



# JINDRAH IMAGES

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Orchestrated vomiting
- Steady rise in pulse or weak, rapid pulse
- Redness

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

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 63 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## J&K govt says it will take up changes in central assistance with MHA

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir government on Wednesday said it will take up the issue of changes in certain components of central assistance with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) at an appropriate stage.

In response to an unstarred question from MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone, the Minister in-charge Finance, Omar Abdullah, said the government will take up the issue of changes in component-wise provisions for the Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) and hydroelectric projects with the MHA.

"As the component-wise provision for the Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project and hydroelectric projects has changed, the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs at the appropriate stage," the minister said.

When asked whether there had been a reduction in central assistance, the minister clarified that overall assistance has remained steady.

"The central assistance

## Khelo India Winter Games 2025: Changing weather patterns a challenge: CM Omar

JI NEWS SERVICE  
GULMARG, MAR 12 (KNO)

Asserting that changing weather patterns are emerging as a challenge Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that artificial snow will be generated from this year to ensure early skiing at Gulmarg.

Addressing the valedictory function of the fifth edition of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)

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## No role of elected Govt in banning AAC led by Mirwaiz: CM Omar

JI NEWS SERVICE  
GULMARG, MAR 12 (KNO)

Reacting to the ban imposed on Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir led Awami Action Committee (AAC) under Unlawful Activities and Prevention Act (UAPA) for five years, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that these

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Winter games making Gulmarg popular: Union Sports Minister

JI NEWS SERVICE  
GULMARG, MAR 12 (KNO)

Asserting that famous ski resort Gulmarg is becoming popular across the country for winter games, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, on Wednesday said that every effort will be put to develop the sports infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

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## Ban on AAC, IuM echoes in J&K Assembly



JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday raised the issue of ban on Awami Action Committee (AAC) and Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (IuM) in the Assembly.

In a very brief intervention, Para drew the attention of the House towards the ban of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led AAC and Masroori Abbas Ansari.

"Awami Action Committee has been banned, Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen has been banned. It's important that we should discuss the issue first," he said.

Talking to reporters outside the Assembly, Para said that BJP is choking political, social and religious space in Kashmir.

"It is an unfortunate order. Mirwaiz Sahab is the most moderate voice in J&K. We stand with him," Para said, adding that Government of India should revoke the ban on AAC and IuM.

NC legislator Tanvir Siddiq said that ban on AAC and IuM should be revisited.

"Mirwaiz Sahab has been talking more on social and economic issues over the last few years. He has been raising his voice against drug abuse. We don't support any anti-national activity but the government should revisit its decision," he said. The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday declared Jammu and Kashmir 'Ittehadul Muslimeen' and 'Awami Action Committee' as unlawful associations under UAPA. KNO

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Army jawan injured in suspected sniper fire at LoC in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12 (KNO)

An Army jawan sustained injuries in a suspected sniper attack along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kalsian sector of Nowshera, Rajouri district this morning, officials said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

#### 1.35 lakh houses built under PMAY-G in 2 years in J&K: Govt

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that 135,925 houses have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Awaas Yojana (PMAY-G) in the last two years.

In response to a question by MLA Arjun Gupta, the minister incharge

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## MeT issues 'yellow alert' for Thursday



JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

Amid the forecast of a week-long wet spell, the Meteorological Department here has issued a 'yellow alert' for Thursday, predicting intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and snow at many places.

According to the news agency, the intermittent rainfall was recorded in the last three days

from March 10 while the prevailing weather conditions are expected to continue till March 16.

The MeT has issued 'yellow alert' for many stations for tomorrow, expecting intermittent light to moderate rain and snow at many places.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that intermittent spells of light to moderate

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## Speaker constitutes crucial Business Advisory Committee

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

The Speaker of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly has formed the crucial Business Advisory Committee (BAC) to determine the time allocation for business in the House. This committee includes experienced lawmakers from all political parties,

including the opposition groups.

According to a notification, a copy of which is with news agency, the committee consists of five members from the ruling alliance and three from the opposition. The ruling alliance members are Ali Muhammad Sagar (National Conference), Mubarak Gul (National

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## No plans to slash JKSSB application fee: Govt

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that there are no plans to slash the application fee collected for various recruitment examinations.

The question as per the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## J&K sports sector engages 61 lakh youth in 1-year

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

Over 61 lakh youth from Jammu and Kashmir participated in sports activities in one year, reveals the official document accessed by the news agency.

It states that the administration is spearheading the development of world-class sports infrastructure, including playgrounds, stadiums,

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## 20 villages in J&K, 2 in Ladakh covered under digital village pilot project: GoI

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12 (KNO)

The Central government has completed the Digital Village Pilot Project, covering 20 villages in Jammu and Kashmir and two in Ladakh as part of its initiative to promote digital literacy and e-governance services in rural areas.

The information, as per the news agency was shared by Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw in

response to a question in Parliament.

The initiative, he said, was aimed at providing multiple services, including basic computer education, skill development, tele-health consultations, financial inclusion awareness and solar-powered street lighting in one village per district across states and union territories.

Under the scheme, villagers were trained in automotive

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### BOTTOM STORY

## Five new railway surveys underway in J&K, others remain stalled: GoI

JI NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAR 12 (KNO)

The Union government on Wednesday confirmed that five new railway surveys are underway in Jammu and Kashmir, while other projects remain stalled.

Replying to a question by Member Parliament (MP) Mohamad Haneefa in the Lok Sabha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The Srinagar-Kargil-Leh rail plan was dropped due to high costs and low demand, and the Jammu-Poonch line remains stalled over feasibility concerns. Also, the Banihal-Baramulla rail line doubling has been prioritized

by the government."

The minister, as per the news agency, clarified that there are no immediate plans to conduct a survey for a rail link between Ganderbal in Kashmir and Kargil in Ladakh, despite the strategic importance of the region.

He said the railway projects are planned and executed based on factors such as traffic projections, operational requirements and overall funding availability rather than on a district or Union Territory basis.

The minister added that a survey for the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh rail line was conducted in 2016-17. "The proposed 480-km



route was estimated to cost rupees 55,896 crore. However, the project was not pursued further due to low traffic pro-

jections," he said. Vaishnaw further informed that another railway project, the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh rail

line, has been identified as a strategic line by the Ministry of Defence. He said the survey for this 489-km project has been

completed, and a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared. The estimated cost of the project stands at Rs 1,31,000 crore.

The Union government also confirmed that Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir continue to remain without railway connectivity, with no immediate plans to construct a rail line from Reasi-Katra to Rajouri on a priority basis.

Replying to another question by MP Mian Altaf Ahmad, the minister said that railway projects are sanctioned and executed based on feasibility, traffic projections and financial viability, rather than on a dis-

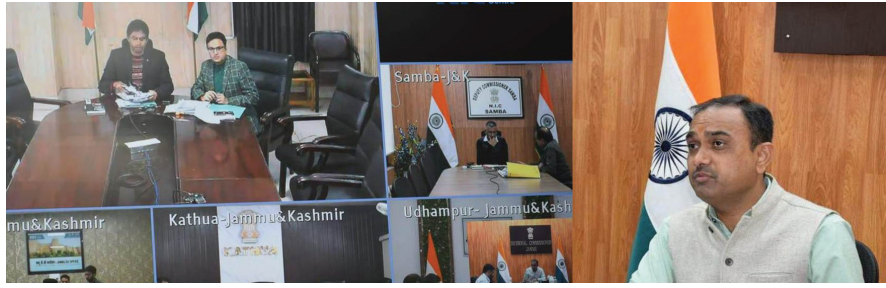
trict or state-wise basis.

"Railway projects are approved based on factors such as last-mile connectivity, missing links, socio-economic benefits and availability of funds. Challenges such as land acquisition, forest clearances, climate conditions, and law and order situations affect the timeline of railway projects in the region," he said.

The minister said that a survey for a new railway line between Jammu and Poonch via Akhnoor and Rajouri (223 km) had been conducted, and the estimated cost of the project stood at Rs 22,771 crore. However, due to low

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Div Com Jammu discusses arrangements for SANJY-2025



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday chaired a high level meeting to discuss arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025. The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur Reasi and Ramban discussed the arrangements to be made in their respective districts.

The Divisional Commissioner sought the details of lodgement centres and sanitation facilities to be made available in the districts of the Jammu Division from where the annual Yatra passes. He asked the concerned district Administrations to furnish the details of existing lodgement centres, toilet facilities and requirements for the construction of additional facilities. The meeting was apprised about the arrangements made last

year and the scope of adding new facilities for smooth conduct of SANJY 2025. The Deputy Commissioners were directed to gear up for the repair and restoration work of the existing facilities and new constructions to augment the facilities. The Divisional Commissioner also directed the Deputy Commissioners to put in place robust arrangements for the festival of Holi in their respective districts.

## DC reviews traffic management in Bandipora town

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, MARCH 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, today convened a meeting of concerned officers to discuss the traffic congestion issues in the main market and Bandipora Town. The meeting aimed to assess the current situation and explore practical measures to ease traffic flow and decongest the town. During the meeting, the DC emphasized the coordinated efforts to address traffic-related issues that are causing inconvenience to the public. He urged the concerned officers to implement comprehensive solutions that ensure smoother traffic flow and overall convenience for the general public. The meeting discussed various issues including unauthorized vehicle parking, inadequate parking signages, entry of heavy vehicles into Bandipora Town, and the importance of providing proper guidance to transporters. The DC directed the concerned officers to take



immediate steps to implement measures for traffic decongestion in the main market area and its surroundings. He instructed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) to initiate

an awareness campaign for transporters, focusing on better traffic management practices within the town. The DC directed the CEO Municipal Council Bandipora to ensure that towing vehicles are available to remove vehicles parked improperly or in violation of regulations. Additionally, Qadri emphasized the importance of regulating street vendors, urging that they occupy only designated areas without encroaching roads or footpaths. Further as a concrete step to address congestion caused by heavy vehicles, the DC issued a circular restricting the entry of heavy vehicles into the main market area from 08:00 am to 06:00 pm. Among others the meeting was attended by ARTO Anees Ahmad, Tehsildar, DySP, EO MC and other concerned.

## DEO Shopian chairs meeting of political parties, discusses issues regarding electoral practices

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, MARCH 12

District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a meeting here to discuss issues aimed at strengthening the electoral process. Various issues including appointment of BLAs for polling stations, Roll discrepancies, details of party offices, promoting ethical voting, rationalisation of polling stations were discussed. DEO advised all the recognised political parties to identify and appoint BLAs in all polling stations to assist the BLOs in receiving claims/objections during summary revision of electoral rolls so that no voter can be left behind.

## Appointment of Warden, Assistant Wardens Rajouri Administration refutes news report claims as baseless

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 12

The District Administration Rajouri has strongly refuted a news report published in a section of press regarding the appointment of an RET teacher as Assistant Warden in the Government Pahari Hostel Rajouri. The report is factually incorrect and misrepresents the due process followed in the selection, the authorities said. They said that as per Government Order No: 557-JK (GAD) of 2023 dated 09/05/2023, issued by the General Administration Department, a notification was published under No. CEOR/2023-24/21369-73 dated 07/10/2023 by the Member Secretary, CEO inviting applications from

eligible Masters/Teachers serving within District Rajouri for deputation as Warden/Assistant Warden in Government Pahari Hostel Rajouri for three year tenure. A total of 62 applications were received, including 22 applications for posting as Warden and 53 as Assistant Warden (including 13 candidates who applied for both). Subsequently, a notification was issued for an interaction process with all aspirants appearing in the Conference Hall, Dak Bungalow Rajouri, on 18/10/2023, they added. Elaborating further, the authorities said that "In line with government guidelines, the District Level Screening Committee, chaired by the Additional Deputy

Commissioner (ADC) Rajouri, along with CEO as Member Secretary, thoroughly examined all applications. Only 34 out of 62 applicants were present for the interaction, while 28 remained absent. After comprehensive interaction and assessment, the committee recommended suitable candidates for deputation to the positions of Warden and Assistant Warden." They further clarified that Shakeel Ahmed was a confirmed teacher at the time of selection and met all eligibility criteria. It was further clarified that prior to deputation, the CEO was directed to obtain character verification from the CID and vigilance clearance from the ACB, ensuring due diligence in the process.

## FSD Anantnag conducts intensive market checking, recommends 06 FBOs for compounding

JI NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MARCH 12

The Food Safety Department (FSD) Anantnag today conducted intensive market checking at different markets in the District. The comprehensive inspections targeted FBOs dealing with manufacturing of pickle, Fruit and Vegetable shops, Mutton shops and other edible stores with a focus on making availability of safe and wholesome food to general public and to check Good Hygienic and Good Manufacturing Practices of Pickle Manufacturing Units in the district. During the market checking enforcement samples of pickles were procured by department for detailed analysis from



NABL Accredited Laboratory. Moreover, several FBOs were found violating different provisions of Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 and accordingly six (06) FBOs were

recommended for compounding under Section 69 of Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006. Furthermore the authorities assured that regular inspections will continue in the district to maintain the highest standards of Food Safety and ensure availability of quality food items to the consumers. Meanwhile, FBOs were sternly warned to comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006/Rules and Regulations there under.

## Progress of RDD Sector works reviewed in Rajouri District

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 12

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa today chaired a meeting of the Rural Development Department (RDD) sector to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works in the district. The meeting, held in the office chamber of the ADC, was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Vijay Kumar, Executive Engineer REW Zahir Khan, Technical Officer Nand Kishore, while Block Development Officers (BDOs) participated through virtual mode. During the meeting, a detailed block-wise review was conducted, wherein it was informed that out of 4,249 sanc-

tioned works, 2,227 have been completed. The ADC directed officers to expedite the pace of work to ensure all targets are achieved before the conclusion of the financial year. Taking note of the pending and non-started works, Dr. Thapa instructed officers to identify and resolve any bottlenecks hindering progress. He further emphasized strict adherence to quality standards while executing developmental projects, ensuring durable and sustainable infrastructure for rural communities. Reiterating the administration's commitment to rural development, the ADC urged officers to maintain efficiency and accountability, ensuring timely completion of all works for the benefit of the public.

## Dr Darakhshan holds Public Darbar at Udhampur, chairs meeting on Eid preparedness



JI NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 12

Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, today convened a Public Darbar at Eidgah in Udhampur in which prominent social representatives and locals raised their issues and concerns besides suggesting measures for further streamlining of working of the Board. Waqf Board Chief Executive Officer, Zahir Kaifi and Administrator Jammu, Abid Hussain accompanied the Chairperson. Civil society representatives including Sheikh Tanvir Ahmad, Surinder Singh Khalsa, Waseem Akram, Anwar Hussain and Tariq Shah also spoke on the occasion. Besides, Ulama and Imams of Udhampur dis-

trict also participated in the event. In her address, Andrabi said that there is commendable improvement in working of Waqf Board management during the past three years. Focus is being accorded to ensure complete transparency and accountability in extending Board services in J&K. She said that the consolidation and upgradation of our assets in whole of the UT is now being done to full satisfaction of the people. "Public endorsement of initiatives of the Board in J&K is our guiding force", she maintained. "We are committed to strengthen the Sufi centers throughout J&K", said Andrabi. She announced that a shopping complex will be constructed by the Board in Udhampur

at Waqf Land which will give work opportunities to the local youth besides generating funds for infrastructure development. Dr Darakhshan, later, chaired a meeting to review Eid preparedness in which representatives from different government departments and Waqf Board officers participated. ADC Udhampur Prem Singh, CEO Udhampur Municipality, Rajender Digra, Executive Engineer JKPDC, Executive Engineer PWD, and Naib Tehsildar, among others, were present in the meeting. Dr Andrabi stressed upon the need to work in a coordinated manner to provide adequate facilities to the people during the Ramzan special celebrations and Eid festival as well.

## Performance of Banks reviewed in Kishtwar



JI NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 12

A District Level Committee (DLC)/District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting was convened today by the District Development Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan to review the performance of the banks and line departments for the quarter ending December 2024. The meeting focused on assessing the progress of financial inclusion initiatives and other developmental programs in the district. The review covered key areas such as credit flow under government schemes, banking sector achievements and targets, as well as the progress of financial literacy programs across the district. The DC expressed con-

cerns over the poor performance of the private sector banks, including IndusInd Bank, Punjab National Bank, ICICI Bank, particularly in the Non-Priority Sector. Additionally, he voiced dissatisfaction with the performance of certain banks in key areas such as agriculture, exports, Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). The DC instructed both public and private banks to intensify efforts to meet the set targets within the specified timelines. The Deputy Commissioner also directed banks to prioritize credit linkage schemes supporting agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors, small businesses, and women entrepreneurs. He further urged officials to identify and address any obsta-

cles that could hinder the smooth execution of projects and ensure the timely and effective implementation of development schemes in Kishtwar. The DC placed special emphasis on promoting key targets including Renewable Energy, Social Infrastructure, and the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. He also directed that targeted outreach programs be conducted to engage farmers and unemployed youth, with the aim of improving the socio-economic conditions of the district and bridging the gap between the public and financial institutions. The DC further emphasized the importance of improving the Credit Deposit (CD) ratio, ensuring hassle-free loan provisions, and fostering greater cooperation among

departments. He urged stakeholders to work more collaboratively in order to meet the district's financial and developmental objectives efficiently. In a key highlight of the meeting, the Chairman of the DLRC (DC) launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) Booklet 2025-26 for the district, which was prepared by NABARD. Additionally, the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025-26, prepared by the Lead District Manager (LDM) was approved. The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Kishtwar, Shah Nawaz Bali, CAO Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik, LDM Kishtwar Harsh Rawal, LDO RBI Anil Kumar, DDM NABARD Nikhil Sharma, as well as officers from line departments and banks.

## ADM Reasi bans transportation of bovines of bovines

JI NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MARCH 12

Additional District Magistrate Reasi Rakesh Kumar, in exercise of powers vested under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, has prohibited the transportation of bovine animals within the jurisdiction of District Reasi without seeking permission from the District Magistrate. The order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months. However, it shall not apply in case of transportation of bovine animals by the Government departments for departmental purposes. Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under section 223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. **Power shutdown** JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, MARCH 12 Superintending Engineer, (Distribution) O&M Circle-III, JPDC Batote has informed that the power supply to Searly, Chak Bhagta and other adjoining areas will remain affected on March 13 from 9 am to 2 pm.

## DC Gbl reviews implementation of 'Revival, Restoration, Preservation & Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage' scheme



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting to discuss implementation of 'Revival Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage' scheme in the district.

At the outset, DC was briefed about the progress achieved so far under the scheme wherein it was revealed that the project Prayag Raj Temple is under revival at present and project report formulation of other identified sites has been submitted to Director, Archives, Archaeology

and Museum. The DC directed the concerned to identify more historical sites which need revival/restoration in the district which could be taken up with the Director Archives, Archeology and Museum, Kashmir for approval under the scheme.

While reviewing the progress under the scheme, the Superintendent Engineer, PWD(R&B) informed that 85 percent work is completed on Prayag Raj Temple at Narayan bagh Shadipora besides Administrative approval has been accorded for an amount of Rs 507 lakh for historic Jamia

Masjid, Haman and allied works at Malshahibagh under the scheme.

Furthermore, the DC directed Superintendent Engineer, PWD(R&B), Ganderbal to submit the DPR of remaining sites as per heritage norms in consultation with Archives, archeology and museum Department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Superintendent Engineer, PW(R&B) Circle Ganderbal, Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Ganderbal and other concerned.

## Handicrafts Department organises awareness program for artisans at Poochal- Kishtwar



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 12

The Department of Handicrafts organized an Interaction cum awareness Programme here at Poochal with the aim to reach out and register maximum number of artisans with the department to enable them to avail various credit link schemes.

The program was led by Assistant Director Handicrafts Pardeep Shan. He highlighted different

training programs and the departmental schemes, including the Credit Card Scheme, financial support opportunities for artisans and the educational scholarship for their children.

During the program, informational pamphlets outlining the departmental schemes and opportunities for artisans were distributed among all participants, ensuring that they were well-informed about the support available to them.

This event was a part of the ongoing efforts by the Department of Handicrafts Kishtwar to promote the region's handicrafts and provide valuable support to local artisans in the area.

The event was also attended by Supervisor INDUSCO, Abid, Instructor of Crewel Center, Farooq G, and the President of Chinar Crewel Industrial Cooperative Society Nir-mala Devi.

## J&K Excise Department rebuts news on increase in number of Liquor Vends

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

The Jammu and Kashmir Excise Department today strongly rebutted the news being circulated on various social media platforms regarding the increase in number of vends (Wine Shops) in Jammu & Kashmir, terming it as fake and baseless.

A communication issued by the department in this regard stated that "As per J&K Excise Policy for the year 2025-26 notified vide SO 38 dated 15th February, 2025, 305 number of vends (Wine Shops) were put to e-auction on 15.02.2025 and after culmination of the bidding process, 271 vends got allotted through the e-auction process (which was conducted by J&K Bank) to the successful HI bidders

and rest of 34 locations are being put to re-auction through Public Notice Issued on 07.03.2025 and bidding process (again to be conducted by the J&K Bank) shall be completed on 17.03.2025 for these 34 vends."

The document further added that, "It is relevant to mention that the number of JKEL-2 vends (Wine Shops) remained unchanged i.e. 305, since FY 2023-24 and there is no increase in the number of vends, either in Jammu or in Kashmir. The break up of the vends (Wine Shops) is: Jammu-291 and Kashmir -14."

All details regarding the Excise Policy along with location of the vends (Wine Shops) etc is available on the official website of the Excise Department i.e. <https://jkexcise.nic.in>

## DC Srinagar chairs District level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today reviewed the progress of Aadhaar Enrollment and its saturation in a meeting of District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee held here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the DC was given a detailed update on the Aadhaar enrolment and progress of its saturation in the district Srinagar through a Power-Point presentation.

The DC reviewed operation of designated Aadhaar enrollment centers, population without Aadhaar cards, registration facilities at school, Aaganwari centres, Health Institutions, age group wise enrollment and updation of Aadhaar after a gap of ten years.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal emphasized to expedite the process of Aadhaar enrollment of the left out population of the district. He also directed for making all designated Aadhaar stations operational at Hospitals, Banks, ICDS



centres and other departments to achieve saturation targets in the district.

He sought a detailed report on all aspects of Aadhaar enrollment with main focus on enrollment of the 0 to 5 year age group. He also reviewed the progress achieved under Aadhaar enrollment in other age groups including 05 to 18 years and 18 years above.

The DC urged the Officers to work with added zeal to achieve the desired results at the earliest to ensure enrollment of all citizens and enable them to avail benefits of different schemes. He laid stress

on reaching out to the target population at their doorsteps.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr Khalid Husain Malik; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Aijaz Ahmad Shah; Chief Education Officer, Shabina; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Mohammad Ismail Bangroo; Assistant Director FCS&CA, representative from UIDAI, District Coordinator CSC E-Governance and other concerned were present in the meeting.

## Run for fun Marathon on March 16

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

The Jammu and Kashmir Police Department is going to organize "Run for Fun Jammu Marathon" on March, 16 here from Gulshan Grounds, while Traffic Police have issued a diversion plan

"The general public/motorists are hereby informed that on 16.03.2025 (Sunday) at 06:30 AM "Run for Fun Jammu Marathon" will be organized by J&K Police. In this connection diversions will be applicable on the day from 0500 Hours to till conclusion of Marathon (11:00 AM expectedly)" a public notice issued today stated.

The Marathon will start from Gulshan Ground (Starting/ Finishing Point) and pass through PHQ Main Gate - P/S Bagh-e-Bahu Crossing - Qasim Nagar - NH-44 - Forest

Check Post - Environment Park - Hill View Honda near Bajalta Crossing.

As per diversion plan, All kind of traffic movement shall remain restricted on the marathon route during the movement of Marathon participants.

All kind of vehicles from City South bound for Bagh-e-Bahu/ Bawe Temple shall be diverted from Bikram Chowk towards Dogra Chowk and shall follow the route from Dogra Chowk - Fortune Rivera Cut - Maharaja Hari Singh Park - Gujjar Nagar Bridge - Bawe Temple during Jammu Marathon.

Vehicles coming from Gujjar Nagar bound for Bikram Chowk shall be diverted from Gujjar Nagar Bridge towards Dogra chowk via Vivekananda Chowk for their destination.

All PSVs bound for Bagh-e-Bahu shall be diverted from Dogra

Chowk towards Fortune Rivera Cut and further towards Gujjar Nagar Bridge via Hari Singh Park and towards their destination. However, the traffic movement from Gujjar Nagar Bridge towards Bawe Temple shall remain restricted during the movement of marathon participants.

LMVs coming from Nagrota towards Sidhra shall be diverted from TCP Nagrota towards Manda and shall not be allowed towards Sidhra during the Jammu Marathon.

All vehicles coming from Samba/ Kathua bound for Nagrota shall be diverted towards Satwari Chowk from Kunjwani Chowk towards Nagrota via Bikram Chowk - Vigilance Rotary - Manda.

All vehicles coming from Kunjwani, Greater Kailash, Chowadhi, Channi Himmat shall be diverted at Narwal

towards RTO Cut/ Railway Crossing/ B.R Ambedkar Chowk.

The General Public has been requested to plan accordingly as per diversions during the Jammu Marathon.

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

Meanwhile, the department has also issued advisory for Holi- the festival of colours being celebrated on March 14, 2025

"As Holi will be celebrated with great enthusiasm in Jammu City also and keeping in view the traffic scenario, the general public especially the motorists are informed that no wrong parking/road side parking would be allowed anywhere for the celebration of the festival which causes unnecessary jamming and congestion," Traffic Police

Jammu handout stated.

Further, all the motorists have been informed that strict action shall be taken against Drunken driving, speeding, Stunt biking, reckless driving, Dangerous Driving, without Crash Helmet.

"Special focus will be on Stunt biking, motorists are informed not to perform stunt biking which endangers their life as well as of other people. In addition, the event organizers of Holi festival in City Jammu have been advised to follow traffic rules and regulations during the event to maintain safe and hassle-free movement of traffic during the celebration of festival.

In case of any exigency and for any traffic related assistance people can contact Traffic Control Unit (TCU) Jammu on 0191-2459048, 94191-47732 numbers.

## DC Ganderbal assesses Aadhaar Saturation in DLAMC meeting



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) to assess the progress of Aadhaar enrolment and Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries across the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the status of Aadhaar Centers and was informed that 31 centers are currently operational out of the total 57.

He directed the concerned departments to expedite the activation of all Aadhaar centers under their jurisdiction and emphasized the need for 100% Aadhaar coverage through efficient mobilization of enrollment staff.

The meeting also deliberated on key focus areas

such as document updates and mandatory biometric updates in Aadhaar.

The DC instructed stakeholders to actively encourage parents to enroll children below five years and ensure timely biometric updates after the age milestones of 5 and 15 years.

To facilitate Aadhaar saturation in schools, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) was directed to organize special enrollment camps.

Furthermore, the Programme Officer (Poshan Abhiyaan) and the CEO were tasked with submitting a detailed list of pending enrollments and developing a comprehensive action plan to bridge existing gaps.

Stakeholder departments were urged to launch a mission-mode enrollment drive to ensure complete Aadhaar coverage across the district.

To strengthen Aadhaar-

linked birth registration, the Executive Officer (EO) Municipality was instructed to ensure birth certificates are issued at the time of birth in hospitals. Additionally, the Health Department was directed to prioritize Aadhaar-linked birth registration to achieve universal coverage from the earliest stage.

Reiterating the importance of Aadhaar in streamlining public welfare schemes, the DC urged all departments to work in coordination to achieve complete Aadhaar saturation in Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; Chief Planning Officer, Programme Officer (Poshan Abhiyaan), Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, and other committee members.

## Budget Session 2025: Public issues raised by concerned MLAs dominate Zero Hour

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

The Zero Hour in the Legislative Assembly today witnessed multiple public issues being raised by various Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), drawing attention to urgent concerns affecting the people in different constituencies.

MLA Gulabgarh, Er Khursheed Ahmad, brought up the need for better medical facilities for those injured in the recent tragic road accident in Reasi district, resulting loss of four lives. He urged the government to ensure that the injured admitted at GMC, Jammu and DH, Reasi receive proper treatment.

MLA Poonch Haveli, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, sought Speaker's intervention regarding the disappearance of a young man, Yawar Rashid, who had travelled to Jammu for an examination but has been missing since. He urged the authorities to take immediate action in locating the youth.

MLAs from Kashmir Division, Salman Sagar, Irfan Rasool Kar, Mushtaq Guroo and Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad highlighted the slow progress in installation of streetlights by

the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and other municipal bodies. They emphasized the urgency of accelerating this work, especially in view of the ongoing holy month of Ramadhan, to provide much needed relief to the residents.

Similarly, MLA Shanus-Anantnag East, Riyaz Ahmad Khan, pointed out that the installation of smart meters in his constituency had led to disconnection of previously installed streetlights. He urged the authorities to restore these streetlights to avoid inconvenience to the public.

Raising concerns over essential public services, MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju, called for an increase in number of ration depots in his constituency, citing difficulties faced by the people in 10 hilly panchayats who currently rely on just two ration depots.

MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen, expressed concern over the vacant Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) post in Banihal, which has been causing hardships to the people. He urged the Government to fill this critical position immediately to ensure smooth administration in the area.

## DC hands over keys of tractors to HADP beneficiaries at Kishtwar

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan on Wednesday handed over tractors to two farmers under the Farm Mechanization and Automation Scheme of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for the year 2024-25.

Farmers Dev Raj of Poochal and Fareed Ahmed of Marwah farmers were provided a 50% subsidy, with a maximum limit of Rs 5 lakh, to facilitate modern farming prac-

tices in remote areas.

The DC interacted with the beneficiaries, gathering insights on how the tractors would be utilized to improve agricultural productivity in the region. Earlier about two months back, 2 other farmers were provided the Tractors under the same scheme.

The Agriculture Department is extending subsidies ranging from 50% to 90% under various HADP initiatives to support farmers across the district. The farmers of the district are being encouraged to take

advantage of the scheme for farm mechanization, which will enhance agricultural efficiency, reduce labor efforts, and improve crop production and productivity in an economical and time-effective manner.

The event was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Amjad Hussain Malik; SMS DL Jamshed Ahmed Dev; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Marwah Manzoor Ahmed Zargar and other staff of the Agriculture department.

## PM's foreign visits bring honour to the nation: Sat Sharma

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Conferring Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Mauritius's highest civilian award, once again highlights India's growing stature on the global stage and is a testament to Modi's leadership and diplomatic outreach. Sat Sharma CA, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this during his meeting with party's prominent activists. He emphasized that PM Modi's foreign visits have significantly enhanced India's global reputation, fostering strong diplomatic ties, economic cooperation, and cultural exchanges with various nations. "Every international recognition that PM Modi

receives is not just a personal achievement but a moment of pride for 1.4 billion Indians," he said, adding that our PM's tireless efforts to strengthen India's global footprint are being acknowledged worldwide. Sat Sharma CA said that the Prime Minister's latest honour from Mauritius adds to a long list of international accolades. Over the years, Modi has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards from various countries, reflecting his leadership and India's rising influence. Some of the notable awards conferred upon him include "The Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud (Saudi Arabia), The Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award (Palestine), The



Order of Zayed (UAE), The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle (Russia), The Legion of Merit (United States), Champions of The Earth Award (United Nations)", are few to mention and the list is very long. Sat Sharma CA highlighted that such international recognitions reflect India's growing diplomatic strength and its emergence

as a global leader under Modi's leadership. He added that these awards symbolize India's commitment to global peace, cooperation, and development. "As our Prime Minister continues to receive such honours, it reinforces our national pride and motivates us to contribute to India's progress in every field," he said. Sat Sharma CA further said that with every foreign visit, PM Modi strengthens India's strategic partnerships, fosters economic growth, and showcases India's cultural heritage on a global platform. His recent honour from Mauritius is yet another milestone in this remarkable journey. Prominent among those in the meeting included Additional Treasurer, Prem Gupta, senior leaders, S. Amrik Singh, Bawa Sharma, Nand Kishore, Rinku Choudhary, Ishant Mahajan, Jaideep Sambyal and others.

## Indian Army organizes Awareness Lecture on Drug Abuse for Youth at Dessa, Doda



JNEWS SERVICE  
DODA: 12 MAR 2025

In a continued effort to engage with and uplift local communities, Indian Army organised an awareness lecture on Drug Abuse for the youth of Dessa area. The session aimed to educate young individuals about the detrimental effect of drug addiction and the importance of leading a healthy and disciplined life. During the lecture, 70 attendees including students, teachers and parents at High School, Gei were informed about the physical, mental and social consequences of drug consumption. It was highlighted how substance abuse negatively impacts personal well-being, family relationships and career opportunities. The session also focused on legal consequences and preventive measures, encouraging the youth to stay away from drugs and contribute positively to society. The Indian Army remains committed to the welfare of the nation's youth and will continue conducting such awareness programs to foster a drug-free and progressive society. Local residents appreciated this initiative and expressed gratitude for the Army's efforts in shaping a brighter future for the younger generation.

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## FROM THE PAGE 1...

### Khelo India Winter...

here in North Kashmir, the Chief Minister as per the news agency said, "Unfortunately the weather conditions are changing. There was a time when the skiing courses in my childhood used to begin in December and continue till March. Now, the snowfall hardly occurs in December and January months. However, the temperatures rise when the snowfall occurs in February." He said, "We will try to generate artificial snow from December through environment-friendly ways so that the slopes are prepared for skiing early amidst the minus temperatures and we will be able to start the skiing course again from December upto March. We will not have to wait for March to conduct the Khelo India Winter Games."

The Chief Minister expressed happiness over the completion of the second phase of KIWG-2025. "Finally the event has been held, which seemed impossible due to the weather conditions in January. The recent snowfall made the KIWG possible as it occurred at the apt time. I express my gratitude to all the participants," the Chief Minister said, as per KNO.

While congratulating the Army, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh for securing top positions in the KIWG-2025, the Chief Minister expressed disappointment over J&K not securing any top rank in the competition. "We need to arrange the coaches and augment the infrastructure for our skiers so that J&K in the sixth edition of Khelo India Winter Games secures the top positions," he said.

The Chief Minister welcomed the decision to develop a Winter Sports Centre of Excellence in Gulmarg.

Terming Gulmarg as the winter capital of the country, Omar said, "It is the place where skiing started. The T-bar lift in Gulmarg was introduced during British rule. Later the track lift and Gandola in phases were introduced and in the end chairlift was introduced which was completed in 2012. However, this is not enough as the other countries have moved much ahead."

"In the last two-three years, we have observed that those who used to come to Gulmarg for skiing are now opting to visit the central Asian countries like Uzbekistan. Now, it is our responsibility to develop Gulmarg further and augment the skiing infrastructure here," Omar said as per KNO.

"We are lucky that the Prime Minister recently inaugurated a tunnel in Sonamarg. It has turned the picturesque resort into a winter destination now. We want to develop Sonamarg for skiing like Gulmarg."

The Chief Minister said that Sonamarg has the natural advantages, which can help the place to emerge as the best skiing destination.

Omar said that Sports Minister Satish Sharma was recently assured by the Union Sports Minister that the infrastructure will be augmented further. "The sports infra is not limited to coming up with stadiums for cricket and football, but many games are being preferred by the youth nowadays, therefore the infra needs to be augmented at earliest so that the youngsters, who are indulging in anti-social activities will be involved in sports activities." KNO

### No role of elected...

issues don't fall under the jurisdiction of the elected government.

Replying to a query whether the ban imposed on Awami Action Committee was a consequence of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq criticizing the Gulmarg event, Omar according to the news agency, said, "No, you cannot say that. I am not aware of the purpose for which it (AAC) has been banned. These issues don't fall under the jurisdiction of the elected government. The reasons behind banning the organization were not shared with us."

He said, "On principle, we are not in favour of such actions. As far as Mirwaiz is concerned, he has not said anything wrong since he has been released from house arrest. We don't know the reasons behind this ban, but we will see what to do in the future," he said.

Replying to another query about BJP claiming that the hotel which hosted the fashion show is owned by one of his close relatives, the Chief Minister said, "I have spoken over the issue in the Assembly. If anything that has taken place is against the law, action will be taken." KNO

### Winter games making...

Talking to reporters at the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of 'Khelo India Winter Games' 2025 here in North Kashmir, Mandaviya, according to the news agency, said, "The Government of India (GoI) will ensure that no stone is left unturned to develop sports sector and infrastructure in J&K."

Mandaviya said that more than 750 athletes from the different parts of the country participated in KIWG-2025. "The spectators and the participants saw an atmosphere of enthusiasm and joy in the event," he said, as per KNO.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of "Viksit Bharat," Mandaviya said, "PM Modi has assured that we will see a developed India by the year 2047 when the India would be commemorating 100 years of independence."

"To make this a developed India, the participation of every citizen of the country should be ensured," he added.

The Minister said that the Centre will connect through Viksit Bharat Yuva "We will hold discussions with the youth in universities and colleges and invite further suggestions and recommendations for the betterment of the sports sector." KNO

### MeT issues 'yellow...

rain and snow in higher reaches at many places are expected to continue till March 15.

He added that intermittent light rain and snow is expected on March 16 at few places towards morning & improvement towards afternoon.

He further said that the weather would remain generally dry from March 17 to 21st.

In its advisory, the MeT has said that the travelers, tourists and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory while farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations till 16th March. "Avoid sloppy & avalanche prone areas. Landslides, Mudslides and shooting stones are expected at vulnerable spots," the advisory reads. KNO

### Speaker constitutes...

Conference), Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Congress), Muhammad Yosouf Tarigami (CPI-M), and Choudhary Muhammad Akram. The opposition members in the panel are Sunil Sharma (BJP), Sajad Gani Lone (PC), and Mir Muhammad Fayaz (PDP).

The committee, headed by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, is responsible for managing the time for discussions in the House and overseeing the routine of the House. According to Rule 318 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly, the committee's function is to recommend the time allocation for the discussion of various stages of Government Bills and other business, as directed by the Speaker in consultation with the Leader of the House. Rule 319 states that the committee has the power to indicate the different hours at which various stages of the Bill or other business shall be completed.

### No plans to slash...

news agency was raised by NC leader and MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie during the ongoing Assembly Session.

The government in a reply to the question regarding whether it intended to reduce the application fee collected by JKSSB for recruitment exams and, if not, the reasons for the same, said, "It is clarified that the J&K Services Selection Board doesn't intend to reduce the application fee being collected for various recruitment examinations, as the entire Administrative expenses for conducting different exam-related activities are to be covered from the fee collected into the Revolving Fund in absence of any Budgetary Support." KNO

### J&K sports sector...

and indoor sports halls at the Panchayat level to ensure accessibility.

The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Policy 2022, according to the document, has strengthened institutional support, offering coaching and financial aid to promising athletes.

It also reveals that 100 Khelo India centers have been sanctioned across J&K, with 92 already functional. These centers are playing a key role in nurturing young talent and promoting a sports culture across the region.

The document, as per KNO, states that athletes from Jammu and Kashmir have achieved remarkable success in national and international events. In the year 2023-24, the athletes bagged 549 national medals (169 gold, 170 silver, 210 bronze) and 16 international medals (8 gold, 4 silver, 4 bronze). In, 2024-25 national medals tally stood at: 639 (239 gold, 150 silver, 250 bronze) and 15 international medals (3 gold, 2 silver, 10 bronze).

The document also states that J&K hosted 15 national events across 13 sports disciplines in 2023-24, with 12 national events already conducted by November

2024-25.

It also reveals that the Khelo India Winter Games have led to Gulmarg emerging as the country's winter sports capital. The 4th edition (Feb 21-25, 2024) saw J&K secure 1 gold, 6 silver, and 4 bronze medals.

To institutionalize sports learning, the government, the document as per KNO states, has set up academies for cricket, football, volleyball, wushu, hockey, gymnastics, water sports, judo, and table tennis.

The Gymnastics Academy at MA Stadium, Jammu, with international-standard facilities, is fully operational, while another center at Gindun Stadium, Srinagar, is under construction and set for completion this financial year," the document reveals further.

The document states that the government plans to expand sports inclusivity by introducing initiatives for senior citizens, housewives, transgender individuals, and specially-abled athletes. It also aims to establish high-performance centers and promote research in traditional games. KNO

### 20 villages in J&K...

repair, handset repair, home appliance maintenance, and electrical technician skills to boost employment opportunities, he said.

"However, the project did not include setting up Common Service Centres (CSCs) or ensuring full-scale internet connectivity in villages. Instead, existing CSCs were utilised, with internet services available at these centres," the minister said.

Vaishnav said the Department of Telecommunications is working under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) initiative to provide 4G connectivity to uncovered villages, with BharatNet aiming to deliver at least 25 Mbps broadband speed to rural households.

While the Digital Village Project was not specifically targeted at any community or gender, the government said it played a role in promoting digital inclusion, literacy, and rural entrepreneurship for all sections of society, including women and marginalised communities.

With the project's completion, digital infrastructure efforts in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh now rely on broader national programmes like BharatNet and 4G saturation schemes, which are expected to expand connectivity across more remote areas in the coming years. KNO

### Five new railway...

traffic projections, the project has not moved forward, he added.

Meanwhile, five new railway surveys have been undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir which include Baramulla-Uri New Line (46 km), Sopore-Kupwara New Line (37 km), Anantnag-Pahalgam New Line (78 km), Avantipore-Shopian New Line (28 km), Banihal-Baramulla and Doubling (118 km).

While the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) has been fully completed, connecting several districts in Jammu & Kashmir, railway connectivity to Rajouri and Poonch remains uncertain, with no clear timeline for future expansion. KNO

### J&K govt says it will...

under Demand No. 58 (Transfer of Assistance to J&K) was Rs 41,751 crore in 2023-24 (Revised Estimates), Rs 41,000 crore in 2024-25 (Revised Estimates/First Supplementary), and Rs 41,000 crore in 2025-26 (Budget Estimates)," he said. KNO

### Army jawan injured...

An official told the news agency that the jawan was immediately evacuated and airlifted to Udhampur for advanced medical treatment.

He said that security forces have sounded an alert in the area, and a search operation is underway. KNO

### 1.35 lakh houses...

for the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, as per news agency, said that since the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 and AwaasPlus database have been completely saturated, there is no separate target for the 2024-25 financial year.

However, the remaining spillover target of 140,021 houses from previous phases will be completed in the current financial year, he said.

He said that 109,412 houses were built in Jammu Division, while 26,513 houses were constructed in Kashmir Division. KNO

## Indian Army conducts Motivational Lecture for Local Youth at Parori Gujjaran, Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 12 MAR 2025

Indian Army conducted a motivational lecture for local residents in Parori Gujjaran village, Rajouri District. The lecture aimed to educate and motivate the local youth on various topics, including cyber security, sports, tree plantation, and the Clean and Green India initiative. A total of 43 local villagers attended the event. The lecture was well-received by the attendees, who appreciated the Indian Army's efforts to engage with the local community and promote awareness on important issues. The event was a significant milestone in the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to connect with local residents and promote community development. By conducting such events, the Indian Army aims to foster a sense of trust and cooperation with the local population, while also promoting education, awareness, and social welfare. The success of the event is a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities. By engaging with locals and promoting awareness on important issues, the Indian Army is contributing to the creation of a more informed, aware, and empowered society.

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## District Hospital Kishtwar gets Colour Doppler Ultrasound System



JNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 12

In a significant step towards enhancing healthcare services in the district, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inaugurated a newly installed Colour Doppler Ultrasound system at the Outpatient Department (OPD) of District Hospital Kishtwar. The hi-tech diagnostic facility costing Rs 16 lakh has been funded under the Pakal Dul Hydro-electric Power Project (HEP) Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RR) Plan for 2024-25.

Meanwhile, the DC also e-inaugurated a Patient Monitor, Defibrillator, 12-Channel ECG Machine, and other critical devices at PHC Chatroo provided under the same Plan. Terming the facility a major upgrade in diagnostic services, the DC emphasized the administration's commitment to improve medical infrastructure and ensure quality healthcare for the residents of Kishtwar and surrounding areas. The inauguration event was attended by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Rajinder Kumar; Medical Superintendent (MS) Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal; Dr. Sham Lal Sakolia (Radiologist) and other hospital staff.

Budget Session 2025 | Question Hour in LA

## Up-gradation of roads taken up as per traffic volume increase, pavement distress : Dy CM

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that the up-gradation of roads is being taken up in accordance with the increase in traffic volume and pavement distress, if noticed.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Thakur Randhir Singh in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the PW(R&B) Department has mandate to construct various categories of roads vis, state roads, major district roads, other district roads and village roads. He informed that the PWD is also constructing National Highways entrusted by MoRTH. He said that the each category of the road is designed keeping in view the strength of the sub base strata and traffic volume projected for the future ten years, and accordingly have different load bearing capacities.

"Upgradation of each category of road is being taken into consideration when the traffic volume increases and pavement distress is noticed or there is requirement for improvement of geometrics subject to availability of resources", maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

### Govt identifies 5000 kanal land for establishment of industrial estates in Kashmir

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that about 5000 kanal of land has been identified for establishment of industrial estates in different districts of Kashmir division while intends for 9661 kanal of land has been submitted to the Revenue department in Jammu division.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Rajiv Jasrotia in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the intends of 14956. 15 kanal land have been placed for establishment of industrial estates in different districts of Jammu division while 5532.19 kanal land has been transferred during the past two years in Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that focus sectors

for Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30 included Manufacturing, IT and ITes, Agriculture and Food Processing, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure and Real Estate, Skill Development, Tourism and Hospitality, Film Tourism, Horticulture and Post-Harvest Management, Renewable Energy, Handloom and Handicrafts and Agriculture.

He said that package of incentives, including up to 100 percent subsidy components, turnover incentives, entrepreneurship and skill development fund, ease of doing business, investment promotion agency for promotion of investment and exports besides establishing industrial grievance forum are among various salient features of Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30. The Deputy Chief Minister said that several important reforms and measures are being implemented by the departments like Health & Drug Controller, Agriculture, Pollution Control Board, Public Health Engineering, Labour, Forest, Power Development Department, Fire, High Courts, Housing & Urban Development, Industries and Commerce to ensure a smoother regulatory ecosystem. These reforms are being taken up in areas like labour, property registration, single window clearance system and central inspection framework under District level BRAP.

"Various policy initiatives are being taken up by Jammu and Kashmir government to boost the industry sector and making it as investor friendly destination. These included New Central Sector Scheme, 2021, J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy, Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in Industrial Sector in J&K 2022, J&K Single Window Rules 2021, Turnover Incentive Scheme 2021, J&K Wool Processing, Handloom and Handicraft Policy 2020, Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives/Self Help Groups 2020, Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, Karkhandar Scheme for Development of Craft Sector in J&K 2021, Export

Subsidy Scheme 2021, Revised Education Scheme 2022 for Artisans/Weavers of Handicrafts and Handloom Department and J&K Start Up Policy 2024-27", informed the Deputy Chief Minister.

The Deputy Minister said that the special marks have been kept in the evaluation criteria of land allotment applications, so that Women get a higher merit by virtue of their participation. He said that sanction has been accorded to establishment of an exclusive Industrial Estate for Women' on 329 kanal land, out of 1347 kanal land at Seen, Thakran, District Udhampur under the Prime Ministers' Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for setting up of new micro enterprises.

He added that any business enterprise having 51 percent stake held by women entrepreneurs shall qualify to apply for allotment in the designated industrial estate. He said that the department has also granted short term/disposal permits to various executing agencies of National Highway Authority of India, NHIDCL, IRCON, the Ring Road, PWD (R&B), PMGSY, Irrigation and Flood Control, Airport Authority of India and others engaged in developments projects of National/UT importance during the past 2 years.

He said that the department has granted 36 limestone mining leases, 24 mineral gypsum mining leases besides 202 mining leases of e-auctioned minor mineral blocks.



Besides, it has reserved/granted 8 mining leases in favour of J&K Public Sector Undertakings (J&K Mineral Limited and J&K PCC limited), 6 mining leases on private land, 2 quarry licenses on private land, one cluster quarry on state land and 23 quarry licenses in favour of government projects for providing key construction material to various developmental projects across J&K.

Mubarakh Gul and Saifuddin Bhat raised the supplementaries.

**No loss of life or property reported among migrating tribals**

The Government today informed the House that no loss of life or damage to the property of the tribal community has been reported due to heavy rains or floods during migration in the past two years (2023 and 2024) or till date in respect of Gulabgarh constituency.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, stated this in response to a starred question by Er Khurshid Ahmed in the Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Chief Minister, speaking on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, assured the House that the government remains committed towards ensuring the safety and well-being of the migrating tribal population.

**Govt to conduct demarcation of Natipora-Yousmarg road project**

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, said that the government

would conduct demarcation of 4-laning of Natipora-Yousmarg road via Charar-e-Sharief through the concerned SDM office.

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

He said that the recommendation has been received recently from MLA Chadoora Constituency regarding preparation of DPR for 4-Lanning (Phase 1st) of Srinagar Charar-i-Sharief Yousmarg Road from Natipora to Chadoora town (length 12 Kms), which is under examination.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that Chadoora to Kandijan via Charar-i-Sharief (20.80 km) road has been proposed as spur to NH-444. He said that presently the road is intermediate lane and has been proposed to be upgraded to 2-lane with paved shoulders subject to approval from MoRTH, Gol.

He said that Kandijan to Yousmarg Road (11 kms) is part of NH-701A (Surankote-Shopian-Yousmarg-Doodhpathri-Magam road) and stands handed over to BRO for maintenance and further up gradation.

**Rs 41.78 cr Maitra bridge over Chenab to be completed by August 2026**

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that the Rs. 41.78 crore Maitra Ramban bridge over river Chenab shall be completed by August 2026.

The Deputy Chief Min-

ister was replying to a question raised by Arjun Singh Raju in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that men and machinery is being mobilized and work has been accelerated for timely completion of the project. He informed the House that execution of bridge over river Chenab at Maitra Ramban, sanctioned under CRIF, was delayed, as NHA did not allow intersection of this bridge with 4-lane Ramban flyover carrying fast moving motorized traffic.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the bridge has now been planned to intersect with old NH, due to which the height of the bridge is being raised by 8.5 m and span extended by 30 m to 300 m.

He added that foundation of both the abutments has been completed while as Gantry on Maitra side stands installed and casting is in progress. He said that on the Ramban side, pier headwork is under progress and work of casting of segment/deck slab has been started.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the project has picked up pace as the contractor has mobilized men and machinery in strength. He added that against a sanctioned cost of Rs. 41.78 crore, till date, an amount of Rs. 21.10 crore has been released in favour of the contractor and the bridge is expected to be completed by August 2026.

**BRO to take up work on 4-lane Dhar-Udhampur road**

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the proposal for upgradation of Dhar-Udhampur road from two lane to four lane has been proposed by Project SAMPARK, BRO and the case has been further submitted to Northern Command for approval.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Satish Kumar Sharma in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the upgradation/4-laning work shall be taken up by the BRO following sanction by the competent authority.

Legislators; Balwant Singh Mankotia, Rajiv Jasrotia and Pawan Gupta raised the supplementaries.

## Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Exposure visit hosted for special children at Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MARCH 12

The Education Department, with the support of the District Administration Ramban and under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today organized an exposure visit for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Roshan Lal, in the presence of Chief Education Officer, S. Bikram Singh, flagged off the visit to Industrial Training Institute Ramban. The initiative aimed to provide the chil-

dren with firsthand exposure to vocational training and skill development opportunities available at ITI.

Interacting with the children, ADDC Roshan Lal emphasized the importance of inclusive education and skill-building for their empowerment.

The children and their parents expressed gratitude to the District Administration and the Education Department for organizing the visit. They appreciated the efforts being made to integrate CWSN into mainstream educational and vocational programs, fostering their independence and self-reliance.

## Mega enrollment drive held for Cluster Marhama at BMHSS Bijbehara



JI NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MARCH 12

As part of the ongoing district-wide Enrollment Drive, a mega enrollment drive was successfully conducted today for Cluster Marhama at the Auditorium Hall of BMHSS Bijbehara in Zone Bijbehara. The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, parents and educational stakeholders.

Chief Education Officer Anantnag presided over the event along with Principal HSS Marhama, Principal BMHSS Bijbehara, Principal GMHSS Bijbehara, and Zonal Education Officer Bijbehara.

Additionally, Headmasters HS Bewora and HS Daddo, along with other HOIs and officials from various schools of Cluster Marhama and Cluster Bijbehara, were present.

It is noteworthy that more than 53 students were enrolled on the spot during the drive, reflecting the success of the initiative in ensuring greater access to quality education.

The enrollment drive continues to receive overwhelming response across the district, reinforcing the commitment of the Education Department towards universal education and inclusive learning opportunities.

## DC Kathua reviews arrangements for ongoing Ramzan, Holi, Navratri festivals

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, MARCH 12

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas today convened a meeting with officers from different departments and representatives of religious organizations to review the arrangements for the ongoing Ramzan and upcoming Holi and Navratri festivals.

The meeting focused on ensuring smooth celebrations of these festivals, with discussions on various aspects such as security measures, provision of safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, medical aid services, sanitation, and availability of fire safety measures, street lighting,



cleanliness and smooth transport management across the district.

To ensure the success of the festivals, the Deputy Commissioner issued directives to the heads of different departments,

emphasizing meticulous planning and execution in their respective areas of responsibility. Particular attention was given to security to mitigate any potential untoward incidents during the festive

period. The Jal Shakti department was entrusted with ensuring a consistent supply of potable water, while the Power Development Department (PDD) was directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply throughout the festival duration.

Civil society's cooperation was encouraged to uphold cleanliness standards in the town.

To prevent profiteering and black marketing, the Food Safety department was directed to conduct market checks across all markets of the district to ensure essential commodities are sold at government-approved rates and meet quality standards.

The Tehsildars were

directed to deploy an adequate number of personnel in areas prone to traffic congestion, ensuring smooth traffic flow during the festivities.

During the meeting, representatives of religious institutions apprised Deputy Commissioner about various issues, in response to which the DC assured their resolution on priority basis.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining peace, harmony and brotherhood during the festivals and appealed to the people to cooperate with the administration in ensuring smooth celebrations.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kathua

Shobhit Saxena, ADC Kathua Ranjit Singh, RTO Kathua, ACD Kathua, CEO Kathua, Executive Engineers and other concerned stakeholders.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. DSTE/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <a href="https://www.ireps.gov.in">https://www.ireps.gov.in</a> against Tender Notice no. 433_Tele_JAT_2_24_25	
Closing Date/Time 01.04.2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.	
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money <b>only through online payment modes</b> available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.	
NIT HEADER	
Contract Type	Works
Name of Work	Provision of LAN connectivity/Video conferencing Equipment at Railway Protection Special Force building at Udhampur -
Tender Closing Date/Time	01.04.2025 15:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	3098188.76
Earnest Money (Rs.)	61800.00
Date of Completion	10.03.2025 19:34
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	18.03.2025
Period of Completion	90 Days
Tender Notice No: 433_Tele_JAT_2_24_25 Date:- 10.03.2025, Closing Date/Time : 01.04.2025 15:00 765/2025	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR25-37	21/03/25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14662/F2, 12550/F1, 14662/R1, 14662/F1, 11906/R1, 14610/F1, 18102/F1, 11906/F1, 14504/R1 & 15015/F1.
EAFZR-SLR25-38	24/03/25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12588/F1, 12474/F1, 14601/F2, 14606/F1, 14601/R1, 14614/R1, 12032/F1, 14614/F1 & 20498/F1.
EAFZR-SLR25-39	25/03/25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14508/R1, 22126/F1, 14508/F2, 14654/F2, 14508/F1, 14654/R1, 14654/F1 & 22486/F1.
EAFZR-SLR25-40	26/03/25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14620/F1, 12412/F1, 15212/F1, 19612/F1, 14504/F1, 19416/F1, 19226/R1, 12414/R1, 15212/R1 & 19226/F1.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> .		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

## EDITORIAL

## Daily wagers in J&K: Politics over people

The plight of daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir has once again been overshadowed by political theatrics, leaving thousands of workers stranded between broken promises and bureaucratic delays. The latest ruckus in the Assembly – marked by BJP’s walkout and heated exchanges with the ruling National Conference (NC) – highlights not just the deepening political divide but also the neglect of a long-suffering workforce. At the heart of this controversy is a humanitarian crisis masquerading as a political issue. Daily wagers, many of whom have been toiling for years without job security or adequate compensation, are demanding regularization and timely wages. Their protests, fueled by desperation, have been met with lathicharges instead of empathy. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s assertion that the Police is beyond the Government’s control offers little solace to those beaten while asking for what they rightfully deserve. The blame game between BJP and NC does nothing to address the core issue: the daily wagers’ uncertain futures. BJP blames NC for a history of mistreatment, while NC counters with accusations of inaction during the previous PDP-BJP coalition rule. The truth remains that successive governments have failed to deliver lasting solutions, opting instead for piecemeal promises and temporary committees. Omar Abdullah’s announcement of a high-level committee to gather data and draft a legal and financial roadmap is a step forward – but why now? Why did it take years of protests and public outcry to reach this point? And will this committee’s recommendations be actioned, or will they gather dust like so many others before it? The regularization of daily wagers isn’t just an economic issue – it’s a matter of dignity and social justice. These workers form the backbone of essential services, from maintaining infrastructure to ensuring public utilities run smoothly. They are not expendable, yet they continue to be treated as such. It’s time for political parties to move beyond scoring points and recognize the human faces behind this crisis. A permanent, transparent policy for the regularization of daily wagers – coupled with timely wage payments and job security – is the need of the hour. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve governance that prioritizes their well-being over political expediency. Daily wagers aren’t just statistics or bargaining chips – they’re families, they’re livelihoods, and they’re the unsung pillars of this region’s economy. The Assembly walkouts and verbal spats made headlines, but what the daily wagers need is action, not drama. The high-powered committee must deliver concrete results, and the government must ensure those results translate into lasting reforms. Anything less would be yet another betrayal to those who have already endured too much over the years.

# How Three New Societies Are Shielding Agriculture from Global Trade Shocks

BINOD ANAND

The world is witnessing a major realignment in global trade as the US tariff war disrupts supply chains and reshapes agricultural exports. Countries that once relied on established trade routes are now facing uncertainty, forcing them to look for alternative suppliers. In this evolving landscape, many fear that India’s agriculture exports might be affected, but the reality is different. India is not just insulated from these shocks; it is positioned to thrive. The reason behind this resilience lies in a historic transformation – the creation of three new multistate cooperative societies. These cooperatives are more than just policy initiatives, they are a strategic shield, ensuring that Indian farmers, agribusinesses, and exporters do not become victims of global trade volatility. Instead of fearing disruptions, India is using this moment to expand its global agricultural footprint, leveraging the power of cooperatives to make its exports stronger, more competitive, and more farmer-centric. The US has been engaged in a prolonged trade war, particularly with China and the European Union.

American tariffs on Chinese goods led to retaliatory measures, including high tariffs on US agricultural products such as soybeans, corn, and pork. These policies disrupted

global supply chains, forcing importing countries to search for new suppliers. Historically, such trade wars create volatility, where smaller agricultural exporters struggle to compete with larger economies.

Many feared that India, which is still building its export infrastructure, might lose out in the global realignment. However, this time, India has turned the challenge into an opportunity – by strategically strengthening its cooperative economic framework to ensure that Indian agriculture emerges stronger, not weaker.

The government’s bold decision to establish three new multistate cooperative societies has changed the game for Indian agriculture exports. These cooperatives are not just support structures; they are economic engines, ensuring that Indian farmers and agri-businesses are directly connected to global markets without dependency on middlemen or volatile international policies. The National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society is the backbone of India’s new export strategy, enabling farmers to directly participate in exports, giving them better prices, and eliminating exploitative middlemen.

By standardising quality, improving logistics, and ensuring compliance with global trade requirements, this cooperative will make India a reliable

alternative to disrupted supply chains elsewhere. The National Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society will capitalise on the growing demand for organic and chemical-free produce, helping Indian farmers secure premium prices in global trade. This structured, cooperative-driven supply chain will allow India to emerge as a leading supplier of organic food. The National Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society will strengthen both domestic productivity and India’s growing seed export market by ensuring that farmers have access to high-quality, export-ready seeds.

By reducing dependency on foreign seed corporations, India will minimise trade risks and position itself as a global leader in agricultural inputs. Unlike previous trade disruptions where Indian farmers suffered from price fluctuations, this time, India is protected by a cooperative-led economic framework that ensures direct market access, diversified global partnerships, and better price stability.

With cooperatives facilitating direct exports, India’s agricultural trade is less dependent on traditional intermediaries, making it immune to tariff shocks. While many countries struggle due to over-dependence on the US or China, India has expanded trade agreements with the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia, ensuring multiple market oppor-

unities. By focusing on processed and high-value agricultural goods, India is building a resilient trade model that withstands market fluctuations.

Moreover, removing middlemen and securing better trade deals through cooperatives guarantees that farmers are not at the mercy of international price crashes. The rising global demand for organic and speciality agricultural imports further strengthens India’s position as a key supplier, allowing the country to fill the supply gaps created by disrupted trade routes. While many countries are struggling with the effects of the US tariff war, India is building a future-proof agricultural economy.

The creation of these three multistate cooperatives is not just a response to global trade challenges – it is a proactive step towards making India the world’s next agricultural export powerhouse. By embracing cooperative-led trade, direct farmer participation, and a strong focus on value addition, India is proving that no tariff war can derail its agricultural success story.

Instead of being vulnerable to shifting trade policies, Indian farmers are now in control, charting a new course for global leadership in agriculture. This transformation is not just about increasing exports; it is about reshaping the very foundation of India’s rural economy through cooperation. As

the world looks for stable, reliable, and high-quality agricultural suppliers, India – powered by its new cooperative revolution – stands ready to meet this demand. However, the success of this model will depend on the cooperation among cooperatives, ensuring that they work in harmony to create a seamless economic framework that benefits farmers at every level. The cooperative economic framework is not just about collective trade – it is about collective prosperity.

It is a movement that redefines how India participates in global trade, ensuring that its farmers are not just contributors but decision-makers in the global agricultural economy. By fostering deeper collaboration between cooperatives, ensuring knowledge-sharing, and building an ecosystem of trust, India is setting an example for the world on how cooperation can drive economic strength.

### Conclusion

India’s response to global trade disruptions is not just defensive – it is transformative. By establishing three powerful multistate cooperative societies, the country has ensured that its agricultural exports are resilient, competitive, and farmer-driven.

These cooperatives are more than economic instruments; they are a strategic shield that insulates Indian agriculture from tariff shocks and

volatile global policies. Instead of relying on traditional supply chains, India is proactively building new trade alliances, particularly in the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia. By focusing on high-value and organic products, streamlining logistics, and removing exploitative middlemen, the country is positioning itself as a reliable global supplier.

The National Multi-State Cooperative Export, Organic, and Seed Societies collectively empower farmers, giving them direct market access and better price stability.

As the world searches for stable agricultural partners, India is emerging as a global leader, proving that cooperative-led trade is the key to sustainable growth. This is not just about increasing exports; it is about reshaping India’s rural economy and ensuring that farmers are at the center of global trade. The cooperative movement is India’s answer to economic resilience, making its agriculture future-proof.

This is not just a policy shift; it is a transformation that will define the future of Indian agriculture for decades to come. Cooperation is not just a principle – it is the foundation of India’s new economic resilience.

Jai Kisan! Jai Cooperative Movement!

**(The writer was a member of the high-level MSP committee, Ministry of Agriculture. Views expressed are personal)**

## Europe: The Unraveling of a Continent in Denial

NILANTHAL LANGAMUWA

As the continent clings to outdated illusions of dominance, the war in Ukraine has exposed decades of strategic miscalculations and betrayals. Now, with Washington shifting priorities and internal fractures deepening, Europe faces a stark choice: reclaim sovereignty or fade into irrelevance.

The spectacle that unfolded in the Oval Office of the White House last week was nothing short of a geopolitical farce. Volodymyr Zelensky, once the West’s prized emissary of democracy, now reduced to a beleaguered supplicant before Donald Trump and his inner circle. The desperation in his voice was palpable as he attempted to navigate the most humiliating moment of his political career with forced composure. But Trump appeared to be sizing up the Ukrainian president for obsolescence, searching for a more pliable figure to serve American interests in Ukraine. The bitter irony of history plays out in cycles, and it seems Zelensky is now on the cusp of becoming the sacrificial lamb for the West’s mounting failures – much like past puppets discarded when their usefulness waned.

Yet this moment is more than just an embarrassing episode for Ukraine’s leader; it is emblematic of a much deeper malaise – a reckoning that Europe itself can no longer evade. The European continent, which for centuries positioned itself as the epicentre of enlightenment, democracy, and civilisation, is now teetering on the precipice of its catastrophic undoing. The Ukraine war, a conflict exacerbated by the very hands that claim to seek peace, is but a symptom of an existential crisis – decades if not centuries – in the making. Europe’s ruling elite, bask-

ing in the illusions of their hegemonic past, have orchestrated betrayal after betrayal, not only against external powers but also against their long-term survival. The great deception played on the USSR, for instance, was a masterstroke in Western duplicity. The fall of the Soviet Union was not an organic collapse but a carefully engineered dismantling, with Europe-hand in hand with the United States and Britain – undermining Moscow’s geopolitical reach under the guise of partnership. Vladimir Putin himself, in his now-infamous 2007 Munich speech, laid bare the West’s treachery: “What happened to the assurances given by Western partners after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact? Where are these declarations today? No one even remembers them. But I will allow myself to remind this audience what was said. I would like to quote the speech of NATO General Secretary Mr Woerner in Brussels on 17 May 1990. He said: ‘The fact that we are ready not to place a NATO army outside of German territory gives the Soviet Union a firm security guarantee.’ Where are these guarantees?”

These assurances were nothing more than words on paper – meaningless in the grand chessboard of Western hegemony. NATO expanded, encircling Russia, reneging on every commitment, demonstrating that Europe had no intention of honouring its promises. The deliberate humiliation of Russia post-1991 – the eastward march of NATO, the exploitation of Russian economic vulnerabilities under Western-advocated ‘shock therapy’ – was an act of strategic subjugation. And yet, in an extraordinary twist of fate, the very forces that dismantled the USSR are now engineering their disintegration.

History is rife with European fragmentation, political betray-

al, and self-inflicted wounds. The Treaty of Versailles, a document intended to secure peace after the First World War, instead laid the foundation for the Second, as European powers – drunk on their perceived victory – imposed punitive measures that sowed the seeds of future destruction. The division of Germany, the appeasement of Hitler at Munich, and the Cold War partitions across the continent all serve as testaments to the European elite’s tendency to manufacture crises rather than resolve them.

The Napoleonic Wars saw Europe in constant flux, with alliances forged and broken in pursuit of hegemonic domination. The Concert of Europe, an attempt to stabilise the continent in the 19th century, ultimately disintegrated as imperial ambitions and nationalist movements undermined its very premise. European unity has historically been an illusion – punctuated by moments of cooperation swiftly followed by bitter enmities. And yet, despite this bloodstained history, modern European leaders refuse to acknowledge the destructive cycle they are perpetuating in Ukraine.

Europe, shackled by its servitude to American interests, blindly followed Washington into every geopolitical quagmire – be it in Iraq, Libya, Syria, or now Ukraine – without considering the long-term consequences. The current conflict in Ukraine is not an aberration; it is the logical culmination of decades of strategic miscalculations. The EU, by choosing to weaponise Ukraine as a battering ram against Russia rather than seeking diplomatic equilibrium, has sealed its fate. Instead of charting an independent course towards true strategic autonomy, Europe doubled down on its vassal status to the United States, believing that this alignment would

ensure perpetual dominance. But as the tides shift – with Washington’s attention pivoting towards Asia and Trump poised to prioritise ‘America First’ over NATO’s European commitments – the continent is waking up to a grim reality: it has no viable future without a fundamental realignment.

The past century has been a cycle of European duplicity – not only against Russia but also against the Global South. Latin America, Africa, and Asia suffered under colonial plunder and economic subjugation, all dressed in the language of progress. The European elite, now feigning moral righteousness in Ukraine, were the very architects of untold misery across the world. France still holds African nations in a monetary stranglehold through the CFA franc, Britain continues to exert undue influence in its former colonies, and European financial institutions dictate the economic policies of entire regions. The same Europe that lectures Russia on sovereignty had no qualms about redrawing borders, toppling governments, and instigating wars to maintain its grasp on power.

But this project is now crumbling under its contradictions. The rise of multipolarity – with China, Russia, and the Global South forging alternative economic and political alliances – signals the twilight of Western supremacy. Europe, so accustomed to imposing its will on others, now finds itself adrift: incapable of self-reliance, bereft of true leadership, and, most damningly, out of time.

Macron’s recent overtures regarding European nuclear deterrence – an implicit admission that American security guarantees are no longer sacrosanct – reveal a bloc scrambling for existential answers. Yet even now, the European elite refuse to acknowledge their culpability in this crisis. Instead of introspection, they

escalate their reckless adventurism, funnelling billions into Ukraine in a deluded attempt to ‘bleed Russia dry’ – a strategy eerily reminiscent of Cold War-era hubris, but one that now imperils Europe itself.

As a result, inflation, energy crises, deindustrialisation, and mounting social unrest are becoming the new normal. The EU, having sanctioned itself into economic paralysis, is watching its industrial base erode while American corporations feast on the carcass of what was once the world’s most formidable economic bloc. Germany, the economic engine of Europe, is faltering under the weight of its self-imposed dependence on American diktats. The Franco-German axis – long heralded as the linchpin of European unity – is fracturing under competing interests. Southern Europe resents Northern Europe’s austerity, Eastern Europe is increasingly questioning Brussels’ authority, and Britain has already jumped ship.

This is Europe’s moment of reckoning. It must either embrace true emancipation – breaking free from the yoke of outdated political dominion, reconciling with Russia, and forging a future dictated by its sovereign interests – or continue its descent into irrelevance. The choice is stark. The EU can either learn from history or become its latest tragic casualty.

The lesson of the USSR should not be lost on Europe. Superpowers do not fall in a day – they rot from within, weakened by arrogance, strategic miscalculations, and a failure to adapt to shifting geopolitical realities. Europe stands at that precipice now. The only question that remains is whether it dares to step back before the abyss swallows it whole.

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

# India, Mauritius ink eight MoUs, India to help build new Parliament Building in Mauritius

AGENCIES  
PORT LOUIS/NEW DELHI

India and Mauritius inked eight MoUs, including on the use of local currencies for trade, and on sharing of White Shipping information between their navies, following talks between PM Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Navin Ramgoolam in Port Louis.

Prime Minister Modi also announced India's support for setting up of a new Parliament Building in Mauritius, and Phase-II of High Impact Community Development projects to further enhance the development partnership.

## The agreements inked today are:

1. Agreement between Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Mauritius for the Establishment of a Framework to Promote the Use of Local Currencies (INR or MUR) for Cross-border Transactions. The objective of this Agreement is to promote use of local currencies for current account and capital account transactions, encourage direct exchange rate quotation, encourage setting up INR clearing centre in Mauritius Automated and Clearing System, extend INR clearing centre to COMESA - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - countries. This will enhance trade between two countries using local currencies.

2. Credit facility agreement between Mauritius (as borrower) and State Bank of India (as lending bank). Through this credit facility arrangement, SBI (lending bank) shall be extending a Line of Credit to the tune of INR 487.6 crore to the Borrower for the purpose of financing the 'Water Pipeline Replacement Project' in Mauritius.

3. MoU between the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (SME division) of Mauritius and the

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of India on cooperation in the field of micro, small and medium enterprises. This aims to strengthen cooperation, inter alia, in capacity building, exchange of experts, and organizing exhibition in MSME sector. The MoU will also aim to carry out surveys and feasibility studies to identify thrust areas and opportunities for development of SMEs. It will also provide a framework for training, exchanging business missions and technical assistance to organisations.

4. MoU Between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry Of External Affairs, India, And Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade, Mauritius. To augment capacity building of Mauritian diplomats at SSIFS. It also envisages to promote contacts and exchange of diplomats, faculty members and experts.

5. MoU between Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms (MPSAR), Mauritius and National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, India. Undertake training of 500 Mauritian Civil Servants over five years at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). Training will focus on Senior leadership, middle management and technical officers from Mauritius.

6. Technical Agreement on sharing of White Shipping Information between Indian Navy and Government of Mauritius. This MOU will enhance Mauritius' maritime security, trade safety, and regional cooperation by enabling real-time sharing of data, preventing illegal activities, and improving Maritime domain awareness in the region. The MoU establishes policies for the conduct of information sharing and reciprocal protection of information, relating to white shipping,



## Handover :

1. Handover of a Navigational Chart on St Brandon Island prepared following hydrography survey by Indian Naval Ship.

Announcements: During the visit Prime Minister Modi also announced India's support for setting up of a new Parliament Building in Mauritius, and Phase-II of High Impact Community Development projects to further enhance the development partnership.

between the Mauritius Police Force and the Indian Navy (IN).

7. MoU between Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI and Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Department of Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration (CSMZAE), Mauritius. This MoU establishes a comprehensive framework for cooperation on ocean observation, research, and information management, enhancing

maritime zone management in Mauritius through ocean modelling, capacity building, and training initiatives. Areas of cooperation will also include providing access to latest technologies, collaborating on best practices, capacity building in ocean services including data management, remote sensing, ocean modelling, collaboration in field of ocean observations among others.

8. Memorandum of Understanding between Directorate of Enforcement (ED) and Financial Crimes Commission of the Republic of Mauritius (FCC). This aims at providing intelligence and technical assistance cooperation on anti-corruption and anti-money laundering activities. It will also help in identifying emerging trends, knowledge exchange and adapting to evolving methodologies.

The Projects handed over: Inauguration of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, Mauritius Area Health Centre at Cap Malheureux and 20 High Impact Community Development Projects .

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation: Funded

## LIST OF PROJECTS INAUGURATED

1. Construction of Health Track and Children's Garden at Morcellement St. André inclusive of low-level fencing
2. Construction of new Children's playground at Batimara
3. Repainting handrails at NHDC, Camp Leveux
4. Upgrading of children's playground at Stanley pre-primary school
5. Upgrading of children's playground at Camp Leveux - Centre de l'Unité
6. Upgrading of children's playground at Plaisance pre-primary school
7. Renovation of the children's playground next to the Plaisance mini soccer pitch
8. Upgrading of children's playground at Lois Leveux pre-primary school, Camp Leveux
9. Upgrading of children's playground at Stanley mini soccer pitch
10. Upgrading of cemetery, janaza platform at L'Escalier
11. Upgrading of Existing Children's Garden and Greenspace at

12. Upgrading of football pitch at Trèfles into a synthetic football pitch
  13. Construction of a Mini Soccer Pitch at Morcellement Ilois,
  14. Fencing and Painting SILWF, Gris Gris (Souillac)
  15. Construction of Mini Soccer Pitch at Mont Ida
  16. Upgrading of Village Hall at La Flora
  17. Fencing of Children's playing garden (50 x75 ft) (St Aubin)
  18. Upgrading of market fair (Riviere des Anguilles)
  19. Upgrading of existing Green Space to foot-five and kids amenities and outdoor gym with lights (Cemetery Road, Trois Bras, Surinam)
  20. Upgrading/ Uplifting of Community Centres and Refugee Centres - (Disaster Risk Reduction) Prime Minister's Office (Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity Division)
- Total value of projects MUR 35.2 mn/ INR 6.63 crore.

through a grant of USD 4.74 mn under a 2017 MoU, the state-of-the-art facility will cater to the training needs of Mauritian civil servants across ministries, public offices, parastatal bodies, and government enterprises. Beyond training, the institution aims to serve as a center of excellence in public administration, fostering research and governance studies.

Area Health Centre at Cap Malheureux: The facility will augment the primary health care services around the region and enhance the well-being of the people of Mauritius.

High Impact Community Development Projects: GOI is implementing a total of around 96 community development projects all across Mauritius under grant assistance of MUR 400 million (approx INR 75 crore). These projects which include mini-soccer playgrounds, Volleyball pitches, jogging tracks, a children's garden etc aim to create community-level infrastructure in education, healthcare, public amenities, and sports.

Twenty such projects were inaugurated by both PMs today.

## Nitish, and Rabri have heated arguments over law and order, women's issues and development

AGENCIES  
PATNA, MAR 12

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and leader of opposition in Bihar Legislative Council Rabri Devi had a heated exchange on the issues of law and order, women and development in the legislative council during the pre lunch sitting on Wednesday.

The opposition while raising the issue of rising crime and deteriorating law and order created bedlam in the state legislative council.

Intervening in the

ruckus, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that whatever development was visible it was done by his government. They did nothing when they were in power, Kumar said pointing towards the opposition and especially Rabri Devi accusing her of being unaware of the work taken up by him.

Kumar said that it was he who initiated several measures for education of women and their empowerment. In addition to this Kumar said his government introduced several schemes for welfare of



Muslims. He further said that his government concentrated on the development of every section of the society.

Speaking in detail about the development of infrastructure in various sectors, Kumar said that the work done during his

tenure since he resumed power on November 24, 2005 and the achievements of the previous government should be publicised so that the people should know everything

Earlier Rabri Devi had a heated exchange of words with Kumar when

the latter said no work was done by his previous government. Following this, the opposition led by Rabri Devi staged a noisy walkout.

Later while talking to the news persons in the Council premises Rabri Devi accused Nitish Kumar of humiliating women. She alleged it seems Kumar attends the house consuming "hemp" and speaks irrelevant about women under its influence.

She also blamed Kumar for humiliating her by making personal comments.

## Leave granted to Amritpal Singh by Lok Sabha: Centre to HC

AGENCIES  
CHANDIGARH, MAR 12

The Union government on Wednesday told Punjab and Haryana High Court that MP Amritpal Singh, detained under NSA and currently lodged at Dibrugarh jail, has been granted leave of 54 days from attending the Parliament.

A bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and justice Sumit Goel was informed by ASG Satypal Jain that Amritpal's leave application has been allowed by the Parliament. Khadoor Sahib MP had, in his peti-



tion, said that being in preventive detention, he was unable to attend the Parliament proceedings and according to Article

101(4) if a member is absent from the proceedings for a period of 60 days, the Lok Sabha has the powers to declare his/her seat vacant.

## The Immigration and Foreigners Bill 2025 introduced in LS; Opposition calls it "violation" of constitutional provisions

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 12

Union Home Minister of State Nityanand Rai on Wednesday introduced The Immigration and Foreigners Bill 2025 in Lok Sabha.

He presented the bill on behalf of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, which aims to modernize and consolidate India's immigration laws.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Union MoS Nityanand Rai said, "On behalf of Amit Shah, I propose that the requirement of passport or travel document be settled in respect of persons entering and exiting India, certain powers be granted to the Central Government and to regulate matters relat-



ed to foreigners including requirement of visa and registration and permission be given to establish a bill dealing with matters connected or incidental to them."

The opposite however, calling it a "violation" of constitutional provisions and demanding the Bill to be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Congress MP Manish Tewari from Chandigarh opposed the bill, claiming that it violates the "multiple fundamental rights" under the Constitution of India.

"I rise to oppose the Immigration and Foreigners Bill under Rule 72(2) of the Lok Sabha rules of business. This bill is unconstitutional on mul-

tiiple counts and infringes upon fundamental rights," Tewari said in the house.

TMC MP Sougata Roy also voiced his opposition, stating that existing laws already govern the entry and exit of foreigners. "There are already four laws in place for this purpose. This bill is unnecessary," he said.

The Bill seeks to streamline various services related to immigration and foreigners, including their entry, exit and stay in the country. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to introduce the new bill, which will grant the Centre certain powers to provide for the requirement of passports or other travel documents in respect of persons entering into and exiting from India.

## Need for rapid capability enhancements to counter emerging security challenges: IAF chief

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 12

Chief of Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh has underscored the need for rapid capability enhancements to counter emerging security challenges in the evolving geo-strategic landscape.

He was addressing student officers from the Indian Armed Forces undergoing the 80th Staff Course, along with the permanent faculty at the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, a Defence Ministry statement said here on Wednesday.

The Air Chief Marshal urged course officers to embrace change, critically assess evolving threats, and design adaptive strat-



egies for future conflicts. Stressing the importance of jointmanship, he emphasised the need for integrated training and operational synergy among the three services to enhance combat effectiveness.

In his address, the CAS

also provided a strategic perspective on the Indian Air Force (IAF), its ongoing capability development initiatives, and the importance of unified operations in modern warfare.

He highlighted the accomplishments, resil-

ience, and unwavering commitment of IAF personnel in safeguarding India's national interests.

During his visit on March 11-12, the CAS was also briefed on the DSSC's training activities and its emphasis on fostering jointmanship among the Armed Forces, a key aspect of modern military preparedness.

He commended the institution's role in shaping future military leaders through rigorous academic and professional training.

The visit reaffirmed the IAF's commitment to enhancing joint operational capabilities and strengthening inter-service cooperation, ensuring a well-prepared leadership for the challenges of tomorrow.

## Randhawa inspects GB Pant Hospital, emphasizes improved healthcare facilities

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa, today visited GB Pant Hospital, Satwari, to assess the available healthcare facilities being provided to the general public.

Accompanied by CEO Cantonment Board, Amit Kumar Mane, Bharat Bhushan (Member, Cantonment Board), and a team of distinguished doctors including Dr. Gurvinder Singh, Dr. Sewata Sharma, Dr. Anjana Sharma, Dr. Hansy Sharma, Dr. Jyoti Kour, and Asmita Mane, he engaged in a thorough inspection of the hospital infrastructure and services.

During the visit, the Hospital Administration briefed the MLA about the hospital's functioning,



patient care, and challenges faced by the medical fraternity.

Randhawa, while appreciating the dedication of the medical staff, assured them that necessary steps would be taken to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and services.

He stressed the importance of efficient patient care, and timely availability of medicines, and improved sanitation standards within the premises.

Expressing concern over certain shortcomings, MLA Randhawa directed the hospital administration to ensure seamless coordination between medical and administrative departments for the smooth functioning of the facility. He reiterated BJP's commitment to enhancing public healthcare services under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and emphasized that no citizen should be deprived of quality medical treatment.

"The Central Government is committed to ensuring state-of-the-art medical care in Jammu & Kashmir. We will take up the matter with higher authorities to address infrastructural gaps and improve healthcare services for the people," he assured.

Randhawa laid stress on the need to develop this hospital so that it can be highly useful in case of emergencies. He further emphasized that healthcare services should also be made available to the people during night hours to ensure round-the-clock medical assistance.

The senior BJP leader also encouraged the hospital staff to continue their selfless service towards humanity and assured them of full support in resolving any grievances.

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## ADM conducts market inspection in Talab Khatikan

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Additional District Magistrate Jammu, Anshu Jamwal conducted a market inspection in the Talab Khatikan area of Jammu city in view of the ongoing Ramzan celebrations.

During the visit, shopkeepers were instructed to maintain hygiene, display proper rate lists and follow set protocols to ensure public convenience and safety. Officials emphasized that these measures are necessary to avoid penalties.

The shopkeepers were also advised to update their requisite licenses and registrations with the relevant departments, including Food Safety, Food & Civil Supplies and the Labour Department.

## Pakistan failed state, main driver of Terrorism: Dr. Tahir Choudhary



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

BJP Spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary has strongly criticized Pakistan's role in global terrorism, calling the country a "failed state" and a primary driver of terrorism in the region.

Dr. Tahir Choudhary accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, BJP Media Incharge, and Surinder Singh Gilli, BJP leader, was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

His comments come in the wake of the recent hijacking of the Jaffar Express by Baloch insurgents in Balochistan, a brazen attack that resulted in the deaths of at least 27 militants and injuries to 37 passengers.

Dr. Choudhary condemned the attack, highlighting that Pakistan's inability to control insurgent groups within its borders has exacerbated the instability in the region.

"Pakistan continues to be a breeding ground for terrorist organizations that not only threaten its own citizens but also endangers lives of people in the neighboring regions," he stated.

Referring to the ongoing insurgency in Balochistan, where groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) have targeted Pakistani military and civilian infrastructure, Dr. Choudhary pointed out that Pakistan's failure to tackle these insurgents reflects a lack of governance and accountability.

"Pakistan has become

a safe haven for terrorists and is now the epicenter of cross-border terrorism," he added.

The BJP leader also criticized the Pakistani state for harboring groups that carry out attacks on both domestic and international fronts, emphasizing how this continues to fuel violence in the region, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Choudhary reiterated that India stands firm against terrorism and will continue to expose Pakistan's role in supporting such activities.

"The international community must recognize that Pakistan is not just a victim of terrorism but is a perpetrator of it. The state-sponsored terror that emanates from Pakistan must be held accountable," said Dr. Choudhary and called for a unified global approach to address Pakistan's complicity in fueling terrorism.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra held Pakistan responsible for the present unrest and threat to the lives of its people, as it has adopted "Terrorism as its State policy". He said that unless the neighbouring nation takes strong measures to switch-off terrorist activities from its soil and adopts "public welfare policies", the condition of its own people will remain miserable and vulnerable.

"Dusron Ka Ghar Jalaane Nikle The, Apna Jalaai Baithe", said Dr. Pardeep, while expressing the present state of affairs within Pakistan.

## MLA Arvind felicitates new BJP Rehari-Bakshi Nagar Mandal Team

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, today felicitated the newly appointed team of BJP Rehari-Bakshi Nagar Mandal in a programme held here today. The event witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of party members and supporters, underscoring the party's commitment to strengthening its grassroots leadership.

During the ceremony, Arvind Gupta extended his best wishes to the newly elected office bearers, emphasizing their crucial role in furthering the party's vision and strengthening the organizational framework at the Mandal level. He expressed confidence that the new team, under the leadership of Mandal President Kushant Prajapati, will work diligently to serve the people

and uphold BJP's principles of development and good governance.

Among those who were felicitated included Bhuvnesh Gupta, Mangal Singh Chib, Kiran Kumar, and Sonu Manhas as Vice Presidents. Rekha Sharma and Mohit Vaid as General Secretaries. Jatin Gupta, Sudesh Sharma, Happy Sharma, Anuradha Sangotra as Secretaries; Kamal Kishore as Treasurer, Suresh Gupta as Office Secretary, Aman Sharma as Spokesperson, Parveen Kumar as Media Secretary, Pardeep Sharma as Social Media Secretary, Pardeep Sharma as Publicity Secretary, and Asish Gupta as IT Incharge. The Executive Members of Mandal were Mohan Lal Sharma, Vishal Targotra, Pawan Kumar, Rajesh Sharma, Nikhil Gupta, Pardeep Sharma, V.K.Pargal, Pardeep, Manju Sharma, Meenakshi

Sharma, Nikhil Gupta, Pardeep Sharma, V.K.Pargal, Pardeep, Manju Sharma, Meenakshi



Jamwal, Jyoti Sharma, Shital Sharma, Tripta Verma, Pushpa, Pooja Dogra, Veena Gupta, Jyoti Suri, Ashok Gupta, Ved Prakash Gupta, Krishan Verma, Pawan Sharma, Arjun Bakshi, Mahesh Sharma, Hira Lal Sharma, Anil Sawhney, Sheetal Santhal, Sneha Lata, and Daljeet Singh Choudhary.

Additionally, the Executive Members of the Mandal who were felicitated namely Mohan Lal Sharma, Vishal Targotra, Pawan Kumar, Rajesh

Sharma, Nikhil Gupta, Pardeep Sharma, V.K.Pargal, Pardeep, Manju Sharma, Meenakshi Jamwal, Jyoti Sharma, Shital Sharma, Tripta Verma, Pushpa, Pooja Dogra, Veena Gupta, Jyoti Suri, Ashok Gupta, Ved Prakash Gupta, Krishan Verma, Pawan Sharma, Arjun Bakshi, Mahesh Sharma, Hira Lal Sharma, Anil Sawhney, Sheetal Santhal, Sneha Lata, and Daljeet Singh Choudhary.

Speaking on the occa-

fare of the people, MLA Arvind stated that the BJP has always prioritized public service and worked tirelessly to uplift every section of society. He urged the team members to act as a bridge between the administration and the people, facilitating the smooth execution of government initiatives. He further reiterated that the party remains steadfast in its vision of fostering holistic development in Jammu, strengthening grassroots democracy, and empowering citizens with better infrastructure, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities to create a prosperous and progressive society.

The event concluded with a pledge by the new team to strengthen BJP's presence at the grassroots level and contribute towards the party's mission of inclusive growth and progress.

Highlighting the party's commitment to the wel-

## Indian Army, Indian Air Force jointly conduct Synergized Interoperability Exercise in Jammu region

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 12 MAR 2025

In a significant demonstration of joint operational readiness, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a Synergized Interoperability Exercise in the Jammu region. The exercise aimed to strengthen coordination between ground and air forces, ensuring seamless integration of aerial and land-based operations in dynamic battlefield scenarios. By refining joint operational tactics, this exercise reinforced the ability of both forces to respond swiftly and effectively to real-time challenges, particularly in high-threat environments.

Under the aegis of Tiger Division, the exercise simulated real-world operational conditions, with IAF helicopters executing a precise airlift of Army troops from a designated mounting base. The troops were then inserted into terrain characterized by dense vegetation and thick undergrowth. This complex insertion manoeuvre tested the forces' ability to operate cohesively in challenging environments, where mobility and coordination are crucial for mission success.



Following the insertion, the troops executed a simulated combat assault, engaging in coordinated manoeuvres designed to neutralize threats in a high-risk environment. The exercise also incorporated surveillance operations, precision firepower tactics, and rapid troop extraction, ensuring that personnel were prepared for complex missions requiring agility and strategic decision-making. The training provided an opportunity for soldiers and aircrew to rehearse real-time battlefield contingencies,

improving reaction times and enhancing overall preparedness.

The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force continue to invest in joint training initiatives, enhancing their ability to conduct multi-domain operations in varied terrains. This synergized interoperability exercise reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a high state of operational readiness, ensuring that both forces remain well-prepared to safeguard national security and respond to emerging threats effectively.

## JMC organizes Public Samvaad at Trikuta Nagar



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Jammu Municipal Corporation today organized Public Samvaad to Enhance Citizen Participation in Development.

Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today organized a Public Samvaad at Marble Market, Trikuta Nagar (Ward No. 52,53&54) to encourage public participation in developmental activities and ensure the effective implementation of various government schemes for the citizens of Jammu.

The event was attended by MLA Jammu South, S. Narinder Singh Raina, MLA Bahu, Vikram Singh Randhawa, Commissioner, JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who actively engaged with the public to address their

grievances and suggestions. Several prominent citizens ex deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billouria, ex corporators, Swachhata Champions, Ambassadors, and members of the public participated in the interactive session.

During the Samvaad, various urban development and civic issues were discussed which include restructuring of nallas for management water logging issues during rains, preparation of Ward Development Work Plans regarding drainage in respective wards, street Lighting Improvements, public Roads & Parks Maintenance, water Supply Concerns, and enhancement of Essential Urban Amenities.

The Commissioner emphasized the impor-

tance of public feedback so that budgetary provisions for essential projects be kept in the upcoming budget of 2025. He assured that issues of public importance like drainage, lane drain construction and sanitation shall be taken on priority.

The event emphasized collaborative governance, allowing citizens to voice their concerns directly to the authorities. The Commissioner reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring improved urban infrastructure, better public services, and active public participation in the city's development.

Among others, Senior officers of JMC and large number of locals attended the Public Samvaad.

## Youth Congress organizes Candle March in Jammu East over Billawar tragedy



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12:

The Youth Congress Jammu and Kashmir, under the directions of National Secretary Maan Singh Rathore, organized a candle march in Jammu East to protest the brutal terrorist attack in Billawar, Kathua, where three civilians, including a minor, were assassinated.

Led by Divyansh Singh Jamwal, the march witnessed strong condemnation of the attack and the government's response. Jammu criticized the silence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding immediate and decisive action against terrorism.

During the protest, Divyansh Verma and Rahul Tandon emphasized that such heinous acts should not be tolerated and urged the administration to treat these incidents with the seriousness they deserve.

They called upon the government to ensure the safety of civilians and take strict measures to prevent such attacks in the future.

Several prominent social activists and office bearers participated in the march, including Diksha Kaluria, Riya Kaluria, Sunny Parihar, Vankul Jamba, Raghav Khajuria, Sahil Dogra, Yashwant Pathania, Rohit Gupta, Michael Swaran, Veer Singh Jara, and Vikram Wazir. Rahul katal, Sunil Chandel, Sunny, Billa, Shammi, Arpit, Prince, Jagga, Vinay, Dr. Akshay Deep

The march reflected the growing concern among the people of Jammu and Kashmir over rising security threats and the demand for stronger measures to safeguard innocent lives. The Youth Congress reiterated its commitment to standing with the victims and ensuring justice for those affected by terrorism.

## Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya attends Khelo India Winter Games closing ceremony, makes announcement of converting Gulmarg into Centre of Excellence for winter sports

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MAR 2025

To provide fillip to winter sports in Jammu & Kashmir, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced the government's plans of converting Gulmarg into a sporting hub here on Wednesday.

The Union Sports Minister said this while attending the closing ceremony of the fifth Khelo India Winter Games at the Gulmarg Golf Club. The closing ceremony was also attended by honourable Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Omar Abdullah and J&K Minister of Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, among others.

"India has got immense talent and we have to find and nurture it from 9 years to 24 years. To be able to do this we have to create a sports school at each district across the sub-continent, where raw talent will be scouted and then trained at National Centres of Excellence across the country. We will ensure that they are able to compete at national and international level with all

support these youngsters require. Jammu & Kashmir is already organising one of the best upskilling of coaches' programme among all Indian States. I have conveyed to all States to follow the coaching model created by J&K," Dr. Mandaviya said during his closing ceremony address.

"The Indian government has a responsibility of developing sports across the country and Narendra Modi's government will put in all efforts to help elevate the level of sports in Jammu & Kashmir. We plan to create a sporting hub for winter sports here in Gulmarg to give the youth of Jammu & Kashmir the best opportunity and infrastructure to excel in sports," he added.

Dr. Mandaviya said that he met sports ministers of 28 States and 8 Union Territories and senior members of National Sports Federations to create a proper roadmap in the build-up to hosting the 2036 Summer Olympics.

"Keeping in mind that we want to host the 2036 Olympic Games, we have to develop a robust sports infrastructure and a qual-



ity sports ecosystem. For this we will have to create a proper roadmap. Many at times we set a goal but the pathway required to reach there is missing. For this we had a three-day brainstorming session with the sports ministers, senior representatives of National Sports Federations, renowned athletes and sports experts in Hyderabad last week. We created a roadmap for the next 10 years with the inputs we received from all stakeholders," he said.

The Union Sports Minister said that Gulmarg was known not just as a meadow of flowers but had now also come to be known as India's Winter Games city.

"I have visited many foreign countries and skiing destinations but I can tell you that Gulmarg is way better, way beautiful and one of the best tourist and skiing destinations in the world. We just have to use opportunities to make the destination even better," he said.

Army crowned Khelo India Winter Games 2025 champions

Dr. Mandaviya handed the champions trophy to the Indian Army, who clinched 18 medals, including 7 gold 5 silver and 6 bronze, to defend their title. A spirited Himachal Pradesh had to settle for the runner-up title with 6 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze medals. Union Territory of

Ladakh came third with 7 medals, comprising 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze.

Himachal Pradesh gave their all on the final day by winning the women's relay gold medal in ski mountaineering but had to settle for second position behind the Indian Army, who retained their Winter Games title by virtue of winning one more gold medal than their rivals on Wednesday. It was a small heartbreak for Himachal Pradesh as they had clinched 7 medals the previous day including a clean sweep in Alpine skiing women's slalom event.

Army defended their Winter Games title thanks to an exposure trip to Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China, which gave their confidence of a big boost. The Jawans, majorly stationed at the High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg, took advantage of local knowledge and acclimatisation to extreme weather conditions including continuous snowfall, strong chilly winds, threat of avalanches and poor visibility.

The Winter Games saw Indian Army reigning

supreme in the Nordic skiing events, while Indo-Tibetan Border Police ruled the same discipline in women's category.

KIWG witnessed a plethora of multiple medallists including Rajeshwar Singh (2 gold 1 silver in ski mountaineering), Kusum Rana (2 gold 1 bronze in women's Nordic skiing), Sunny Singh (1 gold 1 silver 1 bronze in men's Nordic skiing) and Siddharth Gadekar (1 gold 1 silver in ski mountaineering), among others.

Also evident from the medal tally is that the States with no natural topography for winter sports have fared well in this edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, only proving that the relentless efforts of the Government of India to popularise this niche game is bearing fruit. States like Maharashtra with 13 medals and Tamil Nadu with 5 medals are enough proof of this.

In the last edition, Army finished on top of the medal tally with 10 gold, just one more than Karnataka and three more than No. 3 Maharashtra.

## Shiv Sena warns to refrain from communal terrorism, demands strengthen intelligence agencies



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded strict crushing of the module of communal terrorism and strengthening of intelligence system, fixing accountability.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that Pak-sponsored terrorism, along with narco terror, is now continuing its activities in Jammu division with the help of 'communal terrorism'. Hiding behind the forests and hilly areas, security forces and innocent, unarmed people are being targeted.

In the year 2024, 8 out of 10 districts of Jammu division have been shaken by terrorist attacks. In about 10 major terrorist attacks, about a dozen soldiers

made the supreme sacrifice and about the same number of innocent and unarmed people were killed.

The recent disappearances and suspicious deaths of people in Bilarwar of Kathua district are a clear picture of the nefarious and cowardly activities of terrorists. In the last 25 days, five innocent and unarmed people have been killed. Sahni has demanded strict action against the terrorists camping in the jungles and hilly areas along with strengthening the modern communication network and intelligence system. Sahni has demanded a warning to those who adopt the module of spoiling the communal atmosphere and a stop to these nefarious and cowardly activities.

## Hakeem Yaseen urges PM Modi, HM Shah to reconsider ban on AAC and JKIM

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 12

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to reconsider and lift the recently imposed ban on the Awami Action Committee (AAC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM), citing their long-standing service to Kashmir.

Expressing deep concern over the Central Government's decision to impose a five-year ban on AAC, led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and JKIM, headed by Masroor Abbas Ansari, under



the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), Hakeem Yaseen emphasized their significant contributions to Kashmir's socio-political and religious landscape.

"These organizations have played an important role in Kashmir's history and have served the people for decades. Given their immense contribution, the government should reconsider its decision and lift

the ban," Hakeem Yaseen stated.

He appealed to the Centre to adopt a more inclusive approach that fosters dialogue and engagement rather than alienation.

"At a time when efforts should be focused on restoring peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, it is essential to involve all stakeholders in constructive discussions rather than imposing restrictions," he added.

Hakeem Yaseen urged the Central Government to review the decision in the larger interest of stability and harmony in the region. He reiterated his commitment to advocating for the democratic and constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## GoI to reach out to the global community ahead of the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit 2025 to be held in Mumbai from 1st May 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 MARCH

In a significant step towards fostering international collaboration in the Media & Entertainment sector, the Government of India will reach out to the global community ahead of the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 on 13th March 2025 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi at 4.30 PM. This outreach event organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will seek participation in a crucial Global Media Dialogue from different governments ahead of the first WAVES Declaration in Mumbai on 2nd May 2025.

Union Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Railways and MeitY Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting & Parliamentary

Affairs Dr. L. Murugan, with host state Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis to highlight the transformative potential of WAVES as a unified global platform for the rapidly growing Media & Entertainment sector. The event will be attended by more than 100 ambassadors and high commissioners and will outline opportunities for a synergistic approach in the M&E sector.

GLOBAL MEDIA DIALOGUE

Global Media Dialogue, to be held at World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 on 2nd May 2025 in Mumbai, aims to bring together global leaders, policymakers, industry stakeholders, media professionals, and artists to engage in a constructive and dynamic dialogue aimed at shaping the future of the audio-visual and entertainment sectors with a focus on international collaboration, technological innovation, and

ethical practices.

Key discussion points

A key objective of the dialogue is to promote open dialogue and cooperation among nations to ensure the fair and transparent growth of the M&E sector. Discussions will focus on strategies to enhance cross-border collaboration, and to serve as a platform for knowledge-sharing and fostering partnerships to address common challenges and opportunities. The dialogue will also emphasize the importance of open and fair trade practices in the M&E sector, ensuring equitable access and growth for all stakeholders. The key agenda points of the Global Media Dialogue under the aegis of WAVES include discussing opportunities and concerns common to all nations in the Media and Entertainment sector, with a view to fostering global harmony. WAVES 2025

WAVES is a premier global event that brings together the entire Media and Entertainment (M&E) sector to be hosted at Mumbai, Maharashtra from 1st May to 4th May 2025. It aims to connect India's M&E industry with the global market and the global M&E industry with the Indian market, fostering growth, collaborations, and innovations. WAVES aims to become a global convergence summit for the media and entertainment industry. It is set to magnify India's creative strength, amplifying its position as a hub for content creation, intellectual property, and technological innovation. Industries and sectors in focus include Broadcasting, Print Media, Television, Radio, Films, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, Sound and Music, Advertising, Digital Media, Social Media Platforms, Generative AI, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality

(VR) and Extended Reality (XR).

Building on this vision, WAVES 2025 will feature several dynamic platforms to promote collaboration and innovation. The WAVES Bazaar will provide a marketplace for business partnerships and content acquisition, including the launch of the first-ever e-bazaar for year-round global content trade. The WaveXcelerator will connect M&E startups with investors and mentors through live pitching sessions to foster innovation and funding. The CreateSphere will offer immersive experiences with masterclasses, workshops, a gaming arena, and the Grand Finale of the Create in India Challenges, culminating in the WAVES CIC Awards. Together, these initiatives aim to position WAVES 2025 as a transformative event driving a unified and synergistic approach to the global M&E industry.

## DDC Chairperson Reasi finalises projects under PMJVK Scheme

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI MARCH 12

District Development Council Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag, along with Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to finalise projects under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) scheme of the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The centrally-sponsored initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, focuses on improving the socio-economic condition of minorities across India. The PMJVK scheme aims to bridge socio-economic gaps through targeted interventions in health, education, and skill development. During the meeting, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Sachin Sharma provided a comprehensive briefing on the scheme and



the works to be approved.

The District Level Committee headed by DDC Chairperson emphasized the importance of achieving the scheme's objectives, which aim to bridge the socio-economic gaps in various sectors, including health, education and skill development. Some new works were proposed in the meeting and the Deputy Commissioner gave directions to CMO and CEO to assess the feasibility of the same at the earliest.

A total of nine projects received approval from the committee out of which eight were from the Education Department and one from the Health & Medical Education Department. The initiative marks a crucial step towards enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Reasi and fostering inclusive growth in the region.

DPO Pankaj Bagotra, CPO Narinder Kumar, CEO, and CMO were also present in the meeting.

## BJP Stands Firm with Daily Wagers, Demands Immediate Regularization: Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Senior BJP leader Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia strongly reiterated the party's unwavering commitment to securing justice for daily wagers, highlighting the decades of betrayal they have endured at the hands of successive governments.

Addressing the media, Dr. Jasrotia said that daily wagers have been struggling since 1996-97, initially appointed on false promises made by the National Conference (NC), followed by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Congress – all of whom



played the same role of misleading and exploiting them. For over two decades, these workers have toiled under harsh conditions, surviving on meager wages of Rs 500-700 per month, while their hopes for regularization were repeatedly crushed.

Dr. Jasrotia asserted that it was the BJP that first took

a proactive stand, ensuring a significant increase in their salaries, raising it to Rs 9,000 per month. He further pointed out that during the previous elections, the BJP had made a clear promise to the daily wagers – that the first decision of the assembly would be their regularization. However, despite securing 1.5 lakh votes more than the NC, the BJP unfortunately found itself in the opposition.

Dr. Jasrotia criticized the Omar Abdullah-led NC government for deceiving daily wagers. He highlighted that when BJP Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma raised the issue, Omar Abdullah tried to

deflect the matter. According to Dr. Jasrotia, Omar Abdullah's statement suggested a six-month timeline for forming a committee to review the issue, followed by potential consideration in the next year's budget – a move BJP condemns as an eyewash designed to delay and mislead.

Backing Sunil Sharma's strong intervention in the assembly, Dr. Jasrotia emphasized that the BJP continues to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the daily wagers in their fight for regularization. He assured that BJP remains dedicated to ensuring these workers receive the justice

they deserve.

"In every protest and agitation led by the daily wagers, BJP leaders have stood with them, offering unwavering support," Dr. Jasrotia said, reaffirming the party's commitment to their cause. Dr. Jasrotia concluded by stating that the BJP will continue to fight for the immediate regularization of daily wagers and will hold the current government accountable for their promises. He urged the administration to stop playing with the lives and livelihoods of these hardworking people and take swift, concrete steps to secure their future.

# With a Focus on 'Made in India, Made for India', Haier expands Greater Noida Plant with New AC Production and Injection Molding Units, Investing INR 1,000 Crore

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Haier Appliances India, the No. 1 global major appliances brand for 16 consecutive years, has expanded its AC manufacturing with ground breaking capabilities and inaugurated a new Injection Molding facility at its Greater Noida plant. One of the leading home appliances manufacturer in India, this development is another step towards strengthening the "Made in India, Made for India" initiative.

The groundbreaking ceremony was led by the Hon'ble Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh and Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India in the presence of Mr. Anurag Yadav, Principal Secretary of IT & Electronics and Mr. Ravi Kumar NG, CEO Greater Noida Authority. The milestone reaffirms Haier's commitment to 'Made in India, Made for India,' strengthening local manufacturing, fostering innovation, and driving economic growth of the country.

Haier has committed significant investments to these new facilities. Between 2024-2028, Haier will make an additional investment of over 1,000 crore, creating employment for additional 3,500 people, and will significantly contribute to the economic growth of Uttar Pradesh. These investments are a key part of Haier's strategy to expand its manufacturing footprint in India.

The upcoming AC factory will boast an impressive



annual production capacity of 2.5 million units, expanding the existing 1.5 million units to a total of 4 million units. Meanwhile, the Injection Molding facility will strengthen the production of key components, enhancing manufacturing efficiency across Haier's product categories.

With 90% of all appliances being manufactured locally by Haier India, the new facilities will further reduce dependencies on imports while ensuring faster production cycles to meet the rising demand for Haier's products in India and neighboring markets.

Gracing the occasion, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh said, "We extend our sincere congratulations to Haier India on the significant milestone of expanding its manufacturing operations in Greater Noida. Under the visionary leadership and guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri. Yogi Adityanath Ji, Uttar Pradesh is on its way to becoming a manufacturing hub and Haier's commitment underscores the growing collaboration

between the State and leading global manufacturers. We are confident that this facility will play a crucial role in driving the state's economic growth, and further establish India as a key player in the global manufacturing sector. We wish Haier India continued success in its endeavors."

On the occasion, Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India, expressed, "The inauguration of the Injection Molding factory and the ground breaking ceremony of the AC manufacturing unit mark another milestone in our journey to truly become a partner in India's economic growth. This expansion at the Greater Noida plant underscores our commitment to the country's 'Make in India' initiative and has been made possible by the strong support of the Government of India. The upcoming AC manufacturing unit will significantly enhance our production capacity to meet the growing local demand while also creating significant job opportunities."

Haier's manufacturing journey in Uttar Pradesh

began in the year 2019 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Haier India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Since then, Haier has invested over 1,400 crore in Uttar Pradesh during 2019-2023, directly employing around 3,500 people in the state.

Since 2007, Haier India has been manufacturing appliances locally, steadily expanding its operations with a strong focus on innovation, localized production, and sustainability. Haier established its first manufacturing facility in India in 2007 at Ranjanagaon, Pune, Maharashtra, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to the Indian market.

Aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative, Haier India remains committed to strengthening national manufacturing capabilities—an effort recognized through six national excellence awards. With its latest expansions, Haier continues to drive economic growth, create employment opportunities, and deliver best-in-segment, customer-centric products, reaffirming its leadership in India's home appliances sector.

# NIT Srinagar ranked in top 1500 globally in prestigious 'The World University Rankings 2025'

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been recognized in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025. NIT Srinagar has secured a ranking in the 1201-1500th category overall and 1001-1250th in the Engineering category.

The rankings are based on a comprehensive evaluation of universities across five key performance indicators: Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, Industry Engagement, and International Outlook.

NIT Srinagar's scores in these parameters reflect its continuous efforts toward academic and research excellence. The institute achieved a score of 26.1 in Teaching, 12.8 in Research Environment, 43 in Research Quality, 18.4 in Industry Engagement, and 25.8 in International Outlook.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 assessed from 108 countries and regions using



the latest WUR 3.0 methodology, which incorporates 18 calibrated performance indicators.

This year's rankings analyzed over 134 million citations from 16.5 million research publications and included survey responses from 68,402 scholars worldwide. A total of 411,789 data points were collected from 2,673 institutions that submitted data for the rankings.


Speaking on this recognition, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kanaujia in his message said this remarkable achievement under-

scores NIT Srinagar's commitment to academic excellence, research innovation, and global engagement. We are committed to further enhancing our academic and research standards to make NIT Srinagar a globally recognized institution, he added.


Institute's Registrar Prof. Atik-ur-Rehman said this achievement reflects our sustained efforts to improve our research output and academic excellence. We will continue striving towards greater innovation and global collaborations, he added.

Nodal Officer, Institute ranking Dr. Vijay Kumar and Dr. Harveer Singh Pali both appreciated the efforts and active participation of all Deans, HoD's, HoC's, faculty and non-faculty staff, and students which led to this great achievement.

He expressed their gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar; Prof. Binod Kanaujia led administration for their consistent support and encouragement. "We are confident that, in future we will improve our rankings and recognition of the Institute," he added.



**GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**IT&C Division, Gladni Grid Station Complex, Narwal, Jammu-180006 (J&K)**  
**Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.**  
E-mail: [xentitpdcl@gmail.com](mailto:xentitpdcl@gmail.com)



### CANCELLATION NOTICE

**Sub: "Hiring of Chartered Accountant (CA) for Auditing & Tax related services of JPDCL for the FY 2024-25 & 2025-26"**

**Ref: e-NIT NO: 06 of 2024-25 Dated: 07/02/2025**


The above cited e-NIT issued vide this office endorsement No.: IT&C/Tender/J/266-70 Dated: 07-02-2025 is here by cancelled.

-Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
**IT&C Division, JPDCL**  
**Jammu**

**Dated: - 11-03-2025**

**NO: IT&C/CancellationNotice/J/334-38**  
**DIP/J-4267-P/24**  
**Date: 12-3-25**

jammutourism.gov.in  
e-mail [dirtsmjmu@gmail.com](mailto:dirtsmjmu@gmail.com)



**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, TRC RESIDENCY ROAD, JAMMU**

Ph.0191-2520409  
Fax. 0191-2548358

### PUBLIC NOTICE

- Section 7 of Foreigners Act 1946, outlines that online Form C is a mandatory form that needs to be filled up for all foreigners by Hotel keepers, Home stays, Guest Houses and others, on government site [indianfro.gov.in/](http://indianfro.gov.in/) [boi.gov.in](http://boi.gov.in). Moreover, non-conformity to the above directions can attract imprisonment for a term which may extend to 5 years and shall also be liable to fine- under section 14 of Foreigner's Act 1946.
- Hotels/Lodges/Home stays/individual houses/ universities/Hospital/Hostels/institutions and others who provide accommodation to foreigners must submit the details of the residing foreigner in Form C to the Registration authorities within 24 hours of the arrival of the foreigner at their premises. This will help the registration authorities in locating and tracking the foreigners.
- Form-C must include the following details of the visiting foreigner guests:
  - Arrival and departure date.
  - Photo ID proof of all the foreigners.
  - Detail of Valid travel documents which includes valid Passport and Visa.
  - Purpose of visit (to be added under remarks column).
  - Name of Indian reference with mobile number.
  - Further tour programme with next destinations to be visited.
- Any person hosting a foreign guest for monetary consideration is required to submit form C. This also includes Foreigners on Tourist visa, Business visa, Visiting visa, Employment visa, Medical visa, conference visa, project visa, intern visa, research visa, Journalist visa etc.
- The Host shall maintain separate Visitors Registers mentioning correct arrival/departure dates and timing of the foreigner.
- In case of any suspicion or default on the part of Foreigners checked in to your respective Hotels, Lodges, Home Stays and Guest Houses etc. inform immediately to CID SB Jammu Control Room on telephone Nos. 0191-2584375, 0191-2582621, 6005504514, 8825097826.

No:-DTJ/Reg/12077-80  
Dated 12.03.2025

sd/-  
Deputy Director Tourism,  
Jammu

**DIP/J-11016/24**  
**Date: 12-3-25**

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**Fresh e-NIT No. 58 of 2024-25 Dated 10-03-2025**

**TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLE**

e-Tenders (Online) are invited from Reputed parties/ Agencies for supplying vehicle One Number Scorpio on Monthly Hire-basis for official use Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi interested parties/agencies who are willing to comply with the terms and conditions annexed to this notice, may submit their bids, online, as given in the instructions for online bids submission (Annexure-D).  
The threshold of attachments for Technical Bid (Annexure-A), and Tender Acceptance Letter (Annexure-C). The Financial Bid/Bids will be taken upon only if the technical specifications are found satisfactory; otherwise the Tender will be straightway rejected.  
Details of tender notice are available on the website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>  
The details of the Vehicle to be hired are under:

Sr. No.	Category	No. of Vehicles required	Usage
1.	Hiring of vehicle (Scorpio) on monthly rental basis for Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi (without Driver and fuel ) Mahindra Scorpio	01(One)	To be used on daily basis 24 hours.

**A. This office may surrender the vehicle, if not needed by Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi issuing 10 Days notice.**  
**B. Rates are to be quoted inclusive of all taxes for the vehicle which may be diesel version for on amount Rs. 3,0000 PM.**

**Position of funds :- contingency**  
**Data Sheet**

Item	Description
Name of the Hirer	Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
Tender Name	Hiring of Vehicle
Method of Selection	Open e-Tender
Availability of Tender Documents	To be downloaded from <a href="https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app">https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app</a>
Date and time of tender notice issuance	10.03.2025
Period of availability of Bidding Documents on website <a href="https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app">https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app</a>	11.03.2025 to 20.03.2025 at 04:00 PM
Bid Submission start date	11.03.2025
EMD :-7000/-	EMD Pledge to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
Cost Of Tender Document:- 600/-	Rupees Six Hundered (non-refundable) only in the form of e-challan/treasury challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue)
Last date and time for Bid/Proposal submission (On or before)	20.03.2025 at 04:00 PM
Bid Opening Time, Date & Venue	12:00 PM on 22-03-2025 in the office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
Language of Bid Submission	ENGLISH
Currency	Indian Rupees (INR)
Period of Hiring	365 days.

No - 6078-82  
Dated: - 10.03.2025

Sd/-  
**(Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra)**  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Reasi

**DIP/J-10995/24**  
**Date: 12-3-25**

## Tree Plantation Drive conducted at Thanamandi, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 12 MAR 2025

A Tree Plantation Drive was conducted by the Indian Army at Thanamandi on 12 March 2025, with an aim towards creating a greener, healthier and more sustainable future and also to create awareness amongst the local populace. The event witnessed approximately 115 people including 21 x Gents, 32 x Ladies, 38 x Children and 24 x Army Persons at Thanamandi. Tree plantation drive is a step towards creating a greener, healthier and more sustainable future. We believe that collective action can lead to significant positive change. Tree plantation session came to be a great success. The event helped to bring awareness about the green cover around us. It also helped in strengthening the bond between plants and humans. People got to learn a lot and will always cherish the memories of the important occasion,



Indian Army's outreach to Schools and local community Groups have encouraged them for participating in such events on regular basis.

The event was organised with an informative session on the importance of trees and their role in combating climate change and also to encourage participants and local residents to take responsibility for the care and maintenance of the newly planted trees. The joint efforts of Indian Army, Students and Locals contributed towards the success of the event. The event will not only be a step to increase the number of trees planted, but also

increase awareness among the participants and the community about the significance of preserving the environment. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by AWAM. This endeavour by Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between JAWAN and AWAM. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Army and the people of this region, it showcased Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

## Cluster University of Jammu and Desh Bhagat University Sign MoU to Foster Academic and Professional Collaboration

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), J&K, and Desh Bhagat University (DBU), Punjab, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote academic excellence, research collaboration, and professional growth among students and faculty members.

The MoU was formally signed by Ms Ankur Mahajan Registrar of CLUJ, and the Registrar of DBU, with senior officials and academic leaders from both institutions present at the ceremony. Dr. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor of CLUJ, provided an insightful briefing about the university through a presentation, while Ms. Pooja, Director of Placement at DBU, presented DBU and presented an overview of their institution.



The agreement aims to facilitate joint efforts in organizing job fairs, industry-specific workshops, internship and placement drives, research collaborations, and academic exchange programs. Through this partnership, both universities will organize a job fair in April 2025 at CLUJ, providing students with opportunities to connect with industry professionals and explore career prospects.

The signing ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Dr. K.S. Chandrasekar (Vice-Chancellor, CLUJ), Ms. Ankur Mahajan (Registrar, CLUJ), Deans, Principals of constituent colleges, and FA/ CAO. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. D.S. Manhas, Director of the Placement Cell at CLUJ.

This collaboration marks a significant step toward strengthening industry-academia linkages and enhancing the employability of students from both institutions.

## Airtel celebrates Annual Customer Day with 1,290+ Employees Engaging Directly with Customers in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

As part of its annual "Customer Day" celebrations, Airtel Jammu and Kashmir's 1,290+ strong workforce spent the entire day on Wednesday in the field, gathering direct feedback from customers, retailers, and other stakeholders. Every year on this date, All Airtel employees step out of their offices and engage directly with customers across the country, reinforcing the company's commitment to service excellence and customer satisfaction.



## Col. Mahan advocates modern farming techniques, calls for 2nd KVK at Basohli



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, MARCH 12

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman, Col. (Retd.) Mahan Singh, visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kathua today, where he interacted with local farmers and a group of farmers from Reasi District on an exposure visit.

During his interaction, Col. (Retd.) Mahan Singh urged the farming community to embrace modern agricultural techniques that can significantly enhance productivity and profitability. He emphasized the importance of adopting high-yield variety seeds, which can help farmers achieve better crop output even in challenging climatic conditions. He also encouraged the promotion of organic farming, which not only ensures healthier produce but also maintains soil fertility in the long run. Additionally, he stressed the need for value addition to agricultural products, enabling farmers to process and package their produce efficiently, thereby fetching better market prices.

Earlier, he was warmly welcomed by Dr. Vishal Mahajan, agricultural scientists, and progressive farmers, who expressed gratitude for his proactive approach in championing the cause of the farming community.

Col. Mahan Singh also highlighted the various

initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to empower the farming community. He spoke about the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, which provides direct financial assistance to farmers, and the Soil Health Card Scheme, aimed at ensuring optimal fertilizer use for better yields. He also lauded the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, which safeguards farmers from crop loss due to natural calamities. Stressing the government's commitment to agricultural development, he urged farmers to take full advantage of these schemes and integrate modern techniques with traditional wisdom to build a self-reliant and prosperous farming ecosystem.

Highlighting a critical issue, the DDC Chairman underscored the urgent requirement for a second KVK in Basohli to cater to the needs of farmers in the hilly regions of Kathua. He pointed out that the existing KVK at Rangani is insufficient to address the demands of the vast district. Furthermore, he stressed the necessity of an improved marketing system to ensure better financial returns for farmers.

The visit concluded on a positive note, with Col. Mahan Singh reiterating his commitment to addressing farmers' concerns and enhancing agricultural development in the district.

## Ratnuchak Military Station organizes Breast Cancer Awareness Camp on Eve of International Women's Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RATNUCHAK: 12 MAR 2025

In a dedicated effort to promote women's health and well-being, Ratnuchak Military Station organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Camp on the eve of International Women's Day 2025. The event, conducted in collaboration with the team of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, aimed to educate and empower women about early detection, prevention, and treatment of breast cancer, reinforcing the importance of regular screenings and self-examinations.



The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from women across the military community, including families of service personnel, officers, and civilian staff. A team of expert oncologists and medical professionals from Government Medical College, Jammu conducted informative sessions on breast cancer awareness, risk factors, and lifestyle modifications that can help

in prevention. Free screening tests and consultations were also provided to attendees.

Ratnuchak Military Station, emphasized the significance of proactive healthcare and early detection. "Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women, but with timely detection and awareness, it is highly treatable. This initiative, in collaboration with GMC, Jammu, is a step towards

ensuring that our community is well-informed and proactive about their health.

The event also featured interactive Q&A sessions, personal survivor testimonials, and distribution of educational material to spread awareness beyond the camp. The initiative was well-received, reinforcing the military station's commitment to the health and welfare of its personnel and their families.

## There is a need to strengthen education and healthcare in J&K: Tarigami

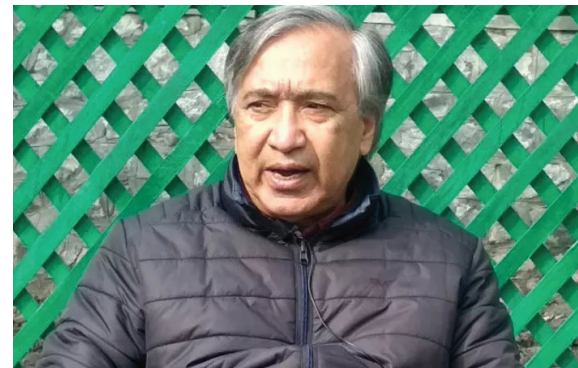
J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 11

Senior CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam today urged the government to liberate education from consumerism and commodification. He was speaking in the Legislative Assembly on demands for grants.

He referred to the new national education policy, stating that free universal education had been available in J&K long ago. He alleged that under the new education policy, efforts were being made to distort history, which is not a positive sign.

Referring to the privatization of education, Tarigami expressed great concern over the heavy fees charged by private schools. He said that poor parents are unable to afford these fees and urged the state government to reorient the education system in J&K so that the poor also have the opportunity to receive quality education.

He said that controversies were being created about kings, while history does not belong to



kings; rather, it belongs to the people. He urged the education minister to initiate reforms that promote scientific temper among students. Education, Tarigami said, must be saved from the market economy.

Regarding healthcare, Tarigami referred to SKIMS, Srinagar, and said that this institute provides good healthcare facilities to the poor. He stressed that its autonomy should not be made controversial, as PGI Chandigarh is also an autonomous institute of premium quality. Tarigami urged the government to equip all government hospitals and medical colleges with the necessary facilities and staff so that patients from

J&K are not forced to go outside the state for treatment, as is happening at present.

Tarigami urged the education minister to consider raising the status of Degree College Anantnag to the level of a deemed university. He also demanded an increase in salaries and assured incentives for ASHA workers. Referring to the plight of daily wagers, he said that if the UT of Ladakh has been paying higher minimum wages to different categories of workers, Jammu and Kashmir should do the same. Tarigami also demanded an increase in the monthly pension for physically challenged persons.

## Movement Kalki holds symbolic protest, demands 'National Mother' Status for Gau Mata, condemns Govt silence in Assembly

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Today, under the banner of Movement Kalki, a symbolic protest was held at Press Club, Jammu, where numerous office bearers, activists, and cow devotees participated. The protest was led by Movement Kalki's Advisor Pritam Sharma and Board Member Karnail Chand. The primary objective of this demonstration was to reiterate the demand to declare Gau Mata as the "National Mother" and to protest against the government's silence on this issue in the assembly.



Anger Over Government's Negligence  
The protesters accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and National Conference leaders of failing to raise this issue in the assembly, despite receiving a memorandum from

Movement Kalki. Due to the government's inaction, cow smuggling incidents are increasing daily, yet no strict measures have been taken.

The demonstrators highlighted a recent incident at Vikram Chowk, where a young man was hit by cattle smugglers, resulting in a broken leg and severe injuries. His treatment is ongoing, yet

the government has not provided any compensation, just like in previous attacks by cattle smugglers. The protestors questioned:

Will the situation in Jammu & Kashmir continue to deteriorate?

Is the government involved in corruption?  
Why is there complete silence in the assembly on this critical issue?

Questioning the Role of Political Parties

Movement Kalki members criticized BJP, National Conference, Aam Aadmi Party, and other opposition parties for their inaction. They stated that until Gau Mata is given the status of "National Mother" and strict anti-cow smuggling laws are enforced, the movement will continue. They also

emphasized the need for a Sanatan Board, stating: "The Modi government speaks of Ram Rajya, but without the protection of Gau Mata and the establishment of a Sanatan Board, the dream of a Hindu Rashtra and Ram Rajya remains imaginary."

Key Members Present at the Protest

Several prominent members of Movement Kalki participated in the protest, including:  
Sanjeev Dubey  
Pawan Sharma  
Advocate Harmeet Singh  
Anuradha Yogi  
Sapna Hindu  
Pritam Sharma  
Karnail Chand  
Advocate Someshwar Kohli  
Sunny Kaphai  
Dr. Sudesh Kumar  
Other Organization Members  
Movement Kalki's Key

Demands

1. Gau Mata should be officially declared as the "National Mother."

2. Strict laws should be enacted against cow smuggling, ensuring severe punishment for offenders.

3. A Special Task Force should be formed for the protection of cows.

4. Government support should be provided to those engaged in cow protection and service.

5. An immediate discussion on this issue should be conducted in the assembly, followed by decisive action.

Warning to the Government

Movement Kalki has warned the government that if immediate action is not taken on these demands, the agitation will intensify.

Jai Gau Mata! Jai Hindu Dharma!

## 9 children in street situation rescued from Jammu city

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

The district administration Jammu has rescued nine homeless children from different parts of the Jammu City in the past two days.

Three children in the street situation were rescued from the Gole Market area today during a rescue drive. The drive is being conducted to rescue children forced in begging, rag-picking and child labour.

Earlier yesterday, the District Task Force conducted a similar drive in

Talab Tillo. Six children engaged in begging and rag-picking were rescued from the area. Among them were three boys and three girls. They were handed over to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for rehabilitation. All the rescued children have been placed in shelter homes, where they will receive proper care and support.

The district administration has urged the public to report cases of child labour and begging. Citizens can call or message on WhatsApp at 7006161996.

# Soil Health Cards for J&K Forests on anvil

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun under Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has launched a project to prepare Forest Soil Health Cards in the country.

The exercise in J&K has been taken up by Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimla under the aegis of ICFRE. Under the project, samples of soils were collected from different territorial forest divisions. The samples were analyzed and data obtained has been shared with the J&K Forest Department for inputs.

In this regard, a consultative meeting on FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARDS (FSHCs) of Jammu and Kashmir was organized at Forest Resources Management Centre Jammu today.

The meeting was chaired by Principal Chief

Conservator & HoFF Jammu and Kashmir Suresh Kr. Gupta. All the senior officers of forest department and Divisional Forest Officers attended the meeting.

Director Himalayan Forest Research Institute Shimla Dr. Sandeep Sharma; National Project Coordinator (NPC) from ICFRE Dr. V.P. Panwar; Scientist-G and Principal Investigator, Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla Dr. R.K. Verma, along with a team of scientists and officers coordinated and participated in the meeting.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director HFRI Shimla apprised the participants that his institute has been given the task of preparation of Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) of Jammu & Kashmir UT under one of the All India Coordinated Research Projects. He informed that besides



Jammu and Kashmir, the institute has also prepared the Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) for Ladakh UT and Himachal Pradesh under this project. He further informed that these Forest Soil Health Cards (FSHCs) have been prepared after collection of soil samples from different forest classes including the degraded areas, non-forests areas and scrub forests.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma said that the main objective of the project was preparation of forest soil health cards and find out the status of forest soil in terms of availability of different macro and micro nutrients to the plants; understand the soil related constraints in degrad-

ed areas, and address the existing knowledge gaps in management of forest soils; suggesting recommendations for improvement in the nutrient deficient soils for success of forestry plantation and productivity enhancement.

In his inaugural address, PCCF & HoFF, J&K Suresh K. Gupta, highlighted the importance of forest soils and talked at length about the range of ecosystem services provided by forest soils. He expressed his concern over the degradation of soils in general and forest soils in particular. In Jammu and Kashmir perspective, he said that though the forest wealth is profuse but issues like

degraded areas, shallow soils at places, acidic and alkalinity related problems, poor nutrient availability, less success in plantation activities, cannot be overlooked.

Appreciating the efforts of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, he said that the initiative of preparing the FSHCs of Jammu and Kashmir UT is certainly praiseworthy work and knowledge sharing by the institute will be useful for the forest managers and frontline field.

National Project Coordinator (NPC) Dr. Vijender Pal Panwar gave a presentation elucidating the genesis, conceptualisation, implementation, and key outcomes of the project.

Later, Principal Investigator, Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla Dr. R.K. Verma, interacted with the participants and gave a detailed presentation

about the Forest Soils Health Cards (FSHCs) and explained how soil samples have been collected from different locations of Jammu and Kashmir territorial forest divisions and analysed as per the standard protocols. He also explained about the use of GIS and RS tools for deciding the sampling locations and quantum of samples to be collected from each forest division. He also discussed the various organic and inorganic recommendations made in the FSHCs. This was followed by detailed discussion on the contents and FSHCs. The Officers of the forest department provided useful inputs/insights for refinement of these cards. Dushyant Kumar, Senior Technical Officer, HFRI Shimla conducted the proceedings of the meeting and also proposed the formal vote of thanks.

## 11 Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Systems proposed in Jammu Division: Javid Rana



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javid Ahmad Rana, today informed the House that several measures are being taken up to address the pollution and other environmental concerns affecting the Chenab and Ravi rivers in Jammu region.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Davinder Kumar Manyal in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that 11 Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Systems (DEWATS) have been proposed for various districts of Jammu Division through Rural Development Department to tackle river pollution caused by grey water discharge from the households.

He stated that, of these, 04 works have already been commenced and these systems are specifically designed to effectively mitigate pollution concerns and improve the environmental health of rivers in the region.

The Minister informed that a DPR for "Improvement and Strengthening of Main Ravi Canal and its distribution network" amounting Rs. 571.83 crore has been framed for better management

of irrigation and water resources in Ramgarh Constituency, which also includes the canal network of Ramgarh Constituency. The said DPR stands submitted to CWC for appraisal.

He also provided details about the steps being taken up for improvement/rejuvenation of canals (Jammu Chenab) in the Ramgarh Constituency. He informed that the stretch of D-9 canal from RD 32000 m to 36600 m falls under the territorial jurisdiction of Ramgarh Constituency.

He said that the stretch of 4.50 Km cater to 1259 acre of land for Irrigation and the overall condition of the canal is good, however, the stretch of about 1 Km at spots requires improvement and same shall be part of the project shelf of UT Capex 2025-26.

The Minister said that timeline for the project "Improvement of Ravi Canal and its distributaries" shall be two years from the date of sanction of the project. After implementation of the project, a potential of 8861 Ha shall be increased in Ramgarh Constituency. Further, other improvement works are being executed under UT Capex Budget as per availability of funds, he added.

## R&B to construct approach road for mini stadium Salmeri: RDD Minister

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

The government today said that an approach road for the mini stadium at Salmeri village in Samba district shall be constructed by the Public Works Department.

Minister for Rural Development Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, on behalf of Minister for Youth Services and Sports, informed this while replying to a question raised by Chander Prakash Ganga in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that the Youth Services & Sports Department has constructed a mini stadium at village Salmeri, under Languishing and Capex budget at a cost of Rs. 3.00 crore. He informed that for smooth accessibility to the utility, the R&B Division would construct an approach road towards the mini stadium.

Bids invited for DPR on Bhaderwah-Seojhdar Project

The Government today informed the House that the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) has issued a Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for engaging eligible consultants to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of Bhaderwah-Seojhdar project in Doda district. Replying to a starred question raised by Daleep Singh Parihar, Minister for Rural Development Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, informed that the NIT was issued on January 25, 2025, inviting bids for consultancy services to formulate the DPR for the project.

RDD constructs 69 waste segregation sheds worth Rs 2.17 cr in Langate



Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, today informed the House that 69 waste segregation sheds have been constructed in Langate Constituency with a total cost of Rs. 2.17 crore under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

He was responding to a question raised by Sheikh Khurshheed Ahmad, who sought details on waste segregation sheds being

constructed under the mission, with special reference to Langate Constituency.

The Minister further stated that, of these 69 sheds, only four are located near the water bodies.

**JKRTC operating bus services in Kathua**

The Government today informed the House that the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corpora-

tion (JKRTC) is currently operating bus services in Kathua district. Responding to a question raised by Bharat Bhushan, Minister for RDD, Javed Ahmad Dar, while replying on behalf of Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma, stated that JKRTC is presently running two bus routes in the district including Jammu to Machedi Lohai and Jammu to Bani Lowang.

The Minister informed that all interstate buses being operated by the JKRTC travel through Kathua district during their up and down journeys. He also recalled that during the Covid-19 pandemic, bus service was suspended as per government SOPs with the entire JKRTC fleet engaged in ferrying Jammu based passengers from Lakhampur to various districts of the Union Territory.

Javid Dar stated that over the time, the JKRTC fleet was identified for auction for being over aged and the process, in this regard, is currently underway. Despite these challenges, he assured that JKRTC with its limited fleet has been making every effort to meet transportation needs of the public across J&K and is actively exploring ways to resume additional bus services in the near future.

## DC Budgam visits Vasuki Nag temple site, reviews progress of revival, restoration work



JI NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, MARCH 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today visited the ancient Vasuki Nag temple site at Wagam Chadoora to inspect the ongoing restoration and revival work.

The project, which aims to preserve the historical and heritage based significance of the temple, is progressing steadily, with work progressing at a fast pace.

During the visit, the DC

assessed the progress of various components of the project, including boundary walling and chain link fencing, which is nearing completion. The steel mesh roofing and granite work for the temple are also in progress.

Additionally, the hall at the site has reached the slab level, while work on the sanitary complex, which includes the construction of three toilet units and a disposal system, is currently underway, with the brickwork of

the superstructure in progress. DC expressed satisfaction with the pace of work and emphasized the need for timely completion.

He also interacted with officials and site engineers, directing them to expedite the remaining work.

DC said the revival of the Vasuki Nag Temple is expected to enhance cultural heritage & tourism in the region and provide better facilities for devotees.

## Doda admin chalks out plan to reinforce Traffic Management, Road Safety

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 12

A crucial meeting to discuss traffic management plan was today chaired by District Magistrate Harvinder Singh here in the meeting Hall of his office.

The meeting was attended by SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta; SSP Traffic (National Highway Ramban-Doda-Kishtwar) Rohit Basgotra; ACR Sunil Bhutyal; DySP Traffic Sarabjeet Singh; ARTO Sheetal Sharma; Executive Engineers from NHIDCL and PWD (R&B), General Manager NHIDCL, Executive Officers from Doda, Bhaderwah, and Thathri, along with representatives from transport and market associations.

The discussions primarily focused on easing traffic congestion, ensuring smooth vehicular movement, and addressing critical road safety concerns across the district.

The bottlenecks in traffic management were identified, including illegal parking, unregulated movement of auto-rickshaws and electric rickshaws, and non-compliance with prescribed fares by public transport operators. The



DC directed the ARTO and transport authorities to ensure that all passenger vehicles prominently display details about the driver and permit information within a week. It was also decided that a proper schedule chart for passenger vehicles would be displayed at key locations for public awareness. Additionally, the SSP Traffic emphasized the need for strict enforcement of road safety measures and urged the transport associations to follow scheduled movement guidelines. The DC instructed the Executive Officers of

municipal committees to coordinate with market associations for designated parking spaces to prevent encroachments, while the SDMs of Assar and Gandoh were tasked with implementing similar measures in their respective areas.

A major concern raised during the meeting was traffic congestion in the downtown area, exacerbated by the dumping of construction and waste materials. The DC directed the Executive Officer Municipal Committee to ensure that no unauthorized dumping occurs in the

town and to identify suitable dumping locations outside congested areas. Additionally, the ARTO and DySP Traffic were instructed to enforce strict differentiation between state and contract vehicles, ensuring compliance with permit regulations.

A special committee headed by the ADC, along with ARTO, traffic officials, and municipal representatives, was formed to streamline the movement of auto-rickshaws, metadors, and public vehicles. The DC further emphasized that no private vehicles should be used for passenger transport and that all commercial vehicles should operate strictly within their designated routes and permits.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment to improving traffic discipline and road safety in Doda. The DC directed all stakeholders to implement the decisions effectively and scheduled regular follow-ups to assess progress. The administration assured full cooperation in ensuring smooth traffic management and a safer commuting experience for residents.

## Haj-2025 Orientation/ training prog. on March 18 at GDC Women Anantnag

JI NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MARCH 12

As per Haj Committee of Jammu and Kashmir, the orientation and training programme for pilgrims of Anantnag selected for Haj-1446 (Hijri) 2025 shall be held on March 18, 2025, at 10:30 AM at the Auditorium of Government Degree College (GDC) Women Anantnag.

This comprehensive training session announced under the second phase by Haj Committee of Jammu and Kashmir aims to equip the pilgrims with essential knowledge about Manasik-e-Hajj (rituals of Hajj) and other critical logistical aspects to ensure a smooth and well-prepared pilgrimage. All selected pilgrims from Anantnag district have been requested to attend the session.

The district administration, in collaboration with the Haj Committee, is conducting this programme as part of a broader initiative to provide thorough guidance and assistance to the pilgrims.