu visited IRP-22nd and all Coy headquarters of the Battalion deployed predominantly at far flung areas of District Kishtwar to assess its functioning.

Upon his arrival, the ADGP Armed Police was presented Guard of Honour by a contingent of IRP 22nd Bn. Besides, conducted thorough inspection of all the battalion establishments, the ADGP visited administrative block, Barracks, Mess, Kot, MT Fleet, Canteens, Stores and the Battalion premises.

A Darbar was also conducted on the occasion in which the ADGP Armed stressed upon the personnel to maintain highest degree of discipline and punctuality.

Sh. Anand Jain IPS, stressed upon the Officers to maintain cleanliness and conduct cleanliness drives regularly around the complex area to maintain hygiene. It was also impressed upon the



concerned Commandant to get the medical examination of all the personnel conducted in order to improve the overall health standards.

Stressing upon the personnel for more physical activity at battalion level, the ADGP directed the Officers to restart PT, Refresher Course & outdoor trainings of personnel to make them physically fit in order to improve their physical strength to deal with the challenging situations.

The Officers were impressed upon to devise mechanism for physical activities and issuance of sports roaster, so that the battalion personnel will get opportunity to nurture their talents for better

opportunities in the arena of sports and imbibe sense of responsibility.

The ADGP Armed also impressed upon the officers for more innovations in the disposal of routine office procedures and to introduce E-Office mode, for establishing digital workplace and minimise paper work.

Ms Sarah Rizvi, DIG, IR stressed upon manpower to have commitment towards duties. She stressed upon following curriculum towards refresher course.

Among others the officers who were present on the occasion include, Sh. Javid Iqbal SSP Kishtwar, Sh. Mushim Ahmad, SSP, Commandant- IR-22nd Bn and other officers.

Sahil Mahajan releases Dogri Sufi Song "Naa Koi Mera"



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

Today Sahil Mahajan(BJP Jk ut Co-Convenor Sanskriti,Art,Culture Cell) along with Present Nibraj Slathia (Singer & Lyrics) Meenakshi (Singer) Deepak Prajapati (Singer) releases Dogri Sufi Song "Naa Koi Mera" in Jammu. Program was Organised by Kaith Music Factory The Song was released under banner Shommy Bandral Music Present Sung by Shommy Bandral , Music by Dr V Kaith , Directed by Kk Malhotra, Lyrics by Shommy Bandral , DOP by Harsh Kumar & Nishan , Assist director Prerna Sharma . Speaking on the occasion, Sahil Mahajan said that in Jammu and Kashmir, the devotional songs of Gods and Goddesses are played everywhere during every religious

ritual or function whether it is Jagrata, Langar, Seva, Pooja or other religious rituals. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should also support and encourage the local artists of Jammu and Kashmir so that they can also grow and reach new heights in their respective industries as it will make every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir proud. While Sahil Mahajan further added that the youth of J&K should also participate more in the religious activities and rituals as it will guide them towards an enlightened future and prevent them from going on the wrong track in life and doing illegal activities like drugs and ruining their own lives. Sh. Sahil Mahajan said that the Cell is always there to support every artist of Jammu and Kashmir and if they need any help they can approach party for the assistance.

Modi govt ensured due recognition of Sikh community's contributions: Sat Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 11

The commitment of the Modi government to confer a rightful place to the rich culture and heritage of Bharat has ensured the recognition of contributions of Sikh community at the societal, national and international level.

This was stated by Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, while Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee GTB Nagar, Channi Rama, Jammu, called upon the BJP President to address certain issues faced by the Community.

President of Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee GTB Nagar, Channi Rama (Sector 2), S. Balbir Singh, along with Harpreet Singh and other committee members,

called upon BJP President Sat Sharma and BJP General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

BJP Minority Morcha President Ranjodh Singh Nalwa facilitated the meeting to discuss key issues concerning the Sikh community.

Sat Sharma, while listening to the issues put forth by the Sikh Deputation, said that all of their genuine issues would be resolved at the earliest. He said that the Modi government has very high regards for the Sikh Gurus and the community and has made numerous efforts to give due recognition to the community and to bring their sacrifices and contributions before the masses at large.

Sat Sharma said that the

Modi government ensured the dignified and honourable bringing of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji to India from Afghanistan. He said that the government took a landmark decision by declaring 'Veer Bal Diwas' on December 26 in memory of four Sahibzade, the brave sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. This recognition ensures that future generations remember their unparalleled courage and devotion. He said that Kartarpur Corridor was opened, fulfilling a long-pending demand of Sikhs by allowing them to visit Kartarpur sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan without a visa through the corridor. He added that the Modi government wiped the tears of Riot-victims through long-needed legal measures.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur
(E-mail-xenmdudh@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-R

S.NO.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of a Medical Grade online Reverse osmosis (RO) Plant of 500 liters per hour capacity, double pass along with allied works for the Hemodialysis unit in community health centre, Katra on turnkey basis	ENIT No: MHDU/TS/ 2024-25/109 Dated: 10/03/2025 Due on:- 24.03.2025	12.00 (Lacs)	Earnest Money 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 24000/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. Performance Security 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG.	Rs.500/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 0028010200000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur	60 (sixty days)	Registered/ Reputed Mechanical firms having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Available)
Position of AA/Tech. Sanction :- (Accorded)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in

No: **MHDU/TS/ 3881**
Dated:- **10.03.2025**

-sd-
(Er. Daljeet Singh)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Udhampur

DIP/J-10933/24
Date: 11-3-25

Bharat Vikas Parishad, Prakash Branch elects new team

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

The Annual Election of BVP Prakash Branch was held today at K.C. Orchid, under the supervision of two Prant Observers Shri Arun Kumar Sharma, National Project Member-NGSC and Shri Ashok Gupta, National Project Member-Sampark.

The following Team was unanimously elected for the year 2025-26: 1.President: Devinder Kumar; 2.General Secretary: Dinesh Gupta &(3) Finance Secretary: Chanan Mohan Gupta

Before the election proceedings, Sh. Arun Kumar Sharma and Sh. Ashok Gupta were felicitated by the Branch with bouquets and mementos. Sh. Arun Sharma and Shri Ashok Gupta, while supervising the election proceedings, praised the branch's efforts and activities and



appreciated the team's hard work.

Shri Dinesh Gupta, General Secretary, while thanking branch members for trust reposed in the team, assured them that the team would work tirelessly to elevate the branch to new heights

Shri Devinder Kumar, while explaining the activities of the branch in detail, assured that the election of the newly elected team is poised to lead the branch towards continued growth

The Branch also felicitated Shri Dinesh Gupta for his unanimous re elec-

tion as general secretary in the Chamber Of Traders Federation for 3rd consecutive year. a remarkable achievement that fills the branch with pride.

The proceedings of the function was very efficiently managed by the senior member, Dr. V. K. Gupta, ensuring a seamless and successful event.

Sh M L Vaid, senior-most Member presented a vote of thanks.

The event concluded with Rashtriya Gan and culminated with light refreshments to the participants.

VC SKUAST-J chairs 1st SAC Meeting of KVK Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

KVK Kishtwar today conducted 1st scientific advisory committee meeting today at Kishtwar through hybrid mode under the chairmanship of Dr BN Tripathi Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu. Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu, Dr SK Gupta Director Research, Dr Hema Tripathi Associate Director Extension, Dr Ashish Murai Principal Scientist ATARI Ludhiana, Amjad Hussain Malik CAO, Sajjid Mustaffa CHO, Nikhil Sharma DDM NABARD, District Heads of Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture, Pooja Devi Progressive farm women and Sewa Ram Progressive farmer participated in the meeting. The

proceedings of the meeting were carried out by Dr Narinder Paul Incharge KVK Kishtwar.

Dr BN Tripathi Hon'ble VC SKUAST Jammu in his address remarks emphasised on promotion of production and protection technologies of niche crops like saffron, kalazeera and red rice and involvement of plant biotechnology and plant breeding in evolving the new cultivars and improvement of existing cultivars. He called for involvement of all regional research station of the university for generation of novelty in the production technologies

Dr Narinder Paul, Head KVK Kishtwar and Member Secretary SAC KVK Kishtwar presented activities conducted by KVK and



proposed action plan for the year 2025-26. He also gave brief overview of development going on in the newly established KVK Kishtwar

Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu stressed upon promotion of SKUAST Jammu

developed Rajmash variety BR-104 in the area to enhance the production and productivity. He also called for replacement of existing wheat varieties with the newly developed varieties for hilly areas and popularization of scientific production and protection

technologies for management of corm rot, a serious threat in saffron.

Dr SK Gupta Director Research called for expansion of niche crops to the non-traditional areas and operational research on the major problems of the crops. Dr Ashish Marai emphasised on working on the performance indicators of KVK for strengthening the national aise ranking of KVKs especially timely updation of portals and proper projection of the works.

Amjad Malik CAO, Sajjid Mustaffa and all the participants including progressive farmers deliberated upon different extension and researchable issues during the meeting. Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension.

Keshav Chopra organizes Free Eye Screening/Check up Camp

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra Organizes 93rd Free Eye Screening/Check Up camp at the office of the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing Narwal Jammu. The Camp was Organised in collaboration with Sood Eye Centre (A unit of Agarwal Hospitals) and was inaugurated by Deputy Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing Ayaz Ahmed Natnoo.

The camp saw great attendance; a total of 103 People were provided free of Cost Treatment including Refraction, NCT, AR Check Up, Vision Check Up by a team of experts and Free Medicines were also given to the Patients. The camp not only provided free eye check-ups but also raised awareness about the significance of regular eye examinations, the importance of early detection of eye-related issues and the role of nutrition in eye health.



Speaking during the Camp Deputy Director Ayaz Ahmed Natnoo praised the Samvedna society's initiative to provide voluntary services to the people by organizing regular Health Check Up Camps at different locations so that anyone can take benefit of it. He also commenced the dedication of Keshav Chopra and his team towards service of Humanity.

Speaking during the Camp Keshav Chopra said that the mission of the Samvedna Society is to work for all the sections by providing best healthcare

facilities to the people at their doorstep. This camp was planned exclusively to benefit the staff and Locals of the area. Cataract removal surgeries will also be done free of cost on Ayushman Bharat Golden Card keshav added.

Ashwani Kumar Assistant Director, Dr Punkaj Gupta Auditor, Sunil Singh Assistant Director Planning, Ashok Kumar, Rakesh Bali, Sourav Sangral AMO, Ashish Sharma, Anees, Anju Chopra, Hiteshwar, Vikas Kumar, Manoj tandon, Sourav Gupta and others were also present.

Balbir Ram advises street vendors to Register for E-Shram Card

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, has urged street vendors to register themselves for the E-Shram Card, emphasizing its numerous benefits.

Balbir Ram Rattan, while speaking to a group of rehri-fadi vendors in Jammu city, explained how this initiative, launched by the Government of India, aims to provide social security and financial benefits to unorganized sector workers. Balbir highlighted that street vendors, hawkers, daily wage labourers, construction workers, domestic workers, and other unorganized workers are eligible for this scheme. He encouraged all those who qualify to register to take full advantage of the govern-



ment scheme's benefits. Balbir explained that the E-Shram Card serves as a unique identification number (UAN) card that helps in tracking and supporting unorganized workers.

Elaborating on it, he told that registered workers get Rs 2 lakh insurance coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) in case of accidental death or total disability. In case of partial disability, Rs 1 lakh is provided.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that the individuals

will be linked to various social security schemes, including pension plans, maternity benefits, and skill development programmes.

Through this scheme, the database created will help the government design better policies and job opportunities for unorganized workers.

He further mentioned that the 12-digit UAN number provided after registration can be used across India to avail of government benefits without requiring multiple registrations.

He clarified that any worker in the unorganized sector between the ages of 16 to 59 years can apply for an E-Shram Card. However, they should not be an income tax payer.

He informed that workers can register for free at Common Service Centers (CSCs), E-Shram's official website (eshram.gov.in), or through local government offices. They need to provide their Aadhaar number, bank details, and mobile number linked to Aadhaar.

Balbir encouraged all eligible workers to take advantage of this initiative and secure their future with government-backed social security. "This is a golden opportunity for unorganized workers to get financial security and social benefits. Register today and ensure a better future for yourself and your family," he said.

Vedaan Health & Awareness Camp organized at Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, Trikuta Nagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

A Health Awareness & Medical Camp was successfully organized by Vedaan Health Care Unit in association with Apollo Diagnostic Laboratory at Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre (SCRC), Trikuta Nagar. The camp provided free medical facilities, including tests for Sugar, Uric Acid, and Blood Pressure, under the able guidance of Dr. Richa Sharma, Microbiologist, along with her expert team.

The event was presided over by Sh. K.S. Sanyal, President, SCRC, while the Guest of Honour was Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner. Various diagnostic tests such as Blood Tests, Urine Tests, Sputum Analysis, FNAC, and Biopsy were conducted, benefiting 45 patients who were examined and treated during the camp.

Mr. T.C. Taggar, General Secretary, SCRC, welcomed the participants and patients while spreading awareness about the activities, aims, and objectives of the centre.

During the event, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain emphasized the importance of overall well-being and ways to boost immunity. He highlighted essential health tips, including:

Maintaining a balanced diet with adequate protein and fiber

Ensuring proper hydration

Engaging in regular exercise (minimum 30-minute walk and light stretching)

Going for regular health check-ups

Managing or quitting alcohol and smoking

Maintaining a healthy weight and monitoring blood pressure & cholesterol

Encouraging social engagement, spiritual wellness, prayers, meditation, and a positive mindset

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks presented by Mr. Romesh Kumar, Financial Secretary, SCRC. The camp was widely appreciated by the attendees for its health benefits, expert consultations, and valuable wellness insights.

BJP committed to bring devp at people's doorstep: Randhawa

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

In a significant move towards enhancing local infrastructure, Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa today inaugurated the lane and drain development project in Ward No. 44, Nanak Nagar. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 43 lakhs, aims to improve the quality of life for residents by addressing long-standing issues related to drainage and road conditions.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by AEE Nisha Devi, Vishal Kotwal JE and Imtiyaz Ahmed Work Supervisor. Prominent political figures such as Nareish Singh District President, Rahul Kumar and Surjeet Singh Mandal Presidents, along with esteemed citizens like Pankaj Bral, Daljeet Singh, Harshmeet Singh, Sahil Mahajan, Rakesh Sharma, Babu Ram, Sunny Bakshi, Neel Kashav, Vishal Gupta,



Bobby, Sunil Kumar, and Arun Gupta, were also present.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Vikram Randhawa emphasized the Bharatiya Janata Party's commitment to grassroots development and the enhancement of urban infrastructure. He highlighted the party's proactive approach in addressing the needs of the common people and ensuring that development reaches every household.

Randhawa stated, "The BJP, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is dedicated to bringing

development to the doorstep of every citizen. Our government believes in inclusive growth, where no section of society is left behind. This project stands as a shining example of our continuous efforts to strengthen urban infrastructure and provide essential services to the people."

The senior BJP leader further emphasized that improving basic amenities such as roads, water supply, sanitation, and electricity remains a top priority. The Modi government is working tirelessly to modernize urban spaces, making them more livable and sustainable.

JI NEWS SERVICE
AIZAWL (MIZORAM), MARCH 11

Amit Sharma, Secretary to Government, Information, Technology and Communications Department, Government of Mizoram chaired two important Digital India related Workshops held here in Aizawl, capital of Mizoram which have been organised with the primary objective of preparing Mizoram for knowledge-based transformation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Amit Sharma, Secretary, ICT & Cooperation, while inaugurating these Workshops, emphasized that in order to achieve desired goals towards technology implementation across the board in all states of the nation, uniform e-Governance Standards and Guidelines are very important. He also expressed that these kinds of Workshops must be held on a regular basis especially in North-Eastern states, which are constantly pushing towards implementing e-Governance reforms.

Secretary ICT Mizoram Amit Sharma also shared various perspectives, views, experiences and insights on various Gov-



ernment initiatives, whole of Govt. approach, Digitization, Digi Locker (an Initiative towards paperless Governance), BHASHINI (National Language Translation Mission), and many more.

Another parallel Workshop on Digilocker/Entry Locker and other MeitY initiatives was held in the Conference Hall of Mizoram Secretariat in which Secretary ICT Amit Sharma addressed the Secretariat officials and requested them to take maximum advantage of these lead programmes and softwares meant for citizens of the nation and after attending the Workshop, he requested that all officials should disseminate this knowledge gained here with other colleagues, families and friends so that maximum people can take advantage of same.

The twin Workshops featured expert talks, presentations, discussions & deliberations on the Digital Signature Standards, Localization & Language Technology Standards, Cyber Security Standards & Guidelines, Open API Policy for e-Governance Applications in India, Indian Accessibility Standards for ICT Products & Services, Interoperability Framework for e-Governance (IFEG) and India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) I.O Framework.

Secretary ICT Mizoram Amit Sharma expressed gratitude towards Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, New Delhi who organised these Workshops in Mizoram on his request, with the support of Ministry of Elec-

tronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. He especially thanked Karimullah Shaikh, Scientist G, C-DAC Pune, Dr M. Srinivasa Rao, Scientist E, C-DAC Pune and Anoop Kumar, Deputy General Manager, National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and the entire team for organising these two important state-level awareness workshops on "e-Governance Standards and Guidelines" and "Digilocker/Entry Locker" in which about 150 participants including senior officials and representatives from various Central and State Government departments, agencies, academicians, researchers, subject matter experts and students from various renowned organizations attended and shared their positive experiences and insights here.

Block Public Health Unit being developed at CHC Sumbal: Sakeena Itoo

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a question raised by Hilal Akbar Lone on criteria for upgradation of Community Health Centre (CHC) Sumbal to Sub-District Hospital level, today informed the House that CHC Sumbal is not feasible for its upgradation to Sub District Hospital as per IPHS 2022 norms.

She apprised that as per IPHS 2022 guidelines, the districts with a population of less than 5 lakh and a functional District Hospital (DH) do not qualify for a Sub District Hospital (SDH). She also informed that SDH Davar, Gurez, has been sanctioned in the

district for being a snow-bound area.

The Minister also informed the House that around 14 healthcare facilities are catering to the primary healthcare services. He said that CHC Sumbal is well equipped in terms of manpower, machinery, equipment, infrastructure, dialysis unit, medical and emergency equipment serving as a critical healthcare hub in Bandipora district.

She further informed that the Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) is also being developed at CHC Sumbal under PM-ABHIM which will be an important linkage for the latest healthcare facilities.

The Minister also informed that the department is focusing on con-



solidation of existing health institutions by way of strengthening the manpower, infrastructure and services in the existing healthcare institutions, rather than upgradation.

Health Minister announces inquiry on identifying flood prone site for construction of GMC Handwara

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today announced in the Legislative Assembly that the government

would conduct a detailed inquiry into the selection of flood prone site for construction of Government Medical College (GMC), Handwara, which caused significant losses to government exchequer.

The Minister said this while replying to supplementary questions asked by legislators Sajad Gani Lone, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, Kaiser Jamsheed Lone, Mir Saifullah and Sheikh Khurshid regarding establishment of GMC Handwara.

While raising the supplementary question on the matter, Legislator Sajad Gani Lone said that the then administration selected the site and did not consult the local representatives for site selection, calling for immediate inquiry on the matter.

The Minister assured the House and legislators that their concerns would be addressed promptly. He also assured them that the local representatives will be consulted for selection of new site for establishment of this prestigious public health institution.

Govt to examine possibility of establishing General Hospital in GB Pant building, Sonawar: Sakeena Itoo

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the Government will examine the possibilities of establishing a General Hospital in the existing building of GB Pant, Sonawar.

The Minister said this while replying to a ques-

tion raised by Ahsan Pardesi in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the House that the Pediatric Hospital, Sonawar, has been shifted to Bemina on 26.09.2022. She said that the Government Chest Diseases Hospital Srinagar is currently running Pulmonary OPD in Old GB Pant Hospital, Sonawar and basic facilities like basic Bio-Chemistry Investigations, ECG and X-ray Chest are available there besides CT Scan is done there once a week.

The Minister also informed that within the said periphery, Kashmir Nursing Home, Sonawar caters to the medical requirements of the local population, which runs OPD services regularly.

SANKALP HEW provides school bags, stationery to girl students

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 11

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) on Tuesday provided school bags and stationery items to girl students, here at Government Primary School Phagumarh, reinforcing its commitment to supporting education and women empowerment.

Under the guidance of District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmad Lone, the initiative aimed to encourage young girls to pursue their studies without financial hurdles.

Addressing the gathering, representatives from SANKALP HEW highlighted the importance of

education in empowering women and breaking socio-economic barriers. The school staff and local community members expressed gratitude for the support, acknowledging the positive impact of such efforts on the students' academic journey.

The team members of SANKALP commended the initiative and emphasized the role of education in shaping a brighter future for young girls. They encouraged students to focus on their studies and take advantage of the available opportunities.

The event concluded with interactive sessions where students shared their aspirations and the organizers assured continued support for their educational growth.

DC Ramban reviews performance of Banks at DLRC meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 11

Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to assess the performance of banks and implementation of credit linked government schemes.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal; GM DIC Ravinder Kumar; RBI representative Anil Kumar; LDM Khurshid Ahmed Malik; Director RSETI, CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, DDM NABARD, BDOs, Bankers, and other senior officers.

During the review, it was informed that the Credit Deposit (CD) ratio in the district has increased by 3%, reaching 68.76% as of December 31, 2024, compared to the previous year (March 2024). An expendi-



ture of 283.93 crore was recorded in the priority sector, achieving 51% of the 551.38 crore Annual Credit Plan (ACP) target, while the non-priority sector performance stood at 345.27 crore.

The DC directed Banks to prioritize financial inclusion of women by effectively implementing female-oriented schemes and ensuring handholding support to help them in achieving financial self-reli-

ance. He also emphasized effective implementation of youth-centric employment schemes. She called upon stakeholder departments to put in extra efforts for effective implementation of employment generation schemes, while instructing banks to provide a detailed scheme-wise report.

He called for swift action on loan cases under MUMKIN, TEJASWANI, PMEGP, PM VISHWAKARMA and KCC schemes

to benefit local youth, along with reviewing the implementation of Prime Minister's Social Security Schemes (PMMY, PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY) in the district.

To enhance transparency and efficiency, the DC directed the GM DIC and concerned officers to verify and submit a report on the status of sponsored, sanctioned, and disbursed cases under priority and social sector schemes. He also instructed them to identify and address reasons for the rejection of loan cases by various banks.

Taking serious note of misplaced sponsored loan cases, the DC directed the Cluster Head of J&K Bank to conduct verification and submit a report within the prescribed time frame.

The DC also released the Annual Credit Plan for 2025-26 formulated for the district.

KIWG Day 03: Army, Himachal display marvelous performance, dominate opponents

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GULMARG, MARCH 11

With couple of inches of snow during the night, technical actions over the peaks of Kangdoori to prevent avalanches and dense fog tested the patience of athletes on Tuesday who were eager to display action while sports lovers & spectators were ready to witness thrill of KIOWs.

The 3rd Day of Winter Games cleared the smoke for medal tally to decide which states or organization will gather maximum medals.

Top contenders from previous day were Army, Ladakh & Maharashtra but the five events scheduled for the day had left competition open to all in national games event at Gulmarg.

With gradual opening of games, the needle of

medal tally began to incline towards Army as their team dominated Men's Ski Relay Event and raced to Gold while Uttarakhand team scaled Silver, Himachal Pradesh team walked for Bronze medal in the competition.

The Slalom Snowboard event for Women held at Kangdoori saw thrilling contest among the participants. Himachal Pradesh was crowned with Gold & Silver but missed hat-trick of medals as bronze went to Maharashtra. The podium crowned Preeti Thakur as Golden Girl, Prakarti Thakur as Silver Girl both Himachal girls, while Urmila Pable of Maharashtra took pride in bronze.

Excited with the Gold, Preeti Thakur said that she enjoyed the competition & KIOW 2025. She appreciated the facilities and the

support extended by the officials & staff.

The Nordic Ski Sprint Women was again dominated by Kusum Rana of ITBP who won second Gold today while three-time Gold Medalist of KWIG Bhavanj Thekkada from Karnataka did a late come back in this competition to obtain Silver. The Bronze was claimed by non other than Selma Soreng from ITBP, who slid a step down comparing to her yesterday's performance.

For the Men's event of 15km Nordic Sprint there were no surprises when Army is in competition. Army proved iron will & grit bundling all three coveted medals as Sunny, Stanzin & Thupstan won Gold, Silver & Bronze respectively. What is actually surprising take of event was that Army decimated all com-

petitors and got top twelve positions in the event and the streak was only broken by ITBP.

In Alpine Slalom women, Himachal Pradesh players swept medals with Anchal Thakur, Tanuja Thakur & Promila Thakur winning Gold, Silver & Bronze medals.

Deputy Director General, Sports Authority of India, Vineet Kumar while speaking regarding KIOW said the games had been tremendous success as Sports Authority of India and J&K Sports Council have done marvelous job to conduct games efficiently & smoothly despite the weather conditions like fog which reduces visibility.

He lauded the coordination of officials, technical staff, participants and other stakeholders for befitting facilities.

DC reviews Social Welfare initiatives in Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 11

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today reviewed the functioning of the Social Welfare Department here at meeting, focusing on the execution of key schemes aimed at enhancing community welfare.

At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat pre-

sented a comprehensive overview of the Government's welfare initiatives including National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), Sukanya Samridhi, Scholarship Scheme, Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS) etc.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed the overall status of social welfare schemes, taking stock of

the number of beneficiaries. He urged the Social Welfare Department to promote these schemes actively to ensure that all eligible individuals can benefit.

He sought special focus on protection of Child rights and close check on child abuse. Calling for holding awareness camps regarding women-centric schemes and the One Stop Centre, he emphasized the need to share helpline numbers with the public for better outreach.

The DC called for a thorough evaluation of the total number of pensioners receiving Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, and Disability allowances.

The meeting was attended by District Social Welfare Officer, Chairperson CWC, TSWO, Administrator one Stop Centre, District Coordinator DHEW, District Coordinator besides other concerned.

Chief Justice Inaugurates Legal Aid Clinic at Govt. Medical College Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 11

In a significant step towards integrating legal aid services within the healthcare system and ensuring access to justice for all, a Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre was inaugurated today at Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar by Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, in presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

On their arrival, the Chief Justice and Justice Atul Sreedharan, accompanied by M. K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, were warmly received by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA Srinagar); Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal & Dean, GMC Srinagar; Jahangir Ahmad Bakhshi, Joint Registrar (Judicial/Protocol) Srinagar; Sajadur-Rehman, Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Superin-



tendent GMC Srinagar; Mohd Ashrif Hakak, Administrator, GMC Srinagar; Medical Superintendent and Senior faculty members of GMC Srinagar; other Heads of Departments, and senior police officers.

Following the inaugural ceremony, a video conferencing session was held between the Superintendent of Central Jail Srinagar, the Medical Officer of the jail, and inmates

from the Prison Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre. The Chief Justice and Justice Sreedharan interacted with jail authorities and inmates to assess their legal and medical concerns, aiming to bridge the gap between incarcerated individuals and specialized healthcare professionals for timely and effective medical interventions.

During the visit, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Sanaee, HOD Neurology; Dr.

Naveed Nazir, HOD Pulmonology; and Dr. Showket Ahmad Zargar, HOD Gastroenterology, along with other senior medical professionals, interacted with the jail inmates through the Prison Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre, addressing their medical concerns and offering expert guidance on their healthcare needs. The involvement of these specialists ensured a comprehensive assessment of health-related challenges faced by incarcerated individuals and their access to necessary treatment.

During the visit, the dignitaries engaged in meaningful discussions with faculty members, legal aid counsels, and medical professionals on the critical role of legal aid in upholding the rights of underprivileged individuals, particularly those in custody. Justice Atul Sreedharan emphasized that the integration of legal aid services with healthcare institutions would facilitate seamless medical assistance for jail inmates while safeguarding their fundamental rights to health and justice.

While interacting with stakeholders, Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan underscored that the establishment of such a Legal Aid Clinic at GMC Srinagar represents a landmark initiative in ensuring access to justice, particularly for those unable to seek legal recourse due to incarceration. Chief Justice further stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between jail authorities, medical institutions, and legal aid functionaries to provide holistic legal and medical support to inmates. The event concluded with a firm commitment to ensuring that legal aid remains an integral part of healthcare services, reinforcing the collective resolve to serve the marginalized sections of society.