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JAMMU | Tuesday | March 03, 2026

# Daily Jammu Diamond

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War Against Injustice

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## BRIEF

### JKSA urges Modi, Jaishankar to relocate Indians from Iran

■ JD Correspondent

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Monday urgently appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to immediately intervene and facilitate the relocation of Indian students from Iran to safer locations. The association

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### Mobile Internet speeds restricted in Kashmir amid protests over Khamenei killing

■ JD Correspondent

Srinagar: Mobile internet speeds were throttled across Kashmir on Monday, in the wake of spontaneous protests against the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, officials said.

They said the step was taken as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order in

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### Global air travel chaos deepens as US-Israel strikes, Iran retaliation shut Gulf hubs

■ JD Correspondent

London: Global air travel chaos intensified on Monday as the US and Israel continued to bombard Iran, which struck back at targets across the Middle East, leaving airports closed and stranding travellers including those in far-away areas who were scheduled to transit through the

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### Jammu and Kashmir records seventh straight winter deficit

■ JD Correspondent

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded its seventh consecutive winter rainfall deficit, with the season ending 65 per cent below normal, making it one of the driest winters on record.

Kashmir's Independent weather forecaster, Faizan Arif said J&K received just 100.6 mm of

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### Power Supply to remain affected

■ JD Correspondent

Jammu: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Mahanpur, Raipur, Dhama, Chunera, Dambra, Palehal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ramkot, Khoon, Ghar,

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# LG Constitutes 4-Member Selection Committee for IUST Vice-Chancellor

■ Firdous Elahi

**Sanction has been accorded for the constitution of a four-member committee to recommend to the Chancellor a panel of not less than four eligible candidates for appointment to the post**

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir, has constituted a high level committee for the selection of the Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, in accordance with prescribed norms.

According to an official order issued from Lok Bhavan, Jammu, a copy of which is in the possession of the news agency Kashmir News Trust, sanction has been accorded for the constitution of a four-member committee to recommend to the Chancellor a panel of not less than four eligible candidates for appointment to the post. The panel is to be submitted by or before May 31, 2026

The committee will be chaired by Prof. Mohd. Miyan, former Vice Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. Other members include Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha, who has been nominated by the University Grants Commission, Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor of Ahmedabad University, and Prof. Subeer S. Majumdar, Director General of Gujarat Biotechnology University, Gandhinagar.

The order further states that Shafqat Iqbal, JKAS, Special Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, will provide

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## JK Ring Road projects: Nearly 1,700 crore compensation disbursed, 1,400 cases pending

■ JD Vikram Singh

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government has disbursed Rs 1,695 crore in compensation for land acquired for the Ring Road projects in the twin capital cities, while nearly 1,400 cases are still pending owing to litigation or other issues, officials said.

The work on the two projects - 58.25-km Jammu Ring Road connecting Raya Morh in Samba district to Jagti near Nagrota

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## Dy CM conducts surprise inspection of Chief Engineer PWD Office, Jammu

■ Emphasizes timely project completion, prompt service delivery to public



■ JD Correspondent

Jammu: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a surprise inspection of the office of Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (R&B) Jammu to assess its functioning and progress in both physical and financial areas.

During the inspection, the Deputy

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## Chief Secretary inaugurates SKUAST-J industry startup outreach programme under JKCIP




■ JD Correspondent

Jammu: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu today organized a landmark Industry-Startup Outreach Programme under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) here.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, inaugurated the event.

The programme, attended by the senior government officials, industry leaders, start-ups, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), academicians and students, was aimed at to strengthen the

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## J&K to scan MSMEs for early risk detection and timely intervention

■ JD Correspondent

Jammu: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today observed that establishing a robust and responsive mechanism under the MSME Health Clinic to provide "the right advice at the right time" to local enterprises would be one of the most significant developmental interventions ever undertaken for the MSME sector in Jammu

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## GOC White Knight Corps reviews security situation in Kishtwar

■ JD Correspondent

Jammu: The General-Officer-Commanding (GOC) White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General, P K Mishra, today reviewed the security situation and intensified ongoing counter-terrorism operations in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

He was flanked by GOC CIF (Delta).

The GOC, as per the White Knight Corps post on X, lauded Delta Force for their unwavering dedication, sharp operational focus and steadfast commitment to duty.

He directed all ranks

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## India to buy 5 new squadrons of S-400 Sudarshan air defence system from Russia



■ JD Correspondent

New Delhi: At a time when the Chinese air defence systems have failed globally, India is fast moving towards buying five more squadrons of the S-400 Sudarshan air defence missile systems from Russia, which proved their mettle successfully last year during Operation Sindoor to bring down multiple Pakistani aircraft.

The Indian side is buying the additional five squadrons

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## DIG North reviews Sopore, Baramulla situation amid ongoing protests

■ JD Correspondent

Srinagar: Amid continuing protests over the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for the second consecutive day, Deputy Inspector General of Police, north Maqsood-ul-Zaman, along with the DIG of the CRPF, on Monday visited several protest sites in Sopore and Baramulla to assess the situation and review law and order arrangements on the ground.

During the visit, the officers interacted with senior police officials, CRPF officers, and field personnel deployed at sensitive points.

The officers emphasized the need to exercise maximum restraint while ensuring public safety and protection of property, a police statement said.

The DIGs directed officers on duty to remain vigilant, maintain close coordination

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## Tribal Affairs Minister emphasizes evidence-based policy, cultural preservation for G&B welfare

■ JD Correspondent



Jammu: In a move towards intensifying tribal welfare initiatives, Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today discussed with the trustees of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) the ongoing efforts aimed at the welfare and upliftment of Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe.

The meeting featured in-depth deliberations on the preservation and promotion of Gojri culture, art and language. Besides, discussion was held on the Trust's expanding initiatives in education, tribal welfare and community development.

Emphasizing the importance of safeguarding indigenous identity, the Minister underlined that cultural preservation must go hand in hand with socio-economic empowerment.

During the consultation, the Minister also highlighted key interventions undertaken by the Tribal Affairs Department to accelerate the socio-economic advancement of tribal communities across J&K.

Emphasising the need for synergy between civil society and government institutions,

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## Restrictions Blanket Kashmir After Protests Over Khamenei Killing

■ Firdous Elahi

Srinagar: Authorities on Monday imposed restrictions across all districts of Kashmir following widespread protests against the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, aiming to maintain law and order and ensure a peaceful atmosphere in the Valley.

Security was placed on high alert throughout the region, with additional deployments of police and paramilitary personnel in sensitive areas. The City Centre Lal Chowk in Srinagar was sealed and declared out of bounds for both pedestrians and vehicular movement. Barricades were erected at multiple entry points, and security forces were seen maintaining a tight vigil. Eyewitnesses

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## Oil prices soar and stock prices fall as US-Israel war with Iran rattles markets

■ JD Vikram Singh



Bangkok: The US and Israeli attacks on Iran rattled world markets on Monday, with U.S. futures falling more than 1% and oil prices soaring, though gains for defense contractors and oil companies helped limit losses in Asian trading.

The futures for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 1.7%.

The price of a barrel of US benchmark jumped 9% to $73 per barrel. Brent crude jumped nearly 10% to nearly $80 per barrel.

European markets opened sharply lower. Germany's DAX dropped 2.2% to 24,737.47, while in Paris the CAC 40 lost 1.9% to 8,413.91. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 1% to 10,800.63.

Shares fell in most Asian markets but they rose in Shanghai, where higher oil prices lifted some oil company stocks such as CNOOC, China Petroleum & Chemical and PetroChina to the 10% limit.

The Shanghai Composite

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## JKAACL releases "Tehakde Phull" and "Rhymes for Kids"

■ JD Correspondent

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Jammu organised a grand book release function here at K.L. Saigal Hall.

The two publications released are the Punjabi book "Tehakde Phull" authored by Balwinder Singh and "Rhymes for Kids" by Ms. Alka Sharma.

Principal Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Dr. Kulvinder Kour graced the event as the chief guest, while eminent writer and artist S. Jang Singh Verman presided over the function.

Among others present included Additional Secretary Arun Sunali Gupta; Additional Secretary Lal Chand; authors Balwinder Singh and Alka Sharma and Senior Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, Popinder Singh Paras.

Welcoming the august gathering, the Additional Secretary Arun Sunali Gupta extended a

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## From Page 01

## LG Constitutes 4-Member...

secretarial assistance to the committee and regularly update the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on the progress made in the selection process

The constitution of the committee follows communication received from the University Grants Commission in this regard and marks the formal initiation of the process for appointment of a new Vice Chancellor at the university.

Notably, the tenure of the incumbent Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shakeel Ramshoo, is scheduled to conclude in August this year. As per the provisions of the University Act, his term is not eligible for further extension. However, he is free to apply afresh for consideration. He had earlier been granted a two year extension. [KNT]

## JK Ring Road...

in Jammu and 60.84-km Srinagar Ring Road covering six districts of Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, Srinagar, Baramulla and Bandipora - started in 2018.

The projects are in the final phases of completion, the officials said. They said a compensation amounting to Rs 2,106.70 crore has been awarded for land acquired for the Ring Road projects. Of this, Rs 1,784.45 crore has been released, while Rs 1,695.37 crore has been disbursed so far.

An amount of Rs 89.08 crore is yet to be disbursed, and Rs 322.25 crore remains pending to be received, the officials said.

In Jammu division, they said a compensation of Rs 322.21 crore has been awarded. Of this, Rs 270.11 crore has been released and Rs 244.43 crore disbursed. An amount of Rs 25.68 crore is yet to be disbursed, while Rs 52.10 crore is pending to be received.

In Kashmir division, compensation amounting to Rs 1,784.49 crore has been awarded. Of this, Rs 1,514.34 crore has been released and Rs 1,450.94 crore disbursed so far. An amount of Rs 63.40 crore remains to be disbursed, while Rs 270.15 crore is pending to be received, the officials said.

The officials said the compensation amount is shared between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the J&K government in the ratio of 90:10.

## Dy CM conducts...

Chief Minister reviewed the overall working of the office and called for prompt, efficient and citizen-centric service delivery. He took stock of both the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and emphasised the need for achieving the targets within stipulated timelines.

Stressing on accountability and efficiency, he directed the officers to ensure seamless coordination between the Chief Engineer's office and allied wings for timely completion of developmental works. He underscored that any delay, negligence or compromise in quality would not be tolerated and instructed the officials to maintain strict monitoring mechanisms.

"Quality work and transparency in execution are top priorities for this government," he stated.

The Deputy Chief Minister further highlighted the government's commitment towards ensuring robust and balanced development across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on improving road connectivity and extending better infrastructure to every habitation across J&K.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister met various public and individual delegations from different districts, including Padder area and listened patiently to their demands and grievances.

Reiterating the government's resolve for transparent and public-centric governance, he assured them of time-bound and result-oriented action to address their genuine concerns.

Chief Engineer and senior officers of engineering wing were present on the occasion.

## Chief Secretary inaugurates...

industry-academia-startup linkages in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event was attended by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Professor B.N. Tripathi, Mission Director, JKCIP/HADP, Sandeep Kumar (IFS), statutory officers of the university, representatives of different institutions including IIIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, industry experts, UTLBC, J&K Bank, District Industries Centre (DIC) Jammu, startups and FPOs.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the need for FPOs to move beyond aggregation towards enterprise-oriented models centered on processing, packaging, branding and value addition to significantly enhance farmers' incomes.

Atal Dulloo elaborated 4 Cs: culture, capacity building, commercialization and connectivity for success of startups. He reiterated the government's commitment towards improving the ease of doing business in agriculture, strengthening startup ecosystems and ensuring timely and affordable credit through strong banking partnerships.

Appreciating the proactive initiatives of SKUAST-Jammu and the Mission Directorate JKCIP, the Chief Secretary stressed that despite J&K being a major producer of wool, trout fisheries, floriculture and medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs), processing remains limited and requires focused attention.

Atal Dulloo expressed hope that the outreach programme would evolve into a sustained partnership model, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a vibrant agri-entrepreneurship hub under initiatives such as JKCIP, HADP and Mission YUVA, contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat.

## J&K to scan...

& Kashmir. He made these remarks while chairing a comprehensive review meeting on the performance of the MSME Health Clinic, an initiative of the Industries & Commerce Department in collaboration with IIM Jammu under the RAMP scheme.

The meeting was attended by Director, IIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director Industries, Jammu/Kashmir; faculty members from IIM Jammu; representatives from BISAG-N; and other senior officers.

Emphasizing the way forward, the Chief Secretary called for reaching out to all MSMEs across the UT to digitally assess their operational and financial health through a comprehensive analytical tool to be developed with BISAG-N. He outlined a structured approach whereby enterprises would first undergo preliminary digital screening, followed by advanced assessment of identified units. Stressed or sick units would initially be provided tele-consultation, followed by personal interaction with experts and, wherever necessary, customized on-ground interventions through field visits by subject specialists.

He directed the Industries & Commerce Department to ensure seamless sharing of requisite enterprise data with experts from IIM Jammu to facilitate evidence-based diagnosis and recommend both financial and non-financial interventions tailored to the specific needs of each unit.

Stressing institutional strengthening, he advised the creation of dedicated cells within both the Industries Department and IIM Jammu to oversee and streamline this specialized service to MSMEs.

Observing that MSMEs form the backbone of the UT's industrial ecosystem, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for strong intent, coordinated action and sustained commitment to ensure the sector's growth and resilience.

He stated that no greater support could be extended to MSMEs than a timely and well-structured intervention mechanism such as this, assuring that availability of funds would not be a constraint in achieving the mission. He also encouraged securing adequate human resources to scale up the initiative effectively.

## GOC White Knight...

to remain alert, proactive and mission-focused, and to uphold the highest standards of professionalism in every action.

## India to buy...

of the AI defence systems after achieving major success against Pakistan last year, where they also secured the longest ever air kill when a high-value Pakistani spy plane was hit by the S-400 missile.

The Defence Ministry will soon take up the case to clear the Indian Air Force proposal to buy the additional five squadrons of the Russian air defence missile systems, which will be deployed on both the eastern and western fronts, defence officials told.

In Operation Sindoor, Pakistan had deployed additional squadrons of the Chinese-origin HQ-9 air defence systems, which could not do much against the Indian aircraft when they brought down multiple terror targets inside Pakistan. The HQ-9 air defence system also failed to protect the Venezuelan leadership during American action there last month, while they also failed during the Operation Epic Fury against Iran by the American and Israeli Air Force. The Indian air defence systems not only brought down multiple Pakistani aircraft but also destroyed the cruise and ballistic missile staunched from Pakistan side.

The S-400 air defence system of the Indian Air Force brought down five to six Pakistani fighter aircraft and one spy plane at a distance of over 300 Km deep inside Pakistan during the four-day conflict and has been termed as a game-changer by the Indian Air Force.

"The Indian Air Force is also looking to buy the missiles in significant numbers to further bolster its air defence capabilities. The discussions with the Russian side are already on in this regard and a tender for the same is being reissued very soon," sources said.

India and Russia had signed a deal in 2018 for buying five squadrons of the S-400 air defence missile systems.

The Indian side is also looking to add more S-400 squadrons to its inventory and is asking Russia to supply the remaining two squadrons of the missile systems, of which three have already been inducted and operationalised.

The Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is also working towards developing its own long-range air defence system under the prestigious Project Kusha.

## DIG North reviews...

between Police and CRPF, and ensure that all necessary preventive measures are taken to avert any untoward incident.

They also urged the mourning protesters to maintain peace and cooperate with the administration in preserving harmony and normalcy across the districts.

The Kashmir Valley witnessed major protests on Sunday. On Monday curbs were imposed in various areas to restrict protests. However several protests were held and Police fired tear smoke shells at various places to disperse protesters and restore order.

## Tribal Affairs Minister...

Rana stressed that coordinated efforts are essential to achieving inclusive and sustainable development. He urged the Trust to strengthen its collaboration with the Tribal Research Institute to undertake high-quality, evidence-based research on various dimensions of tribal life including traditions, language, cultural practices and contemporary socio-economic challenges.

"Policy must be rooted in credible data and field-based research," the Minister observed, adding that evidence-driven insights would enable the government to design the targeted interventions and formulate responsive policies that genuinely address the needs of tribal communities.

Chairman of the Trust, Arshad Choudhary briefed the Minister on the Trust's ongoing programs and future roadmap, particularly initiatives focused on educational outreach, youth empowerment and cultural documentation.

The meeting was attended by Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Director Tribal Affairs and Dr. Abdul Khabir, Director, Tribal Research Institute, J&K besides trustees of GDCT including Dr. Showkat Choudhary, General Secretary Sadiq Azad and Advocate Zulkarnain Choudhary.

## Restrictions Blanket Kashmir...

said movement in Lal Chowk remained minimal, with a few people walking by foot in ones or twos under close monitoring. Shops in the commercial hub stayed shut, and public transport remained off the roads. Other parts of Srinagar also witnessed restrictions, particularly in downtown areas and major intersections considered sensitive. Security personnel conducted patrols while checkpoints were established to regulate movement.

Officials described the measures as precautionary, stating that the steps were taken to prevent any untoward incident following the protests witnessed a day earlier. While no major incident was reported on Monday till the filing of this report, the situation continued to remain tense but under control.

Authorities have urged locals to maintain calm and cooperate with law enforcement agencies to preserve peace. [KNT]

## Oil prices soar...

index climbed 0.5% to 4,182.59, while in Hong Kong, the Hang Seng lost 2.1% to 26,059.85.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index initially fell more than 2%. It closed 1.4% lower at 58,057.24. Offsetting other losses, shares in defence-related stocks including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and IHI Corp. advanced. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 ended flat, at 9,200.90. In India, which could face disruptions to its access to oil due to the hostilities, the Sensex fell 2.1%. Taiwan's benchmark lost 0.9% and Singapore's dropped 2.3%. In Bangkok, a major tourism destination for the Middle East, the SET fell 3.1%.

Markets were closed in South Korea for a holiday.

The price of gold, which usually is viewed as a safe haven for investment in times of uncertainty, rose 3.4% to about $5,426 per ounce.

The US dollar also gained, rising to 157.20 Japanese yen from 156.27 yen late Friday. The euro slipped to $1.1708 from $1.1762.

Traders are betting the war will disrupt oil supplies from Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East. Attacks throughout the region, including on two vessels travelling through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, have constrained oil exports to the rest of the world.

"Roughly one-fifth of global oil and LNG (liquefied natural gas) flows squeeze through the Strait of Hormuz. This is not an obscure canal. It is the aorta of the global energy system," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

A prolonged war would likely result in higher prices for other fuels and gasoline and could cascade throughout the global economy, adding to production costs overall.

Prolonged interruptions to oil flows through the Middle East would have "huge implications for oil and LNG and every market everywhere if it occurs. Energy is an input to ALL production," RaboResearch Global Economics & Markets said in a report.

Iran exports roughly 1.6 million barrels of oil a day, mostly to China. It may need to look elsewhere for supply if Iran's exports are disrupted, another factor that could increase energy prices.

The size of China's strategic oil reserves is a state secret. But a recent report by John Kemp of Base Research estimated them at 1.1 billion to 1.2 billion barrels -- equivalent to around 100 days or just over three months of imports.

## JKAACL releases “Tehakde...

warm welcome to the chief guest and other distinguished guests and complimented the authors for their commendable literary contributions.

In her address, Dr. Kulvinder Kour lauded the authors for their valuable contribution to children's literature in Punjabi and English. She appreciated the proactive role of the Academy in organising literary and cultural programmes to inspire the younger generation. She also expressed her willingness to extend the collaboration of Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar to the Academy for organising joint programmes in the future.

Additional Secretary, Lal Chand highlighted the significance of the twin books and appreciated the authors for enriching children's literature, saying that the Academy is committed to preserve and promote the Art, Literature and culture.

Dr. Kusam presented a detailed paper on the Punjabi book "Tehakde Phull" authored by Balwinder Singh, while Popinder Singh Paras presented a comprehensive review of "Rhymes for Kids" by Ms. Alka Sharma.

Senior Writer and Journalist Jang Singh Verman applauded the Academy's consistent efforts in promoting language and literature.

Prof. Raj Kumar, Rattan Singh Kanwal and Suraj Singh Suraj hailed the publications noting that the books by such dedicated authors are the need of the hour and deserve due recognition and honour.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by S. Popinder Singh Paras, while the vote of thanks was presented by Chief Editor, Gojri, Dr. Javaid Rahi.

## JKSA urges Modi...

highlighted the safety of students from the union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, urging that they be moved to secure areas until a full-fledged evacuation operation is launched.

The appeal comes amid a rapidly deteriorating security situation in Iran following repeated airstrikes and escalating hostilities in the region.

National Convenor of the Association, Nasir Khuehami, stated that the ongoing airstrikes have created widespread panic among students, with many reporting fear, uncertainty, and severe distress. Parents back home are deeply anxious and frightened about the safety of their children amid the rapidly worsening circumstances.

The Association further noted that several colleges and universities in the affected areas have advised students to vacate campuses as a precautionary measure due to the escalation. With airspace disruptions, restricted mobility, and growing instability, students are finding it increasingly difficult to secure safe passage or make alternative travel arrangements.

## Mobile Internet speeds...

the area. Khamenei was killed in an airstrike in Tehran on Saturday during a joint Israel-US attack on Iran. Iranian state media confirmed the same on Sunday, triggering a wave of protests and mourning across the world, including India. Kashmir - which has about 15 lakh Shias - witnessed major protests at Lal Chowk, Saida Kadal, Budgam, Bandipora, Anantnag and Pulwama, an official said. The protesters were seen beating their chests as they shouted anti-US and anti-Israel slogans.

Officials said the high-speed mobile internet has been throttled as network speeds have been curtailed across all mobile networks in the Kashmir valley.

Meanwhile, the police have issued an advisory urging all media organisations and news platforms to exercise the highest level of responsibility and professionalism in their reporting.

## Global air travel...

region. Governments were scrambling to help their citizens get home after the conflict erupted on Saturday, throwing travel plans into turmoil.

Tourists, business travellers and religious pilgrims found themselves stuck unexpectedly in hotels, airports and on cruise ships, with no word on when many airports would reopen or when flights to and through the Middle East would resume.

Governments told stranded citizens to shelter in place.

Airports in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, which are important hubs for travel between Europe, Africa and the West to Asia, remained closed after they were all directly hit by Iranian strikes.

Emirates, based in Dubai International Airport, one of the busiest in the world, said it will resume operating a "limited number of flights" on Monday evening, without providing more details. It previously said it was suspend flights until 3 pm local time Tuesday.

"We are accommodating customers with earlier bookings as a priority," it said and advised people not to go to the airport unless they were notified.

Doha-based Qatar Airways said Monday its flights remain suspended, with its next update planned for Tuesday morning.

Flight tracking site FlightRadar said on X that 15 aircraft from Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways have taken off "within a three-hour window, likely helping to clear transit passengers who have been stuck there since the start of the conflict".

Etihad had also previously halted flights Tuesday afternoon and suspended operations at its hub, Zayed International Airport.

The flight turmoil stretched even farther, with Jordan announcing a partial closure of its airspace.

More than 58,000 Indonesians were stranded in Saudi Arabia, where they were visiting Islam's holy sites of Mecca and Medina on an Umrah pilgrimage during Ramadan.

## Jammu and Kashmir...

precipitation against a normal of 284.9 mm from December 2025 to the end of February.

He said data shows that every winter since 2019-20 has ended below normal, with seasonal rainfall departures standing at minus 20 per cent in 2019-20, minus 37 per cent in 2020-21, minus 8 per cent in 2021-22, minus 34 per cent in 2022-23, minus 54 per cent in 2023-24, minus 45 per cent in 2024-25, and plunging further to minus 65 per cent in 2025-26.

The only winter close to normal in recent years was 2021-22.

Earlier data shows that the winter of 2016-17 recorded a surplus of 29 per cent, while 2018-19 remained 36 per cent above normal. Similarly, 2012-13 had also ended with a positive departure of 14 per cent, reflecting a contrasting phase of above-normal winter precipitation before the recent prolonged dry spell.

The date showed that December 2025 recorded just 13.0 mm rainfall against a normal of 59.4 mm, marking a steep 78 per cent deficit. January 2026 saw some Western Disturbance activity and received 73.4 mm against 95.1 mm, reducing the shortfall to 23 per cent for the month but failing to offset December's massive deficit.

February, however, witnessed a near collapse in precipitation. The region recorded only 14.2 mm against a normal of 130.4 mm - an 89 per cent deficit - making it one of the driest Februarys in recent years and dragging the overall seasonal departure down to minus 65 per cent.

"Seven consecutive deficient winters indicate that this is not random variability alone but a sustained shift in seasonal precipitation behaviour," Faizan said.

## Power Supply to...

Gujroo Nagrota, Lakhri, Gura Kalyal, Ludera, Ujh, Tyhara Kalyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 and 05 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Part of Gandhi Nagar, Part of Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Trilokpur, Talab Tillo, Seora, Gajansoo and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ramanagar, Chowki Majpouri and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bali Gulaba, Chowki Choura, Maira Mandrian, Tanda and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Main Bazaar, Chabutra Bazaar, Jakhani, Pakhlai, Pathi, Panchery, ITBP, Sansoo, Garhi, Railway, P.T.C Krimchi Mansard Army and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Majalta, Mansar, Battal, Dhema and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 05 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Dhar Road, Sangoor, MES & Cherry Sial and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 05 from 12 noon to 4.30 pm.

# Women's Week campaign commences in Kathua with grand inauguration

## Extensive calendar of events to focus on empowerment, safety and inclusive development

JD CORRESPONDENT




**KATHUA:** The District Administration Kathua today formally launched the Women's Week Campaign with a grand inaugural ceremony held at Government Degree College (GDC) Women, marking the beginning of a week-long series of activities dedicated to promote the empowerment of women in the district.

The Campaign centers on the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao theme, underscoring the collective resolve to protect, educate and empower the girl child. The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma as the Chief Guest, besides ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; District Programme Officer ICDS Mohammad Syed Khan; ADC Vishavjeet Singh; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; DSWO Varun Chaudhary and other senior officers. Faculty members, students of the Women's College and officials from the Social Welfare Department were also present in large numbers. The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and Saraswati Vandana, followed by a thought-provoking Nukkad Natak focusing on women safety and the measures required to ensure a secure environment for girls.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the pivotal role of women in nation-building and emphasized the need to ensure equal opportunities, safety, quality education and economic independence for them. Highlighting the significance of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, he reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening women-centric schemes, promoting skill development, health awareness and inclusive growth. "It is for the first time, Women's Week is being celebrated on such a scale in the district" he noted.

College Faculty, Prof. Rachna stressed the importance of maintaining gender balance in society and called for sustained efforts to make women self-reliant and financially independent.

Mementoes were presented to Prof. Rachna and the students who performed Saraswati Vandana and Nukkad Natak in recognition of their commendable performances.

Earlier, the District Social Welfare Officer highlighted the objectives of observing Women's Week. He lauded the increasing participation of women in diverse fields and reiterated the department's commitment towards their welfare and empowerment. Meanwhile, similar inaugural functions were organized simultaneously across all subdivisions of the district.

# DDC Reasi reviews functioning of Labour and Employment Department

JD CORRESPONDENT



**REASI:** District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of the Labour and Employment Department.

The meeting reviewed in detail the implementation of key initiatives including Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PMSYM), E-Shram registration, delivery of online services and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.

The DDC directed the department to widen the implementation of labour welfare schemes across the district. He laid special emphasis on enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, for which a dedicated task force has already been constituted in the district.

While reviewing the performance of the Employment and Counselling Centre, the DDC took stock of achievements under Tejaswini, Mumkin and other Mission Yuva schemes. He instructed the concerned officers to ensure wide publicity of Mission Yuva, particularly highlighting opportunities under MSME and nano projects based on local requirements.

Further, field functionaries were directed to intensify their outreach efforts and provide end-to-end handholding to beneficiaries - from initial loan application to submission of final completion reports - to ensure effective implementation and maximum benefit to the youth of the district.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, ALC Reasi and other officers were present in the meeting.

## Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0

# DC reviews progress across 3 Municipal towns in Udhampur district



JD CORRESPONDENT

**UDHAMPUR:** Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of officers from the Urban Local Bodies to review the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban scheme in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and other concerned officers.

The DC conducted a detailed review of the scheme's implementation across one Municipal Council and two Municipal Committees in the district. The review covered the status of PMAY-U 2.0, District Capex Budget works for 2025-26, progress of mega projects undertaken by the Municipal Council, construction of multi-storey parking facilities, installation and maintenance of street lights, garbage collection and disposal mechanisms, night illumination in all three towns, identification of garbage dumping points, non-commenced works under PMAY-U and construction of the Town Hall building.

The DC directed the Tehsildars to clear all pending revenue papers of PMAY-U beneficiaries within a week. He further instructed initiation of recovery proceedings against beneficiaries who have failed to commence construction despite availing benefits and called for expediting the overall pace of progress.

Emphasizing effective sanitation and urban infrastructure management, the DC directed the MCs to identify garbage dumping points, ensure timely collection and proper disposal of waste in all three towns and maintain adequate night illumination.

# Market checking drive intensified across Ramban district

JD CORRESPONDENT

**RAMBAN:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, the enforcement departments have launched an intensive market checking drive across Ramban, Banihal and Batote as well in other areas of the district.

Joint teams comprising officers from the Revenue Department, Municipal Committees (MCs), Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Legal Metrology and Food Safety are conducting regular inspections in markets to ensure the availability of essential commodities at notified rates and to keep check on profiteering and adulteration.

During the inspections, special emphasis was laid on checking rate lists, quality of food items, hygiene conditions, adherence to weighing protocols and preventing overcharging or hoarding. The teams are also verifying the calibration of weighing instruments and ensuring strict adherence to government-notified rates.

At key commercial areas, officials interacted with shopkeepers and instructed them to maintain transparency in pricing and uphold sanitation standards, especially when demand for essential goods increases.

The district administration issued strict directions to safeguard consumer interests and ensure the smooth supply of quality essential items. The checking drive will continue in the coming days to maintain market discipline and prevent any inconvenience to the public.

# FPO-Bank interaction programme held at Block Chassana under JKCIP



JD CORRESPONDENT

**REASI:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu organized a one-day FPO Bank/Insurance Interaction programme here today at Chassana. The prominent persons among those present were the members of FPO Konsarnag Farmers Producers Cooperative Ltd.

The programme was organized under the framework of the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) with the objective of strengthening financial inclusion, enhancing credit linkage and creating awareness among Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and individual farmers of the region.

Representatives from J&K Bank Ranjeet Singh Manhas, Crop Insurance Dalip Singh and others engaged directly with FPO members and individual farmers. They provided detailed information on credit-linked schemes, institutional finance, working capital support and loan products specifically designed for FPOs under JKCIP and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to enhance agricultural productivity, value addition and market competitiveness in the region. Farmers actively participated in discussions on access to finance, collateral requirements, interest subvention, repayment mechanisms and the role of banks in supporting agribusiness and allied activities. The programme was coordinated by the FPO Development Officer, Rakesh Kundal.

Officers from Horticulture Planning & Marketing department shared their field-level experience, challenges and imparted the awareness about the projects under JKCIP, HADP and PMFME. The FPO Secretary Jeet Singh acquainted the participants regarding different schemes.



# 57 Samba Women attend Mushroom Cultivation Training at SKUAST Jammu

## Deputy Commissioner flags off trainees

**SAMBA:** A group of 57 women farmers and members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) engaged in mushroom cultivation attended a one-day training programme at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu. The exposure visit was organized under the HADP project - "Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation" and the group was flagged off from the DC Office Complex by District Development Commissioner Ayushi Sudan, in the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer and officers from DCTS Rakh Dahisar. The women farmers were acquainted with the latest innovations, scientific techniques and technological interventions in the field of mushroom cultivation. Earlier, the District Development Commissioner encouraged the participants to make optimum use of the exposure visit and adopt the advanced methods and best practices demonstrated during the training.

# 76 Bn CRPF organises Volleyball Tournament under CAP

**JAMMU:** A Volleyball Tournament under Civic Action Programme-2026 was organized today by 76 Bn, CRPF at M.A. Stadium Jammu. Five local teams participated in the tournament. Volleyball Team - Panjal Club Sanjay Nagar Jammu secured the first position (WINNER) and team of Rathua Panchayat Jammu secured the second position (Runner-up). T-shirts and caps were also distributed among players. Commandant-76 Bn Vezoto Tinyi graced the occasion and motivated the participants to stay healthy and have a positive attitude for the betterment of society.




# DC inspects civic facilities, development works in Ramban town

JD CORRESPONDENT



**RAMBAN:** Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted an extensive visit of Ramban town to review the progress of ongoing developmental works and assess the developmental and basic infrastructure needs of the area.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, officers from the line departments and civil society representatives accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of upcoming infrastructure projects at Cafeteria Morh, Bus Stand, Main Market and Masjid Market, including construction of park, road improvement works, lane and drainage works, sanitation measures and other public utility services being executed by different departments. He took stock of the pace and quality of works and directed the concerned officers to ensure their timely completion while maintaining prescribed standards.

Interacting with local residents in different wards of the town, the Deputy Commissioner listened to their grievances and suggestions regarding civic amenities, traffic management, cleanliness and augmentation of basic facilities. He assured them that the district administration is already taking necessary measures to address genuine issues in a phased and systematic manner.

The Deputy Commissioner also passed on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers to resolve all legitimate grievances of the locals.

# DLSA Rajouri invites public to avail mediation process

JD CORRESPONDENT

**RAJOURI:** District Legal Services Authority, Rajouri and all Tehsil Legal Services Committees of District Rajouri have invited the general public and litigants to avail National Lok Adalat scheduled on March 14, 2026 for dispute resolution through mediation.

"The interested Parties/Litigants, Lawyers and the general public are hereby called upon to physically approach the Office of the District Legal Services Authority Rajouri and all Tehsil Legal Services Committees of District Rajouri for any advice/assistance with respect to their case or matter, or may call on the contact No. PLVS 9858424128, 9596626010, DLSA Contact No 01962-264200 during working days from 10 am to 4 pm. DLSA Rajouri would welcome your response. Partie(s) can directly approach the concerned courts as well with an application for listing matters/cases in National Lok Adalat for amicable settlement. No matter with respect to pending Electricity Bills and Water Bills will be taken up in this National Lok Adalat," a handout issued today reads.

# Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station coming up in Bhaderwah

JD CORRESPONDENT



**BHADERWAH:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today laid the foundation stone for the construction of an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station at the premises of Divisional Forest Office Bhaderwah.

The station is being established by the Divisional Office of the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAAQMP).

The monitoring station will analyze the concentration levels of key air pollutants including PM10, PM2.5, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO?) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO?) to assess the ambient air quality in Bhaderwah and its surrounding areas.

Divisional Officer JKPCC, Gurpreet Singh informed that the monitoring station shall help generate accurate scientific data regarding air pollution levels. He stated that regular monitoring will enable the authorities to take timely and effective measures for environmental protection and pollution control.

The ADC appreciated the initiative of JKPCC and emphasized the importance of maintaining clean air for public health and sustainable development.

# DC Kathua visits Parisha, One Stop Centre; reviews women-centric Services

JD CORRESPONDENT




**KATHUA:** As part of the ongoing Women Week campaign, the Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited Parisha and the One Stop Centre to assess the functioning of the twin centers and review the services being extended to women.

During his visit to Parisha, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the facilities available and the support services being provided to the women beneficiaries. He interacted with the staff and reviewed the mechanism in place for addressing the concerns of women, particularly those in distress. The DC stressed the need for prompt response, confidentiality and a compassionate approach in handling cases related to women welfare.

Inspecting the One Stop Centre, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the assistance and intervention being provided under various women-centric schemes. He examined the record of cases handled, counselling services, legal aid support, medical assistance and referral mechanisms being extended to affected women.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure maximum outreach and awareness about the services available at these centres so that more women can benefit from the support system.

Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur and District Social Welfare Officer Varun Chaudhary accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visits.

# Indian Institute of Management Jammu Strengthens MBA (Healthcare) Programme with Senior Appointments from AIIMS Jammu

JD CORRESPONDENT

**JAMMU:** The Indian Institute of Management Jammu has further strengthened its academic and MBA healthcare program ecosystem as Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, joins the Institute as Honorary Distinguished Professor. The Institute has also welcomed Lt Gen (Dr.) Sunil Kant SM, VSM(Retd.), Former Dean (Research), Medical Superintendent and Head, Department of Hospital Administration at AIIMS Jammu, as Senior Consultant (Healthcare) to further enrich and strengthen the MBA (Healthcare) programme and academic ecosystem at IIM Jammu.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, an alumnus of Government Medical College Jammu and AIIMS New Delhi (MHA), Prof. Gupta is a distinguished academic leader and hospital administrator. He has mentored over 45 postgraduate and PhD scholars, guided 112 research studies, authored more than 110 publications, and written 11 books on hospital planning, procurement, disaster management, and infection control. He led WHO-supported projects on hospital governance, PPPs, and electronic medical records, and made his department at AIIMS the first to receive ISO certification. Under his visionary leadership, AIIMS Jammu completed 43 world-class buildings within three-and-a-half years, earning



the CPWD Best Project Award, and secured the 7th rank in the Outlook 2025 Government Medical Universities Ranking, second only to AIIMS Delhi. His contributions have been recognized with prestigious honors including the FICCI Healthcare Personality of the Year Award (2025) and multiple national awards for excellence in healthcare leadership.

Lt Gen (Dr.) Sunil Kant, SM, VSM(Retd.), is a distinguished healthcare leader and hospital administrator with over 38 years of exemplary service in the Armed Forces Medical Services and premier national institutions. He retired as Director General of Hospital Services, overseeing 240 hospitals, 40,000+ beds, and 70,000 personnel, driving policy, infrastructure modernization, and research coordination at the national level. He has held key appointments, including Major General (Medical), Eastern Commandant & CEO of a 700+ bed tertiary care hospital, and Professor &HoD at AFMC Pune. He was serving as Dean (Research), Medical Superintendent, and HoD, Department of Hospital Administration at AIIMS Jammu; he has been instrumental in strengthening hospital governance, digital transformation, and research systems. A recipient of the Vishisht Seva Medal and Sena Medal, he brings vast expertise in healthcare strategy, hospital systems, and institutional leadership.

# Indian Army Organized awareness lecture on "Women's health and Hygiene" at Samote, Rajouri

JD CORRESPONDENT

**RAJOURI:** The Indian Army organized an informative lecture on "Women's Health and Hygiene" at GHSS, Samote on 02 Mar 2026. The lecture aimed to educate adolescent girls on the importance of personal hygiene and overall well-being, while addressing common health-related concerns faced by young women, particularly in rural areas.



The session covered essential topics such as maintaining cleanliness, proper nutrition and preventive healthcare. It also highlighted the various challenges faced by women in rural and remote areas and provided practical guidance on maintaining hygiene in resource-constrained environments. Additionally, the lecture emphasized the role of women in society and the importance of promoting gender equality and empowerment.

A total of 98 girls, 47 boys and 15 teachers from GHSS, Samote participated in the session, showing keen interest and actively engaging in discussions. The students appreciated the valuable information and guidance provided during the lecture. This initiative by the Indian Army represents a significant step toward empowering young girls with awareness and confidence, enabling them to make informed decisions about their health. Programs like these strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the local community, ensuring a brighter and healthier future for the younger generation.

# Deputation from five villages call Sat Sharma, seek overbridge on Railways Track

JD CORRESPONDENT

**JAMMU:** A deputation comprising of prominent from villages Chan Matloni, Tapyal, Chhan Samotra, Raghu Chak and Malani called upon Sat Sharma CA, President of Bharatiya Janata Party (J&K) and Member of Rajya Sabha, to present long-pending demand for the construction of an overbridge on the railway track connecting Pathankot and Jammu.



J&K BJP Vice Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Priya Sethi, Rekha Mahajan, and Rashpal Verma, along with General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria, were present during the meeting. The deputation was led by Rashpal Verma and highlighted the severe hardships being faced by the residents due to the non-availability of an overbridge to cross the railway track. They informed that a large portion of agricultural land is located on the other side of the track, and farmers are unable to access their fields easily. The situation worsens when goods trains halt at the starting point of the railway station for prolonged periods, sometimes for 15-20 days, completely blocking movement.

The deputation further apprised Sat Sharma that students and teachers face immense difficulty and risk while crossing the track, as the Government Middle School is situated on the opposite side. Due to frequent and extended stoppages of goods trains, safe passage becomes nearly impossible, disrupting education and daily life.

They also brought to his notice that, as per revenue records, an old bandobasti lane existed for public movement, and urged that the same be revived to facilitate safe access across the railway line. The villagers stated that they have been facing this issue for the past 54 years and have previously taken up the matter with Deputy Commissioners of Samba and senior officials of Northern Railways, but without a permanent solution.

Sat Sharma gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured them that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities in the interest of public safety and convenience, ensuring relief to farmers, students, and residents of the affected villages.

# National Interest Must Remain Supreme Amid Global Conflicts: Pawan Sharma

JD CORRESPONDENT

**JAMMU:** Amid the reactions, rhetoric, and visible ideological polarization witnessed within certain sections of society during tensions and war-like situations between nations such as Iran and the United States, Pawan Sharma, State Secretary BJP Jammu & Kashmir, has emphasized that India's priorities must always be guided by her own national interest, not by emotional alignment with external conflicts.



India is a sovereign and self-confident civilization-state with a proud legacy of independent decision-making. Our foreign policy has historically been shaped by strategic autonomy, balance, and a clear understanding of long-term national objectives. From the era of non-alignment to today's multi-aligned engagement, India has demonstrated maturity and prudence in navigating global complexities.

Reiterating his stand, Pawan Sharma stated that international conflicts must not become a trigger for ideological divisions within India. "Creating camps within the country-either for or against foreign powers-does not strengthen Bharat. It dilutes our internal cohesion and distracts us from our national priorities," he remarked.

India's strength lies in her diversity, constitutional framework, and civilizational wisdom. Every global development must be assessed through the lens of India's security, economic stability, energy interests, diaspora welfare, and regional peace-not through emotional or ideological impulses.

According to Pawan Sharma, India's foreign policy reflects strategic autonomy and sovereign judgment. "India is not a satellite of any power bloc. Our decisions are rooted in our own Constitution, our own civilization, and our own national interests," he asserted.

He further appealed to citizens, intellectuals, and opinion leaders to maintain balance and responsibility in public discourse. Healthy debate is the essence of democracy, but emotional polarization over external geopolitical conflicts is a matter of concern. Concluding his statement, Pawan Sharma said, "The nation is supreme. National interest must remain our ultimate criterion. India is not a replica of anyone. Bharat stands tall on its own strength, and our unity at home reinforces our credibility abroad."

# Arvind Gupta launches Harley-Davidson X440 at Hero Premia Showroom in Jammu

JD CORRESPONDENT

**JAMMU:** The new Harley-Davidson X440 T has been officially launched in ammu at the Hero Premia showroom, located opposite Top Sherkhania on Akhnoor Road. The motorcycle, starting at Rs 2,79,500 (ex-showroom), is expected to attract biking enthusiasts across the region with its upgraded features and premium styling.



The launch ceremony was graced by MLA West Arvind Gupta as the Chief Guest. Among other distinguished attendees were Vivek Shekhar, SP City, and Vikas Hans, SHO Nowabad. Managing Partner and CEO Ashish Gupta and B.R. Jandiyal were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta congratulated the dealership and welcomed the launch of the new model in Jammu. He said, "The introduction of the Harley-Davidson X440 T in Jammu reflects the growing aspirations and purchasing power of our youth. Such premium launches not only boost the local automobile market but also strengthen Jammu's position as a developing commercial hub." He further expressed confidence that the motorcycle would receive an encouraging response from biking enthusiasts in the region.

The X440 T features enhanced design elements, improved seating comfort, and upgraded suspension, making it suitable for both city rides and long highway touring. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local riders and automobile lovers who explored the bike's specifications and styling.

The Hero Premia showroom also showcased a range of Harley-Davidson accessories and official merchandise. Customers were informed about available service facilities and test ride options, ensuring a comprehensive ownership experience.

The launch highlighted Harley-Davidson's commitment to expanding its footprint in Jammu and catering to riders seeking a blend of performance, comfort, and iconic design.

# Mandate Misused, Governance Falters: MP Ghulam Ali Khatana Raps Administration at Rajouri Janta Darbar

JD LIAQAT ALI KHATANA

**RAJOURI:** Ghulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), on Monday mounted a sharp critique of governance during an extensive outreach tour of Rajouri, alleging misuse of public mandate and systemic failure in service delivery. Presiding over a well-attended Janta Darbar at Behrote Mandal, the MP heard grievances directly from residents, with the turnout underscoring mounting public discontent at the grassroots.



Addressing the gathering, MP Khatana accused the present dispensation led by the National Conference of failing to convert promises into outcomes. "Governance must be judged by delivery, not declarations," he said, calling for accountability and responsiveness from the administration.

During the public hearing, residents flagged a host of pressing issues across sectors: Health: Speakers reported acute shortages of doctors in several areas. Even where postings exist, poor infrastructure and inadequate facilities were cited, compelling patients to travel long distances for basic treatment. Education: Parents and community representatives highlighted severe teacher shortages in government schools, warning that learning outcomes and the future of children in rural and far-flung areas are at stake.

Employment & Government Schemes: Participants alleged poor on-ground implementation of schemes, stating that centrally sponsored programmes have failed to translate into meaningful employment. "Schemes exist on paper, but jobs do not," several residents remarked.

Civic Services: Concerns were also raised over inadequate Animal Husbandry facilities, chronic water shortages under the Jal Shakti Department, and prolonged power cuts-particularly disruptive during Sehri and Iftar in the holy month of Ramzan.

Reiterating the commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party, MP Khatana said the party has consistently prioritised inclusive development and people-centric governance. "From health and education to infrastructure and employment, our policies are aimed at empowerment and justice for all," he asserted, contrasting BJP's track record with what he termed the NC's unfulfilled promises and mismanagement of public resources in Rajouri and across Jammu & Kashmir. The Janta Darbar was attended by senior BJP leaders, including District President Dev Raj Sharma, District General Secretary Karmat Malik, Samreen Khan, Yuva Morcha President Azhar Mehmood, ST Morcha Captain Nizam Din, OBC Morcha President Zahid Ahmed, and Mandal Presidents Abbas Sadique and Shafiq Ahmed. Senior administrative officials-among them the SDM, ADC, Tehsildar, BDO, BMO, and representatives from Agriculture, Horticulture, PWD, PDD, Irrigation and Jal Shakti-were also present.

Assuring residents of follow-up action, MP Khatana said all grievances would be taken up with the concerned departments and pressed for time-bound, result-oriented solutions. He reaffirmed BJP's commitment to fairness, transparency and last-mile delivery, pledging that development would reach every village and hamlet of Rajouri.


**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,**
**SEED DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, SFRI COMPLEX, JANIPUR, JAMMU- 180007**
**Tel:- & Fax: 0191-2953921**

**AUCTION NOTICE-III**

**Sub:- Auction of Unserviceable Items.**

For and behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory it is notified for information of General public/scrap dealers/or any person interested that the open auction on as is where is basis for disposal of unserviceable items of this division as per following detail shall be held at 12:00 hours on 28th February 2026 in the premises of Seed Development Division, Jammu in the J&K FRI Campus, Last Metador Stand Janipur, Jammu.

**List of articles/items put to auction**

| S. No | Items | Qty. | Condition |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Laboratory stool | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 2 | Wireless Mini adaptor | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 3 | Chair (Metaling Colour) of pipe with table CH-18 code 3618 | 08 Nos | Broken |
| 4 | Chair | 03 Nos | Broken |
| 5 | Computer System | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 6 | Electric Kettle | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 7 | Computer Chair | 01 No | Broken |
| 8 | Revolving Chair | 01 No | Broken |
| 9 | Revolving Chair | 04 Nos | Broken |
| 10 | Bench 3 Seater | 01 No | Broken |
| 11 | Room Heater | 02 Nos | Unserviceable |
| 12 | HPAIO DT 20 C4171L Desktop | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 13 | EPSON Printer L3110 | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 14 | Zebronics UPS U725 | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 15 | UPS Numeric (Digital 600 Ex double) | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 16 | UPS | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 17 | Panasonic Fax Machine KX981 | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 18 | Biometric Machine Model 100CB | 01 No | Unserviceable |
| 19 | Black Wood Halogen Heater Magma | 02 Nos | Unserviceable |

1. The bidders may inspect the articles during office timings 10 am-4-30 pm till 10th February 2026.
2. The interested bidder shall be required to deposit earnest money of Rs.3500/- before the start of the auction
3. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 10% of the bid amount after end of auction within 24 hours.
4. E-waste registration certificate is mandatory.
5. The employees and ward of employees of this office are not allowed to participate in this auction.
6. The auctioned goods shall be lifted by the successful bidder within a week's time after which Rs.500/week shall be charged as space rent.

Sd/-
(Rakesh Abrol)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Seed Development
Division, Jammu

DIP No:DIP/J-12280/25
Date:- 02/03/2026

# "Observance of International Wheelchair Day and Distribution of Assistive Devices at Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu (Samba)"

JD CORRESPONDENT



**JAMMU:** On the occasion of International Wheelchair Day, the Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu (Samba), under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, Jammu, and PMDK, successfully organized a distribution programme at the CRC premises today.

The event was graced by Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director of CRC Jammu (Samba), Ms. Preeti Sharma, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Jammu, officials from the Social Welfare Department, Mr. Naveen Gupta, Administrative Officer and Mr. Rahul Singh, Rehabilitation Officer of CRC Jammu, and representatives from PMDK Dr. Hasnain Khan, P&O.

During the programme, one motorized tricycle and four wheelchairs were distributed to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to enhance their mobility, independence, and overall quality of life. The initiative aimed to empower beneficiaries by promoting accessibility and inclusion in society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director of CRC Jammu (Samba) emphasized the importance of assistive devices in enabling persons with disabilities to lead dignified and self-reliant lives. The DSWO, Jammu, appreciated the collaborative efforts and reiterated the commitment of the Social Welfare Department towards the welfare and empowerment of Divyangjan. International Wheelchair Day serves as a reminder to recognize the positive impact of wheelchairs in the lives of millions of people worldwide and to promote awareness about accessibility and inclusivity.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the continued dedication of CRC Jammu (Samba) and its partner departments towards supporting and empowering persons with disabilities.

# Students visit Indian Institute of Technology Jammu for Academic Exposure

JD CORRESPONDENT




**JAMMU:** About 40 BA students from Dogra Degree College, Jammu, visited IIT Jammu for academic exposure. The visit was conducted by Outreach Department of IIT Jammu under the guidance and support of the Director, Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur; Dean, Outreach and Skill Development, Prof. Meenakshi Rajeev; and Associate Dean, Dr. Sameer K. S. Pachalla.

The students toured the Robotics and Chemical Engineering laboratories, where they learned about ongoing research activities and their practical applications.

An interactive session was conducted by Dr. Shafkat Shafi Dar of Humanities Department of the institute, who spoke on interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking, and the Indian economy. The session concluded with an engaging interaction in which students discussed future academic and career opportunities with the faculty.

Students under the 'Vigyan Jyoti Scheme' from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Gharota and Army Public School Akhnoor also visited IIT Jammu. They received hands-on training in the Chemical Engineering laboratories, performed practical experiments, and interacted with research scholars who addressed their queries through presentations. The session was guided by Dr. Yogesh Madhukarrao Nimdeo, while PhD scholars from the Chemical Engineering laboratory further simplified the practical concepts during the interaction sessions.

# DC reviews progress of RDD sector works in Udhampur

JD CORRESPONDENT



**UDHAMPUR:** Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, today convened a comprehensive review meeting of officers and field functionaries of Rural Development Department (RDD) to assess the physical and financial progress under the different schemes being implemented in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Probationer Seerat Baji; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Ashwani Hansa; all Block Development Officers and other concerned officials.

At the outset, ACD Om Parkash delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the scheme-wise and block-wise progress under different RDD initiatives.

The DC conducted an in-depth review of the physical and financial achievements under the ADP, status of new and ongoing works under the UT Sector, constituency-wise progress under CDF and payment mechanisms being followed. He also examined the category-wise issuance of job cards under MGNREGA, block-wise implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin, progress under Swachh Bharat Mission and the status of the construction of compost pits, soak pits, DEWATS, FSTPs and Gobardhan projects.

The DC also reviewed the block-wise status of Panchayat Ghars and the construction of new Panchayat Ghars under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. He exhorted officers to maintain transparency and accountability in all works undertaken by the RDD in the district.

# Massive protest over poor condition of Udhampur–Billawar road

## Pawan Khajuria demands immediate repairs

JD CORRESPONDENT



**UDHAMPUR:** Senior leader Pawan Khajuria expressed deep concern over the deteriorating condition of the important road connecting Udhampur to Billawar. He said that the stretch passing through the Udhampur East Assembly constituency has been in a dilapidated state for a long time, and large potholes at several places are causing serious inconvenience to commuters.

He said that the abundance of potholes makes driving extremely difficult and increases the constant risk of accidents. The situation is even worse for two-wheeler riders, who face the threat of accidents almost every day. According to local residents, several people have already lost their lives in road accidents.

On Monday afternoon, Pawan Khajuria, along with his supporters and hundreds of local people, staged a strong protest at Manwal Bus Stand. The protesters blocked Dhar Road near the bus stand for some time and raised slogans against the administration and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

During the protest, speakers including Raj Kumar Buccha, Rajesh Sarpanch, Sandeep Gupta, Babu Ram, Master Govind Ram, Master Durga Dass, Makhan Lal, Raju Sarpanch, Balwant Rai, Somraj, Rakesh Gupta, and Bishan Dass, said that residents are extremely troubled by the pathetic condition of Dhar Road. Reports of accidents due to potholes are frequent, and people feel anxious about their safety whenever they travel on this road.

The speakers expressed regret that the local MLA also travels on the same road daily, yet no concrete steps have been taken to address its poor condition. They alleged that instead of resolving public issues, they are being ignored. In contrast, they said that despite losing the election, Pawan Khajuria has remained active in raising issues concerning the area at the tehsil, district, and central levels.

Addressing the gathering, Pawan Khajuria said that the Udhampur–Billawar road is a lifeline for thousands of people. If repair work is not started soon, the agitation will be intensified. He also mentioned that Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has taken cognizance of the matter at the PMO level. Dr. Singh reportedly spoke to BRO officials and directed them to initiate necessary repair work at the earliest. Khajuria expressed his gratitude to him for the intervention. Referring to the Central Government's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme, Khajuria alleged that projects worth thousands of crores exist only on paper. He claimed that villagers are still struggling for drinking water while officials merely publicize the schemes.

Tehsildar Majalta, Kamini Choudhary, who was present at the spot, said that the matter was already in her knowledge and assured that she would discuss it with higher authorities and assured them that the road condition would be improved soon, following which the protest was called off.

# Free HPV vaccination drive at Shalby Hospital on Women's Day

JD CORRESPONDENT

**MOHALI:** Shalby Hospital Mohali will organise a free HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination drive on International Women's Day.

The initiative is aimed to protect young girls against cervical cancer, a preventable disease that claims the lives of nearly 90,000 Indian women annually, said Dr. Ashwani Kumar Sachdeva, onco surgeon.

Dr. Sachdeva further said that cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among women in India, with approximately 1,27,000 new cases and 80,000 deaths reported each year – accounting for one-fifth of global burden.

The statistics are particularly alarming as one woman in India dies after every 8 minutes in India due to cervical cancer and India reports one-third of all global cancer cases, he informed. Dr. Arvinder Kaur Heer, consultancy gynaecology said," Recent studies show that a single dose HPV vaccination program could reduce HPV 16 & HPV 18 infection risk approximately 90% in vaccinated cohort and decrease overall prevalence of high-risk HPV infections by 49% after 20 years".

The HPV vaccine is most effective when administered before potential exposure to the virus. The WHO recommends vaccinating girls between 9–14 years of age as the primary target group for maximum protection, said Dr. Balbir Kaur Ghai consultancy gynaecology On this International Women's Day, we are not just celebrating women, we are actively investing in their future health and wellbeing, said Lalit Sharma, chief administrative officer.

Those who want to register may call at Hospital number 8725040400.



A large feast was held today at the Shiva Temple in Ward No. 7 of Bishnah. Originally scheduled for Mahashivratri on February 15th, it had to be postponed due to personal reasons. The chief guest for the event was Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Swami Anup Giri Maharaj. Abhishek Sharma sang Shiva hymns, followed by a depiction of Shiva's divine play, featuring Shiva, Sati, and Kali Mata. This captivated the devotees. A feast was then held, where thousands of devotees partook of the prasad. The event was organized by Shakti Bharat, Gulshan Bhagat, and their team. Numerous dignitaries were present, including Jai Bharat Bharti, Sumit Sadotra, Nippu, Kuldeep Sodhi, and Nikku.

# India Gets a Raga in its Name - Raga Bharati by Pt. Abhay Sopori

JD CORRESPONDENT



**JAMMU:** In a historic and momentous development in Indian Classical Music, the young music legend of India, Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori, presented a newly composed raga dedicated to the nation and Motherland India, titled Raga Bharati. Pt. Sopori described the raga as an ode to the great country of India, stating that the Bharatiya tradition spans thousands of years, and Raga Bharati embodies the ethos of time, tradition, values, and culture that define India's civilizational continuity.

The announcement and presentation of Raga Bharati took place at Ravindra Bhawan, New Delhi during the 3rd edition of the prestigious Delhi Kala Utsav, organized by Sanskar Bharati in New Delhi. The festival was presented in collaboration with the Art, Culture and Language Department and the Maithili-Bhojpuri Academy (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi), along with India's National Academies, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Sahitya Akademi, and Lalit Kala Akademi (Ministry of Culture, Government of India).

Pt. Abhay Sopori commenced his recital of Raga Bharati with a brief Aalap and Jod, followed by two compositions set in Ektaal and Teentaal. The presentation highlighted the distinctive Sopori Baaj, the unique style created by his illustrious father Pandit Bhajan Sopori. The performance showcased his immense depth of Raagdari, Chhandkari, Layakari, Gayaki, and Tantrakari Ang enriched with his Meend, Gamak, Glides, Taans, along with intricate Bol, Chhand, and Laya patterns. He was ably accompanied by Pradip Sarkar on Tabla, Rishi Shankar Upadhyay on Pakhawaj, and his disciples Anoushka Majumdar and Poushali Dutta on Tanpura. The raga was received with great enthusiasm by the large gathering at the Utsav, who hailed Pt. Sopori's significant contribution to Indian music.

Pt. Abhay Sopori is the present Uttaradhikari and Khalifa of the ancient Santoor tradition of India and the age-old Sopori - Sufiana Gharana of Kashmir, a 300-year-old traditional Santoor family that carries forward a legacy rooted in the spiritual Shaivite - Sufi musical tradition. He is the son of the great saintly music legend, the 'Saint of Santoor' and the 'King of Strings', late Pandit Bhajan Sopori ji.

# Nissan Motor India reports consolidated growth of 23% year-on-year in Feb 26

JD CORRESPONDENT

**CHANDIGARH:** Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) today announced consolidated sales of over 10,565 units for February 2026, reinforcing steady business momentum across domestic and international markets and marking a transition into the next phase of growth following the launch of the all-new Nissan GRAVITE.

Domestic wholesale stood at 2,230 units and Exports surged to 8,335 units, marking a consolidated growth of 23% year-on-year.

February also marked a significant milestone with the launch of the all-new Nissan GRAVITE following an extremely overwhelming response from the market and strong booking momentum across regions, customer deliveries of the Nissan GRAVITE have commenced from 1st March 2026 across the country. The commencement of deliveries signals the beginning of Nissan's next growth chapter in India, anchored in a product strategy tailored for Indian customers, strengthened dealer confidence, and a sharper market focus.

Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said, "February has been an important and forward-looking month for Nissan in India. Our consolidated performance reflects stable underlying demand and continued strength in exports, reaffirming India's strategic importance in Nissan's global operations.

# Indian Army Organises Computer cadre Closing Ceremony at ACSA Institute at Banihal, Ramban

JD CORRESPONDENT



**RAMBAN:** The Indian Army successfully organized the closing ceremony of a Computer Cadre at ACSA Institute, Banihal. The initiative aimed to enhance digital literacy and computer skills among the local youth. A total of 40 students actively participated in the cadre, receiving comprehensive training in basic computer operations, MS Office applications, internet usage and cyber awareness.

The course was designed to empower students with essential technical knowledge to improve their educational and employment opportunities. The closing ceremony was attended by officers and staff of the Indian Army, faculty members of ACSA Institute and the participating students. During the event, certificates were awarded to all successful participants in recognition of their dedication and successful completion of the course.

While addressing the gathering, the officer appreciated the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the students and encouraged them to continue developing their skills for a brighter future. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to contribute towards education, skill development and nation-building in the region.

# Dr. Vandana Dogra Felicitated by Movement Kalki on Her Retirement

JD CORRESPONDENT



**JAMMU:** Movement Kalki felicitated Dr. Vandana Dogra on the occasion of her retirement in recognition of her outstanding services in the field of Ayurveda. Dr. Dogra served as Superintendent at Ayurvedic Hospital Shalamar and also made significant contributions as AVN District Ayush Officer.

On this occasion, Movement Kalki stated that Dr. Vandana Dogra's entire tenure has been a remarkable example of dedication, integrity, and commitment to public service. She played an important role in promoting the Ayurvedic system of medicine among the masses and strengthening healthcare services. Under her administrative guidance and experience, many patients received better treatment and professional advice.

The program was attended by Movement Kalki Board Member Sunita Kundal, Senior Advisor Rajendra Sharma, Yoga Officer Dr. Himani Batayal, Dr. Har Bakhsh Singh, along with other active members of the organization. All members appreciated Dr. Vandana Dogra's valuable contributions and wished her a healthy, peaceful, and successful future.

Movement Kalki stated that Dr. Vandana Dogra's contribution to society and the healthcare sector will always remain inspirational.

## EDITORIAL

# Evolving Spectrum of Energy Sources

Energy is the foundation of modern civilization. From powering homes and industries to driving transportation and digital infrastructure, energy shapes economic growth and human development. Over time, the spectrum of energy sources has evolved significantly, reflecting technological progress, environmental awareness, and changing global priorities. Today, the world stands at a critical juncture, transitioning from traditional fossil fuels to cleaner and more sustainable alternatives. For over a century, fossil fuels-coal, oil, and natural gas-have dominated the global energy landscape. Coal fueled the Industrial Revolution and continues to power many electricity grids worldwide. Oil became essential for transportation, while natural gas emerged as a relatively cleaner fossil fuel used for cooking, heating, and electricity generation. These sources have supported rapid industrialization and economic expansion. However, their environmental impact is substantial. Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change, air pollution, and health risks. Finite reserves and geopolitical tensions surrounding oil and gas supply further highlight the need for diversification. In response to environmental concerns and energy security challenges, renewable energy sources have gained momentum. Solar, wind, hydroelectric, biomass, and geothermal energy represent sustainable alternatives that rely on naturally replenishing resources. Solar power, in particular, has experienced remarkable growth due to declining costs of photovoltaic panels and improved storage technologies. Wind energy, both onshore and offshore, has become a major contributor to electricity generation in several countries. Hydropower remains one of the oldest and most reliable renewable sources, providing stable and large-scale energy production. Renewables offer multiple benefits. They reduce carbon emissions, lower dependence on imported fuels, and create new employment opportunities in green industries. However, challenges such as intermittency, land use, and infrastructure integration require innovative solutions and robust policy support. Nuclear energy occupies a unique position in the energy spectrum. It generates large amounts of electricity with minimal direct carbon emissions. Advanced nuclear technologies aim to enhance safety, efficiency, and waste management. While concerns about radioactive waste and safety persist, nuclear power remains a significant part of many national energy strategies, especially for countries seeking stable baseload power with reduced emissions. Technological innovation is accelerating the transformation of the energy sector. Energy storage systems, particularly advanced battery technologies, are crucial for managing the variability of renewable energy. Grid modernization, smart meters, and digital monitoring systems are improving efficiency and reliability. Hydrogen energy, especially green hydrogen produced using renewable electricity, is emerging as a promising solution for hard-to-decarbonize sectors such as heavy industry and long-distance transport. Research into carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies also aims to reduce emissions from existing fossil fuel infrastructure during the transition period. The evolving spectrum of energy sources reflects a broader shift toward sustainability and resilience. Governments, industries, and communities are increasingly recognizing the importance of balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility. Energy efficiency measures, electrification of transport, and decentralized power systems are reshaping consumption patterns. The transition is not without challenges. Infrastructure costs, policy coordination, technological adaptation, and social acceptance all influence the pace of change. Yet, the long-term benefits-reduced emissions, improved public health, energy independence, and economic innovation-make the transformation essential. The global energy landscape is undergoing a profound transformation. The shift from fossil fuels to diversified, cleaner energy sources marks a pivotal chapter in human development. By embracing innovation and sustainable practices, the world can build an energy system that supports prosperity while protecting the planet for future generations.

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# Coal belt climate reform starts with women

Jiwesh Nandan
Arpita Victor



At sunrise in a village in Sundargarh along the highway in eastern India's Odisha, 32-year-old Sushila walks half a kilometre to fetch water. She uses her sari to shield her face from the coal dust that settles on her skin and in her lungs as coal-laden Tata Hyva trucks drive past. These trucks ply day and night, transporting coal dispatched for thermal power from the big open-cast coal mine five kilometres from Sushila's village. Her daily walk illustrates how far removed women like Sushila are from the climate negotiations that affect them; that women and marginalised communities in India's coal regions are already living the future the world is trying to avoid. Their everyday struggles are part of the realities of coal production in India, exacerbating the effects of climate change felt globally - polluted water, degraded forests, insecure livelihoods, rising care burdens, and the social stresses of an economy in transition.

This is why the adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) at COP30 deserves attention in India. For the first time, UNFCCC signatories have agreed on a nine-year, legally anchored global framework that places women and girls at the centre of climate action. UN Women called it a "blueprint for action". For countries like ours, where the transition away from coal is inevitable to achieve net zero, the Belém GAP provides the policy scaffolding to ensure the shift is not only low-carbon but also socially just.

In India's coal-bearing districts - from Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh to Odisha - women face layered risks that national climate policy has yet to fully confront. Water sources remain compromised. Forest products that tribal women rely on for income have declined because of environmental degradation. As men migrate in search of work due to the shifting economy following old coal mine closures, women bear the full weight of caregiving, farming, managing household debt, and coping with a power dynamic skewed against them.

These are not isolated anecdotes. They mirror exactly the challenges the Belém GAP identifies: deteriorating health, increased violence, unequal access to decent work, and the compounding effects of discrimination on Indigenous, rural, disabled and marginalised women. Importantly, the new plan introduces explicit provisions on women's health, gender-based violence, decent work, and protection for women environmental defenders - issues that have long remained at the periphery of climate policy.

India's transition plans must now catch up India has taken important steps towards just transition planning, and the adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan offers an opportunity to strengthen this work further. The Plan provides a clear roadmap for ensuring that women are not only included but actively supported in shaping transition strategies. It encourages countries to anchor climate policy in human rights, recognise unpaid care work as a factor that limits women's participation in the labour force, and advance meaningful representation and leadership of women at every level of decision-making.

The Belém GAP also sets out commitments to safeguard women environmental defenders - who frequently lead community efforts to address pollution and land-use concerns - and to expand gender-responsive finance that can enhance women's livelihoods, mobility, enterprises and local institutions.

For India's coal districts, these provisions are not abstract principles. They mirror what women have been consistently asking for: clean water, safe homes, stable livelihoods, recognition of their labour, and a seat at the planning table.

There is compelling evidence that when women are included in climate and energy governance, policies are more ambitious, equitable and durable. TERI's recent work in Giridih illustrates this potential: through the People-Centric Transition initiative, women's groups in four coal-adjacent villages established micro-enterprises - from mop and wiper units to incense stick production, home décor manufacturing and beautician services - after receiving financial literacy, business ideation and technical training. Forty-nine women and adolescent girls are now running enterprises that were set up through group and individual models, supported by joint liability groups and seed capital.

These experiences show that with targeted investment and structured capacity-building, women in coal regions can move from informal, low-productivity work to managing viable businesses that strengthen local economies and support a more people-centred transition. India has an opportunity to align its district-level just transition plans with the Belém GAP, turning global commitments into local action. This means earmarking funds - especially District Mineral Foundation (DMF) resources and the ESCROW funds for coal mine closure - for women's health, mobility, skill development and entrepreneurship. It means measuring the impacts of transition on women as rigorously as emissions are tracked. And it means redesigning governance mechanisms so that women are not merely present but influential.

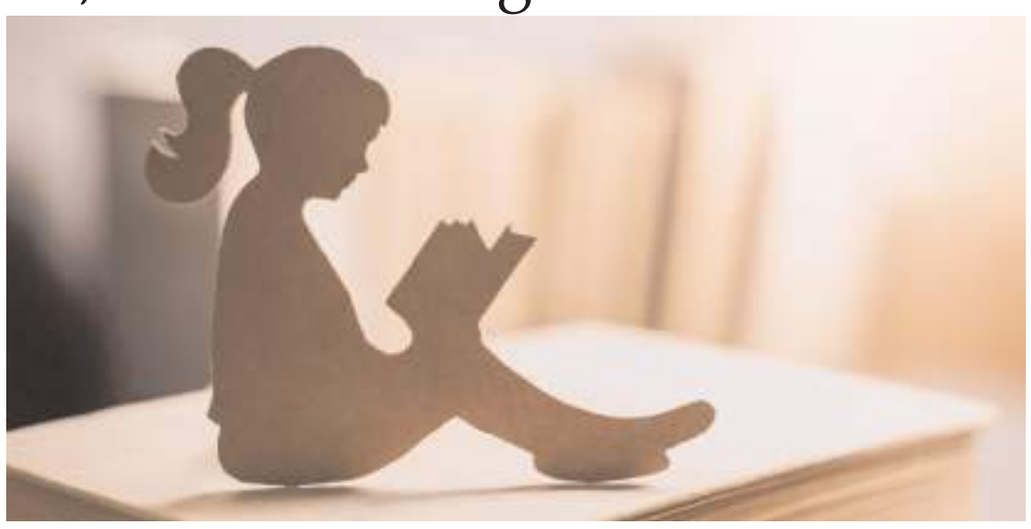
Evidence from global climate programmes consistently shows that gender-responsive approaches lead to stronger outcomes across mitigation, adaptation and resilience. By incorporating the provisions of the Belém Gender Action Plan into national and state-level strategies, India can strengthen transition governance, reduce social risk, and expand economic opportunity in regions that have historically borne the costs of extraction. It means earmarking District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and coal mine closure ESCROW funds for women's health, mobility, skills and enterprise development; tracking gender-differentiated impacts with the same rigour as emissions; and redesigning local governance so that women are not merely present but influential in decision-making.

The adoption of the Belém GAP sets a clear global benchmark for embedding gender justice in climate governance. For India, the real test lies in translating these commitments into district-level action that protects livelihoods and expands opportunity for women in coal regions. These questions - on finance, leadership and accountability - will be central to discussions at the forthcoming Silver Jubilee edition of TERI's flagship World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), where leaders will examine how to ensure the energy transition is not only low-carbon, but genuinely inclusive.

*(Jiwesh Nandan, Distinguished Fellow & Advisor, World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026, TERI; Arpita Elisheba Victor, Research Associate & Contributor, WSDS 2026, TERI; views are personal.)*

# New Regimes, Ancient Hunger: Women as First Casualty

Acharya Prashant



There is a question beneath the question whenever a society turns its full legislative attention to what a woman wears, where she walks, whether her voice may be heard in a public space, and how much pain her body may absorb before the law takes notice. That deeper question is never asked aloud, because to ask it would be to expose the one who is asking. The surface question is about morality, order, divine commandment or civilisational continuity. The deeper question is about what kind of mind requires all this legislation in the first place; what it is so afraid of, and what it so desperately wants.

In the years before 1996, women in Afghanistan made up around 40 percent of the country's doctors, particularly in urban centres such as Kabul. They also held a significant presence in the civil service and formed the backbone of the education system in major cities. Under the first Taliban government, they were removed from all of these positions within months; windows were painted black so women could not be seen from the street; shoes that made sound were prohibited; a woman's laughter audible to men became a punishable offence. The Republic era that followed restored a portion of what had been destroyed: by 2021, 3.5 million girls were back in classrooms, over a quarter of parliamentary seats were reserved for women, and the 2009 Elimination of Violence Against Women law had criminalised domestic violence and forced marriage. When the Taliban returned in August 2021, the dismantling resumed. Girls above sixth grade were banned from school, then women from universities. Parks, gyms, and bathhouses were closed to them. In 2024, enforcement of the Taliban's "virtue and vice" regulations extended to women's voices in public, treating even speech as something to be veiled. And in February 2026, the new criminal code repealed the 2009 law and replaced it with its precise opposite: a provision permitting husbands to beat their wives and children, provided no bones are broken and no wounds remain visible.

Rights granted, stripped, partially restored, stripped again. The arc alone is the argument, before any analysis is attempted. Whatever was built from the outside proved reversible the moment the outside changed. The question that arc forces is the one this piece proposes to examine: why is the woman's body always the first territory claimed when a new power consolidates itself, and what does that tell us about the nature of the power doing the claiming?

A society's legal imagination is its most honest self-portrait. Consider what the February 2026 provision actually reveals. The men who drafted it did not spend their legislative energy on agricultural policy, on infrastructure, on the country's severe youth unemployment, or on the widespread food insecurity affecting a large share of the population. They spent it calculating how much damage a woman's body may absorb before the damage becomes legally inconvenient. The bones must not break, the wounds must not show. Within these parameters, the beating is licit.

A government that legislates how much a woman may bleed is not protecting morality. It is revealing its fear.

What quality of mind produces such a provision? Not merely a cruel one, though cruelty is present. A mind for which the woman's body is the primary object of attention; a mind that, when it sits down to govern, finds the female body the most pressing legislative matter before it. This is not governance, it is confession.

Watch what happens when a man demands that a woman cover herself completely, that her clothing seal every surface from public view, that even her voice not carry beyond the walls of her home. He presents this as moral hygiene, as the protection of social order, as fidelity to divine commandment. What he does not present, because he cannot see it, is what the demand discloses about himself. If lust fills the eye, a wrist becomes a provocation; a strand of hair becomes a crisis requiring enforcement. The morality police who arrested Mahsa Amini in September 2022 for what they judged to be improper hijab were not enforcing some divine law. Amini died in their custody three days later, and her death set off the 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement that continues burning through Iranian society. What those men were enforcing was the terror of minds that cannot encounter a woman without the encounter becoming, for them, entirely sexual. The veil is not placed on the woman. It is placed on the man's inability to see her as anything other than a body.

This is why the impulse, when left unchecked, never stops at clothing. The December 2024 ban on women's voices is the same logic carried one step further: if even a fully covered woman cannot prevent a man from experiencing her as a body, then her voice must also be silenced, because the voice is the last remaining evidence that a person is present and not merely a surface. The endpoint of this logic, followed to its conclusion, is not a woman who is modestly dressed. It is a woman who does not exist as a person at all, only as an object whose properties must be regulated.

Iran's trajectory makes the principle visible across a longer arc. In the years before 1979, Iranian women sat in parliament, managed government ministries, and comprised a third of the student population. Many of them marched for the revolution that would strip them of nearly all of this within months. They wore the hijab to those marches, not from religious compulsion but as a gesture of solidarity against a Shah widely understood to be a foreign-backed autocrat. The revolution promised dignity; within one month of its success, mandatory veiling was announced. In the early 1980s, the minimum legal marriage age for girls was reduced to nine (in lunar years), before later being raised again with exceptions remaining, the right to divorce was curtailed, and the Family Protection Law that had guaranteed women equal standing in custody proceedings was annulled. The women who helped topple one regime became the first significant casualties of the regime they installed.

Reza Shah had banned the veil by force in 1936; pious women who wore it from genuine conviction were traumatised by the compulsory unveiling. The Islamic Republic made it mandatory under penalty of imprisonment. The instrument of control worked identically in both cases, pointed in opposite directions. What remained constant was not the garment but the shared assumption of both the secular moderniser and the theocrat: that the woman's body is available for political deployment, that it is terrain, and that whoever controls it controls the meaning of the social order.

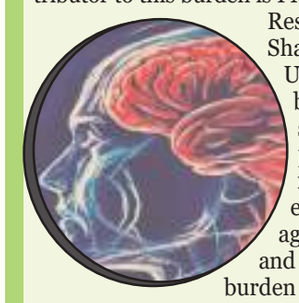
The woman's body is the ego's oldest possession. Before there were nations, before there were property laws, before there were armies, the female body was the boundary marker of lineage, of honour, of a man's legible identity within his community. Her control is not incidental to social order; it is its announcement. When she is controlled, the consolidating power has declared its territory. When she moves freely, the collective ego remains unsettled, for she represents the limit of its jurisdiction.

The unexamined ego consumes. It consumes forests, having stripped vast portions of the earth's tree cover. It consumes animals in staggering numbers. It consumes weaker human beings, which is what slavery, colonialism, and caste amount to when the ideological decoration is removed. When this same ego encounters a woman, it does not suddenly become considerate. The patriarchal itemisation of a woman's use-value has been consistent across cultures and centuries: her body's labour, her body's pleasure, her body's reproductive capacity. Japan's once-common phrase for an unmarried woman past twenty-five, 'unsold Christmas cake' to be discounted after the holiday, is not a Japanese peculiarity. It is the patriarchal ego stating, with unusual precision, what it has always believed: that a woman's value is her availability to male consumption.

## Air Pollution Linked To Stroke Risk In Elderly Men: New Study Sparks Urgent Health Warnings

Older adults are at significant risk of brain stroke due to prolonged exposure to air pollution, according to a study led by Chinese researchers.

The study showed that elderly males are disproportionately affected by ischemic stroke related to air pollution. Ischemic stroke is a condition resulting from reduced blood supply to specific areas of the brain due to blocked blood vessels. The primary contributor to this burden is PM2.5 from air pollution.



Researchers from the Shandong First Medical University evaluated the burden of ischemic stroke attributable to air pollution in China from 1990 to 2021. They also examined gender and age-specific differences and projected future disease burden trends from 2022 to 2036.

The results, published in the journal BMC Public Health, observed a decline in both age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR) and age-standardised disability-adjusted life years (DALY) rates for ischemic stroke attributed to air pollution.

However, the decline was slower among men than women, with a higher burden observed in elderly males.

"This suggests the need for gender-specific interventions and policies that target male populations, particularly the elderly, to reduce their exposure to air pollution and its adverse health effects," said the researchers.

Previous studies suggest that both brief and prolonged exposure to air pollution can heighten the risk of ischemic stroke.

The underlying mechanism may involve environmental PM2.5 exposure contributing to the formation of atherosclerosis, which affects both small cerebral vessels and large arteries, thereby increasing the risk of ischemic stroke.

## This Psychedelic Mushroom Compound May Improve Mood And Motor Function In Parkinson's Patients, Study Finds

While psilocybin -- a natural compound found in certain mushrooms -- has shown promise in treating depression and anxiety, a new study showed its benefits in lifting mood and enhancing motor symptoms in Parkinson's disease patients.

Researchers from the University of California San Francisco showed that psilocybin can be used to help Parkinson's patients who often experience debilitating mood dysfunction in addition to their motor symptoms and don't respond well to antidepressants or other medications.

Researchers from the University of California San Francisco showed that psilocybin can be used to help Parkinson's patients who often experience debilitating mood dysfunction in addition to their motor symptoms and don't respond well to antidepressants or other medications.

The findings, published in the journal Neuropsychopharmacology, showed that the drug was tolerated without any serious side effects or worsening symptoms.

The pilot study also showed clinically significant improvements in mood, cognition, and motor function that lasted for weeks after the drug was out of the participant's systems.



It is the first time a psychedelic has been tested on patients with any neurodegenerative disease.

"We are still in very early stages of this work, but this first study went well beyond what we expected," said Ellen Bradley, Assistant Professor and associate director of UCSF's Translational Psychedelic Research Programme (TrPR).

"Many people don't realise this, but mood symptoms in Parkinson's are linked to a faster physical decline," she said. "And they are actually a stronger predictor of patients' quality of life with Parkinson's than their motor symptoms."

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder, characterised by uncontrolled movements due to abnormal brain activity.

While medications like levodopa can relieve symptoms, there are no approved therapies to slow the progression or reverse the disease itself. Common early physical symptoms include tremors and foot-dragging, but Bradley said anxiety and depression in patients with no history of psychiatric problems often precede the onset of motor symptoms by several years.

It's unclear why standard medications often don't work well for these patients, but mood changes could be part of the neurodegenerative disease process, the team said.

## Daily Use Of Plastic Could Be Killing You: Study Links Common Chemical To 13% Of Global Heart Deaths

Daily exposure to certain chemicals used in plastic items like food containers or medical equipment could be linked to an increase in deaths due to heart disease worldwide, according to a study published in the journal Lancet eBiomedicine on Tuesday.

Researchers at New York University Langone Health said that the chemicals, called phthalates, are in widespread use globally.

Phthalates found in cosmetics, detergents, solvents, plastic pipes, and bug repellants have for decades been linked with an increased risk of conditions ranging from obesity and diabetes to fertility issues and cancer.

The new study focused on a kind of phthalate called di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), which is used to make food containers, medical equipment, and other plastic softer and more flexible.

Previous studies linked their exposure with an overactive immune response (inflammation) in the heart's arteries, which can potentially lead to heart attack or stroke.

However, the new analysis estimated that DEHP exposure contributed to 356,238 deaths, or more than 13 per cent of all global mortality from heart disease in 2018 among men and women ages 55 through 64.

"By highlighting the connection between phthalates and a leading cause of death across the world, our findings add to the vast body of evidence that these chemicals present a tremendous danger to human health," said lead author Sara Hyman, an associate research scientist at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. For the research, the team used health and environmental data from dozens of population surveys to estimate DEHP exposure across 200 countries and territories. The information included urine samples containing chemical breakdown products left by the plastic additive.



The Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific bore a much larger share of the death toll than others -- about three-fourths of the total.

It is because these countries face higher rates of exposure to the chemicals, possibly because they are undergoing a boom in plastic production but with fewer manufacturing restrictions than other regions, the researchers explained.

"Our results underscore the urgent need for global regulations to reduce exposure to these toxins, especially in areas most affected by rapid industrialisation and plastic consumption," said Leonardo Trasande, from NYU Grossman.

Trasande stated that the overall death toll from heart disease connected to these chemicals is likely much higher.

## How This 42-Year-Old Marketing Executive Lost 22 Kg Without Crash Diets Or Quitting His Job — His Real-Life Weight Loss Journey Will Inspire You

Meet Amarinder Singh, a 42-year-old senior marketing professional who once juggled tight deadlines, back-to-back meetings, late-night parties, and sales targets — often at the cost of his health. Weighing 105 kg at his heaviest, Amarinder found himself breathless after walking a mile, his health slipping out of control as professional demands took over.

But Amarinder didn't opt for a crash diet or intense boot camps. Instead, he chose a realistic, long-term plan — and the result? A 22 kg weight loss transformation over four years, improved stamina, restored confidence, and a sustainable, health-first lifestyle.

In an exclusive interview with Zee Digital, he shared how he made it happen.

Q: Can you share with us your journey towards achieving your weight loss transformation?

A. I work in a demanding sales-oriented corporate role. With monthly and quarterly targets looming, I often put my career ahead of my health. I drank frequently, attended late-night office parties, and neglected my body for years.

One day, I realized I couldn't even walk a mile without feeling breathless. That was my wake-up call. I discovered Fittr, a fitness platform, and got in touch with Coach Navdeep. He created a personalized plan that respected my professional lifestyle, didn't ask for extreme changes, and guided me step by step.



This wasn't a 3-month quick fix. It took over four years, but the transformation was enjoyable, flexible, and sustainable — I even traveled between the UK and India, attended countless meetings and family events, but stayed on track with my coach's support.

Q: What inspired you to embark on this journey?

A. The biggest motivator was the realization that I had completely lost control over my health. Seeing others transform their lives inspired me, but more than that, it was a feeling of helplessness that I couldn't ignore anymore. I didn't want to continue down a path that would eventually lead to chronic illnesses. I needed help, structure, and someone who understood my world — and Coach Navdeep did just that.

Q: How much did you weigh before and how much do you weigh now?

A. I started at 105 kg and currently weigh 83 kg.

Q: How long did it take you to transform yourself?

A. It took me 4 years to achieve these results — and I'm still going. As my mentor rightly says, "Maintaining fat loss and muscle mass after transformation is a bigger goal than just achieving it once."

Q: What were some of the biggest challenges you faced along the way?

A. The biggest challenges were:

1. Late-night work hours
2. Frequent business travel

## How Oral Health Issues Can Lead To Manifestation Of A Heart Attack?

Oral health is often associated with cavities, gum disease, or bad breath. However, it is rarely linked to an individual's heart health. Increasing research indicates that poor oral health may significantly contribute to the development of cardiovascular diseases. As the gateway to the body, the mouth can influence overall health, and conditions affecting it may have far-reaching consequences.

Dr. V.C. Chauhan, Interventional Cardiologist, Bhailal Amin General Hospital, Vadodara, Gujarat shares how oral health issues can lead to manifestation of a heart attack.

The primary link between oral and heart health is periodontal disease, a chronic inflammatory condition that affects the tissues supporting the teeth. It is typically caused by plaque accumulation on the teeth and gums. If left untreated, this condition may lead to systemic inflammation, a key risk factor for atherosclerosis.

Inflammation serves as the body's natural response to injury or infection. In the case of periodontal disease,



chronic inflammation can damage blood vessels. Bacteria from infected gums may enter the bloodstream during routine activities such as brushing or chewing. Once in the bloodstream, these bacteria can reach areas like the coronary arteries, contributing to the development of arterial plaque. This plaque restricts blood flow and heightens the risk of heart attacks.

The immune system's reaction to these bacteria can further intensify inflammation within the arterial walls, accelerating the progression of atherosclerosis and potentially leading to the rupture of plaques. Such ruptures may cause blood clots, further increasing the risk of cardiovascular events. Several studies have found that individuals with severe gum disease are more likely to develop heart disease.

## 4 Gentle And Effective Exercises For Sore Knees To Relieve Pain And Build Strength Safely

Knee pain is one of the most common joint complaints, affecting people of all ages. Whether due to arthritis, injury, or overuse, sore knees can limit mobility and reduce quality of life. The good news? Gentle, low-impact exercises can help strengthen the muscles around the knee, reduce stiffness, and improve flexibility—without putting too much strain on the joint.

Here are 9 gentle exercises to help relieve sore knees safely and effectively:-

1. Straight Leg Raises

Why it helps: Strengthens the quadriceps without bending the knee.

How to do it:

- Lie on your back with one leg bent and the other straight.

-



Slowly lift the straight leg to the height of the bent knee.

- Hold for 2–3 seconds, then lower it slowly.

- Repeat 10–15 times on each leg.

2. Seated Knee Extensions

Why it helps: Builds strength in the quadriceps while seated.

How to do it:

- Sit in a chair with both feet flat on the floor.

- Slowly extend one leg until it's straight.

- Hold for 2 seconds, then lower it back down.

- Repeat 10–15 times per leg.

3. Heel and Calf Raises

Why it helps: Strengthens calves and improves stability.

How to do it:

- Stand with feet shoulder-width apart and hands on a wall or chair for support.

- Slowly rise onto the balls of your feet, then lower down.

- Perform 2 sets of 10–15 repetitions.

4. Hamstring Curls

Why it helps: Strengthens hamstrings and supports knee stability.

How to do it:

- Stand behind a chair for balance.

## What Are The Warning Signs Of Breast Cancer Relapse? Expert Insights

Breast cancer has become one of the most frequent cancers that afflict women all over the world. Early detection and treatments have enabled a number of women to survive and lead completely healthy lives. However, many others unfortunately relapse even after being cancer-free for years after treatment. Signs of cancer relapse could be life-changing in terms of prognosis and quality of life.

Dr. Shubham Garg, Director & Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology, Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Delhi shares warning signs of breast cancer relapse.

Understanding Breast Cancer Relapse

Breast cancer relapse indicates that the cancer has returned after a few years in remission. The return may occur in different regions of the body and is classified as local, regional, or distant reoccurrence. Local reoccurrence means the cancer has returned



to the area where it first appeared, such as the breast or chest wall. Regional reoccurrence means that the cancer has invaded surrounding lymph nodes, often those beneath the arm, near the collarbone, or around the breastbone. Distant reoccurrence, known as metastatic or stage IV breast cancer, occurs once cancer spreads to other organs of the body, namely the bones, liver, lungs, or the brain.

Each of these might show varied symptoms and will each require a different approach to treatment. A relapse may occur months or even years after the first treatment, so long-term follow-up, as well as regular check-ups, are critical for early detection and effective management. Staying alert to body changes and keeping up with follow-up appointments will help in prompt detection of any signs of relapse.

Common Warning Signs of Relapse

Here are some signs to look out for when in remission:

Changes in the Breast or Chest Area (Local Recurrence): One of the most predominant signs is the emergence of a new lump or a thickened area in the breast or the chest wall. The skin may look dimpled or red, flaky or discoloured. There could be lumps or bumps under the breast or chest, nipples changes like discharge or flattening inward, unusually firm breast tissue, recurrent pain in the area surrounding the breast or on it, thickening of the skin around the scar if a mastectomy was previously performed.

# Piyush Goyal discusses CEPA with Canadian International Trade Minister to strengthen bilateral ties

New Delhi: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday met Canadian International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu to discuss the advancement of the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).



The meeting aimed to ensure a fair and balanced outcome while reinforcing the commitment of both nations to strengthen their bilateral economic partnership.

Goyal shared details of the interaction on X, stating, "Held a productive meeting with @MSidhuLiberal, Minister of International Trade, Canada. Discussions focused on advancing the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) engagement and ensuring a fair and balanced outcome. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work to strengthen the overall bilateral economic partnership."

This high-level meeting followed a joint press statement delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in the national capital. During the address, Prime Minister Modi hailed the growth of ties with Canada under the leadership of Prime Minister Mark J Carney and said that the two countries aim to further deepen their economic cooperation with the goal to touch USD 50 billion in trade by 2030.

In this regard, he further mentioned that Ottawa and New Delhi have decided to finalise a comprehensive economic partnership agreement in the near future.

"Today, we discussed transforming this vision into a next-level partnership. Our goal is to reach $50 billion in trade by 2030. Unlocking the full potential of economic cooperation is our priority. Therefore, we have decided to finalise a comprehensive economic partnership agreement soon", PM Modi said.

He underlined how the decision would open up new investment and employment opportunities in both countries.

## SEBI pushes digital shift to cut FPI registration time to 5 days from 30 days: Tuhin Kanta Pandey

New Delhi: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the regulator is aiming to reduce the time taken for Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) registrations from the current average of 30 days to less than a week through a digital push, while balancing speed with due diligence.

Pandey said that, on average, it takes 30 days, and the regulator is working towards a target of reducing it to five days. "We haven't come down to five days yet. That's our goal. It's a tough goal," Pandey noted.

He pointed out that while SEBI's internal processing averages around 30 days, the actual experience of FPIs can be longer due to back-and-forth communication between investors and custodians.

"If you were to ask an FPI, they would probably say that they have been at it for two or three months. But we don't know, there's something in between," he said, explaining that applications are routed through custodians and not submitted directly to the regulator.

## EaseMyTrip planning charter flights from Oman to India amid West Asia tensions

New Delhi: EaseMyTrip is planning charter flights from Oman to India to help passengers travel safely and smoothly, Founder and Chairman Nishant Pitti announced in a post on X.

"If you or someone you know needs assistance, please join the channel and share this message widely," Nishant Pitti wrote on X.

This comes after the escalation of conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran (Operation Epic Fury), the skies over the Middle East have fallen silent. Major hubs--Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Muscat--have seen hundreds of flight cancellations.

Many Indians are reported to be stranded in several West Asian countries. With UAE airspace strictly regulated and under pressure, Oman has emerged as a critical transit point.

EaseMyTrip has earlier advised international travellers to monitor airlines and keep their travel plans flexible due to Iran and Israel keeping their airspace closed for civilian flight operations amid military escalation between the two nations.

On Saturday, the United States and Israel carried out joint missile attacks on Iran, with large explosions reported in Tehran and other major cities, signalling a sharp escalation that risks expanding tensions into a broader regional conflict in West Asia. There have been reports of counterstrikes on Israel too.

Meanwhile, Iran has retaliated, targeting Israel and US assets in multiple Gulf states. Multiple explosions have been heard in Iran's capital, Tehran, while blasts have also been reported in several other locations across the country.

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Tehran. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate halt to hostilities and urgent de-escalation in West Asia, urging world leaders to "act responsibly".

## India stock indices hit by West Asia conflict; Sensex slips over 1000 points, volatility indicator VIX rises 25%

New Delhi: Indian stock indices settled in the red, but recovered substantially from the early losses on Monday, amid escalating tensions in West Asia.



Sensex closed at 80,238.85 points, down 1,048.34 points or 1.29 per cent, while Nifty closed at 24,865.70 points, down 312.95 points or 1.24 per cent.

"The India VIX has edged higher, signalling increased uncertainty and risk aversion among market participants," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

At closing today, India VIX, which indicates volatility in the markets, were whopping 25 per cent up. Volatility Index is a measure of the market's expectation of volatility over the near term. Volatility is often described as the "rate and magnitude of changes in prices", and in finance often referred to as risk.

"Rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have unsettled global markets, with concerns over the possible extension of the situation given the killing of Iran's supreme leader. Rising crude oil prices and a weakening INR reflect concerns over potential disruptions to oil supply, which could increase inflationary pressures in India and impact fiscals and strain margins for energy and chemical-dependent sectors," Nair said. "Investors are rotating toward traditional safe-haven assets and adopting a cautious stance, awaiting greater clarity. While FII selling has intensified after the spiking of crude prices."

Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research, Kotak Securities, said the current market texture is weak but oversold.

## Mahindra rationalises global portfolio; exits non-viable Japan agri-machinery business

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra Limited on Monday informed the stock exchanges that its Japan-based associate, Mitsubishi Mahindra Agricultural Machinery Co., Ltd. (MAM), has approved withdrawal from its agricultural machinery business.

The decision was approved by MAM's board on March 2, 2026. The withdrawal will cover research and development, production, and domestic as well as overseas sales of agricultural machinery. The company plans to cease production and sales in a phased manner by the first half of fiscal year 2027.

However, MAM said it will continue its spare parts supply business and product warranty services for existing customers.

"With respect to businesses other than the continuing business, MAM plans to dissolve and proceed with liquidation procedures in accordance with the applicable law," M&M said in its regulatory filing.

Explaining the rationale, the company said MAM has continued to incur losses despite multiple structural measures aimed at restoring profitability. After assessing the long-term viability and financial sustainability of the business, it concluded that sustaining operations in a stable manner would be challenging going forward.

As per disclosures, MAM reported revenue from operations of Rs 2,094 crore for the year ended March 31, 2025. After elimination of intercompany transactions with the Mahindra Group, it contributed Rs 1,786 crore, or 1.13 per cent, to the consolidated turnover of M&M.

## Commerce ministry convenes stakeholder consultation to ensure trade continuity amid West Asia tensions

New Delhi: The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, held a stakeholder consultation with all stakeholder ministries, key logistics and trade facilitation partners to review the emerging geo-political situation in West Asia and its potential impact on India's export-import cargo flows, including the export ecosystem.



According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the meeting was chaired by Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Suchindra Misra and Lav Agarwal, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

The meeting was attended by representatives from logistics operators and shipping lines /forwarders, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Reserve Bank of India, export promotion ecosystem and other concerned agencies.

Stakeholders presented an assessment of the evolving operational environment, including routing and transit-time changes, vessel scheduling adjustments, container /equipment availability, freight and insurance cost trends, and implications for time-sensitive exports.

"The discussions covered the need to maintain predictability in cargo movement, minimise avoidable delays, and ensure seamless documentation and payment processes for exporters and importers," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

## Siddhashila Group: A legacy of trust in Pune real estate

Pune (Maharashtra): Pune's skyline is no longer just expanding; it is redefining itself. As the city accelerates into a new era of growth, innovation and urban sophistication, one name continues to rise with unmistakable authority: Siddhashila.

According to the company, in a market driven by ambition and opportunity, Siddhashila has emerged as a symbol of trust, refined craftsmanship and visionary development. Built on a foundation of integrity and an uncompromising commitment to its customers, the brand has consistently delivered spaces that go beyond meeting expectations; they inspire confidence, elevate lifestyles and stand as enduring landmarks of reliability.

According to the company, founded with a clear vision to redefine urban living, Siddhashila has steadily built a reputation for delivering thoughtfully designed projects across Pune. The brand's journey is marked not merely by construction milestones but by enduring relationships forged with homebuyers and investors. Each development reflects a careful balance of architectural innovation, strategic location and uncompromising construction standards, reinforcing confidence in every square foot delivered.

Among its noteworthy developments are Trishala, Treasure Troves, Samaira, Madhusagar, W57, Wbiz and many more, each representing the brand's commitment to quality and thoughtful design. The group has developed and delivered projects across multiple locations in Pune.

## West Asia tensions push crude higher, could potentially put pressure on India's energy sector: Experts

Mumbai: Escalating tensions in Iran and the wider West Asia region have intensified concerns over global crude oil supplies, with experts warning of sustained volatility that could potentially impact India's energy sector.

Stock market expert Sunil Shah attributed the recent market turbulence to deepening geopolitical uncertainty.

"Crude oil prices will rise, gold and silver will rise, currencies will depreciate against the dollar, and capital markets worldwide will decline. The reason is simple: uncertainty. Everyone would like this situation to calm down. But it clearly seems that the attacks will continue for quite some time, even after the death of Iran's Supreme Leader... Let's hope things improve from here," Shah told.

Brent crude has surged amid fears of supply disruptions, particularly around critical shipping routes.

Sehul Bhatt, Director, Crisil Intelligence, underlined India's vulnerability.

"Developments in the Middle East could increase pricing and procurement risks for crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG), posing substantial challenges for India, which has more than 85% and 50% import dependency, respectively, on these items," Bhatt said in a note.

Bhatt noted that crude oil prices have jumped above USD 75 per barrel in the past two days.

"If geopolitical issues ease, we expect prices to average USD 65-70 in CY2026, but prolonged conflict could push prices even higher," Bhatt added.

Highlighting supply chain risks, Bhatt said, "Second, while Iran supplies 4.5-5% of global oil, the main concern is disruption at the Strait of Hormuz, which is vital for almost half of India's imports of both commodities, thus increasing vulnerability. If disruptions persist, shipments may be rerouted via the Cape of Good Hope, lengthening transit times and increasing costs, along with rising freight and insurance premiums."

Sumit Pokharna, VP, Fundamental Research, Kotak Securities, said that amid escalating tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, Brent crude prices are expected to remain elevated in the near term.

"The upward movement reflects both tangible supply-side risks and an increased geopolitical risk premium. Market concerns are largely centred around potential disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical transit route that accounts for nearly 20% of global oil flows," Pokharna added.

For India, which imports roughly 85% of its crude oil requirements, he said higher crude prices present macroeconomic and sector-specific challenges.

"Oil marketing companies (OMCs) are particularly vulnerable, as elevated crude prices can compress refining margins, increase operating and working capital requirements, and lead to higher borrowing costs and debt levels," Pokharna said.

Meanwhile, Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre, Mumbai, said, "We have enjoyed lower crude oil prices from Russia and Iran. With the latest situation in Iran, we are more impacted by developments there.

## India's Petroleum Ministry assures availability, affordability of energy amid West Asia crisis

New Delhi: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri on Monday reviewed the supply situation for crude oil, LPG, and other petroleum products with senior officials from the Ministry and PSUs, amid tensions in West Asia.

The Petroleum Ministry has said it is continuously monitoring the evolving situation, and all necessary steps will be taken in order to ensure the availability and affordability of major petroleum products in the country.

India is a major importer of crude oil and natural gas from West Asian countries."We are continuously monitoring the evolving situation, and all necessary steps will be taken in order to ensure availability and affordability of major petroleum products in the country," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a post on X.

Moreover, the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, held a stakeholder consultation with all stakeholder ministries, key logistics and trade facilitation partners to review the emerging geo-political situation in West Asia and its potential impact on India's export-import cargo flows, including the export ecosystem.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the meeting was chaired by Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Suchindra Misra and Lav Agarwal, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

## India's GDP growth may advance further in Q4 on strong consumption, investment revival: Bank of Baroda

New Delhi: The domestic GDP growth is expected to advance further in the fourth quarter of the current financial year, supported by a strong boost to consumption spending along with a revival in investment, according to a report by Bank of Baroda.



The report noted that India's GDP growth clocked 7.8 per cent in Q3FY26, as compared to a growth of 7.4 per cent in Q3FY25. For the full year, growth is estimated at 7.6 per cent, driven by robust performance in the manufacturing sector.

It stated "Going forward, growth is expected to advance in Q4 further as has been evident form the high frequency indicators".

These estimates have been revised upwards from the earlier projection of 7.4 per cent to align with the new base year of 2022-23. With respect to the revision, the report stated that a major change incorporated includes double deflation in agriculture and manufacturing in order to appropriately capture price issues.

Looking ahead, the bank expects growth to advance further in Q4, as reflected in high-frequency indicators. It said the momentum will be supported by a strong boost to consumption spending along with a revival in investment activity.

In addition, accommodative monetary conditions and benign inflation are expected to provide further support to economic activity.

The report said these factors bode well for the overall growth outlook. It also noted that given the rebasing of the GDP series, there is unlikely to be much impact on fiscal ratios.

## In Asia, the big story in AI transformation is growth, says McKinsey partner at MWC 2026

New Delhi: Global leaders from McKinsey & Company, speaking at the Mobile World Congress 2026 (MWC), highlighted a significant shift in how artificial intelligence (AI) is being deployed across different geographic regions. In Asia, the focus of AI transformation remains anchored in driving growth rather than merely improving operational efficiency.

"In Asia, the big story in AI transformation is growth," says Tarang Agarwal, a McKinsey partner based in Singapore. "Unlike other regions, where the focus is often on operational efficiency, here AI is first anchored in revenue -- through hyper-personalization, smarter sales execution, and making AI a true strategic differentiator for customers. That's why we're seeing a shift away from isolated use cases toward full domain transformations designed to move core business outcomes."

Mobile World Congress 2026, being held in Barcelona, Spain, begins on Monday, March 2. The four-day summit will be attended by thousands of senior leaders from across the connectivity ecosystem, along with global business leaders and government representatives.

## Index of Industrial Production recorded a 4.8 per cent YoY growth in Jan 2026

New Delhi: The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a 4.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in January 2026, an official press release issued by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation read.



Data released on Monday by the Ministry shows that the industrial expansion remains supported by a 4.8 per cent growth in the Manufacturing sector and a 5.1 per cent growth in the Electricity sector.

The Mining sector also contributed to the overall performance with a growth rate of 4.3 per cent during the same period.

The Quick Estimates of IIP for January 2026 stand at 169.4 against 161.6 recorded in January 2025.

This growth follows the previous month's performance, where the IIP growth rate was 7.8 per cent in December 2025. The specific indices for the Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity sectors for January 2026 stand at 157.2, 167.2, and 212.1, respectively.

Within the manufacturing segment, 14 out of 23 industry groups at the NIC 2-digit level recorded positive growth in January 2026 over the corresponding month of the previous year.

The top three positive contributors include "Manufacture of basic metals" at 13.2 per cent, "Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers" at 10.9 per cent, and "Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products" at 9.9 per cent. In the basic metals category, item groups such as "Flat products of Alloy Steel," "MS slabs," and "HR coils and sheets of mild steel" showed significant contribution.

# "I pray this festival brings new colours of progress": Chirag Paswan celebrates Holi with family, party workers

Patna (Bihar): Union Minister Chirag Paswan celebrated Holi with his family and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) workers on Monday.

In the visuals, Chirag Paswan was seen joyfully playing with colours, sharing lighthearted moments with his family members as well as party colleagues.

The event reflected the festive spirit, with attendees partaking in traditional Holi rituals, laughter, and camaraderie.



While talking with the media, the Union Minister extended his Holi greetings to the people of the country. He also expressed hope for peace, happiness and progress in the world amid current challenges.

"On behalf of my party and my family, I extend Holi greetings to the people of the country. At a time when this festival brings colours of joy, the world is facing difficulties. I hope we can overcome the challenges before us. On this Holi, I pray there is peace and happiness in the world, and this festival brings new colours of progress. I am happy that the party MPs, MLAs and our leaders are celebrating together as a family today," said Chirag Paswan. Paswan also posted heartfelt pictures of himself celebrating the festival of colours in Patna alongside family and party workers.

He posted on X, "Today, at the Holi Milan ceremony organized at the Bihar Pradesh Office located at 1 Wheeler Road in Patna, I extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for Holi to the party's esteemed legislators, office-bearers, and dedicated workers."

"May this sacred festival of colors bring happiness, prosperity, and new energy into all our lives. Heartfelt Holi wishes to you all!" he said.

## Jairam Ramesh credits Congress for signing of India-Canada Strategic Energy Partnerhsip Agreement

New Delhi: Congress MP Jairam Ramesh on Monday credited Congress for the current India-Canada Strategic Energy Partnership Agreement, made possible by the 2008 Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement.

The 2008 deal, pushed through by then-PM Dr. Manmohan Singh despite intense domestic political opposition (including from the BJP at the time), ended India's "nuclear apartheid."

In a post on X, the Congress MP wrote, "The agreement that Canada and India have signed today has been made possible ONLY because of the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement finally signed in Oct 2008. This agreement was ENTIRELY because of Dr. Manmohan Singh's insistence and persistence.

## Maharashtra: Oleum gas leak in Palghar causes panic, workers evacuated



Palghar (Maharashtra): Panic gripped the entire Tarapur MIDC area in Palghar district on Monday after an Oleum gas leak was reported at the Bhageria Chemical Company.

The impact of the leak is said to be so severe that residents living within a three to four-kilometre radius are experiencing symptoms such as eye irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing.

The gas leak surfaced following a fire at the company, leading to chaos among workers and local citizens. As a precautionary measure, workers from neighbouring industrial units were evacuated, and the area was cleared. Additionally, the nearby MIDC residential colony has also been evacuated.

Police administration and fire department personnel are currently onsite. Authorities have issued an appeal to the public to exercise caution and remain in safe locations. As of now, there are no reports of any loss of life or significant property damage.

The district administration and fire brigade are working to control the leak. A white cloudish smoke has formed over Boisar, and residential and industrial areas in the direction of the wind are being vacatedPalghar SP Yatish Deshmukh said, "In the Bhageria Chemicals Company, located in Boisar, an incident of Oleum gas leakage was reported around 2 pm. District Administration and Fire Brigade are carrying out the operation to control thisgas leakage. The leakage continues. A white cloudish smoke has formed over Boisar due to an Oleum gas leak. Residential and industrial areas located in the direction of the wind are being vacated.

## Kerala: Flight disruptions continue at Thiruvananthapuram, 89 cancellations reported

Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala): Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Public Relations Officer (PRO) on Monday issued an operational update as of 7:00 pm, reporting a total of 89 flight cancellations.

According to the official update, a total of 89 flights have been cancelled, including 45 arrivals and 44 departures. Of these, today's cancellations include 14 arrivals and 14 departures.

However, the Oman Air flight from Muscat to Thiruvananthapuram operated as scheduled.

For tomorrow, eight arrivals and eight departures have been cancelled, as per the airport authorities.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has directed all airports to compile and submit details regarding the current fuel status at international airports. Airports have been asked to provide information on the current available stock of aviation fuel, average daily fuel consumption, estimated fuel requirement for the next seven days, date of the next scheduled fuel replenishment, and any operational constraints or supply-related concerns.

Meanwhile, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport reported 116 flight cancellations. This includes 61 arrivals and 55 departures, accounting for a total of 116 Air Traffic Movements (ATMs).

## "Will deposit Rs 61,000 for girls completing graduation": CM Rekha Gupta announces 'Lakhpati Beti Yojana'

New Delhi: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday extended Holi greetings to the residents of the national capital and announced the launch of a new welfare scheme for girls, the 'Delhi Lakhpati Beti Yojana'.



Speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said that the Delhi government has fulfilled the promise of free cylinders and also provided pink cards to women in the national capital.

"I extend Holi greetings to all Delhi residents. We have fulfilled the promise of free cylinders and also provided pink cards to the sisters of Delhi. Now, the sisters of our Delhi will be able to travel in Delhi's DTC buses. Today, we have launched a new scheme for the daughters of Delhi, the Delhi Lakhpati Beti Yojana. Under this, the Delhi government will support daughters from birth until graduation. We will deposit Rs 61,000 into the account of every girl who completes her graduation.

Upon maturity, she will receive around Rs 1.25 lakhs. Now, the daughters of Delhi will become lakhpatis," Gupta said. The 'Lakhpati Beti Yojana' aims to provide financial security and encourage higher education among girls in the national capital, the Delhi CM said.

Earlier in the day, Gupta launched key women-centric initiatives at the Sashakt Nari, Samriddh Delhi programme, including the free LPG cylinder scheme for ration card holders and the Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana.

Highlighting education, mobility, and domestic empowerment, she announced that funds for 30,000 girls under the Ladli-Ladli scheme have been disbursed via DBT.

## "Mirrors BJP's model of using state power": Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan slams Telangana govt over Khammam demolitions

Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala): Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hit out at the Congress government in Telangana over the demolition of nearly 700 Bhoodan-allotted homes in Khammam district, alleging that the action reflected a "bulldozer raj" similar to the governance model of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In a post on X, Vijayan said, "The demolition of nearly 700 Bhoodan-allotted homes in Khammam, leaving around 3,000 people homeless, exposes the Congress government's true face in Telangana. This 'bulldozer raj' mirrors the BJP's model of using state power against the poorest.

## Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves Rs 27,500 cr for agriculture, irrigation, allied sectors

Barwani (Madhya Pradesh): Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav chaired the first Agriculture Cabinet meeting held in Nagalwadi, Barwani district on Monday and the Council of Ministers approved various schemes worth around Rs 27,500 crore related to agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture and cooperation.

According to an official release, the agriculture cabinet, organised as part of the declared Farmer Welfare Year 2026, gave a nod to projects worth Rs 25,678 crore aimed at farmers and those engaged in allied productive activities. Additionally, Rs 2,068 crore was granted for the construction of two irrigation projects in Barwani district at the Narmada Control Board meeting held at the Agriculture Cabinet on the occasion, according to an official release.



The funds approved for these schemes will be spent over the next five years. The cabinet ministers, including the Chief Minister, attended the meeting in traditional tribal attire, conveying a message of respect and welfare for tribal communities.

The council of ministers also approved the Madhya Pradesh Integrated Fisheries Policy 2026, which aims to attract an investment of Rs 3,000 crore over the next three years and generate around 20,000 employment opportunities (10,000 direct and 10,000 indirect jobs). A provision of Rs 18.50 crore has been approved under the policy.

The Cabinet sanctioned Rs 610.51 crore for animal healthcare in rural areas over the next five years from 2026 to 2031, including infrastructure development of veterinary hospitals and other buildings. An additional Rs 200 crore was approved for the continuation of the Chief Minister Fishermen Prosperity Scheme for 2026-27 and 2027-28, covering fish seed development, training, interest subsidy and employment generation, the release read.

The Council of Ministers also approved Rs 1,150 crore to continue the National Horticulture Mission for five years, focusing on improving efficiency and impact across agricultural components.

### IN THE COURT OF LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS AKHNOOR

Romesh Kumar S/o Late Sh Vijay Kumar R/o Village Sungal Lehar Tehsil Akhnoor District Jammu.

(Applicant)

Versus

1. B.D.O Akhnoor
2. P.S Akhnoor

(Non -applicant)

Whereas above titled petitioner has filed this petition, seeking direction to the non-applicant to effect the death particulars of Father namely Vijay Kumar D.O.D 16-08-2002 At home.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas through the medium of proclamation ,the public at large is informed in that case ,any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Death particulars of the applicant by the-applicant ,then he,She,They shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of publications .If the date fixed is declared holiday ,the matter will be taken upon the next working date..

Given under my hand and seal of this court 02-03-2026.

Sd/-
LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS AKHNOOR

### IN THE COURT OF LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS KHOUR

Sharda Devi W/o Sh Ghar Singh R/o Danwal Camp Tehsil Khour District Jammu.

(Applicant)

Versus

1. B.D.O khour
2. P.S. khour

(Non -applicant)

Whereas above titled petitioner has filed this petition, seeking direction to the non-applicant to effect the birth particulars of daughter namely Bharti Devi D.O.B 02-01-2013 At home.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas through the medium of proclamation ,the public at large is informed in that case ,any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the birth particulars of the applicant by the-applicant ,then he,She,They shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of publications .If the date fixed is declared holiday ,the matter will be taken upon the next working date..

Given under my hand and seal of this court 02-03-2026.

Sd/-
LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS KHOUR

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE IST CLASS TEHSILDAR CHOWKI CHOURA

Email:- Tehsildar.co@ik.gov.in

Raman Kumar S/o sh. Sardhari Lal R/o Village Gangal, Tehsil Chowki Choura Jammu.

(Applicant)

V/s

1. Block Development Officer Chowki Choura.
2. Station House Officer Akhnoor.
3. Officer In-charge Police Post Chowki Choura.

(Non-Applicant)

Subject: Application for registration of birth particulars of the applicant namely Raman Kumar 19 years S/o Sh. Sardhari Lal R/o Village Gangal, Tehsil Chowki Choura District Jammu as per the details mentioned with the BDO Chowki Choura.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the applicant has filed the above titled application in the above mentioned court seeking directions to the non applicant for making an entry of birth particulars of the applicant namely Raman Kumar S/o sh. Sardhari Lal Date of birth-03/02/2007 at (Village Gangal).

Now by the way of this application general public are informed that if any objection with record to subject matter may file the objection in the court of undersigned within a period of 15 days, failing which an appropriate order shall be passed.

No. J/TCC/2025-26/2/24.
Date: 23/02/2026.
Sd/-
Executive Magistrate
1st Class Chowki Choura

### NOTICE

MOHAMMAD ASLAM F/O ARSHAD D.O.B 07-03-20017 & REKHMAT JAN D.O.B 02-02-2018 R/o BROH Tehsil Kalakote, Dist. Rajouri I have applied for correction of my children date of birth in him/her and self-documents. My childrens correct date of Birth Objection if having anybody may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days form publication of this Notice.

### IN THE COURT OF LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS KHOUR

Sahil Singh Chib S/o Sh Bachan Singh Chib R/o Panyali Kot Maira Tehsil Khour District Jammu. Tehsil Khour District Jammu.

(Applicant)

Versus

1. B.D.O khour
2. P.S. khour

(Non -applicant)

Whereas above titled petitioner has filed this petition, seeking direction to the non-applicant to effect the birth particulars of Self namely Sahil Singh Chib D.O.B 21-10-1998 At home.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas through the medium of proclamation ,the public at large is informed in that case ,any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the birth particulars of the applicant by the-applicant ,then he,She,They shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of publications .If the date fixed is declared holiday ,the matter will be taken upon the next working date..

Given under my hand and seal of this court 02-03-2026.

Sd/-
LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS KHOUR

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS TEHSILDAR DARHAL

Mohd Tofail S/o Barket Ullaha R/O Thanamang Tehsil Darhal District Rajouri

(Applicant)

V/s

UT of J&K through Registrar of Birth and Death Tehsildar Darhal

(Non-Applicant)

In the matter of :- Application for seeking direction of Registrar Birth & Deaths Tehsildar Darhal to register date of birth in the birth records.

Whereas the applicant here in above has filed the above titled application in this court for the registration and issuance of his date of birth namely

1. Mohd Tofail S/o Barket Ullaha Date of Birth 01-02-1962

PROCLAMATION

Therefore through the medium of this proclamation general public is informed that any person having any objection with respect to registration of the date of Birth may file his/her objections before this court within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and after the lapse of said period no objections shall be entered and appropriate order shall be passed in the matter issued under my hand seal of this office.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS
TEHSILDAR DARHAL

### Before the Court of Learned First Additional Munsiff (Forest Magistrate) Jammu

PRESENT : rohit Sharma

Rajesh Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh Krishan Lal Sharma R/o H.no. 236 Shastri Nagar Jammu.

Plaintiff

V/S

1. Shashi Magotra D/o Late Sh Krishan Lal Sharma W/o Dharmvir Sharma R/o H.no. 405 Sec D Channi Himmat Jammu
2. Kamlesh Sharma D/o Late Sh Krishan Lal Sharma W/o Dharmvir Sharma R/o H.no. 606-Sec D Sainik Colony Jammu.
3. Renu Sharma D/o Late Sh Krishan Lal Sharma W/o Krishan Kumar Sharma R/o Flat no 932 Ground Floor Gilico Palm Valley Sector 115 Kharar SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab
4. Rekha Sharma D/o Late Sh Krishan Lal Sharma W/o Susheel Sharma R/o Roulki Bakshi Nagar Jammu.

Defendant

In the matter of:- Suit for declaration declaring the plaintiff as legal heir of Late Sh. Krishan Lal Sharma S/o Late Sh. Badri Nath and is entitled to succeed over the property in the shape of a house underneath land measuring 80' X 25' having house no 236 situated at Shastri Nagar, Tehsil Bahu, Jammu and is entitled to transfer the same in his name.

With consequential relief of permanent restraining prohibitory injunction the defendants from over the properties of the plaintiff. interfering in the peaceful possession

Value for the purpose of Court fee and jurisdiction is fixed at Rs. 500/-

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Where as an application stand file in this court for claiming for ex-gatia grant/ compensation /relief and through the medium of this publication notice, public at large and any other interested persons is/ are informed that in case anybody has any objection in respect of aforesaid application, then he/ She/they shall file their objections before next date of hearing i.e 09.03.2026 from the date of this publication failing which appropriate order shall follow.

Given under my hand and seal of this court today on 02.03.2026.

Sd/-
First Additional Munsiff
(Forest Magistrate)
Jammu

### In the court sub judge spl mobile magistrate 13th Finance Jammu

Present:- Slahuddin Ahmed

Neelam Aggarwal Age 48 Years W/o Late Sh Bharat Bhushan Aggarwal R/o H.no. 234 Moti Bazar Tehsil & District Jammu.

.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

1. Rama Rani Age 74 Years W/o Inderjeet Aggarwal
2. Rakshit Aggarwal Age 21 Years
3. Harshit Aggarwal Age 18 Years both S/o Late Sh Bharat Bhushan Aggarwal All Residents. Of H.no. 234 Moti Bazar Tehsil & District Jammu.

...Defendants

IN THE MATTER OF: - Suit for declaration to the effect that above named plaintiff may kindly be declared as the only Legal heir and being the head of the Family of the deceased namely late Sh. Bharat Bhushan Aggarwal S/o late Sh. Inderjeet Aggarwal R/o H.No. 234 Moti. Bazar Tehsil & District Jammu by passing a judgment and decree in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendants.

With a further prayer and request that vehicle Scooter/Moped bearing registration No.JK02BN-4363 Chassis No. ME4JF504DF8084342 and engine no. JF50E82084189 Honda M/C and Scooter India Activa 3G vehicle & bearing Car/LMV bearing registration No JK02BA-4363 Chassis No. MASEUA61500107390 engine no. F8DN4895541 Maruti Suzuki India Itel alto 800 LXI same were bought by the late husband of the plaintiff same be get transferred in the name of the Plaintiff and further she be declared as comer of the vehicles bearing registration nos detailed above

Any other relief which though rat prayed for yet the Hon'ble court may kindly deam, just, fit and proper in facts and circumstances of the case may kindly be passed in favour of plaintiff and against the defendants.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas Public At large through the medium of this notification is hereby informed that if anybody have any objections to the passing of the matter regarding the subject matter above , may appear before this court either in person or through counsel and file his/ her/ their objections by or before 15 days. failing which appropriate order will be passed under law.

Given under my hand &seal of this Court today on 03-03-2026.

Sd/-
spl mobile magistrate
13th Jammu

### NOTICE

(Under Section 6 & 7 of the Special Marriage Act, 1954)

Subject:- verification of marital status.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Parvez Ahmed S/o Mohd Hanif, R/o Ward.no 2, Village Kandi, Tehsil Maira Mandrian, and Ms.Saimya Kauser D/o Sh. Mohd Yousaf, R/o Village Kandi, Tehsil Maira Mandrian, Distt. Jammu have sub-mitted an online application for registration of mar-riage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 in the Office of the District Magistrate, Jammu.

Whereas, the registrar, special Marriage Act, 1954 Jammu has directed the undersigned to dis- play the notice at any conspicuous place vide No:-TMM/OQ/2025-26/1335-1338 Dated:-27-02-2026.

Therefore, through the medium of this notice, any person having any valid objection to the said marriage may submit the same on or before 26-03-2026 in the office of the Tehsildar, Jourian, or via email at-tehsildarmairamandrian@gmail.com. Any objections received after the stipulated date shall not be entertained.

No:-TJ/NZ/25-26/159-61
Dated:- 27-02-2026

### NOTICE

I MOHAMMAD ASLAM F/O ARSHAD D.O.B 07-03-20017 & REKHMAT JAN D.O.B 02-02-2018 R/o BROH Tehsil Kalakote, Dist. Rajouri I have applied for correction of my children date of birth in him/her and self-documents. My childrens correct date of Birth Objection if having anybody may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days form publication of this Notice.

### NOTICE

I Shah Mohd F/O Miswba Kouser D.O.B 15-02-2020 & Anisha Kouser D.O.B 02-09-2023 R/o Dhangiote Tehsil Kalakote, Dist. Rajouri I have applied for correction of my children date of birth in him/her and self-documents. My child correct date of Birth Objection if having anybody may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days form publication of this Notice.

# Jammu Di Galliyan - Nexus Heritage Walk by SMVDU Students

JD CORRESPONDENT



**KATRA:** The School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU)recently organized a transformative heritage walk titled "Jammu Di Galliyan." The event was part of the Nexus initiative in association with the 68th year of the National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA) India. The walk was designed to provide architecturestudents with an immersive, experiential look at the historic urban fabric and the rich architecturallegacy of Jammu city.

A Journey Through the Sacred Urban Fabric. The route took participants on aculturally rich journey starting from the Purani Mandi Ram Mandir and culminating at the iconicRaghunath Temple, one of the most significant temple complexes in North India.The session was led by Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Head of the School of Architecture and Landscape Design,SMVDU, alongside Ar. Kushagra Anand, Conservation Architect & SMVDU Alumni. Together, theyprovided deep architectural insights into: Architectural Evolution, Dogra Typologies and SpatialHierarchy. The Streets acted as Classroom and stepping out of the studio into the "Galliyan" studentswere able to document and observe critical design elements firsthand.

This direct engagement allowed students to see how religious architecture didn't just exist in isolationbut acted as a catalyst for the growth and structure of the surrounding city.Leadership and Recognition. The initiative was meticulously organized by the NASA Unit Council (Z124),led by Unit Secretary Abhilasha Singh and others. Their efforts reflect NASA India's ongoing commitmentto fostering cultural awareness and professional growth within the student community.Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, congratulated the department and the studentson the successful conduct of the event. He emphasized that such initiatives are vital for bridging the gapbetween academic theory and the preservation of regional heritage.

# DC Udhampur reviews performance of ICDS Emphasises full saturation of Poshan targets

JD CORRESPONDENT



**UDHAMPUR:** Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today convened a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning of the ICDS Project in the district.

At the outset, Programme Officer Poshan Subash Dogra delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the overall performance and key activities of the ICDS Project in the District.

The DC conducted a detailed block-wise review covering the functioning of AWCs, construction of AWCs proposed for the year 2025-26, status of registered beneficiaries, implementation of the Poshan Tracker application, growth monitoring, Aadhaar enrolment, progress under PMMVY 2025-26 and infrastructural requirements. The DC impressed upon the officers and field functionaries to work with enhanced dedication and coordination to ensure saturation of all targets under the Poshan schemes. He stressed the need to expedite Aadhaar enrolment and achieve full coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

He further directed the officers to mobilize field staff to intensify door-to-door surveys and ensure inclusion of all pending beneficiaries. CDPOs were instructed to identify suitable land for the construction of new Anganwadi Centres.

Emphasizing inclusive development, the DC underscored the need to prioritize the welfare of impoverished and marginalized sections residing in remote areas of the district and ensure that government benefits reach every eligible household.

# "League of Classics" concludes at Doda

JD CORRESPONDENT



**DODA:** The District Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), Doda successfully concluded the prestigious "League of Classics" held amid vibrant participation of the youth from across the district.

The mega sporting championship witnessed thrilling competitions in Cricket, Volleyball and Football, showcasing exceptional talent, electrifying performances and exemplary sportsmanship by participating teams.

The event turned into a grand celebration of youth engagement and sporting excellence, with players displaying remarkable teamwork, discipline and competitive spirit throughout the tournament.

The energetic atmosphere across all venues reflected the growing passion for organized sports among the youth of District Doda.

The championship was organized under the guidance of the Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta, Joint Director Jammu, Vinakshi Koul and Deputy Director Activities, Megha Baogia.

The competitions were conducted under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Doda, Jaffar H. Sheikh, along with all concerned Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs), ensuring smooth coordination and maintenance of high standards throughout the event.

Heartiest congratulations were extended to all winners, runners-up and participants for contributing to the grand success of this prestigious sporting event.

Special appreciation was also conveyed to the dedicated organizing team of DYSS Doda for their commendable efforts in promoting sports, fitness and a healthy sporting culture among the youth.

# MSME-DFO Jammu Organizes Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme in association with State Bank of India (SBI)- Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), Roop Nagar, Jammu

JD CORRESPONDENT



**JAMMU:** The MSME-DFO Jammu successfully organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) on 02 March 2026 at the premises of SBI - Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), Roop Nagar, Jammu. The programme commenced at 10:30 AM and aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, self-employment, and awareness about various Central and UT Government schemes among aspiring entrepreneurs and trainees.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 80 participants and students of SBI - Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), Roop Nagar, Jammu. Their active involvement reflected the growing awareness of entrepreneurship as a pathway to self-reliance and community development. The interactive nature of the programme encouraged participants to raise queries regarding financial assistance, subsidy-linked schemes, registration processes, and business expansion strategies.

The event began with a warm welcome address by Mrs. Sunny Goja, Director, SBI - Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), Roop Nagar, Jammu. In her address, she highlighted the importance of skill development and entrepreneurship in strengthening rural economies. She emphasized that RSETI plays a crucial role in equipping rural youth and women with practical skills, enabling them to establish sustainable self-employment ventures.

A detailed presentation on various MSME schemes was delivered by Sh. Shahid Hussain Wani, Young Professional, MSME-DFO Jammu. He elaborated on flagship schemes of the Ministry of MSME such as PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme), Udyam Registration benefits, Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGTMSE), and other support mechanisms including subsidies, technology upgradation assistance, and market development support. He also explained the step-by-step process of registration and availing government benefits, motivating participants to formalize their enterprises.

Sh. Amit Kumar, Functional Manager, District Industries Centre, Jammu, delivered a comprehensive presentation on UT Government schemes. He discussed schemes aimed at promoting startups, industrial incentives available in Jammu & Kashmir, financial assistance for manufacturing and service sectors, and support for youth under various self-employment initiatives. He encouraged participants to take advantage of the Industrial Policy incentives and subsidy benefits available in the Union Territory.

The banking perspective was provided by Sh. R. K. Raina, (Retd.) Financial Literacy Counsellor, State Bank of India Jammu. He elaborated on various banking schemes, Mudra loans, credit-linked subsidy schemes, financial discipline, and the importance of maintaining a good credit history. He also guided participants on preparing bankable project reports and maintaining financial transparency for smooth loan processing.

Sh. DK Tyagi, 1EDS, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Jammu, delivered an insightful session on MSME schemes along with motivational guidance on becoming successful entrepreneurs. He emphasized innovation, risk-taking ability, market research, and continuous learning as key traits of successful entrepreneurs. He encouraged participants to move from job seekers to job creators and contribute to local employment generation.

**Bharat Priye leads protest at border village Najwal**

# Flags serious concerns over Indo-US trade deal impact on J&K farming community

JD CORRESPONDENT



**JAMMU:** JKPCC Kissan Department Chairman Bharat Priye on Sunday led a strong protest at border village Najwal, voicing serious concerns over the proposed Indo-US Trade Deal and its potential repercussions on the agriculture, horticulture, and overall economy of Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing a large gathering of farmers and local residents, Bharat Priye termed the proposed trade arrangement as "deeply concerning" for small and marginal farmers of the Union Territory. He said that J&K's agrarian economy, already grappling with border tensions, erratic weather patterns, rising input costs, and inadequate market support, could face severe setbacks if agricultural imports are liberalized without safeguarding local interests.

He warned that the influx of subsidized agricultural and horticultural products from the United States could adversely affect apple growers, basmati cultivators, dairy farmers, and other farming communities in J&K. "Our farmers cannot compete with heavily subsidized foreign produce. Without adequate protective measures, this deal may push thousands of farming families towards economic distress," he said.

Highlighting the unique agricultural profile of J&K, Priye emphasized that the region's horticulture sector—particularly apple production—forms the backbone of the rural economy. Any policy decision that weakens price stability or market access for local produce, he said, would have far-reaching consequences not only for farmers but also for traders, transporters, and allied sectors.

The protest witnessed participation from farmers, youth, and members of the Kissan Department, who raised slogans demanding protection of domestic agriculture and greater consultation with stakeholders before finalizing international trade agreements.

Bharat Priye urged the Central Government to ensure that any trade pact includes strong safeguards such as minimum support price protection, import duty controls, and special provisions for sensitive regions like J&K. He also called for strengthening crop insurance, improving irrigation infrastructure, and ensuring timely compensation to border farmers affected by cross-border shelling.

He reiterated that the farming community in border areas like Najwal has consistently faced dual challenges — security concerns and economic uncertainty — and deserves focused policy protection rather than additional market pressures.The protest concluded with a memorandum submitted to the administration, demanding a comprehensive impact assessment of the Indo-US Trade Deal on Jammu & Kashmir's agriculture and allied sectors before its implementation.

# DC Doda convenes introductory meeting with DC Office staff

## Stresses timely resolution of public-centric issues

JD CORRESPONDENT



**DODA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Krishan Lal, today convened an introductory meeting with officers and officials of the Deputy Commissioner's Office here in the Conference Hall.

The officers and staff members introduced themselves and apprised the Deputy Commissioner of their respective roles, responsibilities and ongoing administrative assignments being handled by different sections of the office.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized adopting a people-centric approach in governance and highlighted the importance of timely and effective redressal of public grievances.

Krishan Lal stressed the need for dedication, coordination and teamwork among all officials to ensure efficient, transparent and citizen-friendly service delivery.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Accounts Officer DC Office, Assistant Director Planning, Election Naib Tehsildar and others.

**Rs. 20-Crore Road Projects Unveiled in Rajouri, Marking Major Infrastructure Push**

# MLA Iftkhar Ahmed flags off two PMGSY roads to transform rural connectivity, service access and local economy

JD LIAQAT ALI KHATANA



**RAJOURI:** In a decisive move to accelerate rural development, Iftkhar Ahmed, Hon'ble MLA Rajouri, on Saturday kickstarted two major road projects in the Rajouri constituency with a combined outlay of nearly Rs. 20 crore, aimed at bridging connectivity gaps in far-flung areas.

The first project involves the construction of the Rehtal-Ujhan Bridge road via Choudhary Nar at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.35 crore. Once completed, the road will substantially improve access for residents of Lower Choudhary Nar, Lower Rehtal and adjoining habitations up to Ujhan Bridge, easing daily commuting and strengthening rural linkages.

The second project pertains to the Godhar Bus Stand-Chhiti Dehri road, sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 9.96 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Starting from Godhar, the road will ensure all-weather connectivity to Godhar, Chhiti Dehri, Udarian and surrounding areas, significantly enhancing access to education, healthcare facilities, markets and other essential services.

A large gathering of local residents witnessed the launch of the works and welcomed the MLA with slogans and applause. Addressing the gathering, Iftkhar Ahmed congratulated the people on the commencement of the long-pending projects and reiterated his commitment to inclusive, balanced and time-bound development across the constituency.

The MLA also expressed his gratitude to his Pir-o-Murshid, Mian Altaf Ahmed, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, acknowledging his pivotal role in the sanctioning of these projects.

Calling for unity and cooperation, the MLA urged residents to work collectively for the welfare and progress of Rajouri, asserting that robust road connectivity remains the cornerstone of sustainable development and economic growth.

# GGM Science College Jammu Organises Road Safety Awareness Programme

JD CORRESPONDENT



**JAMMU:** With the objective of promoting traffic discipline and sensitizing the public about responsible road behaviour, a Road Safety Enforcement and Awareness Activity was organised today at GGM Science College, Jammu. The programme was conducted by the Road Safety Club of the College under the supervision and guidance of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

Addressing the students on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta highlighted the growing concern over increasing road accidents and emphasized the vital role educational institutions play in fostering awareness and responsible citizenship among youth. He stated that sustained awareness, coupled with active community participation, is essential for ensuring safer roads and reducing traffic-related casualties.

The objectives and operational framework of the programme were presented by the Convener of the Road Safety Club, Dr. Sukhdeep Singh Sasan, who underscored the importance of experiential learning and community outreach initiatives in cultivating a strong culture of road safety among students and the general public.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Kait, PO, NSS emphasized the need for strict adherence to traffic regulations and encouraged young citizens to act as ambassadors of safe driving practices within society. He highlighted the importance of behavioural change, awareness, and collective responsibility in preventing road mishaps, stressing that road safety begins with individual accountability.

Later on during the activity, students actively interacted with commuters on canal road our side the College gate and conducted on-the-spot awareness sessions, providing counselling and guidance on adherence to traffic rules, the use of helmets and seat belts, pedestrian safety, and responsible driving practices.

The programme concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and traffic authorities, marking a significant step towards strengthening public awareness and promoting safer road practices in the community.

# Demolition Drive Launched Against Illegal Shops on Custodian Land in Bhalwal

JD FIRDOUS ELAHI

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has initiated demolition proceedings against illegal commercial constructions raised on Custodian land in Village Ranjan of Bhalwal, Jammu, as part of its continued action against unauthorised land use. Official sources said that at least two shops constructed without requisite permission have been demolished so far, while further action is expected in the coming days. The action follows a detailed report submitted by Tehsildar Bhalwal Monika Sharma and subsequent directions issued by Sub Divisional Magistrate Jammu North Dr. Deepak Kumar. According to the report, Tarseem Lal of Village Ranjan was found raising commercial structures on Khasra No. 2448, recorded as Custodian land, without obtaining mandatory approvals. Authorities stated that the land in question had been allotted strictly for agricultural purposes. However, five shops were allegedly being constructed in violation of land use norms and relevant government orders governing change of land use and building regulations. Acting on the Tehsildar's report dated February 14, 2026, the SDM Jammu North, through an order dated February 24, 2026, directed initiation of proceedings under Rule 156 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, for demolition of the unauthorised structures and submission of a compliance report. In addition, the SDM has requested the Deputy Commissioner Jammu to initiate cancellation of the allotment of Khasra No. 2448, stating that the land is liable to be escheated to the state under Section 133 C(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, 1996. Officials maintained that the drive against illegal commercial constructions on Custodian and agricultural land will continue, reiterating that violations of land use regulations and encroachments on state assets will invite strict action. [KNT]

# Arvid Lindblad brings F1 car back to India at Red Bull Moto Jam Delhi

New Delhi: Racing Bulls' F1 driver Arvid Lindblad took part in the second edition of Red Bull Moto Jam on Sunday. This first-of-a-kind motorsports extravaganza provided an immersive experience to thrill Indian fans, allowing them to experience live spectacular exhibitions and see Arvid driving an F1 car.



Arvid, who's the third-ever F1 driver with Indian heritage, returned to India just one week before his F1 debut to perform in front of fans at the India Expo Centre, Noida, located in Delhi NCR, a region that previously hosted three Formula One Grands Prix. Arvid drove Sebastian Vettel's 2012 World Championship-winning RB8, presented in VCARB livery, according to a release.

As part of Red Bull Moto Jam, the VCARB-branded RB8 driven by Arvid Lindblad marked the occasion of Holi, India's festival of colours, which takes place on 03 March. In a tradition established at Red Bull Showruns in India, the car released coloured powder (gulal) into the air, reflecting the local celebration.

Ahead of the event, former Formula One driver Karun Chandhok brought the VCARB-branded RB8 back to the Buddh International Circuit for a showcase run, marking the first time in 13 years that an F1 car ran at the venue.

This iconic motorsport festival also offered a showcase of various motorsport disciplines and saw several other athletes belonging to the Red Bull family performing in their respective fields. Abdo Feghali, the Lebanese drifting champion, was in attendance alongside Aras Gibieza, who took part in a stunt biking performance. Global stunt athlete Abdulrahman AlRaeesi was also present, together with Roman Karymov, who led the motocross action, and Sebastian Westberg and Greg Rowbottom, as freestyle motocross riders.

Whilst the athletes put on a show to remember, the partners in support on the memorable evening were Harrier.Ev, OnePlus, Duolingo English Test, Fastrack, Zepto, Confluent, Bisleri, Book My Show, Dream Set Go, ExpoInn and Laqshya Media Group.

## "Didn't get a lot of dew this WC campaign": Gambhir after qualifying for T20 WC semifinals

Kolkata (West Bengal): Following India's win over West Indies in the final Super Eight clash of T20 World Cup for the last semifinal slot, head coach Gautam Gambhir said that lack of dew during their World Cup campaign so far as compared to bilateral series has led to their players not scoring on sky-high strike rates, which had become a key part of Men in Blue's batting approach leading up to the tournament.

Team India continued its fine run in the T20 World Cup, making it to the semifinals with wins over Zimbabwe and West Indies after a brief, but humiliating stutter against South Africa in Super Eights.

## Sanju Samson should consistently play for India in white-ball format, says Sourav Ganguly

Kolkata (West Bengal): Former Indian cricket team captain and current president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), Sourav Ganguly, called Sanju Samson's match-winning 97*-run innings "outstanding" and hailed him as a "very good player" after the wicket-keeper batter helped Team India reach the semis of the T20 World Cup 2026 by defeating West Indies in a must-win Super 8s clash.



Sanju Samson scored an unbeaten 97 off 50 balls, helping India chase down a competitive 196-run target to guide Suryakumar Yadav's side to a five-wicket win in a do-or-die clash of the ongoing World Cup.

Speaking to reporters, Ganguly praised Samson and noted that he is a very good player and that he should consistently be playing in the white-ball format for India.

"Outstanding. He's a very good player. He should consistently play for India in the white-ball," Ganguly said.

Notably, both India and West Indies, tied on points in the Super 8s points table, needed to win the Kolkata fixture in order to join South Africa, New Zealand and England in the T20 WC semifinals. With the win, India set up their semis clash with England on March 5.

Ganguly said India vs West Indies clash was a virtual quarterfinal and praised Samson for his unbeaten 97, adding that when he gets set, he can seriously damage the opposition and showed awareness of the match situation.

"You know, when he gets in, he'll hurt the opposition. He played to the situation which is important," Ganguly added.

The former Indian cricketer, speaking on India facing England in the semis, said that the Three Lions will be a stronger opposition that West Indies.

Coming to the match, India won the toss and elected to field first. Roston Chase (40 in 25 balls, with five fours and a six) and skipper Shai Hope (32 in 33 balls, with three fours and a six) put on an opening stand of 68 runs for first wicket, but WI slipped to 119/4 in 14.1 overs, despite a fiery cameo by Shimron Hetmyer (27 in 12 balls, with a four and two sixes).

## "Unbelievable innings by Sanju Samson": Abhishek Nayar

New Delhi: Sanju Samson's fiery knock of 97 not out against the West Indies helped India secure their place in the semi-finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup for the sixth time, and the former India cricketer and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar lavished praise on Samson's batting prowess and Jasprit Bumrah's two wickets in an over.

Speaking on Star Sports, the former India assistant coach, Nayar, spoke about how Samson finally got his moment after waiting for so long.

He said, "It was an unbelievable innings by Sanju Samson. It has been a rollercoaster ride for him in the last couple of years. He got those centuries in South Africa after scoring so many runs there, then got demoted to number five. We watched him in Australia. He was out of sorts because that was not his natural position. From there, he fought his way back into the Indian side and found a place in the T20 World Cup squad. Then Ishan Kishan replaced him."

"He was looking for a spot again. He got just one game in the group stage against Namibia, then finally got a go against Zimbabwe. He got some runs, and then he did this. A special innings of 97 runs. He played very differently from how he has played in the past. It was very measured, controlled and aggressive," Nayar said.

## "My favourite T20 WC match against Pakistan was definitely the 2007 final we played": Rohit Sharma recalls memories of IND-PAK contests

New Delhi: Former Indian skipper and the ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, Rohit Sharma, reflected on the intense rivalry between India and Pakistan, highlighting key moments that have defined their encounters since the tournament's inception in 2007.



Up until the 2026 fixture, Rohit Sharma had featured in every single India-Pakistan contest at the T20 World Cup. From a young player in 2007 to eventually captaining India to two famous victories against their arch-rivals in 2022 and 2024, the former opener has enjoyed a storied run in this iconic rivalry.

Looking back on those moments, Rohit relives the memories fondly, describing the 2007 T20 World Cup games as his favourite T20 World Cup fixture against Pakistan.

"My favourite T20 World Cup match against Pakistan was definitely the final we played, nothing can beat that. We went on to win the World Cup," said Rohit as per the ICC website.

In the inaugural T20 World Cup 2007, India and Pakistan faced off twice. Their league-stage encounter ended in a tie, with India winning the bowl-out. This thrilling match set the stage for their epic final showdown.

"In that same year (2007), we also played a league game against Pakistan, which was the only match in the tournament decided by a bowl-out, and we came out on top there as well. So in 2007, both World Cup games were special," Rohit recalled.

Another iconic India-Pakistan contest came in the 2022 T20 World Cup fixture at the MCG in Australia. Dismissed early, Rohit watched nervously from the sidelines as his side scripted an iconic comeback to seal a memorable victory.

"Yeah, I was in the dressing room. Then I came out, but I got nervous and went back inside. When games are this tight, especially when you're off the field and know you can't do anything, it just takes that sense of control away from you, and I felt helpless. You actually do feel helpless watching the game unfold when you can't do anything about it," said Rohit.

Chasing 160, India were in a precarious position at 31/4, but a knock for the ages from Virat Kohli guided them to a famous victory.

"Kohli played a blinder there. That was again very, very special to watch because we were in no position to win that game, especially after how we started," Rohit recalled."But the way we finished was magnificent. It has to be one of the greatest cricket games we've ever played -- because of the occasion. It was a World Cup game, an important one for us to win, and to come back from that situation made it even more special," the former Indian Captain said.

## Jindal Polo Estate Cup: Jindal Panther finishes as runners-up as Team X lifts trophy

Noida (Uttar Pradesh): It was an assured performance from Team X, who edged past Jindal Panther 9.5-6 in the final of the Jindal Polo Estate Cup on Sunday, according to a release.

Steady across all chukkers, Team X set the tone early through the contest to lift the title.

Venkatesh Jindal, who struck five times for Team X, was adjudged the Most Valuable Player of the Championship Match, while Naveen Jindal finished as the tournament's highest goalscorer.

Team X held the lead through all the chukkers, though Jindal Panther ensured the contest remained competitive. Early goals from Venkatesh Jindal, along with a brace from Phil Seller, helped Team X settle quickly and take control in the opening exchanges.

Naveen Jindal found his rhythm in the second chukker, supported by Simran Shergill, who added two goals, while Sidhanth Sharma contributed one for Team X. At the halfway stage, Team X led 4.5-3, with Jindal Panther still within reach.

Venkatesh Jindal extended his tally in the third chukker, and Sidhanth Sharma added two more to widen the margin. With one chukker remaining, Team X held a 7.5-4 advantage.

## Indian Football League: Dempo SC, Real Kashmir FC share spoils in a four-goal thriller

Fatorda (Goa): Dempo SC and Real Kashmir FC played out an entertaining 2-2 draw in the Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 at the PJN Stadium in Fatorda, Goa, on Sunday.



A frantic end to the first half saw Mohammad Inam's stunning opener cancelled out by a Marcus Joseph's penalty, with both goals coming in added time before Aubin Kouakou and Shedrack Charles traded goals in a rapid one-minute spell just after the hour mark to ensure both sides departed with a point, as per a release from IFL.

The hosts set the tempo early, enjoying the bulk of possession, but genuine clear-cut opportunities remained scarce. Dempo were dealt a significant blow in the opening exchanges when captain Ariston Costa suffered a serious head injury following a collision.

The skipper was carried off in an ambulance, with Knerkitalang Buam coming on in his place. Despite the setback, Dempo pressed on, with Richmond Kwasi Owusu seeing a dangerous shot saved by the goalkeeper.

The breakthrough arrived against the run of play in the second minute of first-half stoppage time (45+2'). Real Kashmir left-winger Mohammad Inam unleashed a superb curling shot that left the goalkeeper completely unmoved, handing the visitors a 1-0 lead.

Dempo were handed a gilt-edged opportunity to draw level from the penalty spot after Real Kashmir goalkeeper Sayad Bin Abdul Kadir committed a clear foul inside the box.

## New Delhi to host SJFI National Convention 2026 after 23 years

New Delhi: The Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) National Convention 2026 will be held in New Delhi from March 13 to 16, marking the return of the annual gathering to the national capital after 23 years.

The National Convention, organised by the Delhi Sports Journalist Association (DSJA) will also celebrate the Golden Jubilee of SJFI, making it one of the most significant editions in its history, according to a release.

SJFI is recognised and affiliated with the world body of sports journalists, the International Sports Press Association (AIPS).

The National Convention will bring together sports journalists from the North, East, West and South Zones, along with leading figures from Indian sport, administration and broadcasting. With the support of major industry stakeholders and prominent brands, the 2026 edition is set to be the largest and most impactful in the federation's history.

Over four days, the event will combine meaningful professional dialogue with competitive sporting action and extensive networking opportunities.

## "Tournament as a whole reflected growth": Cricket West Indies on T20 WC campaign

New Delhi: Cricket West Indies (CWI) President Kishore Shallow has expressed pride in the West Indies team despite their exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 following a five-wicket defeat to India in a crucial Super Eight clash at Eden Gardens on Sunday.



West Indies, two-time T20 World Cup champions, saw their campaign come to an end after India successfully chased down a challenging 196-run target in Kolkata.

In an official statement from Cricket West Indies, Shallow congratulated skipper Shai Hope and the team for what he described as a commendable campaign.

"On behalf of Cricket West Indies, I extend warm congratulations to Shai Hope and our team for a commendable campaign at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," Shallow said.

"While we are disappointed that our journey concluded at Eden Gardens in Kolkata against the India national cricket team, the tournament as a whole reflected growth, belief and togetherness. Winning five of seven matches and advancing to the Super 8s is a testament to the preparation and commitment of this group."

Shallow highlighted the resilience shown by the players throughout the tournament and praised the unity within the squad.

"Most encouraging was the spirit of resolve and fight displayed throughout the competition, a spirit that was needed more than ever. That determination and pride in representing the region strengthened confidence across the Caribbean and reminded us of the character of West Indies cricket," he added.

## Premier League: Arsenal defeat Chelsea 2-1, extend lead at top

London (UK): Arsenal restored their five-point lead at the top of the Premier League points table with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday. Manchester United, on the other hand, defeated Crystal Palace by 2-1.

All three goals in the Arsenal vs Chelsea match came from corners in a dramatic London derby.

Arsenal took the lead in the 21st minute when Gabriel Magalhaes met Bukayo Saka's cross at the back post, and William Saliba turned the ball home via a deflection.

Chelsea responded just before half-time. From a Reece James corner, Piero Hincapie inadvertently turned the ball into his own net to make it 1-1.

The decisive moment came in the 66th minute. Declan Rice's corner caused problems in the Chelsea box, and Jurrien Timber rose highest to head home to make it 2-1 in Arsenal's favour.

Chelsea's hopes of a comeback suffered a major blow when Pedro Neto was sent off after receiving two yellow cards in quick succession. Despite being down to 10 men, the visitors pushed for an equaliser, but David Raya made crucial saves late on to secure the win.

The result keeps Arsenal five points clear of second-placed Manchester City at the top of the table with 64 points to their name, while Chelsea remain sixth with 45 points to their name.

## From 29 teams to one champion: Railways lift 72nd Senior National Kabaddi Championship trophy

Vadodara (Gujarat): Four days. Fifty-four matches. Twenty-nine teams. One champion. The 72nd Senior Men's National Kabaddi Championship in Vadodara was more than a tournament; it was a reminder of why the Nationals remain the beating heart of Indian kabaddi.



From the opening whistle at the Sama Indoor Complex to the final raid of the championship clash, the event captured the full spectrum of the sport -- power, precision and unpredictability.

Established stars from the Pro Kabaddi League returned to their state colours, hungry to prove themselves once again. Emerging talents seized their moment on the biggest domestic stage.

According to a press release from the tournament, there were big wins, Tamil Nadu's 59-point thrashing of Manipur on Day 1, Uttar Pradesh's 37-point victory over the same opponents on Day 2, and Maharashtra's strong performance in the semifinal, beating Uttar Pradesh.

There were surprises, Uttar Pradesh knocking out defending champions Services in a high-scoring match. And there was high drama, Railways and Chandigarh tied at 38-38 before the game was decided in a tense tie-breaker.

And at the end of it all stood Indian Railways, clinical and relentless.

Led by Sunil Kumar and powered by a balanced unit, Railways combined raiding efficiency with defensive steel to outlast the field and overpower Maharashtra 49-31 in the final. Pankaj Mohite's raids cut deep, Ashu Malik delivered under pressure yet again, and Shubham Shinde's tackling set the tone for a side that peaked when it mattered most. It was a campaign built on depth, discipline and big-match temperament.

But beyond the trophy lift, this edition of the Senior Nationals belonged to the wider kabaddi ecosystem.

Bhavani Rajput's 58 raid points across the tournament underlined the hunger of players from every corner of the country. Arjun Deshwal's leadership for Uttar Pradesh, Aditya Shinde's impact for Maharashtra, Pawan Sehrawat's spark for Chandigarh -- the championship showcased how seamlessly the domestic circuit and the professional league now feed into each other.

Vadodara played host to a celebration of India's indigenous sport -- packed stands, high intensity, and the unmistakable sound of defenders thundering across the mat. For four days, the Nationals once again proved why they remain the truest test of team strength and individual character.

## "It's a great pleasure to be associated with someone as great as Rohit Sharma": BharatPe CEO Nalin Negi

Mumbai: BharatPe CEO Nalin Negi has underlined the company's long-term association with Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma, describing the partnership as a strategic and enduring brand collaboration rather than a short-term endorsement.

"You have to keep a brand ambassador, and you have to stay with that person for a long period of time. Rohit is great. He's a well-known figure. Everybody in India knows him. Everybody in India recognises him. And it's a great pleasure to be associated with someone as great as Rohit," Negi told.

He added that the partnership has extended over several years and multiple campaigns. "We are so lucky that this partnership has spanned not just one or two events, but it's been there for years. Rohit has been at the forefront of promoting BharatPe," he said.

Negi was speaking on the sidelines of BharatPe's 'Super Over' campaign, launched ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Explaining the idea behind the initiative, he said the campaign was designed to reconnect with consumers and merchants while reinforcing the brand's presence in the digital payments space.

# Central Nodal Officer for PM Shri Schools inspects Educational institutions in Rajouri District

■ JD Correspondent



**RAJOURI:** Anice Joseph Chandran, Joint Secretary, NCCF, Government of India and Central Nodal Officer of PM SHRI Schools for District Rajouri visited different schools in the border district today. She was accompanied by State Coordinator PM SHRI Schools, Fayaz Ahmed Fayaz.

Chief Education Officer, Mohammad Hafiz also accompanied the team during the visit.

During the visit, the Central Nodal Officer conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning and implementation of the PM SHRI scheme in the district. She inspected Government Higher Secondary School Bajabain, Government Higher Secondary School Bhawani, Government Higher Secondary School Dhangri and Government Higher Secondary School Langer, assessing infrastructural development, academic performance and innovative initiatives undertaken under the PM Shri School scheme.

Expressing satisfaction over the overall performance of the institutions, she stressed on effectively translating the vision of the Prime Minister under the PM SHRI initiative into reality. She appreciated the visible improvements in infrastructure, quality of teaching-learning processes and the adoption of innovative and student-centric practices.

While interacting with students and staff members, she emphasized that the benefits under the PM SHRI scheme must reach every eligible student. She further stressed the importance of organizing guest lectures by professionals from diverse fields to provide students with practical exposure, career guidance and real-world insights.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma also met the visiting officer at Government Higher Secondary School Dhangri and held detailed discussions on the effective implementation of the PM SHRI scheme in the district. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the inclusion of Financial learning in schools to promote financial literacy among students from an early stage, enabling them to understand savings, investments and responsible financial management.

The Central Nodal Officer also highlighted the importance of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Coding into the school curriculum to prepare students for future technological advancements. She underlined that early exposure to emerging technologies would empower students to compete confidently in the rapidly evolving digital era.

State Coordinator PM SHRI Schools, Fayaz Ahmed Fayaz, briefed the visiting officer on the achievements and progress of PM SHRI Schools in the district, while Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz presented a detailed overview of infrastructural upgrades, academic milestones and innovative practices implemented across PM SHRI institutions in Rajouri.

# IIMC Jammu's 6-day capacity building programme for DIPR staff concludes

■ JD Correspondent



**JAMMU:** The six-day Capacity Building and Skill Enhancement Training Programme for officers and officials of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) concluded at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) here today. The training programme was attended by around 50 staff members of DIPR, who received intensive training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications and contemporary media practices.

Addressing the valedictory session of the programme, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu, Dr. Dilip Kumar congratulated the participants for successfully completing the training and encouraged them to apply the newly acquired skills in their professional responsibilities. He appreciated their enthusiasm in learning AI Fundamentals and Applications, Advanced AI & Practical Applications, Print Media Basics and Advanced Practices, as well as Electronic Media Basics and Advanced Practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director (Hqr) DIPR, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina congratulated the participants and expressed confidence that they would implement their learning in a professional and effective manner within the department. Prof. Anil Saumitra and Information Officer DIPR, Alka Misra were also present at the valedictory session and extended their best wishes to the participants. During the session, Course Coordinator of the training programme, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal presented the comprehensive training report.

The participants also received certificates during the valedictory session of the training programme. Pertinently, the programme commenced on 23rd February, 2026 and was designed to strengthen the institutional communication capacity of DIPR personnel by equipping them with modern media skills aligned with evolving public information needs and governance requirements.

The training programme was structured into three batches. The first batch underwent training in 'AI Fundamentals and Applications and Advanced AI & Practical Applications'. The second batch focused on 'Print Media Basics and Advanced Practices' while as the third batch received training in "Electronic Media Basics and Advanced Practices" between February 27 and March 2, 2026.

On the first day, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal spoke about the changing patterns of government communication. Shri Bhawani Singh conducted sessions on fact-checking, digital verification tools, and AI-based multilingual drafting and speechwriting. Shri Rajeev Kumar delivered a session on AI-enhanced multimedia and visual public relations.

On the second day, Dr. Rajendra P. Misra delivered a lecture on government communication in an AI-driven digital media ecology. Shri Divyavasu Sharma trained participants in AI-powered crisis communication and guided them in developing AI-based projects. Dr. Dilip Kumar concluded the day with a session on AI ethics and cyber safety in government organizations.

The third day focused on content creation and print media practices. Shri Divyavasu Sharma conducted a session on content creation and linguistic design using AI tools. Shri Vishav conducted practical classes on print media basics, layout principles, and QuarkXPress. Shri Gulshan Kumar trained participants in graphics and image editing basics.

On the fourth day, Prof. Anil Saumitra delivered a lecture on press release writing with AI integration. Dr. Ravinder Singh discussed the basics of feature writing and success stories. Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal trained participants in print production using MS Word, while Bhawani Singh conducted a session on fact-checking and verification in print media.

# Four-day awareness on Road Safety Drive concludes in Budgam

■ JD Correspondent

**BUDGAM:** Four-day long district awareness road safety drive concluded today at Sheikul Alam Degree College Budgam.

Students from Degree College Charar-i -sharief, Degree College Soibugh, Degree College Magam, Degree Colege Beerwah and Degree College chadoora participated in the awareness programme.

The four-day awareness programme witnessed several activities like Road Safety Rally from the College Campus to Main Chowk Budgam and back, Student competitions including elocution, poster making and slogan writing.

During the programme, technical sessions were delivered by Tabassum Qadir, Secretary DLSA Srinagar/Budgam and Malik Shabir Ahmed Special Mobile Magistrate Traffic Kashmir Province Srinagar.

Tabasum Qadir Parray delivered a lively and engaging speech, raising awareness about the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). During her presentation, she played the NALSA song, which portrays the organization's role in promoting access to justice and supporting victims of road accidents. She distinguished between highway accidents and normal road accidents. She highlighted the grave statistic that one child is killed every three minutes globally due to road accidents.

She informed the audience about the designated court for road accident cases, the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal (MACT), which settles insurance claims arising from road accidents. Drawing from her vast experience as a judge, she sensitized students to the plight of accident victims.

Special Mobile Magistrate, Traffic, Kashmir Division, speaking on the occasion, stated that one can either be a victim, a violator, or a responsible citizen. He emphasized strict adherence to traffic rules and shared alarming road accident statistics. He further cautioned against vehicle modifications, stating that modified vehicles are often unsafe and that each modification is punishable with six months' imprisonment. He further urged the participant students to give due respect to their teachers as well.



The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, during which winners of the District Level Road Safety Awareness competitions were felicitated by the Principal and other distinguished guests.

# DC Kupwara launches HPV Vaccination Campaign in district

■ JD Correspondent



**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today formally inaugurated the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign at Sub District Hospital Kupwara.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, District Immunization Officer, Medical Superintendent, Deputy Chief Education Officer, and other senior health officials and district officers.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the critical importance of HPV vaccination in preventing cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases, noting that the campaign represents a significant advancement in the district's preventive healthcare efforts. He further emphasized the role of ASHA and Anganwadi workers in ensuring effective mobilization of eligible beneficiaries at the community level. Several adolescent girls received the vaccine during the inaugural session.

It was informed that the vaccination campaign will be conducted over a period of next three months. The drive will initially be rolled out at all Block Headquarters and subsequently extended to all 38 Cold Chain Points across the district to ensure comprehensive coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

The DC directed to conduct intensive IEC campaign involving various stakeholders like Information, Health, Education, ICDS as well as RDD and community members for success of vaccination campaign. This initiative constitutes a major step towards safeguarding health of adolescent girls against HPV infection.

# DC Kulgam visits Yaripora, reviews functioning of Government Offices

■ JD Correspondent



**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited Yaripora area to review the functioning of key government offices and assess healthcare services in the area.

During his inspection of the Tehsil Office, the DC examined mutation registers and Jamabandi records.

He reviewed the delivery of revenue services through Revenue Plus and the issuance of certificates under Jan-Sugam.

Emphasizing efficiency and accountability, he directed officials to ensure timely disposal of pending cases and seamless public service delivery. Later, the DC visited Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Yaripora, where he evaluated the range and quality of medical services being provided to the public.

He stressed the importance of maintaining proper sanitation standards and instructed that the public washroom constructed by the Municipal Committee be made operational without delay.

While inspecting the hospital premises, he noted vacant spaces and an unutilized residential building and directed the Block Medical Officer (BMO) to prepare a comprehensive proposal for the optimal utilization of available infrastructure to enhance healthcare facilities.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue and the Chief Medical Officer accompanied the DC during the visit.

# DC Ganderbal reviews progress under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26

■ JD Correspondent



**GANDERBAL:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting to review the progress of works being executed under the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 in the district. During the meeting, the DC reviewed the progress of key sectors including I&FC, Jal Shakti, PW (R&B), KPDCL, Health, Education, etc. emphasizing the urgent need to complete all ongoing projects as the financial year draws to a close.

The DC took a detailed review of both physical and financial achievements under the approved works and stressed the need for timely completion of all projects within the stipulated timeframe. Threadbare discussions were also held with the concerned officers regarding the status of ongoing works being implemented under different programmes including Area Development Plan (DDC Grants, BDC Grants, and PRI Grants) besides Aspirational Block Development Programme and Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme.

Officers were directed to expedite progress on all ongoing projects, ensure proper utilisation of funds and maintain quality standards. The DC emphasised close monitoring of works and called for improved coordination among departments to avoid delays.

Later, the DC reviewed the progress on identification of suitable land and construction of assets including DEWATS, Segregation Sheds and Soakage Pits under the Rural Development Department (RDD) across the district.

The DC directed concerned BDOs to expedite construction of developmental works on the already identified suitable land in different blocks. He stressed the need for timely compliance and concerted efforts by all stakeholders to strengthen rural infrastructure across the district.

Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, I&FC, PW (R&B), Jal Shakti, besides other officers and officials attended the meeting.

# Special Dialogue on the Promotion of Sanskrit in Lucknow: Courtesy Meeting of Mahant Rohit Shastri with Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak

■ JD Correspondent

**JAMMU/LUCKNOW:** Today, the President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and State Awardee, Mahant Rohit Shastri, paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Brajesh Pathak, in Lucknow. On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri presented a commemorative volume published in honor of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, and formally invited him to visit Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, detailed information was shared with the Deputy Chief Minister regarding the Trust's various initiatives and research activities aimed at the preservation of the Sanskrit language, promotion of Vedic studies, advancement of astrology, and the enrichment of Sanatan traditions. Mahant Rohit Shastri highlighted that the Trust is continuously working toward strengthening Vedic schools, connecting the younger generation with Sanskrit studies, and reinforcing India's traditional knowledge systems through cultural awareness initiatives.



Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak highly appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Trust. He stated that Sanskrit and Vedic traditions represent the soul of India, and initiatives in this direction play a significant role in the cultural renaissance of society. He described the Trust's activities as commendable and assured all possible support in the future.

The meeting also included positive discussions on cultural exchange, spiritual and educational cooperation between Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, and strengthening national unity. Mahant Rohit Shastri expressed confidence that this interaction would further reinforce the cultural bridge between the two regions and provide new momentum to the promotion of Sanskrit and Vedic knowledge. Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust termed the occasion historic and reaffirmed its continued commitment to the preservation and promotion of Indian culture, Sanskrit language, and Vedic knowledge traditions.

# Imran Reza Ansari Appeals for Peaceful Mourning, Urges Youth to Show Restraint, Calls for Discipline, Respect for Administrative Advisories During Aza

■ JD Firdous Elahi

**SRINAGAR:** Senior political leader Imran Reza Ansari on Monday expressed deep grief over the reported killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and appealed to the Shia youth of Kashmir to observe mourning with dignity, restraint and responsibility.

In a public statement, Ansari said the community was in acute shock and grief, describing the development as a moment of collective sorrow felt by Shias and admirers across the world.

He termed the loss deeply emotional and said sentiments must be expressed in a disciplined and peaceful manner. He urged youth to hold Majlis, Marsiya recitations and mourning gatherings within their respective Imam Bargahs and local areas, advising that expressions of grief should remain confined to designated spaces.

He cautioned against allowing emotions to be misused in any manner that could harm communal harmony.

Ansari further appealed to the public to adhere to any notifications issued by the administration, stating that discipline is an integral part of religious mourning.

He also urged Jammu and Kashmir Police to continue exercising restraint while handling the sensitive situation, acknowledging what he described as commendable conduct by law enforcement.

He concluded by calling for unity, patience and responsibility during the mourning period, stressing that peace must be maintained while respecting the sentiments of mourners. [KNT]