

**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:

- ↑ or ↓ body temperature
- ↑ or ↓ pulse rate
- ↑ or ↓ blood pressure
- ↑ or ↓ haematocrit
- ↑ or ↓ haemoglobin
- ↑ or ↓ platelet count
- ↑ or ↓ haemoglobinuria
- ↑ or ↓ haemoglobinuria
- ↑ or ↓ haemoglobinuria

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Every noble attempt for peace with Pakistan met with hostility, betrayal: PM

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that every attempt to foster peace with Pakistan was met with hostility and betrayal and hoped that wisdom would prevail on the leadership in Islamabad to improve bilateral ties.

In a podcast with Lex Fridman released on Sunday, Modi recalled that he had specially invited his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif for his swearing-in ceremony in 2014 with the hope that the two countries could turn a new leaf.

“Yet, every noble attempt at fostering peace was met with hostility and betrayal. We sincerely hope that wisdom



prevails upon them and they choose the path of peace,” the prime minister said in his over three-hour interaction.

Modi said he believed that even the people of Pakistan

long for peace because they also must be tired of living in strife, unrest and relentless terror where even innocent children are killed and countless lives are destroyed.

The prime minister said his first attempt at improving bilateral relations was a gesture of goodwill.

“It was a diplomatic gesture unlike any in decades. The very people who once questioned my approach to foreign policy were taken aback when they learned I had invited all SAARC heads of state and our then President Pranab Mukherjee beautifully captured that historic gesture in his memoir,” Modi said.

“This was a testament to how clear and confident India’s foreign policy had become. This sent a clear message to the world about India’s commitment to peace and harmony, but we didn’t get the desired outcome,” he said.

## Drugs worth Rs 88 crore seized; Amit Shah says no mercy for drug cartels

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 16

A massive consignment of methamphetamine tablets worth Rs 88 crore was seized and four members of an international drug cartel were arrested in Imphal and Guwahati zones, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

Shah also said the drug haul is a testament to the stellar performance of the bottom-to-top and top-to-bottom approach towards investigation and asserted that the Narendra Modi government’s crackdown on drugs will continue.

“No mercy for drug cartels. Accelerating the Modi gov’t march to build a drug-free Bharat, a massive consignment of methamphetamine tablets worth Rs 88 crore is



seized, and 4 members of the international drug cartel are arrested in Imphal and Guwahati zones,” he wrote on X.

The home minister expressed his “heartfelt” congratulations to the Narcotics Control Bureau for the success.

Acting on a tip-off, the officers of NCB Imphal zone carried out an operation on March 13. The NCB team inter-

cepted a truck near the Lilong area and recovered 102.39 kg of Methamphetamine tablets from a toolbox in the rear section of the truck, according to an official statement.

Two occupants of the truck were arrested, it added.

Without delay, the team immediately conducted a follow-up operation and apprehended the suspected receiver of the contraband from the Lilong area, the statement said.

A four-wheeler, used for drug trafficking, was also seized and the man was subsequently arrested, it said.

The suspected source of the contraband is Moreh town in Manipur. Further investigation is underway to nab others involved in the case, the statement said.

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## Over 200 investors from outside J&K allotted land for setting up business units in UT

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Over 200 investors from outside Jammu and Kashmir have been provided land in the industrial estates to set up their business units in Jammu and Kashmir in the past decade, official data said.

The process of land acquisition by outside investors, mostly from Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, marked manifold increase after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories in August 2019.

According to the data shared by the industries and commerce department, the majority of investors preferred Kathu and Samba districts in Jammu region to establish their firms compared to a very few businessmen showing interest in the Valley.

Under the industrial policy 2016-26, a total of 28 businessmen from different parts of the country were allotted



over 500 kanals of land to set up their units in the twin districts of Samba and Kathua. The allotment of land varies depending on the investment proposal.

However, the introduction of the amended industrial policy 2021-30 after the abrogation of Article 370 saw businessmen from Delhi, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu also eyeing the region for

investment. Almost 50 businessmen from Delhi have been allotted land in Jammu and Kashmir, followed by Haryana (45), Punjab (43), Uttar Pradesh (14), Maharashtra (nine) and seven each from Gujarat, Chandigarh, and Himachal Pradesh.

The officials said the land for creation of industrial estates was placed at the disposal of the Industries & Commerce Department by the

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## AI express flight to operate between Hindon, Ghaziabad and Jammu from March 23

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The Air India Express will operate flights between Hindon, Ghaziabad and Jammu from March 23. Sharing details, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh posted on X, “HEARTENING INFORMATION FOR #JAMMU- #DELHI TRAVELLERS.” “For the ease of journey and relatively economic fare, particularly for those travelling to and fro between Jammu and the southern parts of NCR Delhi like Noida etc, an Air India Express flight will operate daily (except Saturdays) between Hindon, Ghaziabad Airport and Jammu from 23rd March 2025,” Dr Singh posted. He further said, “Arrival at Jammu 11:30 AM. Departure from Jammu for Hindon 1:00PM.” Earlier on March 8, the Union Minister informed that Civil Aviation authorities agreed to begin the Jammu to Srinagar morning flight from April 1 with a motive to relieve travellers especially the government officers and businessmen.

## 30 injured as mini-bus turns turtle in Reasi

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

At least 30 passengers, mostly women, were injured when their mini-bus turned turtle on a hilly road in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said. Two of the 30 are seriously injured and they have been rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu. The accident took place near Tara Morh when the bus was on its way to Pouni in Reasi from Moughla in Rajouri district, the officials said.

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## After week-long wet spell, weather improves in Kashmir



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR MAR 16

After a week-long wet spell, the weather improved on Sunday and is likely to remain dry in Kashmir valley.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said the weather is likely to remain dry till March 25.

Kashmir valley experienced widespread intermittent rain and snowfall during the past week resulting in drop in temperature disrupting normal life.

The MeT office providing the parameters of rain and snowfall during the past 2 hours

across the Kashmir valley, said that Konibal received 19.5mm of rainfall, Pahalgam 19.4mm, Gulmarg 16.2mm, Kupwara 14.2mm Srinagar and Qazigund 11.0mm respectively and Kokernag 9.6mm during the past 24 hours. The ski resort of Gulmarg, tourist resort of Pahalgam and Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national highway also received light snowfall during the period.

Barring Qazigund and Kokernag the minimum temperature recorded during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday remained above normal while the day

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## Two former top PDP leaders rejoin party

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 16

Peoples Democratic Party got a boost on Sunday after two of its former leaders rejoined the party.

Two former legislators Mansoor Hussain Suharwardy and Yasir Reshi rejoined the PDP, in the presence of Party President Mehbooba Mufti at the Party headquarters

“In a significant development former MLA Suharwardy and MLC Reshi who had earlier left returned to the PDP today in presence of Mehbooba Mufti at party headquarters in Srinagar”, PDP posted on X.

“The joining of the two leaders will further strengthen the PDP”, it said.

Suharwardy, a founding member of PDP resigned from the primary membership of the party in

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## Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine records massive increase in pilgrim donations in 5 years

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Pilgrim donations at the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up to Rs 171.90 crore in Financial Year 2024-25 (till January) from Rs 63.85 crore in 2020-21, according to the temple board, guide

Similarly, the gold offerings at the shrine have also increased from over nine kgs to 27.7 kgs and silver from over 753 kgs to over 3,424 kgs during the same period, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has said.

Replying to an RTI application filed by Jammu-based activist Raman Sharma, the shrine board said an amount of Rs 63.85 crore were received as donation or offering in the FY 2020-21 followed by Rs 166.68 crore in FY 2021-22, Rs



223.12 crore in FY 2022-23, Rs 231.50 crore in FY 2023-24 and Rs 171.90 crore in FY 2024-25 (upto January this year).

Only 17.20 Lakh pilgrims, the lowest in over three decades, visited the shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kash-

mir’s Reasi district in 2020 when the temple, for the first time in its history, remained closed for five months due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It reopened for pilgrims on August 16 2020.

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## Divorced daughter can now claim deceased father’s pension: Dr Jitendra

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAR 16

Keeping in view the changing norms of the contemporary society, the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has from time to time taken pathbreaking decisions to facilitate ease of living in the lives of the government employees and has been particularly sensitive about the concerns of women employees.

Stating this in an exclusive interview to a news agency, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also the Minister Incharge DoPT in addition to his other portfolios, cited an example that a divorced or separated daughter can now claim her deceased father’s pension. Unlike as per the earlier rule, she has no longer to wait indefinitely for the outcome of a legal battle to claim family pension



from her deceased parents. If divorce proceedings were initiated during the lifetime of a pensioner, the daughter can now claim her pension benefits without awaiting the final court verdict, he said.

The Modi Government has introduced a series of transformative reforms aimed at empowering women, breaking bureaucratic barriers, and ensuring gender inclusivity in governance, said the Minister.

Dr Jitendra Singh further elaborated that as a major breakthrough, the govern-

ment has amended pension rules to provide greater security for women in challenging circumstances. A childless widow can now remarry and still continue to receive her deceased husband’s pension or family pension, provided her income from other sources remains below the minimum pension threshold. This move is being seen as a significant step towards financial independence for widows, acknowledging their right to rebuild their lives without losing financial security.

Additionally, recognizing the challenges faced by women in marital discord, the government has allowed a woman pensioner to nominate her children for family pension over her husband if she has filed for divorce or initiated proceedings under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act

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## Natrang Stages 'Uthal Puthal': A Tale of Trust and Dignity

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Natrang staged 'Uthal Puthal', a play in Hindi based on a short story written by Anton Chekhov and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Natrang's Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre. The emotional quotient prevalent in the plot of the play was much appreciated by the audience. The play speaks about how necessary is the faith and respect in relationships.

The play revolves around a young girl 'Malvika', who lives as a paying-guest in the house of one Mrs. Maya. She comes home from college one day to find the house in turmoil. When she walks into her room, she sees her mistress rummaging through her things. Mrs. Maya leaves



in hurry and another maid tells Malvika that a very expensive brooch was lost and the ever suspicious and arrogant lady Mrs. Maya is searching and screening each and every one to find that. She has no regards for anyone's honesty and all are thieves in her eyes. 'Malvika' is very disturbed that the land lady would look through her things, obviously assuming her a

thief. Then, at dinner, Maya makes a comment about how she will not tolerate thieves in her house. This pushes 'Malvika' over the edge, and she decides to leave the place. While she is packing, 'Nikhil', the master of the house and Maya's husband, comes into her room and begs her to stay. He then reveals that actually he stole the brooch as he was short of

money and his dominating wife has captured all the possessions with her and turned him to be a beggar in his own house. This disturbs Malvika even more who stays with her decision to leave the home as there is no dignity in living at a place where there is no respect for your honesty and nothing else is more important than self respect and dignity for an honest person.

Natrang's artists who presented a remarkable performance included Aryan Sharma as Nikhil, Vrinda Gujral as Malvika, Priyal Ashok Gupta as Nisha, Kananpreet Kaur as Maya, Manvi Devi as Kaaki and Kartik Kumar as Kaka. The lights of the play were designed and operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was rendered by Adaksh Bagal. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## JKNC Forms Committee to Review Jammu Municipal Wards ahead of Elections

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 16

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has constituted a committee to assess the functioning of all wards under the Jammu Municipal Corporation in preparation for the upcoming local bodies elections. The decision was announced by Shri Rattan Lal Gupta,

Advocate, Provincial President of JKNC Jammu Province.

Shri Pardeep Kumar Bali, Provincial Secretary, has been appointed as the Convener of the committee, which will work in coordination with District Presidents of Jammu Urban, Jammu Rural "A" and "B," Block Presidents, and other party representatives. The review process

is expected to be completed within a month.

The committee comprises senior party leaders, including former MLA Smt. Bimla Luthra, Treasurer Shri Jugal Mahajan, Joint Secretary Shri Ankush Abrol, SC Cell Chairman Shri Vijay Lochan, OBC Cell Chairman Shri Abdul Gani Teli, Legal Cell President Shri D.S. Chouhan, YNC Provincial President

S. Tejinder Singh, Vice President Central Zone Shri Rakesh Singh Raka, Secretary Central Zone Dr. Vikas Sharma, Vice President Central Zone Smt. Dilshad Malik, and S. Jatinder Singh Lucky.

This move aims to strengthen the party's grassroots presence and strategize effectively for the upcoming municipal elections.

## SMVDU students visit AIIMS, Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The fourth-year students of the School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), conducted a case study visit to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu as part of their academic curriculum. The visit was coordinated by faculty members Ar. Navin Gupta and Ar. Abhimanyu Sharma. The initiative was facilitated by the esteemed Director of AIIMS and Dr. Sanjolly Gupta, whose support played a crucial role in ensuring a productive learning experience for the students. Ar. Narinder,



a key resource person at the site, accompanied the students and provided an in-depth explanation of the site planning and architectural framework of the entire AIIMS Jammu campus. The students gained valuable insights into the complexities of hospital design, including zoning strategies, circula-

tion planning, patient flow management, emergency response considerations, and sustainable design aspects. This case study visit was particularly significant as the fourth-year students are currently engaged in designing a hospital as part of their Architectural Design studio exercise. The first-

hand exposure to a large-scale healthcare facility will enable them to incorporate practical and functional solutions into their design projects, aligning with contemporary architectural standards and healthcare requirements. The students and faculty members expressed their gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SMVDU and the Head of SoALD for their continuous encouragement and support in facilitating such enriching academic experiences. These industry interactions and site explorations remain vital in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world architectural practice.

## J&K Police organizes Jammu Marathon 2025; Over 3000 Athletes participate



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 16

The Jammu and Kashmir Police successfully organized the Jammu Marathon 2025 under its Civic Action Programme (CAP) at Gulshan Ground, Jammu. The event, themed 'Run for Fun', witnessed participation from over 3000 athletes from various states, including school-children, veterans, and fitness enthusiasts.

The marathon featured multiple race categories, including a 21-km half marathon, 10-km, 5-km, 4-km, and 2-km runs, catering to different age groups. The 21-km run

started from Gulshan Ground and extended to Hill View Honda near Bajalta Crossing, while shorter races covered different city routes. The winners were honored with medals, certificates, and cash prizes worth Rs 1,84,000.

The prize distribution ceremony was graced by Shri M.K. Sinha, Additional Director General of Police, Headquarters/Coordination PHQ, J&K, as the chief guest. Other senior police officials, including Sh. Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed, also attended the event. Shri Sinha commended the overwhelming participation and highlighted

the significance of such events in promoting fitness, community engagement, and drug prevention among the youth.

Earlier, Sh. Anand Jain, IPS, in his address, reaffirmed the J&K Police's commitment to fostering positive social initiatives through programs like CAP. He thanked the officers, sports authorities, and agencies for their role in the marathon's success and emphasized the need for continued youth engagement in sports.

The marathon was flagged off by Sh. Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed Police J&K, along with dignitaries including

Ms. Sarah Rizvi, IPS, DIG IRP Jammu; Sh. Shiv Kumar, IPS, DIG JSK Range; Sh. Rajesh Kumar, IPS, SSP Security Jammu; Sh. Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; and Sh. Dalip Kumar, SSP, SO to ADGP Armed.

The Jammu Marathon 2025 is part of the J&K Police's larger effort to encourage fitness, foster community spirit, and promote a healthy lifestyle. Through such initiatives, the police aim to strengthen their bond with the public and ensure greater community participation in activities that contribute to peace and well-being.

## Regional Centre Jammu conducts Entrance Test for B.Ed. and B.Sc.(Nursing)

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Regional Centre Jammu today conducted the Entrance Test for B. Ed. & B.Sc. Nursing (Post Basic) programmes for admission to January 2025 admission cycle. The Entrance Test was conducted across the Country in more than one hundred Examination Centres.

There was only one Examination Centre established for the Entrance Tests under the Regional Centre Jammu, which is Exam Centre Code: 1232, Govt. M.A.M. College, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Road, Jammu. The entrance exam of B.Ed. was of 2-hour duration conducted from 10AM to 12Noon and the entrance exam of B.Sc. Nursing (Post Basic)



was of 2:30 hours duration conducted from 2PM to 4:30PM.

For the Entrance Test of B.Ed. programme, 65 candidates from Jammu region were declared eligible to appear in the Test and for B.Sc. Nursing (Post Basic), 18 candidates appeared in the Entrance Test.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta,

Regional Director Regional Centre Jammu visited the Examination Centre as Observer for the surprise check and found the arrangements and conduct of Entrance Test up to the mark as per the guidelines and procedures laid down by the University. Dr. Neeraj Sharma conducted the Entrance Test

as Centre Superintendent of the Examination Centre at Govt. M.A.M. College Jammu.

After qualifying the entrance test, the candidates will have to appear in the counselling for admission which would be conducted based on region-wise merit list/rank and availability of seats.

## Two-Week Yoga Workshop concluded for NCC Cadets of SMVDU

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The two-week Yoga Workshop organized by Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator for NCC cadets at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) concluded successfully. The workshop aimed at instilling the importance of yoga in daily life. The sessions were conducted by Mr. Gurmel, who skillfully guided the cadets through various yoga asanas while emphasizing that yoga is



not just a form of exercise but a holistic way of life. Throughout the workshop, NCC cadets displayed great enthusiasm, actively participating in every session and embracing the benefits of yoga. During the

concluding session, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, commended the NCC cadets for their dedication and encouraged them to continue practicing yoga for physical and mental

well-being. He highlighted that yoga is a valuable discipline that promotes fitness, focus, and inner peace. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs, SMVDU, was also present on the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the cadets and organizers in making the workshop a success. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Mr. Gurmel for his insightful sessions and to the cadets for their active participation.

## Ahead of Chaitra Navratri-2025, BFDC organizes volunteers' workshop

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 16

Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC) organized a workshop of its volunteers to prepare them for ensuing Chaitra Navratri, which is commencing later this month.

The one day workshop was held under the chairmanship of its president Rajeev Charak. Speaking on this occasion, Rajeev Charak said that in the workshop volunteers were taught the skills to frisking, disaster management, crowd managements, traffic regulation and other volunteer services, so that the devotees coming to Mata Bawe Wali do not face any inconvenience.

Charak also urged appealed to the devotees planning to visit Bawe Wali Mata to follow traffic norms and not park their vehicles on the road, which may pose inconvenience to fellow devotees as well as local population. The traffic police also urged to show activeness



in running systematic and smooth traffic.

He said sewa at Bawe Wali Mata temple is not in everyone's fate and if the employees or officers of whichever department get the opportunity to during Navratri should consider it as Maa's blessing and serve to their fullest. There should be no shortage in the work related to their department.

Rajeev Charak further said that said volunteers of the committee remain ready to serve the devotees 24 hours a day during Navratri. Talking to the volunteers, he said that

we are all volunteers and serve Maa Bawe Wali with self-motivation. He said that this time the heat will increase in Navratri, so that the devotees do not have to go far to drink water, the volunteers will also provide water to the devotees standing in the lines.

He further said that management of Jammu Smart City should also pay attention to street lights so that everything should be operational before Navratri. He said that the development works being carried out by Smart City and Municipal Corpora-

tion Jammu should be completed before Navratri so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience. He said that the water coolers and water ATMs installed by Smart City and Municipal Corporation are not working and should be repaired before the start of Navratri.

Speaking about cleanliness, he said that the team of Health Officer Jammu will have to ensure that no drain is blocked and tap water should not come on the road.

While conducting the meeting, Hardesh Khokhar taught the volunteers. Gulshan Kumar gave the vote of thanks and asked the volunteers to follow the instructions given in the workshop to the letter.

On this occasion, Vice President of Bahu Fort Development Committee Hardesh Khokhar, Gulshan Kumar, Karna Kumar, Sunny Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Tanish Mehra, Nikhil Kumar and other volunteers were present.

## The Silent Killer-Sedentary Lifestyle and its Dire Impact on Cardiac Health: Dr Sushil

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 16

To strengthen their campaign further to aware the common populace about the ill effects of Cardiovascular diseases Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr. Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Shiv Mandir, Panchayat Mishriwala, Block Bhalwal Jammu. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the risks associated with physical inactivity and its impact on heart health. During the camp, the team screened high-risk patients, identifying individuals who may be more susceptible to cardiac issues. This proactive approach helped in early detection and prevention, encouraging participants to adopt healthier lifestyles.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that heart diseases remains the leading cause of mortality worldwide and World Health Organization (WHO) has identified physical inactivity as one of the top risk factors for non-communicable diseases, including heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. Despite medical advancements, the increasing prevalence of heart-related issues suggests that lifestyle choices play a crucial role in determining heart health. In the modern era, technological advancements have reshaped the way people work, communicate, and entertain themselves. While these innovations have brought convenience and efficiency, they have



also introduced a significant health challenge—a sedentary lifestyle. A sedentary lifestyle, characterized by prolonged sitting and minimal physical activity, has become increasingly prevalent due to desk jobs, digital entertainment, and rural as well as urban living. This lifestyle has been linked to numerous health concerns, with cardiac ailments being one of the most severe consequences.

He elaborated that with the rise of remote work, digital learning, and automated services, people are moving less than ever before, which significantly contributes to the increasing rates of cardiac ailments. The heart is a muscle that requires regular exercise to maintain its efficiency. When the body is inactive for prolonged periods, several physiological changes occur that can negatively affect heart health. Some are the key ways in which a sedentary lifestyle contributes to cardiac ailments includes increased Risk of Obesity, Elevated Blood Pressure (Hypertension), High Cholesterol and Arterial Blockages, Insulin Resistance and Type 2 Diabetes, Poor Blood Circulation and Increased Risk of Blood Clots, Weakened Heart Muscles and

Reduced Endurance. Beyond physical health, a sedentary lifestyle also affects mental well-being, which indirectly impacts heart health.

He added that despite the alarming risks associated with a sedentary lifestyle, heart health can be significantly improved by incorporating physical activity and healthier habits into daily routines. Some effective strategies to combat inactivity and promote cardiovascular wellness include Regular Physical Activity, Frequent Breaks from Sitting, Healthy Dietary Habits, Stress Management and Mental Well-Being, Avoiding Harmful Habits, Staying Hydrated and Maintaining Proper Posture, He Said.

In his concluding remarks Dr Sushil Sharma told that sedentary lifestyle has become one of the biggest threats to heart health in the modern world. The increasing prevalence of cardiac ailments linked to inactivity highlights the urgent need for lifestyle modifications. While technological advancements have made life more convenient, they have also contributed to reduced movement and increased health risks. However, the power to reverse these effects lies in conscious

lifestyle choices. By incorporating regular physical activity, maintaining a balanced diet, managing stress, and avoiding harmful habits, individuals can significantly reduce their risk of heart disease. A strong and active heart is essential for a long and healthy life, and it is never too late to make positive changes. After all, movement is the key to vitality, and a healthy heart is the foundation of a fulfilling life.

Prominent members of the area Pallavi Verma (Ex-Sarpanch), Rohit Verma, Rocky Sharma, Jeevan Ram, Susheel Sharma, Randeep Panjal appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for accepting their request and conducted cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their area and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Yashwant Sharma, Dr Venkatesh Yellupu and Dr Aditya Sharma. Paramedics and volunteers includes Kamal Sharma, Raghav Rajput, Ranjeet Singh, Rajkumar, Paramveer Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Maneet Kumar, Makhan Sharma, Rahul Vaid, Shubham Sharma, Gourav Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Manoj Sharma and Vikas kumar.

## Saima Khan Declared Qualified for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by SMVDU

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Saima Khan has been declared qualified for the award of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Biotechnology by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). She worked on the topic, entitled "Exploration of in vitro raised cultures of Atropa acuminata for the production of acid phosphohydrolase", under the Supervision of Dr. Ashok Ahuja, Principal Scientist (Retd.), CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu and Co-supervision of Prof. Sharada M. Potukuchi, School of Biotechnology, SMVD



University. During the final oral defence, Prof. Pragati Kanchoo, Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Sunil Wanchoo, Dean Faculty of Science and the External Examiner Dr Ram Kumar Sharma, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur and Head, Biotechnology; appreciated the work done and congratulated the stu-

dent for her successful Ph.D. Viva-Voce. Ms. Saima has published her research findings in the International Journals of repute and presented her results at International and National conferences. Ms. Saima expressed her gratitude to CSIR-IIIM and the School of Biotechnology, SMVD University for providing all the facilities for carrying out the research work and the financial assistance in terms of scholarship and contingency during her tenure at the CSIR-IIIM. Her study implements the existence of plant cell culture system as a viable and alternative approach for the production of acid phosphatase

at commercial levels using cell and tissue cultures of Atropa. The findings have significant implications for addressing global food security and environmental sustainability. By leveraging the power of plant cell cultures, researchers can develop innovative strategies to enhance crop productivity and minimize the environmental impact of agriculture. This research offers rational strategies to develop phosphate efficient plants in order to reduce our over reliance on non renewable P<sub>i</sub> fertilizers which can further encourage continual agriculture and help to convene future needs.

## Two months MSME awareness program concludes at NIT Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 16

A two-month-long Entrepreneurship Awareness Program concluded at various clusters on Saturday across the Kashmir Valley.

The MSME Entrepreneurship Awareness Program was organized by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, NIT Srinagar, in collaboration with MSME PPDC, covering different regions of Kashmir. It was sponsored by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

The entire valley was divided into three clusters: Cluster 1 included Srinagar, Bandipora, and Ganderbal; Cluster 2 comprised Pulwama, Anantnag, Kishtwar, and Kulgam; while Cluster 3 covered Kupwara, Baramulla, Budgam, and Shopian.

Over the course of two months, close to 1,000 young individuals were sensitized about entrepreneurship and various MSME schemes. In collaboration with Government Degree Colleges and various training institutes, participants were provided awareness regarding numerous funding opportunities and business



development strategies. Chief Patron of the workshop was Prof. Binodh Kumar Kanaujia (Director, NIT Srinagar), while the patrons included Prof. Atikur Rahman (Registrar), Prof. M.F. Wani (MED), Prof. G.A. Harmain (MED), Prof. Sheikh Nazir Ahmed (MED), and Prof. Roohi Naaz Mir (Dean R&C). The Chairpersons were Prof. M.M. Wani (HoD, MED) and Prof. Adnan Qoyum (MED).

In his message, Incharge Director, Prof. Roohi Naaz said entrepreneurship is the backbone of economic development, and through this initiative.

"It was aimed to equip young minds with the necessary skills and knowledge to start their own ventures. It is heartening

to see the overwhelming response from youth across the valley," she said.

Prof. Atikur Rahman, Registrar NIT Srinagar said that goal of this program was to create a sustainable ecosystem for entrepreneurship. The increasing participation of women in this initiative is a testament to the positive impact of such programs, he said.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Nodal Officer of the MSME ESDP Scheme, provided an overview of the program, emphasizing the focus on technology-based entrepreneurship ventures.

"These included 3D Printing, Laser Engraving, Handicrafts, Crochet, Drone Technology, Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Marketing, Soap Making,

Willow Wicker, Gift Printing, Design, Public Speaking, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Wood Carving, E-commerce, and Embroidery," he said.

A significant outcome of the program was the increase in women participation, with a 60:40 male-to-female ratio. This notable shift was achieved by focusing on women empowerment initiatives.

Additionally, over 100 youths successfully registered their firms under MSME by completing the Udyam registration process. The program concluded on Sunday on a high note, with organizers expressing their commitment to continue such initiatives to foster entrepreneurship and economic growth in the region.

## MLA Mankotia conducts series of meetings in Block Chenani, Narsoo & Sewna

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
CHENANI, MAR 16

BJP Sr. leader and MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia organized an awareness camp for beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) along with concerned block officials at the Community Hall in Block Chenani, the CFC Center in Block Narsoo, and the Higher Secondary School in Block Sewna. On this occasion, local residents gave a grand welcome to MLA Mankotia



in their respective blocks by playing drums and presenting him with garlands. During the event, PMAY beneficiaries shared their grievances

with MLA Mankotia. In response, he issued strict instructions to block officials to ensure immediate resolution of people's problems. MLA Mankotia

emphasized that every eligible beneficiary must receive the benefits of the housing scheme, and no one should be left out. He further stated that it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to implement this scheme effectively. He also directed officials to conduct house-to-house geo-tagging at the earliest for those who have been left out of the scheme, ensuring that every deserving family gets their rightful benefits.

## Tragic Death of Kupwara Youth: JKSA Takes Up Matter with CM's Office, Seeks Action Against Officials Who Denied Emergency Transport

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) here on Sunday has taken up the matter with the office of the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister over the lack of emergency transportation services in remote areas like Machil and Gurez. This comes in the wake of the tragic demise of Gowhar Ahmad Mir, a 25-year-old pharmacy graduate from Kupwara, who suffered a fatal cardiac arrest in Chandigarh while traveling to receive his degree. Despite his family's desperate request for a helicopter to repatriate

his mortal remains, their plea was denied, forcing them to undertake a grueling 30-kilometer journey on foot, carrying his body on a stretcher through heavy snowfall—a distressing reminder of the glaring infrastructural failures in J&K's remote regions.

National Convener Nasir Khuehami took up the issue with the Chief Minister's Office and spoke to CM's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, after the family's appeal for emergency transport was ignored. The agonizing ordeal endured by the bereaved family has once again exposed the severe inadequacies in crisis response mechanisms,

particularly in inaccessible regions where the absence of emergency evacuation services continues to put lives at risk.

Following the intervention of the JKSA, the CM's Office has assured that corrective measures will be taken to address these shortcomings, especially in far-flung areas like Machil. Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani has promised a full inquiry into the matter and has assured that the government will work towards establishing a robust emergency response system to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Association National President Ummar Jamal expressed deep sorrow

over the untimely demise of Gowhar Ahmad Mir, calling it a profound tragedy that highlights the failures of the administration in providing basic emergency services. Offering heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, he stressed that no family should have to endure such suffering due to bureaucratic apathy and infrastructural neglect. He urged the government to prioritize the development of emergency transportation networks, particularly in the remote and vulnerable regions of Jammu and Kashmir, to ensure that no more lives are lost due to administrative inefficiency.

## BJP holds core group meeting at party headquarters

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir led by its President Sat Sharma CA, held its Core Group meeting at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari, J&K, Sat Sharma CA, President J&K BJP, Shrikant Sharma, MLA

Mathura & Sangathan Parv Observer J&K, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) chiefly addressed the meeting of party's core group.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, BJP National Secretary & MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Dy. CMs Dr. Nirmal Singh & Kavinder Gupta, General Secretaries Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal & Adv.

Vibodh Gupta, senior leader Dr. Darakshan Andrabi, Vice-President Shakti Raj Parihar, Chief Spokesperson Adv. Sunil Sethi, Spokesperson Girdhari Lal Raina, and others participated in the meeting.

Tarun Chugh, while addressing the meeting, led the threadbare discussions on the current socio-political situation in Jammu & Kashmir. He

prompted the senior party leaders to discuss the Budget session presented by the NC government and its social and economic consequences on various sections like youth, and needy as well as on tourism, business, industry and investments in the region. He also discussed the issue of Daily Wagers, need based workers, NYCS and others in detail.

Shrikant Sharma dis-

cussed the importance of an inclusive society which cares for all with the participation of all and suggested the observance of 'Bihar Diwas' with enthusiasm.

Sat Sharma led the discussion on ongoing programmes like 'One Nation, One Election', programmes on Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and pressed for the stupendous and vigorous role of

party cadre in carrying the message to the various sections of society.

Ashok Koul discussed the future party programmes to be held in these days.

Earlier, senior party leaders also held meetings with the Presidents of organizational Districts prompting them to hold all the organizational programmes at the ground level.

## BJP selflessly serve the people for 365 days in year: Sat Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Sat Sharma CA, President J&K BJP accompanied by Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary J&K BJP and MLA addressed a public meeting organized by Amar Colony Welfare Association in Ward No. 32 of Jammu West Assembly Constituency.

District President Adv Rajesh Gupta, Mandal Chairman Anil Angral, Chairman Amar Colony Welfare Committee Vipan Pandita, President Dev Raj Angral, M K Bhan, Ramesh Trackroo, Ex Sarpanch Gole Pritpal Singh, Harvinder Singh President Govind Nagar Shopkeeper Association Binni Singh, Ramesh Chander, Sanjay Verma, Satish Salaria, Karnail Sodhi, Satish Sharma, Krishan Lal Angral Ravi Dass Sabha Kabir Colony, and others were amongst the prominent present in the meeting.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, focused on the consistent presence of BJP leaders



and activists in the general masses, striving to know their issues and then try to help them to sort out those issues. He said that the BJP serves the people 365 days a year. He compared the dedicated working of BJP cadre with the rest of other political parties who show their presence during the election season.

Sat Sharma assured the local residents that every BJP activist is dedicated to serve the society as a social worker and committed to sort out their genuine issues.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that the BJP MLAs as elected representatives of public are

already devotedly pursuing the role entrusted upon them and added that BJP is actively engaged within the Assembly and outside to project the issues of common masses.

Earlier, BJP President was informed of the issues of the locality faced by the residents, who also appreciated the policies of the Modi government premeditated to help the poor and the needy sections of society. They also felicitated the BJP President on the occasion.

Adv. Rajesh Gupta conducted the proceedings of the meeting and assured the people that BJP activists will fulfil their duty to serve the needy people.

## Politicization of Reservations to divide society on basis of religion, region & language condemnable: BJP

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Bharatiya Janata Party is seriously concerned over consistent efforts of using the issue of reservations to divide Jammu Kashmir on the basis of region, religion and language. BJP condemns this opportunistic politics of Kashmir centric parties.

This was stated by Girdhari Lal Raina, former MLC and party spokesperson. Pained by the falsehood being spread over reservations, GL Raina said that it is a universally recognized and constitutionally accepted concept of affirmative action by the national governments to help marginalized and underprivileged sections of the society.

Terming allegations of linguistic bias against "Kashmiri speaking" people as nothing more than a figment of imagination, GL Raina asked senior politicians like Sajjad Lone to desist from creating divisions on the basis of language and region. Such

politics will ruin and destroy Jammu Kashmir.

Dubbing figures quoted in assembly as half-truth, misleading and deceptive, GL Raina asked the government to reveal the number of people who applied for issuance of certificates in both regions and also explain reasons, if any, for denying certificates for claiming reservation benefits to eligible candidates from Kashmir Division.

GL Raina laughed off the abrupt discovery of the "merit" by Kashmir centric politicians and called sudden love for Kashmiri Pandit community as a politically motivated move to justify illogical & unconstitutional stand against reservations. Had they really been concerned over problems faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community they wouldn't have remained silent all these decades. When Kashmiri Pandits individually and collectively raised their voice for merit-based selection in professional institutions and jobs they were ridiculed

and physically assaulted. Even the Supreme Court directions were ignored, he added.

Asserting that there was no major change in reservation numbers post 2019, BJP spokesperson said only rationalization was done lately, for example by reducing RBA quota from 20 per cent to 10 per cent and that was provided to ST2. He also asked the public to make distinction between horizontal and vertical reservations. Reservations available under sports, Defence/ police personnel and Persons with Disabilities and under economically weaker sections (EWS) are not the same as those available to SCs, STs and OBCs, Ex MLC added further.

The BJP leader concluded by stating that in spite of all this, if there still are issues and grievances there is a mechanism in democracy to address such grievances. Those platforms and mechanisms must be used to address issues democratically without resorting to divisive politics.

### FROM THE PAGE 1...

#### Drugs worth Rs 88 crore...

In another operation on the same day, officers of the NCB-Guwahati zone intercepted an SUV on the Assam-Mizoram border near Silchar and seized 7.48 kg of Methamphetamine Tablets concealed inside the spare tyre of the vehicle, it said.

The occupant of the vehicle was arrested, according to the statement.

The source of the contraband was Moreh and the suspected destination was Karimganj in Assam, the statement said.

Further investigation to nab others involved in the case is going on, it said.

Meanwhile, the NCB would be taking over the probe from the Mizoram State Excise Department into the seizure of about 46 kg of crystal meth from Brigade Bawngkawn in Aizawl on March 6.

In this case, four people involved in the drug syndicate have already been arrested.

The investigation is being taken over by NCB to probe the international and inter-state linkages of the drug trafficking network, the statement said.

The Northeastern region has emerged as one of the most vulnerable areas of India from the point of view of drug trafficking owing to its geographic location, it said.

Identifying this vulnerability, the Ministry of Home Affairs augmented the strength of the NCB in 2023 to further strengthen the "war against drugs" in the region.

The NCB, through its five zonal units and a regional headquarters in the Northeast, has been continuously working against drug traffickers operating in the region, particularly those involved in the trafficking of synthetic drugs such as Methamphetamine tablets, popularly known as YABA, it said.

These tablets pose a threat to not only the young population of the region, but also to the security of the nation as a whole, the statement said. (AGENCIES)

#### Over 200 investors...

Revenue Department, which was then allocated to the aspiring entrepreneurs as per the established policy and procedures.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said the focus sectors for the Industrial Policy 2021-30 included manufacturing, IT and ITes, agriculture and food processing, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, infrastructure and real estate, skill development, tourism and hospitality, film tourism, horticulture and post-harvest management, renewable energy, handloom and handicrafts.

Various policy initiatives are being taken up by the government to boost the industry sector and make it an investor-friendly destination, he said.

Any business enterprise having 51 per cent stake held by women entrepreneurs shall qualify to apply for allotment in the designated industrial estate, he added. (Agencies)

#### 30 injured as mini-bus...

They said 30 passengers, including 22 women, were injured in the accident and were hospitalised.

Two of the seriously injured persons – Rafaqat Ali and Goutam Sharma – were referred to Government Medical College hospital Jammu for specialised treatment, the officials said.

#### After week-long wet...

temperature on Saturday was recorded 4°C to 12°C below normal in Kashmir valley.

The night temperature at Srinagar, recorded at 4.0°C and this was 0.3°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season. The day temperature recorded at Srinagar on the previous day was 5.6°C and this was 9.5°C below normal for the day.

Pahalgam had a low of -0.2°C, Gulmarg -3.0°C, Qazigund 1.4°C and Kokernag 1.7°C, the MeT office said.

#### Two former...

February 2021 on political and personal reasons. Rishi also quit the party in March 2021.

Both had earlier joined the People's Conference led by Sajad Gani Lone in 2021.

Over the past year, several former leaders, including Khurshid Alam and Basharat Bukhari, have returned to the party.

#### Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine...

From 13.95 lakh in 1986, when the shrine board took over the affairs of the shrine for better management, there has been a steady increase of pilgrim footfalls with each passing year, touching an all time high of 1.04 crore in 2012 against 1.01 crore the previous year.

According to the official figures, the pilgrim arrival at the shrine was 55.88 lakh in 2021, 91.25 lakh in 2022, 95.22 lakh in 2023 and 94.84 lakh in 2024.

In the response to the query about the total value of jewellery or ornaments like gold offered by the pilgrims at the shrine, the board said over 9.075 kgs gold was received in the FY 2020-21, 26.351 kgs in FY 2021-22, 33.258 kgs in FY 2022-23, 23.477 kgs in FY 2023-24 and 27.717 kgs in FY 2024-25 (up to January this year).

Similarly, 753.630 kgs silver was received in FY 2020-21, 2400.705 kgs in FY 2021-22, 3756.582 kgs in FY 2022-23, 4072.486 kgs in FY 2023-24 and 3424.538 kgs in FY 2024-25 up to January this year, the board said.

The board said the metals are received in impure form and the value cannot be ascertained until refined.

The yellow metal appearing like gold and the white metal appearing like silver after melting, assaying, refining and fabrication into coins of .995 and .999 purity is put for sale at the souvenir shops, it said. (Agencies)

## GST evasion of Rs 6.31 Lakh detected, penalty realized by STD

JI NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MARCH 16

In a recent crackdown, acting on specific intelligence input, the enforcement team South Kashmir laid a special Naka on intervening night of 14th & 15th March 2025 and intercepted 02 vehicles carrying battery scrap and imposed penalties to the tune of Rs 6.31 Lakh under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime on taxpayers involved in the trading and transportation of battery scrap without proper GST documentation and compliance.

The GST authorities have noted an increasing trend of battery scrap transactions being conducted without proper invoicing, registration, or the payment of applicable taxes. Under GST law, any supply of goods, including battery scrap, must be accurately documented, taxed, and reported. Failing to comply with these obligations not only breaches GST regulations but also creates significant risks for the environment and public health.

Businesses engaged in the sale, purchase, and recycling of battery scrap are reminded that they must be properly registered under GST and comply with all tax reporting requirements. These measures aim to ensure transparency, accountability, healthy competition among taxpayers and also the proper management of hazardous materials in line with environmental and health regulations.

The department urges all traders, recyclers, and transporters of battery scrap to review their GST compliance status and rectify any discrepancies. Failing to do so may result in further penalties and a review of their operations.

For further information or to clarify GST-related queries, affected businesses are encouraged to contact the GST department or visit the official government website for more details on how to stay compliant.

The enforcement drive was carried out by a team of STOs/Inspectors/Sub Inspectors/Guards in supervision of Anil Kumar Chandail, Deputy Commissioner, Enforcement South Kashmir under the guidance of P.K. Bhat Commissioner, State Taxes J&K, and Parvez A Raina Addl Commissioner State Taxes, Kashmir.

## Sunil Prajapati denounced decision of NC Govt to Close OBC Welfare Board and to Merge with SC Welfare Board

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Sunil Prajapati President BJP OBC Morcha J&K, denounced the controversial decision of newly elected J&K UT Govt to windup the J&K OBC Welfare Board and ordered the Secretary OBC Welfare Board to shift the Office in the Office of Scheduled Caste Welfare Board, which is a great conspiracy and discriminatory decision of the National Conference (NC) Govt to betray the OBC Category people of J&K, who have already suffer irreparable loss for 70 years due discriminatory rule framed for OBCs by the previous NC State Govts which always compromised the rights of OBCs and diluted OBC reservation by diverting OBC reservation to RBA and ALC unconstitutionally, as OBC reservation is meant for the backward classes as per Article 15(4) and 1(4) of the Constitution.

The OBC Category with 41 Castes/Classes is the largest one amongst Reserve categories with around 35% as per Census 1931 as also appeared in the various reports of J&K Govt from time to time, which have calculated the OBC population in J&K around 32%. Neglecting OBC category and ordering to wind up the OBC Welfare Board is a partiality decision of NC Govt against OBC Category, which will inflict a great loss to the OBC people.

The attitude of NC State Govt always remain violent against OBCs which denied them reservation as per Centre Govt orders, as prevailing in all States of the Country, since from the beginning on implementation OBC Reservation in the Country during 1993 and adjusted them under Social Caste (OSC) category with mere 2% reservation to such a large population. The BJP Union Govt abolished the OSC Category and implemented OBC reservation in J&K through parliament decision of 2023 and accordingly the OBC reservation was implemented in J&K UT vide SO 176 of 15 March 2024. Agitated by the Union Govt decision of OBC reservation in J&K, the NC Govt is now bent upon to take every step to deny the constitutional rights and to decrease the reservation of OBC so as to inflict grievous loss to the category. Winding up the OBC Welfare Board is the one of the step of present NC Govt to damage the future of the lakhs of OBC of J&K who reside in both the regions and are in both the religions in equal ratio.

It is added that as per census 2011, the population of SC and ST 1 comes to around 8% and 7%, respectively after excluding ST population of Kargil and Leh of erstwhile J&K State. However these categories are having well-functioning office with adequate staff, being allotment sufficient Funds and all other requisite resources made available, but the OBC category which is having around 35 population is being neglected severely and denied the very constitutional rights by the NC Govt with vicious decisions, which is not only great injustice and discrimination but also violation of Article 14 of the Constitution which confer right of equality to every citizen, caste and creed without any discrimination.

Sunil Prajapati accordingly request the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor J&K UT and the Union Home Minister to take serious note of the controversial decision of the present NC Govt to close the OBC Welfare Board and order for cancellation of such order and also to provide adequate Staff and allotment of sufficient funds to run the Board Office smoothly.

## Police arrests drug peddler in Srinagar, contraband substance recovered

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 16

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have arrested a drug peddler in Srinagar and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party during patrolling from Bemina Chowk to Boatman Colony intercepted a vehicle coming from Bemina Chowk to Boatman colony was noticed driving suspiciously and recklessly, who tried to flee however the vehicle was tactfully stopped. Upon stopping, the driver immediately jumped out and fled from the spot. While the other co-passenger remained inside and was apprehended on the spot who disclosed his name as Sameer Ahmad Bhat son of Ali Mohammad Bhat



resident of Woyan Pampore. During questioning

the arrested accused disclosed the name of the driver/the person whom

the vehicle belongs as Mudasir Ahmad Pir son of Shareef-U-Din Pir resident of Firdous Colony Bemina. During search, substantial quantity of Brown Sugar like substance was recovered from the Dash board of vehicle. Moreover, one weighing machine and a mobile phone was also seized on spot. Besides, vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 18/2025 under relevant section of law has been registered in Police Station Bemina. Search for other accused person who fled from the spot is underway.

Citizens are encouraged to support police efforts in rooting out the drug menace from society. We assure the public that the police will take strict action against offenders in accordance with the law.

## Police Registers First-Ever e-FIR via WhatsApp in Kulgam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MAR 16

In a major step in digital policing, making the complaint registration process more efficient and accessible for citizens, Police in Kulgam has registered its first electronic First Information Report (e-FIR) at PS Qazigund, following a complaint lodged via WhatsApp.

The complaint was filed

by Bashir Ahmad Khanday, wherein he stated that on 12/03/2025 one unknown person after monitoring his transition activity within ATM at Chowgam quickly took out my ATM card and exchanged it tactfully. After that, I received messages of deduction of amount of Rs 22,000/- from my bank account. The complainant requested for legal action against the said unknown person

and for recovery of his stolen money.

After examining the complaint, the Police took cognizance of the matter and registered an e-FIR under case FIR No. 38/2025 under section 303, 318 BNS at Police Station Qazigund. The investigation of the case has been initiated.

Pertinently, to strengthen public safety and justice, the government has

introduced new criminal laws that enable citizens to register First Information Reports (FIRs) through social media platforms as this innovative initiative aims to make the process of reporting crimes more accessible, efficient, and citizen-friendly. With the rising popularity of social media, this move is expected to revolutionize the way people interact with law enforcement agencies.

## Police arrests 3 drug peddlers; Contraband substances recovered

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 16

Continuing its efforts against the menace of drug trafficking, police have arrested three drug peddlers in Baramulla & Budgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party at a checkpoint established at Kanthbagh near DPL Baramulla intercepted two suspicious persons who tried to flee from the spot but were apprehended tactfully. During search, about 100 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Javid Ahmed Sheikh son of Abdul Majeed Sheikh and Sameer Ahmed Sheikh son of Mohd Subhan Sheikh, both residents of Khawajabagh Baramulla. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Similarly in Budgam, a Police Party of Police Station Khansahib at a check point established at Bugroo crossing, intercepted a Scooty bearing registration number JK04-5815.



During search, heroin-like substance was recovered from scooty rider, identified as Adil Showkat Khan son of Showkat Ahmad Khan resident of Nilsar Mohallah Wavoor Baramulla A/P Ompora Budgam. Subsequently, he has been arrested on the spot. Moreover, Scooty used in the commission of crime has also been seized. Accord-

ingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated. Police remain committed to eradicating drug abuse and trafficking from the district. Public is urged to cooperate and report any suspicious activity to the nearest Police Station or dial 112.

## Police solve 10-year-old fraud case in Baramulla, accused arrested

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MAR 15

In a significant breakthrough, Police in Baramulla have successfully solved a decade-old fraud case and arrested the accused involved in the criminal activity.

The 10-year-old case dating back to year 2016, registered at Police Station Boniyar vide FIR No. 3/2016 under section 420 of RPC was solved with the arrest of Manoj Das resident of Deoghar Jharkhand, involved in an online Bank Fraud case amounting of Rs 90,000/.

Further investigation is underway.

Police remain committed to ensuring public safety and urges citizens to cooperate with police and report any suspicious activities to help maintain peace and order in the community.

## AICTE Approved 2 Days Conference on "Advance Materials" Concludes at Aryans Group of Colleges

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, 16TH MARCH

A two-day National Conference, jointly organized by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Aryans College of Engineering, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh on "Advance Materials, Rare Earth & Critical Minerals" was concluded in Urdu & English Languages under AICTE-VAANI (Vibrant Advocacy For Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) scheme. 12 seminars conducted and concluded.

Dr JK Saini, Director, Aryans College of Engineering addressed all on the importance of this



conference. The 12 session including inauguration & concluding were addressed by various eminent resource persons including Dr Navdeep Parashar; Shivani, SVIET, Banur; Dr Gaurav; Dr Arif, CGC Landran & Jhanjheri; Dr Varinder Singh, Gulzar Group. About 80 participants from various educational institutes attended

this conference. Sessions focused on various topics. It was concluded that Advanced materials, critical minerals & metals are important areas that have the potential to transform the economy of the country across sectors and therefore, it is important to build our own supply chain especially in materials. In the

years ahead, ensuring reliable supplies of critical minerals will be key to the security of energy systems. The risks were also discussed. Additionally it was also discussed that, the over-concentration in critical minerals markets today is unprecedented compared with any other major commodity we rely on in the modern world.

## Sainik school Nagrota Cadets Shine in J&k Police Run for Fun Marathon

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NAGROTA: 16 MAR 2025

Cadets of Sainik School Nagrota exhibited outstanding endurance and competitive spirit at the J&k Police Run for Fun Jammu Marathon, held today at Gulshan Ground, Jammu. The event witnessed remarkable performances from the young cadets, reinforcing the school's commitment to excellence in both academics and athletics.

In the Under-18 Boys Category (10 km race), Cdt Vibhum Pandey (School No. 4202, Class XII) secured an impressive Second Position with a remarkable timing of 36 minutes 44 seconds. His stellar performance earned him a cash prize of Rs 10,000/-, which was presented by the Director General of Police, J&k.

Similarly, in the Under-14 Boys Category (5 km race), Cdt Ummar Shaukat (School No. 4405, Class IX) showcased his athletic prowess by securing Second Position in his category. In recognition of his commendable achievement, he was awarded a cash prize of Rs 5,000/- by the Director General of Police, J&k.

The outstanding performances of these cadets are a testament to the school's



dedication to holistic development, ensuring cadets excel in academics, sports, and leadership. Capt (Indian Navy) Shibu Devasia, Principal, along with the staff and fellow

cadets, extended their heartiest congratulations to the winners for their exceptional achievements and wished them continued success in future competitions.

## Indian Army conducted Medical Patrol for Gujjar & Bakkarwals at Lam, Rajouri



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 16 MAR 2025

Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrol in the village of Kheta Basah to address medical problems of the locals as well as Gujjar and Bakkarwals in the area. The inhabitants of the area are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their isolated geographic location and challenging terrain, benefitted immensely from this initiative which contributed to the overall well-being of the locals who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates. The mobile medical patrol, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas to provide healthcare with compassion for local villagers as well as Gujjar and Bakkarwals.

The primary objective was to provide on-

the-spot medical care & check-ups, which included basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments and distribution of necessary medicines. The team emphasised on preventive healthcare by offering immunizations and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The response from the local population expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps with special focus on women healthcare. Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrol played a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian Army and the local communities. A total of 23 Male, 29 Female & 11 Children were benefitted by the mobile medical patrol.

## Indian Army Distributes Books and Stationery to Below Poverty Line Students at Mendhar, Poonch



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH: 16 MAR 2025

In a heart-warming initiative aimed at supporting underprivileged students, the Indian Army at Mendhar conducted a welfare program at Model Academy School, Sagra in Mendhar under Op Sadbhavana, distributing books and uniforms to students from Below Poverty Line families. This noble effort is part of the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to community engagement and develop-

ment, ensuring that education remains accessible to children from economically weaker sections. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of students, teachers, and local dignitaries, who lauded the selfless efforts of the Indian Army. A total of 80 students were benefitted from the initiative. The school administration expressed its gratitude for the support extended by the Indian Army and highlighted the positive impact such initiatives have on students' morale and aca-

demical performance. Parents of the beneficiaries also appreciated the assistance, acknowledging the financial relief it provided to their families. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's dedication to fostering goodwill and contributing to the overall development of the communities they serve. The battalion remains committed to supporting local educational institutions and uplifting underprivileged students through similar welfare programs in the future.

## EDITORIAL

## A Respite from the Wet Spell – The Need for Preparedness

After a week-long spell of rain and snowfall, the Kashmir Valley has finally witnessed an improvement in weather conditions. The Meteorological Centre in Srinagar has forecast dry weather until March 25, providing much-needed relief to the residents. The recent inclement weather led to a significant drop in temperatures, disrupting normal life across the region.

The impact of the heavy rainfall and snowfall was particularly evident in areas like Konibal, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Kupwara, which recorded substantial precipitation. Gulmarg and Pahalgam, two major tourist destinations, experienced fresh snowfall, adding to their picturesque landscapes but also contributing to travel disruptions. The minimum temperatures in most parts of the valley remained above normal, but daytime temperatures plunged drastically, recording a drop of 4°C to 12°C below normal levels.

While the improved weather conditions bring a sigh of relief, it also highlights the need for a robust infrastructure to handle such climatic challenges. Every year, seasonal fluctuations test the resilience of Kashmir's infrastructure. Road blockages, waterlogging, and disruptions in essential services continue to be recurring issues that need a comprehensive mitigation strategy. Authorities must prioritize better drainage systems, timely snow clearance, and uninterrupted power supply during such weather events.

Furthermore, the tourism sector, a major contributor to Kashmir's economy, often faces setbacks due to unpredictable weather patterns. While snowfall enhances the valley's allure for winter tourism, it also raises concerns regarding accessibility and safety. The administration should take proactive measures, such as improved weather forecasting mechanisms and emergency response protocols, to ensure minimal disruptions to daily life and business activities.

As the valley transitions into a drier phase, this period should be utilized to assess the damages caused by the recent wet spell and implement long-term solutions. Climate change-induced weather variations necessitate better preparedness and resilience-building measures. The government, along with local authorities and civil society, must work together to create a robust system capable of withstanding nature's unpredictability.

While nature's forces remain beyond human control, our ability to respond effectively determines the extent of their impact. As Kashmir enjoys a respite from the cold and wet conditions, it is imperative to reflect on lessons learned and build a more weather-resilient future for the valley.

VISHWARUPA BHATTACHARYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent initiative to combat obesity and reduce excessive cooking oil consumption has ignited nationwide discussions on health and nutrition. The campaign underscores the importance of preventive healthcare and dietary changes in addressing India's growing obesity crisis. Given the alarming rise in obesity worldwide, this initiative is both timely and necessary and has received support from healthcare professionals, sportspeople, and the World Health Organisation.

India is witnessing a sharp increase in obesity, with the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) reporting that 23% of men and 24% of women are now overweight or obese. Urban areas show even higher numbers due to sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diets. By now, we all know that obesity increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and certain cancers, placing a heavy burden on India's healthcare system. The WHO has identified obesity as a major global health crisis, and India is rapidly catching up with Western countries in obesity rates.

However, while addressing

obesity through lifestyle changes is essential, an even more pressing concern needs urgent attention—food adulteration. In 2018-19, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) found that almost one-third of food samples tested in India failed quality checks due to adulteration. Media reports highlight alarming instances of harmful substances being added to food, such as urea, starch, and detergent in milk; synthetic dyes and artificial ripening agents in fruits; chalk in common salt; artificial colors in spices; formalin in fish; iron filings or colored leaves in tea; synthetic whiteners, chalk powder, or soapstone in rice and wheat; and lead chromate in pulses. These adulterants pose serious health risks, including food poisoning, kidney damage, cancer, and neurological disorders.

Food adulteration is now so rampant that, at times, we don't even need food inspectors to detect it. Walk through any vegetable market, and you will see unnaturally shiny apples, bright green peas, pointed gourds, and glossy brinjals. These are not signs of freshness but of harmful chemicals like wax, artificial dyes, and pesticides. Soak vegetables in water, and you may see colors leaching out—clear

evidence of adulteration.

While obesity can be managed by raising awareness about the dangers of consuming processed foods with unhealthy ingredients or overconsuming edible oil and encouraging lifestyle changes, avoiding adulterated food is far more challenging. It is difficult to detect adulteration, and the issue is deeply rooted in systemic flaws in food production and regulation. Unless food adulteration is effectively tackled, even so-called "healthy" choices can be hazardous, exposing consumers to harmful substances despite their best efforts to maintain a nutritious diet.

Due to the widespread issue of food adulteration, many people have stopped eating fruits with their peels or raw salads, fearing pesticide residues and chemical coatings. This shift highlights how food adulteration forces people to compromise on natural and healthier eating habits, ultimately hindering efforts to promote a balanced diet and combat obesity.

With adulteration becoming so prevalent, it's no surprise that people are turning to organic food. The organic food market is expanding rapidly worldwide. In India, it was valued at around \$1.5 billion in 2023 and is project-

ed to reach \$8.9 billion by 2032. However, organic food in India is much costlier than conventionally grown food, making it less accessible to middle- and lower-income groups. To make matters worse, fake organic labels have become a growing concern. As demand rises, many brands and sellers misuse the "organic" tag, passing off conventionally grown food at a premium price under the guise of organic produce. If left unchecked, this defeats the very purpose of switching to organic food, leaving us right back where we started.

PM Modi's past campaigns, such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the promotion of yoga through the International Day of Yoga, have demonstrated his ability to mobilise public participation and drive meaningful change. His efforts to combat obesity are also likely to strike a chord with the masses. However, while his past initiatives have successfully influenced public hygiene and global health trends, his latest campaign against obesity will have a meaningful impact only if the issue of food adulteration is effectively addressed.

In the fight against obesity, food adulteration is the elephant in the room. Addressing it first will ensure that when Indians

make healthier choices, they are truly consuming safe and nutritious food.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to combat obesity and reduce excessive cooking oil consumption is a crucial step toward improving public health in India.

Indeed, rampant food adulteration undermines even the best health-conscious efforts, exposing consumers to harmful substances despite their intent to eat well. The presence of hazardous chemicals in everyday foods, from fruits and vegetables to dairy and staples, poses severe health risks.

PM Modi's past campaigns have successfully driven large-scale behavioral changes, and his anti-obesity initiative holds similar promise. However, its success depends on a holistic approach that includes stringent food safety regulations, public awareness about adulteration and affordable access to truly healthy food.

Strengthening regulatory frameworks, enforcing stricter penalties for food fraud, and promoting verified organic practices can help bridge the gap.

**(The writer is Additional Director, Research Division, Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Views expressed are personal)**

## Towards a Fit and Trim India

## India's fragile trade deal with the US

KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India is currently in a tight spot regarding its economic relations with the United States. In less than two months since the new US President took office, high-level Indian officials, led by the Prime Minister himself, have visited Washington, D.C. Last week, India's Commerce Minister was in Washington for discussions with the newly appointed US Trade Representative and Commerce Secretary. According to news reports, Piyush Goyal is expected to return to Washington towards the end of March. The reason? President Trump's simultaneous announcement, during Goyal's visit, of imposing reciprocal tariffs on all countries with high import duties, including India.

President Trump has consistently targeted India as a high-tariff nation since taking office. His public outbursts against various allies and friendly countries have become a near-constant spectacle, akin to a reality show streaming across the globe. Several world leaders who managed early meetings with Trump were relieved that

they were spared the harsh treatment that the Ukrainian President faced in the Oval Office. Trump's confrontational style is now well known, and global leaders fear reputational damage from their bilateral conversations with him. He employs his blunt, undiplomatic rhetoric to put foreign leaders in a difficult position, compelling them to return with lucrative economic deals for the US.

It was no surprise, then, that after meeting India's Commerce Minister, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick stated, "We would like to focus on a bilateral conversation just between India and the United States to bring down the tariff levels that India has, which protect some of its sectors." Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US last month, discussions on a bilateral trade agreement have been actively initiated, with expectations of finalisation by the end of the year. Intense consultations are underway in Delhi, with all relevant ministries contributing their recommendations.

One of India's key priorities is retaining con-



trol over the agricultural sector, which has significant domestic political implications. The US is pushing for greater access to the Indian agriculture market, while India seeks reciprocity without jeopardising its small farmers. American farmers, who are generally more prosperous and own larger farmlands, rely on advanced machinery to boost crop output. However, the US Commerce Secretary made it clear that access to India's agriculture market remains a top priority. He stated, "Maybe certain products have quotas. Maybe certain products have limits... And then we do the same thing on the other side and craft an agreement that makes sense for both of

us. The Indian agriculture market has to open up. It can't just stay closed."

Meanwhile, back in India, the government is considering reducing import duties on certain products, including electronics. India currently imposes nearly 16.5 per cent import duties on several ICT hardware products, while the US maintains rates well below 1 per cent. Many experts believe that lowering duties on electronics could benefit India by encouraging US companies to shift their supply chains to the country. However, there seems to be some confusion over the definition of "US-manufactured" and "Made in the US" when determining tariff reductions. At present, many US technology

companies do not manufacture in the US but operate their largest factories in China or Southeast Asia.

President Trump, meanwhile, is pressuring American companies to relocate their manufacturing bases back to the US, threatening consequences if they fail to do so. This move could further complicate the already fragile global supply chain. India is closely monitoring these developments and must remain agile in its decision-making.

### Conclusion

India and the United States have shared a complex yet evolving economic relationship, marked by cooperation and contention. Over the years, India has worked towards strengthening trade ties with the US, which remains one of its largest trading partners. However, friction has persisted over issues such as tariffs, market access, and trade imbalances. With the new US administration taking a firm stance on protectionist policies, India faces increasing pressure to lower its trade barriers and open its markets to American goods,

particularly in agriculture and technology. President Trump's aggressive trade policies, including reciprocal tariffs and demands for reduced Indian duties on US imports, have added new challenges to negotiations.

As India navigates these complex trade dynamics, it must strike a balance between fostering economic cooperation with the US and protecting its domestic industries, especially agriculture and manufacturing. While a bilateral trade deal could provide long-term benefits, hasty concessions could threaten small businesses and farmers. At the same time, global supply chain shifts present opportunities for India to attract investments from US firms. With careful negotiations and strategic decision-making, India can work towards a trade agreement that ensures mutual benefit while safeguarding its economic interests. The coming months will be crucial in shaping the future of India-US economic relations.

**(The writer is a political analyst. Views expressed are personal)**

## Four-Day Workweek: Challenges and Promises

RACHNA LAKHPATI

The concept of a four-day workweek has taken the world by storm, promising enhanced work-life balance and efficiency. However, implementing such a model in a heterogeneous and populous nation like India—home to over 1.4 billion people—presents significant challenges.

India's labor market has distinct complexities, making a four-day workweek more of an aspirational than an immediately achievable solution. The country's economy encompasses sprawling informal sectors alongside emerging knowledge industries, creating a stark divide in working styles and employment patterns.

The informal economy, which employs approximately 90% of India's

workforce, operates beyond conventional employment paradigms. Agricultural laborers, small business owners, and daily wage earners typically work based on demand rather than a fixed schedule. For such workers, a four-day workweek may hold little relevance, as their earnings are directly tied to the number of hours worked.

Conversely, India's expanding service and technology sectors may be better positioned to experiment with compressed workweeks. Some e-commerce organisations have already tested four-day workweeks, reporting promising results in employee satisfaction and productivity. However, these remain exceptions rather than the norm.

Cultural perceptions of work in India pres-

ent another significant hurdle. The deeply ingrained belief that long hours demonstrate commitment and dedication fosters resistance to reduced workweeks. This cultural mindset suggests that even if policies change, shifting attitudes may take considerably longer.

Infrastructure challenges further complicate the feasibility of a four-day workweek. Many Indian workers endure long commutes due to inadequate transportation networks and urban congestion. As a result, even with a compressed work schedule, the actual time available for leisure and personal activities might remain limited.

Despite these challenges, there are compelling reasons to explore pathways toward introducing a four-day workweek in

India. Research suggests potential benefits, including reduced burnout, lower absenteeism, and improved mental health factors that could address key workplace issues currently affecting Indian employers.

A sector-specific approach may offer the most viable path forward. Pilot programs in knowledge-intensive industries could serve as testing grounds, allowing successful models to be gradually expanded to other sectors. Additionally, government incentives for businesses willing to adopt such programs could accelerate broader acceptance.

The pandemic has already reshaped work arrangements worldwide, including in India. Remote and hybrid work models have demonstrated that productivity

is not necessarily dependent on physical presence or rigid schedules. This shift in perspective creates opportunities for workplace innovations, including compressed workweeks.

Rather than viewing the four-day workweek as a universal, short-term solution, India could integrate it into a broader movement toward more flexible, worker-oriented employment practices. While full-scale implementation across industries may be a distant goal, selective adoption in specific sectors could lay the groundwork for wider acceptance as the economy and infrastructure continue to evolve.

The journey toward workweek reform in India will be long, culturally complex, and closely tied to the nation's economic landscape. However, ini-

tiating the conversation is a crucial first step in the right direction.

The four-day workweek presents both opportunities and challenges for India. While its informal economy and cultural perceptions pose obstacles, the growing service and technology sectors offer a testing ground for its feasibility. Infrastructure limitations and deep-rooted work traditions may slow widespread adoption, but pilot programs and government incentives could drive gradual acceptance. The pandemic has already reshaped work models, highlighting flexibility's potential. Rather than an immediate, universal solution, a sector-specific approach could pave the way for broader implementation.

**(The author is a motivator and freelance writer. Views expressed are personal)**

## Congress seeks rehabilitation of Nai Basti shopkeepers uprooted airport inhabitants

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 16

Hitting hard the concerned authorities for their failure to honour their commitments with the people from time to time forcing them to come on roads, Congress today strongly advocated for the proper rehabilitation of Nai Basti Shopkeepers besides seeking immediate settlement of 30 refugees families uprooted from parking site of airport Jammu who are running from pillar to post for six years, during the period 27 persons lost their lives in stress & struggle.

Addressing a joint Press conference JKPCC senior leaders including Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, I/C HQ Ved Mahajan, DDC Sdr T S Tony & Neeraj Gupta, Chief Media Co-Coordinator said that the highest authority of LG administration made commitment with agitating Nai Basti Shopkeepers and sweets were distributed by BJP leaders but that commitment was not honoured and shopkeepers served notices, forcing them to start agitation.

Bhalla said that it is question of livelihood of shopkeepers and everyone supports their cause but the LG administration failed to honour the commitment and the widening is under central department, so ball lies somewhere else and commitment should be honoured before disturbing them. BJP failed to get the commitment honoured after getting mandate in Lok Sabha and assembly.



Referring to the thirty uprooted refugees families from the site of parking place outside airport, few years back, Bhalla said that these females are running from pillar to post for their settlement & rehabilitation at the place identified for them at Raipur Rakh. They are very poor & living in rented places and 27 members of these families have lost lives in stress and struggle during this period but they not get settled on place earmarked.

This is great injustice to the poor people who were thrown under open sky after demolishing their shelters / structures in 2019, who were residing here since post-1947. They were first asked to go Suunjan tehsil Bahu but now awaiting resettlement at Rakh Raipur, Teh Bahu.

Congress leaders took to task the higher authorities who make commitments with people but later don't honour well in time, resulting into great harassment to them and people loose faith in the authorities. Every commitment should be honoured within time schedule and no one should be uprooted before proper settlement, they added.

Senior Congress leaders also reminded the higher authorities of the repeated commitments to the inhabitants of Chhanni Rama, Chhanni Bija, Chhanni

Himmat, Chhanni Kamala regarding re-opening of Public PWD road, which has been closed by Armed police complex Chhanni Himmat Jammu, causing great inconvenience to the general public.

A project estimate costing 343.58 lacs is awaiting sanction and funding for over three years but biting dust in higher offices of Home department. It is unfortunate that the authorities are sleeping over urgent issues while BJP leaders only busy in photo ops and making hollow claims of massive and speedy development under centre controlled UT and LG administration.

Raising another important issue of the proposed laying of ammunition depot near residential localities and religious places in Chowadi area, the Senior Congress leaders especially Congress Contesting Candidate T S Tony expressed grave concern over the hardships to be faced by the residents. This is very unreasonable decision of the authorities and required highest level intervention to stop this project in the larger interests of people of adjoining localities. They also sought intervention of LG and CM in matter.

The Congress leaders express great resentment over the delay in grant of statehood - as a result

people are suffering a lot undu dual power centre and demanded immediate restoration of statehood.

Congress leaders again raised the issue of Gair Mumkin Khads, & said that failure to follow the high court directions in the matter has ruined some bonafide purchasers who are not getting building permissions due pendency of timely action for yrs. Let the authorities do the needful to give a sigh of relief to the genuine owners.

The Congress leaders also expressed great concern over shortage of water tankers & the failure of the Municipal authorities to supply water tankers to the needy people despite payment after two three days too. It is duty of authorities to provide regular and sufficient water to each family in each locality and in case of shortage, the tankers used to be sent on government expense in such localities. They demanded immediate action in this regard as summer has yet to set in.

Accusing BJP leaders of shedding crocodile tears on every such issue of public concern while utterly failing to deliver on promises in past during their direct, indirect rule in over ten years. All commitments made by them ten years prior have remained unfulfilled, so far.

## MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat inaugurates renovated passenger Shed at Akhnoor Bus Stand

JINNEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, MARCH 16:

In a significant step towards enhancing public infrastructure, Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat inaugurated the newly renovated passenger shed at the Akhnoor Bus Stand today. The long-neglected shed has undergone comprehensive refurbishment to provide travelers with a more comfortable and convenient waiting area.

The project, undertaken by the Municipal Committee Akhnoor under the District Capex-ULB plan, involved the construction of a new shed, renovation of the chabutra, repair of the footpath, and other allied works. The total project cost amounted to Rs 9.52 lakh, with an allotted budget of Rs 6.18 lakh for the financial year 2024-25. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of Municipal Committee Akhnoor's Executive Officer, Sh. Tahir



Hafiz (JKAS), alongside several prominent figures, including former Municipal Committee President Deepesh Singh, Sanjay Saraf, former councilor Rakesh Malhotra, Karn Singh, Neeraj Sharma, Gaurav Singh, Ashok Langer, Ranjit Rohmetra, Ashok Rohmetra, former Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh, Ravinder Choudhary, Ashok Sharma Tinu, Subhash Mehra, Anil Sharma, Sunny Jamwal, Raju, Kala, Jagdish Bhagat, Raj Kumar, Pradeep Choudhary, Anu Gupta, Lal Chand, and

many others. In his address, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat reaffirmed his commitment to the holistic development of the Akhnoor Assembly Constituency. He highlighted his continuous efforts to raise local issues in the Assembly, advocating for the protection of the Chenab river banks, completion of the Mini Secretariat, and reopening of the Sub-District Hospital's old building. He assured the public that solutions to these matters were being actively pursued.

The MLA also shed light on the deteriorating condition of the Akhnoor Stadium, stating that he had brought the matter to the Assembly's attention, demanding an inquiry and even bringing the Sports Minister to the site for inspection. He vowed to ensure that no official or employee would misuse public funds, and strict action would be taken against any instances of corruption or negligence.

"The voice of Akhnoor will be echoed not just in the constituency but across the corridors of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. I stand committed to fighting for your rights and ensuring the development of our region," he declared.

The local community expressed their gratitude towards the Municipal Committee and the MLA for addressing long-standing infrastructural issues, marking this initiative as a step forward in Akhnoor's development journey.

## AJKPWA raises several concerns related to passengers in meeting with RTO Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16:

A delegation from the All J&K Passengers' Welfare Association (AJKPWA), led by its president Pt RC Sharma and Secretary General Mr Inderjeet Sharma, met with the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu, Mr Jasmeet Singh JKAS, in his office to discuss various pressing issues related to passenger welfare. During the meeting, the deputation raised several concerns and submitted a detailed memorandum outlining the problems faced by passengers.

The delegation highlighted the need for transporters to be held accountable for ensuring that services operate regularly and on time, especially the last bus service of the day. They pointed out that the behavior of drivers and conductors towards elderly passengers is often inappropriate, emphasizing the importance of upholding the dignity of all passengers. The deputation also stressed the need to set a minimum age limit of 28 years for drivers of passenger vehicles.

Additionally, they proposed that the RTO and ARTO should implement route-specific registrations for drivers and conductors to prevent any sort of misconduct. The delegation called



for a 50% fare reduction for standing passengers, as compared to regular fares, and insisted that every passenger vehicle should be equipped with a fully stocked first-aid box. Proper fitness certificates should be issued only after thorough inspections of the vehicles, they suggested.

A key demand raised by the deputation was for passenger insurance coverage, which should be provided at the transporters' expense. They also called for a 50% fare concession for students on all days, including holidays, and at all times without any restrictions. In addition, the delegation recommended the establishment of passenger complaint cells at each tehsil head. They also urged the installation of GPS and CCTV systems in all passenger vehicles for improved security and

monitoring. The deputation further recommended that a Passenger Welfare Fund be created, with contributions from transporters. They called for the identification of fixed stops for passenger vehicles operating in cities and proposed a blanket ban on playing loud music in these vehicles. The delegation emphasized the importance of eliminating unnecessary delays by drivers, mandating the display of driver and conductor names on the vehicles, and requiring specific uniforms for easy identification.

Other suggestions included installing complaint boxes by the traffic department in every vehicle, introducing annual training for drivers and conductors on passenger interaction, and imposing strict penalties for overloading on the rooftops of

passenger vehicles. They also proposed a monthly engagement system for drivers and conductors, as opposed to daily engagements, to improve safety and job stability. Furthermore, they called for Rs 25,000 penalty and immediate license cancellation for drivers caught using mobile phones while driving.

In a separate demand, the delegation requested the immediate commencement of a bus service from GMC Bakshi Nagar to Karloop village in Marh Block, aimed at providing relief to the residents of Karloop and nearby villages.

The RTO Jammu, Mr Jasmeet Singh JKAS, attentively listened to the concerns raised in the memorandum and work towards making the operations of the transport department more passenger-friendly. Additionally, he assured that the bus service for Karloop village would be started without delay.

Other prominent members of the deputation who participated in the meeting included Mr Ashwani Sharma, Mr Prem Singh, Mr Dalip Sharma, Mr Sanjay Sharma, Mr Suresh Singh, and Mr Parveen Raina, among others.

## Participation of 'Movement Kalki' Members in Ram Mandir Committee's Satsang

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Members of 'Movement Kalki', including Board Members Sunny Kapahi and Sukhdev Singh, actively participated in the Satsang organized by the Ram Mandir Committee in Jammu. They sang devotional bhajans dedicated to Mata and emphasized the importance of protecting and promoting the welfare of cows. They urged society to raise awareness about this noble cause.

It is noteworthy that 'Movement Kalki' has been on a sit-in protest at Amphala for the past 148 days, demanding strict laws for cow protection.



This protest has received continuous support from saints, social activists, and various organizations. Pandit Sunil Sharma appreciated the efforts of 'Movement Kalki' and assured that the organization's members would be

invited to future religious and social programs.

Awareness Campaign for Cow Protection The members of 'Movement Kalki' are actively spreading awareness about the religious, spiritual, and scientific sig-

nificance of cows. The organization believes that various deities reside in different parts of the cow, and protecting them is an integral part of Hindu beliefs. The movement aims not only to demand strict laws for cow protection but also to educate people on the belief that serving cows is equivalent to serving all of humanity.

Appeal from Movement Kalki

'Movement Kalki' appeals to all devotees, saints, and members of society to support this sacred cause and urge the government to implement strong laws for cow protection.

## Modi Govt committed to transforming J&K into industrial hub: Nitish

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Nitish Mahajan, President BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, J&K, has emphasized the need for the present government to extend all possible support to investors establishing industries in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that proactive assistance to investors will not only boost industrialization but also create substantial employment

opportunities for the youth in the region.

Welcoming the significant inflow of investments, the BJP leader highlighted the official data indicating that over 200 investors from outside J&K have been allotted land in various industrial estates over the past decade. He attributed this surge in interest to the abrogation of Article 370, which has opened new avenues for economic development and

industrial expansion in the Union Territory.

Nitish Mahajan pointed out that a majority of investors, primarily from Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab, have chosen Jammu region, especially the districts of Kathua and Samba, as their preferred destinations for setting up business units. He asked the NC government to ensure that these investors receive seamless support in terms of land acquisition, infra-



structure, and policy incentives to facilitate hassle-free business operations.

Emphasizing the role of industries in employment generation, Nitish Mahajan called for greater coordination between the administration and industrialists to expedite the establishment of units. He also urged local youth to capitalize on the emerging job opportunities by acquiring relevant skills.

Nitish reiterated that the BJP-led government at the Centre remains committed to transforming J&K into an industrial hub, fostering economic prosperity, and ensuring long-term benefits for the people of the region. He called upon the administration to streamline approval processes, provide necessary incentives, and strengthen industrial infrastructure to maximize investment benefits.

## Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Jammu organized a grand Samagam in Village Mandaal

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The Sant Nirankari Mission's Jammu branch has been actively organizing grand samagam to promote spiritual enlightenment and communal harmony. One such notable event took place on March 16 2025, at the N FARMS Banquet hall in village Mandaal. The congregation attracted a large number of devotees from various walks of life.

The samagam was presided over by Rev Jyoti Prasad ji Gyan Pracharak SNM while speaking on the occasion he said that The Sant Nirankari Mission promotes the message of "Oneness, Human Unity, and Universal Brother-



hood." It emphasises that God is one and can be realized through the guidance of a True Master (Satguru). The mission encourages people to rise above differences of caste, religion, and nationality, fostering love, peace, and selfless service in society. In the Nirankari Mission, Satguru is the one who blesses seekers with Brahmgyan. The mission

believes that without the guidance of a True Master, the realisation of God remains incomplete. Once a person attains Brahmgyan, they are encouraged to live a life of humility, love, and selfless service while staying connected with God in every moment.

Ajit Singh, Zonal In-Charge of Sant Nirankari Mandal Zone Jammu wel-

come all and presented the vote of thanks.

The event featured spiritual and ethical discourses, devotional hymns, and communal meals (Guru Ka Langar), symbolising unity and devotion. Devotees from various branches, including Domana, Gura Brahmana, Khara Madana, Bishnah, Miran Sahib, Pounichak, and Akhnoor, participated, reflecting the mission's inclusive approach.

On this occasion Sh Ravinder Kumar officer from Narcotics Control Bureau Jammu awarded public regarding the drug abuse as part of MOU signed between Narcotics Control Bureau Ministry of Home Affairs and Sant Nirankari Mandal.

## J&K witnesses unprecedented tourist influx under Modi regime: Dr. Parneesh

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 16

Senior BJP leader Dr. Parneesh Mahajan has praised the remarkable surge in tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing this unprecedented rise to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government's relentless efforts in transforming the Union Territory (UT) into a global tourism hub.

Dr. Parneesh referred to a recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report, which revealed that over 15.3 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir in the past decade, with an especially notable surge in the post-2019 period. "The tourism industry in Jammu and



Kashmir has experienced phenomenal growth, with a significant increase in the number of visitors—from 1.89 crore in 2022 to an expected 2.36 crore in 2024. These figures are a testament to the region's rapid revival and its transformation into a leading global travel destination," he stated in a press statement issued here today.

The senior BJP leader emphasized the importance of the Home Stay

Policy 2022, which has significantly boosted both rural and urban tourism across J&K. With 2,302 homestays registered in the region, the policy has not only provided authentic local experiences for visitors but has also generated substantial employment and alternative income sources for local communities. Additionally, Jammu and Kashmir's adventure tourism sector, offering activities such as trekking, skiing, rafting, and mountain biking, has created a wealth of opportunities for local guides, instructors, and operators.

Dr. Parneesh also commended the government's skill development initiatives, which have empowered local artisans, entrepreneurs, and hospitality

professionals. As a result, Jammu and Kashmir has become a leader in handicraft exports, contributing significantly to the rural economy's growth.

Recognizing tourism as the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy, Dr. Parneesh urged the administration to continue implementing proactive policies to elevate the UT as a world-class tourism destination. "Under PM Modi's leadership, Jammu and Kashmir has made a remarkable transition—from conflict to commerce, from unrest to tourism, and from despair to development. The increasing number of tourists is a clear indication of a New J&K—one that is peaceful, progressive, and prosperous," he added.

## NC leaders urge PM Modi to fulfil promise of statehood restoration

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Ankush Abrol, Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC today reiterated his demand for restoration of Statehood to Jammu & Kashmir and urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister to fulfil his promise, which he made with the people of Jammu & Kashmir earnestly waiting for his constructive action sans further delay.

Addressing youths during a meeting, Abrol said that Statehood is not just a political necessity but a constitutional and moral obligation held out to people of J&K that must be fulfilled at the earliest. The time for delays and empty promises is over as the people demand positive action," he asserted.

The meeting was organised by Vikshay Vashist and graced by Ankush Abrol, Joint Secretary JKNC, as the Chief Guest, while Dr Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Secretary of the Central Zone of JKNC was the Guest of Honour.

While interacting with youth both maintained that the Central Government must understand that without restoration of Statehood, the process of ensuring Development, Peace and Prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir would remain as day dreaming and injustice with the people here, they apprehended.

Evincing confidence



over the present Government policies Ankush said that the government will create thousands of job opportunities in various sectors, ensuring merit-based and transparent recruitment. He also lauded the proposal of launching special training initiatives to equip youth with modern skills, enhancing their capability for employment both in government and private sectors besides extension of universal health insurance coverage for BPL families meant for economically weaker sections to receive free medical treatment.

He described as the game changer by Government of Omar Abdullah's considerable fund allocation for the modernization of government schools, colleges, and technical institutes which would serve as booster to the quality education besides expansion of road networks with special focus on building new highways and rural roads for improving connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir. He also hailed the initiatives for

urban development to improve drainage, water supply and sanitation in urban areas for making cities more attractive and lively.

He urged the people to strengthen the hands of National Conference enabling it to continue serving the people and fulfilling their hopes and aspirations. He emphasized that the National Conference led government under Omar Abdullah is dedicated to holistic development and people governance.

Dr Vikas Sharma in his address slammed the BJP for adopting policies which are anti-poor, anti-youth, and anti-down-trodden class pushing the region into economic degradation, administrative chaos and confusion as well as developmental apathy.

He said that the people of Jammu had high hopes from the BJP, but the party failed on all fronts and insulting its mandate by breaching trust of the common masses in Jammu.

Referring to the growing unemployment crisis, he said that the youth of

J&K are in deep due to paucity of job opportunities maligned with deep footedly scandal-ridden recruitment process under the Double Engine Sarkar. He pointed out that several recruitment scams have shattered the dreams majority of educated youths aspiring government jobs. "The recruitment process in various departments has been marred by irregularities, corruption, favouritism and nepotism leaving deserving candidates hopeless and disillusioned," he rued.

He asserted that instead of creating employment opportunities and promoting industrial growth, the Double Engine Sarkar worsened the situation by failing to generate jobs and sadly mishandling the recruitment process. This has diverted the youth towards drugs, he said citing the example of five to six young boys succumbing to clutches of drugs due to employment policies replete with flaws. He demanded stern action against the drug mafia by tackling the source of narcotic dens and sought compassionate intervention in addressing the issues concerning the youth.

He urged the people to see through the BJP's false promises and support the National Conference in its mission to bring stability, progress, and justice to Jammu & Kashmir.

## Zee Media announces Winners of unveiling India Quiz

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The grand finale of the Unveiling India Quiz, a landmark initiative by Zee Media in collaboration with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), captivated audiences nationwide as it aired on Zee Media's network, gaining its status as one of India's most impactful knowledge-driven initiatives. The overwhelming response to the telecast highlighted the scale, excitement, and cultural significance of the event.

The telecast provided a riveting recap of the months-long journey—starting from an online Olympiad, advancing through intense state-level rounds, and culminating in a fiercely contested national finale. Viewers watched as the top eight teams battled for glory, with Army Public School, Jammu Cant, emerging as the ultimate champions, securing the first prize. Rajagiri Public School, Kerala, claimed the second position, while Little Flower English Medium School, Kerala, took third place. Their stellar perfor-



mances resonated with audiences, reinforcing the power of education in shaping future leaders.

The telecast also shed light on the quiz's unique focus on Geographical Indication (GI) tags, a defining element that introduced young minds to India's indigenous craftsmanship and region-specific products. This emphasis on cultural and economic awareness transformed the competition into an immersive educational experience beyond traditional learning.

Reflecting on the immense success of the initiative, Mr Karan Abhishek Singh, CEO of Zee Media Corporation Limited (ZMCL), said, "At Zee Media, we believe that news is not just about delivering information; it

is about shaping a better, more informed society. Our commitment goes beyond headlines—we actively create platforms that empower different sections of society, be it through financial literacy initiatives, business summits, or programs that inspire and educate young minds. Unveiling India Quiz is one such initiative, designed to encourage school children to learn about India's glorious past and promising future."

Adding to this, Sh Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, DPIIT, stated, "The Unveiling India Quiz has successfully instilled a deep sense of national pride and awareness about India's economic and cultural diversity. This initiative is not just a competition—it is a long-term movement to nurture curi-

osity and appreciation for India's vast legacy."

As the winners celebrate their well-earned triumph, the Unveiling India Quiz leaves behind a profound impact, encouraging millions of students across the country to embrace our unique culture, explore their heritage, and take pride in India's incredible journey. Zee Media and DPIIT remain steadfast in their commitment to expanding such educational initiatives, ensuring that young minds continue to be inspired, empowered, and prepared for a global future.

The resounding success of Unveiling India Quiz reaffirms the importance of knowledge-driven infotainment, setting a new benchmark in nationwide student engagement.

## Modi govt strengthened SC /ST Act for greater protection: Balbir

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The Narendra Modi government has taken significant steps to strengthen the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, ensuring greater protection and justice for marginalized communities.

Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former Vice Chairperson said this, while discussing various welfare measures of Narendra Modi government for socio economic upliftment and justice to the SCs and STs, with the office bearers of BJP SC Morcha.

He highlighted the efforts, emphasizing the government's commitment to safeguarding the rights of SC, ST individuals and preventing atrocities against them.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that the Act was originally



enacted to address violence and discrimination against dalits and tribal communities. However, concerns over its effectiveness led the Modi government to introduce amendments in 2015 and 2018, making the law more robust. The amendments reinforced key provisions, including strict punishments, immediate registration of FIRs etc.

He pointed out that the Modi government passed an ordinance to restore the original provisions, ensuring that no prior approval was needed for the immediate arrest of accused indi-

viduals. This move reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting SC /ST rights.

"Apart from legal measures, the Modi government has launched several initiatives to uplift SC, ST communities. The Stand-Up India scheme, for example, provides financial support to SC, ST entrepreneurs. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has also benefited a large number of dalits by providing affordable housing. Skill development programmes have been expanded to ensure better educational and employ-

ment opportunities.

Balbir stated that these efforts reflect Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a more inclusive and just society. He reiterated that the government remains dedicated to addressing caste-based discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

By strengthening the SC /ST Act and implementing various welfare programmes, the Modi government has reaffirmed its commitment to the upliftment of marginalized communities. The amendments have provided greater protection, while socio-economic initiatives have empowered SC, ST individuals.

He was discussing these measures with SC Morcha Vice President Vijay Anand Gill, Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria, Secretary Girdhari Lal Dogra, Rishu Langeh, Waryam Singh and others.

## Kaith Biradari organises Religious Congregation at Pindi

JNEWS SERVICE  
ARNIA, MAR 16

A huge influx of innumerable Kaith Biradari members along with their families, was seen at Pindi Kutoyal today paying obeisance to their ancestral spirit: Sankri Devta. The atmosphere remained devotional due to the chants of Biradari members seeking darshan in long queues for hours.

The priest said that Sankri Devta is believed to be protector of the Kaith Biradari and fulfills the



wishes of all those who come here.

The Biradari warmly welcomed M.L.Kaith SSP (Retd) and other dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, M.L.Kaith

stressed on the importance of education. He said, education is a basic need for everyone in the

modern day to live a good life. It plays an important role in enabling us to use technological systems and services. Well educated people can take up different jobs and become successful in life. Without a good education, one will lose out on the opportunity to earn well.

Prominent among those who graced the occasion were Messers R.L.Kaith, Dr Raj Kumar, Ramesh Chander, Rachpal Kaith TSO (Retd), Subedar Ramesh Chander (Retd), Adv. Shubham Kaith, Audit officer Ramesh Kaith, Manager Vijay Kaith, KAS officer Sumit Kaith, Havildar Des Raj (Retd), Ex Sarpanch Raghuraj Singh, Ex Panch Karan Kumar SI (Retd), Ex Panch Joginder Lal, Baljeet Kaith, Birender Kaith, Jagdish Raj, Bishan Dass and Sukhdev Kumar.

# PAK: Key LeT operator and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed's close aide shot dead

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, MAR 16

Abu Qatal, said to be a key commander of banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba and a close aide of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, has been shot dead with his armed guard by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan's Punjab province, media reports said on Sunday.

Abu Qatal, whose real name was Zia ur Rehman, was travelling in his black jeep when the gun attack took place on Mangla-Jhelum Road. Both Abu Qatal and his guard died on the spot, The News reported.



The assailants reportedly rode a motorcycle and opened fire at the jeep.

Sources suggest that a suspected assailant was apprehended soon after the attack, but there has been no official confirmation of the arrest.

Jhelum district police officer Tariq Aziz Sandho was not available for the comment, GeoTV reported.

Sources claimed Abu Qatal, LeT's most notorious operative, was known to have planned and led multiple attacks in Jammu and Kashmir including the June 9, 2024, ambush on a bus carrying pilgrims coming back from the Shiv Khori temple in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

It was Saeed, who reportedly appointed Abu Qatal as Lashkar's Chief Operational Commander, and regularly passed on instructions to him to carry out subversive activities in Kashmir.

Abu Qatal's name also figured in the chargesheet drawn up by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the 2023 Rajouri attack.

# Cryo Upper Stage for LVM3 flagged off to Sriharikota for US Blue Bird mission

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, MAR 16

The Cryogenic Upper Stage engine of ISRO's LVM3 launch vehicle was flagged off to SHAR Range, Sriharikota, on Saturday for the upcoming launch of US satellite Blue Bird-2 that would enable individuals to make calls using smartphones from space.

In an update on Sunday, ISRO said Chairman Dr V Narayanan flagged off the Cryogenic Upper Stage (C25) of ISRO's LVM3 launch vehicle on March 15, 2025, from the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu, to the launch complex at Sriharikota.

Directors of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC), and Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR) also participated in the flag off ceremony.



This stage has been integrated at IPRC and is earmarked for the fifth operational mission of LVM3 (LVM3-M5) under a commercial agreement between NSIL and AST and Science, LLC to launch their BlueBird Block-2 satellite.

The stage was designed and developed by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) during the development of the LVM3

launch vehicle and the stage is powered by the indigenous high thrust Cryogenic Engine (CE20) with a propellant loading of 28.5 tonnes.

In a first, ISRO will launch the advanced American communications satellite, 'Bluebird' scheduled later this month from SHAR Range.

According to ISRO, this satellite will be launched using the LVM-3, popularly known as the "Bahubali" rocket.

This will mark the first instance of an Indian rocket launching a large-scale US satellite, setting a new milestone in ISRO's expanding global commercial outreach.

The Bluebird satellite boasts revolutionary technology that will enable individuals to make calls using smartphones from space. With an innovative antenna spanning 64 sqms and a weight of approximately 6,000 kg, the satellite will operate in Low Earth orbit, facilitating direct satellite-to-smartphone connections.

This capability will allow users to make calls and access broadband internet from space without relying on traditional ground-based towers.

It would be a commercial mission by ISRO facilitated by the New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO.

# Vijay's TVK demands fair probe into Rs 1,000 crore malpractices in TASMAL unearthed by ED

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, MAR 16

The nascent Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) of Kollywood actor Vijay on Sunday demanded a fair probe into the alleged Rs 1,000 crore irregularities unearthed by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in the state-owned TASMAL.

In a statement here said only a deep investigation will bring to light the involvement of small fishes to giant whales in this scam.

He also took a dig at ruling DMK's claim of winning 200 seats in the 2026 Assembly elections and said they were making such claims only by using the money from such irregularities.

However, Vijay said, the DMK's plan to retain power would not materialise and the people would unseat it in 2026 polls.

It may be noted that ED had conducted raids for three days at the premises of several private distilleries and TASMAL office.

Based on the evidence collected during the raids, the ED said the searches at



premises of several private distilleries and TASMAL head office in the city and across Tamil Nadu, has revealed massive irregularities to the tune of over Rs 1,000 crores.

It said the collusion between distilleries and bottling firms having indulged in fraudulent measures have come to light in this irregularities.

The raids also revealed a network where unaccounted cash was deliberately generated through inflated and bogus expenses and subsequently utilized for purposes leading to huge profits.

It said ED has conducted search operations at various premises across many districts of Tamil Nadu from March six under the

provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, for various offences related to the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited (TASMAL) and its associated entities/persons.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered under various sections of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 related to various issues in the TASMAL.

These FIRs fall into the categories of TASMAL shops collecting excess amount than the actual MRP; Distillery companies offering kickbacks to TASMAL officials for supply orders; involvement of Senior officials of TASMAL in collection of bribes from the Retail

TASMAL outlets and for transfer and posting of TASMAL Staff, etc.

However, Tamil Nadu Minister for Electricity, Prohibition, and Excise V. Senthilbalaji dismissed the ED's claim of Rs 1,000 crore fraud and said the raids were done with ulterior motives to tarnish the image of Chief Minister M K Stalin for his strident opposition to Centre's attempt to impose NEP, three-language formula and the proposed delimitation exercise based on population.

Stating that the ED has made these allegations without any evidence, the Minister he said the Centre has misused the ED to conduct the raids and that he would face the charges legally.

It was an attempt to tarnish the image of the Chief Minister who enjoys the goodwill and confidence of the people.

He also asserted that there was no scope for irregularities or malpractices as claimed by the ED as all the tender process were done in a transparent manner.

# With changing tech, responsibility of media has increased further: Yogi

AGENCIES  
GORAKHPUR, MAR 16

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that the media has long been recognised as the fourth pillar of democracy, playing a crucial role as its vigilant watchdog.

While addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected executive of the Gorakhpur Journalists Press Club, the CM said, "By highlighting pressing issues and holding the other three pillars accountable, the media ensures that overlooked matters are brought to the forefront with accurate facts and linked to public concerns."

He said, "Throughout history, the media's role has evolved worldwide, adapting to changing times and societal needs. Gorakhpur serves as the focal point of eastern UP, making the role of the Gorakhpur Journalists Press Club even more significant. The decisions of its newly elected executive will influence the city and the surrounding districts and institutions. In light of this, the new leadership must remain sensitive to



public concerns to ensure their work remains meaningful and impactful."

Mayor Dr Manglesh Srivastava administered the oath to the newly elected office-bearers during the event. The CM also presented election certificates to the newly elected members and extended his congratulations.

Yogi highlighted the media's significant role in shaping the careers of many freedom fighters who contributed as journalists and played a pivotal role in India's independence movement. "Among them, Mahatma Gandhi was a key figure who inspired newspapers through his influential writings. Similarly, Lokmanya Tilak mobilized public consciousness by organizing the Ganpati festival, while Lala Lajpat

Rai and Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi used their sharp pen to bring about societal change," he said.

He said that when India's democracy was threatened, the press fought with all its might to safeguard democratic values. "Even in a rapidly evolving world, the role and relevance of media remain irreplaceable. With the fast-paced advancements in technology, the media landscape is also transforming to ensure the accurate dissemination of information," he said.

The CM said, "Today, the younger generation relies heavily on social media due to time constraints. However, the misuse of these platforms by certain individuals to spread negativity has increased the responsibility of media institutions. The media

must uphold its core values and focus on delivering positive and factual content. This is not just crucial for democracy but also for the security and sovereignty of the nation."

Emphasising that dialogue is the foundation of good governance and democracy, he said, "Problems cannot be resolved by forcefully imposing one's viewpoint, but meaningful discussions can lead to solutions. Conflicts arise whenever we step away from constructive dialogue, preventing such discord is essential."

Yogi asserted that effective communication does not require gathering large crowds, just a few voices can be enough to amplify a message to millions. "The media must foster informed discussions and ensure that the right message reaches society," he said. The newly elected President of the Gorakhpur Journalists Press Club, Ritesh Mishra, emphasized that when a dedicated, inspiring, and visionary leader earns recognition at both the societal and national levels, even the most eloquent words fall short in capturing the true essence of their stature.

# HEX20 opens Satellite Control Centre at Menamkulam

AGENCIES  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAR 16

Technopark-based small satellite manufacturing company HEX20 opened its Satellite Control Centre at Marian Engineering College at Menamkulam here, ahead of the launch of its first satellite 'Nila' with US launch provider SpaceX this month.

'Nila' is India's first payload-hosted satellite from the private space sector. The satellite is named after Kerala's culturally significant river, Nila.

Interestingly, Technopark also has one of its buildings named Nila, where HEX20 is located. With this mission, HEX20 marks the beginning of its hosted payload solutions.

The inaugural event was attended by Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd.), CEO of Technopark; G Levin, CEO of KSpace; Dr. A R John, Manager, Marian Engineering College; Fr. Jim Carvin Roach, Bursar; Dr. Samson A, Dean; Dr. Abdul Nizar, Principal;



MB Aravind, Co-Founder & Director, HEX20; and Shri Anurag Reghu, CTO & Co-Founder along with HEX20 employees.

Aravind said this achievement marks the completion of a major milestone of the project, with the satellite being delivered on time within a quick turnaround period of around four months with the support from all regulatory bodies concerned, including the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE), Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC).

Aravind informed that

the satellite will fly on the launch vehicle of SpaceX - Falcon 9, along with their Transporter 13 mission from Vandenberg SFB, California.

The ground station at Marian Engineering College has been set up for satellite command and control. The data from the satellite will be received at the ground station. HEX20 is training a team of faculty members and students at the college in operating the ground station facility.

The Nila mission will qualify HEX20's indigenously developed subsystems and a payload for in-orbit demonstration from German company

Decubed.

"Early next year, we look forward to flying our 50 kg satellite on ISRO's launch vehicle. Along with offering our customizable and high-performance spacecraft and components, we aim to enhance the current capabilities of institutions and private organisations globally through our FlatSats and capacity-building programmes," said Anurag Reghu.

In 2023, HEX20 entered into a strategic collaboration with iSpace, inc. to stimulate demand for affordable lunar satellite missions across the globe. The MoU was inked at the 74th International Astronautical Conference (IAC) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in October 2023.

Japan-based iSpace, inc. is a global lunar resource development firm. HEX20's partnership with the global major aims to leverage the combined technical prowess and regional network of the two pioneering companies.

# Warangal gets Airport and ring road after Congress Govt takes power: Telangana CM

AGENCIES  
STATION GHANPUR (TELANGANA), MAR 16

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that Warangal received an Airport and a ring road soon after the Congress government came to power.

Speaking at the public meeting titled "Praja Palana - Pragathi Bata Programme" in Shivunipalli on the outskirts of Station Ghanpur on Sunday, the Chief Minister stated that he is deeply fond of united Warangal.

He recalled that the region had witnessed numerous struggles against tyranny and highlighted his promise during the Lok Sabha elections to bring an Airport to Warangal. "I have fulfilled that promise and stand before you today having delivered it," he said.



Revanth Reddy accused the previous KCR-led government of leaving the state burdened with Rs 8.29 lakh crore in debt. He revealed that in just one year, the Congress government paid Rs 84,000 crore in interest and Rs 64,000 crore towards loan princi-

pal repayments. Despite these financial challenges, he asserted that his government is committed to fulfilling promises.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the Congress government swiftly implemented free RTC bus travel for women within two days

of coming to power, allocating Rs 5,500 crore for the scheme.

He also criticised the previous government for stalling the Rythu Bandhu scheme, adding that the Congress government allocated Rs 7,200 crore for it after taking charge.

He further assured that Group 1, 2, and 3 recruitment exams are being conducted properly to ensure job opportunities for youth.

Revanth Reddy praised the induction of Kadiyam Srihari into the Congress party, stating that Telangana needs leaders like him. He criticised KCR for neglecting his duties as an MLA for 15 months while continuing to draw salary and allowances. "Why does someone who takes public money fail to contribute to the Assembly?" he questioned.

## OBC delegation meets Ghulam Ahmad Mir to Discuss Caste Survey & Social Issues in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Meeting with Ghulam Ahmad Mir: OBC Delegation Discusses Caste-Based Survey & Social Issues in J&K

A delegation of the OBC Department of JKPC, led by Chairman Madan Lal Chalotra, along with Darshan Mehra (General Secretary, OBC Department JKPC), Prem Sagar and Des Raj Verma (Joint Coordinators, OBC Department JKPC), and Amit Mehra (State Coordinator, OBC Department JKPC), met with Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, AICC General Secretary (Incharge West Bengal), Member of the CWC, and Former President of JKPC.



The delegation expressed gratitude to Mr. Mir for his strong advocacy of a caste-based survey in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting that he was the first leader in J&K to demand a transparent, data-driven, door-to-door survey. During the discussion, the delegation raised con-

cerns about the flawed reports submitted by the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Srinagar Municipal Corporation, which failed to conduct a genuine door-to-door survey despite Supreme Court guidelines. They emphasized the urgent need for an accurate and transparent caste survey

to ensure fair representation and policy formulation. Additionally, various social issues concerning the OBC community were discussed, including the need for better representation, welfare policies, and access to government schemes to uplift marginalized communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Mir assured the delegation that, under the visionary leadership of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress remains fully committed to restoring social justice in Jammu and Kashmir. He reaffirmed the party's dedication to the struggle for equitable rights, representation, and opportunities for all underprivileged sections of society.

## Agriculture Department Organizes Farmer Training and Awareness Program in Garhi (Purkhoo), Jammu North

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

The Agriculture Department organized a Training and Awareness Program in Garhi (Purkhoo), Jammu North Assembly Constituency, aimed at educating farmers about modern agricultural practices, government schemes, and financial assistance programs designed to uplift the farming community. The program focused on enhancing awareness about the latest advancements in farming techniques, the use of high-quality seeds, state-of-the-art equipment, and subsidies provided by the government. Agriculture Department officials highlighted various central and state government initiatives aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring economic stability for farmers.

The event was graced by the presence of Hon'ble MLA Jammu Shri Sham Lal Sharma as the Chief Guest and Chairman DDC Shri Bharat Bhushan as the Special Guest, who addressed the gathering and shared valuable insights on agricultural development and government support for farmers.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sham Lal Sharma emphasized the crucial role of agriculture in India's economy and reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering farmers through progressive policies and financial support. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has implemented several key schemes such as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, Kisan Credit Card, and Soil Health Card Scheme, which provide financial security, crop insurance, and advanced farming resources. He urged farmers to embrace modern and scientific farming methods, including organic farming, precision agriculture, and efficient irrigation techniques, to enhance productivity and sustainability.

He further stated that special incentives are being provided for small and marginal farmers, ensuring they receive quality seeds, easy access to credit, and market linkages to sell their produce at fair prices. Shri Sharma also assured the farming community that the administration is working relentlessly to provide high-quality seeds, advanced agricultural machinery, fertilizers, and direct financial support. He praised the Agriculture Department



Sham Lal Sharma also highlighted the state government's proactive initiatives aimed at uplifting the farming community by providing financial incentives, subsidies, and infrastructure support. He emphasized that the state government, in coordination with the central government, has launched multiple programs to enhance irrigation facilities, promote organic farming, and offer subsidies on fertilizers, pesticides, and advanced farming equipment. He specifically mentioned key state government schemes such as Mukhya Mantri Kisan Yojana, which provides financial assistance and direct benefit transfers to farmers; Krishi Mechanization Scheme, which offers subsidized modern farming equipment; and Organic Farming Promotion Scheme, which supports farmers in adopting eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.

Furthermore, he highlighted the government's commitment to infrastructure development, better market linkages, and easy loan access for farmers. He encouraged them to utilize available subsidies and adopt innovative practices to ensure long-term agricultural growth and prosperity. Shri Sharma reiterated the government's vision of making agriculture a profitable and sustainable profession and assured that continuous efforts are being made to support and uplift farmers in every possible way.

Speaking at the event, Shri Bharat Bhushan emphasized the importance of education and technological adaptation in farming. He lauded the government's proactive approach in supporting farmers and encouraged them to take full advantage of subsidized farming equipment, improved irrigation facilities, and training programs. He assured the farmers that the local administration and Agriculture Department are working closely to provide continuous support

and assistance to enhance agricultural productivity and rural development. The Agriculture Department Explained about the instrumental use in promoting modern farming techniques, high-yield seeds, and innovative irrigation solutions to improve overall agricultural output. The department has been actively providing financial assistance through subsidies on fertilizers, pesticides, and advanced farming tools, ensuring that farmers have access to the best resources.

Moving forward, the department plans to introduce high-yield crop varieties, expand irrigation networks, promote organic farming, and implement digital initiatives to modernize agriculture. With the continued support of the government and local administration, the Agriculture Department remains dedicated to empowering farmers, increasing productivity, and ensuring a prosperous future for the agricultural sector.

The event also saw the participation of Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Shri Sahil Gandotra, Assistant Soil Chemist Shri Nirmal Prakash, AEO Mishriwala Smt. Radhika Gupta, AEO Marh Shri Vikram Katyal, AEO Mandal Shri D.P. Singh, Former Sarpanch Shri Hari Sharan, Shri Naresh Singh, Shri Kuljeet Singh, Mandal President Shri Rohit Verma, along with a large number of farmers from the region.

## Movement Kalki Board member Dr. Sudesh Kumar raises voice against Smart City Mismanagement

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 16

Dr. Sudesh Kumar, a board member of Movement Kalki, raised concerns over the negligence of the administration regarding waterlogging and mud accumulation in the streets of Bagh-e-Bahu, Kacha Talab, Ward No. 47, under the Smart City project.

He pointed out that while municipal corporation workers ensure proper maintenance in outer areas, the inner city streets are being ignored. Many devotees visit Baba Wali Mata Temple, but Kacha Talab, located nearby, lacks a proper drainage system. During rainfall, the smaller drains connected to the main drain overflow, causing water to flood the streets and homes, creating severe hardships for residents.

Dr. Sudesh Kumar's Demands:

1. Proper drainage system should be implemented to prevent waterlogging during rains.
2. Regular cleaning of



streets and drains must be ensured.

3. Faulty street lights should be repaired immediately.

4. Municipal corporation officials and supervisors should be directed to actively monitor the area. Movement Kalki's Mission

Dr. Sudesh Kumar reiterated that Movement Kalki is committed to the establishment of Dharma,

social unity, and securing the status of 'Rashtra Mata' (National Mother) for the holy cow. This movement has now entered its 148th day. Additionally, Movement Kalki is advocating for the formation of a Sanatani Board to spread awareness about the true Sanatan way of life worldwide. Following Dr. Sudesh Kumar's intervention, the Health Inspector assured

that the area would be cleaned promptly. However, he also expressed concern over the negligence of municipal staff and supervisors, emphasizing the need for urgent action.

Movement Kalki's Warning

If the drainage and sanitation issues are not resolved soon, Movement Kalki will take strong action against this administrative negligence.

## Chinar Open Winter Games 2025: Kashmiri Youth Shine through Winter Sports

JNEWS SERVICE  
GULMARG, MARCH 16

The Chinar Open Winter Games 2025, a flagship initiative by the Indian Army, successfully concluded amidst the breathtaking snow-clad landscapes of Gulmarg on 15 March 2025. Organized by the Pir Panjal Brigade of the Dagger Division, the event was a vibrant celebration of sportsmanship, community spirit, and youth empowerment.

Held amidst the picturesque Pir Panjal Ranges, the Games provided an inspiring platform for the youth of Kashmir to showcase their talents and channel their energy into competitive and constructive activities. This edition witnessed record-breaking participation, with a total of 634 participants competing across 18 events. Among them were 167 girls and 467 boys, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for winter sports across



the region.

The event featured an exhilarating lineup of winter sports competitions, ranging from high-adrenaline skiing races and thrilling snowboarding events to elegant skating rink performances. Participants seized the opportunity to test their abilities against some of the region's finest athletes, drawing large and enthusiastic crowds.

Beyond the excitement of the sporting competitions, the Games

fostered deeper community engagement through impactful outreach programs. These initiatives highlighted the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to promoting sports and nurturing young talent in the region.

As the curtains closed on this successful edition of the Chinar Open Winter Games, the event stood as a testament to Kashmir's rising sporting spirit and its growing prominence as a hub of winter sports in India.

Website: [www.rticjammu.in](http://www.rticjammu.in)

email: [exentccdjammu@gmail.com](mailto:exentccdjammu@gmail.com)

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
TAWI CANAL CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, RTIC, CANAL ROAD, JAMMU-180001  
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
SHORT E-NIT 18 of 2024-25 Dated 13.03.2025

The Executive Engineer Tawi Canal Construction Division, Jammu on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT invites tenders by e-tendering mode for the below mentioned works from reputed and eligible dealers registered with J&K UT Government and having renewed validity for the current year:

S.No	Name of work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Cost of Document in Rs.	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
1.	Clearance of Silt and Jungle/vegetation from Main Tawi Canal RD 7500 to 8350 mts at stretches	531387/-	500/-	2% of advertised cost	7 days	A, B, C and D
2.	Clearance of Silt and Jungle/vegetation from Main Tawi Canal RD 6550 to 7450 mts at stretches	646755/-	500/-	2% of advertised cost	7 days	A, B, C and D

Position of A.A.A : Accorded  
Position of T. S : Under Process  
Position of Funds : Budgetary Provision under MH-2701-M&R-023

Important Dates:  
i) Date of Publishing from : 13.03.2025 (5:00 PM)  
ii) Downloading from : 13.03.2025 (6:00 PM)  
iii) Uploading from : 13.03.2025 (6:00 PM)  
iv) Uploading stops on : 18.03.2025 (6:00 PM)  
v) Tender opens on : 19.03.2025 (2:00 PM - Subjective)

1. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
2. The bids shall be uploaded/ submitted in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> The complete bidding process will be ONLINE.
3. The tender uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on 19.03.2025 (2:00 PM - Subjective) in the office of the Executive Engineer Tawi Canal Construction Division, Jammu in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: TCCD/J/3758-71  
Dated: 13.03.2025

DIP/J-11091/24  
Date: 15-3-25

Executive Engineer  
Tawi Canal Const Division  
Jammu

## CSK launches player documentary series

**AGENCIES**  
CHENNAI, MAR 16

Five time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) launched a new player documentary series titled "The Making Of".

The documentary started with current CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's Journey in the first episode, a CSK release here said today.

This new series offers an in-depth and personal look into the lives of the team's star players, tracing their journeys from childhood to their current success on the field.

The first episode of the series, released today, takes fans on an emotional and inspiring journey with Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Viewers will get a rare glimpse into Ruturaj's early days and challenges he faced rising from a budding cricketer in Pune to prominence as one of the most talented batsmen in



Indian cricket.

With exclusive behind-the-scenes footage, interviews with Ruturaj, his family, friends and childhood coaches, "The Making Of" offers fans an intimate portrait of the man behind the bat. The first episode of "The Making Of" - Ruturaj Gaikwad is now available for streaming on Chennai Super Kings' official YouTube Channel and website.

Releasing some snippets and excerpts from the episode, Ruturaj Gaikwad on his comebacks said, "Comebacks... I think for outside people, they see it

in a way there, getting out 203 games and scoring a 50 is coming back."

"For me, it's about analysing how I got out, what mistakes I made. It's not about coming back. For me it's about consistency", he said.

"Thanks to being part of CSK, I've learnt that technique where you can have that balance where you can be critical about yourself, analyse yourself, getting to know what to improve...But not really over analyse", he said.

As CSK's batting coach 'Mr Cricket' Michael

Hussey says, sometimes it's not right to complicate things - it's better to keep it simple. But it's my habit to analyse whether it's a good day or a bad day".

On Ruturaj being appointed CSK captain, Team CEO KS Viswanathan, Coach Stephen Fleming as well as former skipper MS Dhoni had the confidence that Rutu will be the right choice. And based on his performance, they felt that he will be a very good choice because of his qualities as a player and how he could also move with the other players in the team.

"And he was watching MS from close quarters. So that gave him the confidence. I think it was a decision only taken by MS and Flem. And it was announced at the last moment. The management was not aware of it. But they took the right decision", he said.

Utkarsha Pawar Gaik-

wad, Ruturaj's Wife said 'One day he comes up to me and he is like, say hi. I was like, say hi to who? Say hi to the captain. I was like, what? You are kidding me."

"It's fine. You don't have to joke about it. It's okay. One day it will happen. But not now. We were not expecting it. I was not expecting it. Maybe he was. I don't know. Then we called up his friends.

I was like, I want to tell you something. One of the friends was like, please don't tell me that you are pregnant. I was like, dude, no. It's bigger than this. I was like, let's make it a little dramatic.

So I was like, meet the captain of CSK. And they were like shocked for five minutes", she said. Each episode will feature a different player from the squad, allowing fans to experience the journeys of these athletes beyond the cricket pitch.

## Joshua Berry caps dream week at Kolkata Challenge 2025 with playoff victory

**AGENCIES**  
KOLKATA, MAR 16

Nineteen-year-old Joshua Berry from the UK capped a dream week with a playoff victory at the US\$300,000 Kolkata Challenge 2025 played at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) here on Sunday.

Joshua Berry (72-62-70-73), who set the course record of 10-under 62 earlier in round two, returned an ordinary one-over 73 in regulation play on the last day to total 11-under 277 along with three other players, Norway's Andreas Halvorsen (69-66-71-71), Austria's Lukas Nemezc (67-70-68-72) and India's Om Prakash Chouhan (66-68-73-70).

The four players headed into a playoff where Joshua finally triumphed with a dramatic 19-foot birdie conversion on the second extra hole.

The trio of Halvorsen, Nemezc, and Chouhan thus finished joint runners-up. While Chouhan, who struggled with his short putts all day, bowed out after missing a three-footer for par on the first playoff hole, Halvorsen and Nemezc lost out to Berry on the second playoff hole.

Om Prakash Chouhan's tied second finish earned him a cheque worth Rs 20,64,000 that pushed him up 41 places to third

position in the PGTI Order of Merit 2025.

Teenager Joshua Berry, the overnight leader by one shot, had a slow start to the day as he conceded two bogeys on the front nine. Joshua then made a crucial tap-in birdie on the 15th to climb into contention. Berry made par on the first playoff hole along with Halvorsen and Nemezc. The Englishman then nailed his 19-foot birdie conversion on the second playoff hole to emerge champion.

Joshua, who won his maiden HotelPlanner Tour title, said, "I didn't have the best of rounds today but I guess I earned the reward for staying patient till the end and keeping my emotions together. All parts of my game fired this week and I was particularly sharp with the mental aspect of my game.

"I'm absolutely buzzing. This win is important and it's good for my confidence as well. I know I can do it now, which I think is the key thing.

"I did feel some nerves but that's what you practice for. I'm looking forward to watching that putt in the play-off back.

"You've always got to be confident going into a play-off but obviously it's nerve-racking. You really want to win, and I just tried to hit one good shot at a

Luckily, I holed that putt on the second extra hole. It's a game of such fine margins."

Thirty-eight-year-old Om Prakash Chouhan, who was tied for fifth and three off the lead after round three, couldn't get his putting rhythm going on Sunday as he missed short putts to drop two bogeys on the front nine in exchange for just one birdie.

Om Prakash, a former winner of the Hotel Planner Tour and at the RCGC in 2023, had a far better back-nine where he scored three birdies including a tap-in on the 11th and a 10-foot conversion on the 13th to move into contention. Chouhan, who was the sole leader for a few holes on the back nine, then missed a golden opportunity for victory on the 18th where his 15-foot putt for birdie lipped out.

On the first playoff hole, Chouhan missed out on another short putt conversion from three feet that cost him a bogey and put him out of contention.

SSP Chawrasia and Samarth Dhawra shot scores of 67 to make major gains on the final day. While SSP jumped 18 spots to secure sixth place at nine-under 279, Samarth moved up 22 spots to end the week in tied seventh position at eight-under 280.

### MI clinch second WPL title, edge past DC by 8 runs

**AGENCIES**  
MUMBAI, MAR 16

Mumbai Indians Women successfully defended their Women's Premier League (WPL) title, securing a thrilling 8-run victory over Delhi Capitals Women in the final at the Brabourne Stadium here on Saturday. Delhi Capitals finished at the top of the league stage in all three editions of the WPL but have fallen short in the final each time, despite earning a direct entry.

## Virat Kohli quashes retirement rumours, says he still loves playing

**AGENCIES**  
BENGALURU, MAR 16

India's cricket legend Virat Kohli has once again put an end to swirling retirement rumours, reaffirming his passion and unwavering commitment to the game.

Speaking at the RCB Innovation Lab, the former India captain assured fans that he has no immediate plans to hang up his boots.

"Don't get nervous. I am not making any announcements. As of now, everything is fine. I still love playing the game," Kohli said, bringing a sigh of



relief to millions of his supporters.

Reflecting on the inevitable question of retirement, Kohli recalled a conversation with head coach Rahul Dravid, who advised him to stay in touch with himself and assess where he stands in life before

making such a decision.

Acknowledging the mental and physical challenges of continuing at the highest level, Kohli stated that it is never easy to determine the right time to step away.

He mentioned that players often go through lean phases, which might create doubts, but that does not necessarily mean the end. However, when the time eventually comes, he believes his competitive streak will make it hard for him to accept it immediately.

Kohli also reflected on the effort required to maintain energy levels as

an athlete ages. He pointed out that things which were easier in his mid-20s now demand much more effort in his mid-to-late 30s. Despite the challenges, he emphasised that he feels happy at this stage of his career and continues to enjoy the game.

While discussing his evolving approach, Kohli said he feels a sense of peace and calm in his current state of mind. He believes it is a natural progression for every player and hopes the younger generation will also experience this at some point in their careers. UNI BDN SSP

## Mbappe at double as Real Madrid returns to top of La Liga



**AGENCIES**  
MADRID, MAR 16

Kylian Mbappe scored two goals in six minutes in the first half as Real Madrid fought back from a goal down to win 2-1 away to Villarreal and move three points clear of FC Barcelona at the top of La Liga on Saturday evening.

Madrid played the game less than 70 hours after its UEFA Champions League win over Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, and it was clear there were tired legs as goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made several big saves to deny fifth-placed Villarreal.

Juan Foyth netted home following a seventh-minute corner to put Villarreal ahead, but 10 minutes later Mbappe scored from a rebound after Brahim Diaz's shot was blocked and he netted what turned out to be the winning goal when he was allowed space to cut inside and curl the ball into the far

corner of the net.

Villarreal pushed hard for an equalizer, but was denied by another impressive display from Courtois.

Vedat Muriqi's 53rd-minute own goal put Espanyol ahead in Mallorca, but he kept his nerve to score a 97th-minute penalty to win the game after Abdon Prats had drawn a foul.

Takuma Asano had canceled out Muriqi's own goal in the 65th minute when he nodded in a corner from Sergi Darder. Marcos Alonso netted an 83rd-minute penalty as Celta Vigo won 1-0 away to bottom side Real Valladolid, who goes into the international break looking increasingly doomed to relegation.

On Friday night, Las Palmas came back from 2-0 down with two injury time goals to take a 2-2 draw in a relegation battle with Deportivo Alaves.

FC Barcelona visits Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

## Man City drops more points, Nottingham Forest wins in quest for Champions League

**AGENCIES**  
LONDON, MAR 16

Manchester City dropped two more vital points as Pep Guardiola's side looks to qualify for next season's UEFA Champions League after a 2-2 home draw with Brighton in the Premier League on Saturday.

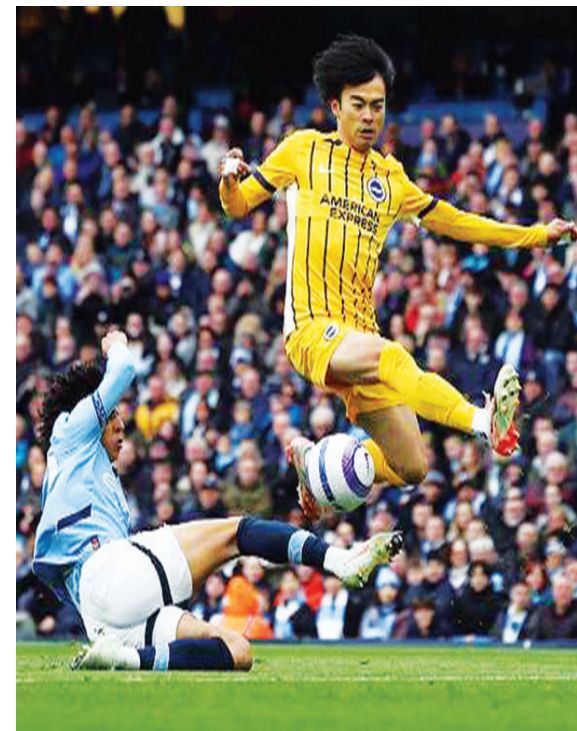
Erling Haaland put City ahead with an 11th-minute penalty, but Pervis Estupinan leveled with a free kick that went in off the post just 10 minutes later.

Omar Marmoush hit home a 20-meter strike to restore City's lead six minutes before the break, but it was 2-2 three minutes into the second half when Abdoukodie Khusanov deflected Jack Hinshelwood's effort into his own goal.

Nottingham Forest strengthened its top-four claim with a 4-2 win away to Ipswich Town, who sank deeper into trouble after the team's defensive weaknesses were again exposed.

Nikola Milenkovic opened the scoring with a close-range effort, before Anthony Elanga struck twice to put the visitor 3-0 up before halftime.

Jens Cajuste pulled a goal back for Ipswich with eight minutes left, but Jota Silva ended any comeback hopes, before George Hirst scored a late second for



Ipswich.

Nottingham Forest now sits third with 54 points, six more than fifth-placed Manchester City, while Ipswich remains in the relegation zone.

Brentford came back from a goal down to win 2-1 away to Bournemouth and claim its fifth consecutive win on the road, while Bournemouth has lost the last three games.

Vitaly Janlet deflected a cross into his own net to give Bournemouth the lead in the 17th minute, before Yoane Wissa leveled for Brentford with Brentford

captain Christian Norgaard sweeping home the winner 20 minutes from time.

Jorgen Strand Larsen scored twice as Wolverhampton won 2-1 away to Southampton to put nine points between itself and Ipswich, while leaving Southampton rooted in last place.

Jake O'Brien netted a stoppage time equalizer as Everton drew 1-1 at home to West Ham, which will have pleased Everton coach David Moyes after Tomas Soucek's impressive 67th-minute opener for his former club.

## Joshua Berry moves into sole lead after late flourish on Day 3 in Kolkata

**AGENCIES**  
KOLKATA, MAR 16

England's Joshua Berry, who set the course record of 10-under 62 on day 2, moved into the sole lead after shooting a stoic two-under 70 in round three that featured a late flourish at the Kolkata Challenge 2025, being played at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) here.

Berry's (72-62-70) three-day total of 12-under 204 gave him a one-shot advantage at the top.

Austria's Lukas Nemezc (67-70-68) climbed from tied fourth to second position following his score of 68 in round three.

India's Om Prakash Chouhan (66-68-73), the overnight joint leader, carded a 73 on Saturday to slip four places to tied fifth position at nine-under 207.

Nineteen-year-old Joshua Berry, who was the overnight joint leader along with Om Prakash Chouhan, made two early bogeys on Saturday.



Joshua then roared back into contention by adding four birdies to his card including three in quick succession between the 14th and 17th. He converted a 35-footer for birdie on the ninth.

Berry, who secured DP World Tour playing status at Qualifying School in 2023 as an amateur and then did so again as a professional in 2024, felt patience was crucial on a challenging day.

Thirty-eight-year-old Om Prakash Chouhan, who won the HotelPlanner Tour and at the RCGC in 2023, made a

couple of birdies on Saturday but also dropped three bogeys.

Arjun Prasad was the next best Indian as he tied 12th place at six-under 210 following his third round of 68 which featured an eagle, three birdies and a bogey.

Gaganjeet Bhullar (71) and Dhruv Sheoran (73) were placed tied 15th at five-under 211 thus making it four Indians in the top-20.

SSP Chawrasia and Ajeetesh Sandhu, two other prominent Indian names, were placed tied 24th at four-under 212.

## TN govt hands over Rs 5 lakh aid to ailing Archery coach Shihan Hussaini

**AGENCIES**  
CHENNAI, MAR 16

The Tamil Nadu Government on Sunday gave a financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to martial arts exponent and leading archery coach Shihan Hussaini, who has been hospitalised.

The assistance was given from the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu on the directions of Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who also holds the Sports

and Youth Welfare Department portfolio.

An official release said Shihan Hussaini has made immense contributions for the sport in Tamil Nadu and also in India and has produced and trained several archers in the State.

It also said Shihan introduced 'Recurve' and 'Compound' categories in archery in 1979 and 1980 respectively.

In archery "Recurve" and "Compound" refer to two distinct bow

types and categories, with Recurve being the traditional form and is an Olympic sport, while Compound archery is a modern iteration using a pulley/cable system for enhanced efficiency and accuracy.

At present 100 archers and 300 coaches are undergoing training with him, the release said.

Considering his health condition, Rs five lakh assistance was provided to him from the SDAT Funds, it said.

## Dy CM reviews development works in Nowshera

JINNEWS SERVICE  
NOWSHERA, MARCH 16

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive visit to sites of various ongoing development works in Nowshera to assess the progress on these vital projects.

He visited the Ashram, Town Hall, Shopping Complex, and Hospital Building in Nowshera. He emphasised the significance of timely completion of development works to enhance the public amenities.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the quality of construction works and directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of progress while maintaining high standards in work execution.

He interacted with the officials and locals, seeking



feedback on the infrastructural developments in the area.

While reviewing the hospital building, he stressed the importance of equipping the facility with modern healthcare infrastructure to cater to

the medical needs of the people.

At the Shopping Complex, he discussed the measures to boost local business and ensure the project's early completion for economic growth.

Regarding the work on

Town Hall, he emphasized creation of a vibrant public space for community engagements.

The Deputy Chief Minister also visited the Ashram, where he assured complete support for further improving the facilities to benefit the residents and the visitors alike.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated government's commitment towards accelerating developmental projects for welfare of the people. He urged the officials to address any bottlenecks and ensure the projects are completed within the stipulated timelines.

He was accompanied by ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, Executive Engineer PWD and other district and sectoral officers, who provided updates on the progress of the ongoing works.

## CS reviews measures to leverage CSCs for enhanced service delivery

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 16

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high level meeting to explore the potential of Community Service Centres (CSCs) in providing seamless Government-to-Citizen (G2C) and Government-to-Business (G2B) services across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting focused on integrating a wider range of government services with the CSC platform to ensure accessibility for the people, particularly in remote areas.

Those who attended the meeting included Principal Secretary, APD; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, IT; CEO, JaKeGA; MD, JPDCL; Chairman, JKBOC-WW; MD, SIDCO/SICOP besides other concerned officers while the Deputy Commissioners participated online.

Observing the extensive scope of online services and their affordability, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to onboard services from key departments including Revenue, Housing & Urban Development (H&UDD), Agriculture, Rural Development (RDD), Labour & Employment (PDD), Jal Shakti, Industries & Commerce, and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (BOCWBB). This integration, he observed, would not only enhance the service delivery but also boost the earnings of CSC operators.

Dulloo underscored



the significance of the 'Digidost' feature of CSCs, allowing the citizens to avail government services from their homes at regulated rates. He directed the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to enhance the capacity of CSC operators, ensuring they efficiently serve both the citizens and the businesses. He also instructed the SPV to provide dashboard access to the IT Department for better monitoring of transactions and service delivery. To further strengthen the role of CSCs, the Chief Secretary urged the banks to explore the feasibility of transforming these centres into Business Correspondents (BCs) or Unbanked Rural Centres (URCs), given their widespread presence and infrastructure in J&K. He also enquired about the establishment of new touchpoints in government offices and the challenges faced in their smooth operations there.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, proposed creation of model CSCs in each block to serve as one-stop centres for multiple ser-

vices, encouraging replication across the region. He stressed the importance of expanding outreach and integrating CSCs with other government portals to provide seamless and efficient services.

Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, emphasized the need for auditing data privacy measures at CSCs to safeguard the citizens' credentials. He also called for an assessment of commission structures and documentation of success stories to showcase the CSCs as viable business ventures capable of delivering an extensive range of services. He said that the CSCs could play a critical role in improving access to the digital services and bridging the digital divide across the districts of J&K.

Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, Saurabh Bhagat, highlighted the critical role of CSCs as last mile access points for e-governance and business services under the Digital India initiative. He reported that out of 18,618 CSCs in J&K, 12,602 are currently active.

The Commissioner Secretary revealed that there are 313 BCs, 20 District

ASKs, 90 Block ASKs, 70 UCLs and 733 new touch points established across the Tehsil offices, BDO offices and Degree Colleges across the districts of J&K to bring services close to the doorsteps of public.

Presenting key statistics, he informed that 3.2 lakh Aadhaar service transactions, 4.1 lakh micro ATM transactions, 13 lakh G2C and B2C service transactions, 11.9 lakh Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) transactions, 32,212 appointments related to money transfer, tele-law, skilling and banking services have been accomplished by these CSCs.

Additionally, the role of CSCs in implementing various welfare schemes, such as PM Surya Ghar, Vishwakarma Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM-KISAN and PMFBS, was discussed.

The meeting concluded with a call for strategic interventions to maximize the potential of CSCs and enhance their contribution to governance and service delivery across both the rural and urban areas of the UT.

## DDC reviews progress of District Capex Budget projects in Samba

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, MARCH 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajesh Sharma chaired a high-level review meeting today in the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to assess the progress of works taken up under the District Capex Budget across different sectors.

The meeting focused on the status of ongoing projects being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD) for crucial sectors like School Education, Health, and allied services. Detailed discussions were held to identify and resolve challenges hindering project execution, with an emphasis on ensuring smooth and timely completion.

Reviewing the sector-wise progress, the DDC stressed the importance of adhering to project time-



lines and maintaining high implementation standards. He directed the concerned officers to proactively tackle obstacles and accelerate the execution process to deliver maximum developmental benefits to the public.

Highlighting the need for efficient resource management and interdepartmental coordination, the DDC urged all stakeholders to

stay committed to providing quality infrastructure and public services within the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi, Chief Planning Officer Kasturi Lal, Assistant Commissioner Sectoral Development, CEO, CMO, Executive Engineers, BDOs and other senior officers.

## Iftar hosted at District Hospital Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MARCH 16

Civil society members from across the social spectrum and government functionaries participated today in an Iftar event hosted at the District Hospital Poonch, demonstrating the spirit of communal harmony.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid, and Medical Superintendent Nusrat ul Nissa Bhatti engaged with local residents, extending heartfelt wishes to everyone present.

The event also saw participation from prominent citizens, including BDC Jameel Kohli, Pardeep Khanna, Surjan Singh, President Beopar Mandal Rajiv Tandon, Neeraj Raina, Asad Noman, Master Lal Husain Khalil Ahmed and others highlighting the importance of community ties during this holy month.

The gathering served as a reminder of the shared values of compassion and togetherness, fostering a sense of belonging among the locals.

## Samba 11 wins Samba Premier T-20 Cup Final

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, MARCH 16

The much-anticipated final match of the Samba Premier T-20 Cup, organized jointly by the District Administration Samba and the Excise Department, concluded with an impressive victory of Samba 11 over District Administration Samba here at the Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium.

In the presence of District Magistrate Rajesh Sharma and Excise and Taxation Officer Anil Chandan, the match began on an exciting note. The atmosphere was charged with energy as both teams displayed remarkable skills and determination,



making it a thrilling contest.

Batting first, Samba 11 posted a competitive total of 163/8 in 20 Overs. In response, District Administration Samba, led by Captain Abhishek Sambyal, fought hard but managed 141/9 in the allotted Overs, falling short of 22

runs despite a spirited effort.

Anku from Samba 11 emerged as the Player of the Match for his outstanding performance, scoring a quick 49 runs off 26 balls and taking 1 wicket for 39 runs in his 4 overs.

After the match, DC Samba felicitated the

players with trophies and praised their exceptional performances.

Later, DM Samba addressed the players and spectators with a strong message of "Say No to Drugs." He encouraged everyone to focus on fitness and sports, highlighting the importance of staying healthy and motivated. He assured that such tournaments will be organized on regular intervals in the district to promote a positive and active lifestyle.

The match was also attended by Tehsildar, DIO, former cricketer Surinder Bagal along with other concerned officers and local spectators, adding to the lively atmosphere of the event.

## DC inspects proposed Building for housing KV School at Dedpeth

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inspected the proposed private building for temporary accommodation of KV School at Dedpeth. The DC took stock of the ongoing work on the private building, ensuring that all necessary requirements were met for running the school. The inspection was part of the preparations for starting classes for the upcoming April session.

The DC issued necessary directions to proceed at a faster pace to ensure the classes start well in time.

The DC also visited Mughal Maidan, a far off area of the district, where he interacted with local residents. A delegation from Dedpeth approached the DC to project the demand for improving drainage in the area. The DC assured the delegation that their concerns would be addressed promptly.

Furthermore, a delegation from Panchayat Rahalthal met with the DC



to discuss issues related to MGNREGA attendance. The DC emphasized that payments under MGNREGA would be made only to those who are actively working, underlining the importance of accountability and transparency in the implementation of the scheme.

The DC also inspected

the under construction Bridge near the hatchery fish project in Mughal Maidan, being developed under the Capex plan by RDD.

SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rehman, ACD Phulail Singh, Tehsildar Mughal Maidan Parvez Ahmed and other senior officers were present during the visit.

## DDC Rajouri resolves long-pending road issue in Darhal Inspects progress of ongoing development works

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 16

District Development Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of Darhal, where he resolved the long-pending issue of the NABARD funded SDH to Dara via Sagarawat road, paving the way for its execution.

Following his intervention, the road construction is now in progress, bringing much-needed relief to the local populace.

Meanwhile, the DDC also inspected the progress of the PMGSY road from Darhal to via



Katamar, assessing the ongoing work and directing officials to expedite

the project for timely completion. In addition, he met with public delega-

tions, patiently hearing their concerns and resolving their grievances on the spot, reinforcing the administration's commitment to responsive governance.

Later, the DDC inspected several other ongoing developmental works in the area and emphasized the need for quality execution and adherence to deadlines to ensure public welfare. He also stressed the effective utilization of assets created under the Swachh Bharat Mission, directing

officials to ensure their proper upkeep and functionality for sustained community benefit.

Accompanying him during the visit were ACD Vijay kr Verma, Ex En PMGSY, Imtiaz Mir, Tehsildar Darhal, BDO Darhal, and other district and sectoral officers. They also provided updates on different projects and assured timely resolution of developmental challenges.

The visit reaffirms the administration's dedication to enhancing infrastructure and improving the quality of life for the people of Darhal.