

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:

- Increase and continuous fever above 102°F
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Dizziness
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in vomit, urine or stool
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 64 | 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

Admin establishes old age homes in 19 J&K districts

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has established residential old age homes in 19 districts where senior citizens are offered healthcare facilities and recreational activities, reveals the official data accessed by the news agency.

It states that three senior citizen day care homes are presently operational in Jammu and Srinagar cities, providing secure spaces for elderly citizens to socialize and avail necessary services.

Two old age homes at Anantnag and Ganderbal were built in 2023-24 for Rs 21 crore, providing shelter and care to elderly population, the data reveals.

As many as, 809 special camps for senior citizens were conducted in the Union Territory and were attended by 51,000 senior citizens.

The data, according to KNO, also states that 31 geriatric caregivers have been trained to deliver specialized social services to elderly citizens, ensuring their physical and mental well-being. Furthermore, it also reveals

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BUDGET SESSION 2025 | QUESTION HOUR IN LA

Tourism promotion in Srinagar city a key focus of my Govt: CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that the government is prioritizing the promotion of religious and tourism places in Srinagar city to boost tourism and attract more visitors.

“Places like Dal, Nishat, Shalimar, Chashmashahi, Pari Mahal, shrines, temples, gurudwaras, and other landmarks define the uniqueness of Srinagar. We are committed to promoting these destinations.”

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'Matter taken up with MHA to transfer portion of debt and liabilities to Ladakh UT'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the Legislative Assembly that a committee had been constituted to ensure the transparent distribution of assets, liabilities and budget between the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

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'Finalization of JKAS departmental examination syllabus in final stages'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that the finalization of the syllabus for the 2018-24 batches of J&K Administrative Services is in its final stages, and the examinations will be conducted soon thereafter. Responding to a supplementary question from Member Aijaz Ahmad Jan, the Chief Minister

acknowledged the delays but assured that the process is now nearing completion.

“The government has gradually streamlined these processes, which had been delayed for some time. However, the complexity of the revision caused an unavoidable delay. This is the first syllabus revision since 2000—after nearly 25 years—which required significant changes,” he said.

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JK witnesses 3.60% annual increase in electric power purchases since 2016-17

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

In past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases while the growth stands at only 2.45 percent.

An official said, “Over the past years from 2016-17 to 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases, as per extrapolated data.”

“When considered on a per capita basis, the growth rate stands at 2.45 percent per year, reflecting the region's increasing energy demand. This growth is also in line with the region's population increase, which has been growing at an annual rate of 2.14 percent during the same period,” the official said as per news agency.

It also said that as of November 2024, the number of electricity connections and consumers in various categories in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 23.65 lakh, compared to 23.45 lakh in March 2024 that indicates a steady increase in the number of people and businesses receiving



power supply.

“As power demand increases, it triggers economic growth, drives industrialization, and boosts the development of basic amenities such as healthcare, water supply etc,” the official said.

It also said, “This cumulative progress ultimately results in a better quality of life for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, positioning the region for sustainable growth and modernization while making it a key player in the national energy landscape.”

Pertinently, KNO in previous week reported that Jammu

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

NEWS BRIEF

Two terrorist aides held in Bandipora: Police

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

Police in Bandipora along with security forces have arrested 02 terrorist associates from Hajin area of Bandipora and recovered arms and ammunition from

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CIK rescues 13 Kashmiri youth from scammers in Myanmar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

Counter Intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police has rescued 13 trafficked youths from a cyber-fraud hub in Myanmar.

“Online scams in the name of providing jobs take

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Rs 560 crore allocated to J&K under central tourism schemes since 2016-17: GoI



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

The Central government has allocated Rs 560.04 crore to Jammu and Kashmir under various tourism sector schemes over the past five years, according to a response in the Lok Sabha by Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on March 10, 2025.

The funds, as per the news agency, were allocated under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes, both aimed at enhancing tourism infrastructure across the region.

In his reply to a question raised by Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad regarding the funds allocated for tourism development in Jammu and Kashmir, the Tourism Minister outlined that these funds were part of efforts to develop tourism-related infrastructure and facilities at various destinations across the state. He said these schemes are intended to boost tourism by improving facilities for both domestic and international tourists.

Shekhawat detailed several key projects funded under

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Rs 161-crore water supply project for Srinagar remains in limbo: Govt informs LA

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

The government on Thursday said that a crucial Rs 161.201 crore water supply project aimed at ensuring sustainable drinking water for Srinagar remains in limbo due to lack

of funding.

The project, which proposes the laying, testing, and commissioning of raw water main from Preng to Rangil, is yet to receive financial backing, leaving its execution date uncertain.

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Govt hikes DA for employees, pensioners to 246% in JK

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

The government on Thursday ordered a hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) for employees and pensioners under the 6th Pay

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MeT issues 3-day 'yellow alert' for J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 13 (KNO)

Meteorological department (MeT) on Thursday issued a 3-day 'yellow alert' as rains and snow lashed Jammu and Kashmir for the second running day today.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told the news agency that prevalent weather conditions are expected to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Reorganisation of J&K

Rs 2504 crore liabilities to be transferred to Ladakh: J&K government tells Assembly

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that liabilities amounting to Rs 2504.46 crore of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir have to be transferred to Ladakh Union Territory.

In a written reply to a question of MLA Lolab Qaiser Jamsheed Lone,

Minister in-charge, Finance, Omar Abdullah disclosed that the financial liabilities of Rs 2504.46 crore are to be transferred to Ladakh.

“As regards apportionment of public debt, the apportionment of assets & liabilities is to be carried out as per the notification SO-329 of GAD dated 30/10/2020,” he said, as per news agency. He said that most of the recommendations

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SPIRITUAL & VALUE EDUCATION SUMMIT AT NEW DELHI

Without the fine balance of our ancient value system and modern skills it is impossible to sustain and further long-run economic growth: LG

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Spiritual and Value Education Summit at New Delhi.

In his inaugural address, the Lieutenant Governor exhorted the distinguished scholars and educators for transforming the education system into a holistic framework to nurture intellectual growth and moral integrity among students.

“Seamless integration of ethics and value in education is crucial to create an enlightened

society and a powerful nation. Without the fine balance of our ancient value system and modern skills it is impossible to sustain and further long-run economic growth.

Value based education will enable students to explore their true strength. It will help in character building and inspire them for righteous living. This holistic education system can take the nation on growth trajectory and bring about the changes necessary for a developed nation,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor



emphasised on imparting ethical, moral, and social values alongside academic knowledge and skills.

The Lieutenant Governor said, “Our youth should have Science in one hand and Sam-

sara in the other. Along with the advancement of science and technology, the teachings of traditional values, our cultural heritage and vision of

great personalities should also be included in the main curriculum of education.

We need scientists as well as artists and spiritualists. Only the spirits of scientists, artists and spiritualists combined together can save education from being one-sided and succeed in making it a holistic education”.

Speaking on the need to develop future-ready education systems and skill-driven learning environment, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the rapid pace at which change is taking place

today, which will require constant skilling and reskilling as per the needs of the industry.

He urged all teachers to go beyond the subjects and curriculum and provide the students with skills to become successful future professionals.

“The real power of education is its ability to transform. We can fulfil the demands of a modern society and build Viksit Bharat, if we can fully utilize the power of education and skilled human resources of the nation” the

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2-day Disaster Management Awareness camp organised for students at GHS Johnu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 13

A two-day Disaster Management Awareness and Mock Drill Program was conducted at Government Girls High School, Johnu (Zone Jib) Udhampur under the leadership of Commandant General Homeguards, Civil Defence, SDRF J&K, S.J.M. Gilani and the guidance of IGP HG/CD & SDRF Jammu, Umesh Kumar.

The event was organized under the supervision of Dy. SP, Dy. Controller Civil Defence Anu Kumar and witnessed enthusiastic participation from 120 students and staff members.

During the program, the participants were educated on crucial disaster preparedness measures, including First Aid Tech-



niques, CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), Choking Management, Fire Safety & Prevention Measures, Leakage of LPG Gas Cylinders and Emergency Rescue Methods

The primary objective of the program was to equip students with life-saving skills and knowl-

edge to respond effectively to both natural and man-made calamities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dy.SP, Dy. Controller Civil Defence Udhampur, emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness and the need for community participation in emergency response

efforts. He also expressed gratitude to all participants for their active involvement in the program.

This initiative reflects the commitment of Civil Defence Udhampur toward fostering a culture of safety, resilience, and disaster readiness among youth.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Holi celebration

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 13

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a meeting to review the arrangements for the Holi Festival celebrations.

The primary focus of the meeting was to ensure the seamless management of essential services, security, and public convenience during the festival. The DC emphasized the regulation of prices and directed the concerned officers to monitor the rates of items related to Holi celebrations, particularly Holi colors, while also ensuring strict vigilance on the sale of banned synthetic colors.

To maintain hygiene and sanitation, the Executive Officer of the Municipal Council was instructed



to ensure cleanliness in the town, especially around religious places.

Additionally, the authorities were asked to prioritize the repair of non-functioning lights and completion of ongoing work to ensure well-lit areas throughout the town.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar was tasked with keeping medical support readily available in case of any emer-

gencies during the festivities.

The DC also reviewed utility services and instructed the Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure an uninterrupted power supply during the celebration. The Executive Engineer of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department was directed to ensure adequate water supply and proper chlorination of water tanks to avoid any

health-related concerns. For security and safety, the Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) was directed to address potential security concerns.

Additionally, the traffic authorities were instructed to implement effective traffic management during the event. Religious representatives also raised their concerns, and the DC assured them of the administration's full support in addressing the issues projected by them.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal, ASP (Ops.) Kishtwar N. A. Khoja, ACR Idrees Lone, EO Municipality/Dy. Registrar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma, CMO, AC Legal Metrology, along with representatives from traffic, various organizations, religious leaders and prominent citizens.

DDC Chairman Jammu reviews execution of works under District Capex Budget

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

A meeting to review the execution of development works taken up under District CAPEX Budget 2024-25 was today chaired by Chairman, District Development Council (DDC), Jammu, Bharat Bhushan.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman DDC Suraj Singh, DDC members, Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and the officers from RDD, PHE, PWD, JPDCL and other line departments.

During the meeting, the Chairman stressed the need to accelerate expenditure and ensure timely completion of all targets allotted under the District CAPEX Budget. He direct-



ed officials to actively involve DDC members in all developmental initiatives across the district.

In a key directive, it was emphasised that the names of respective DDC members must be inscribed on inauguration plates of works approved under the DDC Component. Similarly, the names of concerned MLAs and DDC members should be displayed on the inauguration plaques of projects sanctioned under the PRI

& BDC components.

The Chairman lauded the efforts of the Jal Shakti Department in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Jammu district. He advised DDC members to earmark at least 50,000 per panchayat from their authorised funds for the repair of handpumps in their respective constituencies in the upcoming financial year.

To enhance community participation, the Execu-

tive Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department were instructed to organise awareness programmes involving Paani Samitis in the concerned areas after the completion of JJM schemes, ensuring that completion certificates are obtained from these committees.

During the deliberations, the officers highlighted the issue of pending treasury bills, which is hindering progress in achieving developmental milestones. Taking note of these concerns, the council assured necessary action to expedite the clearance of pending payments. The meeting concluded with a call for greater coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the seamless execution of developmental projects for the welfare of the public.

International Year of Cooperatives: Workshop/Awareness camp held for members of PACS

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 13

As part of celebrations for 'International year of Cooperatives', a workshop/awareness camp for members of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) was organized today at JK State Cooperative Bank Headquarters, Rajbagh.

The event organized by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Srinagar witnessed participation from the officials of Cooperative department, besides the event also saw involvement from officers of allied departments including horticulture, fisheries, NABARD etc.

During the course of the event, officers from

allied departments gave a detailed account of various schemes, initiatives, subsidies and grants offered by their respective departments to members of cooperative societies. They also encouraged the members to come forward and get enrolled in various skill development camps to improve their economic status.

The members took note of the various schemes and also raised queries regarding registration for these schemes and other issues.

The workshop ended with a resolution to improve coordination among allied departments for effective implementation of schemes and initiatives.

DC Bandipora reviews status of Court cases



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 13

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the status of under process court cases within the district.

The meeting discussed various cases pertaining to different departments and focused on addressing the issues related to departments. The DC emphasized the need for timely and serious attention to all court cases from the initial stages. He urged the officers to ensure that proper replies are submitted, based on accurate records and genuine facts.

Qadri stressed the submission of responses for all under process cases

within the stipulated time frame provided by the courts.

He also laid thrust on the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in dealing with legal matters.

The DC directed officers to prioritize the court cases and adhere to deadlines set by the courts for submission of responses.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Litigation Officer and District Officers of the concerned departments besides Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDM) Sumbal, SDM Gurez and Tehsildar Gurez, attended virtually.

Srinagar-Bandipora-Gurez Highway construction project awaits sanction: Dy CM

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that in view of the strategic importance of Srinagar-Bandipora-Gurez Highway road, the government has already taken up the matter with the Union Ministry for Road Transport & Highways, through a series of communications.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Nazir Ahmad Khan in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the government has requested for consideration of the project for declaration of Srinagar-Sumbal-Bandipora-Gurez road, including the tunnel at Razdan pass, as National Highway. He informed the House that the sanction, however, is awaited. He said that Gurez holds significant strategic importance due to its geographical location and proximity to the LoC.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the House that the government would again take up the matter with the Central Government for early approval.

Legislators; Irshad Rasool Kar, Nizam ud din Bhat and Hilal Akbar Lone

raised supplementaries.

Govt sponsors 93 Industrial Units for employment generation in Padder-Nagseni in 2024-25

Nearly, 454 artisans registered for artisan card in Constituency

The government has sponsored 93 MICRO Industrial Units besides facilitating 34 units under PMEGP and JKREGP schemes for employment generation in Padder-Nagseni Constituency in the 2024-25 fiscal.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, informed this while replying to a question raised by Sunil Kumar Sharma in the Legislative Assembly.

He informed that the department has registered the pass out trainees as Weavers and Artisans, held six awareness camps, registered 78 Artisans for Artisan Cards and 55 for Pehchan Card for availing benefits under various schemes, helping their onboarding on e-commerce platforms.

The Minister said that the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) have been organized and 12 candidates from Padder Nagseni Constituency have been provided capacity build-



ing under the Hausla Programme in the current financial year. Besides, 2137 applications have been received under the Vishwakarma scheme.

He informed that 329 artisans and 125 weavers have been registered in Padder-Nagseni Constituency who can avail benefit of the schemes being implemented by the department under Artisan cards. The Deputy Chief Minister said that various schemes are being implemented by the depart-

ment to support the local handicrafts, particularly Pashmina weaving and other traditional crafts in the Constituency.

He said that the facilities included 10 sanctioned training centres in Kishtwar district which provide training in various crafts viz; Crewel, Staple, Sozni, Carpet weaving, wheat Straw Craft and Handloom Weaving, of which, 01 training centre of Wheat Straw Craft is functional in the Padder-Nagseni Constituency. He added

that besides training programmes, the department facilitates handholding of the weavers and the artisans through Credit Card Scheme 2020, Weaver Mudra Scheme, Karkhandar Scheme 2021, registration of cooperatives under Financial Support scheme and other initiatives.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that 27 cases have been sponsored to various banks from Padder-Nagseni Constituency, of which, 15 cases have been sanctioned till date.

He added that 03 cases have been sponsored to various banks under the Weavers MUDRA Scheme 2015 during the past three years. He said that about 14 Cooperatives have been registered from the Padder sub division covering 154 artisans/weavers under the Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives of Handicrafts and Handloom Department during the past three years. These artisans/weavers were practicing various traditional crafts viz; mix embroidery, stone jewelry, crewel embroidery, wheat straw crafts and weaving. An amount of Rs. 7.00 lakh has been disbursed among these cooperatives till date as first installment, he added.

He said that the department has also facilitated the participation of 04 Industrial Handicrafts Cooperatives from Padder Nagseni in National Level Exhibitions and 02 Industrial Handicrafts Cooperative Societies in Baderwah Fest, while 02 crafts viz; Kishtwari Loi and Wheat Straw Products are under submission to NABARD. He added that a patch of land measuring 8 kanal has been identified at Matti, Padder for promotion of the Hotel Industry.

Traffic Police Office Rural Jammu issues traffic advisory for Holi festival

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Traffic Police Rural today issued traffic advisory for the Holi festival being celebrated tomorrow.

"Festival will lead to increased movement of persons/vehicles on the road. Through this medium, people are requested to take precautionary measures to prevent interruption in the flow of traffic in their respective areas" a hand out stated.

The office has advised the general public of districts (Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch) to avoid wrong parking, rash driving and follow M.V/rules while celebrating the Holi festival to prevent traffic jamming and congestion; Stunt driving which usually causes injuries and often proves to be fatal should be avoided to ensure safety; Organiz-

ers of Holi events and Holi processions/DJ owners have been advised to desist from plying vulgar/Provocative songs/slogans using loudspeakers; People have been advised to desist from drunken driving during the festival to avert the apprehension of any mishap; maintaining lane discipline during religious processions have been stressed upon to minimise the inconvenience to the general public.

If any person is found violating the MV Act, causing danger to the human life, people can share the information with Traffic Police Control Room Jammu (0191-2459048, 2740550, 9419147732, 103); Traffic Police Rural Jammu (94984321021); Traffic Helpline Samba-Kathua (8899041447) and Traffic Helpline Rajouri-Poonch (9419324490).

7353 Safai Karamcharis working in J&K ULBs: Sakeena Itoo

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

The government today said that the cases of regularization of Safai Karamcharis working as casual labourers in different Urban Local Bodies of Jammu and Kashmir shall be examined through the Committee constituted for regularization of daily wagers.

Minister for Health, Sakeena Itoo, on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, was replying to a question raised by Bharat Bhushan in the Legislative Assembly.

She informed the House that 7353 Safai Karamcharis are currently working in various ULBs of J&K. She said that, of these, many have completed more than 10 to 15 years of service and work on permanent positions, while only few Safai Karamcharis are working as Casual Labourers.

The Minister said that

the government has always adopted pro-labour policy within the ambit of law. The policy of regularization is under review in view of the Supreme Court Judgment in State of Karnataka V/s Uma Devi, wherein Supreme Court has laid down that any policy of regularization through executive orders, statutory orders and Legislative enactments is violative of Article 14, 15 and 16 of Constitution of India.

She said that various protective items have been provided to sanitation workers viz, PPE Kits, Gum boots, Gloves, Masks and related stuff under the NAMASTE scheme.

Legislators; Balwant Singh Mankotia, Reyaz Ahmad Khan and Mehraj Malik raised supplementaries.

Over 15 lakh kanals of land retrieved from encroachers in J&K: Sakeena Itoo

Eviction of illegal occupation of over 3 lakh kanal



worth Rs 18,049.6 cr initiated

Minister for Health and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that out of total 1727241 Kanal and 8 Marla illegally occupied land, 1539662 Kanal and 15.5 Marla land has been retrieved, so far, in J&K.

The Minister, who was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Rajiv Jasrotia in the Legislative Assembly.

She said that the eviction process has already been initiated as per the relevant rules for retrieval of remaining 313645 Kanal and 12 Marla land worth Rs. 18,049.6 crore from the encroachers.

Sharing details, the Minister informed in refer-

ence to a member's query regarding the following land parcels in Kathua district under illegal occupation is being retrieved in Ghatti Patwar, Patwar Halqa Nanan, Forelain, Bhagthali Patwar, Taraf Bhajwal and Taraf Manjli, however, no state land has been encroached in Korepunnu village of Samba.

Regarding conversion of Agriculture land for industrial and commercial purposes, the Minister said that a total of 6098.53 Kanal of land has been converted for industrial and commercial purposes in Kathua and Samba districts of Jammu. She informed the House that total conversion of Agriculture land for industrial purpose was 4729 Kanal

and 19.33 Marla while 559.17 Kanal land has been converted for commercial purposes in Kathua and Jasrota areas.

Similarly, 156 Kanal and 07 Marla of Agriculture land has been converted and utilized for industrial purposes while 654 Kanal and 10 Marla for commercial purposes in Samba, she informed the House.

She informed that the Revenue Department has not transferred state land to any private individual for setting up of Industrial Estates, however, on the basis of intends placed by the Industries & Commerce Department, land measuring 12260 Kanal and 03 Marla has been transferred to Industries & Commerce Department in various districts during the past two years.

She said that the State land measuring 129 Kanal has been allotted to PMAY (G) beneficiaries on leased basis during the past two years.

Legislators; RS Pathania and Narinder Singh raised supplementaries.

No domicile certificate issued to non-locals in Magam, Narbal; 52 issued in Beerwah on marriage basis: Sakeena Itoo

The Government today informed the House that no non-local resident has been issued a Domicile certificate in Magam and Narbal areas of Budgam district. This was started by, Minister for Health and Education, Sakina Itoo, while replying to a question raised by Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani. She informed that 18921 Domicile Certificates have been issued in Narbal and 26277 in Magam saying that no Domicile Certificate has been issued to non-local residents in these two Tehsils. The Minister said that 62343 Domicile certificates have been issued in Beerwah including 52 to non-locals on marriage basis.

DC Udhampur hails teachers' role in intellectual growth of children



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 13

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today underlined the crucial role of teachers in the personality development of children.

Addressing an annual day school function here, she lauded the teacher fraternity for their dedication towards fostering intellectual growth and personality development of the students. She congratulated the Principal,

faculty and students of GD Goenka Toddler House for organizing the vibrant and inspiring annual day celebration. She emphasized the importance of such events in preserving and enriching the institution's culture.

A cultural program presented by the students was a major highlight of the event. Later, meritorious students were felicitated for their outstanding achievements in academics, sports and co-curricular activities.

DC Shopian meets Hols of private educational institutions

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MARCH 13

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting of officers of the education department and heads of institutions of private educational institutions of the district in order to discuss the issues requiring attention.

Various issues covering New Education Policy (NEP) including maintaining the healthy teacher-student ratio, admission for weaker sections as per Right to Education Act, accommodation matters, admission process and fees, academic and various other non academic matters were discussed



with the head of institutions.

The DC called upon all participants to provide their noble services with best possible efficiency and in a professional way.

He sought strict adherence to the New Education Policy especially maintaining teacher-student ratio, admission of students from marginalized and poor sections, etc. He also

sought cooperation from them on issues of drug menace and the enforcement of tobacco control within the campuses and surroundings of educational institutions. The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, CEO, DIO, ZEOs and Head of institutions.

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Holi, Eid and Navratra festivals in Jammu Division

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, alongside Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti, today chaired a high level meeting to review the arrangements of district administration for upcoming festival season, including Holi, Eid and Navratras.

The meeting, attended by DIGs, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs, held detailed discussion on district wise preparations for smooth celebrations of the festivals. The Div Com sought the details from the District Administrations regarding arrangements related to supply of and stock position of essential commodities,



besides status of power, water supply and sanitation around religious places and major junctions in the districts.

Directions were issued to designate nodal officers and magistrates to facilitate the smooth celebrations by ensuring clear roads for processions and religious gathering while devising

meticulous timing and proper planning.

IGP Jammu directed the SSP to keep a strict check on traffic violation and ensure adherence to road safety rules, especially by youngsters riding two wheelers.

The stakeholder departments were asked to make available all necessary

arrangements and take precautions to make the celebrations convenient and smooth.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs apprised the meeting on the advance arrangements made regarding route finalisations, market regulations including check on overpricing, profiteering and black-marketing, besides awareness drives for obeying traffic rules in their respective districts.

IGP Jammu directed the police officials to remain present on ground during the festivals. Directions were also issued for adequate deployment of security forces to maintain law and order across the division.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 13

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out upgradation of 33 KV Wanpoh SICOP Line from 0.1 ACSR to 0.2 ACSR, the shutdown of 33KV Wanpoh SICOP line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Shamsipora, SICOP, Zirpara, Veeri, Cheniwader, Shuhul Flour Mill shall remain off while power supply to Veer, Srigufwara, Zirpara, Shamsipora, Bijbehara-SICOP areas and other adjoining areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 02:30 PM on 18, 20, 22 & 24 March, 2025.

Similarly, to carry out Installation of 02 No. isolators replacement of old isolators along with base structure, the shutdown of 33KV Lassipora-Lassipora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Landoora (Old) shall remain off while power supply to the Arihal, Achan, Lassipora, Odoora, Ahgam and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 16 & 18 March, 2025.

Also, to carry out the replacement of rotten wooden poles of Markundal line at Pattan and Palahallan, the shutdown of 33KV Nehalpora Markundal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Markundal, Naidkhai, Shahgund and Aglar shall remain off while power supply to Naidkhai, Markundal, Sumbal, Ankhul, Gundboon and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM on 18 March, 2025.

DC leads awareness camp on Swachh Survekshan 2024 in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 13

A grand awareness camp, part of the Swachh Survekshan 2024 initiative, was organised today here at Prade Park to promote sanitation and environmental responsibility among the people.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal was the chief guest, who emphasized the critical need for maintaining sanitation, waste segregation, and processing for a sustainable urban environment.

The programme was organised by the Municipal Council and attended by ADC, Tahir Mustafa Malik; President Bar Association Sunil Kumar Sharma and a large number of civil society members.

Speakers at the event highlighted the need for community participation in waste management and the role of collective efforts in improving the city's cleanliness rankings.

Dustbins, plants and Key were distributed among PM Svandhi Scheme vendors and PMAY(U) beneficiaries to promote sustainable waste disposal and urban greenery. The event focused on promoting recycling and waste reduction practices, with students receiving RRR cups as a symbol of their commitment to environmental responsibility.



Students who participated in the painting competition were awarded mementos for their artistic contributions to the theme of cleanliness and waste management. Waste to Compost Initiative: Municipal Council Poonch officially launched the Waste to Compost program, aimed at converting organic waste into useful compost, reducing landfill burden, and encouraging eco-friendly practices, compost was distributed among locals.

The Health Department organized a free medical camp under the Safai Mitra Suraksha initiative, ensuring the well-being of sanitation workers and

promoting hygiene awareness.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the efforts of the Municipal Council and urged citizens to actively participate in Swachh Survekshan 2024. The event concluded with a pledge by all attendees to keep Poonch clean and green, reinforcing the city's commitment to sustainable urban development. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior citizens, students, representatives of various NGOs, advocates, the President of the Bar Association and its members, and students from different schools.

DC Kupwara reviews implementation of Mission YUVA programme

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

KUPWARA, MARCH 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the implementation of Mission YUVA programme in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DC impressed upon all the officers to work with added zeal and dedication to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the ambitious Mission YUVA programme in the district.

She emphasized the need for developing an

ecosystem for unemployed education youth to boost entrepreneurship and employment in the district. She also highlighted the role of the Mission YUVA app, which is integral to the mission's outreach and support services.

The AD Employment briefed the meeting through a detailed Power-Point presentation about the objectives and modalities involved in implementing the Mission YUVA in the district.

Mission YUVA, a youth-centric initiative launched by the J&K Government, aims to empower young individuals by provid-

ing them with various opportunities for skill development, employment and entrepreneurial ventures.

It was informed that the objective of the Mission YUVA is to generate new employment opportunities through enterprise creation especially for high-skilled unemployed youth so that they can earn their livelihood with dignity.

Regarding the institutional mechanism for implementing the Mission, it was informed that 20 Small Business Development Units (SBDU) have to be estab-

lished in the district under the supervision of DC. The role of the SBDU is to identify relevant business activities for the district and create model Detailed Project Reports. Besides, 80 Business Help Desks have to be established at sub divisional level under the supervision of concerned SDMs.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on various other issues for proper and successful implementation of the Mission YUVA programme in the district.

GM DIC Kupwara, CPO, SDM Lolab, AD Employment and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Chief Medical Supt., Northern Railway, Firozpur for an on behalf of the President of India, invites expression of interest on the prescribed form for the following work:-

No.	Name of work	Expression of interest from reputed, registered and licensed diagnostic centres for empanelment for providing Radiology diagnostic services for patients of Health Unit Jammutawi.
1	Name of work	Expression of interest from reputed, registered and licensed diagnostic centres for empanelment for providing Radiology diagnostic services for patients of Health Unit Jammutawi.
2	Completion period	Two years from the Date of starting.
3	App. Cost of the work	N.A.
4	Earnest money	N.A.
5	Cost of application form on cash/By post	N.A.
6	Date and time availability & Place of procuring application form	Any working day from office of Chief Medical Supt., N.Rly, Firozpur and can be had from the office of Chief Medical Supt., N.Rly, Firozpur in from 17.03.2025 to 09.04.2025 up to 11.00 Hrs.
7	Place of submission of bids	Chief Medical Supt., N. Rly, Divisional Hospital, Firozpur.
8	Date and time of submission of application form	Up to 11.00 Hrs on 09.04.2025 Opening of bids at 11.30 Hrs on 09.04.2025.

No.15-Med/Lab Investigation Dated : 13.03.2025 797/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FROM THE PAGE 1...

Tourism promotion...

the Chief Minister said while addressing the Legislative Assembly.

He was responding to a query raised by Member Ali Mohammad Sagar regarding the tourism sector's role in J&K's economy and the steps taken to enhance tourist inflow.

The Chief Minister emphasized that tourism is a key pillar of J&K's economy, significantly contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment generation.

"The sector provides direct and indirect livelihood opportunities including hotel staff, tour operators, taxi drivers, souvenir vendors, and local youth," he said.

He further informed the House that efforts are underway to diversify the tourism sector by promoting various forms of tourism, including Adventure tourism.

MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism, Golf tourism, Eco-tourism, Pilgrimage tourism and Cultural and Heritage tourism

"This diversification is intended to attract a wider range of visitors to Jammu & Kashmir," he added.

As Minister in charge of the Tourism Department, the Chief Minister highlighted that the government is actively promoting J&K's top tourist destinations through advertising campaigns on national and international platforms.

Additionally, the Tourism Department is focusing on the development of off-beat destinations to expand tourism beyond traditional spots.

"We are working on developing lesser-explored destinations like Gurez, Keran, Bungus, Tosamaidan, Aharbal, Doodhpathri, Machail, Bhaderwah, Sukrala Mata, and Pancheri to attract more tourists," he said.

The Chief Minister stated that tourist arrivals in J&K have seen a significant increase in the last two years. In 2023, J&K recorded 2,11,80,011 tourist visits and in 2024, the number increased to 2,35,90,081, he informed.

The Chief Minister also provided an update on infrastructure-related projects undertaken by the Tourism Department over the last three years: In 2022-23, 984 projects were initiated, with 549 completed; In 2023-24, 1,191 projects were taken up, and 516 were completed and in 2024-25 (till date), 1,914 projects have been started, out of which 1,057 have been completed.

"Our focus remains on strengthening tourism infrastructure, enhancing visitor experience, and ensuring sustained growth in the sector," the Chief Minister concluded.

'Matter taken...

following the reorganization.

Responding to a query from Member Qaysar Jams-haid Lone regarding the apportionment of assets, liabilities and loans, the Chief Minister stated that the process is being carried out in accordance with Notification SO-339 of GAD, dated October 30, 2020.

"The apportionment was to be conducted in a manner to ensure a fair transfer of assets, liabilities and budget between the two UTs. After completion of the process, an official gazette notification was issued on October 31, 2020," he said.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister, further informed that most of the committee's recommendations have already been implemented.

"Regarding the apportionment of public debt, financial liabilities amounting to 2,504.46 crore are to be transferred to the UT of Ladakh. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the administration of Ladakh," he added.

'Finalization of JKAS...

He further explained that the administration conducted a comparative analysis of J&K's syllabus with those of other States and Union Territories to ensure alignment with national standards.

"Necessary modifications have been incorporated, and relevant departments, including Revenue, Law and Information Technology, have contributed to the process," he added.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that senior IAS officers were consulted in drafting the final syllabus.

"The final draft is now ready, and I assure this House that we will complete the process within a month," he said.

Addressing the query regarding the 2018 and 2019 batches of Junior JKAS officers, the Chief Minister clarified that existing operative rules do not provide for the declaration of Junior Scale JKAS officers as quasi-permanent.

Instead, the confirmation of their probation is contingent upon passing the Departmental Examination, as mandated by the following service rules:

1. Rule 22(1)(a) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956
2. Rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Service (Probation & Examination) Rules, 2000
3. Rule 16(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service Rules, 2008

As per Rule 16 of SRO 386, probationers must pass the Departmental Examination within two years of their appointment to be confirmed in service.

However, the Chief Minister highlighted that the examination could not be conducted due to major administrative changes brought about by the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019, which restructured the erstwhile state into two Union Territories.

This reorganization necessitated a comprehensive revision of laws, statutes, and regulations, including those governing the Departmental Examination.

"As a result, the syllabus had to be thoroughly revised to align with the new administrative framework and updated legal provisions introduced by the Re-organization Act," he said. He further informed the House that Government Order No. 1514-JK(GAD) of 2023, dated 30.11.2023, had constituted a committee to finalize the syllabus for the JKAS Probationers' Departmental Examination.

"We are making every effort to expedite the finalization process. Once the syllabus is approved, steps will be taken immediately to conduct the examination. The confirmation of probation for these officers, which

depends on successfully passing the examination, will be processed without delay in accordance with the relevant service rules," the Chief Minister assured.

JK witnesses 3.60%...

and Kashmir is facing an excessive gap of more than 15 percent between the power requirement and actual power available for its consumers.

The official documents in this regard reads, "The gap between power requirement and actual power available is quite high at about 14-16 percent approximately in J&K."

The officials said that the issue primarily occurs due to drop in generation of hydel power plants during winters as a result of reduction in flow of water in the snow fed rivers of J&K.

Notably, Jammu and Kashmir till last week of February was relying on more than 85 percent of coal and solar power amid acute deficit of hydro power generation.

Officials of PDD department had claimed that local hydro power generation from the local power plants have reduced by nearly 90 percent.

An official had informed that "At present Jammu and Kashmir is 85-90 percent dependent on coal and solar energy that is being procured from the other states because as of now we don't have a local power generation."

"In winters the local hydro power generation of Jammu and Kashmir power plants has reduced by almost 90 percent and in order to cater the requisite power demand, we need to have a base power availability that we procure from outside states. The energy is coal based energy," the official had said. KNO

Rs 560 crore...

these schemes. Among them, Rs 77.33 crore was allocated under the Himalayan Circuit scheme for the development of tourism infrastructure across a range of destinations, including Jammu, Srinagar, Pahalgam, Bhagwati Nagar, Anantnag, Salamabad Uri, Kargil and Leh. He said Rs 81.60 crore was sanctioned for the development of tourist facilities in regions such as Jammu, Rajouri, Shopian and Pulwama.

Other significant allocations include Rs 90.43 crore for rebuilding assets destroyed during the 2014 floods as part of the PM Development Package, and Rs 91.99 crore for the development of facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev. "Rs 86.39 crore was set aside for the development of tourist infrastructure across various locations, including Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar, Pahalgam, Zanskar, Padum, Daksum and Ranjit Sagar Dam," the minister said.

Shekhawat said Rs 91.84 crore was allocated for tourism infrastructure in Gulmarg, Baramulla, Kargil and Leh. Under the PRASHAD Scheme, Rs 40.46 crore was specifically earmarked for the development of the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, he added. KNO

Rs 161-crore water...

In response to a question tabled by MLA Batamalo Tariq Hameed Karra in the Assembly, the government, as per the news agency, said that while the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared, it has not yet been approved.

Additionally, only the Irrigation and Flood Control Department has granted clearance, with approvals from the Forest, Wildlife, Soil Conservation, and Environment Departments still pending.

With no funding mechanism in place, officials have refrained from giving a timeline for its execution.

With no clarity on the project, this has raised concerns over the government's commitment to resolving Srinagar's water crisis.

Notably, the city has been facing growing water demand due to population increase and urban expansion.

"A project of this scale should not be stalled due to financial constraints. The government must explore all possible funding avenues, including central assistance," said a Srinagar resident.

Tauseef Ahmad, another Srinagar resident, said despite repeated assurances, successive governments have failed to prioritise Srinagar's water security.

"Every summer, we face supply shortages, yet major infrastructure projects like this are indefinitely delayed due to funding issues," said Irfan Rasool, a resident from downtown. KNO

Govt hikes DA for...

Commission from 239% to 246% of basic pay and pension.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, the revised DA will be effective from July 1, 2024.

The order further said the arrears for the additional installment from July 2024 to February 2025, shall be paid in cash in the month of March 2025 and shall form part of the month salary from March, 2025 onwards.

"The payment will be rounded off to the next higher rupee where applicable," the order reads. KNO

MeT issues...

prevail till March 16, saying that the intermittent rains and snowfall is expected at many places during the period.

However, he said that there is no forecast of any major weather activity till March 16.

The Director MeT said that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and snow (higher reaches) are expected across J&K during the next three days.

On March 16, he said that intermittent light rain and snow is expected at few places towards morning & improvement towards afternoon, adding that generally dry weather is expected from March 17 to 24.

Moreover, the MeT asked the travellers, tourists and transporters to follow the advisories issued by the administration and traffic department.

"Farmers are advised to suspend farm operations till 16th March.

Avoid sloppy & avalanche prone areas. Landslides,

mudslides and shooting stones at vulnerable spots are expected," reads the advisory issued by the MeT. KNO

Rs 2504 crore liabilities...

regarding apportionment of assets and liabilities between J&K & Ladakh have been implemented.

The Minister also informed the House that the matter has been taken up with Ladakh Union Territory and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

After the reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir, the Ministry of Home Affairs had set-up an advisory committee for distribution of assets and liabilities between J&K and Ladakh.

The advisory committee headed by former defence secretary Sanjay Mitra comprised retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and retired Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer Giriraj Prasad. KNO

Without the fine...

Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the students to embrace lifelong learning and realize their inner ability through self-exploration and self-awareness.

"True Education shows the path to liberation. Liberation enables you to know yourself better so that you can achieve all the goals of your life.

Education is not just about rote learning and exchange of information. Rather, education is a method, a medium. Through education you can achieve your individuality, awaken your consciousness, your passion, learn the modern skills to make your place in the world and achieve new heights in your chosen fields.

Nowadays the real aim of education is misunderstood. It is not about youth achieving the number one position or marks. Instead of numbers, students should focus on lifelong learning skills. Students should follow their passion and aim to reach the pinnacle of their creativity so that they can learn new skills according to the changing demand of the industry and achieve success," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further called upon the educational institutions to aim for Zero Stress Campus and kindle the unique strength and talent of the students.

"I would also like to request all the parents to help their children develop a strong personality according to their passion. I am sure that if youth are given the opportunity to choose subjects as per their passion, they will be able to achieve new heights," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated and extended his felicitations to Dr Priyaranjan Trivedi, all the members of Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar Vishwa Hindu Vidyapeeth, Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment (IEE), and everyone associated with the summit.

Two terrorist aides...

their possession.

"Police in Bandipora along with Army (13 RR) and CRPF (45 Bn) at a checkpoint established at Gandbal-Hajin Road, arrested two terrorist associates," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

They have been identified as Naseer Ahmad Parray son of Bashir Ahmad Parray resident of Kathpura Hajin and Mudasir Ahmad Parray son of Mohd Ramzan Parray resident of Gandbal Hajin. During search, arms ammunition including 02 Chinese grenades, 18 live rounds of AK-47, 01 AK-47 magazine, 01 pistol, 08 pistol rounds, 01 pistol magazine and 02 mobile phones.

Regarding the incident, police said that a case vide FIR number 20/2025 under relevant sections of law have been registered in PS Hajin and investigation has been initiated. KNO

CIK rescues 13...

place every day," SSP Counter Intelligence Kashmir Tahir Ashraf said on Thursday.

"In this case we were dealing with a big racket. The educated young kids of Kashmir search for jobs on social media, especially on Facebook, and they click on links and find job vacancies for data entry operators. The job is available in foreign countries, especially in Thailand," the SSP said, as per news agency.

"So they clicked on it and gave an online interview. They got an interview call. Tickets were also sent to them. Some were sent. Some were told that they could come with their own tickets. So, these youths went to Thailand. After reaching there, they realised that they had been scammed and trapped there," he added.

"They (youth) were told that they had to identify the potential targets for them (scammers) across the globe. They were forced into indulge in sex chats with their targets to record their videos, which were later used for blackmailing them," the SSP said, as per KNO.

He said, "When our intelligence agencies came to know about J&K youth being trapped in Thailand the matter was taken up at the highest level with the Centre."

The SSP said that then a rescue operation was launched and today 13 youths reached Kashmir. "I request the youth not to get trapped through social media," he added.

"We have counselled these youth and their parents to involve their children in constructive activities. There are many government schemes which help in developing skills and making youngsters employable," the SSP said. KNO

Admin establishes...

that the government has reached out to 7,22,093 elderly citizens through various welfare schemes and programs during 2024-25, aiming to cater to the social and healthcare needs of the elderly population.

"The Senior Citizen Day Care Centre in Srinagar has emerged as a hub of activities for the elderly, offering recreational activities, counselling sessions, and periodic health check-ups," the data adds. KNO

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakarwals at Songri, Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Indian Army conducted a Medical Patrol in the remote areas of Songri, Rajouri district, to provide essential healthcare services to the local population, including Gujjar and Bakarwals. The primary objective of the Medical Patrol was to offer on-the-spot medical assistance and health checkups. The initiative focused on basic health examinations, addressing common illnesses and distributing medicines. In addition to treatment, the Medical Patrol empha-

sized preventive healthcare by educating locals on illness prevention, importance of hygiene and maintain a balanced diet. The outreach initiative was met with heartfelt gratitude from the villagers who appreciated the Indian Army's efforts in bringing quality healthcare to their doorsteps. The Medical Patrol benefitted a total of 36 individuals, ensuring they received timely medical attention and guidance. This effort underscores the Indian Army's commitment to the well-being and welfare of remote communities.

Indian Army organizes Awareness Lecture on No Smoking Day At Batsiyala, Reasi



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI: 13 MAR 2025

In a continued effort to promote health and well-being, the Indian Army organized an awareness lecture on No Smoking Day at the remote location of Batsiyala district Reasi. The initiative aimed to educate local residents, especially the youth, about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and the importance of leading a smoke-free life.

Medical experts and Army officials conducted informative sessions, highlighting the risks associated with smoking, including lung diseases, cancer and heart ailments. The lecture also emphasized government

initiatives and support systems available to help individuals quit smoking. As part of the program, interactive discussions were held to address myths about smoking, and personal counselling was provided to those willing to quit. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for their efforts in spreading awareness and promoting a healthier lifestyle in remote regions. The Indian Army remains committed to not only ensuring national security but also contributing to the well-being of communities through such outreach programs. This initiative reinforces their dedication to fostering a healthier and more informed society.

TB Patients provided Nutritional Food Supplement Kits at Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 13

Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Chairman of the Red Cross Society Rajesh Kumar Shavan today distributed Nutritional Food Supplement Kits among 20 Tuberculosis (TB) patients as part of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. The staff was provided by the District Red Cross Society.

The distribution of these nutritional kits, which consist of black gram, rice, soya, milk, eggs, mustard oil, and other items, aims to provide essential support to TB patients during their treatment, contributing to

their overall recovery and well-being. This initiative aligns with the government's efforts to eliminate TB from the nation.

It is pertinent to mention that the Health Department, through the Chairman Red Cross (DC), has purchased nutrition for the next 2 months for 24 TB patients. Additionally, this initiative will be carried out in phases for a total of 72 patients during the intensive phase.

Also present at the event were CMO/DTO Dr. Rajinder Kumar, who extended his support to the program and highlighted the importance of nutritional supplementation in TB management.

JKAACL organises Bhajan Sandhya to celebrate Holi festival

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Bharatiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) organized a soulful Bhajan Sandhya today in the KL Sehgal Hall, to mark the auspicious occasion of the Holi Festival.

The program was inaugurated by MLA East, Yudhvir Sethi as the Chief Guest.

Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kaur presided over the function, while President, J&K Gau Raksha Samiti Raj Kumar Gupta; Pawan Khajuria, Sohail Kazmi, Senior Journalist, Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman BLSKS and V.K. Mangotra, MD, BLSKS, graced the event as Guests of Honour.

Yudhvir Sethi lauded JKAACL for promoting cultural heritage through such initiatives. He also commended BLSKS for



successfully organizing the event and bringing together talented artists to celebrate the festive spirit of Holi.

Secretary JKAACL highlighted the significance of preserving and promoting traditional art forms and festivals. She emphasized that events like these foster cultural unity and strengthen community bonds.

In his welcome address, V.K. Mangotra, MD, BLSKS, spoke about the essence of Holi as a festival of colors and joy. He highlighted its association with the spring season and cultural harmony.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman, BLSKS, shared

insights from Ayurveda, mentioning that in ancient times, herbal colors made from vegetable dyes and turmeric were used during Holi to promote well-being.

The musical evening commenced with the melodious rendition of "Ho Mubarak Manjri Phoolon Bhari" and "Murli Da Nazara", followed by several devotional bhajans dedicated to Lord Krishna, Lord Shiva, and Goddess Parvati. The mesmerizing performances captivated the audience, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

The prominent artists who participated in the event included Usha Raina, Zulekha Bano,

K.K. Joshi, Rajeev Salotra, Chahat Chadha, Naiya Meenia, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Poonam, Bunty Malhotra, Ajay Kumar (Synth), Deepak (Dholak), Ayush (Pad), Rakesh Jasotra (Flute), Giridari Lal (Sarang), Mohan Lal (Harmonium), among many others. Their enthralling performances left a lasting impression on the large gathering of spectators, including artists and youth. The program concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Sh. Deepak Kumar Dogra, Program Coordinator, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, artists, and attendees for making the event a grand success.

DC reviews functioning of Jan Aushadhi store of DH Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MARCH 13

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting to review the performance of the Jan Aushadhi store functioning in the district hospital over the past three years.

The chair was informed about the availability of medicines and monthly sales of the store. Keeping in view below par performance of the Store, DC directed CMO and MS DH to ensure that all major and essential medicines remain available at the store at all times so as to enhance the store's performance.



He further stressed the need for regular monitoring of the store affairs to ensure accountability, performance and smooth operations. Furthermore, DC also called for legible prescription/report writing by all medical practitioners as per MCI/ NMC guidelines

and instructed regular prescription audits by the supervising officers.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; CMO Shopian, Medical Superintendent, District Nodal Officer Ayush and BMOs.

NABARD signs MoU with J&K Grameen Bank to finance JLGs



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the promotion and financing of 2000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) was today signed and exchanged between NABARD, J&K Regional Office, Jammu, and J&K Grameen Bank.

Deputy General Manager, NABARD Des Raj and Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank Sanjay Gupta signed the MoU on behalf of NABARD and J&K Grameen Bank, respectively.

The MoU signing ceremony was presided over by Chief General Manager NABARD Bhallamudi Sridhar who emphasized that the primary objective of the MoU is to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees,

sharecroppers, landless farmers, and others who may not have formal title to their land holdings. The initiative also aims to meet the credit requirements of the economically weaker sections of society by forming and credit-linking JLGs.

Bhallamudi Sridhar applauded J&K Grameen Bank for successfully financing more than 2500 JLGs under previous MoUs and encouraged the Bank to continue its efforts in financial inclusion. He further stressed the need to focus on financing individual JLG members to strengthen their economic activities. Additionally, he emphasized that the renewal of JLG loans should be completed in a timely manner to ensure the smooth flow of credit operations.

Sanjay Gupta, Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank, appreciated NABARD's initiatives for promoting financial inclusion in the Union Territory and expressed gratitude for its continuous support to the Bank. He reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to playing a significant role in socio-economic development and ensuring that initiatives like social security schemes, SHG and JLG credit linkages reach even the remotest areas.

Under this MoU, J&K Grameen Bank will form and finance 2000 JLGs across UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh. NABARD will provide a promotional grant support of Rs 4000 per JLG to J&K Grameen Bank, further strengthening financial empowerment in the region.

DDC Chairperson reviews developmental progress in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 13

Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur Lal Chand today presided over the quarterly meeting of the Council to review the progress achieved under the District Capex Budget 2024-25, UT Component, Area Development Plan, PRI & DDC works, new projects, and other ongoing developmental initiatives being executed across different sectors in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai; Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; Chief Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal and other senior officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, Chief Executive Officer DDC Rajinder Singh gave a comprehensive Power-Point presentation, providing a detailed overview



of the physical and financial achievements across all sectors.

The DDC Chairperson assessed the physical and financial progress achieved so far and sought details on block-wise status under ABDP, ADP and other projects. The Chairperson urged DDC members to personally monitor the pace and quality of ongoing works in their respective areas to ensure timely completion.

BDOs were instructed to clear pending bills and conduct field visits to inspect project execution on the ground. The council was apprised of the action taken report on

grievances raised in the previous council meeting. Officers from concerned departments provided updates on the status of complaints related to their respective domains.

The DDC Chairperson emphasized that executing agencies must mobilize manpower and machinery at full capacity to ensure timely completion of development projects. He stressed the importance of accelerating the pace of ongoing works and ensuring that all projects sanctioned under the financial year 2024-25 are completed within stipulated time-

lines.

During the meeting, DDC members highlighted several key issues, including Provision of transformers and electricity poles in rural areas, Early completion of Jal Jeevan Mission projects, Repair and maintenance of roads, especially in far-flung areas, Installation of new solar lights and repair of existing ones, Addressing staff shortages in educational and health institutions, Repair and maintenance of PWD and PMGSY roads.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner thanked the DDC members and all participants for their contributions. She assured that all issues raised by the council members were duly noted and would be documented and minutes for further action. The DC also informed the council about PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the JK Samadhan Portal, urging members to disseminate information about these initiatives among the public.

Awareness programme on Drug Abuse held at GDC Sumbal



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 13

With an aim to educate students about the perils of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society, an awareness programme on Drug Abuse was today organized at Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal.

The programme held under the patronage of principal GDC Sumbal,

Prof. Dr. Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, aligned with the broader objectives of the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan'.

The event was led by Manzoor Ahmad Parey Convener Nasha Mukta Bharat committee.

In his address Manzoor Ahmad highlighted the devastating effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large.

He deliberated on the critical role of education and community involvement in preventing drug abuse, urging students to act as ambassadors of change by adopting and promoting healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

The event concluded with a strong call to action, encouraging participants to spread awareness and contribute to building a resilient, drug-free society.

District level Committee approves 1653 cases under HADP at Ganderbal

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 13

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Thursday chaired a meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) at DC office here to discuss and approve cases received under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) in the district.

The committee approved 1653 cases pertaining to various sectors, including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and allied fields. Among these, 80 cases have been linked with credit, amounting to financial assistance of Rs.1.97 crore.

The DC emphasized that the HADP was a major step towards creating a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem.

IAS Probationers of AGMUT cadre 2023 batch call on DC Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 13

The 2023 batch of IAS Officers of AGMUT cadre on tour to Jammu and Kashmir called on Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here today.

While interacting with the probationers, the Deputy Commissioner shared valuable insights about life in public service

and his experience as District Magistrate in various Districts. The DC reiterated that the mantra of Reform, Perform & Transform guides us to do our best for the country. He also wished them best for their future endeavours to serve the public with enthusiasm and dedication.

The AGMUT cadre probationers shared their experience of the study tour in Kashmir and

thanked the Deputy Commissioner for his valuable suggestions and advice.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked the probationers about their 10 month long training experiences in different segments of the AGMUT cadre.

Tharun Patnaik, 2023 batch IAS probationer, who completed his year-long probation period in Srinagar District was also present on the occasion.

Land allotment for Industrial Estates conducted as per Policy: Govt

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

The government today clarified that the land for creation of Industrial Estates was placed at the disposal of the Industries & Commerce Department by the Revenue Department, which was then allocated to the aspiring entrepreneurs as per the established policy and procedures.

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, stated this while intervening in response to a supplementary question raised by Mir Saifullah regarding land allotments to firms, companies and individuals in J&K over the past two years in the Legislative Assembly.

Earlier, Health Minister, Sakeena Itoo, replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, assured the House that all land allotments have been carried out strictly in accordance with the policy provisions in place.

"Due procedure for allotment of land, as per policy provisions in vogue, has been followed during the allotments," maintained Sakina Itoo.

Budget Session 2025: Zero hour in Legislative Assembly

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

The Zero Hour proceedings in the ongoing session of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly today recorded several key issues being raised by the members, focusing on governance and public concerns.

The session began with MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, a senior member of the Legislative Assembly besides member of the recently constituted Business Advisory Committee (BAC), addressing a concern raised by the opposition. He clarified that as per the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Speaker has sole discretion in legislative matters without requiring external advice. He also acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the Assembly Secretariat employees.

MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, highlighted the pressing issue of the blocked underpass at the railway crossing in Kakapora. He stressed that the obstruction was severely impacting the public access to agricultural lands and urged for its immediate reopening, particularly in light of the approaching sowing season in the valley.

MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz Bedar, drew attention to non-availability of an Anaesthesia Consultant at SDH Pattan. He emphasized the urgent need for immediate posting of a specialist to ensure uninterrupted medical services at the health facility.

EDITORIAL

Rumours overshadowing facts?

The recent uproar over alleged plans to open new liquor vends in Jammu and Kashmir, despite official denials, highlights a deeper issue at the heart of the region's ongoing social and political challenges. The rumors, amplified by social media, have sparked outrage, forcing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to issue a categorical statement refuting the claims. He clarified that no new liquor vends were being allotted, and the current auctions only involve existing vends under the J&K Excise Policy for 2025-26. The government maintains that the number of liquor vends remains unchanged at 305 – 291 in Jammu and 14 in Kashmir – the same figure since the 2023-24 financial year. Yet, the speed and intensity with which the unverified reports spread reveal a trust deficit between the public and the administration. In an era where misinformation travels faster than facts, the damage to public perception was done before the clarifications could even surface. This controversy touches on several sensitive nerves in J&K. The region, already grappling with the devastating consequences of drug addiction, sees alcohol sales as an adjacent moral and social issue. The war on drugs remains a top priority, with authorities frequently seizing narcotics and running awareness campaigns. Introducing more liquor outlets – even if untrue – felt to many like a contradictory move, fueling the backlash. However, beyond the misinformation, the debate over liquor vends in J&K points to a larger, uncomfortable truth. The economy of the Union Territory remains fragile, with limited avenues for sustainable revenue generation. Liquor sales, while contentious, contribute significantly to state coffers across India. J&K is no exception, relying on excise revenues to fund public services and infrastructure. But is this a price the region is willing to pay, especially when public sentiment remains staunchly opposed to increasing access to alcohol? The government must tread carefully. Transparency is paramount – not just in policy execution but in public communication. The Chief Minister's office was quick to respond, but the damage control came after the narrative had already spiraled. Proactive engagement, clear messaging, and direct dialogue with citizens are crucial to dispel rumors before they escalate. At the same time, the people of J&K deserve a nuanced, open discussion about economic development and public health. The liquor vend issue isn't just about numbers – it's about values, livelihoods, and social well-being. Can alternative revenue sources be explored more aggressively? How can tourism, horticulture, and handicrafts – sectors where J&K has natural advantages – receive the same prioritization as excise revenue? The social media firestorm over liquor vends is a wake-up call for both the administration and the public. It underscores the need for reliable information channels and highlights the region's ongoing struggle to balance economic pragmatism with social responsibility. If the government hopes to maintain public trust, transparency and empathy must lead the way – not just in this controversy, but in every policy that shapes the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Explore the role of foreign investments for economic stability

MONICA B SOOD

India's economic trajectory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi blends rigorous analysis with bold policy moves. The BJP-led government has combined openness to foreign capital – through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) – with initiatives to boost self-reliance. Economists and policymakers alike recognise foreign investment as a pillar of economic stability, providing critical financing, technology, and market access across sectors. This balanced strategy favours pro-growth reforms while building domestic capacity.

FDI AND FII: Temporary Boost For Long-Term Self-Reliance

Surging FDI inflows have strengthened India's growth and stability. Annual FDI hit a record \$83.6 Billion in FY2021-22, almost double the \$45 Billion in 2014. This reflects investors' confidence in India's reform agenda. Manufacturing FDI alone jumped 76 per cent in FY2021-22 after initiatives like Make in India, and even post-COVID FDI inflows were 23 per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels, underscoring sustained foreign trust during crises.

FII has been crucial in bolstering India's financial markets and boost-

ing its economy. India has managed to extract maximum advantage out of FII Inflows to improve market liquidity and reinforce a strong balance of payments position. Moreover, the Modi government's economic policies have inspired considerable confidence in the Indian economy among global investors leading to ever-increasing inflows of capital that have further firmed up the Indian economy. Timely and proactive actions taken by policymakers from targeted liquidity infusions during the 2020 global crisis to automatic stabilisers have mitigated volatility and supported growth momentum.

This bolstered economic momentum,

with its cadre of dedicated professionals, startups, and thriving industries, has catapulted India to a challenging, productive, and sustainable global positioning of higher foreign investments.

Transformative Impact Across Key Sectors

Liberalised foreign investment regulations have funnelled significant capital reserves into formative industries including information technology, manufacturing infrastructure, healthcare, agribusiness, and education.

Technology corporations have been top beneficiaries, with the software and hardware sector

attracting approximately 25 per cent of all foreign direct investment inflows in fiscal year 2021-2022, underscoring India's emergence as a global technology leader. Manufacturing industries have gained momentum thanks to both foreign capital and domestic incentives designed to stimulate job creation and output. The innovative Production-Linked Incentive schemes introduced in 2020 have since incentivised ₹1.32 Trillion in new investments while expanding total production value by a staggering ₹10.9 Trillion, generating hundreds of thousands of well-compensated employment opportunities.

Strategic Reforms Boost Self-Reliance

PM Modi has aligned the overarching policy goals of self-reliance with encouraging foreign investment. Prime Minister Modi has shifted policy to turn self-reliance into both a goal and an opportunity for foreign investors. Launched in 2020 with a \$20 Trillion stimulus, the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission epitomises India's pursuit for self-reliant growth; more efficient, competitive and resilient economies that welcome foreign participation which can strengthen the domestic base.

Defence manufacturing is a case in point. The FDI cap on it was raised from 49 per cent to 74 per cent to attract joint ventures and technology transfer.

On a broader scale, substantive liberalisation of FDI across all sectors (from coal mining and aviation to insurance and the internet) along with simplifying investment rules has radically improved India's investor-friendly environment. Together with the Make in India initiative, this ensures that foreign investment enters the country in forms that are consistent with national goals and strengthen the industrial foundation.

Self-Reliant Growth

Continuing reforms and overall multi-sector growth should keep India firmly on the map as a global place for investment. Nearly constant inflows from abroad, gains in sectors besides heavy industry, and a market that has been proof of the strength of this strategy.

Consequently, strategic foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign institutional investors (FII) will continue to play important roles in India's pursuit of balanced development. By keeping up steady government policies and forming international partnerships, India can achieve economic self-reliance. This formula for success will ensure that India is a strong and resilient economic power.

Conclusion

The challenge of balancing foreign investment with self-reliant economic growth in India has its

roots in the socialist Nehruvian policies. Historically, India has oscillated between protectionist policies and open-market reforms. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the government has pursued a dual approach: encouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) while simultaneously strengthening domestic industries. The core issue being tackled is how India can leverage foreign capital for growth without becoming overly dependent on external funding. FDI brings in critical capital, technology, and expertise, which boost infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology sectors. Meanwhile, FII helps stabilise financial markets and improve liquidity. However, excessive reliance on foreign investments can lead to economic vulnerabilities, particularly during global downturns.

India has addressed this issue by implementing structural reforms such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Production-Linked Incentives (PLI).

These initiatives ensure that foreign investments align with national priorities, fostering job creation, technological advancements, and industrial self-sufficiency. In essence, the problem being analysed is whether India can sustain high economic growth,

attract global investments, and enhance self-reliance without compromising financial stability.

India's economic trajectory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflects a strategic blend of foreign investment and self-reliance.

The record-breaking inflows of FDI and FII underscore global confidence in India's reform agenda, strengthening financial markets, industrial growth, and employment generation. Initiatives like Make in India, Production-Linked Incentives, and Atmanirbhar Bharat have ensured that foreign investments align with national priorities, bolstering domestic capabilities while sustaining economic expansion.

The liberalisation of foreign investment regulations across key sectors such as technology, manufacturing, and defense has attracted significant capital and fostered innovation.

The Modi government's pragmatic policies have mitigated global economic volatility, creating a resilient economic environment that can weather crises and sustain long-term growth. India's rise as a technology and industrial powerhouse is a testament to this strategic approach.

(The Author is Chairperson - National Unity and Security Council. Views expressed are personal)

Logistics is holding back north India's growth

ASMITAL

India's industrial growth narrative presents an alarming regional imbalance that cannot be ignored. While western and southern states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana stand as formidable economic powerhouses, their northern counterparts state such as Punjab and Uttar Pradesh remain entrenched in stagnation. This disparity poses a significant threat to our ambition of achieving a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. A critical factor driving this divide is logistics. The lack of adequate access to seaports makes manufacturing in northern India prohibitively expensive, crippling competitiveness and driving away crucial investment. If we fail to rationalise freight costs, the industrial sector in landlocked states will perpetually struggle, deepening the economic chasm.

Logistics: A Key Driver of Industrial Inequality

With a coastline stretching 4,316 km, southern and western states possess undeniable locational advantages that enable seamless exports to markets in China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and throughout the ASEAN region. Tamil Nadu dominates India's automobile sector, while Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Telangana lead in engineering, IT, and textiles. Collectively, these five states account for a staggering 53 per cent of India's total factories, firmly establishing their dominance in industrial growth. Maharashtra's

industrial sector has experienced explosive growth, achieving a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.77 per cent from FY 2021-22 to 2023-24-the highest in the nation. Tamil Nadu follows closely at 11.63 per cent, with Telangana at 11.47 per cent, Gujarat at 10.2 per cent, and Karnataka at 8.47 per cent. In stark contrast, northern states such as Haryana (7.1 per cent), Punjab (6.78 per cent), and Uttar Pradesh (4.7 per cent) are falling behind, as highlighted by the Economic Survey of these states.

The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-23 further underscores this imbalance. Maharashtra and Gujarat contribute nearly 40 per cent of India's industrial output, while Uttar Pradesh and Punjab generate a mere 8.5 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively. The exorbitant cost of transporting goods from landlocked northern states to coastal export hubs severely undermines competitiveness. This issue has dampened overall industrial sentiment, making these states far less attractive for both domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) compared to their southern and western counterparts.

FDI trends paint a stark picture of this disparity. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Maharashtra has emerged as the leading recipient of FDI from FY 2021-22 to 2023-24, attracting Rs 5,32,429 Crore-an impressive 30 per cent of total FDI equity inflows. Karnataka follows with Rs 3,89,483 Crore (22 per cent) and Gujarat

with Rs 2,99,624 crore (17 per cent). Together, these three states command an astounding 69 per cent of India's total FDI, while the remaining states are left with a mere 31 per cent. This clearly illustrates how locational advantages significantly dictate industrial investment.

Export statistics serve as further evidence of this imbalance, with Gujarat and Maharashtra accounting for over 50 per cent of India's total exports, thanks to their robust seaport infrastructures. Without immediate and decisive intervention, this disparity will only continue to widen, threatening the future economic landscape of our nation.

Seaport-Led Industrialisation: A Global Perspective

Seaports play a critical role in industrialisation. Some countries, like China, have successfully leveraged their coastal regions to expand manufacturing capabilities. In China, industrial hubs are strategically located near ports, minimising logistical costs. In contrast, India's hinterland dry ports and container depots are, on average, 1,400 km away from seaports, leading to significantly higher export and import costs. This distance compounds competition from China, which accounted for nearly 42 per cent of India's textiles and clothing imports, 40 per cent of machinery imports, and 38.4 per cent of electronics imports in 2023-24.

Why Freight Costs Matter

The Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) reported in 2022 that India's logistics costs are already 14 per cent higher than the global average, disproportionately affecting manufacturers in landlocked northern states that rely on dry ports as critical trade gateways. Manufacturers in these areas face higher freight costs due to longer transit distances to seaports like Mumbai, Mundra, Kandla, and Chennai.

Dependence on road transport is 30-50 per cent more expensive than rail. The lack of dedicated freight corridors slows transportation efficiency and increases operational expenses. Industries in northern states not only receive raw materials from coastal regions but also send finished products to markets using the same routes.

While dry ports have been established to bridge this gap, they often function merely as booking centres rather than effective logistics solutions. As a result, northern manufacturers face a double freight burden, forcing many to relocate or shut down operations due to unsustainable costs. In contrast, industrial clusters in coastal states benefit from proximity to ports, enhancing their global trade competitiveness and generating employment.

Railway freight initiatives: The Indian Railways has successfully implemented targeted freight subsidies in select sectors. First, A 40 per cent discount is available for loading fly ash. Second, Traditional Empty Flow Directions (TEFD) rebate up to a 20 per cent reduc-

tion in costs for freight that moves along under-utilised routes. Third, 157 'Kisan Rail' services transport perishable goods and vegetables. A 50 per cent subsidy on railway freight, funded by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the "Operation Greens" scheme, has significantly boosted farm exports of agricultural commodities. Fourth, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) offers a 20 per cent Transport Incentive (TI) Scheme for finished goods transported via rail or the Inland Waterways Authority of India, from the port nearest to the location of industrial units in the North-Eastern Region (NER) to the buyers' area.

How freight subsidy could be re-structured

Based on previous initiatives, a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program could be a game changer and might be structured as follows: Subsidised Rail Freight Rates: 1. Offering up to a 30-40 per cent subsidy on goods transported from northern dry ports to major coastal hubs.

2-Expanding Empty Flow Rebates: Extending TEFD rebates to northern states to make backhaul freight more economical.

3-Infrastructure Development: Investing in multimodal logistics parks and dedicated freight corridors in the northern states.

The Way Forward:

The central government must not overlook its landlocked northern states to achieve inclusive industrial growth. Rail freight sub-

sidies will support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), attract new investments, and create jobs.

While global trade regulations often scrutinise subsidies, the pricing autonomy of Indian Railways allows for strategic adjustments in freight costs without breaching World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. By revising freight structures, northern manufacturers can enhance their global competitiveness. If we aspire for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), it is essential to ensure balanced industrial progress. To conclude, India's industrial growth is marked by stark regional disparities, with southern states while northern states lag behind. A key driver of this imbalance is logistics, as landlocked states face high freight costs that hinder competitiveness and discourage investment.

Proximity to seaports has enabled coastal states to dominate exports, attract foreign direct investment, and develop thriving industrial sectors. To bridge this gap, India must implement a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program, including subsidised rail freight rates, expanded empty flow rebates, and enhanced logistics infrastructure.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are personal)

Lt Rangaswamy begins centennial year with tribute to fellow soldiers at NWM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 13

Lieutenant Rangaswamy Madhawan Pillai, a 99-year-old veteran of the Indian National Army (INA), marked the beginning of his centennial year with a heartfelt tribute to his fellow soldiers and leader.

The Azad Hind Fauz veteran, on Thursday, paid tribute by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial and the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Kartavya Path.

Organised by the Indian Army, the event was attended by senior armed forces personnel and the public. The ceremony stood as a powerful reminder of India's enduring legacy of sacrifice and patriotism, an Indian Army statement said.

Lieutenant Rangaswamy Madhawan Pillai was



born on March 13, 1926, in the Swryan Township of Rangoon District in Burma (now Myanmar). His father hailed from Sivagangai District in Tamil Nadu. He initially joined the Indian Independence League as a civilian in 1942 under Rash Behari Bose.

When Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose arrived in Singapore, Lt Madhawan formally enlisted in the INA on November 1, 1943, at the age of 18. After receiving his commission from the Officers Train-

ing School in Burma, he served as a recruitment and fundraising officer. Later, he served in the administrative branch at the INA Headquarters in Rangoon under Major General KP Thimayya (elder brother of General KS Thimayya).

He was officially recognised as a freedom fighter by the Government of India on 1 August, 1980. On 23 January 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated him on the occasion of Parakram

Diwas celebrations at Red Fort in the National Capital. Lieutenant Madhawan's life story embodies the courage and unity that defined the Indian National Army. Decades ago, he braved the unforgiving terrain of the Northeast, carrying the aspirations of millions who longed for a free India. Now, at the threshold of his centenary, his act of remembrance stands as a powerful testament to the unwavering resolve that fuelled India's struggle for independence.

Today's wreath-laying ceremony not only honours the sacrifices of the brave men and women who fought for India's freedom but also serves as a poignant reminder of the nation's ongoing journey to break free from colonial legacies while upholding the spirit of their sacrifice.

MUDA scam reaches CVC, whistleblower accuses top officials

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, MAR 13

The Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) corruption probe has escalated as whistleblower Snehamayi Krishna has accused senior officials of fabricating a false report despite substantial evidence. The case has now reached the Commissioner of the Central Vigilance Committee (CVC), intensifying scrutiny on the integrity of key law enforcement officers.

Krishna has formally lodged a complaint against Additional Director General of Police Manish Kharbikar,

Inspector General of Police Subrahmanyaeshwar Rao, and Mysore Lokayukta Superintendent of Police TJ Udayesh. According to Krishna, these officials deliberately misrepresented facts and manipulated documentation to suppress evidence of corruption within MUDA.

The whistleblower, on Thursday, also accused powerful political figures, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, of shielding those involved. Allegations suggest that political interference has obstructed a fair inquiry, raising questions about the credibility of anti-corruption mechanisms in

the state. Krishna called for a thorough investigation into the competence and ethical integrity of the accused officers, questioning their suitability for serving in the Indian Police Service (IPS). The allegations have sparked concerns about systemic corruption in Mysuru's governance and underscored the need for a transparent and independent probe.

Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah, a Congress leader, assured that the state government would take legal action to recover MUDA plots allegedly acquired through corrupt means.

However, Krishna has criticised this move, asserting that plot recovery should follow due legal process rather than political directives. The whistleblower has urged CM Siddaramaiah to prioritise legal compliance and seek professional legal counsel on the matter.

With the controversy gaining traction, the case has reignited discussions on Karnataka's governance and the effectiveness of its anti-corruption framework. Observers emphasise the need for an independent and impartial probe to restore public trust and ensure accountability.

Tejas LCA MK1 test-fires beyond visual range air-to-air Astra missile

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 12

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) on Wednesday successfully test fired homegrown Astra, Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) from LCA AF MK1 prototype fighter aircraft.

The test fire was carried out off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The test firing successfully demonstrated the direct hit of the missile on flying target. All the subsystems performed accurately meeting all mission parameters and objectives.



Astra missile is designed and developed by DRDO capable of engaging the targets over 100km and equipped with advanced guidance and navigation capabilities allows missile to destroy targets with greater accuracy.

The missile is already inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The successful test-firing is a significant milestone towards the induction of LCA AF MK1A variant. The success is the result of hard work by the inte-

grated team of scientists, engineers and technicians from ADA, DRDO, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) along with support from CEMILAC, DG-AQA, IAF and test range team. Further trials are planned towards the performance evaluation.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the teams of DRDO, IAF, ADA, HAL and all involved in the trial.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts of scientists, engineers and technicians from various organisations and industry.

UP govt sets record with 3.90 lakh MT more paddy procured

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, MAR 13

Uttar Pradesh has set a new record in paddy procurement, surpassing last year's figure by 3.90 lakh metric tonnes, reaching 57.70 lakh metric tons in 2024-25, official sources said here on Thursday.

Sources said that ensuring prompt payments, the Yogi government has already disbursed over 99 percent of dues to farmers, amounting to more than Rs 13,326 crore. It may be noted that this year the Minimum Support Price (MSP) was fixed at Rs 2,300 per quintal for regular paddy and Rs 2,320 per quintal for Grade A paddy, Rs 117 higher than er quintal than last year. Farmers also received Rs 20 per quintal for unloading, sieving and cleaning.

Nitish instructs to complete the construction of Airports at an accelerated pace

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAR 13

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar directed the authorities concerned to complete the construction of terminals of Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport.

Reviewing the progress of the construction work at Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport and inspecting the spot of the proposed International Airport in Bihta here on Thursday, Kumar asked the authorities to complete the construction work of terminals of Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport at the earliest for convenience of the travellers.

He said the airport was being expanded in view of the increasing number of travellers and better facilities were being established for them.

Kumar said that the travellers can avail the facilities with an increase in the number of flights from



here.

During inspection the authorities apprised the chief minister that 11 aero stations were being constructed at this airport and all of the construction work would be finished by June.

While inspecting the spot for construction of Bihta International Airport, Kumar said that the airport will be constructed at the earliest after which international flights would operate from both of the airports. Travellers from Bihar will also get benefits

once the airport in Bihta is operational. It will minimise the traffic pressure at Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport of Patna, he added.

He said to minimise the travel time from Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport to Bihta airport an elevated road was being constructed.

During the inspection the authorities apprised the Chief Minister with the details of the proposed Bihta airport and informed that 10 aero stations would be constructed here.

Shah virtually inaugurates, lays foundation stone for Infra projects worth Rs 146 cr in Ahmedabad

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 13

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several infrastructure projects worth Rs 146 crore in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

In his address, Shah said that these infrastructure projects will enhance the convenience of local residents, improve connectivity, and provide a fresh boost to employment, industry, and business, a Home Ministry statement said here.

The projects include construction of a railway overbridge, approximately 1 km long, on the Ahmedabad-Viramgam railway track at Sanand-Chekhlakadi Road, with an investment of Rs 60 crore. Moreover, foundation stone has been laid for the construction of a 4-lane bridge over the Narmada



Canal on National Highway No 147 at a cost of Rs 36.30 crore, and a flyover bridge on Sarkhej-Gandhinagar (SG) Highway at Chharodi at a cost of Rs 45 crore.

The Minister stated that all these development works will set new milestones of development in the four assembly constituencies of the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

Shah said that the Gujarat government has completed several development projects worth thousands of crores in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha

constituency. In terms of infrastructure, Gujarat is currently in the first position across India.

The Home Minister informed that the centre is going to build a state-of-the-art 500-bed hospital in Sanand. He mentioned that this hospital will remain open 24 hours a day for all the people of Sanand and Bavlva talukas.

He also said that several trust-run hospitals are being built in this area. Additionally, the centre is constructing a 300-bed

government hospital in Kalol Taluka. Shah said that once all these hospitals are completed, every person will be able to access state-of-the-art healthcare facilities near their home.

The Home Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gujarat, along with the entire country, is making a significant progress and mentioned that the state is home to the world's largest green energy park planned in Kutch, Asia's largest green city, Dholera, and India's second-longest highway, the Surat-Chennai Expressway.

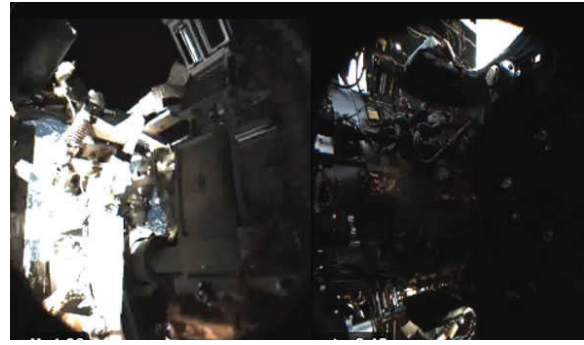
Shah further said that to create an international financial hub, GIFT City has been established in Ahmedabad, the Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train has been launched, and a Rapid Rail service has been started between Bhuj and Ahmedabad.

ISRO successfully undocks Spadex modules

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, MAR 13

In yet another giant step for India's space ambitions, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed the undocking of its Space Docking Experiment (Spadex) modules.

This marks a major achievement in India's space technology, bringing the country closer to advanced space missions, including future space stations. ISRO's Spadex mission, launched on December 30, 2024, aboard PSLV-C60, was designed to test the ability of two spacecraft to dock with each other in orbit—something only a handful of countries have achieved. The two satellites, SDX-1 and SDX-2, suc-



cessfully docked on January 16, 2025, making India the fourth nation in the world to demonstrate this complex space maneuver after the USA, Russia, and China.

After weeks in a docked state, ISRO scientists successfully carried out a carefully planned undocking process. The sequence involved extending SDX-2 to create separation,

releasing Capture Lever 3 as scheduled, disengaging the Capture Lever in SDX-2, and issuing the final decapture command in both SDX-1 and SDX-2, ensuring a smooth and controlled separation.

With all these steps successfully completed, Spadex undocked! ISRO shared the news on social media, calling it a "spectacular success" and con-

gratulating its team. Stunning visuals of the undocking were captured by both spacecraft, giving the world a glimpse of this milestone achievement.

The Spadex mission marks a significant leap for India's space programme, enabling ISRO to develop key technologies for future advancements. It paves the way for the development of Indian space stations, facilitates in-orbit satellite repairs, and supports the possibility of human space missions, strengthening India's position in global space exploration.

With this success, India has once again proven its growing capabilities in advanced space operations, paving the way for bigger and bolder missions in the years ahead.

PM Modi 'orchestrated' Airtel, Jio's deal with Starlink, alleges Congress

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 13

The Congress on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of allegedly "orchestrating" India's two leading telecom firms "Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio's partnerships with Starlink" saying that it is a bid to "buy goodwill with President Trump through Elon Musk". On his social media handle X, senior Congress

leader Jairam Ramesh said, "Within literally 12 hours both Airtel and Jio have announced partnerships with Starlink, seemingly overcoming all their objections to its entry into India - which they have been voicing for quite some time". It may be mentioned that Elon Musk promoted Starlink, has entered into an agreement with Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio to offer high-speed internet to their subscribers. "It is abun-

dantly clear that these partnerships have been orchestrated by none other than the PM himself to buy goodwill with President Trump through Starlink's owner Mr. Elon Musk," Jairam said. He asked, "But many questions remain. Perhaps the most important one relates to national security. Who will have the power to switch connectivity on or off when

national security demands it? Will it be Starlink or its Indian partners? Will other satellite-based connectivity providers also be permitted and on what basis?" Ramesh said, "And, of course, the much larger question of Tesla manufacturing in India remains. Is there some commitment to it now that Starlink's entry into India has been facilitated?"

NOTICE

I Prop. Esha Dabur W/o Arun Sharma do hereby declare that I am working as KU (Krishi Udhaymi) at KKG, Trilokpur under HADP scheme and I am going to apply for the Fertilizer License at Trilokpur. Any objection may please be brought into the kind notice of the Chief Agriculture Office, Jammu within a week.

NOTICE

I Prop. Amit Singh S/o Thoru Ram do hereby declare that I am working as KU (Krishi Udhaymi) at KKG Sagoon under HADP scheme and I intend to apply for the Fertilizer License for the sale of fertilizer in UT of J&K Dist. Jammu, sub division Dansal. Any person having objection to my application may submit their objection to the Chief Agriculture Office near Police lines Jammu within a week.

Centre committed to providing 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' under JJM: Arvind

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

The Centre is steadfast in its mission to provide Har Ghar Nal Se Jal under the prestigious Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide tap water connections to every household across the country.

This was stated by Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West after inaugurating the laying of a 675-meter PHE water GI pipeline in Amar Colony Extension, Ward 32, a significant step towards strengthening the water supply infrastructure in Jammu West. On the occasion, former Deputy Mayor Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, BJP Mandal President Anil Angral, Mandal



President Kaushant Dafara, Arun Dubey, Rajesh Saini, Gurucharan Singh, Geeta Sodhi and Harvinder Singh were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Arvind highlighted

that this project in Amar Colony Extension is part of the larger vision of ensuring access to safe and potable water for all. This initiative aims to ensure a consistent and clean water

supply to the residents, reinforcing the commitment of the government to fulfilling the basic needs of the people, he added.

The senior BJP leader stated that under the leadership of PM Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented infrastructural development, and the Jal Jeevan Mission has been instrumental in transforming the lives of the people by addressing long-standing water scarcity issues. "The BJP-led government is committed to ensuring that every household gets access to clean drinking water, and today's initiative is another step in that direction," he said.

Arvind Gupta also appreciated the efforts of the local administration and the Public Health

Engineering (PHE) department for expediting the project and assured the people that the government remains dedicated to resolving civic issues at the grassroots level. He urged the residents to actively participate in water conservation efforts and make judicious use of resources.

The MLA reaffirmed that the BJP government will continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people and urged citizens to support developmental initiatives aimed at making Jammu a model region for growth and prosperity. Local residents expressed their gratitude for the timely intervention and lauded the efforts of the BJP leadership in addressing their long-pending demand for a reliable water supply.

Gurj Gunners empowers Janglote Youth with Digital Literacy

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA: 13 MAR 2025

Gurj Division successfully conducted a three-week Basic Computer Course for the youth of Janglote village, reinforcing the Indian Army's commitment to national security, community development and empowerment.

The course trained 35 students from remote areas, equipping them with essential digital skills to enhance their educational and career prospects in an increasingly digital world. This initiative exemplifies the Indian Army's dedication to fostering growth, self-reliance and skill-based learning opportunities among local communities, particularly in remote areas.

As nation-builders, the Indian Army strives to promote holistic develop-



ment, complementing its role as protector of the nation's borders. The successful completion of this program has garnered enthusiastic support from

the local population, further cementing the deep bond between the Indian Army and the people of Janglote village and surrounding areas.

J&K Cultural Festival to be held on Mar 25: Rohit Shastri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur Thather, Bantab, Jammu and Kashmir, is set to organize a grand Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Festival on Tuesday, March 25. In this regard, the President of the Trust, Rohit Shastri, held a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Jammu Agricultural University (SKUAST), Prof. B. N. Tripathi, to discuss the event. Shastri stated that the festival will be held at the campus of Jammu Agricultural University (SKUAST), Jammu. This historic event will be graced by the presence of renowned Indian saint Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha Ji, and several other esteemed dignitaries.



Event Timing and Main Attractions;

This grand cultural festival will be held from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The formal inauguration will take place at 2:00 PM with the arrival of the

chief guest. The festival will feature a variety of colorful programs and exhibitions showcasing the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. The main attractions of the festival include:

Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Exhibition - Displaying exquisite examples of traditional art, crafts, and handicrafts.

Cultural Performances - Folk art, dance, music, and theatrical performances from Jammu and Kashmir.

Documentary Film Release - A special documentary on the life of Honorable Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji will be screened.

Flower Shower from an Aircraft - A grand flower shower at the venue to make the event memorable.

Felicitation Ceremony - Honoring prominent individuals for their contribution to the cultural heritage and social harmony of Jammu and Kashmir.

Objective of the Festival The main objective of this cultural festival is to strengthen the rich cultural heritage, religious

traditions, and social unity of Jammu and Kashmir. Through this festival, efforts are being made to present the glorious culture, folk art, music, and history of Jammu and Kashmir in a new light. The festival will provide local artists and cultural groups with a broad platform to showcase their talents and traditions.

The President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust stated, "This cultural festival is being organized to preserve and promote the cultural heritage and traditional values of Jammu and Kashmir. This festival will strengthen our cultural identity and help the younger generation connect with their roots."

All citizens are cordially invited to this grand festival. Be part of this historic occasion and witness the rich cultural tradition of Jammu and Kashmir.

SMVDU inaugurates e-Yantra Robotics Lab in collaboration with IIT Bombay's e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI)

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

The School of Electronics & Communication Engineering (SoECE) at SMVDU, in collaboration with IIT Bombay's e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI), inaugurated its e-Yantra Robotics Lab. Established within the 5G-IoT Lab, the facility aims to enhance AI, ML, and robotics education, equipping students with hands-on experience and industry-relevant skills to improve employability and entrepreneurship. Prof. Shubha Pandit (Advisor, e-Yantra) emphasized the importance of robotics in engineering education. Dr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal (Assistant Professor, SoECE) showcased IoT and robotics-related projects,



demonstrating real-world applications. Students from various engineering branches are engaged in interdisciplinary robotics projects, reflecting the lab's broad impact. The event was attended by faculty members, including Dr. Yatheshth Anand (HoD, SoME), Mr. Swastik Gupta (SoECE), Dr. Varun Dutta (SoME), and Mr. Manoj Kumar Verma (SoCSE), alongside students and Laboratory staff members Mr. Gaurav Kumar,

Mr. Deepankur Gupta and e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI) representatives from IIT Bombay. The Robotics Club at SMVDU displayed innovative projects. Dr. Yatheshth Anand also informed the audience about robotics-related courses such as Industrial Robotics and Kinematics and Dynamics of Robotics. This initiative strengthens SMVDU's commitment to preparing students for a technology-driven future.

National President RPP Sunil Bharala calls RPP J&K President & Secretary for discussion

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad Jammu and Kashmir called by National President Pt Sh sunil bharala and apprised him about the activities under taken by the jammu and kashmir unit in creating awareness about Shri bagwan Parshu Ram ji and removing the falsehood narrative created by some elements about Shri Bhagwan Parshu Ram on Kshatriya as three bagwan parahu Ram ji was guru of Shri Bhisam patama of dwaperyuga He has a blessings to all Kshatriyas including Maharaja Janak and many other kshatriye kings. Further the Jammu team led by its President PT.JEEVANAND sharma and Pradesh Mantri Sh CHANDAN DUTTA THANKED Sunil Bharala FOR THE WONDERFUL ARRANGEMENTS OF MAHASHIVIR OF MAHAKUMBH AT PRAYGRAJ UP where lakhs of people from country and thousands of people from jammu and kashmir has stayed there and took sacred bath at the Triveni sangam and took blessings of Shri bagwan Parshuram as the Mahayaga of shree Parshupar-



meshwer was continuously held for the entire period of Mahakumbha and devotees were blessed with divine consciousness and purity of mind and thoughts with chanting of Mantra by Raj purohit of Ayuodhya and other learned pandit from the country. BESIDES THE FIVE POINT PROGRAMME of Jammu region which includes awareness and Langer at the time of shree Amarnath yatra, display of shree bagwan Parshuram ji at the Katra, parshu dham and temple at jammu region, Helping displaced kashmiri pandit and a camp for creating awareness of hinduataav at jammu with young team to inculcate the sense of dharma and rashtriyeta in youth

of jmu to give orientation to clean politics filled with moral values ans sense of rashtriyeta in the youth to lead the path of Honble Prime Minister of india Ek Bharat ,Shresth Bharat... the Jammu team assured to follow the guidelines of Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad and its President jeevanand sharma thanked the RPP National President and Pradesh Mantri Sh Chandan datta too assured to work with zeal and thanked RPP National President for the patient hearing of the jammu and kashmir team. Bharala ensure to visit the Jammu and Kashmir soon and carry forward the activities of parishad at Gross root level in J&K.

Central Govt committed for holistic devp of J&K: Randhawa

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Vikram Randhawa, senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency today reaffirmed that the Modi Government is committed to the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that infrastructure, connectivity, and public welfare remain top priorities under the Government at the Centre. He stated that the government is dedicated to transforming the region through improved road networks, better civic amenities, and sustainable urban planning, ensuring long-term benefits for residents.

The senior BJP leader was speaking after inaugurating the much-awaited blacktopping work at Sunjwan Main Road, aiming to provide smooth connectivity and ease commuting challenges for residents. Accompanied by AEE Vikram Billowria and JE Inam Bhat from the concerned department, the MLA formally launched the work in presence of BJP Bahu Mandal President Surjeet Singh ji, Mandal General Secretary Ajay Sharma ji, Mandal General Secretary Sudhgar



Lal ji, Secretary Madan Lal ji, Rakesh Kumar ji, Mandal Vice President Sanjay Sharma ji, Daljeet Singh, Harshmeet Singh, along with several other prominent party workers and local citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA Randhawa highlighted that holistic development goes beyond basic infrastructure, encompassing education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and environmental sustainability. He reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) is being effectively implemented in Jammu & Kashmir, with Bahu Constituency witnessing rapid progress in multiple sectors.

He emphasized that

BJP remains dedicated to ensuring infrastructural advancements across the region. He highlighted that the blacktopping of Sunjwan Main Road was a long-pending demand of the residents, and its fulfillment under the Modi government reflects the party's vision of holistic development.

He assured the public that various developmental projects, including roads, water supply, and sanitation, will continue at a fast pace, reaffirming BJP's commitment to inclusive growth and an improved standard of living for every citizen. "I assure the people of Bahu constituency that more such projects will be taken up for execution in a time-bound manner," he stated.

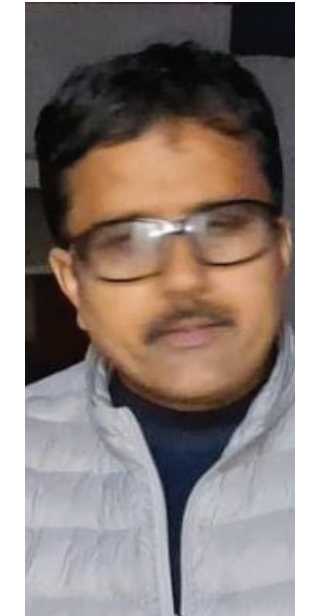
Dr. Vikas hails CM for Constitution of Committee to regularise daily wagers

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

National Conference leader welcomed the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K for the constitution of High Power Committee headed by Chief Secretary, J&K to regularise Daily Wagers clamouring since pretty long time.

In a press statement issued by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Secretary Central Zone JKNC, he welcomed the step of Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah Sb to prepare the roadmap within six months for regularisation of daily wagers to address their long pending demand of regularising daily wagers, adhoc workers and casual labourers across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Vikas said PDP and BJP Government and then LG Government did not pay heed to the burning demand of daily wagers and kept it pending for all these years of their governance ignoring the problems of thousands of families associated with Daily Wagers in these days of skyrocketing inflations. It is the high time to give priority to the grave concern of daily wagers to



take constructive action to search some concrete solution to solve the regularisation demand of large numbers of daily wagers, he said adding the announced Committee is the right step to pave way for early redressal of their problem.

Dr. Vikas Sharma said that promises made by previous Governments and bureaucrats since 2014 have turned out to be a big flop to ruin the career of these daily wagers and spoil the future of their families and children in terms of their financial needs, he bemoaned.

Rekha Mahajan urges people to celebrate eco-friendly Holi with flowers, devotion

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Arya Samaj Trikota Nagar celebrated Vedic Holi with great fervor and devotion, emphasizing the significance of preserving Indian traditions and cultural values. The event was graced by senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan who emphasized the importance of celebrating Holi with flowers and devotion instead of colors, fostering a sense of purity and spirituality. The celebration was marked by the presence of Ravinder Rekhi (President), Bharat Bhushan (Vice President), Subhash Arya (Secretary), Ranvijay Shastri Ji, Suneel Mahajan, Ashok Gupta, Suman Gupta, Om Arya, Pawan Sharma, and Parveen Kotwal, among other distinguished guests. The event featured Agnihotra and Vedic Holi rituals, where sacred offerings were made into the holy fire with spe-



cially prepared aromatic and health-enhancing materials. The chants of Vedic mantras resonated through the air, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

Rekha highlighted that Holi, beyond being a festival of colors, carries a profound message of purification and renewal. The Vedic Holi celebrations at Arya Samaj Trikota Nagar showcased the importance of performing Agnihotra, where sacred offerings were made into the holy fire, believed to purify the

environmental pollution and highlighted the role of traditional Yajnas in purifying the surroundings and eliminating harmful germs.

Bharat Bhushan, Vice President of Arya Samaj, described Holi as a significant religious festival, also known as Vasantik Nav Sasyeshti Parva, marking the ripening of crops and the joyous spirit of farmers.

environment and eliminate airborne impurities. She urged people to adopt eco-friendly celebrations, incorporating flowers and devotion instead of harmful chemicals.

Rekha Mahajan further stressed that festivals like Holi reinforce unity, positivity, and reverence for nature, and it is the responsibility of every individual to pass on these values to future generations with pride and sincerity.

Ravinder Rekhi emphasized the importance of protecting nature from

Vedic scholar Ranvijay Shastri Ji elaborated on the connection between Indian festivals and agriculture, underscoring that India has always been an agrarian nation. He remarked that festivals should be celebrated with a spirit of joy and gratitude, aligning with nature and the cycle of harvest. The celebration concluded with devotional songs and the distribution of Prasadam, reinforcing the essence of purity and togetherness in festivities.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Akhnoor, Kalakote and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16 and 18 from 7 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Channi, Marheen, Paharpur, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Haria-Chack, Nanan Barnoti and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 15 and 16 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Kathua town, Hatlimorh, Kalibari, Ludanchak, Janglote, Patel Nagar, Sawan Chak, Shastri Nagar, Chak Pratap, PHE installations and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 15 and 17 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bani, Bhandhar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 15 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Billawar, Mandi, Dewal, Pranalla, Tandi, Macheedi, Bhaddu, Kudethar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16, 18, 20 and 22 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial Units- CTM, MD Enterprises, Knit Fab will remain affected on March 16 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Sidhra, Janipur, Jhaujarkotli and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16 from 8 am to 6 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Transport Nagar, Railway Station and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 15 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bahu Fort and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to the areas fed from BB-II and Samba Grid Station will remain affected on March 16 from 7 am to 10 am.

J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association organizes Free Full-Body Health Checkup Camp

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

The J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association organized a free full-body health checkup camp on March 8, 2025, at the unit office of JK Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association, Udhampur in collaboration with Atulaya Diagnostic Lab. Over 60 members availed themselves of comprehensive screenings, including 58 vital parameters and a PSA test, conducted by a proficient medical team.

The camp was held under the leadership of Iqbal Singh (Working President), V. D. Dogra (Vice President), Ved Gupta (Cashier), and Secretaries Jag Bhushan and Pawan Mahajan. Their efforts ensured the



smooth execution of the camp, continuing the association's commitment to members' well-being.

To support fasting requirements, refreshments were provided post-examination, and all costs were fully covered by the association as a welfare initiative. Iqbal Singh, Working President, expressed gratitude to all

participants and the medical professionals for their dedication.

The association remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the health of retired employees and contribute to the well-being of society through such meaningful initiatives as such camps were held in Jammu and Kathua units in the past too.

Festivals promote unity, social harmony: Balbir Ram

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former vice-chairperson Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized the significance of festivals in India, a country known for its diverse traditions and rich cultural heritage.

He was discussing the importance of festivals with senior party activists on Thursday.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated that festivals not only bring joy but also strengthen the fabric of society by uniting people from different communities. Festivals serve as a means to celebrate our traditions and history, ensuring that our cultural heritage is passed down to future generations.

He stressed the importance of preserving the true spirit of festivals. He said that India, known as the land of festivals, celebrates each occasion with great enthusiasm and devotion. These celebrations promote unity, encourage harmony, and reinforce the values of inclusivity and togetherness.

Speaking specifically



about Holi, Balbir highlighted its deep cultural and spiritual significance. Holi, also known as the "Festival of Colours," symbolizes the victory of good over evil and marks the arrival of spring. It is rooted in the mythological story of devotee Prahlad and Holika, reinforcing the belief that faith and righteousness always triumph. It is a time when people set aside their differences, embrace one another, and spread happiness through colours.

Balbir urged people to celebrate Holi with its true essence. He said, "Holi is not just about playing with colours; it is an opportunity to spread love, promote unity, and strengthen social bonds."

He also emphasized the need to uphold traditional and cultural values while celebrating festivals. He encouraged people to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as using natural colours and minimizing water wastage.

Balbir stressed that Holi should be celebrated with a spirit of unity and positivity. "Let us preserve our cultural traditions and ensure that our festivals continue to inspire future generations with messages of peace, love, and brotherhood," he said.

BJP activists Ashok Gandhi, Anju Bhasin, Hans Raj Loria, Yash Pal Shivgotra, Parshotam Amit Manhas, and Girdhari Lal Dogra were present at the meeting.

Samsung launches AI-powered Galaxy Book5 series PCs

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Samsung, India's largest electronics brand, today announced the launch of its latest AI-powered PC line up—Galaxy Book5 Pro, Galaxy Book5 Pro 360 and Galaxy Book 5 360. The new range of AI PCs combine the power of Galaxy AI with Microsoft's Copilot+ PC experience, ensuring seamless productivity, creativity, and intelligent workflows.

Galaxy Book5 series comes with AI for the first time. The new series features a neural processing unit (NPU) for AI computing along with Galaxy AI features such as AI Select and Photo Remaster. AI Select, a feature similar to Circle to Search with Google on Galaxy smartphones, enables instant search and extraction of information with a single click. Photo Remaster enhances images with AI-powered clarity and sharpness.

Galaxy Book5 series is powered by Intel Core

Ultra processors (Series 2), featuring powerful NPUs up to 47 TOPS (Tera operations per second), a 17% increase in GPU for improved graphics performance and a 16% increase in CPU single-core performance. Featuring Intel AI Boost, Galaxy Book5 series offers top-tier performance, security, and efficiency. Lunar Lake's redesigned CPU-GPU setup, upgraded NPU and next-gen Battlemage GPU deliver a 3x boost in AI compute power and result in 40% lower SoC power consumption compared to previous generations, enabling smarter workflows, seamless multitasking, and extended battery life.

Galaxy Book5 series line up provides much-improved battery with up to 25 hours of battery life with super-fast charging. Galaxy Book5 Pro is capable of reaching 41% charge in 30 minutes.

Galaxy Book5 series gets on-device Microsoft Copilot+ assistance for even greater productivity,

along with a dedicated key, making AI-powered assistance just a touch away. Integrated with Windows 11 and Microsoft's AI-enhanced Copilot+ experience, which is transforming everyday tasks with contextual intelligence, it also offers intelligent assistance for various tasks, including writing, research, scheduling, and presentations.

Built to enhance work and entertainment, Galaxy Book5 series features Dynamic AMOLED 2X displays on Pro models, offering 3K resolution, a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate, and Vision Booster technology for stunning visuals in any lighting condition. For an immersive experience, Quad Speakers with Dolby Atmos deliver rich and clear sound, perfect for entertainment and professional use.

Additionally, Multi-Device Connectivity integrates features like Phone Link, Quick Share, Multi-Control, and Second Screen, allowing users to work effortlessly across

their Galaxy smartphones and tablets. Moreover, Samsung Knox ensures a secure and collaborative privacy foundation.

Galaxy Book5 Pro with Intel Core Ultra now starts INR 114900, which is INR 15000 less as compared to the previous generation. As part of pre-book offers, customers who pre-book the Galaxy Book5 Pro, Galaxy Book5 360, and Galaxy Book5 Pro 360 can get Galaxy Buds3 Pro at just INR 2999 (against the original price of INR 19999).

Consumers can pre-book the Galaxy Book5 360, Galaxy Book5 Pro, and Galaxy Book5 Pro 360 starting today on Samsung.com, Samsung India Smart Cafés, and select Samsung authorized retail stores and other online portals. The Galaxy Book5 series line up will be available in India starting March 20, 2025, across Samsung.com, Samsung Exclusive Stores, leading online platforms, and key retail partners.

Mahilla Congress Holi celebration brightens Roopnagar ward-66

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

The festival of colors came alive in Roopnagar Ward no. 66 as residents gathered to celebrate Holi under the leadership of Anuradha Sharma. The vibrant event witnessed enthusiastic participation from community members, including Aarti Sharma, Deepika, Monika Sharma, Dimple Bhatt, Neha, Swarna, Jyoti Sharma, Radha, Prof. Rajinder Raina, Indu Bhushan and Champa Rani etc. The celebration was filled with music, dance, and cheerful color play, creating an atmosphere of joy and unity. Participants engaged in traditional Holi rituals, spreading colors and laughter throughout the event. The gathering not



only celebrated the festival's cultural significance but also strengthened community bonds. Anuradha Sharma's leadership ensured a well-organized and memorable celebration, bringing res-

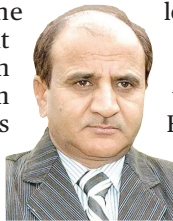
idents together to share the spirit of togetherness and harmony. The event left everyone with colorful memories and smiles, marking another successful celebration in the locality.

Restoration of statehood, right of people of J&K: Tara Chand

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Former Dy Chief Minister Shri Tara Chand demanded early restoration of statehood for the people of J&K, as it is their right, which was given to them by the Dogra rulers much more before Independence. They were enjoying the special status with more benefits and concessions, leaving happy and prosperous life in a state enriched with blessings of Almighty. All of sudden, this status was snatched away from them converting the state to Union Territory with the promise to restore the statehood as early as possible during recent held elections but now the innocent people are feeling being deceived by the Govts.

Tara Chand warned the Govts. to stop fooling the innocents as this sparked outrage across the region and people are



compelled to rethink. Condemning the Industrial policy of the Govt., he said that outsiders are enjoying the benefits announced by the Govt. but the local youth are still deprived of even employment in these industries. He said industrial development should not be at the cost of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Dy C.M. said that the people of J&K were expecting 11 Kg. ration to an individual, 12 cylinders per family and even levied ration with rice, sugar and wheat to all on subsidized rates, as this was announced by the parties at helm of affairs but all is seeming to be false promises to lure voters and at the time of elections.

Condemning the callous attitude of the Govts for daily and need based workers, Tara Chand said these workers were engaged by the respective

governments to implement the various schemes in the state and also paved way to provide employment at every door step but now the Govts. are shouldering responsibility to others for their regularization. They were engaged by responsible Govts. not by an individual for his personal benefits. Most of them got retired without any benefit. He recalled that under Rehbr-e-Taleem, Rehbr-e Ziraat, Rehbr-e-Khel, the educated and skilled youth were also engaged that way by the Govts. All got regularized with handsome salaries but daily wagers are still deprived of.

Former Dy Chief Minister expressed hope that Govt. should fulfill all promises made by them during elections and the people of Jammu and Kashmir also feel sigh of relief, as they don't want extraordinary things, only restoration of their constitutional rights with guarantee of land and job is their main demand.

FIR registered for overloading & endangering human lives: Passenger Vehicle seized at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Continuing its drive against Motor Vehicle Act violations, the Traffic Police National Highway under the supervision of SSP NHW, Rohit Baskotra, registered a case FIR for overloading and endangering human lives in Doda Sector.

On March 10 2025, a Traffic Police team of Traffic Sub-Division Doda-Kishtwar led by Inspector Rakesh Singh, under the supervision of Dy SP(T) Doda-Kishtwar, seized a Vehicle (Tempo) bearing registration No:-JK02AR/3671 while routine Traffic checking at Doda.

During Traffic checking, it was found that said vehicle was overloaded with approx. 30 Plus Passengers against the seating capacity and hence endangering human lives. On this, a case FIR No. 62/2025 US 281/125 BNS stands registered at Police Station Doda. The Vehicle has been seized on the spot and investigation is going on.

While sharing the details, SSP Traffic conveyed that a stringent action is being taken against MV Act Violators and Traffic Police NHW will continue its drive against such violations.

The SSP Traffic further conveyed that Traffic Police have published a detailed advisory for all types of commuters travelling on NHW in which parents were also advised not to send their wards to school in private vehicles being used for commercial purpose as it is in contravention to law and jeopardizes safety of the students.

Besides, lists of Traffic violators have been published in M-Pari-Vahan Portal, whose Traffic violations Challans are pending in different courts and the people are requested to clear the same immediately otherwise next course of action will be initiated. He appealed commuters to follow Traffic rules and join hands to make our roads safe for all types of users' rights from pedestrians to vehicle owners. People should come forward to complain against visible traffic violations on traffic helpline numbers -941993745-9906023617. Toll Free Number-18001807043 TCU-849128625.

Bali Bhagat demands immediate revocation of anti-employee order

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Senior BJP leader and former Health Minister, Bali Bhagat has strongly condemned the recent directive issued by the Administrator of Associated Hospitals, GMC Jammu, to halt the salaries of employees engaged under academic arrangement in GMC and its associated hospitals under SRO 364. In a press statement issued today, Bali Bhagat expressed deep concern over the fate of nearly 1,200 such employees who have been working tirelessly in GMC Jammu and its associated hospitals for years. He reminded the administration that these healthcare workers stood as frontline warriors during the COVID-19 pandemic, risking their lives to

treat hundreds of infected patients. "During the Corona period, these brave warriors put their lives on the line to serve humanity. They expected the new government to recognize and honor their dedication, but instead, they are being shown the door. Is this how the administration rewards those who served in the most difficult times?" he questioned.

Bali Bhagat further lambasted the Omar Abdullah administration for its failure to address the acute shortage of healthcare workers in Jammu and Kashmir. "On one hand, the government has not filled the thousands of vacant posts in the health sector despite being in power for over five months. On the



other hand, it is now attempting to jeopardize the healthcare system by sacking experienced professionals who have been diligently serving the people," he said.

Calling for the immediate revocation of the circular, the former Health Minister asserted that stopping the salaries of these employees was unjust and inhumane. "You cannot stop the salaries of those who have been working for years and have dedicated their lives to public service. These employees are engaged against sanctioned posts and are paid through an approved budget. Regularizing them will not create any financial burden on the UT exche-

quer," he explained. The senior BJP leader also highlighted that most of these employees have served for over 6-10 years and have now become overage for other job opportunities. "They are a trained and skilled workforce. Their issue should not be treated at par with daily wagers or casual laborers but instead be dealt with on humanitarian grounds," he stressed.

Bali Bhagat asked the Omar government to intervene immediately and revoke the unjust order, ensuring that these employees continue to serve without financial or job insecurity. "The administration must recognize their service, safeguard their employment, and restore their dignity instead of playing with their livelihoods," he asserted.

Yudhvir exposes GMC Admin-Private Lab Nexus, demands free CT Scan facilities for poor patients

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today raised serious concerns over the exploitation of patients at the Government Medical College (GMC) and Hospital, Jammu, alleging a nexus between the hospital administration and private diagnostic labs.

Speaking during the Assembly session, the MLA highlighted how GMC Administration has been repeatedly awarding the diagnostic services contract to a particular private firm, 'Krishna Diagnostics,' for the past seven years by revising tenders in its favor while also increasing test rates.

Sethi revealed that 'Krishna Diagnostics' is charging nearly Rs 1,500 for a CT scan, whereas the



same test costs merely Rs 450 in neighboring states like Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. He criticized the GMC authorities for failing to regulate the exorbitant rates, causing immense financial distress to patients, particularly the underprivileged. "The GMC administration's deliberate inaction suggests a deep-rooted nexus with private players. Instead of ensuring affordable healthcare, they are facilitating corporate profiteering at the cost of patients' well-being," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader strongly urged the government to intervene immedi-

ately and provide free CT scan facilities for economically weaker sections. He emphasized that in a welfare state, healthcare should not be a luxury but a fundamental right.

Calling for stringent measures, the senior BJP leader demanded a probe into the tendering process and pricing mechanisms at GMC Jammu. He warned that if corrective steps are not taken, the issue will be escalated further to ensure justice for the people of Jammu.

Yudhvir Sethi reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to ensuring transparency in governance and protecting the rights of the common people. He appealed to the GMC administration to take corrective action at the earliest, ensuring affordable and accessible healthcare for all.

Screening and flag off ceremony of U-23 J&K Men's Basketball Team conducted

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 13 MARCH

The screening and flag-off ceremony of the J&K U-23 Men's Basketball Team was conducted by members of the Sports Council in the presence of Suraj Bhan, Manager, Indoor Stadium, Dr Jagandeep Singh Physiotherapist, Dr. Vikram Handa, President of JKBA; Aman Sharma, Secretary of JKBA; Ashok Singh Jamwal; and Sachin Dogra. The team includes Aryan Sharma, Aniket Singh, Pranshu Thakur, Satyam Yadav, Ashish Yadav, Raghav Sharma, Faheed, Shubham, Kartik, Arif, Milan Sharma & Manish Yadav.

Dr. Narinder Singh raises public concern for CLU in the J&K Legislative Assembly

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Dr. Narinder Singh, MLA RS Pura- Jammu South & BJP National Secretary raised public concern for Change of Land Use (CLU) certificate in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

He pointed out the needy people are feeling harassed as they are not able to procure CLU certificates to build their residential homes even in small chunks of land only in a few Marlas.

He raised a finger on the biased approach towards the common masses stating that there are many blue-eyed persons who have illegally encroached the land to build commercial complexes and the Banquet halls on the government land and are earning Crores of Rupees.

He stressed that the relief be provided to the common people on the issue.

DDC Kathua inaugurates 'Didi Ki Rasoi' Canteen at GDCW

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas today inaugurated the "Didi Ki Rasoi" canteen at Government Degree College for women, Kathua in the presence of Project Officer DUDA, Jaffar Abass Batt. The ceremony was marked by an impressive Guard of Honour presented by the NCC cadets of the college, adding a ceremonial touch to the occasion.

The canteen provides an assortment of home-cooked meals at reasonable prices and is managed by women Self-Help Groups constituted under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission. This initiative serves two key objectives: providing a steady source of income for women Self-Help Groups and offering affordable, nutritious meals to college students. The canteen, established under DAY-NULM, serves as a platform for Self-Help



Group members to showcase their culinary skills and entrepreneurial spirit. By providing a sustainable income stream, the canteen empowers women to take charge of their financial lives. In his address, DDC Kathua emphasized the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between socio-economic divides and also to create opportunities for women to engage in self-sustaining activities, thereby contributing to their financial independence and well-being. He also praised the Women's College Kathua for taking a proactive role in supporting the local

community. The event saw participation from various stakeholders, including students, faculty, and local community members. The college has pledged to ensure the smooth functioning of Didi Ki Rasoi and intends to continue its efforts to uplift the women community. Following the inauguration, the DDC Kathua, along with the other dignitaries, toured the newly established facility, taking a close look at the kitchen operations and the meal preparation process, underscoring the importance of transparency and quality control in such programs.

ADGP Armed, J&K visits IRP-1st Bn: reviews working of Battalion

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

On 13th March 2025, Sh. Anand Jain-IPS, ADGP Armed J&K, on his maiden visit to IR 1st Battalion, visited A-Coy Katra, E-Coy and the Battalion Headquarters at Reasi. He was warmly received by Smt. Anita Sharma-IPS, Commandant, IRP-1st Battalion and Sh. Sanjay Kotwal, SSP Railways Katra. The ADGP conducted a thorough inspection of the A-Coy Headquarters, Railway Guards, and security personnel stationed at Katra. The Guard Commander and sentries were instructed to remain extra vigilant, considering the prevailing security scenario in J&K.

Upon arrival, the ADGP was presented with a ceremonial Guard of Honour



at the Unit Quarter Guard. A plantation drive was conducted at A-Coy Headquarters, where the ADGP planted a Mango tree. He interacted with the GOs/NGOs and later inspected the entire Battalion complex, accompanied by senior officers, including Smt. Anita Sharma-IPS,

Commandant, IRP-1st Bn, Sh. Paramvir Singh, SSP Reasi, Sh. Rajinder Singh, SSP APCR Jammu, Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Dy.CO IRP-1st Bn.

He paid Tribute to a Martyr Shaheed Gulab Singh. The ADGP inaugurated the "Shaheed Gulab Singh Memorial Park"

in honor of Martyr HC Gulab Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists in Camp Keller, Shopian, on 19th March 2011. A Juniper (Ornamental) plant was planted in the memorial park as a tribute to his bravery and dedication. A Darbar was conducted with officers and officials of IRP-1st Battalion, providing a platform for them to voice their concerns. The ADGP attentively listened to their genuine grievances and assured prompt resolution.

The ADGP visited E-Coy Headquarters at Sub Jail Reasi, where he interacted with officers and officials. He also inspected vital installations at Bhingarh Fort, Reasi, ensuring security measures were in place.

BJP workers must be problem-solvers, not just campaigners: Kavinder

Says BJP's strength lies in its dedicated cadre

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta emphasized that the dedicated cadre of the party remains its real strength in ensuring victory in the upcoming polls.

He was addressing a meeting of party workers held at the BJP Headquarters in Jammu in view of upcoming political battles in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP stalwart asked the party functionaries to work at the grassroots level, connecting with the people and spreading awareness about the vision and achievements of the Modi government. He highlighted that BJP's policies have transformed Jammu and Kashmir, bringing unprecedented development, transparency, and good governance.

"The BJP is not just a political outfit; it is a movement driven by nationalistic fervor and a commitment to public welfare. Every Karyakarta (worker) is the backbone of this mission, and their dedication will



ensure a resounding victory in the upcoming elections," he stated.

Kavinder Gupta asked party cadre to counter the misleading propaganda of opposition parties, which have a history of deceiving the public for political gains. He emphasized that these parties, which once ruled Jammu and Kashmir, thrived on corruption, nepotism, and misgovernance, leaving the region in a state of despair. He reminded the workers to educate the people about the dark era of favoritism, lack of transparency, and dynastic politics that hampered progress for decades. He stressed that BJP's commitment to nationalism, development, and good governance must be effectively communicated to ensure voters make an informed choice in the upcoming elections.

Highlighting the achievements of the BJP government, Kavinder stated that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone an unprecedented transformation under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He pointed out remarkable developments in infrastructure, including better roads, highways, and connectivity projects, which have boosted economic growth. The education sector has seen significant reforms, ensuring better facilities and opportunities for youth. Similarly, health services have improved drastically, providing modern medical care to all sections of society. With employment generation at the forefront, various government schemes have empowered the youth, bringing hope and prosperity to the people of Jammu

and Kashmir, he added.

The former deputy Chief Minister advised BJP workers that their role should not be limited to election campaigns and political activities during poll times but should be a continuous engagement with the people. He urged party cadres to be proactive year-round, addressing public grievances, assisting people with government schemes, and strengthening the party's grassroots presence. He asserted that BJP is a party of the people, and its leaders and workers must always remain accessible, responsive, and committed to the welfare of society. He emphasized the need for BJP workers to be well-informed about government schemes, welfare initiatives, and public policies, so they can effectively guide the masses.

Kavinder Gupta concluded by stating that BJP's strength lies in its dedicated workers, and with their hard work, discipline, and unwavering commitment, the party will continue to serve the nation and lead Jammu and Kashmir towards a brighter future.



Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K
Phone No: 0191-2586218 (Jammu), 0194-2468116 (Srinagar)
(Email id: relief-comm@jk.gov.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE

In continuation to the earlier notices on the subject, it is for the information of the Kashmiri/Jammu migrants that in order to avail the benefits under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY-AB), they can approach any of the Common Service Centre CSC/Medical centres to check the status of their Ayushman Bharat cards. Further, it is also informed that the already enrolled families in the Ayushman Bharat Portal can avail the benefits of e-KYC at any Common Service Centre (CSC).

This office in collaboration with State Health Agency and District Administration (Jammu), has nominated/authorised below mentioned Common Service Centres where Kashmiri/Jammu migrants can enroll themselves in Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY-AB).

S No	Area	CSC Name	CSC operator Name	Contact No
1	Talab Tillo/ Bohri	Indrakshi Consultancy Services	Ashok Kumar Tickoo	9596665000
2	Durga Nagar	Sehuliyat Center	Kunal Dogra	7889353492
3	Gandhi Nagar	Satguru Common Services Centre	Neelam Devi	7051379385
4	Muthi	Gupta Communication	Arush Gupta	9797663139
5	Jagti/ Nagrota	Sunny Tech	Raju Shah	9697374799
6	Bantalab	543336760015	Beenu Raina	7006632481
7	Udheywalla	Namaskaar Mahra CSC	Vinay Mugloo	8715000000

For any information, feel free to call on helpline Nos: 9484320655 / 9484320657

Sd/
(Dr. Arvind Karwani), JKAS
Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M)
J&K.

DIP/J-11026/24
Date: 13-3-25

Sunil Sharma meets Amit Shah, discusses Security, development, Budget issues



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition in Jammu & Kashmir called upon Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Delhi.

Sunil Sharma deliberated with the Union Home Minister on the key issues of Jammu & Kashmir pertaining to the Security and Development, and Budget Session in J&K Legislative Assembly.

Sunil Sharma said that Jammu & Kashmir has been a region of strategic significance, and has faced numerous security and developmental challenges. He said that all these issues are deeply intertwined and require

a rigorous multi-pronged approach by the Modi government.

He also discussed the issue of recent terror incidents in the region with the Union Home Minister. He requested HM Amit Shah for further increase in the road connectivity to the remote areas of region. He brought into notice various factors to facilitate the sustaining economic ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir by putting stress on the key areas like tourism, industry, and business.

He also highlighted the rise in drug abuse and narcotics trafficking in J&K, emphasizing the need for urgent intervention.

Sunil Sharma also deliberated with the Union

Home Minister on the Budget session in J&K Legislative Assembly discussing the minute details of the Budget. He highlighted the key points of discussions in the sessions and the impact of the Budget on the socio-economic conditions of the residents and the ongoing development process in J&K.

After listening patiently to Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured Sunil Sharma that the peace and progress in Jammu & Kashmir will remain top priority of Modi government and every step will be taken to ensure the socio-economic elevation of its residents.

Holi Ka Rang, Thandai Ke Sang— Chef Harpal & Godrej Vikhroli Cucina Bring You a Festive Treat!

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13, 2025:

This Holi, Godrej Vikhroli Cucina, the owned media platform of Godrej Industries Group (GIG), brings festive flavours to life with celebrity Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi. In a special Instagram video, Chef Harpal showcases how to make naturally colourful Thandai using Godrej Jersey Milk, proving that Holi celebrations can be just as vibrant—without artificial food dyes.

Over the years, synthetic colours and artificial flavours have sneaked into festive treats, promising instant brightness but often at the cost of authentic taste. But why settle for artificial when nature offers all the colours needed for a Holi-worthy spread? Chef Harpal takes up a flavourful challenge to recreate the classic Thandai in four dazzling shades—without a drop of artificial colouring. From saffron's golden glow to the deep pink of rose

petals, the rich green of pistachios, and even the striking blue of blueberries—nature has all the colours needed for Holi! And what's the perfect base for this creamy delight? Enter Godrej Jersey Milk—pure, rich, and just what's needed to tie all the flavours together while keeping the festive spirit alive.

With his signature charm, Chef Harpal exclaims, "Holi hai, doston! Rang barse, par sirf natural waale!" As he blends, stirs, and pours, the Thandai variations come alive—each one a delicious tribute to India's rich culinary traditions.

Shantanu Raj, Head - Marketing, Godrej Jersey shared, "For years, Godrej Jersey has been a trusted dairy brand, loved for its purity and rich taste. Thandai, an iconic Holi drink, truly comes to life when made with high-quality milk, and Godrej Jersey Milk is a perfect companion. It enhances the richness of the drink while keep-

ing its authenticity intact. Through this collaboration, we want to inspire people to rediscover the joy of festive foods made with real ingredients, real colours, and real flavours"

Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi added, "Holi ke rang jitne natural, utne hi khoosurat! Our kitchens are filled with ingredients that add stunning colors to our food, naturally. This Holi, I wanted to show how we can celebrate with food that's not only festive but also full of real flavors and goodness. Thandai toh sirf ek shuruat hai—imagine the possibilities when we look to our traditional roots for inspiration!"

Watch the full video here: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DHDXAgtrLE/?igsh=bXY4a2ZzamMydTF5>

Join Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi and Godrej Vikhroli Cucina in celebrating Holi with the magic of natural colors and authentic flavors—because the best festivities are the ones that stay true to tradition.

Omar govt should ensure uninterrupted electricity, water supply: Shiv Sena

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAR 13



Despite being a Muslim majority state, enthusiasm for the festival of colours, Holi, is at its peak in Jammu and Kashmir, the fun of Phagun is everywhere. But the serious crisis of water supply in Hindu majority areas, Jammu city and surrounding areas is fading the colours of Holi as the biggest obstacle, people are forced to think that "how to play Holi with loved ones without water", stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

While briefing the media persons at party's state central office today, state president Manish Sahni said that the crisis of water supply is deepening in most of the areas of Jammu. People of Hindu majority Jammu division are eager to play Holi but their enthusiasm has turned into disappointment due to lack of water supply. There are many

areas in Jammu city including Janipur, Rupnagar, Bantalab, Mutthi, Bhalwal, Akhnour, Mathwar, Bathindi, Chauadi, Sainik Colony, Greater Kailash, Trikuta Nagar, Fawwara Chowk, Purmandal, Veerapur, where the water supply situation remains worse. Local citizens are fulfilling their water needs with the help of water tankers. Despite all the assurances of the Omar government, the taps in the houses are dry. Sahni said that the enthusiasm of playing Holi has cooled down due to the lack of water, even if we play dry Holi, water is needed for bathing. Sahni has demanded from the Omar government to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and electricity on the festival of Holi.

Indian Army organizes Centenary Celebrations of Azad Hind Fauj Veteran: Lt Rangaswamy Madhavan Pillai

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Lieutenant Rangaswamy Madhavan Pillai, a 99-year-old veteran of the Indian National Army (INA), commenced his 100th year by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial and the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Kartavya Path on March 13, 2025.

Organised by the Indian Army, the event was attended by senior Armed Forces Personnel and the public. The ceremony stood as a powerful reminder of India's enduring legacy of sacrifice and patriotism.

Lieutenant Rangaswamy Madhavan Pillai was born on March 13, 1926, in the Swaryan Township of Rangoon District in Burma (now Myanmar). His father hailed from Sivagangai District in Tamil Nadu. He initially joined the Indian Independence League as a civilian in 1942 under Rash Behari Bose. When Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



arrived in Singapore, Lt Madhavan formally enlisted in the INA on November 1, 1943, at the age of 18. After receiving his commission from the Officers Training School in Burma, he served as a recruitment and fundraising officer. Later, he served in the Administrative Branch at the INA Headquarters in Rangoon under Major General KP Thimayya (elder brother of General KS Thimayya). He was officially recognised as a freedom fighter by the Government of India on 01 August, 1980. On 23 January 2024, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi felicitated him on the occasion of Parakram Diwas celebrations at Red Fort, New Delhi.

The Azad Hind Fauj was first formed by Mohan Singh in 1942 and later revived by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on October 21, 1943. United by the powerful war cry of "Chalo Delhi," the INA aimed to secure India's complete independence from British rule. Soldiers, volunteers, and overseas Indians—from regions as far as Malaya and Burma—joined this extraordinary force. Communal barriers

faded in the face of a larger cause; women, too, found a powerful platform in the Rani of Jhansi Brigade, reflecting the INA's vision for inclusivity and empowerment.

Lieutenant Madhavan's life story embodies the courage and unity that defined the Indian National Army. Decades ago, he braved the unforgiving terrain of the Northeast, carrying the aspirations of millions who longed for a free India. Now, at the threshold of his centenary, his act of remembrance stands as a powerful testament to the unwavering resolve that fuelled India's struggle for independence.

Today's wreath-laying ceremony not only honours the sacrifices of the brave men and women who fought for India's freedom but also serves as a poignant reminder of the nation's ongoing journey to break free from colonial legacies while upholding the spirit of their sacrifice.

MSME DFO Jammu conducts campaign on TB elimination



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

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

has launched intensified campaign on TB (Tuberculosis) elimination. This intensified campaign aims to cover high priority districts across states /UTs and will involve a comprehensive strategy to mobilize resources, raise awareness and intensify actions against TB across all prioritized States/Districts. In the above context, MSME DFO Jammu in association with ESIC Dispensary, Digiana Jammu to support the campaign engaged all officers, in the Campaign and organized Ni-kshay Shapath (Pledge) in Digiana Industrial Estate, Jammu. The pledge was administered by G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director. A dust bin also granted to support the initiative for ESIC Jammu. Sh.Surjeet Singh, Sh.Vipul, Narindra Kumari and other officers including the staff and employees of the industrial cluster participated in the program.

Dr. Narinder Singh initiates blacktopping work in Ward 56

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Giving pace to the ongoing development works in the constituency, Dr. Narinder Singh, MLA RS Pura- Jammu South & BJP National Secretary along with Ashwani Sharma former MLA, Ajay Partap mandal president and other leaders of BJP started black topping in ward 56.

He was also accompanied by prominent people of the area and department officials. Pertinent to mention, Dr. Narinder Singh had toured this area some days back for which he had assured that work on roads will be started soon.

Dr. Narinder Singh said that the BJP is following the principle of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' and the development works on large scale have been initiated by the Modi govern-

ment in Jammu & Kashmir. He said that keeping up the pace with the Modi government, as an elected public representative, he is trying to ensure that the development reaches inhabitants of this Assembly segment.

He stated that hundreds of people routinely discuss the issues pertaining to the development in the Assembly Constituency. He said that he has formulated a schedule to visit different areas of this Constituency to know the issues first hand so as to resolve the public issues on priority.

While giving information on the present work, the MLA stated that the present black topping work in ward 56 has been initiated with the estimate of Rupees 16 lakh. He said that the development works needed in various wards under this constituency will be taken on priority.

Artisans sensitized about Govt schemes at Kishtwar



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 13

The Department of Handicrafts Kishtwar today organized an Orientation Program for Artisans here at village Wasser.

The program aimed to educate the artisans about various government schemes and the registration processes for securing Pechan Card.

The session was led by Assistant Director Handicrafts Pardeep Shan, who briefed the artisans about the diverse crafts in Kishtwar. He also discussed a range of beneficial schemes, including the Training Program, Financial Support Scheme, Karkhandar Scheme, Education Scholarship

Scheme for Children of Artisans, and the formation of OFPOs (Organized Fabricated Production Organizations) and Clusters. Additionally, Pardeep Shan emphasized the importance of registering artisans for the Pechan Card, ensuring that they can avail themselves of both UT and centrally sponsored schemes.

The event was attended by officials of the Handicrafts Department, including AHTO Pinak Sen; Supervisor INDUSCO Abid, Farooq G and Crewel Embroidery Artisan, Nirmala Devi.

Their participation reflected the collaborative efforts being made to uplift and empower the artisan community in Kishtwar.

JMC Commissioner visits ward-52, assess people grievances

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 52 to take stock of the peoples' grievance and their developmental needs. At Ambedkar Nagar Extension, Trikuta Nagar, the locals met with the Commissioner and projected their grievance that the residents faced problem due to drainage system. They informed that the area face flood like situation during rainy season in general and monsoon season in particular as the channel is unable to take the rain water causes hard-



ship to the residents. Acknowledging their grievances, Dr. Yadav directed the concerned to expedite demarcate of nallahs so that the work on widening of the nallahs could be undertaken at the earliest for the convenience of residents. He also urged upon residents to remove encroachments along the Nallah, if any, which obstruct its cleaning and maintenance.

Dr. Yadav also instruct-

ed the concerned to ensure proper drainage solutions to mitigate the recurring issue and improve the living conditions of the residents.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner (South), Lal Chand, and Joint Commissioner Works, Firdous Ahmed Qazi, besides other senior officers of the jammu municipal corporation accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

Indian Army conducts Online Training to Enhance Job Skills as Part of Pre-Rajouri Day at Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 13 MAR 2025

Heralding the Pre Rajouri Day Celebrations, Indian Army's Ace of Spades Division Conducted an Online Intermediate Training for Sewing Machine course in Rajouri. The event was first in the series of Pre-Rajouri Day celebrations and was conducted under the aegis of Ace of Spades Gunners in collaboration with Mahavir International, a Jaipur based NGO. This initiative aims to enhance the

skills of local women, providing them with an opportunity to gain self-reliance and financial independence. The training, conducted virtually, focused on advanced sewing techniques, stitching patterns, and quality finishing, equipping participants with the expertise required for small-scale entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. The Indian Army remains committed to fostering women's empowerment by facilitating skill development pro-

grams that contribute to socio-economic growth in the region. The collaboration with the NGO ensures sustained training and mentorship for aspiring women entrepreneurs. The participants expressed gratitude for the initiative, highlighting how such programs provide them with a pathway to economic stability. The Indian Army and Mahavir International reaffirm their dedication to uplifting local communities through similar engagements in the future.

Dairy, Poultry Sector flourishing in Reasi with effective implementation of Govt schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MARCH 13

The implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) and Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP) has set the stage for sustained growth of Dairy and Poultry sectors in Reasi District.

Once lagging behind other districts of Jammu Division, Reasi is now progressing rapidly in livestock farming, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik and with the efforts of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Dr. Ravi Kumar Kaith and his team.

As per Dr. Kaith, Heifer Units, Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCUs) and Free Range Poultry Units



have been established across multiple blocks in the District. These units, established under HADP, IDDS and IPDP, aim to enhance livestock productivity, ensure fair returns for dairy farmers, and improve poultry farming practices.

“The Dairy sector, in particular, has received a shot in arm with the sanctioning and establishment of Heifer Units under HADP, promoting the breeding of high-yield

milch animals” the DAHO said adding that high-quality milch cows and buffaloes have also been imported under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) from outside the Union Territory to improve milk production.

To streamline milk collection and quality maintenance, Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCUs) have been set up in different blocks of the district. These units provide dairy farmers with fair and transparent pricing while ensuring high standards in milk production and supply.

In addition to dairy farming, Dr Kaith said the Department has also focused on boosting the poultry industry. “Under the Integrated Poultry

Development Programme (IPDP), big broiler farms, with capacities ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 birds, have been established. Furthermore, 20 Free Range Units under HADP have been set up to promote local egg production and encourage backyard poultry farming,” he informed.

Dr. Kaith said the teams are actively interacting with livestock farmers, guiding them on the benefits of various state and central government schemes. Through supervision of Deputy Commissioner and efforts of the Animal Husbandry Department, the District Reasi is now emerging as a model for dairy and poultry farming in Jammu Division, ensuring increased incomes and better livelihoods for livestock farmers.

Secretary RDD& PR asks for speedy completion of SBM-G projects in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 13

Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess utilisation of funds and physical progress under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director General (DG) Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, Deputy Director Rural Sanitation Kashmir, Mantasha Binti Rashid, Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Aamir Ali, Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Rajesh Kumar Agastam, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs).



The meeting, focused on the physical completion and corresponding expenditure for the financial year 2024-25.

The officials presented a detailed report on the total funds released to Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs) and their respective expenditure.

The Secretary reiterated the importance of

proper documentation, transparency and daily monitoring of progress at the district level.

He stressed that timely execution of sanitation projects is crucial for achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and improving rural sanitation across J&K.

The Secretary directed the officials to expedite pending works and ensure judicious utilisation of funds to improve rural sanitation across the UT.

The Secretary directed the officials to expedite completion of the ongoing projects and ensure efficient utilisation of funds. He emphasised the need for regular monitoring to achieve sanitation and

waste management goals effectively.

The Secretary emphasized the urgency of utilizing pending funds effectively.

He directed the ACPs to submit detailed reports within two days outlining the pending bills and anticipated expenditure by March 31. He also instructed the child agencies and BDOs to monitor daily expenditures to ensure effective fund utilisation. Aijaz Asad reiterated government's unwavering commitment towards providing safe, hygienic and dignified living conditions for rural communities. He urged all the stakeholders for collaborative efforts to ensure timely completion of the ongoing projects and optimal functionality of SBM-G assets.

Ayush Department organises medical checkup cum awareness programme at IRP Camp Parnote

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 13

In line with directives of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, the Ayush Department organized a Medical Checkup cum Awareness Camp at the IRP Camp Parnote to conduct diabetes and hypertension screening of police personnel and impart them medical advice.

The camp was inaugurated by Commandant IRP-16 Sukh Dev in the presence of medical experts and officials. Senior Medical Officer and District Yoga Coordinator Dr. Masood Iqbal led the awareness session, educating attendees on preventive healthcare and lifestyle modifications.

A team of medical professionals, including Dr. Showkat Ahmad Mir (Dis-



trict Hospital Ramban), Dr. Shazad (AHWC Gool), Senior Pharmacist Shashi Kant Sharma, and Head Pharmacist Ajay Kumar, actively participated in the camp. Volunteer Huzaifa Bin Masood, along with Sanjeet Singh and Par-

waah Singh also contributed to the initiative.

During the camp, about 250 police personnel underwent medical checkups, including blood pressure monitoring and diabetes screening. Free medicines were distrib-

ed among the attendees to promote health and wellness.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about common health issues and encourage preventive healthcare measures among police personnel.

Land transfer for F&V Mandi at Nowdal Tral in final stage: RDD Minister

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 13

The transfer process for 16 kanal of land identified for development of Fruit and Vegetable (F&V) Mandi at Nowdal in Tral is in the final stage and will be completed within two months.

Minister for Rural Development, Javed Ahmad Dar, informed this while replying to a question



raised by Rafiq Ahmad Malik in the Legislative Assembly. He said that the transfer

of land for establishment of Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Nowdal in Tral Constituency is under process with the Revenue Department. He added that the land patch of 16 kanal, including 8.5 kanal of state land, was identified during 2020 and the process of paper authentication and completion is under progress.

7 day Training on Scientific Beekeeping concludes with felicitation of trainees

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 13

The seven-day training program on Scientific Beekeeping, organized by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Jammu, under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) concluded today with an impressive felicitation functioned held in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan. The event was attended by 50 beekeepers, farmers, and young entrepreneurs from Doda, Kishtwar, Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi, and Poonch districts of the Jammu Division.

The training conducted from March 7 to March 13, 2025 aimed at raising awareness and enhancing the skills of prospective beekeepers. Participants were trained in bee hive operations, colony management, and received hands-on experience and practical insights at the DCTC, Apiculture Development Scheme Jammu.

The ceremony was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvin-



der Singh Reen, who felicitated the participants. Beekeepers were presented with tool kits, bee flora saplings, and certificates of participation, in recognition of their dedication to advancing scientific beekeeping practices.

In his address, the Director assured the beekeepers that the department would extend support in the marketing and branding of honey products. He encouraged the beekeepers to work together in clusters or form Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to strengthen the marketing and sales of honey. Additionally, he committed the department's technical and financial assistance to support the migration of bee colonies and optimize honey production. He emphasized the economic potential of hive products, such as royal jelly, bee venom, propolis,

and pollen, which could provide valuable alternative sources of income for beekeepers.

The Director also highlighted the immense potential for beekeeping in Jammu & Kashmir due to the region's diverse agro-climatic conditions, rich biodiversity, and the growing demand for honey, which is valued for its medicinal and nutritional benefits. He encouraged the unemployed youth to consider beekeeping as a profession and take advantage of the growing industry.

Furthermore, Director Agriculture highlighted that the Department of Agriculture is providing an 80% subsidy for the establishment of one unit comprising 35 bee colonies, worth Rs. 1.40 lakh. He reiterated the department's commitment to offering technical and financial support

to optimize honey production and facilitate colony migration. The session also featured an interactive feedback segment, led by Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma, where participants shared their positive experiences and expressed satisfaction with the quality and relevance of the training. Beekeepers praised the comprehensive lectures and hands-on training that equipped them with essential skills for enhancing their beekeeping practices.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director (Central) Jammu and Liaison Officer for the Apiculture Development Scheme, Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Divisional Soil Survey Officer Suresh Kumar Khajuria, Agronomist (VIS) Jammu Vikas Padha, Agriculture Chemist Dr. Amanjyoti Sharma, Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma, ASCO (I&P) Rajinder Singh Salathia and other officers and staff. The event was organized and conducted by the dedicated team of the Apiculture Development Scheme Jammu.