

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
- Severe stomach pain
- Redness on the skin
- Stiff neck
- Small red spots on the skin
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhoea
- Urine that is dark or bloody

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Search operation launched in Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Security forces on Friday launched a search operation following reports of movement of suspected individuals in a forest in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said.

A joint team comprising police, Army, and CRPF began the operation in the forested area of Reasi this morning, they added.

Backed by surveillance equipment, the operation was underway to comb the dense terrain and track down any potential threats, the officials said.

The cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in located in Reasi district and the operation comes ahead of the forthcoming Navratri festival. (Agencies)

DC Rajouri suspends Khilafwarzi inspector for dereliction of Duty

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 28

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma has placed Khilafwarzi Inspector (Enforcement Officer) under suspension for not reporting violation of building permission in Phalliana-Rajouri. The action follows complaints and a reference from the Army regarding violations of the Works of Defence Act (WODA) in the area.

To assess the extent of the violations, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) and Tehsildar, under order No. OQ/2024-25/2129 dated 27.03.2025, were directed to conduct a site inspection and submit a report.

The report submitted by the team of officers revealed unauthorized construction

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Survey of Jammu-Poonch Rail Link via Akhnour, Rajouri shows low traffic projections: Railway Minister

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

A survey for a new 223-km rail line between Jammu and Poonch via Akhnour and Rajouri was carried out and the project cost was assessed as Rs 22,771 crore but it has low traffic projections, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

BJP MP Ghulam Ali asked if it has been proposed to the government to establish Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch railway connectivity.

"The work on the new railway line connecting Jammu with Srinagar i.e. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project (272 km) has been completed. This project covers the districts of

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Body of fourth cop sighted as security forces resume anti-terror operation in Kathua

AGENCIES
JAMMU, MAR 28

The body of another policeman was sighted using a drone on Friday near the spot where a gunfight took place earlier in a remote forested area in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

This is the fourth cop to be have died in the gunfight in which three terrorists are also confirmed to have been killed, officials said.

Heavy firing and deafening sounds of explosions continued for the second day as police assisted by the Army and CRPF moved this morning from different directions, after a night halt to sanitise the Safyan area, they said.

On Thursday, three suspected Pakistani terrorists of proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit and an equal



number of policemen were found dead after the day-long gunfight while one policeman was reported missing. Seven others, including a deputy superintendent of police, were injured in the gunbattle.

The officials said the security forces resumed the operation with the first light of

day, having the primary focus to retrieve the bodies of the deceased, finding a missing policeman and neutralising any other threat.

They said the joint security parties are moving cautiously to the targeted area as two more terrorists are

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India's efforts, opinion receiving importance today like never before: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that the importance India's efforts, innovations and opinions are receiving today never happened earlier.

Speaking at the TV9 Summit on the theme of "What India Thinks Today", Modi said India is not only participating in the world order but also contributing to making its future safe and secure.

Taking an apparent swipe at opposition parties for their criticism of probe agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED), he said those who looted the public money have had to return it.

"The ED is being abused day and night. It has recovered over Rs 22,000 crore. This money is being returned legally to those from whom it



was looted," he said.

He said the country has travelled from aspiration to achievement and from desperation to development under his government's over 10-year tenure, citing its massive welfare programmes for health insurance, cooking gas cylinders, building toilets and supplying piped drinking water. India is now not only a

nation that dreams but also a nation that delivers, he said.

Asserting that the world's eyes are on India, he said it wants to know what the country thinks today.

He noted that the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) data has stated that India is the only major economy whose GDP has doubled in 10 years.

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At least 144 people killed, 730 injured in Myanmar in powerful quake



AGENCIES
BANGKOK, MAR 28

A powerful earthquake rocked Myanmar and neighbouring Thailand on Friday, destroying buildings, a bridge and a dam. At least 144 people were killed and 730 injured in Myanmar, where photos and video from two hard-hit cities showed extensive damage.

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India ready to offer all assistance to quake-hit Myanmar, Thailand: PM Modi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today voiced concern over the situation in

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Dr Jitendra Singh announces regional biotech centres across India to accelerate startups, biomanufacturing

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

At a high-level meeting of the Department of Biotechnology, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the creation of Regional BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) Centres across India, in collaboration with States, to accelerate Start-Ups and biomanufacturing, and thus harness the biotech potential in different parts of the country.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space emphasized the need for comprehensive mapping of states based on their biotech potential and



directed the department to collaborate with them in establishing Bio E3 (Economy, Environment and Employment) Cells highlighting that Assam is the first state to establish a dedicated BIO E3 cell. These specialized cells will provide necessary support for fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and scaling up biotech ventures.

Recognizing the critical

role of StartUps in advancing biomanufacturing, Dr. Jitendra Singh called for enhanced handholding and incubator support to encourage new-age biotech entrepreneurs. He highlighted the importance of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in biomanufacturing and bio foundries, ensuring global investment to drive India's biotech revolution.

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India Can't Change Fanatic Mindset Of Pakistan, Says Jaishankar In Lok Sabha

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, speaking in Lok Sabha on Friday, highlighted incidents involving attack on minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The minister said New Delhi is tracking "very closely" the treatment of minorities in Pakistan and making its position "well known", but the country cannot change the "fanatical and bigoted mindset" of a neighbour.

Replying to a supplementary query during the Question Hour, Jaishankar pointed to 10 incidents involving attacks on Hindus in Pakistan in February.

Seven of these incidents related to abduction and forced conversion, two other cases related to abduction, and one in which there was "police action" against students celebrating Holi, the external affairs minister said.



He informed the House that there were also three cases related to atrocities against members of the Sikh community. In one case, a Sikh family was attacked; in another case, a Sikh family was threatened for reopening an old Gurdwara, and yet another case involved the abduction and conversion of a girl from the Sikh community, the minister said.

He added that two other cases involved members

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Ahead of Navratri, AI-enabled cameras, drones, security personnel tighten security in Katra

AGENCIES
JAMMU, MAR 28

Heavy security arrangements, including AI-enabled CCTV cameras and drones, are being put in place to avert any untoward incident at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine during the Navratri festival.

Chaitra (spring) Navratra will commence on March 30 and authorities are anticipating a large crowd of devotees thronging the cave shrine during the nine-day festival.

These measures become all the more crucial following a fierce encounter with suspected Pakistani terrorists in the Kathua district, resulting in the killing of three terrorists and four policemen. The operation began early Thursday and was ongoing at the time of the latest reports.

Conducting a security audit of Katra, the base camp of the cave shrine, Reasi SSP Paramvir Singh said, "Security has been significantly strengthened... (we) assure all devotees arriving from various parts of the country that they will be provided with adequate security."



"We have conducted security checks at several locations in Katra town and are planning additional deployments at strategic locations," he added.

Further, joint teams of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police, along with quick reaction teams, have been deployed and remain vigilant, the SSP informed.

Deputy Inspector General of

Police Rayees Mohd Bhat said thorough security arrangements have been made, including the deployment of drones, as part of the security measures. Moreover, the track leading to the shrine is being closely watched by the CRPF.

Officials said that over 500-600 CCTV cameras equipped with advanced AI capabilities have been installed along the pilgrimage route.

The cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi is already witnessing increased footfall.

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Terror Funding Case | Delhi HC asks J&K MP to deposit Rs 4 Lakh for going to parliament in custody

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked Jammu and Kashmir MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh, alias Engineer Rashid, to deposit Rs 4 lakh with the prison authorities as travel expenses for attending Parliament.

A bench of Justices Chandra Dhari Singh and Anup Jairam Bhambhani on March 25 allowed him to attend the ongoing Parliament session "in-custody" till April 4 and rejected the NIA's apprehension that he was a flight risk.

Rashid counsel on Friday said he had already deposited Rs 1.45 lakh with the authorities and would deposit the remaining Rs 2.55 lakh within three days.

The bench said upon depositing the amount, he would be taken to the Parliament to attend the session.

The court observed it did not want the purpose of its order on allowing Rashid to attend the Parliament session to be defeated and therefore it was trying to strike a balance between the interest of both the parties.

Rashid, the court said, should at least deposit 50 per cent of the total amount of Rs 8.74 lakh and posted the matter on May 19.

The NIA, in the meantime, was directed to respond to Rashid's plea for a waiver of the condition to bear travel expenses to attend the Parliament session within four weeks.

Rashid said the March 25 order granting him permission to attend Parliament was uploaded on the court's website on March 26 afternoon and in the evening his counsel received an e-mail

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VC SKUAST Jammu Inaugurates Annual Workshop of KVKs to Finalize Action Plan for 2025-26

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu organized the Annual Workshop of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to finalize the Action Plan for the year 2025-26. The workshop, aimed at strengthening extension services, farmer capacity building and research-extension linkages was inaugurated by Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Tripathi emphasized the critical role of KVKs in bridging the gap between research and farmers, ensuring technology transfer for improved agricultural productivity and income generation. He urged KVKs to enhance their outreach programs and work in close



collaboration with farming communities.

The workshop featured detailed presentations by KVK Heads, outlining their strategies and objectives for the year 2025-26. Faculty members and experts provided technical insights to align these plans with the specific needs of farmers in Jammu.

Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Research discussed on

strengthening research-extension-farmer linkages. He emphasized the need for integrating modern scientific advancements with traditional farming practices to maximize efficiency and sustainability.

Dr. Amrith Vaid, Director Extension spoke on innovative extension approaches and the importance of capacity-building initiatives for farmers. He

highlighted the role of KVKs in empowering rural communities through skill development, awareness programs and access to scientific knowledge.

The workshop witnessed active participation from Deans and Directors, including Dr. Rajinder Peshin, Dr. Sanjay Khar, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. Rajesh Katoch, Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Dr. Susheel Sharma and Dr. J.S. Soodan, who shared insights on recent advancements in agriculture and their implications for the region.

The event served as a platform for fostering collaboration among scientists, extension professionals and farmers, ensuring that the finalized Action Plan for 2025-26 addresses the evolving challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir condemns terror attack in Kathua, Pays tribute to Martyrs

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Jammu Kashmir strongly condemns the cowardly terror attack in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, where brave policemen of JKP named, SgCT. Tariq Ahmad, SgCT. Jaswant Singh, and SgCT. Balwinder Singh, lost their lives in the line of duty.

ABVP organized a tribute ceremony for the Kathua martyrs at Jammu Mahanagar, Marh, Jhiri, Sunderbani, Poonch, Rajouri. Similar programs were also held at Kishtwar, Padder, and Doda, as well as Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, and Batote. Strongly condemn the cowardly terror attack in Kathua, J&K, where three brave police officers lost their lives in the line of duty. Their supreme



sacrifice in protecting our nation will always be remembered.

Our security forces responded with courage, eliminating two terrorists in the encounter. Such acts of terrorism will never weaken our resolve to fight against those who seek to disrupt peace.

Sannak Shrivats, State Secretary, ABVP Jammu Kashmir, stated that "We strongly condemn the cowardly terror attack in

Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, where three brave police officers, SgCT. Tariq Ahmad, SgCT. Jaswant Singh, and SgCT. Balwinder Singh, lost their lives in the line of duty. Their supreme sacrifice will always be remembered, and we salute their bravery and dedication to duty.

We stand in solidarity with the families of the martyrs and pray for the swift recovery of the injured. The Jammu and

Kashmir Police has always been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, and we acknowledge their immense sacrifices.

As we pay tribute to the martyrs, we reaffirm our commitment to fighting against terrorism and working towards creating a safer and more secure environment for all. We urge everyone to remain vigilant and united in this fight.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of the martyrs. May their sacrifice never be forgotten, and may their bravery inspire us to stand strong against terrorism."

ABVP Jammu Kashmir demands justice for the martyrs and their families. "We stand in solidarity with the families of the martyrs and pray for the swift recovery of the injured."

DC inspects beautification works in Kishtwar Town

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 28

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inaugurated a Selfie Point here at the historical Qilla Top under the #KISHTWAR initiative. The site, aimed at adding to the town's tourism attraction and beautification, has been executed by the Municipal Council at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 lakh.

The Selfie Point is part of the broader Town Beautification Project designed to uplift the aesthetic value of Kishtwar Township and promote its rich historical significance.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the Municipal Council for their work. He also directed KDA authorities to ensure regular maintenance of the park at Qilla Top to preserve its beauty for visitors.

Later, the DC also inaugurated fountains at Hidyal



remnants of the site's regal history.

The DC also inaugurated the Prefabricated Tehsildar's residence building constructed by the Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division Kishtwar within the premises of the Tehsildar's office. The building has been built at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakh.

Earlier, the DC inspected the ongoing retrofitting work at the HRT Lift Scheme of the Jal Shakti Department for the Town. The DC directed ExEn PHE, to complete the work in a time bound manner.

The DC was accompanied by Executive Officer Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; ExEn Jal Shakti, Sunil Sharma; Executive Engineer PWD, Ravinder Kumar; AEE Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division Kishtwar and other officers and concerned staff members.

Chowk and Shaheedi Mazaar, further adding to the beautification of Kishtwar town.

Qilla Top, located southwest of Kishtwar town, holds immense historical importance. The hillock was once home to a fort

and palace built during the reign of the Rajas of Kishtwar, notably by Raja Kahan Paul. Over time, the fort and palace have disappeared, leaving behind the throne made of stone and two preserved guns, locally known as "TOPE," as

ICAI announces Major Changes in Examination System - CA Final to be Held Thrice a Year, Offering Students More Opportunities

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

In order to align with global best practices and provide students with greater opportunities, the 26th Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has taken a historic decision to hold the CA Final exam three times a year. This examination was being held twice a year. Last year, ICAI took a decision to hold the Intermediate and Foundation course exams three times a year and now the CA Final exams will follow suit.

Now, all three levels—CA Final, Intermediate and Foundation will have an equal number of attempts each year, providing students more opportunities to sit in the exam. These



exams will be held in the month of January, May and September.

Additionally, the Post Qualification Course in Information Systems Audit will also undergo a transformation. Earlier conducted twice a year in June and December, the Assessment Test for this course will now be held three times a year - February, June and October, further increasing access and convenience for members.

On this decision of the Council, CA. Charanjot

Singh Nanda, President, ICAI said, "These epoch-making decisions will significantly benefit both students and members, offering them enhanced opportunities for success. This move marks a new era in the way we support and guide our future Chartered Accountants. ICAI is working 24/7 for the growth of its members and students. This historic decision will ensure that both students and professionals have abundant opportunities to excel in their careers."

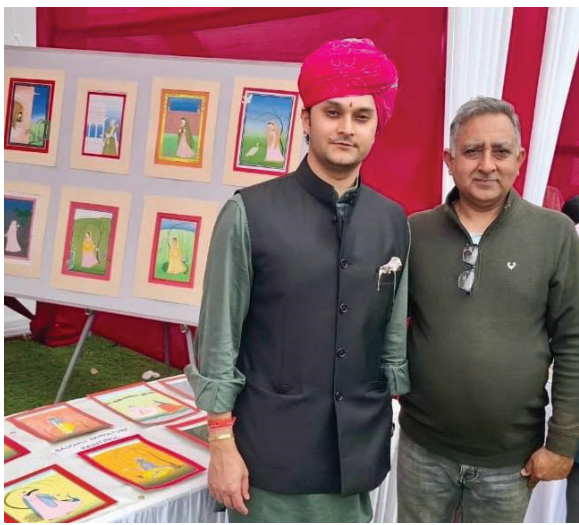
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body set up by an Act of Parliament under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 for the regulation and development of the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India. The Institute functions under the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. With over 10 lakh students and 4 lakh members, today ICAI is the largest professional accountancy body in the world. ICAI has a wide network of 5 Regional Councils and 177 Branches within India and a global presence with 52 Overseas Chapters and 33 Representative Offices spanning 85 cities across 47 Countries worldwide.

Revitalizing Basohli Art: Guru Shishya Parampara programme at Amar Mahal Museum Completes Four Years

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

The Hari Tara Charitable Trust, which maintains the iconic heritage landmark of Jammu—the Amar Mahal Museum & Library—is at the forefront of efforts to preserve and promote the ancient art form and heritage of Basohli miniature paintings, the art-heritage of Jammu region. Known for their intricate details, vibrant colors, and depictions of Hindu mythology, Basohli paintings hold a significant place in India's artistic heritage. Recognizing their cultural importance, the Trust, over the years has undertaken proactive measures to ensure the preservation and promotion of this exquisite art form for future generations.

The Guru Shishya Parampara Programme, launched in March 2021 at the Amar Mahal Museum, has now completed four successful years. Sponsored by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust, this initiative is dedicated to training and nurturing young aspiring artists in the Basohli painting art form and tradition. Notably, State and National Award-winning artist Shri



Sohan Singh Billawria plays a key role in mentoring students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to learn and continue this artistic legacy.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajkumar Martand Singh, Trustee of Hari Tara Charitable Trust and grandson of Padma Vibhushan, Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh, emphasized that the initiative provides financial assistance to both mentors and students, allowing them to dedicate themselves entirely to the art. He highlighted that Basohli paintings, with their intricate details and vibrant hues, demand years of dedication to

perfect. Martand Singh further said that given the success and growing popularity of this initiative, the Hari Tara Charitable Trust intends to widen its scope, with more frequent events and art camps to increase participation and awareness amongst potential artists and students. He also emphasized that at a recent art camp for Basohli paintings held at the Amar Mahal Museum during the annual Tawi Festival, he was delighted by the large turnout of young art students and impressed by their potential. Martand Singh commended the efforts of Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of Amar Mahal

Museum and Shri Sohan Billawria, both of whom have been instrumental for the success of this programme.

Sohan Singh Billawria highlighted that the Guru Shishya Parampara Programme has provided financial assistance to aspiring artists, enabling them to focus on mastering this intricate art form. The program ensures that the younger generation receives hands-on training under the guidance of seasoned mentors, helping to keep this heritage alive. Sohan Singh Billawria also acknowledged the steadfast support of the Hari Tara Charitable Trust, founded in 1970 by Dr. Karan Singh, and the tireless efforts of Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of Amar Mahal Museum, in preserving and promoting this traditional art.

The Hari Tara Charitable Trust remains committed to nurturing young artists, ensuring that Basohli paintings continue to thrive. Through dedicated mentorship and financial backing, the trust aims to revitalize this ancient art form and safeguard the rich cultural heritage of the Jammu region.

Modi govt has always honoured Dr. Ambedkar: Sat Sharma

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma CA, has stated that the Modi government's decision to declare April 14, the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as a national holiday, reflects that the union government has real concern and respect for the architect of the Constitution of India.

Describing it as a testament to the government's deep respect and commitment to paying true homage to Baba Saheb, Sat Sharma CA, highlighted how this move reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dedication to recognizing and honouring the invaluable contributions of Dr. Ambedkar to the nation.

He was discussing the commendable decision of the Modi government to continue with its initiatives to honour Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, with the party leaders.

Sat Sharma CA emphasized that the Modi government has consistently demonstrated its reverence for Dr. Ambedkar through numerous initiatives, including the conceptualization of the term "Panchteerth." Under this initiative, memorials have been constructed at five



significant sites associated with the life of Dr. Ambedkar, including his birthplace, place of education, place where he embraced Buddhism, place where he attained nirvana, and the place where he lived and worked in Delhi.

Sat Sharma CA further pointed out that it was during the tenure of the V.P. Singh government, which was supported by the BJP from outside, efforts were made to persuade the ruling establishment to confer the Bharat Ratna upon Dr. Ambedkar posthumously. This historical recognition, Sharma noted, was a result of the BJP's insistence on acknowledging the immense contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, who emerged as a champion of social justice, equality, and empowerment of the marginalized.

Expressing disappointment over the Congress party's approach, Sat Sharma CA, criticized its failure to honour Dr.

Ambedkar appropriately despite their prolonged rule at the Centre. It is most unfortunate that the Congress, which ruled the nation for decades, did not show any sincere interest in honouring a great Indian of such high stature.

It was only under the Modi Government that genuine efforts have been made to give Dr. Ambedkar his rightful place in the nation's history, he said.

Sat Sharma reiterated that the Modi Government's decision to declare April 14 as a national holiday is a significant step towards giving due respect to Dr. Ambedkar and ensuring that future generations remain inspired by his ideals and vision.

BJP and SC morchha leaders Balbir Ram Rattan, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Vijay Anand Gill, Ashok Gandhi, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Hans Raj Loria and Waryam Singh were present in the meeting.

Nitish expresses Grief Over Martyrdom of Four Soldiers in Rajbagh Gunfight

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Nitish Mahajan, President BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, has expressed profound grief over the martyrdom of four brave soldiers in a fierce gunfight with terrorists in Rajbagh, Kathua. He paid rich tributes to the fallen heroes, hailing their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

In a statement issued here today, Nitish Mahajan said that the loss of these gallant soldiers is an irreparable one, not just for their families but for the entire nation. "Their sacrifice will not go in vain. The enemy will be given a befitting reply, and our security forces will continue to eliminate the menace of terrorism from Jammu & Kashmir," he asserted.

Nitish Mahajan lauded the unwavering courage of the armed forces who are constantly thwarting nefarious designs of anti-national elements. He emphasized that the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to strengthening national security and ensuring that terrorism is rooted out completely.

IIM Jammu Concludes Seventh Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu successfully concluded the valedictory ceremony of the seventh batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program (NFLP) on 28th March 2025 at its permanent campus, Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti. The program, organized under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering leadership in academia.

The five-day residential program, held from 24th March to 28th March 2025, equipped 18 educators



from institutes across India with leadership, communication, and skill development insights. The curriculum, structured into four key themes, focused on leadership excellence, effective communication, skill enhancement, and recent government initia-

tives, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience through lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises.

Dr. Gaana J, Program Director, IIM Jammu, presented the program sum-

mary and key takeaways from the five-day Nurturing Future Leadership Training Program, highlighting its impact on leadership development and skill enhancement.

Dr. Somu Gorai, Program Director, IIM Jammu delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the efforts of all stakeholders, faculty, and administrative teams for their contributions. This was followed by the National Anthem. He encouraged participants to apply their learning to drive positive changes in their respective institutions.

The valedictory ceremony also featured participant reflections, where they shared their key

takeaways and expressed appreciation for the enriching learning experience. Certificates were distributed to all participants, marking the successful completion of the program. The event culminated with the national anthem.

The Nurturing Future Leadership Program under the Malaviya Mission continues to reinforce IIM Jammu's role as a hub for leadership, innovation, and academic excellence, contributing to the national vision of empowering educators for a transformative impact on the education sector. The program was coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy, (EE & C), IIM Jammu.

Renewal & new arm licence process should not be delayed at any cost: Dr Abhijeet Jasrotia

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Expressing deep concern over the heinous terrorists' act by the stooges of Pakistan which claimed the precious lives of our brave police personnel, Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia batted for the renewal and the issuing of new arm licenses to the appropriate people who fulfil all the norms and regulations.

Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia, Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP and Parduman Singh, senior leader, asked for the strengthening of second line of defense in the region in a press conference held at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, said that the brave police personnel made the supreme sacrifice in the encounter at Jathana, Kathua. He said that our forces also neutralized many terrorists in the encounter and praised them for the valiance and the effort.

He said that the irreparable loss to the martyrs' families cannot be filled, but the activists of BJP will always be present beside them. He praised the security personnel for their spirit of sacrifice and said that this essence keeps



saving us from the nefarious designs of Pakistan.

"Due to the extreme pressure by the Indian security forces, Pakistan is trying to modify its terrorism strategy and shift focus from Kashmir to the other parts, our forces are fully capable to respond effectively to this evil design by the stringent measures like Balakot", said Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia.

He requested the people of Kathua to show their unity to fail the nefarious designs of Pakistan and its sponsored terrorists. He said that the history reminds us that the people of Kathua successfully thwarted the attempts of Turks, and Mongols and other invaders with their unity and valiance. He further requested the people to be alert to notice any unscrupulous element/movement and report them to the security agencies, while terming this as a battle of everyone.

He made a fervent appeal to the administration for the renewal and the issuing of new arm licenses to the eligible persons, who have fulfilled all the regulations and the necessary formalities have been checked. He said that the whole essential process of renewal and the issuance of new licences should not be disturbed due to the fault of certain tainted persons which is endangering the lives of common people as a result.

Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia was also very vocal to attack the regional political parties of Jammu & Kashmir for their insensitivity on the issue, not condemning Pakistan for the heinous acts resulting in the martyrdom, and instead favouring dialogue with the terrorist nation. He added that India follows the policy of 'terrorism and talks cannot go together' and no such act will go unavenged.

J&K reaffirming it's status as "Crown Jewel of Indian Tourism": Satish Sharma



JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

In yet another proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir, Gulmarg has been selected for the editor's choice award in the Most Instagrammeable Category in prestigious India Today Tourism Survey and Awards 2025 event which held today at New Delhi.

Minister for FCS & CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma, received the prestigious award on behalf of J&K Government. He was presented the award from Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister extended his heartfelt gratitude to India Today group for the honour. He said that he is feeling highly privileged at this prestigious platform.

The Minister exhorted that it is really a proud moment to receive this prestigious award on behalf of J&K government. He asserted that Gulmarg is one of the world famous tourist destinations and has been selected for the editor choice award in the most Instagrammable landscape category.

He said that tourism is not only an industry, but, it is a bridge that connects various cultures. It acts as a catalyst for economic



growth and reflection of a region's rich heritage and natural splendor. He reiterated that J&K is known for its breathtaking landscape, rich cultural heritage and warm hospitality and this award is a testament to our growing tourism potential.

The Minister informed that J&K has recorded an unprecedented number of tourists arrival from past two years reaffirming its status as crown jewel of the Indian tourism.

"From the pristine valleys of Kashmir to the spiritual and adventurous landscape of Jammu, our tourism sector is flourishing like never before", he added.

Satish Sharma said that J&K government,

under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, is keen to promote tourism. He has taken several steps to strengthen the tourism sector in different categories like infrastructure development, border and eco-tourism, cultural heritage tourism, adventure and wellness tourism, film and destination wedding.

He also invited the investors, travel enthusiasts and industrial leaders to explore the endless possibilities of J&K. The Minister said that J&K has much more potential in tourism sector which needs to be explored and urged for Centre's necessary support to make J&K a tourism powerhouse.

Police arrests 2 drug peddlers in Budgam, contraband substance recovered

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAR 28

In its continuing efforts to combat the menace of drugs, Police in Budgam arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possessions. A Police Party of Police Station Charar-I-Sharief at a checkpoint established near Sports Stadium Charar-I-Sharief, intercepted a vehicle (Load Carrier) bearing Registration No. JK01AS-9968 for routine checking. However, during the search of the vehicle, heroin-like substances in two separate paper rolls weighing 12 grams approximately were recovered from their possession. Subsequently, both the individuals identified as Imran Ahmad Qasba son of Nazir Ahmad Qasba resident of Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar and Imran Ahmad Shah son of Ghulam Mohammad Mangan Wachi Kanipora Srinagar on board were arrested on the spot. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized. Accordingly, a case FIR No.15/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Charar-I-Sharief and investigation has been set into motion.

Director, Gowan India, visits SKUAST Jammu to strengthen industry-academia linkage

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Sarvesh Anand, Director of Gowan India, visited Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu and held discussions with Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, and other senior university officials to explore potential collaborations under the university's Industry-Academia linkage initiative. Dr. Shailendra Choure, Director, Saraswati Agrochemicals India Pvt. Ltd., was also present, and the meeting was coordinated by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Incharge, Counselling and Placement Cell. The discussions



focused on key areas such as efficacy evaluation and residue estimation of new agrochemicals developed by Gowan India, facilitating student placements to enhance industry exposure, and initiating joint research efforts in emerging areas like bio-rationals and advanced agricultural technologies. Additionally, it was agreed to organize regular industry engage-

ment sessions to equip students with insights into evolving industry trends and requirements. This collaboration is expected to strengthen SKUAST-Jammu's industry partnerships, enhance career prospects for students, and contribute to agricultural advancements through joint research and innovative product development.

ABVP CU Jammu submits memorandum to VC, demands roll-back of Hostel fees hike decision and installation of Swami Vivekananda statue

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Central University of Jammu unit today submits a memorandum to Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain regarding hostel fees hike issue and various demands of the students.

ABVP CU Jammu unit Secretary Abhishek Choudhary said that ABVP welcomes the decision of opening a new Hostel in university campus from the next academic session. But increase in the Hostel Fees from Rs. 12,000 per semester to Rs. 18,000 per semester, excluding mess fees is not justified. He said that university administration is denying his own commitment



that we will decrease the Hostel Fees when own Hostel buildings will get ready in campus.

ABVP strongly oppose the administration's decision to hike the Hostel Fee whether it is of new students or old students.

ABVP demands to roll-back this decision and also consider to decrease the Hostel Fees.

Other demands include opening of Photostat & Stationery Shop in campus, opening of new Canteen & Cafeteria because at pres-

ent there are more than 2500 students in campus but there is only one canteen running in university.

ABVP demands to install a statue of youths icon and inspiration Swami Vivekananda and to install the 110 ft long Tiranga as a mark of respect to our martyrs who pay supreme sacrifice for the nation.

Similarly, to increase the number of Battery Cars and to regulate their timings as summer season is approaching and it is not easy to travel a long distance by foot, To replace the non-functional Sanitary Vending Machines and to install the machines in new buildings, Proper sanitation facilities in

washrooms and to repair the broken doors, tiles and taps is also demanded in this memorandum.

As convocation of the university is pending from last several years due to unknown reasons, ABVP demands that Convocation ceremony should be held as soon as possible and should be regularly conducted thereafter on an annual basis.

Vice-Chancellor assures the delegation that these demands will be solved within time as these all are genuine demands.

Vaishali Guleria, Neena Thakur, Sudhakar Sharma, Siddharth, Dinesh and others remain present in this delegation.

Rudraksha Seva Sangathan organizes Candle March to pay tribute to martyrs of Kathua encounter

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

A candle march was organized today by Rudraksh Seva Sangathan in memory of the soldiers martyred in the Kathua encounter. The march was led by the organization's director, Varinder Gupta, and started from a renowned temple in Jammu. A large number of people participated in the march, which aimed to pay tribute to the martyrs and honor their sacrifice.

During the event, attendees lit candles and observed a moment of silence to honor the fallen soldiers. Various social activists and prominent citizens were present at



the march. Among the key attendees were social activists Anil Sharma, Aruna Sharma, Ajay Sharma, Sajan Gupta, Vivek Patel, and Ankush Gupta, the president of the Bahu Fort Market Association.

The event was filled with a strong sense of patriotism. Participants paid

homage to the brave soldiers and expressed their condolences to the families of the martyrs. Speakers at the event emphasized that the sacrifices of the country's soldiers would not go in vain and encouraged everyone to take inspiration from their bravery.

Terrorism to peaceful Jammu Region is gift of BJP failures: Bhalla

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

In a blistering assault on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led centre government, former Minister and working president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), Mr. Raman Bhalla, today tore into the BJP's oft-repeated assertion of having restored normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir and alleged that terrorism to peaceful Jammu region is the gift of BJP failures.

Leading a well-attended protest march at the historic Bahu Fort in Jammu, today along with working president & Ex Dy CMTara Chand, former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, DCC President Manmohan Singh, Rajveer Singh & ors, Shri Bhalla accused the BJP of not only failing to deliver on its promises but also of "gift-giving terrorism" to Jammu province—a region he described as having been

thrusted into chaos under the party's watch.

The protest, which saw a significant turnout of party workers and local residents, was a direct response to the deteriorating security situation in the Jammu region, marked by a series of terror attacks and ongoing encounters between security forces and terrorists.

The protest was organised by Block Presidents Latish Sharma & Pardeep Bhalla under the guidance of DCC Urban, which raised strong slogans against terrorism & Pakistan besides highlighting the failure of centre government to check deterioration of the situation in Jammu region.

Bhalla seized the opportunity to highlight what he termed the BJP's "monumental failure," pointing to the recent spate of violence as evidence that the party's claims of peace and stability were nothing more than political rhetoric.

"The BJP has been trum-

peting its so-called success in bringing normalcy to Jammu and Kashmir, but the reality is laid bare by the sound of gunfire and the blood of our brave policemen," Bhalla declared, his voice resonating with indignation as he addressed the crowd.

Central to Bhalla's critique was the alarming rise of terrorism in the Jammu province, an area that had historically remained relatively insulated from the violence that long plagued the Kashmir Valley.

He cited ongoing encounters in Kathua and Reasi districts as glaring examples of the BJP's inability to safeguard the region. In Kathua, security forces have been locked in intense operations at two separate locations, while in Reasi, another encounter has added to the growing sense of unease.

The human toll of these clashes was a focal point of Bhalla's address, as he



mourned the martyrdom of four Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty. "These brave souls laid down their lives because the BJP has failed to protect Jammu from the scourge of terrorism," he said, his tone heavy with sorrow and resolve. "Their sacrifice is a grim reminder of the price we are paying for the BJP's hollow promises."

The former minister did not hold back in framing the resurgence of terrorism in Jammu as the "only

noticeable achievement" of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He argued that far from ushering in an era of peace and prosperity, the BJP's policies had instead sown the seeds of instability in a region that had once been a bastion of calm. "Jammu was a peaceful land, a place where people lived without the shadow of terror," he remarked. "But under the BJP's rule, it has been dragged into

the same vortex of violence that we had hoped to leave behind. This is not progress—it is a betrayal." Tara Chand in his address said that the Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq campaign, launched by the JKPC, is aimed at amplifying the voices of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who, have been let down by a government more focused on political posturing than addressing their grievances.

The choice of Bahu Fort as the venue for the protest march carried symbolic weight—standing as a testament to Jammu's rich history and resilience, it served as a poignant backdrop for party's call to action. "We are here to remind the BJP that this is our state, and we will not sit silently while they dismantle the peace and security we once knew," he asserted, rallying the crowd to join the Congress in its

fight for accountability and justice.

Yogesh Sawhney said that the ruling party has frequently pointed to the decline in stone-pelting incidents in the Kashmir Valley and the influx of tourists as markers of success. However, Sawhney, countered this narrative by arguing that any gains in Kashmir were being overshadowed by the creeping instability in Jammu. "The BJP cannot cherry-pick its achievements while ignoring the fires burning in Jammu," he said. "Terror attacks occurring at repeated intervals across the province are not isolated incidents—they are a pattern, a damning indictment of this government's incompetence."

Th Manmohan Singh said the ongoing encounters in Kathua and Reasi have only intensified the scrutiny on the BJP's security strategy. In Kathua, a district that shares a porous border with Pakistan, security forces have

been engaged in prolonged operations to neutralize militants, with reports suggesting a possible infiltration attempt. Meanwhile, in Reasi, known for its religious significance due to the Vaishno Devi shrine, the presence of terrorists has sparked fears of a broader escalation. The loss of four policemen in these encounters has struck a chord with the public, amplifying calls for a reassessment of the measures in place to combat militancy. Bhalla seized on this sentiment, questioning why the BJP had allowed the situation to spiral out of control. "If the government had been proactive, if they had honored their commitment to the people, these lives could have been saved," he said.

The Congress leaders vowed that the party would continue to press the BJP on its failures, both on the streets and in the political arena.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Body of fourth cop...

believed holed up there. They were also presumed dead earlier but their bodies could not be sighted by the drones.

The operation, centred near Jakhole village in the Ghati Juthana area of Rajbagh, against the terrorists started around 8 am on Thursday amid intensified operations led by police against the ultras who had recently infiltrated from across the International Border in Hiranagar sector, the officials said.

However, it was not immediately clear whether it was the same group that had been evading an earlier cordon in Sanyal forest of Hiranagar or another batch of infiltrated terrorists.

Three terrorists were killed in the onslaught led by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and assisted by the Army and CRPF.

Adding to the tension, five police personnel, including a Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), were reportedly trapped near the gunfight's location, adjacent to a rivulet concealed by dense foliage.

However, the SDPO – a DSP rank officer – was evacuated in an injured condition from the scene late Thursday evening, while three of his personal security officers were found dead while another body of a policeman was sighted this morning.

Besides the SDPO, three more policemen were admitted to Kathua hospital and their condition was stated to be stable. Two army personnel were also injured in the operation.

Earlier, a group of terrorists was intercepted on Sunday evening within a 'dhok', a local term for an enclosure in a nursery, in Sanyal village near the International Border with Pakistan in the Hiranagar sector.

A subsequent search operation, involving the police, army, NSG, BSF and CRPF, utilised advanced technical and surveillance equipment to track down and neutralize the terrorists.

Despite the massive search operation, the terrorists managed to escape the initial cordon, the officials said, adding it is assumed that the same group could have been possibly spotted near Jakhole, approximately 30 km from the initial encounter site.

The search teams discovered evidence on Monday, including four loaded magazines of M4 carbine, two grenades, a bulletproof jacket, sleeping bags, tracksuits, food packets, and materials for constructing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) near the Hiranagar encounter site.

The terrorists were moving through the forest area towards the Billawar side when a police party headed by a SDPO moved in after getting specific information but came under heavy firing, resulting in the day-long gunfight.

Reinforcements from the police, army, and CRPF were immediately deployed to the area, while the special forces of the army were also airdropped to neutralize the terrorists.

Police believe the terrorists infiltrated on Saturday, possibly via a ravine route or a newly constructed tunnel from across the border.

Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat and Inspector General of Police (Jammu Zone) Bhim Sen Tuti have been overseeing the anti-terrorist operation from Kathua for the past four days, the officials said.

The People's Anti-Fascist Front, a proxy outfit of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), claimed responsibility for the encounter.

Army's rising star corps, whose troops are involved in the operation, lauded the police personnel involved in the operation.

"Rising Star Corps salutes the valor & indomitable spirit of the brave (J&K) Police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice fighting valiantly during the ongoing OP (operation) Safiyan in Kathua. Their courage and dedication will always be remembered," the Army said in a post on X. (Agencies)

India's efforts...

Modi highlighted his government's cut down on corruption, boosting efficiency and local products, and the simplification of indirect taxes by introducing Goods and Services Tax.

He said India's defence export has risen by 21 times in a decade, asserting that the country is now emerging

as a manufacturing hub.

Asserting that "India first" has become the mantra of the country's foreign policy, he said it used to follow the idea of maintaining "equi-distance" but it now believes in "equi-closeness". (Agencies)

At least 144 people...

The 7.7 magnitude quake, with an epicentre near Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, struck at midday and was followed by a strong 6.4 magnitude aftershock.

The full extent of death, injury and destruction was not immediately clear – particularly in Myanmar, one of the world's poorest countries. It is embroiled in a civil war and information is tightly controlled.

The head of Myanmar's military government said in the televised speech on Friday evening that at least 144 people were killed and 730 others were injured.

"The death toll and injuries are expected to rise," Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing said.

Photos from the capital of Naypyidaw showed multiple buildings used to house civil servants destroyed by the quake, and rescue crews pulling victims from the rubble.

Myanmar's government said blood was in high demand in the hardest-hit areas.

Images of buckled and cracked roads in Mandalay and damaged highways as well as the collapse of a bridge and dam raised further concerns about how rescuers would even reach some areas in a country already enduring a widespread humanitarian crisis. (Agencies)

India ready to...

the aftermath of a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hitting Myanmar and the strong tremors being felt in Thailand. The PM said India stands ready to offer all assistance.

In a post on X, the PM said he has asked the Indian authorities to be on standby to offer all assistance, and the Ministry of External Affairs to remain in touch with the governments of Thailand and Myanmar.

"Concerned by the situation in the wake of the Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. Praying for the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

"India stands ready to offer all possible assistance. In this regard, asked our authorities to be on standby.

"Also asked the MEA to remain in touch with the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand."

According to the BBC, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre was 16km (10 miles) north-west of the city of Sagaing, at a depth of 10km.

Strong tremors were felt hundreds of miles away in Thailand and south-west China.

Buildings have been damaged in Bangkok, and roads have buckled in Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw.

The Thai government is holding an emergency meeting.

The earthquake and damage come ahead of next week's BIMSTEC summit in the Thai capital on April 4, which will see the heads of government of the BIMSTEC nations in attendance, including PM Modi.

Dr Jitendra Singh announces...

Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed that the Tripartite arrangement—a synergy between Research Infrastructure, Startups, and Industrial R&D—is the way forward for India's biotech sector. He directed the department to prioritize setting up Core R&D Facilities equipped with state-of-the-art biomanufacturing capabilities to facilitate pilot validation, upscaling, and commercialization of promising biotech innovations.

Recalling the Centre-State Partnership Summit held in Delhi, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the Government's commitment to fostering a biotech revolution across states through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and technical assistance. He noted that several states have expressed interest in setting up Biotechnology Parks, further strengthening India's bio-economy.

The Science & Technology Minister underscored the significance of regenerative technologies, directing the department to prioritize their promotion within India's biomanufacturing landscape. He urged officials to partner with industry leaders to replicate the success of

India's Space Sector in biotech.

Dr. Jitendra Singh instructed the Department of Biotechnology to establish early industry linkages and work towards a 4P Model (Public-Private-People Partnership) for accelerating biotech growth. He also welcomed proposals to create BIRAC Centres at a global level to attract cutting-edge biomanufacturing technologies and investments.

Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed pride in India's global standing in biotech research, noting that India ranks 3rd in biotech publications worldwide, with nearly two-thirds of research papers emanating from the Department of Biotechnology. He said "This reflects India's growing influence and leadership in the international biotech arena."

With these strategic directives, Dr. Jitendra Singh reinforced the Government's vision to position India as a global leader in biotechnology, ensuring that biomanufacturing, research, and innovation drive the country's economic and scientific growth to achieve Prime Minister vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, DBT, DG-BRIC & Chairman, BIRAC, along with Managing Director, BIRAC, Shri Jitendra Kumar, and other senior officials and scientists of the department, were present at the review meeting.

India Can't Change...

of the Ahmediya community, and another case in which a Christian person of unstable mind was charged with blasphemy.

Jaishankar said India takes up such cases at the international level also.

"Like in Pakistan, we track the welfare and well-being of minorities in Bangladesh as well ... In 2024, we had 2,400 incidents relating to attacks on minorities and in 2025, 72 incidents ... I have taken it up with my counterpart there. The foreign secretary also took it up when he visited Bangladesh. This continues to be a matter of concern for our government," Jaishankar said, responding to another supplementary question.

Responding to a query on whether India plans "tough action" on the lines of earlier prime minister Indira Gandhi's stance against Pakistan, Jaishankar said New Delhi is making its position "well known" but "we as a government and a country cannot change the fanatical and bigoted mindset of a neighbour." "Even Indira Gandhi could not do it," he observed. (Agencies)

Ahead of Navratri...

"In the past few days, there has been a significant rise in the number of pilgrims. Nearly 40,000 pilgrims visit the Mata Vaishno Devi temple daily, with numbers rising even further on weekends," said Anshul Garg, chief executive officer (CEO), SMVDSB.

He further said that the number is expected to only rise in the coming days.

On its part, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has built new infrastructure and arranged more facilities for the pilgrims during the festival from March 30 to April 7.

An all-weather covered resting area for 1,500 pilgrims at Ardhkuwari has been set up. The area will feature a water ATM, prasad kiosk, refreshment unit and live telecast of 'garbhjyon aarti'. Additionally, the renovated 'Darshani Deodi' with a double-storey queue complex is ready to welcome pilgrims this Chaitra Navratri, the Board said.

In view of recent terror incidents and the upcoming Eid and Navratri festivals, security has also been beefed up in Jammu city and along the highways, with increased vehicle checks and frisking of people. (Agencies)

Terror Funding Case | Delhi HC...

from the jail authorities that he was required to pay around Rs 1.45 lakh each day for travel and other arrangements.

It summed up to Rs 8.74 lakh for the six-day duration, the plea said.

Rashid claimed of not being in a financial position to bear the "excessively high" cost and he was going to fulfil his constitutional duties and not allowed to be prejudiced with such high costs.

His plea was opposed by the NIA counsel who said it was a gross misuse of the law.

Rashid's counsel said the parliamentarian did not have money to give to the authorities which hampered him from attending the Parliament sessions and he would have to crowd fund the amount.

While allowing him to attend Parliament, the court had asked plain-clothed policemen to escort Rashid from prison to Parliament on days of the Lok Sabha session between March 26 and April 4 aside from bearing the expenses for the to-and-fro travel and other arrangements.

Rashid, who is facing trial under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in a 2017 terror funding case, had challenged a March 10 trial court order refusing him custody parole or interim bail to attend Lok Sabha proceedings till April 4.

In the high court, he gave up his plea for interim bail or custody parole and sought to attend the Parliament sessions "in-custody".

The NIA had opposed the plea saying by allowing him to attend Parliament, would enable him a platform to air his opinions which he could misuse.

The high court, however, said the control of parliamentary proceedings was within the remit of the Lok Sabha speaker and it had no doubt that the proceedings would be conducted with requisite discipline.

The Baramulla MP, who defeated Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is facing trial in a terror funding case with allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

He has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him in the 2017 terror-funding case. He was granted interim bail for one month in September last year to campaign in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election.

The NIA's FIR alleged Rashid's name cropped up during the interrogation of businessman and co-accused Zahoor Watali.

After being chargesheeted in October 2019, a special NIA court framed charges against Rashid and others in March 2022 under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government), and 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code and for offences relating to terrorist acts and terror funding under UAPA. (Agencies)

DC Rajouri suspends...

exceeding the permitted limit by 8,787 sq. ft. and the illegal conversion of a residential area into a commercial space.

As the Enforcement Officer of the Municipal Council was responsible for monitoring and reporting such violations, his failure to take appropriate action or report the matter has been deemed a serious lapse in duty. In view of this, the DC placed him under suspension with immediate effect and attached him to the office of the DSEO.

The Executive Officer Municipal Council has been directed to submit a detailed explanation within three days and take immediate action against the violations as per the law.

Furthermore, the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer has been appointed as the Inquiry Officer and asked to submit a comprehensive report within 30 days.

The district administration reiterates its commitment to ensuring strict enforcement of building regulations and holding officials accountable for any lapses in duty.

Survey of Jammu-Poonch...

Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir," Vaishnav said.

He added, "Survey for new line between Jammu and Poonch via Akhnur and Rajauri (223km) was carried out. The cost of the project was assessed as Rs 22,771 crore. The project has low traffic projections." According to the minister, sanctioning of railway projects is a continuous and dynamic process. These projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes including connectivity to hilly and border areas, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations and the likes. And these depend upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands, Vaishnav said. (Agencies)

Dharamarth Trust, DSS organize 31st Chhari Mubarak Yatra to Purmandal Shrines

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

On 28th March 2025, the "31st Holy Chhari Yatra" was taken to the historic religious shrines of Purmandal after performing Pooja at Shri Ranbireswar Ji and Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir, Jammu, by the representatives of Dharamarth Trust, J&K, Management Trust, Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, and Dogra Sadar Sabha at 7:00 AM. Thereafter, the Holy Maces were taken to Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, by Mahatmas and renowned Pujaris led by Mahant Rishiban Ji, where a grand Pooja was performed in the presence of Mr. Vikram Rand-



hawa, MLA Gandhi Nagar, and Th. Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) and President of Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust, along with Members of the Management Trust. A large number of devotees and saints also participated. After that, the Holy Chharis were taken to Purmandal in a profusely decorated vehicle via Shri Mahadev Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Shiv Mandir, Trikuta

Nagar, Shiv Mandir, Greater Kailash, Data Ranpat Dev Ji, and Shri Narsingh Dev Ji Mandirs in Birpur and Kharah Madana before reaching the Holy Shrines at Purmandal. En route, a befitting reception was given by a large number of people from all communities. A special reception for the Holy Chharis was organized at Kharah Madana and Mandal, where a true spirit of communal harmony was observed as

Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and prominent Moulvis of the area welcomed the Holy Maces and offered heavy refreshments to the pilgrims accompanying the Yatra.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, while addressing the people, explained the significance of these historical shrines and the Holy Chhari Yatra, which started 30 years ago. He also thanked the members of all organizations participating in the event for their full support in making it a grand success. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the District Administration Samba for taking a keen interest in the development of these historical shrines. He urged the government and Dharam-

arth Trust to ensure the all-around development of these holy places on a war footing.

Vikram Randhawa, MLA, after performing Pooja Archana of the Holy Maces, appreciated Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust for their consistent efforts over the last 30 years in making this Chhari Yatra a grand success by bringing together people from all walks of life, which is the uniqueness of this Chhari Yatra.

Prominent among others who expressed their views on the occasion included Mahant Rishiban Ji, Th. Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) and Ashok Sharma, Secretary, Dharamarth Trust.

Indian Army organizes Career Guidance Seminar for Children at Khellani, Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA: 28 MAR 2025

In a dedicated effort to empower and guide the youth, Indian Army organized a Career Guidance Seminar at PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School, Khellani. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 75-100 students, including both boys and girls, eager to explore various career opportunities. The seminar aimed to enlighten students about diverse career paths, including entry into the Armed Forces, and inspire them

to work towards a bright and promising future. During the interaction, the Indian Army emphasized the importance of education, perseverance, and career awareness while reiterating its commitment to mentoring and supporting local youth in their aspirations. The event also saw the presence of school faculty and community representatives, who appreciated the Indian Army's initiative in shaping the future of young minds through such meaningful engagements.

Helping Hands Jammu's Scholarship Students Shine with Outstanding Marks!

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Helping Hands Jammu continues to support underprivileged students, particularly those without parents or from single-parent households, by providing them with educational scholarships. This year, several scholarship recipients have achieved remarkable academic success, proving that determination and the right support can lead to excellence.

Among the top achievers, Pihu Gupta from JIMS, Jammu, secured an impressive 98%, Jasmeet Singh from Akhnour scored 86%, and Meenu Sharma from Cluster University achieved 64%. Many other students have also performed exceptionally well in their respective examinations.

Helping Hands Jammu remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering such students through continuous educational support. The organisation is always ready to provide scholarships to deserving students so they can continue their education without financial burden.

On this proud occasion, the Founder of Helping Hands Jammu, Sourav Sharma shared a heartfelt message: "Education is the strongest tool for change, and we will always stand by these bright students. Their achievements inspire us to expand our scholarship programmes and support even more children in need."

The organisation congratulates all the successful students and encourages society to contribute towards the education of underprivileged children, ensuring a brighter future for all.

Vehicle loaded with illegal Khair Stumps, Twigs seized at Jandyal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

The Forest Department today seized a vehicle carrying illegally extracted forest produce here at Jandyal village.

"Acting on specific information, a team of the Forest Department, under the close supervision of the Range Officer (RO) Jammu, intercepted and seized a Mahindra Bolero vehicle (Reg No JK02AB 1915) at village Jandyal carrying minor forest produce without valid documents," an official handset stated. The vehicle was found loaded with 10 peeled Khair stumps and 12 Khair twigs, which were being transported in violation of the Indian Forest Act (IFA).

The operation, it said, was executed at around 9:30 AM by Block Officer (BO) Manawar with the active assistance of police personnel and Beat Guard Showa. As per legal provisions, confiscation proceedings have been promptly initiated against the offenders. The seized vehicle and illicit forest produce have been taken into official custody for further legal action.

Workshop cum awareness programme on PMAY-G, Awaas Plus 2.0 held in Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 28

Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj today organized a one-day workshop cum awareness programme on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin and Awaas Plus 2.0 here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh was the chief guest, while Assistant Commissioner Development Dr Ranjit Singh Kotwal presided over the programme. He welcomed the chief guest and informed that the objective of the programme was to enhance awareness, gather feedback and strategize for the effective execution of PMAY-G scheme.

Speaking at the workshop, the ADC highlighted that welfare schemes can only be successful when people actively embrace and participate in the implementation process. He stressed that the purpose of the workshop was to ensure that all eligible and deserving beneficiaries are registered in the ongoing Awaas Plus 2.0 survey. He directed RDD

officials to ensure the geo-tagging of all works executed under the scheme for transparency and accountability.

A documentary highlighting achievements of the Rural Development Department under PMAY-G, success stories of beneficiaries and various technical features available in the Awaas App was also screened.

Later, the Officials gave a detailed presentation covering key aspects viz Evolution of Rural Housing Schemes, aims & objectives of PMAY-G, eligibility criteria for beneficiaries, challenges faced in Udhampur District in registering beneficiaries and the strategies to overcome these challenges.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session, where field staff shared their experiences, discussed challenges in implementation and explored solutions to improve the execution of the scheme.

The awareness cum workshop was attended by all BDOs, Surveyors, staff of RDD blocks and PMAY-G beneficiaries from all blocks.

Deputy Chief Minister attends annual Jod Mela at Gurudwara Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji, R S Pura



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today attended the annual Jod Mela and Gurmat Samagam at Gurudwara Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji in Khour, R S Pura.

The Deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed the commitment of the government towards addressing the issues and concerns of the community with sincerity and urgency. He encouraged the Sangat to uphold the timeless teachings of the Sikh Gurus, emphasizing their legacy of compassion, unity and justice.

S. Ranjit Singh Tohra, President, District Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu, and S. Ranvir Singh, Joint Secretary, DGPC Jammu, addressed the gathering with religious discourses.

They voiced concerns over social evils and outlined pressing issues faced

by the Sikh community, urging the government to act swiftly. Key demands included recognizing Punjabi as an official language of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), introducing Punjabi as an optional subject in schools, and increasing the availability of Punjabi teachers.

They also called for amendments to the Sikh Religious and Endowment Act, 1973, to align with Sikh Rehat Maryada, implementation of the Anand Marriage Act for independent Sikh marriage registration and the establishment of a Minority Commission to protect the Sikh rights in J&K.

The event witnessed presence of S Ranjit Singh Tohra, President, DGPC Jammu; S Ranvir Singh, Joint Secretary, DGPC Jammu; DGPC members, S Avtar Singh, S Karan Singh Bali and S Gurmeet Singh besides Rattan Lal Gupta, Rakesh Singh and other dignitaries.

Dr Manohar slams govt for 'failing' to control rising terrorism in Kathua District

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma Friday paid tributes to the police personnel who lost their lives in an ongoing encounter in Kathua. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to their families and said their sacrifice in the line of duty will always be remembered. He prayed to almighty to grant peace to departed souls and heartfelt prayers for the swift recovery of those injured. Expressing profound sorrow over loss of brave hearts, he voiced deep concern about the escalating terrorism in Kathua District from last one year. In a statement issued here, Dr Manohar criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government for its "failure" to effectively control the deteriorating security situation, pointing to multiple recent terrorist incidents across the Jammu region in the past few weeks. He emphasized the urgency of addressing these incidents and ensuring public safety amidst growing fear and insecurity among the population. "We cannot afford to lose the lives of our brave soldiers due to the government's inability to curb terrorism." Dr Manohar argued that recent terror attacks refute the government's claims of ending terrorism in J&K, asserting that the surge in incidents is alarming.

He criticized the administration for rhetoric without concrete action, urging a reassessment of security strategies. "There is a need for stronger coordination among security agencies and better support for personnel on the ground," he said. He called for immediate measures to fortify intelligence networks and ensure public safety as essential priorities for the government. Dr Manohar stressed the necessity of a pragmatic approach to tackle terrorism, saying it government's responsibility to prioritize citizens' safety and take decisive action against violence.

Srinagar Police observes Thana Diwas

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 28

As a part of public outreach programme of J&K Government, police in Srinagar observed 'Thana Diwas' across various Police Stations and Police Posts of the city.

In the 2nd phase for the month of March 2025, the event was organized in (15) Police Stations of the district which include PS Harwan, PS Parimpora, PS M.R.Gunj, PS Rainawari, PS Nishat, PS Rajbagh, PS Zadibal, PS Sadder, PS Shaheed Gunj, PS Soura, PS Nigeen, PS Batmaloo, PS Masiuma, PS Kothibagh

and PS R.M.Bagh.

The meetings were chaired by supervisory officers & jurisdictional police officers and were attended by civil society members including members of Auqaf Committees, members of Traders Federation and Transporters, Panchayati Raj members, Religious Preachers, Mohallah elders etc.

Pertinently, SSP Srinagar Shei Imtiyaz Mir JKPS presided a meeting in City East Zone attended by SP East and other officers of Police. The participants highlighted various issues of public importance and put forth their grievances

which were within the domain of district police like illegal narcotics trafficking, sand mafia, traffic issues, floating population etc. Some of the issues highlighted pertaining to civil administration like improvement and maintenance of roads, sanitation, public health, electricity etc were also recorded.

Police assured them that genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and dealt as per law and those pertaining to civil administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their timely redressal.

VSSF enrolled with NITI Aayog with National Information Centre, Gol

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Secretary of Vansh Sabre sports Foundation Kuldeep Kumar Gupta informed the fast growing sports identity in Jammu & Kashmir, Vansh Sabre sports Foundation (VSSF) achieved another milestone by becoming first sports organization in the Union Territory (UT) enrolled with NGO Darpan Portal offer by the NITI Aayog in association with National Information Centre to bring about great-

er partnership between Government & Voluntary sectors and foster better transparency, efficiency and accountability with Govt. of India

Meanwhile, president of the trust, Dr. Anil Padha informed that the foundation (VSSF) has already been certified ISO 9001:2015, registered with MSME and also registered with income tax department under 12A and 80G and has initiated things for the welfare of sports persons and others individuals associations with sports.

EDITORIAL

Dawn of a new era in Kashmir

A transformative shift is unfolding in Jammu and Kashmir, signaling a decisive break from the past and an embrace of a future defined by unity and progress. On Thursday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that two more organizations, previously aligned with the Hurriyat Conference, have formally renounced separatism. This development not only marks a turning point in the region's socio-political landscape but also lays thrust on the success of the Indian government's efforts to integrate Kashmir into the national mainstream. The Union Home Minister lauded the move as a significant milestone, highlighting that J&K Tahreeqi Isteqlal and J&K Tahreek-I-Istiqamat have chosen to align with the vision of a "new Bharat" championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Their decision reflects a broader pattern of reconciliation, where separatist ideologies are being replaced by aspirations for peace, stability, and development. This shift is not an isolated event but part of a larger movement taking shape in the valley. Over the past week alone, five constituent groups of the Hurriyat Conference—historically associated with separatist sentiments—have abandoned their past affiliations and pledged loyalty to the Indian Union. The timing and scale of these renunciations indicate a gradual but steady transformation in Kashmir's political dynamics. For decades, separatism fueled unrest, violence, and instability in Jammu and Kashmir. However, under the Modi administration, the tide appears to be turning. Shah emphasized that the forces of separatism are in their "final throes," while the spirit of unity and brotherhood is gaining momentum across the valley. This sentiment is bolstered by the government's sustained efforts to enhance security, foster economic growth, and improve infrastructure, ensuring that the people of Jammu and Kashmir reap the benefits of integration and national progress. The departure of these groups from separatist ideology is not merely a political statement; it is an acknowledgment of the changing realities on the ground. The region is witnessing increased investment, improved governance, and growing participation in democratic processes. The once-prevailing sense of alienation is gradually being replaced by a renewed hope for a stable and prosperous future. The latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir present an opportunity for further dialogue, cooperation, and constructive engagement. The government's narrative of a revitalized India—where regional aspirations are harmonized with national unity—is now being embraced by former dissidents. If this trend continues, it could pave the way for a more inclusive and peaceful Kashmir, breaking the long-standing cycle of conflict and fostering an era of coexistence and progress. The dawn of this new era in Kashmir is a testament to the resilience of its people and the effectiveness of policies aimed at reconciliation and development. While challenges remain, the momentum toward peace and unity suggests that the region is finally on the path to realizing its true potential as an integral part of a thriving and united India.

Uttar Pradesh Unlocked by winds of change

YOGI ADITYANATH

Revered Shri Atalji's words, "Kintu, apni dhya yatra mai hum kabhi ruke nahi, kisi chunauti ke sammukh, kabhi jhuke nahi..." perfectly embody my Government's unwavering commitment over the past eight years – dedicated to relentless service, progress, and the transformation of Uttar Pradesh. Guided by the principles of Kartavya Sadhana and "priority to the deprived," we have pursued a mission to ensure the security, prosperity, and upliftment of 25 crore citizens, overcoming challenges without pause or compromise.

Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's effective leadership, Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a remarkable transformation. The State once labelled BIMARU, is now a premier destination for business and investment. The mantra of good governance, a commitment to the welfare of the poor, the philosophy of Antyodaya, and the goal of a self-reliant Uttar Pradesh have reshaped the State's identity, propelling it into "growth gear."

Uttar Pradesh's development journey is proof of turning vision into reality. We inherited a State plagued by lawlessness, disorder, and crime. Yet, through a secure environment, robust infrastructure, seamless connectivity, and business-friendly policies, we have reshaped it into a thriving investment hub. In the past eight years, we have received investment proposals exceeding ₹45 lakh crore, with over ₹15 lakh crore already implemented. This has directly provided jobs to more than 60 lakh youth and created countless employment opportunities. It is well-established that security fosters development, while efficient connectivity accelerates progress.

The new Uttar Pradesh stands as living proof of this transformation. The timeless wisdom of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya – that true Antyodaya lies in uplifting the person at the bottom – forms the foundation of our Government's vision. Over six crore people have been lifted above the poverty line in the past eight years. Under the Antyodaya model, 15 crore underprivileged citizens now receive free monthly food grains, 1.86 crore families have free gas connections, and over 2.86 crore farmers benefit from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi every month. Additionally, 5.21 crore beneficiaries are covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, securing medical protection of up to ₹ five lakh, while over 56.50 lakh families have received free housing.

Unlocking Uttar Pradesh's potential requires a strong foundation of human capital. A significant transformation has taken place in healthcare infrastructure – while there were only 12 medical colleges in the State until 2017, today there are 80, including 44 Government and 36 private institutions. With AIIMS operational in Gorakhpur and Rae Bareilly, the vision of "One District, One Medical College" is becoming a reality. Through Ayushman Bharat and other healthcare initiatives, we are ensuring affordable, quality treatment for every citizen in their district.

Our farmers are the backbone of a self-reliant India. In the sugar sector, Uttar Pradesh now has 122 operational sugar mills. Since March 2017, three new mills have been established, six revived, and 38 expanded—creating employment for 1.25 lakh people. Sugarcane farmers have received payments totaling ₹2,80,223 crore, ₹66,703 crore more than what was dis-



bursed in the 22 years between 1995 and 2017.

A progressive society flourishes when its women are empowered. Over the past eight years, the Uttar Pradesh Government has remained steadfast in its commitment to ensuring women's security, dignity, and self-reliance through Mission Shakti. By offering free education up to graduation, we have expanded opportunities for young women, enabling them to pursue their aspirations without financial constraints. Additionally, initiatives like Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, and PM Svanidhi Yojana have brought meaningful change, improving the lives of countless women across the State.

Economic empowerment is at the core of our governance. Over 95 lakh women in rural areas have been integrated into the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission, fostering financial independence. The allocation of 2,510 fair-price shops to women's self-help groups and the provision of rural residential records (Gharauini) in the name of female household members

have ushered in a new era of dignity and economic progress for women.

The aspirations of our youth are taking flight. Over 96 lakh MSME units have turned job seekers into job creators, reducing unemployment from 18 per cent in 2016 to just three per cent today. More than 8.5 lakh youth have secured Government jobs through a transparent recruitment process, including over 1.38 lakh women. The UP Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act has reinforced fair examination practices, instilling confidence in competitive exam aspirants.

These eight years have marked a historic era of renewed faith, economic strength, and cultural resurgence. The long-awaited return of Lord Shri Ram Lalla to his sacred temple is a momentous occasion after centuries of struggle. The grandeur of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, the organisation of Mahakumbh, the development of Shri Ayodhya Dham, the rejuvenation of Kashi, and the beautification of Mathura-Vrindavan have placed Uttar Pradesh at the heart of India's spiritual revival.

Deepotsav and Rangotsav now

shine with unmatched grandeur, drawing global visitors.

Under the 'Reform, Perform, Transform' mantra, Uttar Pradesh has become a premier destination for both religious and industrial tourism. Initiatives like the Ramayana circuit, Buddhist circuit, Spiritual circuit, Shaktipeeth circuit, Krishna or Braj circuit, Bundelkhand circuit, Mahabharata circuit, and Jain circuits have placed sacred centres like Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura, Chitrakoot, Saharanpur, Shravasti, and Gorakhpur on the global tourism map, offering world-class facilities.

Uttar Pradesh's economic success has been achieved without imposing any new taxes. Despite offering the lowest diesel and petrol rates in the country, the State is emerging as a revenue-surplus economy, driven by the ideals of Ramrajya. The 'One District-One Product' (ODOP) scheme has transformed every district into a thriving industrial hub, while major projects like the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor are establishing the State as Udyam Pradesh – a powerhouse of industry and innovation. Every citizen is a partner in this journey. Farmers are the architects of a self-reliant India, our youth the drivers of transformation, and Matru Shakti the foundation of our society. Uttar Pradesh is not just a State, it is a thriving hub of talent, tradition, and progress.

This milestone is just the beginning. Our vision is a Viksit Uttar Pradesh – one that not only becomes India's largest economy but also fulfils the aspirations of its 25 crore citizens. With unwavering commitment, we will continue our journey of transformation, ensuring prosperity for generations to come.

(The writer is the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh)

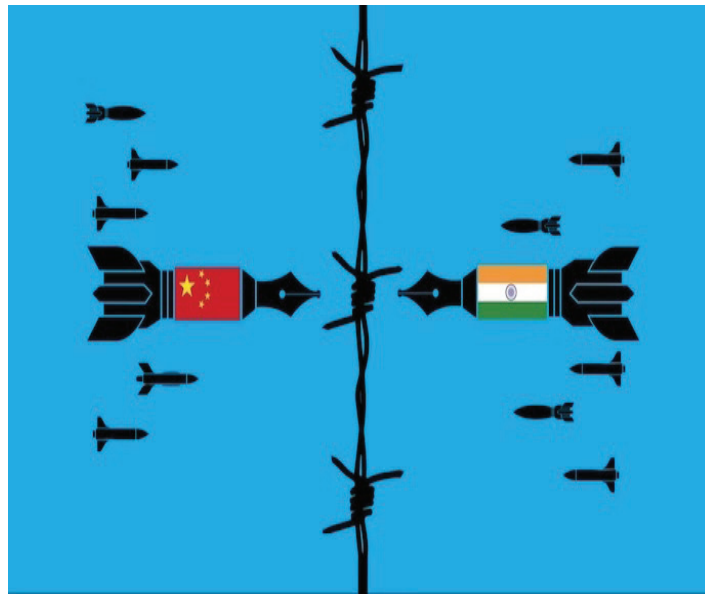
India and China walk a fragile tightrope at 75 years

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

The seeds of doubt between China and India were sown in the 20th century, with British attempts to align Tibet with British India, leading to the 1904 Expedition to Tibet, which the Qing Dynasty viewed as a direct affront to its sovereignty. By 1965, India (IB) and the CIA secretly planted a nuclear-powered surveillance device on Nanda Devi to monitor China's nuclear tests, but the mission failed, and the lost plutonium device, radioisotope thermoelectric generator, remains unaccounted for to this day, deepening the mistrust between the two nations.

On April 1, 1950, India became the first non-socialist bloc country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. In a few days, we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of this relationship. Two giants – China and India – occupy the heart of this vast and diverse landmass, their destinies irrevocably intertwined. As Wang Yi noted, Mao used the metaphor of a "cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant" to describe the importance of China and India working together harmoniously. With populations exceeding 2.85 billion, these nations wield the power to shape the future not only of Asia but of the entire world. Yet, despite their economic rise and deep historical connections, their relationship remains one of profound ambivalence, laced with suspicion, insecurity, and an unresolved legacy of conflict. If the peace in Asia is to hold, it hinges on this question: can India and China shed the weight of history and build a future of cooperation, respect, and stability?

The answer to this question is not as simple as it might seem. In the aftermath of the 1962 Sino-Indian War, India and China were forced into a narrative of hostility, which directly contradicted Nehru's bold assertion, "Hindi – Chini Bhai – Bhai" (Indians and Chinese are



brothers).

The war, with its brutality and China's swift victory, continues to echo through the decades, its scars never fully healed. For India, China's military might has loomed large as an existential threat, shaping its foreign policy and strategic alliances. The West, particularly the United States, has become an increasingly important partner for India as the country seeks to counterbalance China's rise in the region.

The spectre of the Sino-Indian War, an uncomfortable memory for the Indian psyche, serves as a continuous reminder of the unpredictable and dangerous nature of the bilateral relationship. China, for its part, remains largely indifferent to India's anxieties, with Nehru's words after the Sino-Indian War of 1962 continuing to haunt the Indian psyche: "We were misled into thinking that China was our friend. We have been deceived into thinking that China would respect our interests and security. But they have shown their true face."

Yet, despite tensions and the occasional flare-ups of military skirmishes, particularly along the contested areas of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), it is clear that the trajectory of the Indo-China relationship is more nuanced than simple antago-

nism. Both nations have made remarkable strides in modernising their economies.

China's rise as an economic juggernaut, coupled with its geopolitical ambitions, has forced India to rethink its position in the world. However, India's rise has been slower and less controlled, hindered by domestic chaos, systemic corruption, and a democratic framework that, while empowering, often hinders swift and decisive decision-making. Unlike China, India succeeds, as Kishore Mahbubani put it, not because of its government, but despite it. This paradox defines Indian democracy: a system that operates in constant dysfunction yet still manages to deliver results.

India's struggles are evident in stark contrast to China's model of governance. In China, the centralised power of the Communist Party has allowed for rapid reforms and unprecedented growth, lifting millions out of poverty and placing the country at the forefront of the global economic stage.

For China, this ascent has been marked by the pursuit of hegemony – asserting its influence over its neighbours through both economic means and military presence. India, on the other hand, has faced internal divisions that have stymied its growth.

There is a bitter irony here. As India and China grow-albeit at different rates – the mutual suspicion between them only deepens. For India, China's meteoric rise is seen not just as an economic miracle but as a strategic and ideological threat. Meanwhile, China views India's increasing closeness with the West with wariness, sensing an attempt to encircle it, weaken its dominance, and tip the balance of power in Asia.

These fears are not unfounded. India's deepening ties with the United States, the QUAD alliance, and its growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region have been framed by many in Beijing as a deliberate attempt to counter China's ambitions.

Yet, in recent months, there have been signs of a shift. Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated the need to normalise relations with China – a statement that was both a recognition of the reality of the global order and a tacit acknowledgement that conflict between India and China would spell disaster not just for Asia but for the world.

Modi, in his effort to elevate India as a global power, has become acutely aware of the importance of stabilising ties with China, opting for dialogue over discord, healthy competition, and strategic focus.

His push for a more pragmatic approach—setting aside the past and focusing on the future—has met with mixed reactions domestically.

Indian nationalists, emboldened by their country's rise, have questioned the wisdom of making overtures to China, accusing the government of compromising India's sovereignty. But this is a necessary conversation – one that transcends partisan politics and jingoistic nationalism, focusing on what is best for India and Asia as a whole.

Despite their historical antagonisms, both nations are too enmeshed in the global economy to risk full-scale war. The rise of these giants pres-

ents a unique opportunity for the world's largest democracies to forge a united Asia, not one divided by rivalry but strengthened by shared prosperity. Yet this requires more than just diplomatic rhetoric – it demands a profound shift in mindset. India and China must overcome centuries – old grievances and recognise that their fates are intertwined.

The future of Asia hinges on whether these two civilisations, long divided by borders, can rekindle an ancient spirit of cooperation. This is particularly crucial as BRICS, with India and China as key enablers in remapping the Global South, progresses with its vision to reshape the world order.

While differences remain, particularly over de-dollarisation, the BRICS nations remain inseparable partners in addressing the urgent challenges ahead. Together, they aim to overcome the diminishing influence of the West, which is increasingly failing to hold its position in the global arena. If India and China fail to find peace, the entire continent risks becoming the tinderbox of a future global conflict.

The stakes have never been higher. India and China, two ancient civilisations and modern giants, stand at a crossroads. Their shared history is marred by conflict and mistrust, yet their futures are inextricably linked. As Asia's foremost powers, they must choose between rivalry and cooperation. Economic interdependence and global challenges demand pragmatic diplomacy, not hostility.

Despite past tensions, recent diplomatic efforts signal a possible thaw in relations. If they can transcend their historical grievances, India and China have the potential to reshape the global order.

Their choice will determine whether Asia becomes a beacon of stability or a battleground for future conflicts. The stakes are immense.

(The writer is a journalist based in Colombo. Views expressed are personal)

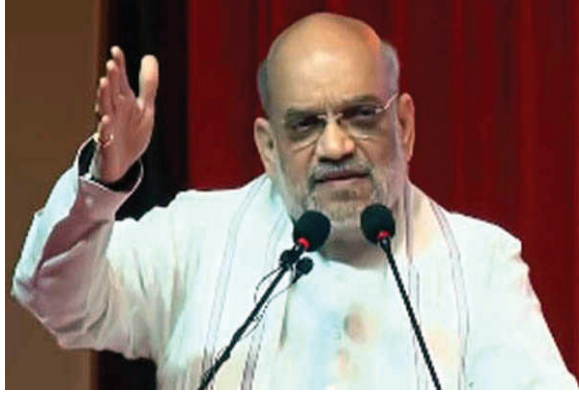
Shah approves projects for disaster recovery for Sikkim & strengthening of fire services in 5 states

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

A high-level Committee Chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday approved projects for disaster recovery and reconstruction activities for Sikkim and for strengthening of fire services in five states.

The committee, comprising of Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister and Vice Chairman NITI Aayog as members considered these proposals for financial assistance to the states from Recovery and Reconstruction funding window and Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), a Home Ministry statement said.

The committee approved projects of Rs1,604.39 crore for five



states -- Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Kerala -- under the scheme "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the states".

The panel approved Rs 340.90 crore for Bihar, Rs 339.18 crore for Gujarat, Rs 147.97 crore for Jharkhand, Rs162.25 crore for Kerala and Rs 614.09 crore for Maharashtra for funding from earmarked allocation of preparedness and

capacity building funding window under NDRF.

The Central Government has allocated a total amount of Rs 5,000 crore under NDRF for "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the states", and had already approved the proposals of 20 states for a total of Rs 3,373.12 crore.

Moreover, the committee has also approved financial assistance of Rs

555.70 crore to Sikkim from recovery and reconstruction funding window under NDRF for disaster recovery and reconstruction needs of various sectors affected due to devastating Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) occurred in the downstream along the Teesta river basin in October, 2023.

During the current financial year, the Union Government has released Rs 19,074.80 crore to 28 states under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and Rs 3,229.35 crores to 16 states under State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF).

Besides, an amount of Rs 5,160.76 crore has been released to 19 states under the NDRF and Rs 719.71 crore to eight states under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).

India ready to offer all assistance to quake-hit Myanmar, Thailand: PM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today voiced concern over the situation in the aftermath of a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hitting Myanmar and the strong tremors being felt in Thailand. The PM said India stands ready to offer all assistance.

In a post on X, the PM said he has asked the Indian authorities to be on standby to offer all assistance, and the Ministry of External Affairs to remain in touch with the governments of Thailand and Myanmar.

"Concerned by the situation in the wake of the Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. Praying for the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

"India stands ready to offer all possible assistance. In this regard, asked our authorities to be on standby.

"Also asked the MEA to remain in touch with the



Governments of Myanmar and Thailand."

According to the BBC, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre was 16km (10 miles) north-west of the city of Sagaing, at a depth of 10km.

Strong tremors were felt hundreds of miles away in Thailand and south-west China.

Buildings have been

damaged in Bangkok, and roads have buckled in Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw.

The Thai government is holding an emergency meeting.

The earthquake and damage come ahead of next week's BIMSTEC summit in the Thai capital on April 4, which will see the heads of government of the BIMSTEC nations in attendance, including PM Modi.

Two youths die in road accident in Mahoba

AGENCIES
MAHOBHA (UP), MAR 28

Two youths were killed when a motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Kharela area of Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, a police officer said here.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vandana Singh said that Brajendra (23) and his cousin Kamta Kushwaha (28), both residents of Tikri village, had come to Mahoba to buy agricultural equipment. "When they were returning home with the goods in the afternoon, an unidentified vehicle hit them near Rivai and fled," she said.

She said that the youth were badly injured after being hit by the vehicle and fell on the road. "The police took them to the Community Health Centre of Charkhari from where the doctors referred them to the Medical College in a serious condition," she said.

PM Jan Arogya Yojana world's largest health assurance scheme: Nadda

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Friday said Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is the world's largest health assurance scheme, covering over 50 crore people in the country.

Responding to a question during 'Question Hour' in Lok Sabha, Nadda said, "Initially, it covered 50 crore people, but with the inclusion of a decade's



population growth based on Socioeconomic Caste Census (SECC) data and the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the cover-

age expanded to 55 crore people."

He added, "Additionally, 37.19 lakh families of Anganwadi workers,

ASHA workers, and health helpers were included in Ayushman Arogya Yojana."

Over the conditions of AIIMS in the country, the Union Health Minister said, "PM Modi has opened 22 AIIMS in the country in his tenure and We are not going to compromise with the quality of AIIMS."

Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), the government is setting up of 22 new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country.

Cabinet clears Electronics Component Mfg Scheme with a funding of Rs 22,919 cr

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

In view of rising demand for electronic components and to boost its exports, the Government on Friday approved the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme with a funding of Rs 22,919 crore to make India Atmanirbhar in electronics supply chain.

This scheme aims to develop a robust component ecosystem by attracting large investments (global/domestic) in electronics component manufacturing ecosystem, increasing Domestic Value Addition (DVA) by developing capacity and capabilities, and integrating Indian companies with Global Value Chains (GVCs), an official statement said post Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra



Modi.

The scheme envisages to attract investment of Rs 59,350 crore, result in production of Rs 4,56,500 crore worth of components and generate additional direct employment of 91,600 persons and many indirect jobs as well during its tenure.

The scheme provides differentiated incentives to Indian manufacturers tailored to overcome specific disabilities for vari-

ous categories of components and sub-assemblies so that they can acquire technological capabilities and achieve economies of scale.

The tenure of the scheme is six (6) years with one (1) year of gestation period, it said adding the payout of a part of the incentive is linked with employment targets achievement.

Electronics is one of the highest-traded and fastest-

growing industries globally and is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the global economy and advancing a country's economic and technological development.

Since electronics permeates all sectors of economy it has economic and strategic importance. With various initiatives of Gol, the electronics manufacturing sector has witnessed remarkable growth in the last decade. The domestic production of electronic goods has increased from Rs 1.90 lakh crore in FY 2014-15 to Rs 9.52 lakh crore in FY 2023-24 at a CAGR of more than 17 per cent. The exports of electronic goods have also increased from Rs 0.38 lakh crore in FY 2014-15 to Rs 2.41 lakh crore in FY 2023-24 at a CAGR of more than 20 per cent.

Madras HC grants interim anticipatory bail to Kunal Kamra, restrains Mumbai police from arresting him

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAR 28

The Madras High Court on Friday granted an interim anticipatory bail, while restraining the Mumbai police not to arrest popular stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra in a case relating to his controversial remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The 36-year-old comedian had made some slanderous comments against Mr Eknath in his latest comedy show titled 'Naya Bharat', following cases were booked against him by the Khar Police in Mumbai.



In a petition filed by Kunal seeking an inter-state anticipatory bail to enable him to file a petition in the Bombay High Court praying for a regular bail, Mr Justice Sunder Mohan of Madras HC ordered issuance of notice to the Mumbai police, returnable

by April 7.

The judge also granted interim anticipatory bail preventing his arrest and to enable him to move the Bombay HC, with a condition that he should execute a bond, along with two sureties, to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram district.

He said in his latest show 'Naya Bharat' performed in Mumbai in February he had not named anyone leave alone Mr Shinde. Despite this, a group of people had attacked and vandalised the venue where he held the show and the Khar police also registered a FIR against

him.

Fearing threats to his life and his family, Kunal said he approached the Madras High Court apprehending that the Mumbai police would arrest him and subject him to physical torture if he had to wait until the Bombay High Court grants him anticipatory bail.

Further, pointing out that the Bombay High Court would be on leave for a considerable number of days in the first three weeks of April, he prayed the Madras High Court to grant him inter-State anticipatory bail till he could move the Bombay Court and obtain regular anticipatory bail.

Removed protesting farmers from Shambhu & Khanauri borders, Punjab govt informs SC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 28

The Punjab Government on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it has removed protesting farmers from the Shambhu and Khanauri borders near Haryana, ensuring free movement on the National Highway.

Advocate General of Punjab, Gurminder Singh, apprised a Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh that veteran farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal ended his hunger strike, which began in November last year.

"Mr. Dallewal accepted water today and broke his fast," AG Singh told the Court.

The Bench refused to entertain a contempt petition filed against Punjab authorities for allegedly violating a Supreme Court status quo order by clearing the protesters. The Court clarified that it had consistently urged the government to reopen the highway.

"We have been telling them to open the highway. The contempt petition is misconceived," Jus-



ice Kant remarked while addressing Advocate Angrej Singh, who represented the contempt petitioner. Consequently, the petitioner chose to withdraw the contempt plea.

Additionally, the Court dropped the contempt proceedings initiated earlier against the Punjab Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) for not hospitalising Dallewal during his hunger strike.

The Supreme Court directed the High-Powered Committee, formed to mediate between the government and protesting farmers, to submit its supplementary report on

the matter.

Earlier, the Court had adjourned proceedings after being informed that discussions between the protesting farmers and the Union Government were ongoing.

In January, a breakthrough was achieved when the farmers agreed to meet Justice (Retired) Nawab Singh, Chairperson of the High-Powered Committee, to negotiate their demands.

On January 22, the Court was informed that Dallewal had accepted medical intervention after talks were initiated regarding the farmers' demands, including statutory pro-

tection for the Minimum Support Price (MSP). As his health deteriorated, he was ordered to be shifted to a medical facility.

The farmers began their protest in February last year, demanding legal assurances for MSP. The Haryana Government had blocked National Highway borders to prevent the march of farmers toward Delhi, prompting them to camp at the borders.

Last year, the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the Haryana Government to unblock the Shambhu border, a decision that led the state to approach the Supreme Court for relief.

Actress Preity Zinta received loan remission by New India Cooperative Bank

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAR 28

Bollywood actress Preity Zinta received a loan remission by New India Cooperative Bank, sources in the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai police said on Friday.

The EOW is probing into Hiren Bhanu, former chairman of the bank, for allegedly approving loans in return for bribes, as per reports.

The New India Cooperative Bank (NICB) fraud case involved alleged misappropriation of funds from the



bank.

The city police have

arrested multiple people in connection with the case.

During investigation, it was revealed that the actress benefitted from a remission on her loan.

Police said that on January seven, 2011, a loan of Rs 18 crore was sanctioned to Preity Zinta. The loan was declared a non-performing asset (NPA) on March 31, 2013.

The amount was later settled at Rs 10.74 crore, and a remission of Rs 1.55 crore was granted to her.

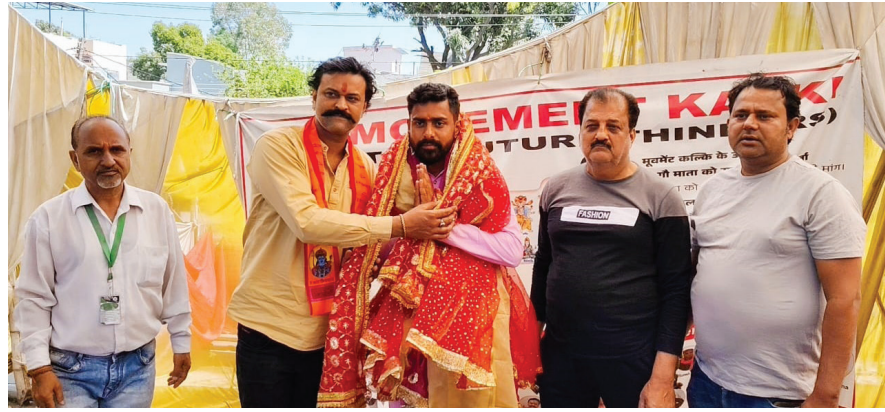
The amount was paid on April five, 2014, according to sources in police.

Movement Kalki's protest enters 159th day, Priest Rakesh Dubey extends support

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

The historic protest led by Movement Kalki demanding the recognition of Gau Mata (Mother Cow) as 'Rashtra Mata' (National Mother) has now entered its 159th day. On this significant occasion, Baba Amarnath Ji's priest, Shri Rakesh Dubey Ji, visited Aam Phala Chowk, Jammu, to extend his support to the movement.

In his address, Priest Shri Rakesh Dubey Ji emphasized that Gau Mata is the universal mother, and it is the duty of society to ensure her protection and security. Citing ancient scriptures, he explained that Lord Shri Krishna, along with various deities and ancestral gods, always took responsibility for the protection



of cows.

He further stated that Movement Kalki's 159-day-long protest is now receiving widespread support from society, making the movement stronger each day. He urged all Sanatan Dharma followers to actively participate and contribute to this noble cause.

Benefits of Recognizing Gau Mata as 'Rashtra

Mata':

Strict laws will be implemented, putting an end to cow trafficking and cruelty.

Sanatan Dharma will be strengthened, fostering greater religious and spiritual awareness in society.

Environmental balance will be maintained, as cows play a crucial role in Indian agriculture and nature. Movement Kalki

leader Shri Sanjeev Dubey Ji expressed gratitude for Priest Shri Rakesh Dubey Ji's support, stating that it has given new energy to the movement. He called upon all Sanatan Dharma devotees, saints, and the general public to join this protest in large numbers and ensure the success of this sacred mission to declare Gau Mata as 'Rashtra Mata'.

Rattan Lal urges PM Modi to convene All-Party Meet over escalating terrorism in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), raised serious concerns over the deteriorating security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, urging the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene an all-party meeting of J&K to discuss the alarming rise in terrorism across the Jammu region. He pointed out that terrorism, which was once largely contained to the Valley, has now started spreading across Jammu, putting civilians and security forces at heightened risk.

Paying heartfelt homage, the senior NC



leader has expressed profound grief over the martyrdom of four brave soldiers in the Rajbagh area gunfight in district Kathua. He extended condolences to the bereaved families of the fallen heroes, emphasizing that their supreme sacrifice should not go in vain.

Rattan Lal Gupta reminded the Prime Minister of his earlier all-party meeting of J&K political leaders called in 2021, where he had assured the restoration of Jammu and

Kashmir's statehood. He also recalled PM Modi's commitment to bridging the Dilli ki Doori (distance from Delhi) and Dil ki Doori (distance from the heart).

Taking a dig at the BJP-led central government, Rattan Lal Gupta stated that Home Minister Amit Shah had assured the nation on the floor of the Parliament that the abrogation of Article 370 would put an end to terrorism in the region. "However, since the Dhangri killings in 2023, terrorism has escalated in the Jammu region, shattering the claims made by the Centre. The sacrifices of our security personnel and innocent civilians highlight the failure of this policy," he asserted.

Prime Minister expresses concern over earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 28 MAR 2025

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed concern over the devastating earthquakes that struck Myanmar and Thailand earlier today.

He extended his heartfelt prayers for the safety and well-being of those impacted by the calamity. He assured that India stands ready to provide all possible assistance to the governments and people of Myanmar and Thailand during this difficult time.

In a post on X, he wrote:

"Concerned by the situation in the wake of the Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. Praying for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. India stands ready to offer all possible assistance. In this regard, asked our authorities to be on standby. Also asked the MEA to remain in touch with the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand."

Indian Army organizes Quami Ekta Meet for Local Youth at Patnazi, Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, 28 MAR 2025

In continuation of its endeavour to promote peace and tranquillity in the region and to evolve an environment of brotherhood and harmony amongst the local population, a Quami Ekta Meet was organised by the Indian Army at Patnazi. The event was graced by an approximate gathering of 36 prominent personalities from the nearby villages. During the course of interaction, initiatives being undertaken for development of the region and subsequently the problems being faced by the local populace were discussed. The aim of this meet was to engage with the local communities in



a positive manner thereby defeating the nefarious design of adversaries. The local leaders themselves brought out the need and importance of harmony in the region which is a clear sign of the bonhomie present in Patnazi region. The Officer from the Indian Army exhorted upon the religious preachers to work towards maintaining peace in the region

and promised full support in fulfilling their local requirements. The meet was well received and the local leaders greatly appreciated and applauded the support provided by the Indian Army in all spheres. It is part of an endeavour by Indian Army to win hearts and minds of the local populace in the region and promote harmony and integration.

Centre must fulfill its commitment by restoring Statehood to J&K: Verma

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 28

Senior National Conference (NC) leader and District President Udhampur, Sunil Verma has reiterated the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, urging the Central Government to fulfill its commitment at the earliest.

He was addressing a public meeting at Narsoo Nallah, where he was joined by Ch. Abdul Rashid, Akash Verma (Youth President), Om Parkash (Block President City), and Sadeeq Mohd (Youth Secretary).

Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Verma criticized the failure of the four BJP MLAs from Udhampur district, stating that they have completely let down the people who had high



expectations from them. The BJP representatives have done nothing but give hollow assurances," he said.

He further emphasized that the people of Udhampur are now looking towards the National Conference for redressal of their grievances. "The people have lost faith in the false promises of the

BJP and are now approaching the National Conference because they believe in our vision and leadership. They know that only the present NC government, under the leadership of dynamic Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed to their welfare and overall development," he asserted. Sunil Verma reaffirmed

the party's commitment to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's lost dignity. "The NC government has been working tirelessly to address the concerns of the common people. CM Omar Abdullah has taken several progressive steps to ensure development, peace, and prosperity in the region. It is now the responsibility of the people to strengthen his hands and support his leadership," he urged.

Concluding his address, Sunil Verma made a fervent appeal to the Central Government to restore full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir without further delay. "The people of J&K deserve to have their democratic rights reinstated. The Centre must fulfill its promise and ensure that J&K regains its rightful status," he said.

Dogri Santha Jammu invites books for Prof. Ramnath Shastri Memorial Award-2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Dogri Santha Jammu has invited books from dogri writers for Prof. Ramnath Shastri Memorial Award-2025. As per a press note, the dogri writers who have published their first dogri book of any genre between 2020 to 2024 may submit 5 copies of the book at its office at Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu by April 04th 2025. The submitted book should not have been awarded by Sahitya Akademi, J&K Academy or any other Government or Non-Government organization.

As per Padmashri Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Santha Jammu, this prestigious award was started by Dogri Santha Jammu in collaboration with family of Late Padmashri Prof. Ramnath Shastri in 2014. It carries a memento, shawl and a cash prize money of Rs 21000. The award is presented every year on April 15th, birthday of Prof. Ramnath Shastri. He further added that Prof. Ramnath Shastri always advocated that the youths and new entrants in the field of literature should be encouraged to lead a movement in the future. He had inspired many established writers writing in Hindi or Urdu to pen down their creative literary works in Dogri and the result is obvious that we have world class literature today because of their colossal contributions. The soul of the award is also to follow the footsteps of Shastri ji and contribute in the movement started by him thus inspiring the new writers for promoting mother tongue Dogri. Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary, Dogri Santha Jammu said that Prof. Ramnath Shastri is regarded as doyen of Dogri literature. The award established in his name has been inspiring the young writers for so many years now. The response of the dogri writers for the prestigious award proves the significance of the award and the aspirations of the writers to have the honour. He hoped that this year also all the writers will submit their books in good number.

Dy CM inaugurates 2 day PHDCCI workshop on Intellectual Property Rights, trade, business promotion

Reiterates Govt's commitment to catalyse industrial ecosystem, growth

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

Emphasising government's commitment to catalyse the industrial ecosystem, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, said that numerous interventions and policies are being implemented towards industrial growth of Jammu and Kashmir as one of the priorities of the present administration.

He was speaking after inaugurating a two day workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Trade and Business Promotion in Jammu organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), in collaboration with the Office of Development Commissioner MSME, Union Ministry for MSME here today.

The event, moderated by Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI, aimed to enhance awareness and foster strategies for IPR, trade, and business promotion in Jammu & Kashmir.

The event was attended by MLA Khansahib, Saifuddin Bhat, Commissioner



Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, Director Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Dr Arun Manhas, Prominent Industrialists, office bearers of PHDCCI and senior officers.

While highlighting the global significance of intellectual property rights with examples such as Apple, KFC and McDonald's, the Deputy Chief Minister said that robust IP strategies drive worldwide success. He commended the local entrepreneurs, including lavender farmers and Basmati rice producers, for their efforts in brand registration.

Regarding the industrial growth and employment, the Deputy CM said that the government is

well aware of the potential of industrial sector in boosting the local economy industrial creating job avenues for the youth. He assured that his administration would enforce policies to prioritise local hiring and bolster support for indigenous businesses.

MLA Khansahib highlighted the need for promoting local entrepreneurs. He said that the same would go a long way in ensuring the youth get attracted to setting up their own units and ensuring the creation of jobs locally.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, outlined the government policies designed to spur industrial development, describing IPR as

a vital tool for economic progress. He encouraged the businesses to invest in innovation and brand protection to unlock sustainable value.

Director, Industries & Commerce, while speaking on the occasion, underscored the need for IPR awareness among the local enterprises, noting its potential to drive sustainable industrial growth. He urged the entrepreneurs to take advantage of the government schemes for patenting and trademark registration.

Chairman PHDCCI Jammu Chapter, Rakesh Wazir, delivered the opening address, emphasising the pivotal role of branding, innovation and IP protection in enhancing the competitiveness of businesses in the region. He reiterated PHDCCI's commitment towards empowering entrepreneurs and creating a thriving business ecosystem through effective IPR strategies, urging the participants to secure their intellectual property for long-term success.

MG Astor, India's First Car with AI Personal Assistant is now 'The Blockbuster SUV'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

JSW MG Motor India, has announced a bold new stance for the MG Astor as 'The Blockbuster SUV' with its MY2025 Edition. This marks a paradigm shift highlighting the brand's commitment to bringing an auto-tech masterpiece for its customers - blending exciting performance, sophistication, innovation and technology all into one package.

The Astor 'Blockbuster SUV' caters to discerning customers and early adopters with its MY2025 edition. The MG Astor is now the only SUV in its segment to offer a panoramic sunroof under INR 12.5 lakh (ex-showroom) with its new Shine variant. Further, the Select variant comes in with six airbags and premium Ivory Leatherette seats, for enhanced safety and comfort. SUV enthusiasts can visit their nearest JSW MG Motor India dealerships to enquire and book 'The Blockbuster SUV' at a starting price of INR 9.99 lakh (ex-showroom). The 2025 MG

Astor is available with 1.5L MT & CVT and 1.3 Turbo AT powertrains.

Commenting on the development, Rakesh Sen, Director Sales and Operations, JSW MG Motor India, said, "Taking on a bold new stance, the MG Astor is the perfect car for early adopters looking for a



perfect SUV. More than those who seek more than practicality - the desire for elevated driving experience & sophistication. We understand that they are on the lookout for a car that reflects their rise, balances their aspiration with pragmatism, and turns every commute into a journey. The MG Astor delivers precisely that - a 'Blockbuster in motion.'"

"The Blockbuster SUV" comes with over 50 Safety features, with the premium interiors and panoramic sunroof elevating the memorable driving experience to a new level

of comfort. With a host of features paired with a pleasurable driving experience, MG Astor is also the first SUV in India to get a personal AI assistant and a host of 14 Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) features.

MG Astor also offers a series of advanced teach features - Ventilated Seats in the front row, Wireless Charger, Wireless Android Auto & Apple Car Play, and Auto-dimming IRVM for additional security

and convenience, along with an updated i-SMART 2.0 with Advanced User Interface for a holistic driving experience and 80+ connected features for a seamless and convenient driving experience. Among its standout features is the JIO Voice Recognition system, enabling advanced voice commands for Weather, Cricket updates, Calculator, Clock, Date/Day information, Dictionary, News and knowledge. The Anti-Theft feature, coupled with Digital Key functionality, ensures security even without a network connection.

Chaitra Navratri to begin from Sunday, Mar 30: Rohit Shastri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Jammu and Kashmir: This year, Chaitra Vasant Navratri will begin on Sunday, March 30, and will continue until Sunday, April 6. Shri Durga Ashtami will be observed on Saturday, April 5, while Shri Durga Navami and Shri Ram Navami will be celebrated on Sunday, April 6. Mahant Rohit Shastri (Jyotishacharya), President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust, stated that the entire day of Sunday, March 30, is auspicious for the establishment of the Navratri Kalash, lighting the sacred lamp (Jyoti), and setting up the representation (Saakh) of Goddess Durga. Performing these rituals in the morning will be especially beneficial.

During the nine days of this fast, starting from the Pratipada (first day) of the

Shukla Paksha of Chaitra and lasting until Navami (ninth day), the nine forms of Goddess Bhagwati – Shailputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri – will be worshipped. Along with the worship of Goddess Durga, reading the Durga Saptashati by oneself or through a knowledgeable priest is considered highly rewarding during this period.

Chaitra Navratri 2025 Dates:

March 30 - Navratri Pratipada - Worship of Maa Shailputri and Ghatasthapana (Kalash installation)

March 31 - Navratri Dwitaya - Worship of Maa Brahmacharini

Since Tritiya Tithi will be shortened, both Dwitaya and Tritiya will be observed on March 31 – Worship of Maa Chandraghanta

April 1 - Navratri Chatur-



thi - Worship of Maa Kush-

manda

April 2 - Navratri Panchami - Worship of Maa Skandamata

April 3 - Navratri Shashti - Worship of Maa Katyayani

April 4 - Navratri Sap-

tami - Worship of Maa Kalaratri

April 5 - Navratri Ashtami - Worship of Maa Mahagauri

April 6 - Navratri Navami - Worship of Maa Siddhidatri, Shri Ram Navami, and Shri Durga Navami

Goddess Durga's Vehicle - A Positive Sign

According to the Devi Bhagavat:

"Shashi Sūrye Gajarū hā Śanibhau e Tura game Gurau Śukre Ca Dolāyā Budhe Nauka Prakīrtitā "

Since Chaitra Navratri will begin on Sunday, March 30, Goddess Durga will arrive riding an elephant this year. According to tradition, the arrival of the goddess on an elephant signifies the possibility of abundant rainfall, which is a favorable sign for agriculture. The elephant is also considered a symbol of wealth and prosperity, indicating positive outcomes for the general public.

Spiritual Significance of Navratri

Navratri holds special significance for practitioners of Tantra and those interested in mystical rituals. Even householders can awaken their inner spiritual energies through the worship of Goddess Durga during this period. Acts of charity and piety

performed during Navratri are believed to yield special rewards.

Dos and Don'ts During Navratri:

Avoid consuming any tamasic (non-vegetarian) foods during Navratri.

Refrain from alcohol and other intoxicants.

Observe fasting according to your health and consume fruits and light meals.

Recite hymns dedicated to Goddess Durga every morning and evening.

Beginning of Vikrami Samvat 2082

The new Vikrami Samvat 2082, named "Siddharthi," will commence on Sunday, March 30. Both the king and the minister of this new year will be governed by the Sun. Continuous chanting of the mantras from Shri Durga Saptashati and offering oblations through Havan (sacred fire ritual) are believed to bring miraculous success.

Karra terms terror situation grim in Jammu region, lauds bravery of security forces

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, MARCH 28

Paying rich tributes to the martyred policemen who laid down their lives while bravely fighting the militants in Kathua area, since last night, JKPC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra has termed the terror situation in parts of Jammu as grim and demanded more effective strategy to deal with the deteriorated situation in the region.

Strongly condemning the terror incident in Kathua district, JKPC Chief expressed great shock over loss of precious lives of security forces in the gun battle, while lauding the bravery of the forces who eliminated three terrorists in the encounter. Karra expressed great concern

over the grim situation, in various parts of Jammu region, he said that the baloon of false & misleading claims of normalcy by the centre government, stands burst due to series of terror incidents in Jammu region in the recent past but the centre remains in denial mode to divert attention of the nation. The centre government ignored the warning signals and ignored the voice of people from ground, leading to deterioration of the situation, he alleged. Joined by several senior leaders from the district including Ch Lal Singh Ex- MP, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma Ex- Minister, DCC President Pankaj Dogra, Ex MLA Durga Dass, Naresh Sharma, Kajal Rajput, Rakesh Chaudhary, Nirdosh Sharma

& ors, Karra demanded more effective strategy to control the situation by taking active cooperation of people and the elected representatives. JKPC Chief asked the centre government to accept the ground reality and the challenge, in order to control the situation.

They said that the situation is worst in the district and there is fear amongst the common people due to series of incidents including mysterious disappearance & killings, while the police is clueless, which makes things more serious. They conveyed deep sympathies with the families of those martyred and injured and prayed for early recovery of the injured.

Shrine Board and Narayana Health Care extend collaboration for enhanced Healthcare Services

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, MARCH 28

The SMVD Charitable Society under the aegis of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and Narayana Vaishno Devi Specialty Hospitals Private Limited (NVD), a subsidiary of Narayana Health Care, Bangalore today signed an extension of their Concession Agreement for an additional eight years upto 2033, for the operation of the Super Specialty Hospital at Kakryal-Katra.

The concession agreement was signed by Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and Sunil Kumar, CN; Sr. VP and

Head Business Transformations and Key initiatives, Narayana Health Care in the presence of Dr. Ashok

Bhan and Suresh Kumar Sharma, Members of Shrine Board; Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Mahesh Sharma, FA/ Chief Accounts Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. Yash Pal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME; Sandhya J, Group Chief Financial Officer; Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director and Rohit Sethi, Sr. Manager - Finance of NVD and other officers of Board and NVD.

The decision to extend the collaboration was taken after a thorough review of the hospital's performance and the quality of healthcare services being provided to the patients by the Board at its 73rd meeting held on 18.12.2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT. The Shrine Board and NH Care have been working together



since 2016 to provide world-class healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

The Super Specialty Hospital inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and operational since April 2016 has been offering specialized medical services across over 20 specialties. Key focus areas include Cardiology, Cardiovascular Surgery, Medical and Surgical Gastroenterology, Orthopaedics and Joint

Replacement, Renal Sciences, Medical, Radiation and Surgical Oncology (Cancer) besides Critical Care Medicine. Equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment, the hospital boasts a team of highly qualified and experienced doctors and paramedical staff ensuring top-notch patient care. Annually, the hospital provides in-patient treatment to around 50,000 patients and out-patient consultations to nearly 60,000. Since its inception, the hospital has also provided free

treatment worth over Rs.50 crore to more than one lakh needy patients, as part of the Shrine Board's medical support policy. The hospital has also been providing training and capacity-building programs for the medical and paramedical staff in the region.

Noteworthy that SMVDIME-Medical College, established at a cost of Rs. 350 crore, commenced its operations in November 2024, expanding the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital's operational base. The college will be offering an MBBS program, starting with its first batch of 50 students in the 2025-26 academic session (upgradable to 100 seats). Notably, the hospital has 120 senior consultants and doctors serving in various superspecialty

disciplines and additionally, the Board's Medical College has appointed 49 faculty members and 18 Sr. Residents, thus augmenting the numbers significantly.

With the signing of the renewed Agreement, Narayana Health (NH) will continue to provide comprehensive support in critical aspects including procurements, ensuring adherence to quality control standards as mandated by the National Medical Commission (NMC), facilitation in accreditation processes, implement and manage advanced IT systems, staffing and recruitment, besides providing expertise in budgeting and audits, thereby ensuring the hospital's operations remain streamlined, efficient and compliant with regulatory requirements.

JMC launches drive to ensure hygienic, good quality food for Eid Celebrations

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

With Eid celebrations just around the corner, Jammu Municipal Corporation has launched a comprehensive drive to ensure quality meat is being served to the public. The initiative aims to guarantee safe and hygienic meat supply, giving citizens a worry-free and joyful Eid experience.

On Directions of Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav, a team of Veterinary Section of Jmc headed by Dr. Gourav Chowdhary, conducted surprise inspections of meat markets across the city. The inspection focused on verifying the authenticity of meat, checking for any signs of disease or contamination and ensuring compliance



with food safety standards. During the drive 11 meat shops were penalised and directions were issued to all shops to abide by food safety norms for health & safety of consumers. JMC's drive will continue until the end of Eid celebrations and citizens' complaints will also be addressed through online & offline modes.

Natrang Jammu felicitates senior artists, others at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Natrang Jammu felicitated distinguished dignitaries and senior artists at the successful performance of Moliere's popular play 'Kauva Chala Hans Ki Chala' presented before the Jam-Packed Abhinav Theater. The play has been brilliantly directed by Sumeet Sharma, a National award-ee for theatre direction. The performance was supported by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

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.

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 enthused 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.

Ms. Harvinder Kour, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages was also felicitated on the occasion. She complemented Natrang for presenting a wonderful performance with unmatched professional standards.

Padmashri Balwant Thakur felicitated the distinguished guest for their contribution in the promotion of art and culture. He also asserted that Natrang has always strived for excel-

lence in the field and has produced hundreds of professionally trained and enthused artists who are shaping the cultural landscape of the region.

The senior artists who were felicitated included 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 perfor-

mance 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, Arya Sharma, Mitali Sarmal, Simran Bhagat, Priyal Ashok Gupta and Prerna Sharma.

Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Card celebrates Milestone: over 2 Million Cards issued

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

Tata Neu and HDFC Bank today announced a significant milestone: the Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Card has surpassed 2 million cards issued, solidifying its position as one of India's preferred rewards credit cards. This achievement underscores the card's remarkable success in delivering value and a seamless rewards ecosystem to customers across the country. Since its launch in August 2022, the Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Card has made significant strides, loved by its users for offering the most simple and transparent rewards ecosystem in the Indian credit card market. With a significant share of new cards issued (over 13% net new cards issued in Q3 FY25-RBI), it has rapidly gained the trust and loyalty of customers across the country. "At Tata Digital, we are dedicated to revolutionizing the credit card experience by making benefits more rewarding

and transparent for our customers," said Gaurav Hazrati, Chief Business Officer, Financial Services, Tata Digital. "Crossing 2 million Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Cards issued is a strong testament to the trust our customers place in NeuCard. We remain committed to continuously enhancing the NeuCard experience, delivering even greater value to our growing community of NeuCard holders." Every transaction with the Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Card unlocks a universe of rewards, including up to 10% savings, accelerated NeuCoin earnings, and exclusive privileges across travel, fashion, electronics, groceries, and more. The card's seamless, technology-driven experience, featuring digital onboarding, instant approvals, and contactless payments, caters to the modern digital lifestyle. Mr. Parag Rao, Country Head - Payments, Liability Products, Consumer Finance and Marketing, HDFC Bank, "As India's leading card issuer, it is

our endeavour to create a customised offering for every customer segment, providing best-in-class payment solutions. We are delighted that the Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Card, with its digital-first approach and strong value proposition, has been able to enhance the user experience and transform everyday spending into rewarding moments. "Cardholders enjoy up to 10% back as NeuCoins on non-EMI spends on Tata Neu and up to 5% back as NeuCoins on partner Tata Brands (including in-store), 1.5% back as NeuCoins on eligible non-Tata and merchant EMI spends, and additional rewards on UPI transactions. Complimentary domestic airport lounge access, and the coveted IHCL Silver Membership for cardholders further enhance the card's appeal. The Tata Neu HDFC Bank Credit Card is available in both RuPay and Visa variants, making premium digital payments accessible and rewarding for customers across India.

Media fraternity, others condole death of mother of Parvaiz Ud Din

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 28

Senior Journalist and ETV Bharat Srinagar Bureau Correspondent Parvaiz Ud Din's beloved mother passed away early yesterday morning at her residence in Noorpara, Tral, after a brief illness. She was the wife of the renowned Radio Kashmir broadcaster, Ghulam Mohiud-Din Noorpara.

She was known for her kindness, humanity and unwavering faith. She offered daily prayers five times and dedicated her life to worship, righteousness and the well-being of her family and community. Her warmth, generosity and wisdom touched the lives of many, leaving behind a legacy of love and compassion.

Her passing has left a profound void, not only in her family but also among the neighbours, relatives, journalist fraternity, social and political circles and people from all walks of life. Many have expressed their deep sorrow and extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Hakeem Yaseen decries windstorm devastation in Kashmir, demands urgent relief for affected families

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 28

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has voiced deep anguish over the large-scale destruction caused by strong winds across Kashmir, particularly in Budgam district.

He expressed concern over the suffering of people whose homes and properties have been severely

damaged. "The strong winds have inflicted serious damage in several areas, including Khanshab, Beerwah, and Chadoora. Many families have been left in distress as their houses, shops, and essential infrastructure have been affected," Hakeem Yaseen said. "I urge the administration to immediately assess the extent of the damage and provide adequate compensation to the victims."

He stressed that the



affected families should not be left to struggle on their own and called for a comprehensive relief package to address their hardships. "The authorities must act swiftly to ensure that

those who have lost their roofs and properties receive prompt assistance. Emergency arrangements should be made to provide shelter and basic necessities to the worst-affected families," he added. Highlighting the extensive impact on public infrastructure, Hakeem Yaseen called for urgent measures to restore essential services. "The damage to electricity lines and public utilities has left many areas without power, making life

difficult for the residents. The administration must expedite repair works and restore normalcy at the earliest," he urged. Emphasizing the need for better disaster preparedness, he said, "Natural calamities like these remind us of the importance of having an effective response mechanism. The government should ensure that disaster management teams are equipped to handle such emergencies in the future."

Hakeem Yaseen appealed to civil society organizations and local volunteers to come forward and assist the affected communities. "We must stand together in times of crisis and extend all possible help to those in need," he remarked. He reaffirmed his commitment to standing by the people in this difficult time and assured that he would continue to press the authorities for urgent action.

Indian Army conducts Integrated Multi-Domain Exercise in Eastern Theatre



JI NEWS SERVICE
ARUNACHAL PRADESH: 28 MAR

In a powerful demonstration of joint operational capability, the Indian Army today conducted a Tri-Service Integrated Multi-Domain Warfare Exercise in the Eastern Theatre, deep in the high-altitude terrain of Arunachal Pradesh. The exercise, named Ex Prachand Prahaar, was held from 25 to 27 March 2025 and brought together the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and other elements of the Indian Armed Forces in a synergised combat drill designed to simulate future warfare.

Lieutenant General Ram Chander Tiwari, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Theatre, and Air Marshal Surat Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, reviewed the exercise and commended the troops for their operational excellence and high degree of professionalism. This integrated tri-service drill builds on the momentum of Exercise Poorvi Prahar held in November 2024, which focused primarily on the integrated application of aviation assets. Exercise Prachand Prahaar has now taken that concept further by validating a fully integrated approach to surveillance, command and control, and precision firepower across the three services.

Carried out under the aegis of the Eastern Command, the exercise showcased the seamless integration of advanced surveillance, strike capabilities, and multi-domain operational planning. Cutting-edge platforms such as long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, armed helicopters, UAVs, loitering munitions, and space-based assets were employed to achieve total situational awareness and rapid target engagement. Once simulated targets were identified, they were swiftly neutralised through coordinated strikes using fighter aircraft, long-range rocket systems, medium artillery, swarm drones, kamikaze drones, and armed helicopters—all executed in an electronically contested environment that simulated modern battlefield conditions.

Lieutenant General Ram Chander Tiwari, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Theatre, and Air Marshal Surat Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, reviewed the exercise and commended the troops for their operational excellence and high degree of professionalism. This integrated tri-service drill builds on the momentum of Exercise Poorvi Prahar held in November 2024, which focused primarily on the integrated application of aviation assets. Exercise Prachand Prahaar has now taken that concept further by validating a fully integrated approach to surveillance, command and control, and precision firepower across the three services. The exercise stands as a testament to the Indian Armed Forces' growing emphasis on jointness, technological superiority, and readiness to tackle multi-domain threats. It reinforces India's resolve to deter and, if necessary, decisively respond to any emerging security challenge along its strategic frontiers.

Ramban residents hold protest against traffic chaos at Jula Bridge

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 25

In a powerful display of public frustration, residents, commuters, and civic organizations of Ramban staged a massive protest on Friday, March 28, at Masjid Market, demanding an urgent resolution to the worsening traffic congestion caused by the continued diversion of vehicles through Maitra onto Jula Bridge.



The protest, led by Senior Congress Leader and Advocate Fairoz Khan, garnered extensive support from the Auto Union, Beopar Mandal, Ramban Bar Association, Students' Union, and various civil society groups. Protesters voiced their anger over the long-standing diversion policy, particularly over the past one month, which has resulted in severe traffic gridlocks, disrupted daily life, and negatively impacted local businesses. Addressing the gathering, Adv. Fairoz Khan strongly criticized the authorities for their inaction, stating: "The people of Ramban have had enough. For the past one month, we have been pleading with officials to halt this reckless diversion through Maitra onto Jula Bridge. Instead of solutions, we are met with apathy. This is not just an inconvenience—it's a crisis choking our economy, endangering commut-

ers, and robbing people of their time and peace. We demand immediate action to restore normal traffic flow and a long-term plan to address this issue. If our voices go unheard today, this will be the first of many protests." Protesters demanded the immediate cessation of traffic diversion through Maitra onto Jula Bridge, urgent infrastructure intervention to decongest the area and ensure smooth traffic flow, and a transparent dialogue between authorities and stakeholders to implement sustainable, long-term solutions addressing the root causes of the crisis. The ongoing congestion has led to hours-long traffic jams, severely affecting students, patients, and daily commuters. Protesters argued that despite the National Highway being a single stretch at only one location—Mehar—traffic could be managed efficiently without forcing

vehicles through Maitra. Growing frustration over the alleged mismanagement of Ramban's highway infrastructure has raised serious concerns among residents, who question the wasteful expenditure of public funds amounting to thousands of crores while crucial road projects remain incomplete. Demonstrators also raised concerns over alleged corruption in infrastructure projects. A major grievance is the arbitrary toll collection from vehicles passing through Maitra, despite a High Court ruling stipulating that vehicles not utilizing municipal infrastructure should not be charged. Protesters emphasized that if Maitra is to remain a key transit route, authorities must allocate sufficient funds to develop a proper road network capable of handling heavy traffic loads. The slow progress in constructing the only pro-

posed bridge in the area has further fueled public anger. Protesters demanded the immediate acceleration of the project, emphasizing that the lack of proper infrastructure is exacerbating the crisis. In response to the demonstration, a detailed meeting was convened, attended by Public representatives led Adv. Fairoz Khan with administration led by ACR Ramban, DySP Ramban, Tehsildar Ramban, SHO Ramban, and DTI Traffic Ramban. After thorough discussions, it was unanimously agreed that traffic will not be diverted through Maitra onto the National Highway until Eid, with only emergency services allowed. Post-Eid, the committee will reconvene with the administration to devise a long-term, sustainable solution to the issue. Additionally, the protesters urged the Chief Minister Omar Shaib and the Lieutenant Governor to personally intervene, emphasizing that Ramban deserves justice. Following these assurances, the protest was temporarily called off, with the commitment that further action will be taken if no permanent resolution is reached. As tensions persist, all eyes are on the administration's next move. The people of Ramban have made their stance clear: the time for empty promises is over.

SMVDU Faculty Delivers Lecture at MIET at Kot Bhalwal, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, a distinguished expert in VLSI design, delivered an insightful lecture at the Faculty Development Program (FDP) on "Emerging Trends in VLSI System Design and Applications", organized by the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering and the Research and Development Cell at Model Institute of Engineering & Technology (MIET), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. The session focused on "Methodology for Teaching VLSI and How to Start Working in VLSI Fields" Dr. Bhardwaj provided valuable guidance on innovative teaching methodologies and career

opportunities in the VLSI industry. Faculty members and research scholars actively participated in the interactive session, gaining practical insights into the evolving landscape of VLSI technology. Dr. Surbhi Sharma, Head of the ECE Department, MIET, expressed gratitude to Dr. Bhardwaj for his invaluable contribution and emphasized the significance of such expert-led sessions in enhancing faculty expertise and industry readiness. The five-day FDP aims to equip educators and researchers with the latest trends and practical knowledge in VLSI system design, fostering academic excellence and industry collaboration.

Army Para Athletes shine at 2nd Khelo India Para Games 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI: 28 MAR 2025

Para Athletes of the Army Paralympic Node (APN), Bombay Engineer Group & Centre, Khadki, and the Army Marksmanship Unit delivered an outstanding performance at the 2nd Khelo India Para Games, held in New Delhi from 20 to 26 March 2025.



A total of 24 Para Athletes represented the Indian Army in Para Athletics and Shooting, securing an impressive 15 medals, including: 4 Gold, 7 Silver, and 4 Bronze. Demonstrating exceptional resilience, indomitable spirit, and competitive dominance, the athletes showcased their prowess with clean sweeps in two events – F-57 Shot Put and T-64 200m – securing all three podium positions in each. Among the standout performances, Gunner Naresh clinched two Gold medals in T-64 200m and

400m (blade category), while Naik Rajvir secured two Silver medals in the T-64 100m and 200m events. Sapper Shubham Juyal added to the medal tally with a Silver in F-57 Shot Put, finishing ahead of Paralympics medallist Subedar Hokato Sema, signalling the emergence of a promising new generation of Army Para Athletes. In Shooting, Naib Subedar Amir Ahmad Bhat won a Silver medal in the 25m

Pistol event, and Sepoy Anandhakrishnan H earned Silver in the 50m Rifle Prone event, reaffirming the Army's growing excellence in Para Shooting disciplines. The Indian Army's continued commitment to nurturing talent through initiatives like the Army Paralympic Node and Mission Olympics was evident through the athletes' spirited and disciplined performances at this national-level event.

Ranjvijay calls for stronger action against terrorism

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

Ranjvijay Singh, the great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh, has expressed deep anguish over the martyrdom of four valiant soldiers in a fierce gunfight with terrorists in Rajbagh, Kathua. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and saluted the bravery of the fallen heroes.

In a press statement issued here today, Ranvijay Singh asserted that the sacrifice of these brave hearts would always be remembered and serve as an inspiration for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that terrorism has no place in a civilized society and called for resolute action against those who seek to disrupt peace and harmony in the region.

Govt of Jammu and Kashmir (Union Territory)
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER REASI
REASI FOREST DIVISION
Tale: 01991-295263 Fax: 01991-244129 Email: reasidfo@gmail.com

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 I of the Management Plan notified vide notification No. PCCF/Coord/Khair/Management Plan/20216/2608-78 dated 26-04-2016, and has been recently amended as per PCCF Office Notification No. PCCF/Cord/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: 28-3-25

Smile Foundation NGO brings nourishment, hope to families in need

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 28

In a world where many families are struggling to make ends meet, the Smile Foundation is stepping up to make a difference. This incredible NGO is on a mission to provide food kits to those who need it the most, bringing not just nourishment, but also a sense of hope in these challenging times.

"Smile Foundation NGO extends a helping hand by providing food kits to needy families, bringing hope and nourishment to those in need," says Sajjad Ahmad Sholla, President Smile foundation NGO. It's more than just a meal; it's about restoring dignity and light to families facing tough circumstances.

Imagine a family of four, sitting around an empty table, their worries weigh-



ing heavily on their hearts. Now picture that same family receiving a food kit filled with essentials. It's not just food; it's a lifeline. It's the difference between going to bed hungry and sharing a meal together.

With each food kit delivered, the Smile Foundation NGO is showing that community matters. They're reminding us all that even in our busiest lives, we can

take a moment to lend a helping hand. As the foundation continues to extend its reach, they are calling on everyone to join them in this mission of kindness and compassion.

"Every small act of support counts. Together we can spread smiles and ensure that no family goes to bed hungry," adds Masrat Jan, Chairperson Smile foundation NGO.

J&K, Ladakh report 417 TB deaths in 2024

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 28 (KNO)

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh recorded a total of 417 Tuberculosis (TB) deaths in 2024, according to data presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Lok Sabha.

The figures include 408 TB-related deaths in J&K and 9 in Ladakh. India has seen a 17.7% decline in TB incidence from 237 per 100,000 population in 2015 to 195 per 100,000 in 2023.

As per the news agency, the government has set a target to eliminate TB by 2025, but challenges remain in several states, including J&K and Ladakh, where geographical barriers, limited healthcare access, and winter disruptions affect treatment.

The central and UT governments continue to strengthen TB detection and treatment mechanisms in J&K and Ladakh. However, experts stress the need for early diagnosis, increased access to medicines, and better healthcare infrastructure to meet the 2025 TB elimination deadline. KNO

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan: PS RS Pura organizes Anti-Drug Rally at New Agrachak

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

In a bid to combat the scourge of drug abuse, today on 28.03.2025 a unique initiative of Anti-drug Rally at New Agra Chak, R S Pura.

In the rally gathering of about 70/80 respected figures of the area, youth including Sportsmen as well as Children participated enthusiastically, SDPO RS Pura Sh. Gurmeet Singh-JKPS SDPO, Inspector Ravi @Singh Parihar SHO R S Pura, S I Rajinder Singh IC BPP AgraChak, ASI Ranbir Singh BPP Baspur and ASI Ashwani Kumar I/C BPP Badyal Brahmana and other respected citizens participated in the Rally.

The Rally begins at village New Agrachak and after passing through Village giving strong Antidrug message and culminated at

Rahda Krishan Mandir. Besides, prominent senior citizens who never used drugs and alcohol in their life, were also honored by Special Antidrug Momentos from District Police Jammu in recognition of their non-use of drugs and Alcohol are Ex Sarpanch Rashpaul Choudhary, Ex Sarpanch Liyaqat Ali and Ram Parsad Sharma. The main motive of this is to projecting these Citizens as Role Models against Drug Abuse in the society.

This ground breaking campaign aims to educate the public about the dangers of drug abuse and at the same time honour the senior citizens for not using drug and alcohol in their entire life.

The initiative capitalises on ensuring the anti-drug message reaches a broad audience & stressed to

steer clear of drugs and alcohol and maintain a drug-free lifestyle.

The campaign seeks to foster enduring awareness about the issue of drug abuse. It also serves as a constant reminder to the individuals, reinforcing the importance of staying away from illicit substances.

This innovative anti-drug awareness campaign reflects the Jammu Police's commitment in tackling drug abuse and safeguarding the well-being of the community. Through collaborative efforts and innovative approaches, aim is to create a safer and drug-free environment for all residents.

This Antidrug Campaign launched by District Police Jammu under Civic Action Proqramme(CAP) will continue in other parts of the District especially Drug hotspots.

Keshav Chopra, others release Navratri Special Devotional Bhajan "Nabha Aali Mata"

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Senior Journalist Sohail Kazmi, Prominent Social Activist & Chairman of Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra along with BJP Co-Convenor Sanskriti and Art Culture Cell Sahil Mahajan releases Devotional Bhajan "Nabha Aali Mata", The Bhajan has been sung by Singer Vijay Malhotra and composed by Promo Devi, Music was given by Dr V Kaith, Producer of the Bhajan is Dr Sandeep, Director is K.K Malhotra and it has been released on YouTube Channel "vijay malhotra" simultaneously.

Sohail Kazmi while speaking hailed the work of the Whole team of the



album and said that new opportunities are being opened for youths of the J & K. He also highlighted the importance of such initiatives in preserving and promoting the local artists and Music.

Keshav Chopra congratulated the whole team for bringing out their talent to the public and inspiring

the youth to come forward. He also said that the people of J&K should also support and encourage the local artists so that they can also grow and reach new heights.

Sahil Mahajan while speaking praised the artists for devoting their services to the divinity of Nabha Aali Mata in a melodious

composition and hailed the efforts of organizers. He further said that he is always there to support every artist of J&K and if they need any help they can approach me anytime.

Singer Nidhi Sharma, Vikas Kumar, Pallavi, Naresh Kumar, Atul Mangotra, Sahil Dogra and others were also Present.

NYKS holds 'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament' at BRS Auditorium



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Jammu & Kashmir organised State level "Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament" today on 27-03-2025 at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. The event held under the aegis of MY Bharat initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India witnessed participation of youth from seven nodal districts viz Jammu, Srinagar, Udhampur, Rajouri, Anantnag, Doda and Baramulla. In the event aimed at hearing the voice of youth through deliberations, young minds were engaged in discussions to share their vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

At the outset, State Director Nissar Ahmed

Butt welcomed the jury members by presenting bouquet followed by the welcomed address by DYO Jammu Nitin Hangloo. After the traditional lamp lightening ceremony, the participants spoke on the topic 75 years of Indian constitution: A journey of rights, duties and progress; The 11 Sankalp of Samvidhan Divas: A pledge to strengthen India's constitutional values which was adjudged by Dr. Ashok Aima (Former Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu), Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat (MLA Suchetgarh), Ms. Sapna Kotwal JKAS (Secretary, J&K Pahari Advisory Board), Sh. Subash Gupta (Retd. Sessions Judge and Former Member JKPCS) and Dr. Javed Rahi (Renowned author and writer).

The valedictory session

Medical Patrol conducted for Bakkarwals, Local Youth at Dhabrot and Songri, Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 28 MAR 2025

In continued efforts to support local communities, the Indian Army carried out a medical patrol for bakkarwals and locals in the remote areas of Dhabrot and Songri villages, Rajouri district. The initiative aimed to provide essential medical care to the residents, particularly the elderly, children and women of the Bakarwal community and other local inhabitants. The medical team, comprising experienced medical staff and Nursing Assistants conducted health check-ups of more than 95 villagers comprising approx 42 women, 25 children and 28 elderly people, distributed medicines and

educated the locals on hygiene and preventive healthcare. The initiative addressed common ailments and provided much-needed medical assistance to the local population with limited access to healthcare facilities. This outreach program reflects the Indian Army's commitment to strengthening the bond with the civilian population. By ensuring the well-being of remote communities, the Indian Army continues to foster trust and cooperation while upholding its role as a pillar of national service. The locals expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the humanitarian efforts, which reaffirmed the Indian Army's dedication to their welfare and continuous support.

Chai Pe Charcha conducted with Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Makhidhar, Reasi



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI: 28 MAR 2025

In a continued effort to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and local communities, a 'Chai Pe Charcha' was organized with the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities at the remote location of Makhidhar in Reasi district. The interactive session provided a platform for open dialogue, where community members shared their concerns and aspirations. The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to fostering peace, development and security in the region. Discussions centered on welfare initiatives, educational opportunities and

employment avenues for the youth. The event was marked by a warm exchange of ideas over traditional tea, reflecting the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation. The Gujjar and Bakkarwal community expressed their appreciation for the Army's outreach efforts and its role in ensuring the well-being of the region. Such engagements play a pivotal role in strengthening the Army-civilian relationship and reinforcing the shared vision of progress and harmony. The Indian Army remains dedicated to promoting inclusivity and facilitating development initiatives for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jasrotia condemns Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in Kathua District

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAR 28

MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia today strongly condemned Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in Kathua District. In a handout issued here, he said Pakistan is frustrated with the development initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Modi in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the growing number of separatists joining the mainstream. Jasrotia said BJP has been vocal about his concerns regarding Pakistan's involvement in terrorism but opposition political parties every now and then advocate talks with Pakistan.

Jasrotia paid heartfelt tributes to the martyred soldiers who lost their lives in the Kathua encounter. He acknowledged the nation's eternal debt to these brave-hearts for their supreme sacrifices in the line of duty, protecting Mother India. Jasrotia's sentiments echo the feelings of the entire nation, which is grateful for the courage and patriotism displayed by these soldiers. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten, and the nation will continue to honor their memory. Jasrotia's tribute is a testament to the respect and admiration that the nation has for its brave soldiers.

Meanwhile Jasrotia called for Pakistan to be declared a rogue nation, citing its sponsorship of terrorism in Kathua and other regions. He made this demand in response to Pakistan's continued support of militant groups and its alleged involvement in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. He also demanded economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation and potential military action against Pakistan.

Jasrotia strongly condemned those advocating for talks with Pakistan, especially in light of the recent encounter in Kathua and criticized those suggesting dialogue with Pakistan. Jasrotia's criticism is driven by the belief that Pakistan's actions, particularly its sponsorship of terrorism, make it an untrustworthy partner for dialogue. Jasrotia's comments reflect the widespread sentiment that Pakistan's actions must be condemned, and that dialogue should only be considered when Pakistan takes concrete steps to address India's concerns.

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that in my PNB MetLife policy bearing Policy No. 00343714, the following corrections are to be made:

My father's name is incorrectly mentioned as Shanker Dass Singh. The correct name is Shanker Dass.

My name is incorrectly mentioned as Barf Singh. The correct name is Baraf Singh.

If any person has any objection to the proposed corrections, they may contact the concerned authorities of PNB MetLife within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Baraf Singh
S/o Shanker Dass

Youm-e-Quds Observed in Kargil with a Massive Protest Rally condemning Israeli Aggression

JI NEWS SERVICE
KARGIL, LADAKH

The people of Kargil observed Jummat-ul-Vida as Youm-e-Quds, expressing their unwavering solidarity with Palestine and condemning the illegal occupation of Masjid Al-Aqsa and the atrocities committed by Israel. A massive protest rally was organized under the leadership of Markazi Imam Jumma Wal Jamaat, Hujjatul Islam Wal Muslimeen Sheikh Ibrahim Khalili. The rally commenced from Isna Ashriya Campus Kargil after Friday prayers, passed through Main Bazaar and Lal Chowk, and concluded at Isna Ashriya Chowk.

A large number of people, including religious scholars, youth leaders, and civil society members, participated in the protest, raising their voices against genocide

and war crimes being committed in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Parachinar (Pakistan). Protesters carried banners and placards reading "Free Palestine," "Boycott Israel," "Stop Atrocities Against Muslims," and "Zionism = Racism," demanding an immediate end to the occupation and the unjust siege of Gaza.

The rally began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Hujjatul Islam Wal Muslimeen Sheikh Toha Shairi, setting a solemn and determined tone for the event. Various religious and community leaders addressed the gathering, including Youth Leader Mohd Hassan Hundermani, Hujjatul Islam Wal Muslimeen Sheikh Abdullah Majani, and President of Jamiat Ul Ulema Isna Ashriya Kargil (JUIAK), Sheikh Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi.

In his speech, Sheikh

Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi emphasized the need for the global Muslim community to unite in the struggle for Palestinian liberation, recalling the teachings of Imam Khomeini, who declared Quds Day as a day of resistance against oppression. He strongly condemned the silence of international human rights organizations, stating that the siege of Palestine is an attack on human dignity, freedom, and international law.

He also highlighted the persecution of the Shia community in Parachinar, Pakistan, condemning violent attacks, sectarian discrimination, and restrictions imposed on the minority community. He urged the international community to intervene and ensure the protection of basic human rights.

Sheikh Nazir further addressed the discrimination faced by the Buddhist



community, referring to the Bodh Gaya issue and the illegal occupation of Buddhist heritage sites. He asserted that Quds Day is not just about Palestine but about raising voices against oppression and injustice worldwide,

regardless of religion or ethnicity.

Additionally, he strongly condemned the introduction of the Waqf Bill in Parliament, calling it illegal and an interference in religious affairs. He declared that the Muslim

community across India stands united in rejecting this bill.

On local issues, Sheikh Nazir criticized the UT Administration for failing to notify a single gazetted post and questioned the role of LAHDC Kargil and

KDA, stating that these bodies were established to advocate for the people's rights but have failed in their responsibilities.

The speakers collectively condemned Israel's continued aggression, war crimes, and systematic genocide of innocent Palestinian civilians, emphasizing that the massacre of men, women, and children in Gaza is a stain on global conscience. They urged the United Nations and world leaders to intervene and dismantle Israel's apartheid regime.

The rally also denounced the atrocities committed in Syria by Jalani forces, condemning their indiscriminate attacks on civilians and gross violations of human rights.

The leaders further criticized certain Arab regimes, particularly the Al-Khalifa monarchy, for their allegiance to the

United States and Israel, which has worsened the suffering of Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese people.

The protest concluded with a special prayer led by Markazi Imam Jumma Sheikh Ibrahim Khalili, seeking peace, prosperity, and communal harmony worldwide.

In his closing remarks, Sheikh Ibrahim Khalili expressed gratitude to religious scholars, the media, the public, and various administrative bodies, including the District Administration, Police Kargil, Health Department, and Municipal Committee Kargil, for their cooperation in ensuring the smooth conduct of the protest. The event was well-organized and anchored by renowned scholar and educationist Haji Murtaza Khalili, making it a meaningful and impactful gathering.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan: Police Station R.S Pura organises anti-drug rally at New Agrachak

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

To combat the scourge of drug abuse, an anti-drug rally under Civic Action Programme (CAP) was organized today by Police Station R.S Pura at New Agra Chak, R.S Pura.

Prominent citizens of the area, youth including sportspersons as well as children enthusiastically participated in the rally.

SDPO Gurmeet Singh, Inspector Ravi Singh Parihar (SHO), SI Rajinder Singh IC BPP AgraChak, ASI Ranbir Singh BPP Baspur and ASI Ashwani Kumar I/C BPP Badyal Brahmana also participated.

Spreading the anti drug message, the rally started from village New Agrachak and after passing through different areas of the village culminated at Rahda



Krishan Mandir.

Later, the participating senior citizens were honored by Special Antidrug Mementos from District Police Jammu. The main motive of the event was to project these Citizens as

Role Models against Drug Abuse in the society.

The ground breaking campaign aimed to educate the public about the ill effects of drug abuse. The initiative capitalized on ensuring the anti-drug

message reaches a broad audience promoting drugs and alcohol free lifestyle.

The campaign sought to foster enduring awareness about the issue of drug abuse. It also served as a constant reminder to the individuals, reinforcing the importance of staying away from illicit substances.

The innovative anti-drug awareness campaign reflected the Jammu Police's commitment in tackling drug abuse and safeguarding the well-being of the community.

The Anti-drug Campaign launched by District Police Jammu under Civic Action Programme (CAP) will continue in other parts of the District especially Drug hotspots.

Suresh Sharma inaugurates development projects worth Rs 53.50 lakh in Panchayat Rah, Block Chowki Choura

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MARCH 28

In a major step toward regional development, BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Pandit Suresh Sharma inaugurated two key infrastructure projects in Panchayat Rah of Block Chowki Choura. These include the newly constructed Hardu-Malara road—built at a cost of 47 lakh—and the installation of a 63 KVA transformer worth 6.50 lakh in the OBC locality of Rah Panchayat.

The newly installed transformer brings much-needed relief to residents who faced persistent low-voltage issues. Raised during a Janta Darbar, this demand was promptly addressed by Suresh Sharma, who ensured its installation through his Dis-



trict Development Fund. Staying true to his commitment, the transformer is now operational, significantly enhancing the area's power supply.

The Hardu-Malara road, previously in deplorable condition, had been a major obstacle for daily commuters. Residents had long faced difficulties due to its poor state, which often led to inconvenience and delays. With the completion of this road, connectivity has now been greatly enhanced, ensur-

ing smoother travel and improved access for the people.

While addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma reiterated his dedication to accelerating developmental initiatives, emphasizing that the concerns raised by the people—whether related to roads, electricity, or water supply—are being systematically addressed. He credited these accomplishments to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose guidance, transfor-

mational welfare schemes are reaching the last person in the queue. He also highlighted the Jammu-Poonch National Highway as a landmark project that will further boost regional growth and connectivity.

The residents of Panchayat Rah, expressing their deep appreciation, commended Suresh Sharma for his proactive efforts and urged him to continue championing their developmental needs. The occasion was graced by several dignitaries, including BJP leader Captain BD Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, former Sarpanch Ramesh Lal, Rattan Verma, Sham Lal, Pandit Bal Krishna, retired Naib Tehsildar Tara Singh, Subedar Ranjit Singh, Kaushal Gupta, Om Prakash, Karam Singh, Kaka Ram, along with department officials and other prominent figures

CU Jammu organizes Thursday Mind Meet on theme "Contemporary Cyber Security Challenges in J&K"

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 28

The Department of National Security Studies (NSS) at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the esteemed patronage of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, successfully organized the Thursday Mind Meet (TMM) on the theme "Contemporary Cyber Security Challenges in Jammu and Kashmir." TMM, a flagship weekly initiative of CU Jammu, is dedicated to fostering learning and critical thinking through interactive discussions, knowledge-sharing, and an interdisciplinary approach.

The event began with a cordial welcome address by Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor at NSS, followed by distinguished remarks from Prof. Vandana Sharma, the Convenor of TMM. Dy SP Priyanka from the Cyber Cell, J&K Police, served as the keynote speaker. The panel featured four members from the Uni-



versity: Dr. Palak Mahajan, Assistant Professor at the School of Engineering, Ms. Akriti Uppal and Mr. Vivek Kumar (Doctoral students) and Mr. G. Sumanth, (M.A. student).

Deputy Superintendent of Police Mrs Priyanka delivered the lecture, discussing how cyber security has been a significant topic for nearly a decade, but many people are ignorant of its crucial importance. While technology improvements have unquestionably improved efficiency and convenience, they have also increased the amount of threats. In fact, these hazards are becoming so common that they are

beginning to overshadow the advantages of digital technology.

Cybersecurity challenges have not only grown in number but also in complexity and variety. Addressing these challenges requires a greater emphasis, especially for vulnerable populations, such as financially disadvantaged individuals who rely on many digital accounts for transactions. Cybersecurity dangers are increasing at an alarming rate, with terrorist groups using platforms like Telegram to recruit members and develop local networks. Furthermore, incidences of financial fraud, identity theft, and illegal

trading are increasing, emphasizing the critical need for strong security measures.

Further, she stressed how a large number of women have come forward to describe being targeted by cybercrime, such as data theft and privacy breaches. These crimes vary from illegal access to personal information to increasingly serious kinds of digital harassment, emphasizing the critical need for greater cybersecurity and legislative safeguards to secure women's online safety and privacy. People need to be aware of all of these actions and put an end to them since they make no sense. Authorities have implemented laws to help individuals protect themselves from cybercrimes. It is essential for people to familiarize themselves with these regulations and learn how to apply them effectively for their digital security.

The discussion was followed by lectures by the other members of the

panel. Dr Palak Mahajan spoken on the topic "Security and Artificial Intelligence", Ms Akriti Uppal spoke on "Cybersecurity and Women in J&K: Addressing Targeted Treats and Ensuring Digital Safety", Mr Sumanth spoke on "Digital Illiteracy and Cybercrime Vulnerability" while Vivek Kumar spoke on "The Socio-economic: Impact of cybersecurity in J&K".

The Q&A session facilitated meaningful interactions among faculty members, scholars, and students from various departments. Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, Assistant Professor, delivered the Vote. Dr. Ekta Manhas, Assistant Professor, efficiently coordinated the event. Neeta Rani, Head of the Department, along with Dr Anuradha Choudhary and Dr Prasanta Kumar Sahu, contributed to organizing the event. Mr. Gurpreet from NSS adeptly fulfilled the role of emcee, ensuring the smooth conduct of the proceedings.

Dy CM visits GMC, enquires about Kathua encounter injured



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 28

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Jammu to enquire about the condition of police personnel injured in an encounter in Kathua.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister met with the hospital authorities and medical staff to assess the condition of the injured. He directed

the GMC administration to provide the best possible medical care and ensure that all necessary resources are made available for their treatment.

Interacting with the patients and their families, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them of the government's full support during this challenging time.

"The safety and health of our people are paramount. I have instructed the hospital to leave no stone unturned in pro-

viding top-quality care to those injured in the Kathua encounter," said the Deputy Chief Minister.

He also expressed solidarity with the affected families, emphasizing the administration's resolve to maintain peace and security in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by senior officials from the Health Department and local administration, who briefed him on the medical arrangements in place.