

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Tax, cess revised on petrol, diesel, natural gas

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAR 27 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government has revised the tax and cess rates on petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel (ATF), and natural gas.

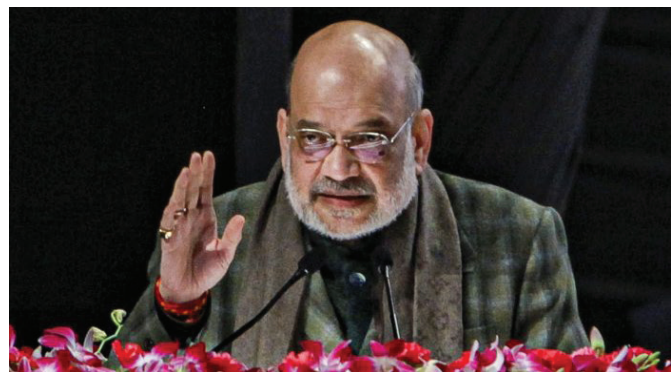
The changes outlined by the Finance Department, will come into effect from April 1, 2025.

According to a notification, a copy of which lies with the news agency, tax on motor spirit (petrol) will be 24% minus Rs 3.50 per litre, with an additional cess of Rs 2 per litre. Diesel oil will be taxed at 16% minus Rs 4.50 per litre, along with a cess of Rs 1 per litre.

The notification further states that aviation turbine fuel (ATF) will be taxed at 5%, while natural gas will be subject to 21% tax.

The order was issued under Section 3 and 3A of the Jammu and Kashmir Motor Spirit and Diesel Oil (Taxation of Sales) Act Samvat 2005, supersedes all previous notifications on the subject. KNO

2 more Hurriyat groups severe ties with separatism; "Great news", says Amit Shah



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 27 (KNO)

Two more groups affiliated with the Hurriyat in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday severed their ties with separatism, with Union Home minister Amit Shah terming it a "great news".

Amit Shah, as per news agency, welcomed the decision of two more groups affiliated with the Hurriyat, namely

J&K Tehreek-i-Isteqal and J&K Tehreek-i-Istiqamat, to discard their ties with separatism.

He said that the groups have repented their trust in the new Bharat built by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Under the Modi government, separatism is breathing its last, and the triumph of unity is echoing across Kashmir," he said.

J&K Tehreek-i-Isteqal was headed by Gulam Nabi

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Lok Sabha passes Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 27 (UNI)

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, which seeks to modernise the migration law, with regards to passport, travel documents, visa and registration.

Replying in the Lok Sabha on the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Those who pose a threat to the national security will not be allowed to enter the nation."

He further said, "The nation is not a 'Dharamshala'...If someone comes to the nation to give their

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Three terrorists killed in Rajbagh encounter; 5 soldiers injured, 3 critical

DySP Dheeraj Katoch, 3 SOG jawans, one Para Commando among wounded

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 27 (KNO)

Three to four terrorists were killed while five security personnel - including a Deputy Superintendent of Police and a Para Commando - were injured in a fierce encounter in Rajbagh area of Kathua district on Thursday.

As per the news agency Correspondent, the operation near Jakhole village in Ghati Juthana left five security personnel wounded, with three reported in critical condition.

The gunfight began this morning when security forces,



acting on credible intelligence, engaged a group of suspected infiltrators.

This marks the fourth day of sustained anti-terror operations in the region, following Sunday's encounter in Hiranagar sector. Official sources confirm the neutralized terrorists are likely part of the same group that escaped the earlier engagement.

A joint team comprising Jammu and Kashmir Police

(including its Special Operations Group), Indian Army, and CRPF personnel conducted the operation. Reinforcements were immediately deployed, leading to intense exchanges of fire.

Among the injured are DySP Dheeraj Katoch, three SOG jawans, and one Para Commando. The critically wounded have been evacuated to Army hospitals in

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CM Omar Abdullah extends greetings on Shab-i-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAR 26 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended his greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasions of Shab-i-Qadr and Jumat-ul-Vida.

In his message, the Chief Minister highlighted the spiritual significance of Shab-i-Qadr, the blessed night when the Holy Quran was revealed, and Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of Ramadan, which holds great importance for the Muslim community.

He urged the people to use these sacred moments for prayers, self-reflection and seeking divine blessings for peace, prosperity and brotherhood.

"May these blessed occasions bring harmony, prosperity and well-being to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let us pray for peace, unity and the progress of our society and strengthen the bonds of compassion and togetherness," CM Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister also called upon the people to remember the underprivileged and extend help to those in need, emphasizing the values of kindness and generosity that define the spirit of Ramadan.

He expressed hope that the prayers and the blessings of these holy occasions would inspire everyone to work towards a more just, inclusive, and peaceful society. KNO

LG Greets People on Shab-e-Qadr & Jumat-ul-Vida

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 27 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the eve of Shab-e-Qadr and Jumat-ul-Vida.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the auspicious occasions of Shab-e-Qadr and Jumat-ul-Vida, I convey my hearty greetings and felicitations to all

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Cabinet gives nod to implementation of key budget announcements

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 27 (KNO)

The cabinet on Thursday gave its go-ahead to implementation of key budget announcements made by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in his budget speech on March 07.

Sources told news agency that the cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"The meeting commenced at 3:00 PM and lasted till 4:30 PM," they said, adding that the cabinet gave its nod to modalities worked-out by different departments for implementation of announcements of free power and free ration to AAY beneficiaries and enhancement of pension and marriage assistance scheme. The

key budget announcement include 200 units of free electricity for all Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households under the PM's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and 10 kilograms of free ration per person for the families falling in this category.

In his budget speech, the CM also announced increasing pensions for over 10 lakh elderly, widows, divorcees, and specially-abled individuals.

As per CM's budget speech announcement, monthly pensions will now be Rs 1,250 for those below 60 years, Rs 1,500 for those aged 60-80, and Rs 2,000 for individuals above 80 years.

The Marriage Assistance Scheme for AAY category

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Govt to study NH upgrade feasibility for Kupwara-Keran, Bandipora-Gurez roads: Gadkari

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAR 27 (KNO)

Member of Parliament (MP) from Baramulla, Er Rashid on Thursday raised the demand for granting Kupwara-Karnah Road, Bandipora-Gurez Road and Kupwara-Keran Road the status of National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to the query, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, as reported by the news agency, said that while these roads are not currently designated as National Highways, the government will conduct a study and assess the feasibility of upgrading them in the future.



Gadkari said these developments will reduce travel time between Jammu and Srinagar from 8-9 hours to just 3-3.5 hours, while the journey from Katra to Delhi will be completed in just 6 hours.

The minister also mentioned the ongoing construction of Asia's largest tunnel under the Kargil hills, which was originally estimated to cost Rs 12,000 crore but was tendered for just Rs 5,500 crore, saving substantial public funds.

He said that 70% of the tunnel's work has been completed, even under extreme conditions where temperatures drop to minus

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J&K, Ladakh Have Over 2,700 km of National Highways; Expansion Plans Underway

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAR 27 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh collectively have 2,741 km of National Highways (NHs), with ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at improving road connectivity in the region, according to data presented in the Lok Sabha.

As per the government report, J&K has 1,935 km of NHs, while Ladakh has 806 km, contributing to India's total NH network of 146,204 km. The development and expansion of highways—including their conversion into four-, six-, and eight-lane roads—are being carried out based on traffic density, road conditions, and national infrastructure priorities.

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has undertaken 636 NH projects covering 16,422 km across

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Kashmir to observe Shab-e-Qadr tonight



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAR 27 (KNO)

Thousands of faithful will bow their heads in prayer tonight during the sacred night of Shab-e-Qadr.

Shab-e-Qadr, the Night of Power, is believed to be the most sacred night of Ramadan—a night when the heavens open, sins are forgiven, and prayers are answered. It is being observed all across the globe tonight, including in the Kashmir Valley.

According to the news agency, Srinagar's historic

Hazratbal Shrine is set to witness the largest gathering of worshippers, with thousands expected to spend the night in deep devotion. However, the authorities disallowed prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in the heart of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, other mosques and shrines across the valley will resonate with spiritual recitations, as believers immerse themselves in prayers, Tilawat-e-Quran and supplications for mercy and peace tonight.

Mohammad Yousof, a resident of Khanyar, Srinagar, said the valley's mosques and

Thousands to gather at Hazratbal, other mosques, shrines, Jamia Masjid closed

shrines will glow with lights tonight, but the real illumination comes from the faith of worshippers who will spend the night seeking divine mercy.

"This night is a chance to ask for everything they have ever wished for. Peace, forgiveness and a better tomorrow are among the blessings we seek," he added.

Similarly, in homes across Kashmir, families prepare for the night with quiet devotion.

Neelofar, a woman from Lasjan, Srinagar, said that on this night, she will seek mercy from the Almighty. "Tonight, I feel closest to the Almighty," she said.

It is believed that the night is not just about prayers—it is a moment of deep self-reflection. People will raise their hands, asking for relief from hardships and for an end to the worries that weigh them down.

Meanwhile, authorities have ensured that major places of worship are ready to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG hands over appointment letter to sister of Bus Conductor martyred in Reasi Terror attack



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 27 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today handed over the appointment letter, on compassionate ground, to Renu Sharma, sister of Arjun Sharma, who was killed in Reasi Terror attack.

Arjun Sharma, a resident of Reasi, was the conductor of the bus carrying pilgrims which was attacked by the terrorists on June 09, 2024.

The Lieutenant Governor assured all possible assistance and support from the J&K Administration to the family of the martyred civilian. KNO

Govt exempts stamp duty on property transfers within blood relations

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAR 27 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government has waived stamp duty on property transfers through Gift Deeds within blood relations.

Notably, the stamp duty on property transfers within blood relations is a tax levied on gifting property between close family members.

The exemption, notified under S.O. 75 by the Finance Department, will come into effect from April 1, 2025.

According to the notification, a copy of which lies with the news agency, the stamp duty waiver applies to transfers between father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, and

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Jio Platforms Limited Receives Two Prestigious Intellectual Property Awards

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

Jio Platforms Limited (JPL), a technology company, today announced its remarkable achievement of winning two significant intellectual property awards while simultaneously highlighting its critical role in advancing India's technological sovereignty and digital independence.

Jio Platforms was honoured with the National Intellectual Property Awards by the Government of India and simultaneously recognized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for its exceptional excellence in technology and innovation



at a function in New Delhi.

These prestigious awards not only celebrate JPL's intellectual property achievements but also underscore its pivotal contribution to India's Aatmanirbhar (self-reliant) vision in the telecommunications sector.

JPL's intellectual property strategy is intricately

aligned with the Government of India's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' objective, which aims to propel India into a developed economy through technological innovation, digital transformation, and the development of indigenous technological capabilities.

As the Indian government focuses on realizing

the Bharat 6G vision, JPL is positioned at the forefront of this technological revolution.

The company's robust research and development, combined with its proven record of indigenous technology deployment in 5G and AI, makes it a key player in shaping India's next-generation telecommunications landscape.

The company's patent portfolio, comprising more than 4,000 global patent applications filed over the past three years, represents a transformative leap in India's intellectual property landscape.

These patents encom-

pass cutting-edge domains in telecommunications, digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and emerging technological frontiers, positioning JPL as a global leader in innovation.

Mr. Aayush Bhatnagar, Senior Vice President at Jio Platforms Limited, while receiving the awards for JPL stated: "These awards validate our approach of combining innovation with a deep commitment to solving real-world challenges. We are not just creating technologies; we are building capabilities that can drive national growth and global competitiveness in the digital era through 5G, 6G and Artificial Intelligence."

GCW Parade organizes 3-Day Workshop on Fabric Printing Techniques

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

The Department of Home Science Government College for Women Parade Ground today concluded the three-day workshop on Fabric Printing Techniques organised under the guidance of worthy Principal, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo.

Sixty students from semester 4th and 6th availed the opportunity to experiment with different fabrics, colors, and designs, fostering creativity and practical knowledge during the workshop.

The workshop provided an exciting platform to the college students to explore and experiment with a variety of traditional and modern fabric printing methods.

The Day 1 started with a session on traditional printing techniques like block printing and tie-dye, where students learned to explore vibrant patterns to create a unique texture. They learned different techniques of tie and dye and block printing. Each student showed their creativity by making beautiful designs on fabric. On the Day 2 students were introduced to stencil printing and the art of layering colors to achieve vibrant, eye-catching designs. Stencil printing is a versatile technique where students learn to create repetitive patterns on fabric by applying this technique.

Last day focused on Batik printing (The magic of resist). This activity provided students with comprehensive skills in batik printing without using the traditional method of wax application. Students demonstrated high enthusiasm and active involvement throughout the workshop.

The event concluded with a showcase of student-created prints, celebrating their creativity and newly acquired skills. A vote of thanks was given by Dr. Iesha Sharma, Lecturer, Home Science, GCW Parade Ground Jammu.

District admin starts preparation for Rajouri Day celebration

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 27

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a high-level meeting to finalize arrangements for the grand celebration of Rajouri Day on April 13, 2025. A series of events and activities have been planned in the run-up to the celebrations, highlighting the rich history, culture, and communal harmony of Rajouri.

As part of the Rajouri Got Talent initiative, school-level competitions in singing, painting, and other activities will be conducted, and the winners will be felicitated on Rajouri Day. Additionally, a logo design competition for Rajouri Day will be hosted on the MyGov portal to encourage public



participation.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSSO) will organize a football tournament at the FIFA-certified stadium in Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU). The tournament will feature teams from veterans, media persons, district administration, and other institutions.

A rally on road safety will be held two days prior to Rajouri Day to spread

awareness about safe driving practices. A theatrical play depicting the history and legacy of Rajouri will also be staged at Raina Auditorium as part of the cultural celebrations.

Other events planned include a trade fair, blood donation camp, book fair, sports mela, and stage show. The Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will set up food stalls and showcase quality local products to promote entrepreneurship

and local craftsmanship.

To mark the occasion, Balidan Bhawan, key locations in the town and the bridge will be illuminated in tricolour by the Executive Officer, Municipality, and Executive Engineer, PDD. The celebrations will culminate with a musical evening on April 13 from 4:00 PM onwards.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure smooth execution of events and make Rajouri Day 2025 a grand and memorable celebration.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Khajuria; district and sectoral officers; prominent civil society members; and representatives from Rotary Club Grand.

Javed Dar visits fire affected families in old town Baramulla, assures timely relief, rehabilitation



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MARCH 27

Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, today visited the old Town Baramulla to take stock of the situation following a devastating fire incident occurred in the intervening night of March 23.

The fire resulted in destruction of 17 houses, leaving 29 families homeless.

The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Minga Sherpa and other senior officials from the district administration.

During his visit, Javed Dar inspected the site of the incident and personally interacted with the

affected families to understand their grievances and immediate needs.

The residents and local committee members shared their concerns with the Minister and requested for immediate rehabilitation, establishment of a permanent Fire & Emergency Services station in the area and a waiver of electricity and water charges for one year to ease their financial burden.

The Minister assured the members of the affected families that the government stands with them in this difficult time and will take all necessary measures to ensure their swift rehabilitation and recovery.

Javed Dar directed the district administration to

expedite assessment of losses and ensure that the affected families receive financial assistance and other support without delay.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister about the prompt response of the district administration following the incident. He informed that an immediate relief amount of Rs 10.60 lakh has already been distributed among the affected families to provide them with interim support.

He apprised that directions have been issued to the concerned officers to assess the damage in accordance with the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms, ensuring that further compensation and assistance are provid-

ed at the earliest.

The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted that temporary shelters, food supplies and other essential commodities have been arranged for the displaced families. He assured the Minister that district administration is closely coordinating with various departments and local authorities to provide continued support to the affected families until their proper rehabilitation.

The Minister commended the district administration for their timely response and emphasized the need for long term measures to prevent such incidents in the future. He directed the concerned authorities to explore the feasibility of establishing a dedicated Fire and Emergency Services station in the Old Town area to enhance the response time in case of future emergencies.

Javed Dar reiterated the government's commitment towards providing full support to the affected families and ensuring their quick rehabilitation. He reassured that all necessary steps will be taken to improve fire safety infrastructure in the area.

J&K importing high genetic merit bulls to produce own sex sorted semen: Director AHD

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

A Mega awareness camp was today organised by the Department of Animal Husbandry here to address the growing unemployment and its containment through employment generation schemes of the department.

At the onset of the programme, Director Animal Husbandry Department Jammu Dr Parvinder Singh Sudan launched a plantation drive giving a message to all the farmers "Plant trees, Sow happiness".

Later, the Farmers were briefed about the departmental schemes under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) explaining the roadmap for dairy development, poultry development, fodder development in UT of J&K.

Further, the Departmental Schemes of sheep husbandry were also briefed to the farmers by officers of Animal Husbandry and Sheep husbandry Jammu.

Kulbushan Khajuria, a progressive farmer, thanked the Director and CAHO Jammu for transforming the district from milk deficit to exporting milk to Punjab Moga. He suggested organizing a Cattle sale mandi to enable local farmers to sell animals duly maintained and reared in Satellite heifer rearing units established in district Jammu under Holistic Agriculture development programme.

Addressing the Gathering, Dr. Sudan said that the department of Animal husbandry and farmers were counterparts as the former can't do anything without the support of the progressive farmers.

The Director informed the gathering that 20 High genetic merit Bulls are about to be imported to J&K from the USA. "In future we will be able to produce our own sex sorted semen," said Dr Sudan.

The Director also emphasized the need for value addition so that milk produced fetch good returns to the farmers.

The camp featured the deliberations by eminent subject experts including Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO), Saleem Patigaroo; President, J&K Dairy Association Sandeep Singh Chib; Member Kisan Advisory Board Tajinder Singh; Progressive Farmer Kulbushan Khajuria; Progressive Dairy Farmer Captain Rajinder Singh and former Sarpanch, Chatha Avtar Singh.

Renowned Educationist & Founder Aryans Group of Colleges Prof Roshan Lal Kataria cremated

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, 27TH MARCH

Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria, founder of Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh and a visionary educator passed at the age of 76 on 26th March, 2025

He was cremated today at Cremation Ground, Sec 25 Chandigarh, in presence of many known educationists from Chandigarh and Punjab.

The bhog and antim ardaas would be held on 29th March between 1-2 PM Saturday at Shri Sanatan Dharm Mandir, Sec-16



D Chandigarh.

Born and brought up of Muktsar, Prof Roshan Lal Kataria was the founder of

Aryans Group of Colleges. Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria did his MA (Economics) from Dehradun in 1973. He started his career in Economics lecturer from Government College, Muktsar, Govt. College, Zira & DAV School, Muktsar.

Prof. Kataria is survived by his son, Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group, President, Punjab Unaided Colleges Association who has carried forward his legacy as a young and dynamic entrepreneur. The Aryans Group family mourns the loss of its founder and guiding light.

District Administration Kishtwar hosts Iftar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 27

The District Administration Kishtwar organised an Iftar party to celebrate the spiritual bliss of the holy month of Ramadan, signifying peace, harmony and brotherhood.

The event, held here at the TRC, was hosted by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan. The Iftar Party provided a momentous opportunity to individuals from different walks of life, including govern-

ment functionaries from the District Administration, Army, Police, CRPF, Retired Officers, prominent Citizens from Civil Society, media personnel and employees from different departments, to come together and share a meal.

The Iftar Party aimed to foster a sense of unity, camaraderie, and togetherness among the district administration and the citizens of Kishtwar in the holy month of Ramadan. The DC extended warm wishes to all present and

underscored the profound significance of Ramadan in promoting peace, compassion, and goodwill within society.

He highlighted the importance of such events in bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and faiths in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. This collective moment of reflection reinforced the administration's commitment to inclusivity, unity, and working together for the betterment of the district.

Deputy Director Industries & Commerce honours winners

Jammu lifts Sr Men's, Women's Softball titles

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 27

District Jammu lifted the twin titles of J&K UT Softball/Baseball5 Championship 2024-25, organized by J&K Softball Association in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, which concluded at Bakshi Stadium, here today.

Deputy Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, Dr Iqbal Hussain Wani was the chief guest on the closing ceremony, while Nusrat Gazala, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir; Mushtaq Ahmad, Managing Director, C P Advertising Company Pvt Ltd; Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar, Senior Manager, J&K Sports Council and Hilal Ahmad, Deputy Manager, J&K Sports Council were the guests of honour.

In Senior Men's, Jammu emerged the winner, Pulwama runners-up and the third place went to Srinagar, while in Senior Women, Jammu claimed title, Srinagar won runners-up trophy and the third place went to Pulwama. Meanwhile, in Baseball5 Junior Category



in boys section, Udhampur bagged the title, Pulwama emerged runners-up, while in Baseball5 Sub Junior Category in boys Section, Pulwama bagged the title, Udhampur emerged runners-up trophy.

In Sub Junior Boys, District Srinagar clinched the title, Udhampur emerged runners-up and the third place was bagged by Samba, while in Sub Junior Girls, Srinagar emerged winner, Anantnag runners-

up & third place won by J&K Softball Academy.

In Junior Boys, Srinagar bagged the title, Samba claimed runners-up trophy and the third place went to Pulwama, while in Junior Girls, Udhampur bagged the title, Jammu claimed runners-up trophy and the third place went to Kulgam.

Over 500 athletes from 14 districts of both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions participated in the Champion-

ship.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest congratulated J&K Softball Association for organizing such a beautiful Championship in the most professional and befitting manner.

He said that regular tournaments will continuously be organised by the Association with the support of J&K Sports Council for taking this medal winning sport of Softball to great heights in UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

He also appreciated the initiative taken by the association for the development of Softball in J&K.

Later-on, the chief guest distributed Medals and Trophies among the winners, runner-up and third place holders in all categories of both events and encouraged them for further upgrading of their sports skill in this potential sport of Softball.

The vote of thanks was given by Waseem Raja Khan, General Secretary of J&K Softball Association who extended thanks to the dignitaries and all for their support.

Mega IEC Camp on Nasha Mukta Abhiyan held at Handwara



JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 27

A Mega IEC camp aimed at promoting the vision of a Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India) was held today at Town Hall Handwara.

The event, focused on raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and addiction, was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman.

The camp saw the participation of officers from Health, ICDS, Revenue Police, Education, Degree Colleges, RDD, Information, Municipal Committee and a large number of people and other stakeholders.

The initiative, which is part of the nationwide movement for a drug-free India, included speeches, interactive sessions, and distribution of informative materials to highlight the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of leading a healthy life.

In his address, ADC stressed the need for community engagement in the fight against drugs and encouraged the youth to stay away from harmful substances. He also emphasized the role of educational institutions, parents, and community members in shaping a drug-free society.

ADC assured that the

district administration will continue to work diligently to implement various prevention and rehabilitation programs aimed at curbing drug addiction.

Nodal Officer for NMBA Campaign, Mudassar Ahmad also spoke and briefed the officers and departments about the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Campaign which is set to be launched on April 7th in the district.

Various officers, health experts and scholars also spoke and highlighted the harmful effects of drugs on the society and sensitized the participants about the need for joint efforts in curbing the drug menace from the district.

Div Com Kashmir extends warm greetings on Shab-e-Qadir, Jumat-ul-Vida

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 27

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri extended his warm greetings on the auspicious religious occasions of Shab-e-Qadir and Jumat-ul-Vida to the people. On the occasion, he prayed for communal harmony & brotherhood among different communities and prosperity in the region. Meanwhile, he directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential services including electricity and water supply to facilitate the general public.

JSCL engages Concessionaire for Managing Advertisement of Static Ad-Panels

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has signed a contract agreement with M/s Creative Designers for the professional management of static advertisement panels installed across Jammu city for a period of 5 years.

The agreement, signed on 26th March 2025, aims to streamline the advertisement process while enhancing revenue collection for Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

The concessionaire was selected through a global tendering process, ensuring fair competition, transparency, and efficiency in awarding the contract.

Under this agreement, M/s Creative Designers will be responsible for the operation, maintenance, and revenue generation from these static ad panels. The initiative is expected to bring a structured approach to outdoor advertising, enhancing the city's aesthetics while maximizing its revenue potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Devansh Yadav holding the dual charge of Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited, and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, stated: "This partnership will not only improve the management of advertisement spaces in Jammu but also contribute to the overall beautification and smart urban planning initiatives of the city."

This initiative aligns with JSCL's vision of leveraging public assets to create sustainable revenue streams while maintaining the city's visual appeal and urban aesthetics. The agreement is expected to significantly boost municipal earnings and contribute to the broader Smart City Mission development goals.

"Renowned Writer Rama Pandey's 'Saptparni' Unveiled at Jammu"

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

Renowned Hindi writer and artist Rama Pandey's latest literary offering, "Saptparni", a captivating collection of stories, has been released here today.

The book, a compilation of seven enthralling tales, was unveiled by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu, here at P S Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar.

The event witnessed a mesmerizing narration by Rama Pandey herself, as she presented her story "Darakht-e-Azad Hind", leaving the audience enthralled. It was a saga of deep spiritual and emotional ties between an elderly woman and an ancient neem tree. Rama's vocal storytelling and her masterful twist at the end left the entire crowd simply spell bound especially Shantmanu who insisted that Rama should



turn them into audio books.

On the occasion, writer and director Rama Pandey said, "It has always been my resolve to raise those questions in Indian society through films, theatre and books, on which no one talks about."

"Saptparni" is a collection of 7 short stories in Hindi which explore the complexities of modern society with a blend of sensitivity, mystery and drama. The remaining stories are no less extraordinary, each a testament to Rama Ji's impeccable style, evocative diction and storytelling finesse. They do not merely narrate; they resonate, linger and stir

the soul.

"Saptparni" is another fine addition to Rama Ji's Book shelf which already has her other great literary expressions in the form of Lallan MS, Maha Nagar Vienna, Giraftari, Guhar and Suno Kahani.

A trailblazer in media and arts, Rama Pandey holds the distinction of being Rajasthan's first female media professional, with an illustrious career spanning Doordarshan, BBC London, film and television. Her latest work, published by Vani Prakashan, has already garnered acclaim with one of its stories, "Truck No. 1220", set to be adapted into a film.

The ceremony was graced by Vijay Bakaya, Former Chief Secretary, who lauded the book's narrative depth.

Shantmanu proposed integrating these stories into college curricula through audio-visual presentations.

Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Harvinder Kour, also announced plans for a discussion forum on the book among Jammu's literary circles.

The event was attended by Najmus Saqib, former IAS, Indu Chib, Chairman SSB, Principal Professor S.S. Parihar and Professor Hemla Agarwal, members from Hindi Sahitya Mandal, literature lovers, staff and students of the college.

Dr. Liaqat Jafri, Urdu poet conducted the proceedings while vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Sugandha Sharma, HoD Botney.

One week MSME skill training course concludes at village Katera-Samba

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 27

SKUAST Kashmir, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba, successfully conducted the one week MSME skill training programme on "Livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities through Beekeeping" here at village Katera.

Held under the entrepreneurship and skill development program of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), the programme was attended by twenty five participants and was conducted under the overall supervision of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, and Nodal Officer (MSME)/ Director Research SKUAST-K, Prof Haroon

Rashid Naik. The

programme was inaugurated by Chief Scientist and Head of KVK Prof. Sanjay Khajuria. He highlighted the significance of beekeeping as a livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunity in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized the importance of beekeeping in generating income and employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

Dr. Sushil Kumar, Professor (Entomology) at DPMO, SKUAST-K, and Course Coordinator of the training program, enlightened participants on the potential of beekeeping as a supplementary source of income. He guided them on how to establish their own beekeeping enterprises, empowering them to become entrepreneurs and enhance

their livelihoods. Dr. Saurav Gupta, Associate Professor (Entomology), and Dr. Shalini also delivered insightful lectures during the training programme highlighting how beekeeping can provide livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities to the rural masses.

SKUAST-K has been entrusted with skill development of youth and promotion of entrepreneurial ecosystem in J&K and Ladakh UTs by the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, New Delhi Under the stewardship of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir. Pritam Chand, Ex-sarpanch of Panchayat Halqa Samlah thanked both the universities for organizing the programme.

PLI Scheme for Automobile & Auto Components Driving Investments, Employment, and Growth

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 MAR 2025

Union Cabinet approved PLI Scheme for Automobile & Auto Components on 15.09.2021 with budgetary outlay of 25,938 crore. PLI-Auto Scheme envisages to overcome the cost disabilities to the industry for manufacturing and boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products in India. The incentive structure is to encourage industry to make fresh investments for indigenous manufacturing of AAT products and create additional jobs. PLI scheme for the auto sector is being implemented as per the

approved guidelines.

The PLI Auto scheme has been responsive to the dynamic needs of the industry. MHI had notified the categories of 19 AAT vehicles & 103 AAT components that shall be covered under the scheme on 09.11.2021 after elaborate stakeholder's consultations.

Further, to promote the Make in India campaign and boost domestic manufacturing of advanced automotive products, scheme applicants must achieve a DVA of 50% to be eligible for incentives. This criterion aims to reduce imports and simultaneous creation of domestic as well as global supply chain. PLI-Auto Scheme guide-

lines and SOPs are also framed with wide stakeholder consultations. To standardized the process of calculating Domestic Value Addition, testing agencies collectively has come up with a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which specify the process to be followed. This SOP is to provide a greater level of assurance to all the stakeholders. So far, 6 OEMs have got DVA certificate for 66 Approved Variants and 7 component manufacturers has got DVA certificate for 22 Approved Variants. As on date, 6 applicants under the OEM category have received DVA certification for 66 variants, while 7 Applicants under the

Component Champion category have received DVA certification for 22 variants.

Strong impact in terms of investments, employment, sales and also increasing disbursements:

Investments: As of Dec 2024, companies under the scheme have committed over 25,000 crore in capital investment, including setting up new production facilities and upgrading technology. For instance, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have committed to massive investments in EV production capacity.

Employment: The scheme also has created thousands of direct and

indirect jobs in manufacturing, supply chain management, and R&D. Notably, new EV production plants have led to localized employment in manufacturing hubs.

Sales: Sales growth in sectors like electric vehicles (EVs) and critical components have seen significant improvements. For example, the introduction of new models in the EV sector has led to rise in sales.

Disbursement: FY 2023-24 was the first performance year of the scheme for which disbursement happened in FY 2024-25. Aggregate incentive of Rs. 322 crores have been disbursed under the scheme as of now.

DC Srinagar greets people on Shab-e-Qadr and Jummat Ul Vida

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has felicitated people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Qadr, also known as Lylat-ul-Qadr, the holy night when people congregate to pray to Almighty Allah seeking his forgiveness.

The DC also greeted people on the occasion of Jummat Ul Vida the last Friday of the Ramadan ul Mubarak 1446 Hijri. Dr. Bilal prayed for betterment of the people and expressed hope that the holy night would bring Allah's blessings. He also prayed that the auspi-

cious occasion would strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood and be a harbinger of peace and prosperity.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM			
Notice Inviting Applications for shortlisting of PAD items for use / sale / service at Static Catering Establishments over Firozpur Division was published in various leading National Newspapers on 01.09.2024 and information in this regard was also uploaded at the official website of Northern Railways i.e. https://nr.indianrailways.gov.in . Now, with the approval of the competent authority, following changes have been made with respect to Annual Turnover Criteria for five (5) undermentioned items under the category 'B':			
S. No.	Name of the Items & Quality Standard	Revised Turnover per Annum from sale of F & B Items (in Rs.)	Revised Turnover per Annum from sale of specific brand
1.	Aerated Drinks in Glass/PET Bottles and Cans	5 Crore	1.25 Crore
2.	Biscuits	5 Crore	1.25 Crore
3.	Tetra Packed / PET Bottles, Flavoured Milk / Milk Products	5 Crore	1.25 Crore
4.	Tetra Packed Glass / PET Bottles / Fruit Juice	5 Crore	1.25 Crore
5.	Chips	1.25 Crore	0.30 Crore

Accordingly, applications for shortlisting of only above mentioned five (5) PAD items for use / sale / service at Static Catering Establishments over Firozpur Division are invited in the application form attached herewith till 30.04.2025 upto 15:00 hrs. Further, other terms & conditions and instructions regarding the shortlisting will remain the same. The detailed information is available on the official website of Northern Railways i.e. <https://nr.indianrailways.gov.in> 942/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Odisha: Railway Safety Commissioner inspects Boudh-Purunakatak rail line of Khurda Road Bolangir Rail project

AGENCIES

BHUBANESWAR, MAR 27 (UNI)

Commissioner of Railway Safety, Brijesh Mishra has conducted an inspection of the newly constructed rail line between Boudh and Purunakatak, a distance of 26.888 km, to review the safety aspects of the newly laid rail line of ongoing Khurda Road-Bolangir Rail Line project.

This inspection is a crucial step towards ensuring the timely completion of the project, which is set to improve connectivity in remote and aspirational regions of Odisha.

East Coast Railway (ECoR) sources said out of the total 301 km stretch of the Khurda Road-Bolangir Rail Line, 240 km has been completed and commissioned and fit for train operations.

The Commissioner Railway Safety (CRS) inspected this newly laid Rail Line on March 25 and 26 and gave his sanction for commissioning of the section.



The CRS has inspected the safety parameters of the newly laid Railway Track, Signalling System, Bridges and declared the newly laid rail line section fit of the on-going 301 km Khurda Road-Bolangir Rail line project.

A team of senior Railway officials of East Coast Railway assisted CRS during the inspection.

The Railways has been constructing the line from both the sides, i.e., from Khurda Road and Balangir for early completion of the project.

ECoR sources said Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw consistently

monitors the progress of this project in Odisha and the ministry has given priority for early completion of Khurda Road Bolangir Rail Line project.

ECoR General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal has also been reviewing the status of the ongoing works regularly and instructing concerned officials to speed up the work and complete the remaining portion within the timeline set by the Railway Board.

The engine rolling and testing for the track between Boudh and Purunakatak has already been successfully completed by the Construction

Unit.

Out of the total 301 km stretch of the Khurda Road-Bolangir Rail Line, 240 km has been completed and commissioned and fit for train operations.

In the newly constructed stretch between Purunakatak and Champapur 9 major bridges, 2 Road Over Bridges (ROBs), 15 Road Under Bridges (RUBs), and 35 minor bridges, all essential for facilitating safe and efficient rail operations, were completed.

The construction activities are now progressing rapidly in the remaining sections. To expedite the completion, work is being carried out from both ends simultaneously, ensuring adherence to the project's ambitious timeline.

Of the total 301 km, the remaining 62 km section between Purunakatak and Daspalla, which includes tunnel construction through dense jungle and sanctuary areas, is progressing steadily.

World Theatre Day celebrated at GDC Sumbal



JINNEWSERVICE

BANDIPORA, MARCH 27

Cultural Committee GDC Sumbal in collaboration with the Young Dramatist Society and Inder Cultural Forum Sumbal today celebrated World Theatre Day in the auditorium of Government Degree College Sumbal.

The theme of the event was 'Theatre as a Tool against Drug Abuse,' and the event was aimed to highlight the power of the performing arts in addressing societal issues and challenges.

The event was presided over by the Principal GDC Sumbal Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl while Mohammad Amin Bhat, the President of Adbee Markaz Kamraz, was the chief guest.

The programme was graced by several dignitaries, including Abdul Ahad Farhaad, Rashid Rahil, Chief Editor of the Asian Mail Group, and other notable personalities, besides the event was attended by faculty members, both teaching and non-teaching, as well as students of the college.

Two Dramas were presented as part of the event. The first play, enacted by members of the Inder

Cultural Forum Sumbal, focused on the issue of corruption, drug abuse and the critical roles played by government agencies and law enforcement in curbing these social issues. The second play, performed by the Young Dramatist Society, was an adaptation of the famous Eliza-bethan tragedy Dr. Faustus written by Sohan Lal Kaul.

In her address, the Principal of the college emphasized the urgent need to raise awareness among the youth to protect them from falling prey to the detrimental effects of drug abuse. She commended the actors for their exemplary performances and elaborated on the transformative power of theatre, stressing its relevance and importance in today's society as a medium for education and social change.

The guests present on the occasion also shared their thoughts, lauding the hospitality, discipline, and organizational excellence of the college.

Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl; Guests of Honor, Abdul Ahad Farhaad and Rashid Rahil, and Convener, Cultural Committee Dr. Shaista Ahmad were felicitated for their contributions and support.

Status of registrations on JK Samadhan portal reviewed at Kulgam



JINNEWSERVICE

KULGAM, MARCH 27

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri today conducted a comprehensive review of registration on JK Samadhan grievance redressal portal.

During the review, the ADC assessed the status of registrations on the portal and directed all concerned departments to expedite their resolution.

He emphasized a citizen-centric approach, urging officials to ensure complaints are addressed within stipulated timelines to enhance public trust. During the meeting,

the chair was apprised that around 41000 registrations have been made by different departments on Samadhan portal in the district.

To enhance the system's efficiency, the ADC directed the designation of nodal officers within departments for close monitoring of grievance redressal.

He also stressed the need for regular reviews to assess departmental performance in resolving public concerns.

The meeting was attended by ACR Mush-taq, SDM D.H Pora, ACD, CMO and other District and Sectoral officers from various departments.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

2 more Hurriyat groups...

Sofi, while J&K Tehreek-i-Istiqamat was led by Ghulam Nabi War, associated with the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

This development comes days after two other organisations affiliated with the Hurriyat severed their ties with separatism in Kashmir.

On Tuesday, Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) and the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement (JKDPM) announced severing of all ties with separatism.

The similar announcement was made by Home minister Amit Shah in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday.

Welcoming the decision, Shah said that this is a step towards strengthening Bharat's unity. He urged all such groups to come forward and shed separatism once and for all. KNO

Lok Sabha passes...

contribution to the development of the nation, they are always welcome."

The bill was originally introduced by Minister of State (MoS) Home Affairs Nityanand Rai who clarified saying, "We are not bringing this law to stop anyone from coming to India."

"Whether it is the Rohingyas or Bangladeshis, if you are here to disrupt peace, strict action will be taken. That is why we need both flexibility and firmness in this Bill," he noted.

The Bill repeals and replaces the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000, and three pre-independence laws, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, and the Foreigners Act, 1936.

Highlighting the importance of the Bill, Amit Shah said, "The bill holds significance for strengthening national security, ensuring global standards of Indian universities and building foundations for research and development".

"Immigration is not an isolated issue. For the security of India, we must know who is entering our country, for how long and for what reasons. These concepts are not new; such rights have been mentioned in various laws, and we have now integrated them," he said.

Amit Shah noted that the bill paves the way for making the country's education system accepted across the world... and asserted that it helps to make this country number one in the world in 2047.

"We have a long history of welcoming and protecting immigrants. Due to past invasions, many Persian refugees migrated to India and are now safe. India has been a sanctuary for the world's smallest minorities, offering them a place to live with dignity," he added in Lok Sabha.

Initiating the debate, Congress MP Manish Tewari opposed the bill, alleging that the bill is against the Constitution.

He said, Immigration officers have been given power, which can lead to harassment of people.

Tewari stressed on the need to bring in safeguard provisions in the bill and demanded that the bill be sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for more scrutiny.

Kanimozhi of DMK alleged that the Bill will endanger Indians' interests abroad. She also alleged that the Bill will affect over 19,000 Sri Lankan families living in Tamil Nadu in rehabilitation camps for over 30 years.

The Bill does not understand the plight of refugees, she added.

Three terrorists...

Udhampur and Pathankot.

While UAV surveillance has spotted 3-4 terrorist bodies, the encounter remains ongoing in Kathua. "Our forces have shown exceptional bravery and coordination in neutralizing the threat. The area clearance operation continues," a senior official stated.

Kathua has emerged as a key infiltration route for Pakistan-based terrorists targeting Jammu. Security

forces remain on high alert, with search operations ongoing.

The operation involves JKP, Army's Rising Star Corps, NSG, BSF and CRPF. Forces are employing advanced surveillance including UAVs and drones, along with bulletproof vehicles. Intelligence suggests the group infiltrated on March 22, possibly via a new tunnel or ravine route from Pakistan.

DGP Nalin Prabhat is personally overseeing operations from Kathua, assisted by IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti. Searches have expanded toward Billawar forest after tracking the terrorists' movement.

Earlier searches uncovered four M4 carbine magazines, two grenades, a bulletproof jacket, sleeping bags, tracksuits, and IED-making materials - indicating preparations for prolonged engagement.

Kathua's strategic location along the International Border (IB) has made it a critical infiltration point, prompting enhanced counter-terror measures in recent months. KNO

Cabinet gives nod...

girls has also seen an increase, with financial aid enhancing to Rs 75000 from Rs 50000. KNO

Govt to study NH upgrade...

8 degrees Celsius.

Gadkari assured that Border Roads Organization (BRO) and the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) are actively engaged in road and tunnel construction across Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and the North-East.

While the Kupwara-Karna, Bandipora-Gurez, and Kupwara-Keran roads do not currently have National Highway status, the Centre has assured that once the ongoing infrastructure projects are completed, a fresh assessment will be conducted to determine their future degradation. KNO

J&K, Ladakh Have...

the country, with an estimated cost of Rs 6.35 lakh crore.

These projects are in various stages of construction, with 8,852 km already completed, and the remaining scheduled for phased completion by FY 2028-29.

The expansion of NHs in J&K and Ladakh is crucial for enhancing connectivity, trade, and tourism. The region's strategic location demands robust road infrastructure, particularly for military mobility, economic activities, and improved accessibility for residents.

Given winter closures and challenging terrain, the government has prioritized highway expansion and tunnel construction to ensure year-round connectivity. Projects such as the Zojila Tunnel and the four-laning of key highways are part of efforts to strengthen road links between J&K, Ladakh, and the rest of India. KNO

Kashmir to observe...

accommodate lakhs of worshippers. Security arrangements have also been tightened, and sanitation teams have been deployed to maintain cleanliness. KNO

Govt exempts...

granddaughter.

The order, issued under clause (a) of Section 9 of the Stamp Act, 1977 (XL of 1977), states that the government took this decision in the public interest. KNO

LG Greets People...

and wish them health, happiness and prosperity. May the Almighty accept all our prayers and continue to guide us on the path of compassion, love and harmony"—(KNO)

Serve with integrity and dedication as nation comes first: Yogi

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, MAR 27 (UNI)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said true service to the nation is not demonstrated through slogans or speeches, but by fulfilling one's responsibilities with honesty and dedication.

After distributing appointment letters to 283 newly selected medical officers and junior laboratory assistants at an event held at Lok Bhawan here, the CM urged the newly-appointed candidates to perform their duties with integrity and commitment, contributing to UP's rapid progress towards becoming a leading economic powerhouse in the country.

The candidates have been recruited by the UP Public Service Commission (UPPSC) and the UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) for the AYUSH Department and the Home Department.

On this occasion, Yogi thanked UPPSC and UPSSSC for conducting the recruitment process with integrity and aligning with the government's vision. He also congratulated all the newly appointed candidates, encouraging them



to serve with dedication and uphold the values of fairness and responsibility.

Highlighting the significant achievements of the past eight years, he said that 8.3 lakh youths have been provided government jobs across UP. He said that if these appointments had not been conducted honestly and transparently, they would have been entangled in legal disputes, with no recruitment completed.

The CM said, "Over the past eight years, 1,56,000 police personnel have been recruited and recently, the selection process for an additional 60,200 policemen has been completed. A substantial number of teachers have also been appointed, alongside recruitment in various other departments."

He stressed that including trained and skilled pro-

professionals in government service has expedited governance, transforming UP from a 'BIMARU' state into the growth engine of India's economy.

Criticising the pre-2017 state of governance, Yogi said that serious concerns had been raised regarding the functioning of recruitment bodies like UPPSC, UPSSSC and the Police Recruitment Board.

He said, "Numerous petitions were pending from the High Court to the Supreme Court and even the judiciary had questioned the practices of the then government and its commissions. At that time, UP was labeled a 'BIMARU' state, but in reality, it was the flawed system that was ailing. This indecisiveness had left every section of society in distress. However, due to the present government's commitment to efficiency, integ-

ity and transparency, the state has now transformed into the 'New UP' of a 'New India', poised to drive the nation's economic progress."

Addressing the newly appointed medical officers in the AYUSH department, the CM underscored the importance of AYUSH, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, and other traditional healing systems as an integral part of India's ancient heritage.

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for setting up a dedicated ministry to promote these practices, the positive outcomes of which are now visible. "UP has also taken significant strides in establishing an AYUSH University. Currently, the state operates 2,114 Ayurveda hospitals, 254 Unani hospitals and 1,585 Homeopathy hospitals. The construction of AYUSH hospitals in Lucknow and Pilibhit is nearing completion, while 15 districts already have 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals, with construction underway in three more," he said.

Yogi said, "1,034 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been set up and yoga and wellness centres introduced in 225 AYUSH hospitals."

Levi's®, Diljit Dosanjh bring effortless cool with 'Easy in Levi's®' loose fits

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

The Levi's® brand continues to push the boundaries of style and culture with its latest campaign, 'Easy in Levi's®'. Featuring Global Brand Ambassador, music icon and fashion trailblazer, Diljit Dosanjh, the campaign brings relaxed and loose fits to the forefront, redefining effortless style with confidence and ease.

CULTURE MEETS STYLE

This association isn't just about style—it's a cultural moment. Few stars today shape trends like Diljit Dosanjh. From sold-out world tours to turning heads in film and fashion, his influence transcends borders. This partnership reflects the brand's ongoing commitment to blending denim heritage with contemporary style in India.

FITS THAT REDEFINE COMFORT AND CONFIDENCE

Denim trends are evolving, and relaxed & loose silhouettes are taking centre stage. The "Easy in Levi's®" campaign introduces a range of new relaxed and loose fits that deliver a fresh take on comfort and self-expression.

A timeless straight-



leg fit, the 555™ Relaxed Straight comes with just the right amount of room for effortless, everyday wear. With a '90 inspired feel, the 568™ Loose Straight is relaxed with a straight leg, that delivers easy cool vibes. The 578™ Baggy, the boldest of the bunch, features an oversized, slouchy fit with stacked ankles that revive unapologetic '90s streetwear aesthetics.

DILJIT DOSANJH IN HIS ELEMENT

The campaign unfolds through a series of dynamic montage films that capture Diljit Dosanjh in his comfort zone—at sound-

check, effortlessly moving through his world in Levi's® Loose Fits. His style is unfiltered, authentic, relaxed and Easy, perfectly embodying the campaign's message: Loose Fits aren't just about what you wear, they're about how you feel. These jeans are designed to let you move easy, chill easy, and live easy.

"With 'Easy in Levi's®', we're tapping into the growing demand for relaxed and loose silhouettes that marry comfort with style," says Amisha Jain, Managing Director and SVP, South Asia, Middle East and Africa at Levi Strauss & Co. "Diljit

Dosanjh brings this vision to life, proving that when you feel good in what you wear, effortless style follows."

Crafted for movement and versatility, Levi's® Loose Fits deliver a fresh approach to casual dressing. Whether you're drawn to the clean-cut vibe of the 555™ Relaxed Straight, the carefree energy of the 568™ Loose Straight, or the bold attitude of the 578™ Baggy, these fits are designed to be lived in and styled your way.

Levi's® Loose Fits are available now across Levi's® stores in India and online at www.levi.in.

Deputy Commissioner reviews Police Construction Division Works in Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted a review of the ongoing Police Construction Division (PCD) works, with a focus on expediting the work of the Battalion campus, including the barracks for Jawans.

The review meeting was held to monitor the progress of the project funded under the SRE, at the cost of Rs 50 crores.

Dy. Commandant Narinder Singh Parihar, AEE, JE of PCD briefed the DC about the projects and the current status of the construction work.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the timely completion of the Battalion campus will allow the relocation of Jawans from makeshift government buildings, ensuring that they are properly



accommodated in the new facilities. The ExEn PHE and ExEn PDD were direct-

ed to prepare the estimates in a week's time. Pertinent to mention

that the LG during the DM-SSP conference had directed the DCs to monitor all SRE related projects to speed up development. The DC expressed confidence that the ongoing work would be completed soon. He asked the construction agency and the contractors to speed up the work and ensure adherence to the quality parameters. It was decided to have a regular monthly review.

The DC also advised the Officers of the Battalion to revive plantation in the campus for land stabilization and aesthetic of the area. The DC was accompanied by ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, Dy. Commandant Narinder Singh, AEE JPDCL Kishtwar Sudheer Sharma, and other Senior Officers and concerned Officials.

Sankalp-HEW, Mission Shakti Bandipora organise two-day Vocational Training programme

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 27

Social Welfare Department Bandipora, through SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, organised a two-day Skill Enhancement Training Programme on Cutting & Tailoring at ITI Bandipora.

The training programme, organised in collaboration with ITI Bandipora and EDI Bandipora, equipped 60 girls with advanced tailoring skills and entrepreneurship knowledge. As a step towards self-reliance, 16 under privileged trainees received free sewing machines to help them start their own businesses.

During the closing ceremony, trainees who successfully completed the training were felicitated for their dedication and achievements.

Additionally, a woman entrepreneur from ITI Bandipora, who excelled in the



tailoring business, was honored for inspiring others to pursue self-employment.

Officials from Mission Shakti, ITI, and EDI Bandi-

pora highlighted the importance of skill development and financial independence for women. Participants expressed gratitude, stat-

ing that the training and support has boosted their confidence and livelihood prospects.

Union Health Ministry Releases National Guidelines on Medical Oxygen Management

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 MAR 2025

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the National Guidelines on Medical Oxygen Management at a workshop held at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, here today. The workshop also marked the launch of the National Capacity Building Programme on Oxygen Management, which will be led by Department of Hospital Administration at AIIMS, Delhi.

Speaking at the event, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary emphasized the critical role of properly maintaining and utilizing medical oxygen infrastructure so that demands for any surge capacities may be met promptly at time of



any exigencies. She also stressed on the need for inculcating learnings from India's management of COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. M Srinivas, Director, AIIMS highlighted the institute's role in spearheading the capacity-building program and stressed the importance of training and awareness at all levels of healthcare.

The release of National Guidelines on Medical

Oxygen Management marks a significant step toward strengthening the country's medical oxygen infrastructure and ensuring uniform best practices in oxygen management across healthcare facilities. The comprehensive guidelines provide a framework for the efficient procurement, storage, and administration of medical oxygen, with a focus on patient safety,

capacity building, and emergency preparedness. The National Capacity Building Programme on Oxygen Management is an initiative led by the Disaster Management Cell of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with AIIMS, New Delhi. It aims to train around 200 master trainers across the country which in turn shall undertake capacity building of hospital administrators and medical officers across the country in proper handling and utilization of medical oxygen, reducing wastage and improving clinical outcomes.

The workshop was also attended by other senior officials of Ministry of Health, AIIMS and medical professionals and experts from across the country.

DC Bandipora chairs meeting on Waste Management Plan in & around Wullar Lake

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today convened a meeting at mini secretariat to formulate a comprehensive action plan for waste management in and around Wullar Lake.

The meeting deliberated on effective strategies for preserving the ecological integrity of Wullar Lake and discussed waste management challenges, pollution control measures and sustainable solutions to ensure the cleanliness of Wullar Lake.

The discussions focused on waste collection, proper disposal, com-



munity participation and coordination between departments to implement an efficient waste management system.

Qadri emphasized the need for a coordinated

approach to waste management and urged all stakeholders to actively contribute to preserving Wullar Lake's natural ecosystem. DC directed concerned departments

to submit detailed action plans outlining their roles and responsibilities in implementing waste management measures.

He stressed on enforcement of pollution control regulations to prevent waste accumulation around the lake besides directed the concerned to develop a sustainable waste management framework.

The meeting was attended by Project Coordinator, WUCMA Owais Farooq Mir; Assistant Commissioner Development, Irfan Bahadur, District Officer, Pollution Control Board, Chief Executive Officer, MC Bandipora and other concerned.

Irfan Ali Shah assumes charge as Conservator of Forests, Kashmir North Circle



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 27

Irfan Ali Shah today assumed charge of Conservator of Forests (CF), Kashmir North Circle.

Shah has previously served in key positions, including CF Srinagar, CF South, CF Central, and CF Working Plan.

Upon taking office, Irfan Ali chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the Divisional Forest Officers of the North Circle. The meeting focused on critical forestry issues and the strategic roadmap for the region.

He reviewed the current protection scenario, ongo-

ing departmental works, and achievements under initiatives such as Ek Paed Maa Ke Naam, eco-tourism projects, FCA cases, court matters, and manpower challenges.

Emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts, Shah underscored the need for synergy with local communities, government agencies, and stakeholders to effectively safeguard the region's rich biodiversity and promote sustainable forest management. The local community and employees of the Forest Department extended a warm welcome to Irfan Ali Shah, upon assuming the charge.

GDC Doda hosts interaction of NCC Cadets with Group Commander



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 27

Government Degree College (GDC) Doda hosted an interactive session where Brig. D.N. Pandey, Group Commander, NCC Group Headquarters Jammu, and Col. M.K. Sharma, Commanding Officer, 10 JK Battalion NCC Bhalra Baderwah had a hearty talk with the NCC cadets of the Institution.

The guests were warmly welcomed by the College Principal Dr. Javed Iqbal and Associate NCC Officer (ANO) Lt. Dr. Jaswant Singh with the presentation of a bouquet of flowers.

During the session, Lt. Dr. Jaswant Singh delivered a comprehensive report highlighting the achievements, training programs, and contributions of the NCC cadets from the Infantry and

Naval Wings of the institution. As a mark of honor, Brig. D.N. Pandey was presented with a memento by the principal.

Brig. Pandey commended the efforts of the NCC unit and encouraged cadets to uphold the values of discipline, leadership, and national service. He also engaged with the cadets, motivating them to participate actively in various NCC programs and strive for excellence.

Principal Dr. Javed Iqbal emphasized that the visit reinforced the vital role of NCC in shaping young minds with patriotism and social responsibility. The event was coordinated by Dr. Barkat Ali, Chief Training Officer (CTO) of the Naval Wing, while the formal vote of thanks was presented by ANO Dr. Jaswant Singh.

EDITORIAL

Daily wagers caught in political crossfire

The issue of daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir has taken a center-stage in political arena wherein it has also exposed the deep-seated rivalries and unfulfilled promises between the ruling National Conference (NC) and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Going by the official reports, an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 daily-rated, ad-hoc, and casual workers employed across various government departments remain in a precarious state, fueling protests, assembly walkouts, and a heated blame game between the two parties. Former PHE Minister and BJP leader Sham Lal Sharma recently shifted all blame onto the NC for failing to regularize daily wagers. The demand for regularization—converting these temporary jobs into permanent positions with better wages and job security—has become a litmus test for political accountability, exposing a governance stalemate amid competing narratives. The NC, which leads the government in alliance with the Congress following the 2024 Assembly elections, has accused the BJP of inaction. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary have repeatedly claimed that the BJP, during its decade-long influence in Jammu and Kashmir—either through its coalition with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) from 2015 to 2018 or its indirect control via the Lieutenant Governor's administration post-2019—did little to address the regularization crisis. The NC argues that the BJP's scrapping of SRO-520 in 2022 under the J&K Reorganisation Act closed off existing pathways to regularization, leaving workers in limbo. Abdullah pointed out that under the BJP-PDP coalition, only 570 out of approximately 61,000 daily wagers were regularized, accusing the opposition of prioritizing political optics over real solutions. Conversely, the BJP has turned the tables, accusing the NC of failing to honor its own electoral promises. During the 2024 campaign, the NC pledged to regularize daily wagers, a commitment echoed by other parties, including the BJP, PDP, and Congress. However, six months into the NC-led government, tangible progress remains elusive. Opposition leader Sunil Sharma and other BJP legislators have staged walkouts in the Assembly, criticizing the government's reliance on a committee—announced by Abdullah on March 11, 2025, and headed by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo—as a delaying tactic. BJP leaders like Abhijeet Jasrotia argue that the committee, tasked with assessing the number of daily wagers and preparing a legal and financial framework within six months, reflects the NC's lack of seriousness. The issue has ignited widespread worker unrest. Daily wagers, particularly from the Jal Shakti (Public Health Engineering) Department, have staged protests since October 2024, with a major strike in March 2025 disrupting water supply across the region. Earning as little as Rs 9,000 per month—an increase from Rs 500-700 before BJP interventions—these workers argue that successive governments have dangled the promise of regularization as an electoral tool without delivering justice. The blame game has deeper roots in Jammu and Kashmir's fractured political history. While the NC accuses the BJP of dismantling previous regularization efforts, the BJP argues that its efforts to raise wages and prioritize regularization were thwarted by its opposition status. With both parties using the Assembly as a battleground, the fate of these workers remains uncertain. Caught in this political crossfire, daily wagers and their families continue to struggle, while the government's credibility hangs in the balance.

India's rise to AI global leadership

VINAY PATHAK AND SANDEEP JOSHI

The journey of Artificial Intelligence (AI) from an unattainable goal to becoming a real-world changer has happened within a short period. For an emerging nation like India, AI is more than just a technological breakthrough, it is a powerful catalyst poised to reshape the country's future.

In recent decades, India has been employing AI step by step, simultaneously starting with school studies and competing with countries that are front-runners in the global AI arena. The path, which is marked by commitment, far-reaching planning, and the promotion of equal economic growth, demonstrates the country's readiness to employ the latest technology for the common good. At present, India is not only one of the key participants in the global AI revolution but is also one of the primary developers.

This became evident with India playing a crucial role at the recent AI Summit in Paris, where India showcased its noteworthy progress in the field of AI.

India's journey to the top of AI is profoundly linked with the wider narrative of development and progress. The first corners of AI research in India were practised at the campuses of top colleges and research laboratories. Undergraduate and graduate students at institutes such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are the ones who started an AI era in India by exploring the possibilities of machine learning, neural net-

works, and data analytics. They were just small-scale attempts. Nevertheless, they had laid the basis for a national movement.

India's emergence as a powerful force in the IT revolution not only placed the nation on the global stage but also laid the foundation with robust, flexible infrastructure, transforming emerging technologies into tangible realities. Indian IT professionals, known for their problem-solving skills, started using AI in real-life applications, from healthcare diagnosis to stock market predictions, as early as in the first decade.

As the capabilities of AI become more evident day by day, cities in the different part of nation start adopting technology to address challenges and improve governance. potential of AI became increasingly evident, cities and states across nation start adopting technology for improvement of governance and to address challenges. Today, AI-driven initiatives are transforming urban landscapes, making cities smarter, more efficient, and more liveable. Lucknow, designated as India's first AI city, is fostering technological advancements and economic growth through AI-centric infrastructure. Maharashtra is leveraging AI in agriculture, healthcare, and education, with predictive analytics for crop management, telemedicine services, and personalised learning platforms. Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM) aims to position the state as a leading AI hub, focusing on governance, social welfare, and economic development. Karnataka is at the forefront of AI adoption in education and governance,



while Kerala is advancing AI research with its Digital University developing an indigenous AI processor. Gujarat emphasises sustainable AI practices, focusing on energy-efficient technologies, and Andhra Pradesh is building AI-enabled cities like Visakhapatnam. West Bengal is innovating for safer roads with AI-driven traffic management systems in Kolkata, and Telangana has established an Applied AI Research Centre in Hyderabad. Even smaller states like Goa and Sikkim are leveraging AI for traffic management, addressing unique urban mobility challenges. There are numerous stories where India is leveraging AI for its holistic development and social progress.

These city and state-level initiatives are part of a larger national movement driven by visionary policies and initiatives. The "AI for India 2030" initiative provides a structured approach to integrating AI across the socio-economic fabric of the country. By focusing on sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and urban planning, this initiative aims to contribute significantly

to the economy and improve the quality of life for millions.

The digital Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj highlights India's innovative use of AI capabilities to handle massive gathering of public by AI-powered tools.

On one hand it helped in the security and seamless operation and on the other hand set a global benchmark for event management.

India's role in AI is not surprisingly only a technological one; today it is a socially responsible one too. As a leader in the world, India acknowledges AI's ethical dimensions and, thus, is aiming to build a framework that will ensure transparency, fairness, and responsibility in the development of this innovative technology. The country's increasing focus on making AI a useful tool for social welfare, sustainable development, and inclusive growth has made it a role model for the rest of the world. This dedication was vividly demonstrated at the recent AI Summit in Paris where India was a spearhead in shaping international policies on AI regulation and democratisation. In Paris India co-chaired debates on the proper use of AI, thus contributing to the signing of a joint declaration with other 57 countries. The Summit emphasised the need for the establishment of a governing body that could warrant the ethical and sustainable development of AI innovation. The invitation for India to co-chair the AI Summit is a strong demonstration of the world's realisation of India as a leader in AI and of its commitment to ethical innovation. The world leaders are convinced and have strong faith in leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he is capable to democratise AI regulatory body or framework to neutralise the biasness of data.

On the domestic front, while the Union Budget allocated ₹ 500 Crore for AI education, another major accomplishment was made when Meta announced the gigantic underwater cabling project for boosting digital infrastructure. Furthermore, the CEO of OpenAI, Sam Altman, had a meeting with India's IT Minister, where they discussed expanding the ecosystem of AI, a move that showed India's commitment to becoming a global leader in the AI revolution.

Rapid developments in the field of AI in India puts the country at a special vantage point of responsibility. The nation's achievements stand as a model for other developing countries as to how technology can be used for inclusive and sustainable development. Grounded in grassroots innovation and an international vision, India has the potential to be a driving force in the design of the next generation of AI. India's commitment to ethical practices in research and international sharing of knowledge places it in a strong position to handle this complex landscape. As India gains prominence on the global stage, it also shares the responsibility of steering the AI revolution with both vision and strategic foresight. This is a testament to India's indomitable will and commitment to build a better tomorrow for all.

(Vinay Pathak is assistant professor, IIT and Sandeep Joshi is senior tech journalist. Views expressed are personal)

A small inconvenience for a safer, better world

ASHA IYER KUMAR

The late-night flight from Dubai to Chennai landed smoothly. My mind was full of expectations about a large family gathering at a wedding the next day. As I walked out after immigration clearance, I saw a customs officer flagging someone frantically. I presumed it was for someone behind me, but he accosted me and asked, "Are you carrying any gold?"

"No, no, nothing except what I am wearing," I blurted. "The bangles you are wearing seem to be new."

"No, these are my everyday bangles," I said wrenching a bangle from my wrist and showing him the white film of soap settled in the grooves.

"If you are hiding any gold with you other than this, you must declare it now," the officer said, a tad menacingly.

I yanked my mangalsutra out. "Don't show, just answer me."

The instruction wasn't rude, but it was firm. He called a lady subordinate and asked her to take me for a full-body frisk. Did he think I was smuggling gold? Did I look like a carrier?

The lady did a full pat down. It was a first for me in 27 years of living abroad and multiple times entering the country through various airports. I should have been outraged for being obliquely seen in a shadow of doubt, but I was not.

Startled but not overly perturbed, I let the officials do the search and be convinced that I was not a partner in any crime like the one Kannada actress Ranya Rao had been caught for in Bengaluru. I had an obligation as a law-abiding citizen to let the officers perform their duty. I could not blame them. Smugglers came in all sizes, shapes and genders these days and they carried out daring acts that belied stereotypes.

A lone woman traveller from Dubai could be anything but innocent,

and the keepers of law had every right to make sure no guilty got away even if a few innocents got inconvenienced.

On my return flight to Dubai, I was stopped again at the security checkpoint. I was asked to open my cabin baggage, much to my disappointment. I had been very diligent in my packing, making sure I did not carry any prohibited articles in the hand baggage, and yet, I was called up to open my bag and spill its contents. What had shown up in the scanner was the jewellery I had carried for the family wedding. They asked me to hold up each piece to see if there was anything dangerous. None, whatsoever. "Are they real?" a junior officer asked.

I laughed good-naturedly. "Who wears original jewellery these days, sir? Especially when we have pretty ones in imitation?" The senior officer did not find my quip amusing and pointed at a plastic bag in which I was carrying my lunch, and asked, "What's

in the box?"

"Curd rice," I said. He asked me to open it. I opened it without batting an eyelid. When I was cleared, I was left with two trays full of assorted items waiting to be repacked. I was annoyed, but only slightly.

I felt pity for all those who went through the ordeal, along with my understanding of how the security personnel themselves bore the brunt of public irritation for following the protocol and making sure that nothing went wrong because of their oversight. As I stood there watching the officers work, I realised that the people in uniform were doing exactly what they were trained to do—ensuring that no one got away with jeopardising the safety of others. They were upholding a system designed to protect everyone, even when it meant inconveniencing some innocent travellers in the process.

Why do we feel affronted and targeted when we are asked to follow rules? As much as we may

hate the hassle, isn't it a small price to pay for the peace of mind that comes with knowing these checks are in place? It is about understanding that the system is not designed to harass us, but to protect us, or to maintain law and order in society. The obligation to follow rules is incumbent upon us. As I read a small poster on the cockpit door from my second-row seat, I was reminded that everyone had rules to follow. I felt a quiet gratitude for those who dedicated themselves to keeping us safe on the ground and in the sky.

"Flying is a serious profession. Do not carry your worries beyond this point," the signage read. By the same token, let us not carry resentment against those who uphold the rules, for, more often than not, their vigilance is the reason the world still has some order.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist and writing coach. She has published six books. Views expressed are personal)

Overcoming our addiction to sugar and salt

RAVI VALLURI

Oh, I am a sweets person, or "I prefer salty food." But have we pondered what is at the root of these cravings? Can a salty person become a sweet person, or vice versa?

Invariably craving for sugary and salty foods arises from various factors, which include stress, dehydration, sleep deprivation, nutritional deficiencies, emotional upheavals such as tragedies, illness, separation, bulimia, premenstrual syndrome or an individual unable to achieve his/her goals in life.

Such foods trigger the release of dopamine which tends to provide a temporary sense of comfort or rush of energy. It is pyrrhic and provides a temporary high to the mind which has a long-term impact on the gut and our physical and mental wellbeing.

Upon quitting alcohol, I developed a strong craving for sweets. Sweets were to replace spirits as I embarked on my journey of sobriety.

Now I am making a serious attempt to kick this habit. The mind yearns for something sweet after every meal. By eating refined sugar not only does an individual add weight at all the wrong places in the body which makes him or her appear ungainly, sugar is also hazardous for the gut.

"How will you do yoga watching me gorging a delicious pastry," my Yoga teacher admonished me.

The problem begins at the level of the abdomen and slowly, but surely spreads to various parts of the body. Sugar addiction is as deleterious as being hooked on cocaine. A close relative, also a doctor by training, talking about her husband, a former

alcoholic, mentioned, "So long as he does not drink, sweets are fine."

But excessive consumption of sweets is equally dangerous to the body. Be it white or brown, sugar remains an anathema. The same applies to the excessive intake of salt. Excessive salt causes high blood pressure and cardiac-related ailments. Recently I read a thought-provoking article by a runner. For the last forty years, this gentleman had been running incessantly across the country and was sprightly and fit.

He also advocates running barefoot quite like the celebrity Millind Soman. The runner champions a no-sugar and no-salt diet. "Humans get adequate quota of salt from the vegetables we partake," says the runner.

Excess of sugar causes Diabetes Mellitus or DM. The disease is a chronic



condition that is associated with abnormally high levels of sugar (glucose) in the blood. The common symptoms associated with diabetes are reflected in excessive urination, uncontrolled thirst, weight loss, pangs of hunger, fatigue, skin-related problems, tardy healing of wounds and injuries, yeast infection and tingling or

numbness in feet and toes. Diabetes, like high blood pressure, is a silent killer if left untreated.

Therefore, a combination of dietary habits, change in lifestyle patterns and a positive approach to life is paramount to combat the Scylla and Charybdis of diabetes and blood pressure.

Overweight people,

obese individuals, those leading a sedentary lifestyle, humans with a family history of diabetes, those suffering from hypertension and hypotension, low levels of HDL (efficacious cholesterol) and elevated triglycerides are all prone to be afflicted by Diabetes Mellitus.

Madhumeha Mukta Bharat is a Nationwide Stop-Diabetes Movement under the aegis of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusthana Samsthana (SVYASA), Bengaluru, to spread awareness about diabetes and to aid in its prevention among a wide cross-section of Indians across the country, using the ancient holistic approach of yoga.

The Art of Living is supporting SVYASA in their noble efforts to promote health and harmony. Therefore, on World Diabetes Day that is on November 14, an event was flagged off, the first

training programme for Yoga Teachers for Diabetes Management was held at the Bangalore Ashram of the Art of Living.

Several other schools of yoga and other organisations too participated in the workshop. Around 100 teachers of the Art of Living are being identified to tackle the menace of diabetes and provide holistic treatment through yoga. There is a Zen story about a monk named Haku as he learned from his master about the impermanent and temporary nature of life as one feels after drinking a coke, eating a pastry, or consuming a packet of chips.

Through the simple act of tasting salt and sugar, Haku grasped the truth that beneath the changing phenomena of life, there is an enduring essence. Giving up salt and sugar required training of the mind. This is simple Zen

story which ignites our minds to reflect on the nature of existence, reality and impermanence of human life.

To begin with we need to train our minds to unflinchingly say no to sugar and salt. Can we? Maybe the mind would resist this change, but certainly, humans can take baby steps by reducing the quantities significantly and will soon see radical changes in their bodies, minds, and souls.

By consciously reducing our intake of sugar and salt, we take the first step toward a healthier body and mind. With discipline and awareness, we can break free from cravings and embrace a more balanced, fulfilling life.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. Views expressed are personal)

Take people welfare schemes to needy population: Sat Sharma tells party leaders

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 27

Sat Sharma (CA), President, J&K BJP and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP convened a review meeting with the former BJP District Presidents of Kashmir region in Srinagar.

J&K BJP Vice-President Sofi Yousuf, Publicity Secretary (Kashmir) Arif Raja, senior leader Mudassir Wani were also present in the meeting, which focused on strengthening the party's grassroots presence across the region.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, emphasized the importance of collaborative



efforts to bolster the BJP's foundation and expand its influence in Jammu & Kashmir. He said that the party is committed to address local concerns and to build a stronger connection with the people.

While Sat Sharma enu-

merated the public welfare works undertaken for the welfare of the poor, needy and the oppressed under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government, he further asked them to take such pro-people schemes to

the needy population with the collaborative efforts to yield the maximum results. While this exercise will aid the needy persons, this will further improve the rapport of the party and its activists among the general masses.

Ashok Koul, in his address, asked the senior leaders of party to form a strong connection between the senior leadership and the ground level activists while inducting the new entrants into appropriate place into the organization to benefit the party and the people. He prompted the former District Presidents to share the organizational, and the local population related issues.

District Presidents shared valuable insights and feedback from their respective districts, offering perspectives on how to enhance the party's organizational structure and outreach at the local level.

Indian Army organizes Lecture on Woman Specific Schemes at Sabra, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 27 MAR 2025

A lecture was organised at PWS Sabra, on women specific schemes by Govt to achieve equality and their full potential in society. The Indian government has implemented several schemes and programs specifically aimed at the empowerment, upliftment and welfare of women in the country. These initiatives span various sectors such as education, health, economic development, safety and legal rights. The lecture highlighted the schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Mahila E-Haat, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, National Creche



Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers, Nari Shakti Puraskar and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. These women-specific schemes reflect the Indian government's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. By focusing on education, financial inclusion, health-

care, safety and legal rights, these programs aim to improve the quality of life for women and break the barriers of inequality. The continued implementation and expansion of these schemes are crucial to advancing the status of women in India.

SMVDU, Students and Faculty visit Small Scale Industries at Bhandarwah



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

A group of B.Sc., B.Tech, and PhD students with faculty members from the School of Biotechnology (SoBT), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently embarked on an educational visit to Bhandarwah. The tour was aimed at providing students with practical exposure to small-scale industrial setups involved in essential oil production and cleaning product manufacturing. During their visit, the students and faculty had the opportunity to explore the Himalayan Essential Oils Producer Company Ltd., a renowned enterprise in the region known for its high-quality essential oils, particularly lavender oil. The visit was facilitated by Mr. Bharat Bhushan, the owner of the Himalayan Essential Oils Producer Company Ltd., who briefed the students about the extraction process, quality control measures, and the growing importance of the essential oil industry in Bhandarwah. Mr. Bhushan has been instrumental in promoting aromatic plant cultivation and essential oil production, significantly contributing to the

economic development of the region. In addition, the students also visited Centwin, a unit of JKRLM Umeed Bhandarwah, which specializes in the manufacturing of various cleaning products, including laundry soap and handmade soap. They were given insights into the production process and the entrepreneurial initiatives supported under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) scheme. The visit was coordinated by Mr. Panchar Singh and Mr. Praveen, both serving as Cluster Coordinators under JKRLM Umeed Bhandarwah. A highlight of the visit was the exploration of the expansive lavender fields, where students learned about the cultivation, harvesting, and processing of lavender, a key component in essential oil production. The faculty members provided valuable academic perspectives on the technological aspects of essential oil extraction and its applications in various industries. This educational tour provided an enriching experience, bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical industry exposure. The students expressed their gratitude

for the opportunity to witness real-world applications of biotechnology, and the faculty members acknowledged the support extended by the industrial partners in making the visit successful. The trip was a well-coordinated effort, showcasing the synergy between academia and industry, and paving the way for future collaborations in research and development. The visit was organized under the guidance of the Head and faculty of the School of Biotechnology, Dr. Ratna Chandra, Dr. Indu Bhushan, and Dr. Vinod Singh. The trip was sponsored by the funds received under the PM USHA grant. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar applauded the efforts of the School of Biotechnology in providing students with firsthand experience of the operations, challenges, and opportunities within small-scale industries. He encouraged more such field visits to expose students to the workings of small-scale industries, to organize guest lectures from industry experts, and incorporate case studies and projects that simulate real-world scenarios, fostering practical learning and understanding.

Indian Army organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment for Women at Lam, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 27 MAR 2025

The Indian Army organized an inspiring session on Women Empowerment for women at Pukharni. The engaging session aimed to inspire and uplift young minds, promoting the importance of self-belief, education and the collective power of women. The attendees were introduced to some of the most influential women in India's history, such as Kalpana Chawla, Sunita Williams, Mithali Raj, Indira Gandhi, Mary Kom, Kiran Bedi, Arundhati Roy and Dr. Tessy Thomas, the "Missile Woman of India," to name a few. These women



made significant contributions in their fields and have been role models for generations to come. The students were later called upon stage to express their ambitions in life.

The lecture focused on giving impetus to education and financial independence which are powerful tools in the journey of

empowerment. Important aspects such as the well-being of women, women's equality, opportunities for self-development and how empowered women can be the building blocks of the nation were discussed by the students. The event not only motivated the women to work hard but also provided informa-

tion about government schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mahila E-Haat and various skill development programs. As the event concluded, the women expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army for organizing such a truly enlightening interactive session and for their continuous support in motivating and guiding the youth toward a better life. The Indian Army commended the participants for their active involvement and urged them to embrace the lessons learned to create a brighter and more equitable future. A total of 18 women attended the event.

India's Economic growth Under Modi Govt historic: Nitish Mahajan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

Nitish Mahajan, President BJP trikuta Nagar Mandal, Jammu, has lauded the Modi government for its visionary leadership that has propelled India's economy to new heights. Citing the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, he highlighted that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has doubled in the last ten years, a testament to the country's robust economic policies and governance.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader stated that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India's GDP at current prices has surged from USD 2.1 trillion in 2015 to an estimated USD 4.27 trillion by the end of 2025, marking a historic 100% growth. "This phenomenal achievement demonstrates India's emergence as an economic powerhouse and is a direct result of Modi Ji's decisive reforms and pro-business policies," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader further pointed out that India's real GDP growth rate for the current year stands at an impressive 6.5%, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. "Despite global economic uncertainties, India continues to expand at a steady pace, reinforcing investor confidence and creating new opportunities for businesses and individuals alike," he said.

Touching upon inflation, Nitish emphasized that the government's prudent monetary policies have ensured that inflation remains within the RBI's target range of 4-6%, with the current rate at 4.1%. "This stability in inflation has safeguarded the purchasing power of the common man, ensuring sustained economic progress without burdening the citizens," he noted.

Nitish Mahajan also highlighted the remarkable rise in GDP per capita, which is projected to reach USD 11,940 in terms of purchasing power parity. "This increase reflects the growing prosperity of Indian citizens and the improved standard of living brought about by the Modi government's welfare and economic initiatives," he added.

Pawan Sharma Demands Concrete Action for regularizing Daily Wagers in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

Pawan Sharma, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former state secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, has urged the Omar Abdullah government to take tangible steps to address the long-standing issues faced by daily wagers in the state.

Sharma emphasized that empty rhetoric would not provide a permanent solution to the problems of daily wagers, who have been struggling for years. He stressed the need for concrete and meaningful actions to mitigate their



sufferings.

The BJP leader's statement assumes significance in the context of the ongoing debates on the regularization of daily wagers and casual laborers in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. According to reports, there are approximately 70,000 daily wagers in the Power Development

Department (PDD), PHE and other departments across the state, awaiting regularization against available vacancies.

Sharma's demand for concrete action is in line with the aspirations of daily wagers, who have been seeking a secure and stable future for themselves and their families.

Police-Public meeting held in Vasant Vihar to Address Security Concerns

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

A police-public meeting was organized in Vasant Vihar, Ward No. 53, Trikuta Nagar, to address rising concerns over thefts and drug-related activities in the area. The meeting was organized by BJP Mahila Morcha State Secretary & Media Prabhari Prerna Nanda and hosted at the residence of senior BJP leader Sardar Amrik Singh Sudan. It was attended by SHO Trikuta Nagar Rajesh Jasrotia, along with several prominent citizens and local residents.

During the meeting, residents voiced their grievances regarding increasing thefts, drug abuse, and security issues. They urged the police to enhance patrolling, deploy night security, and take strict action against criminal activities. They also high-



lighted safety concerns for women and requested additional police presence in the area.

SHO Rajesh Jasrotia assured the attendees of the police department's commitment to maintaining law and order. He emphasized that necessary steps would be taken to curb crime and improve security measures in the locality. He also advised residents on how they could contribute to ensuring their own safety through vigilance and cooperation with law enforcement.

Speaking at the event, BJP Mahila Morcha State Secretary & Media Prabhari Prerna Nanda stressed that the police force plays a vital role in maintaining societal stability. She highlighted the need for increased police vigilance, particularly at night, to safeguard women and create a secure environment for all residents.

Senior BJP leader Advocate Amit Singh also addressed the gathering, appreciating the proactive role of the police and encouraging citizens to remain alert and report

any suspicious activities. Sardar Amrik Singh Sudan expressed gratitude to the police officials for their efforts and emphasized the importance of regular police-public interactions to strengthen security in the area.

The meeting witnessed the participation of several prominent citizens, including S. Prem Singh, Capt. Hans (Retd.), S. Gurmohan Singh, Sh. Romesh Gandhi, Sh. Puneet Ji, S. Mehar Singh, S. Daljit Singh Anand, Sh. Inderjit Verma, S. Harpal Singh, S. Kulwant Singh, S. Pritam Singh, S. Prof. K.D. Singh, S. Manjit Singh, S. Tarlok Singh, Amarjit Singh, S. Baljit Singh, S. T.P. Singh, S. Gurdeep Singh, and many others.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to work together towards a safer and crime-free neighborhood.

Indian Army organizes Iftar Party in Kupwara to promote harmony

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 27

Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers hosted a grand Iftar celebration on March 26 for local community at Patha Hirri Garrison Kupwara to promote Harmony. This event was aimed at fostering inclusivity by bringing together individuals from



various backgrounds to share a meal during the ongoing holy month of holy Ramadan.

The Iftar gathering served

as a platform to strengthen the relationship between the Indian Army and the local population, promoting unity, mutual understand-

ing, and camaraderie among all attendees, regardless of their religious affiliations.

ADC Kupwara Mr Rouf Rehman along with Dr Zaffar BMO Kupwara, SHO Kupwara, SHO Trehgam, Mr Lateef Magistrate Panzgam, Dr Ashraf SDH Kupwara along with Army officers and about 210 locals participated in the event.

Comprehensive, not cosmetic approach needed for return & rehabilitation of Displaced Community: BJP

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

A comprehensive approach and inclusive planning is required to ensure return and rehabilitation of Displaced Community from Kashmir back in Kashmir valley. Any effort to dilute the issue by superficial tactics of shifting focus will be counterproductive.

Girdhari Lal Raina, former MLC and spokesperson of BJP, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, said this during a press conference at party headquarters. He was reacting to the discussion on this issue in the state legislative assembly recently.

First and foremost, requirement is discussion with the stake holders.



Government if serious, must enter into a dialogue with the leadership of the Displaced Community to understand and address their fears, apprehensions and aspirations, he added.

GL Raina emphasized the need to differentiate between political migrants and the displaced community. Their concerns, worries and difficulties are altogether different. The Displaced Community particularly the religious

minority of Hindus has been uprooted socially, economically and culturally. Their return and rehabilitation has to comprehensively address all these aspects as is laid down under norms.

Besides safety, dignity and security the reintegration with the milieu without compromising their individuality and community identity is paramount. Seriousness of the government will depend upon the

steps taken in this direction, Raina asserted.

Illegal encroachment of immovable property, both individual and community is also troubling the displaced community earnestly. Distress sales of encroached property also need to be handled in appropriate manner.

GL Raina asked the government to ensure that respite and assistance provided by the central government to needy and genuine migrants-irrespective of religious distinction- is not stolen by seasonal migrants-who have not abandoned their homes and enjoy benefits of migration also. GL Raina also demanded overhauling of relief organization to make it more people friendly.

Billawaria addresses programme on 'One Nation, One Election' at Gangyal, Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

Former Deputy Mayor Jammu & BJP senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria addressed a programme on 'One Nation, One Election' at Ward 56, Gangyal of Jammu city. All organisations of different societies, Market associations, Mohalla's welfare committee, their Presidents and members, unanimously supported and passed the resolution of 'One Nation, One Election'. Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria stated that the 'One Nation, One Election' will coordinate the election cycle for the Lok Sabha (Parliament) and State Legislative Assemblies in the nation. He stressed that instead of holding elections multiple times in a year, this model aims to conduct all elections simultaneously,



either in one phase or in multiple phases within a short period. He said that One Nation One Election is an important step towards realizing the dream of a developed India. This move will prove to be a milestone in realizing the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a developed India 2047. Billawaria insisted that 'One Nation, One Election' is a transformative

idea that could improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance political stability. He said that the frequent elections involve massive spending by the government and political parties. He said that conducting elections together would significantly reduce the cost of security, logistics, and administrative efforts. He further said that the frequent elections lead to

the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), which restricts government decisions and policy implementations. A synchronized election cycle would prevent frequent policy standstills. He added that the simultaneous elections will improve voter participation, as people would need to vote only once in a given period rather than multiple times for different elections. He also said that 'One Nation One Election' will steer the nation on a new development spree. Billawaria appealed to all prominent Non-Organisational (NGO's), Market associations and organisations of different societies to fully support the resolution of 'One Nation One Election' and take the message to the society. He asked that this campaign will improve voter compliance and better decision making.

Digital Literacy Program conducted for Veterans and Serving Soldiers at Akhnoor

J I NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR: 27 MAR 2025

In a concerted effort to empower its serving and retired army personnel, the Indian Army and Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO), in collaboration with the Learning Links Foundation, has successfully concluded a comprehensive digital literacy program in Akhnoor Military Station. The initiative aimed to bridge the digital divide and equip participants with essential technological skills crucial for both professional and personal growth. The program's curriculum was meticulously designed to address the diverse needs of its participants, encompassing fundamental computer skills, internet navigation, online communication, cyber security aware-



ness, and the application of digital tools for various professional purposes. Participants, comprising both veterans seeking civilian employment and serving soldiers aiming to enhance their professional efficiency, engaged in

hands-on training sessions led by expert instructors from the Learning Links Foundation. This program has been instrumental in ensuring our soldiers and veterans are well-prepared to navigate the digital landscape, whether they are

transitioning to civilian careers or enhancing their current roles. Participants expressed overwhelming enthusiasm for the program, citing its relevance and practical applications. The successful completion of this digital literacy program underscores AWPO's commitment to providing comprehensive support to army personnel and their families, fostering their professional development, and ensuring their continued success. The collaboration between AWPO and the Learning Links Foundation highlights the power of strategic partnerships in addressing the evolving needs of the armed forces community, ensuring they are well-equipped to thrive in the digital age.

Dr Andrabi inaugurates the New Mimber at historic Eidgah in Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today inaugurated the Newly constructed Mimber at the historic Eidgah in Srinagar. A brief but grand event was organised by the Board for this significant inauguration. This construction was started by the Board a few months ago and Waqf Chairperson expressed her pleasure on the completion of the project. "Development of Eidgah & restoration of its glory is our dream project and the construction of Minber is the significant part of it", said Dr Andrabi. She said that we have to develop this place as per the needs of the times. "Despite the opposition from many vested interests, we continued with



our mission of making J&K Waqf Board the most ideal Board in whole of the country. Streamlining of the management system ensured transparency and accountability which resulted in the work output which is quite evident at all shrines and Waqf managed assets throughout J&K", said Darakhshan. Waqf Chairperson was accompanied by the members of Waqf Board Syed Mohammed Hussain & Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, Imam of Jamia Masjid Srinagar Mufti

Ghulam Rasool, Imam of Hazratbal shrine Maulana Riyazul Haq, Waqf Board Executive Magistrate Ishtiaq Mohiuddin, Executive Engineer Qazi Mush-taq Ahmad & others. BJP District President Srinagar Advocate Sheikh Salman was also present among many prominent citizens of Srinagar. Speaking to media, Dr Andrabi said that the Board has plans to continue the infrastructural development at all important places throughout J&K.

Airtel launches IPTV services across Jammu and Kashmir

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, launched its IPTV services across Jammu and Kashmir offering customers the best large screen viewing experience. Customers will get access to an extensive library of on-demand content from 29 prominent Streaming Apps including Sony Liv, Netflix, Apple TV+, Amazon Prime, Zee5, 600 popular television channels, and Wi-Fi service at plans starting Rs. 599. As an introductory offer, all Airtel customers will get upto 30 days of free service on the purchase of IPTV plans which can be availed through the Airtel Thanks App.

RSS to start door-to-door contact program through out J&K on occasion of its Centenary Year

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will run a door-to-door contact campaign in as many villages as possible in the Jammu & Kashmir province on the occasion of its centenary year. This year, on Vijayadashami, 2nd October, the RSS will complete 100 years of its establishment. The program will begin from that day.

On that day, programs will be held in full uniform in all mandals and cities across the province. Over the next year, along with the door-to-door contact campaign, gatherings, Hindu conferences, intellectual meetings, and social harmony meetings will be organized in cities. Literature will be distributed door-to-door. Special programs for the youth will also be held.

At the three-day Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha baithak held in Bengaluru from 21st to 23rd March, a resolution was passed regarding the atrocities on minority Hindus in Bangladesh, calling on the global community to support Hindus in Bangla-



desh. The meeting expressed deep concern about the ongoing systematic violence, injustice, and persecution of Hindus and other minority communities in Bangladesh by Islamic extremist elements. This is clearly a serious issue of human rights violations. The Representative Assembly has requested the Indian government to continuously engage in dialogue with the Bangladeshi government and take all possible measures to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

On the occasion of the RSS centenary, a resolution was also passed in

the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha baithak. In these 100 years, the RSS has earned unwavering trust and affection from society through the values imparted by its daily shakhas (branches). During this period, RSS volunteers, through love and sincerity, have strived to move beyond pride and prejudice, working together to unite all. On this centennial occasion, it is our duty to remember the revered saints, the virtuous powers of society, whose blessings and support have always been our strength in all circumstances, the selfless workers who dedicated their lives, and the volunteers in silent service.

CU Jammu organizes National Conference on Sapt-Sindhu Region



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

Central University of Jammu under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the Centre for Comparative Religions and Civilizations (CCRC) organized a National Conference on the theme "Geo-Cultural Identity of Sapt-Sindhu Region" (on the basis of Indian Literary Sources) in the University Brig Rajinder Singh Auditorium. More than thirty researchers from different educational institutions from all over India presented their research papers in the conference. The conference was organized in the hybrid mode. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of

Jammu presided over the inaugural session.

Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri, Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh delivered the key-note address. He explained almost every aspect of Sapt-Sindhu Region.

Padma Shri Prof. Harmohinder Singh Bedi, Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh gave a special lecture on Sapt-Sindhu Region on the basis of Rigveda and Gurubani sources.

Prof. Niranjna Bhandari, Director CCRC welcomed all the dignitaries and participants to the conference. She congratulated all the faculty members and students for making the conference a huge success. Prof. Yashwant Singh,

Registrar Central University of Jammu presented a vote of thanks.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Convener of the conference spoke about the theme of the conference.

Narottam Kushwaha, Research scholar, conducted the stage.

President of Wider Association of Vedic Study Prof. Shashi Tiwari presented a broad view of Sapt-Sindhu culture.

Faculty members of CCRC- Dr. Arvind Rituraj, Dr. Vikas Singh, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Dr. Amita Gupta and Dr. G.V. Snigdha Raj coordinated and chaired technical sessions. Research scholars and students of CCRC Salma Javid, Naresh, Rohit, Arpit, Sahil, Sachin, Deewanshu, Aman, Vishal, Aditi were present.

Complete SDH Sunderbani, Beripattan lift scheme: Ravinder Sharma

J I NEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, MARCH 27

Former MLC and Chief Spokesperson JKPC Mr Ravinder Sharma has urged the government to expedite the long pending project of SDH Sunderbani, Beripattan lift irrigation scheme sanctioned by UPA government & started during NC - Congress rule n 2014.

Interacting with people of the area who highlighted the need to highlight the non-completion of these vital projects for more than 11years, JKPC Chief Spokesperson lashed out at the BJP and LG administration for neglecting these important projects all these years.

Alleging neglect of Sunderbani in various spheres, he rejected the false claims of development by the ruling party. Ashwani Kumar, Yog Raj Sharma, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Kasturi Lal, Pankaj Raina, Master Kulwant Singh, Lok Raj Khajuria Sita Ram, Baldev Raj, Pawan Kumar, Kulwant Raj, Babu Ram Bhagat, Patel Kumar, Tilak Raj, Suresh Damral, Sahil Khajuria, Shubam Raina, Ranjit Singh, Om Parkash & Sunil Kumar.

He also referred to the dilapidated condition of



revenue complex in Sunderbani, abandoning the expansion of PWD Dak Bunglow Sunderbani, city by-pass road for Kangri-Beripattan road, improvement of Letar - Devak-Hathal road, Construction of Taligala - Upper Hathal road and urged the authorities to take up the priority projects at the earliest.

Other signatories included Block Presidents N C Sharma, Tirth Ram Sharma, Sdr Ajit Singh, Senior functionaries Rajesh Jamwal, Ashwani Kumar, Yog Raj Sharma, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Kasturi Lal, Pankaj Raina, Master Kulwant Singh, Lok Raj Khajuria Sita Ram, Baldev Raj, Pawan Kumar, Kulwant Raj, Babu Ram Bhagat, Patel Kumar, Tilak Raj, Suresh Damral, Sahil Khajuria, Shubam Raina, Ranjit Singh, Om Parkash & Sunil Kumar.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Fafda, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 27 MAR 2025

Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrol in the village of Fafda 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 ser-



VICES, 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 has been overwhelmingly positive. The local population expressed deep gratitude for the 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 21 Male, 18 Female & 14 Children were benefitted by the mobile medical patrol.

BJP successfully carved a niche in hearts of J&K residents: Sat Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 27

Sat Sharma (CA), President, J&K BJP and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP held a meeting with newly inducted members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Srinagar.

J&K BJP Secretary Dr. Farida Khan, Spokesperson GM Mir, Publicity Secretary (Kashmir) Arif Raja, senior leader Mudassar Wani were also present in the meeting, which provided an opportunity for the leadership to engage with the new members, emphasizing the party's vision, values, and commitment to the development of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sat Sharma while addressing the new entrants, said that the party welcomes them with the



open arms with an impression that their presence in the party will further strengthen the party's position in the region with their sheer hardwork. While lauding the efforts of Modi government and the dedication of BJP activists alike, he stated that the BJP has successfully carved a niche in the hearts of entire Jammu & Kashmir residents. Sharma added that for

the first time in history, the people of Jammu and Kashmir along with the rest of the country, have sensed the peace and progress along with the fast-paced development in the region. He termed the Modi government as the true representative of the common masses. He said that the unprecedented development has taken place in the Kashmir valley, hence

a common Kashmiri has developed a sense of faith in the Modi government.

Ashok Koul welcomed the inductees, highlighting their role in strengthening the party's presence and advancing its objectives in the region. He said that this meeting reflects the BJP's ongoing efforts to connect with individuals dedicated to serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

NIT Srinagar felicitates winners, runners-up of Inter-campus sports events

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 27

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday organized a felicitation ceremony to honor teaching and non-teaching staff who excelled in the recently held inter-campus sports events.

The event, held at the Community Room, was attended by Incharge Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Roohi Naaz, and Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman. Both felicitated the awardees and lauded their contributions.

In the Table Tennis category, nine teams participated. The winning team comprised Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Mohd Shafi Mir, and Dr. Gowhar Nabi Tantray, while Dr. Manoj Kumar and Dr. Amandeep Singh Rehal secured the runner-up position.

In Chess, which saw participation from 21 players, Dr. Manoj Kumar emerged as the winner, with Dr. Ashok Kumar fin-



ishing as the runner-up. The Badminton event featured competition among 11 teams. Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dr. Dinesh Kumar R, and Dr. Sandeep secured the winners' title, while Executive Engineer (Civil) Dr. Syed Mohsin Shabir, Mr. Sohail Ahmad Baba (SAS Asst.), and Er. Junaid ul Islam finished as runners-up.

In the female category, eight teams competed in Badminton. Dr. Hailiya Ahsan clinched the winner's title, while SAS Officer Kowsar Ali Mir secured the runner-up position.

Similarly, in Table Tennis, Dr. Janani L emerged victorious, with

SAS Officer Kowsar Ali Mir finishing as the runner-up. In Chess, SAS Officer Kowsar Ali Mir claimed the winner's position, while Prof. Shagoofa Rasool Shah finished as the runner-up.

Dr. Srinibash Mishra, former SAS Coordinator, was also felicitated by the dignitaries for his vast contributions to the department over the past several years.

Speaking on the occasion, Incharge Director Prof. Roohi Naaz highlighted the significance of sports in fostering teamwork, discipline, and overall well-being. "Sports are an integral

part of our academic ecosystem. They help develop a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie among participants. NIT Srinagar remains committed to encouraging sports activities at all levels. Such events not only enhance physical fitness but also promote mental resilience and strategic thinking," she said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, congratulated all participants and winners for their dedication and sportsmanship.

"Engaging in sports not only improves physical health but also strengthens problem-solving skills and decision-making abilities. Participation in such events contributes to the overall personality development of an individual," he added.

Dr. Manoj Kumar, Coordinator, expressed gratitude for the recognition and emphasized the role of such events in fostering a competitive yet friendly atmosphere within the institute.

Natrang Celebrates World Theatre Day with Play 'Kauva Chala Hans Ki Chaal'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

Natrang Jammu with the support of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages celebrated 'World Theatre Day' with the spectacular performance of the play 'Kauva Chala Hans Ki Chaal', an adaptation of Moliere's world famous French play 'Bourgeois Gentleman' at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. Mr. Shantmanu, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary Education, UT of J&K was the Chief Guest on the occasion who witnessed this magnificent performance along with the other distinguished dignitaries including Sh. Suresh Gupta, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UT of J&K and Ms. Harvinder Kaur, JKAS, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The play has been brilliantly directed by Sumeet Sharma, National Awardee for theatre direction and Drama Instructor at University of Jammu who has scores of praiseworthy theatre productions to his credit.

In his address, Mr. Shantmanu appreciated Natrang's consistent endeavours in shaping up the cultural landscape of the region. He complimented Director Natrang, Padmashri Balwant Thakur for his tremendous work which is unmatched in both quality and quantity which is a rare paradigm to achieve.

Sh. Suresh Gupta, expressed gladness over watching such a brilliant performance by the highly experienced artists of Natrang. This marked an appropriate commemoration of World Theatre Day. He congratulated Natrang for always striving



for excellence in the field of theatre.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Padmashri Balwant Thakur informed that 27th of March is celebrated as the 'World Theatre Day' all over the world since 1962. Initiated by International Theatre Institute, this day carries a significant importance for the artists especially theatre fraternity. Throughout the world, the institutions concerned with the promotion and preservation of art organize several events to commemorate this occasion and Natrang, the premiere theatre institute of the region pioneered to start celebrating this day in Jammu in the year 1985 and is the only group in North India which is celebrating World Theatre Day with out any break since then and it is an important event in the calendar of events of Natrang.

The play 'Kauva Chala Hans Ki Chaal' is based on the story of Mr. Kumar, a middle-aged 'bourgeois' man whose father grew rich as a cloth-merchant. His sole aim in life is to rise above his middle-class background and be accepted as an aristocrat. To this end, he orders splendid

new clothes and is very happy when anyone calls him 'high-class'. He applies himself to learning the gentlemanly arts of fencing, dancing, music and philosophy, despite his age. In doing so he continually manages to make a fool of himself, to the disgust of his hired teachers. His philosophy lesson becomes a basic lesson on language in which he is surprised and delighted to learn that he has been speaking "prose" all his life without knowing it. His intelligent wife sees that he is making a fool of himself and urges him to return to his previous middle-class life, and to forget all he has learned. A cash-strapped nobleman called Chadha attaches himself to Mr. Kumar. He secretly despises him but flatters his aristocratic dreams by telling Mr Kumar that he has mentioned his name to the bureaucrats so that he can get Kumar to pay his debts. Kumar's dreams of becoming an aristocrat go higher and higher. He dreams of marrying a Princess and Chadha very cleverly promises him to facilitate his affair but actually he himself was dating Princess on Kumar's money.

Kumar's daughter 'Dolly' loves a middle class boy Kukku but this relationship is not acceptable to Kumar as he is very class conscious and wants to marry his daughter in a very rich and reputed family. On this refusal, Bittu, Kukku's close friend plots a plan, in which he introduces Kukku to Kumar as the Prince of some country who wants to honour Kumar by marrying his daughter. Kumar very easily falls in this trap and agrees to give his daughter to Kukku who is disguised as Prince.

The play featured Anil Tickoo in the lead role who is the only actor of the region who has been awarded with SNA's National Award for Theatre Acting. His presence elevated the overall impact of the performance. He was equally supported by the other senior artists of Jammu theatre including Neeraj Kant, Sanjeev Gupta and Sunita Pandit. Other trained actors of Natrang also received accolades for their flawless performance which included Meenakshi Bhagat, Shivam Singh, Kanan Preet Kour, Mihir Gujral, Aadesh Dhar, Sanket Bhagat, Mehak Chib, Ranjana Prasher Sharma and Kartik Kumar. Lights were designed & operated by Suraj Ganjoo, Sound by Lokesh Chander, Graphics and Designing by Chander Shekhar and Soujanya Shekhar. The makeup was done by Kamal Sharma. Coordination was looked after by Mohd. Yaseen and Palshin Dutta. The hall management was looked after by Vandana Thakur, Adaksh Bagal, Aryan Sharma, Mitali Sarmal, Simran Bhagat, Priyal Ashok Gupta and Prerna Sharma.

Guru Ravidass envisioned a just, inclusive society: Balbir Ram

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, Indian Branch Secretary of the British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and a member of Begumpura Vishwa Mahasabha, stated that the great Indian saint and social reformer Guru Ravidass envisioned an ideal society free from discrimination, sufferings, and injustice. His concept of Begumpura—a city free from sorrows—was a revolutionary idea of a casteless, class-less, and exploitation-free world. His thoughts continue to inspire millions today, emphasizing equality, dignity, and social harmony.

During a discussion with prominent members of the Scheduled Caste community, Balbir Ram Rattan explained that Guru Ravidass described Begumpura as a land where all people live with dignity, free from fear and oppression. It was envi-



sioned as a place without caste-based hierarchy, discrimination, or economic inequality. In his preachings, Guru Ravidass depicted Begumpura as a city with no taxes, no sufferings, and no worries; a place where everyone is equally respected, without caste or class distinctions, and where people live peacefully without the fear of injustice.

He emphasized that Guru Ravidass' vision was not just an idealistic dream but a powerful social mes-sage against the rigid caste-based discrimination of his time. His dream of Begumpura

was an appeal for building a just and inclusive society.

Balbir Ram Rattan noted that Guru Ravidass dedicated his entire life to challenging the caste system and advocating for social justice. His message of equality was revolutionary and deeply rooted in human dignity. He taught that all human beings are equal, regardless of birth, social status, or occupation. He rejected untouchability and discrimination, preaching that God does not differentiate based on caste or sect. He believed that no work is superior or inferior and that every

individual has the right to live with respect and dignity.

Balbir Ram Rattan further stated that Guru Ravidass' teachings remain highly relevant in the modern era. His vision of Begumpura aligns with the ideals of social equality, human rights, and justice.

He shared this vision of Guru Ravidass with Somnath Bhagat (retired principal and General Secretary of All J&K Satguru Kabir Sabha), prominent social activists Gulshan Bhagat, Kamal Bhagat, and Par-shotam Bhagat.

Indian Army hosts Iftaar for Local Community at Mendhar, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 27 MAR 2025

Indian Army hosted a solemn and dignified Iftaar gathering in Mendhar, reinforcing the enduring bond between the Indian Army and the local community. With over 225 attendees, including religious leaders, civilians and Army personnel, the event symbolized unity, mutual respect and collective harmony. Beyond its religious significance, it served as a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to fostering inclusivity and



social cohesion. As the call to Maghrib prayer resonated, a moment of solemn reflection prevailed. Sol-

diers and civilians sat side by side, sharing a meal that embodied trust amongst the fraternity.

Conversations flourished and a profound sense of camaraderie underscored the gathering, highlighting the shared aspirations for peace and stability. This initiative exemplifies the Indian Army's role as not only a protector but also a unifying force, strengthening the fabric of the nation. As the evening concluded, it left behind a powerful message—true strength lies in unity and the path to lasting peace is built upon mutual respect, cooperation and an unwavering commitment to harmony.

Rangyug Celebrates World Theatre Day with Captivating Reading of Lahron Ke Rajhans



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

On the occasion of World Theatre Day, Rangyug presented a captivating script reading of Mohan Rakesh's timeless classic Lahron Ke Rajhans at Rangyug Studio. The presentation seamlessly blended deep emotions, evocative narration, and an immersive atmosphere, leaving the audience spellbound.

Directed by renowned theatre director Deepak Kumar, the performance was a tribute to the brilliance of Indian theatre, drawing the audience into the play's intense conflicts through powerful character portrayals, an enchanting musical backdrop and a visually striking set.

Mohan Rakesh's Lahron Ke Rajhans is a deeply introspective play that explores the conflict between material attachments and spiritual liberation. Set against the backdrop of ancient India, it delves into the dilemmas of Nand, a man caught between worldly desires and renunciation and the emotional turmoil of Sundari, who struggles to hold on to love in the face of change. The play's timeless themes continue to resonate, making it a powerful reflection on human emotions and existential

choices.

The reading featured Raj Kumar Behrupia as Nand, Juhie Mohan as Sundari, Poonam as Alka, Shvetaang as Ashish Sharma, Shyamaang as Shivan Gupta, Maitrya as Deepak Kumar, Soham Kashyap as Bhikshu Anand, Sumit as Shashank and Aashvi as Niharika. Their expressive dialogue delivery, nuanced pauses and tonal shifts made the reading feel like a full-fledged theatrical experience.

A few moments stood out, leaving the audience deeply moved—Nand's silent hesitation before a crucial decision, Sundari's voice trembling with suppressed emotions and Bhikshu Anand's calm yet piercing words echoing in the hushed atmosphere. As the director, Deepak Kumar masterfully orchestrated the reading, ensuring each expression and tonal shift resonated with the audience. His vision brought out the play's philosophical depth, making the experience both thought-provoking and immersive.

The script reading was elevated by a soul-stirring musical background that subtly underscored the shifting moods of the play, immersing the audience in Nand's world of inner

conflict and existential longing. The visual setting added to the beauty of the performance, with softly glowing diyas casting flickering shadows that deepened the emotional impact. The minimalist yet authentic stage design transported the audience into the world of the play.

The event was graced by eminent personalities from various walks of life, including Nagendra Singh Jamwal (JKAS), Prof. Ashok Kumar, Narinder Sharma, Sr Amarjeet Singh, Dr. Priya Dutta, Parshottam Kumar, Prof. Sukriti Sharma and Vijaya Thakur. Theatre lovers and art enthusiasts also attended, making the evening a truly memorable celebration of theatrical excellence.

More than a performance, the evening was a profound journey into the soul of theatre, awakening deep reflections on human desires and spiritual liberation. With this moving presentation, Rangyug reaffirmed its commitment to preserve and redefine India's theatrical heritage, leaving the audience in quiet contemplation—a reminder of the power of theatre to ignite emotions, provoke thought and inspire change.

CTTIK Pushes for Jammu as a Premier Travel Destination

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

The Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra (CTTIK), represented by its President Raj Kumar Padha and Secretary Atul Sharma, presented a comprehensive representation to Ms. Mugda Sinha (IAS), Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in the presence of Ms. Yasha Mudgal (IAS), Secretary Tourism J&K, and Shri Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu, on the sidelines of a brainstorming session and workshop for the promotion of tourism held at IIM Jammu. The representation highlighted the pressing challenges faced in promoting Jammu as a top-tier tourism destination and proposed strategic solutions to overcome these hurdles.

One of the major challenges discussed was the acute shortage of skilled tourism professionals, which affects tourism planning, marketing effectiveness, and visitor experience management. The lack of trained personnel in destination management, tourism marketing, and hospitality services has resulted in weak policy formulation and an unstructured approach to tourism development.

Additionally, the delegation pointed out that key government roles related to tourism are often managed by general administrators instead of tourism specialists, leading to ineffective tourism planning and implementation. Poor coordination among government bodies, tourism stakeholders, and private investors further exacerbates the issue, preventing long-term investment and sustainable growth in the sector.

Another significant concern raised was the ineffective promotion and branding of Jammu as a tourist destination. The absence of professionals in digital marketing, event planning, and international tourism outreach has led to inconsistent branding and low visibility on the global tourism map.

The region also faces a shortage of certified tour guides, adventure tourism experts, and heritage interpreters, which negatively impacts the visitor experience. Additionally, the hospitality sector is struggling due to a lack of well-trained professionals to ensure high standards of customer service.

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

Shiv Sena Hindustan strongly condemns the terrorist attack in the Hiranagar area of Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir. The attack, which took place near Amba Nal, injured a brave DSP, Dheeraj Singh Katoch, and a young SOG jawan. The terrorists, who came from Pakistan via the high river route, were being searched for by the police, Indian Army, and administration for the past 5-6 days. This was stated by Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri while addressing press conference in Jammu today.

Addressing media persons, Kesri said that terrorists suddenly opened fire on the police, injuring some personnel. A counter-operation is underway, and the terrorists will be eliminated soon. This attack is part of Pakistan's proxy war against India, where they send terrorists to Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, and also supply drugs to destroy the youth of India.

Shiv Sena Hindustan demands that the government not show any leniency towards these terrorists. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, along with the Indian Army and security forces, will eliminate these terrorists. Pakistan's attempts to disrupt peace in the Jammu region are unlikely to succeed, thanks to the strong stance of the Indian government and the resilience of the local community. Govt has made it clear that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, and no power can snatch it away, added Kesri.



programs for homestay owners, transport operators, and tour guides. Furthermore, regulatory challenges such as complex licensing procedures and the absence of a single-window clearance system make it difficult for new tourism ventures to establish and grow.

To address these issues, president Raj Kumar Padha proposed several strategic measures, including the recruitment of tourism professionals in key government roles and the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to bring in corporate expertise and industry best practices. Strengthening training and capacity-building initiatives was emphasized, with a recommendation to set up tourism skill development centers in Jammu, Katra, and Patnitop, along with certification courses for adventure tourism, eco-tourism, and cultural tourism guides. The representation also stressed the importance of collaboration with universities and tourism institutes to create a skilled workforce, suggesting the introduction of practical training pro-

grams, internships, and fellowships for students pursuing tourism-related degrees.

Additionally, the development of a professional tourist guide network was proposed, with the establishment of certified training programs for multilingual and thematic tour guides. Special provisions should be made for ex-servicemen and local youth to be trained as professional guides, particularly in adventure tourism, with a focus on mountaineering, trekking, and river rafting. Another key suggestion was enhancing Jammu's global visibility through improved digital and international marketing strategies. Hiring professionals skilled in social media marketing, travel branding, and content creation was recommended, along with the formation of a dedicated tourism marketing team responsible for international promotions, influencer collaborations, and participation in travel expos. Virtual tourism campaigns were also suggested as an innovative way to showcase Jammu's diverse attractions to a global audience.

The representation further emphasized the need to encourage tourism entrepreneurship by providing financial incentives, subsidies, and loans to young professionals interested in launching tourism ventures. Start-ups focusing on adventure tourism, rural tourism, and eco-tourism should be actively supported,

while grants should be introduced to help locals develop homestays and community-based tourism projects. Additionally, simplifying regulatory procedures by introducing a single-window clearance system for tourism projects was recommended to facilitate ease of doing business in the sector. Regular stakeholder meetings involving industry leaders, hoteliers, and tour operators were also proposed to ensure that tourism policies align with industry needs and emerging market trends.

Ms. Mugda Sinha (IAS) positively assured CTTIK that she would thoroughly examine the representation containing all the challenges and suggestions. She also assured that she would adopt a proactive approach in corroborating and addressing the concerns raised, working towards viable solutions to promote Jammu's tourism sector effectively.

In conclusion, the Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra reiterated its commitment to working closely with government authorities and stakeholders to transform Jammu into a world-class tourist destination. By investing in skilled manpower, strengthening tourism policies, and fostering strategic partnerships, the region has the potential to significantly enhance visitor experiences, boost tourism revenue, and contribute to the economic and cultural prosperity of Jammu.

NHM Employees across Jammu Division to observe two-hour pen-down strike on March 29

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

The All JK NHM Employees Association, Jammu Division—a constituent unit of the Government Employees Joint Action Committee and JK Medical Employees Federation—has announced a two-hour pen-down strike across Jammu Division on Saturday, 29th March 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon to press for their long-pending and genuine demands.

NHM employees have been serving in the Health Department of J&K for over two decades with unwavering dedication and sincerity. Their contributions have played a pivotal role in improving healthcare services and patient care across the region. However, despite their significant service, the Government has failed to address their legitimate concerns, which have been repeatedly raised before the relevant authorities.

The key demands of NHM employees include,

Implementation of a job policy to ensure job security and stability, Salary enhancement to meet rising living costs, Timely salary disbursement, as frequent delays have caused financial hardships and mental distress among employees and their families and other genuine concern of the employees.

In light of these persistent issues, NHM employees will observe a two-hour complete "Kaam Chhod Hartal" at their respective places of posting on 29-03-2025, except for emergency services. This strike is aimed at drawing the attention of the concerned authorities to intervene immediately and address their long-standing grievances.

In a statement issued to the media, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Provincial President of the All JK NHM Employees Association, Jammu Division, informed that NHM employees are deeply distressed due to the continuous neglect of their genuine demands

by the government. He emphasized that despite serving for over 20 years, NHM employees are still deprived of job security, timely salary disbursement, and necessary salary revisions. He urged the authorities to take immediate action and warned that if their demands continue to be ignored, they may be compelled to intensify their protest in the future.

Dr. Vikas Sharma also appealed to all NHM employees across Jammu Division to observe the two-hour strike effectively and ensure its success. He emphasized that unity and collective participation are crucial in making their voices heard and achieving their rightful demands.

The All JK NHM Employees Association, Jammu Division urges the Government to take prompt action to resolve these issues and ensure the well-being of thousands of NHM employees who have been serving the people of J&K with dedication.


Govt of Jammu and Kashmir (Union Territory)
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER REASI
REASI FOREST DIVISION

Tele: 01991-295263 Fax: 01991-244129

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Notification of villages in Reasi Forest Division as per approved Felling Programme of Khair (Acacia Catechu) trees in the proprietary lands for the year 2025-26 Public Notice thereof:

It is for the information of the general public that consequent upon the accord of sanction by the Empowered Officer (Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu) under Sub-Section 2, Section 5 of SRO 111 of 2016 dated 31/03/2016 issued vide order under endorsement No. CCF/J/1822-37 dated 10/09/2016 adopting 10 years felling programme of Khair trees (Acacia catechu) growing on the proprietary land of farmers, following villages under Reasi Forest Division having Khair trees sanctioned for being felled are hereby notified for the year 2025-26 as under :-

S.NO.	Name of Forest Division	Name of Forest Range	Name of the village (s)	Tehsil	District
1	Reasi Forest Division	Katra	Buttan	Katra	Reasi
2		Thakrakote	Gajore	Pouni	Reasi
3		Thakrakote	Sungal (Jalla, Nar)	Pouni	Reasi
4		Thakrakote	Malel	Reasi	Reasi
5		Katra	Kakrail	Katra	Reasi
6		Katra	Sera Kotla	Katra	Reasi

Hence, interested farmers shall apply on Form "B" which can be obtained from Office of Divisional Forest Officer Reasi. The duly filled application form (Form B) supported with requisite documents as mandated under Management Plan for Khair (Acacia catechu) and SRO-111 shall be received in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Reasi upto 31st May, 2025.

It is to be noted that as per the revised timeline approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in I.A No. 172781 of 2024 with I.A. No. 172375 of 2024 in WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No. 171/1996, that were notified in the relevant portion of Para 1 of the Management Plan notified vide notification No. PCCF/Coordic/Khair/Management Plan/20216/2608-78 dated 26-04-2016, and has been recently amended as per PCCF Office Notification No. PCCF/Cordic/Khair Management Plan/2016/190-260 dated 25-01-2025, the Form "B" submitted to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, the period of application is only for two months i.e, April, 2025 and May, 2025.

Note :-

- The application (Form-B) shall strictly be received from the farmers directly and not from any contractor/agent etc.**
- No application (Form-B) shall not be entertained after 31st May, 2025.**

-sd-

(Sunil Singh)

**Divisional Forest Officer
Reasi Forest Division
Reasi**

**DIP/J-11440/24
Date: 27-3-25**

Rekha Mahajan advocates for Wellness, empowerment at VLCC Mega Event

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 26

Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan graced the VLCC Mega Event held at Zone by the Park, Rail Head Complex, Jammu. The event, organized to promote health, wellness, and self-care, brought together industry experts and professionals to engage with the community on key aspects of personal well-being. During the event, Rekha Mahajan emphasized the importance of health awareness and self-care, particularly for women. She highlighted the transformative initiatives of the Modi government aimed at women's empowerment, fitness, and overall well-being, including flagship programs like Poshan Abhiyaan and Ayushman Bharat. The program featured an expert meet with notable professionals, including Ms. Pooja Wadhwa, Dr. Roshan Karn, and Dr. Arti Gupta, who shared valuable insights on health, wellness, and lifestyle improvements. Engaging activities and interactive sessions were followed by exciting games



and a networking lunch. The event was coordinated by Dr. Juhi Gupta, Centre Head of VLCC Channi, along with Reema Gandotra, Centre Head of VLCC Gandhi Nagar.

Rekha Mahajan lauded the efforts of VLCC and the organizing team for conducting such an informative and engaging event. She specifically appreciated the contributions of Assistant Centre Head Jitendra Kour, Dietitian Gunjeet Kour, and Physiotherapist Manisha Sharma from VLCC Channi branch

for their dedication and commitment to promoting health and wellness.

She further stressed the need for community participation in health and wellness programs, ensuring that individuals across all sections of society benefit from expert guidance and modern healthcare advancements. The event concluded with a strong message on self-care, preventive healthcare, and the role of community-driven initiatives in fostering a healthier and stronger nation.

Old electricity bills should be waived: Amit Kapoor

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Amit Kapoor and other colleagues have strongly raised the demand for waiving old electricity bills and said that alcohol should be completely banned in Jammu and Kashmir. Along with this, he extended his full support to the striking daily wage earners and said that all daily wage earners should be regularized immediately and Minimum Wages Act should be implemented in their case. Amit Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu. Attacking the hue and cry being raised by the BJP regarding waiving electricity bills and providing 200 units of free electricity, he said that the BJP is only shedding crocodile tears. Whereas it has nothing to do with the problems of the people.

Expressing deep concern over power cuts, Amit Kapoor said that smart meters were installed in the state during the BJP rule and people were promised that after the installation of smart meters, they will be provided electricity round the clock. He said that despite this, the government has not been able to provide 24-hour electricity to the people and power cuts are continuing. He strongly demanded from the government that the old electricity bills should be waived immediately and 200 units of free electricity should be provided to all the people. Expressing deep concern over the protest being carried out by the daily wage earners, Amit Kapoor extended full support to them. He said that even though the government has formed a committee to resolve their issues, this process is likely to take time. He strongly demanded from the government to immediately release the pending salaries of all the daily wage earners working in various departments including National Health Mission (NHM) and Asha workers. He said that the daily wagers' strike has created a water crisis and people are facing problems even for drinking water while the government has failed



to make any alternative arrangement. Along with this, he said that daily wage earners should be paid minimum wages in line with the standards of the Union Territory as is the practice in other parts of the country. Ensuring wages on time is not just a matter of policy but a commitment to the dignity and well-being of these hardworking individuals. He appealed to the government to show empathy and adopt a humane approach to resolve their grievances. He said that daily wage earners are demanding what is their right. Immediate payment of pending wages and implementation of minimum wage standards should be the top priority. The government should show its commitment to social justice by acting decisively. Demanding a complete ban on liquor in Jammu and Kashmir, Amit Kapoor slammed the BJP for opening a large number of liquor shops during the BJP rule. He said that BJP leaders are silent on the existence of meat and liquor shops near the temple in the railway station. Along with this, he also said that during the BJP rule, one person had hundreds of liquor shops in his name which are still there which he has taken in different names in the name of his close relatives. He demanded that there should be a high level investigation into this entire matter and this scam should be exposed and there should be a complete ban on liquor in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amit Kapoor, referring to the mining scam, said that after the formation of the UT, mining contracts have been given to outsiders and they are charging arbitrary prices due to which the prices of construction material are skyrocketing. He said that

this has made it difficult for the common man to build his house while outsiders are looting the minerals of Jammu. He said that these contracts have also been given to outsiders during the BJP rule. He said that the looting of Jammu's minerals will not be tolerated at any cost. Along with this, he welcomed the announcement of free travel to women in SRTC and e-rickshaws by the Omar government and said that for this the government should increase the number of e-rickshaws and SRTC buses for women on different routes. He also expressed serious concern over the fact that the women employees travelling at railway stations in Jammu and Kashmir have been barred from getting luggage in tickets. He said that the e-rickshaws including the long route of SRTC also need to issue strict instructions that they should allow women employees to get free luggage in their respective tickets and travel abroad from April 1.

At the same time, Amit Kapoor directed AAP leader Mohraz Aamir to raise the party's supporters and expose the BJP's supporting party during the assembly session. He said that a single leader of AAP has been more infamous than two BJP extremists and has left no stone unturned in exposing the BJP leaders. He expressed hope that the Aam Aadmi Party led by the leaders will emerge as the voice of the people in the state and will live up to the expectations and expectations of the people.

Senior AAP leaders Yasir Matto, Harpreet Singh, Amrik Singh, Beti Singh, Sandeep Sharma, Harnek Singh Gulzar Choudhary, Harnet Singh Sandy and Bharti GB and others were also present during the film conference.

Tony leads delegation to JMC Commissioner, seeks resolution of Civic Issues

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, led a deputation to meet Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner Divyansh Yadav, submitting a comprehensive charter of demands concerning the grievances of Ward 52 residents and Bagh-e-Bahu shopkeepers.

The delegation comprised Banarsi Thapa, K.S. Mahans, Karam Chand, and Rakesh Kumar, who collectively raised pressing civic issues affecting the daily lives of the people.

Tony urged the JMC Commissioner to take immediate action against the companies responsible for repairing streetlights, emphasizing the urgent need to restore non-functional streetlights in Dadu Daddi Park, Channi Himmatt, and adjoining areas. He stressed that the delayed repairs have caused inconvenience to residents and must be addressed without further delay.

Additionally, Tony strongly advocated for the regularization of Bawe Market, urging the admin-



istration to allot land to all 25 Rehri (street vendors) who have already been identified without any pick-and-choose policy. He insisted that every vendor should get equal opportunity to continue their livelihood in a fair and transparent manner.

Furthermore, he highlighted the genuine demands of Bagh-e-Bahu shopkeepers, urging the JMC to resolve their grievances on priority. Tony also called for immediate intervention in addressing civic issues in Ward 52, including sanitation, drainage, and road maintenance problems.

The JMC Commissioner assured the delegation that necessary steps would be taken promptly to address the raised concerns.

Tony reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to fighting for the rights of the people and ensuring that their demands are met efficiently. He urged the administration to take a proactive approach in resolving civic issues and providing necessary infrastructure to residents and business owners alike.

"Civic amenities should not be neglected. The administration must take accountability and ensure that basic infrastructure remains functional for the well-being of the people," Tony asserted.

He vowed to continue his efforts to safeguard the interests of the people and push for long-term solutions that promote fair governance and development.

Sahil Mahajan releases devotional Bhajan "Naam Jap Ke" in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 27

Today Sahil Mahajan (BJP Jk ut Co-Convenor Sanskriti, Art, Culture Cell) along with Present Vijay Malhotra (Singer) Arun Sharma (Singer) Devotional Song "Naam Jap Ke" in Jammu. Program was Organised by Kaith Music Factory. The Song was released under banner Master Punm 7903 Music Present Sung by Poonam Sharma, Music by Music T L Music Studio (Ravi Raghuvanshi), Directed by KK Malhotra, Lyrics by Sanjay Vidrohi, Producer By: Avinash Sharma DOP by Harsh Kumar & Nishan, Asstt director Prerna Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, Sahil Mahajan said that in Jammu and Kashmir, the devotional songs of Gods and Goddesses are played everywhere during every religious ritual or function whether it is Jagrata, Langar, Seva, Pooja or other religious rituals. He said that the people of Jammu



and Kashmir should also support and encourage the local artists of Jammu and Kashmir so that they can also grow and reach new heights in their respective industries as it will make every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir proud.

While Sahil Mahajan further added that the youth of J&K should also participate more in the religious activities and rituals as it

will guide them towards an enlightened future and prevent them from going on the wrong track in life and doing illegal activities like drugs and ruining their own lives.

Sh. Sahil Mahajan said that the Cell is always there to support every artist of Jammu and Kashmir and if they need any help they can approach party for the assistance.

Hakeem Yaseen extends warm greetings on Shab-e-Qadr, prays for peace in Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 27

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the sacred occasion of Shab-e-Qadr.

In his message, Hakeem Yaseen emphasized the immense spiritual significance of this blessed night, which is believed to be the night of divine mercy and forgiveness. He urged people to dedicate the occasion to sincere prayers, seeking peace, stability, and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir.

"Shab-e-Qadr is a night of divine blessings, a time for deep introspection and supplication. Let us collectively pray for an end to suffering, for peace to prevail, and for harmony to be restored in our beloved Kashmir," he said.

Hakeem Yaseen further



called upon the people to uphold the values of compassion, brotherhood, and unity, especially in these challenging times.

He expressed hope that the prayers of this sacred night would bring solace to those in distress and usher in a future of progress and tranquility for the region.

"May this blessed night illuminate our hearts with faith, strengthen our resolve for unity, and bring lasting peace to Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Students of Army Goodwill School Hajinar shine in State-Level Letter Writing Competition



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAR 27

In a proud moment for Army Goodwill Higher Secondary School Hajinar, two of its students have secured top positions in the prestigious Dhai Akhar Letter Writing Competition, organized by the Department of Posts, India.

Kafa Tasleem, a student of Class 8, won 1st position in the Envelope Category (Below 18 years) at the state level, earning a cash prize of Rs 25,000. Meanwhile, Toiba Mujahid of Class 9 secured 2nd position in the same category, receiving a cash award of Rs 10,000.

This remarkable achievement was made possible through the platform provided by Bharti Airtel Foundation and the unwavering support of the school, the Indian Army, Principal Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khawaja, the school man-

agement, and the dedicated staff of Army Goodwill Higher Secondary School Hajinar.

The competition, themed "The Joy of Writing: Importance of Letters in a Digital Age," aimed to revive the art of letter writing and encourage young minds to express themselves effectively through written communication. The event was successfully coordinated at the school level by Mr. Tahir Gaffar, who played a key role in mentoring and guiding the students.

The school administration extended heartfelt congratulations to the winners and expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to this success. Their achievement is a testament to the school's commitment to fostering academic excellence and literary skills among students.

Raman Bhalla Inspects Incomplete Projects in Bagh-e-Bahu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 27

A team of Congress leaders led by Working President JKPC Shri Raman Bhalla today undertook extensive tour of Bage-Bahu area and took stock of the works of various projects started by him during 15 years back. He said that except Gandola Project many other projects are still incomplete and some projects which have been completed, are still lying in dilapidated condition, as

there are many discrepancies in the work.

He said that the pilgrims who visit Shri Vaishno Devi also come here in Jammu to have Darshan of Mata Bawebali. The track from Balidan Stump-Harki Pori and Shahbaad to Herbal Garden is in dilapidated condition and become un-walkable. There is much more scope for development of Bage-Bahu area to attract the visitors.

He said that it is slum area and most of the residents belong to weaker

sections of the society. They earn their livelihood by way of Rehri - Phari shops. They complained that due to bad condition of road and track, visitors avoid to go that area and their livelihood badly affected.

Shri Bhalla demanded that the work on abandoned projects or on incomplete projects should be started besides the condition of lanes and drains should be improved, immediately.

Local leaders who

'Shaan-e-Ramadan fest-2025' concludes at KU

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 27

To celebrate the spiritual essence of Ramadan and provide a platform for students to showcase their talent, the prize distribution ceremony of two-day festival 'Shaan-e-Ramadan 2025' was held at the varsity.

The event was organized by the Division of Youth Affairs, Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), KU.

It aimed to felicitate

the winners of various competitions as part of this festival from March 25 to March 26. The event also served as a platform to inspire students to engage with the spiritual and cultural essence of the holy month.

Speaking at the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, who was the chief guest, congratulated the participants and organizers for their efforts in making the event a success.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

DC inaugurates up-gradation of DM's Jayshree Library at Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 27

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today inaugurated the up-gradation of DM's Jayshree Library under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme reaffirming the administration's commitment to enhancing educational facilities for girl students in the district. Located in the District Information Centre, the library has long been a valuable resource for students. Recognizing the need for better infrastructure, the administration has undertaken significant upgrades to make it more accessible and conducive for learning.



The newly installed facilities include CCTV cameras, air conditioning and heating systems, a first aid kit a water purifier, a vending machine, an all-in-one PC, a printer, Wi-Fi connectivity, an exhaust fan, an incinerator and other necessary items required for smooth functioning of the library. These improvements aim to bring the library on par with private institutions,

the enhanced facilities. He emphasized that the administration remains committed to fostering academic excellence and skill development, particularly among young girls. He further stated that these upgrades mark the beginning of a broader initiative to strengthen learning infrastructure in the district. "This initiative under

offering students a high-quality educational environment. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma encouraged students to make the best use of the enhanced facilities. He emphasized that the administration remains committed to fostering academic excellence and skill development, particularly among young girls. He further stated that these upgrades mark the beginning of a broader initiative to strengthen learning infrastructure in the district.

the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is a step towards empowering young girls by providing them with a state-of-the-art learning space. Our goal is to create an environment where students can excel academically and develop essential skills for their future," the DC said.

He also assured that the district administration would continue to explore further enhancements to the library to ensure it remains a premier educational resource for the community.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Raheem, District Information Officer Ashiq Rafiq Malik, and other officials.

Director H&P Deptt reviews ongoing works in Kashmir division

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 27

Director, Hospitality & Protocol Department, Jammu & Kashmir, Ashwani Khajuria, conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing projects in the Kashmir division, with emphasis on completion of pending work in the Additional Block of Circuit House, Srinagar.



During the review, the Director expressed serious concern over project delays and issued strict directives to the executing agencies, emphasizing the completion of the work well before April 20, 2025. He instructed the officials to eliminate bottlenecks, expedite progress and uphold the highest standards of quality and efficiency.

Among others present were Joint Director H&P Kashmir, Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, Deputy Director & Assistant Director Hospitality & Protocol Kashmir; Executive Engineer, R&B Division Dalgate and representatives from R&B Electric Division, Mechanical and Hospital Division and other functionaries.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the Additional Block, the Director stressed that its timely completion is critical for accommodating the dignitaries and officials, partic-

ularly during high profile government engagements. He emphasized regular progress reviews and close monitoring of the project, cautioning that any further delay or lapse will be dealt with strictly.

During the visit, the Director inspected key guest houses and facilities, assessing the progress on renovation, up-gradation and housekeeping initiatives. Special attention was given to improving boarding and lodging services in line with modern hospital-

ity standards. Reaffirming the commitment of the Hospitality & Protocol Department to excellence, the Director reiterated that all establishments under its jurisdiction must reflect the highest standards of professionalism and service delivery.

The review also included discussion on enhancing coordination with allied departments to streamline services and address any operational challenges.

SMC gears-up for major religious festivities with special arrangements across Srinagar

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 26

In preparation for the upcoming religious occasions of Shab-e-Qadr, Jummat-ul-Vida, Navratra and Eid-ul-Fitr, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has launched a series of special measures to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, and smooth pedestrian and vehicular movement across the city.



Commissioner, SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed has directed officials to implement extensive sanitation and facility management efforts at all major religious sites, ensuring a hygienic and organized environment for devotees.

SMC will uphold high sanitation standards at key religious locations, including Hazratbal, Jenab Sahib Soura, Dastgeer Sahib

mination of the festivities. The Commissioner directed SMC's Encroachment Wing to conduct massive anti-encroachment drives to ensure smooth pedestrian and vehicular movement throughout the city.

SMC's Electric Wing was directed to ensure the proper functioning of streetlights, particularly in and around religious sites. Dedicated repair teams will remain on standby to promptly address any lighting issues.

SMC will deploy a dog-catching squad during Shab-e-Qadr, Jummat-ul-Vida, and Eid-ul-Fitr at Hazratbal to prevent stray animals from entering the Asar Sharief premises. Additionally, sanitation workers will be deployed to maintain cleanliness throughout the area.

SMC will conduct special sanitation drives to ensure all religious sites remain clean and hygienic ahead of the festivities.

SMC is committed to a clean and hassle-free celebration with these measures in place; it reaffirms its commitment to providing a clean, well-managed, and safe environment for citizens observing these significant religious events.

The Commissioner has directed all officials to execute these measures promptly and effectively, ensuring a seamless experience for devotees across Srinagar.

For grievances, updates, or additional information, citizens can reach SMC's 24x7 Control Room through the following helplines: 18001807038, 0194-2474499, 0194-2470465.

Food Safety Team seizes expired food items worth Rs.55k in Srinagar

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 27

Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, market inspections are being continuously conducted in Srinagar City to ensure sale of quality food items to the consumers.



Accordingly, acting promptly on a specific tip-off, the Food Safety Department carried out a targeted raid on a wholesaler's premises in Saraf Kadal, Srinagar.

The raid, conducted in response to an anonymous complaint, uncovered an alarming stockpile of expired food items, including milk and milk products valued at approximately Rs. 55,000. Shockingly, the seized stock also include items that had expired as

far back as 2018.

During the inspection led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, it was observed that expired goods were stored alongside fresh supplies, reflecting a disregard for fundamental food safety practices and consumer health.

When questioned, the Food Business Operator (FBO) at the premises failed to provide any satisfactory explanation on the pres-

ence of expired products.

The Food Safety team seized the expired items to prevent them from reaching consumers and contributing to potential health hazards.

As per the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS Act), the case has been forwarded to the Adjudicating Officer (Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar) for further legal proceedings. The swift and decisive action reinforces the

Department's commitment to safeguarding public health by ensuring compliance with food safety regulations.

The Food Safety Department reiterated its instructions to all Food Business Operators (FBOs) to ensure expired food items must be stored in a designated quarantine area, separate from fresh supplies.

Any expired items found exhibited for sale will face strict penalties under the relevant provisions of the FSS Act.

Consumers are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious practices involving the sale of expired or substandard food items to the Food Safety Department. Public cooperation plays a pivotal role in upholding food safety standards and protecting community health.

DC reviews progress of dev projects, implementation of Welfare Schemes in Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 27

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of the development projects and implementation of different welfare schemes in the district.



The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ongoing construction of Tehsil office (Niabat) buildings at Kangri, Rajal, and Manjakote, emphasizing the need for timely completion. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the work while maintaining quality standards.

Further, the progress of projects under the SAMAGRA initiative was assessed, including the Boys Hostel at Thandi Kassi, the Physics and Chemistry Lab at Laroka and the construction of three classrooms at GHSS Khawas. The DC instructed the executing agencies to ensure the projects are completed within the stipulated time frame.

A detailed review of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was conducted, with directions issued to all Additional Deputy

Commissioners (ADMs) and Tehsildars to closely monitor its implementation. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of obtaining daily reports from the concerned Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and Junior Engineers (JEs) regarding the scheme's progress and addressing any delays in installation. Additionally, the Information Department was directed to widely publicize success stories and beneficiary experiences through videos to encourage greater participation.

The meeting also focused on AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) ben-

eficiaries, with the DC instructing the AD FCS & CA and Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs) to identify eligible households, remove inactive and bogus beneficiaries, and ensure thorough physical verification to maintain data integrity and transparency.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the registration progress on the JK SAMADHAN Portal, allocating targets to concerned officers and directing them to achieve the set objectives efficiently.

A review of the PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin) survey was conducted, wherein

the DC emphasized the inclusion of genuine beneficiaries and the exclusion of undeserving applicants.

Similarly, the PMAY-Urban 2.0 survey was also discussed, with directions for its effective execution.

To strengthen field-level monitoring, the Deputy Commissioner mandated a structured tour plan for ADCs to verify beneficiaries under AAY, PMAY-G, and other welfare schemes. Additionally, all district officers were instructed to conduct field visits at least once a month to ensure ground-level assessment and effective implementation.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa; ACR, Mohd Jahangir Khan; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; Executive Engineer PDD, Abdul Rasheed; CEO; ACD, Vijay Kumar Verma; AD FCS & CA, Rohit Kumar; EO Municipality, Yousaf-ul-Umar, and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Kupwara flags-off 02 4x4 Ambulances with ALS, School Bus for border areas of Machil, Keran

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 27

To boost the health care and education sectors of two far flung blocks of the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today flagged-off two newly approved Ambulances with Advanced Life Support (ALS) and a School Bus for border areas of Machil and Keran, in a ceremony held at DC office, here.



On the occasion, one each Ambulance with Advanced Life Support facility has been allotted to PHC Keran and PHC Machil to add to the existing healthcare machinery of these areas. Besides, a 20 seater School Bus has been allotted to Higher Secondary School Keran to facilitate the students. Both were the long pending demands of the local people of Keran and Machil which were resolved today by the District Administration.

Speaking at the occasion, the DC said that the

which have tough terrain and topography. She added that such initiatives from administration will also continue in future as well with special focus on far flung border areas.

Referring to the Robotic Labs, Ayushi said two Robotic (STEM) Labs one each at BHSS Kupwara and BHSS Handwara have been established by the

District Administration Kupwara is committed to ensure development and welfare of all regions of the district especially border and far flung areas of Machil, Keran and Karnah.

She said the Ambulances equipped with state of the art healthcare technology with 4x4 gears will boost the health care support in these border areas

District Administration Kupwara which will inculcate scientific and mathematical temperament among students of different classes.

DC said that the Robotic Labs have also been approved for BHSS Machil, GHSS Tangdar and BHSS Keran which will be established in coming days. It is the first of its ventures in Kupwara where students will be motivated for AI learning.

DDC Member Kalaroose, Mustaf Rahie; CEO Kupwara, CMO, CPO and a large number of employees and people were present during the ceremony. Meanwhile, local people and senior citizens of Machil and Keran areas have expressed their gratitude towards the District Administration especially DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan for addressing their long pending demands.