

JAMMU RISING

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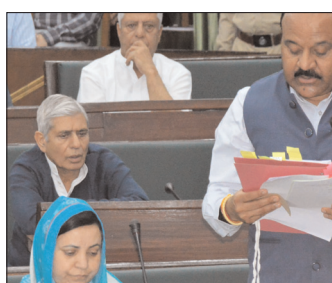
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World TB Day observed at Pulwama



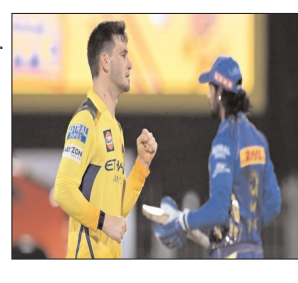
District level Healthy Baby competition held at Udhampur



NHIDCL to re-sanction Singhpura-Vailoo Tunnel under MoRTH: Dy CM



Inside the bizarre world of anti-ageing millionaire Bryan Johnson: Hush NDAs on discussing 'sexual activities' and more



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BRIEF NEWS

CBI Arrests NHAI GM, 3 Others Over Graft Charges

The CBI has arrested a general manager of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and three others, including a general manager of a private company, in connection with alleged bribery of Rs 15 lakh, officials said on Monday.

Rampit Paswan, the accused general manager

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J&K Finance Deptt Sets Mar 27 As Last Date For Receipt Of Bills At Treasuries

The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department has issued guidelines to regulate treasury operations during the last week of March 2025.

As per an order, the last date for receipt of bills at treasuries is March 27 by 4:00 PM, with consolidated liabilities to be communicated by 5:30 PM.

The order said all the treasuries, including the Civil Secretariat Treasury and Sub Treasury in

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JKAS Officers Transferred, Assigned Additional Charges In Ladakh

The Ladakh administration has ordered the transfer and posting of JKAS officers, assigning additional responsibilities to some while relieving others.

As per an order, Mohammad Ahsraf Bhat has been appointed as

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Over Three Lakh Houses Constructed Under PMAY In Jammu And Kashmir

Over three lakh 'pucca' houses were constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the past two years in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Javid Ahmad Dar said on Monday.

In a written reply to a starred question by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia in the assembly, the minister said a fresh survey is under progress to cover all eligible left over households under the scheme.

A total of 3,04,544 houses – 2,60,124 in Jammu and 44,420 in Kashmir – were completed as on March 18, 2025 under the cen

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LG pays tributes to veteran leader Shri Lalmuni

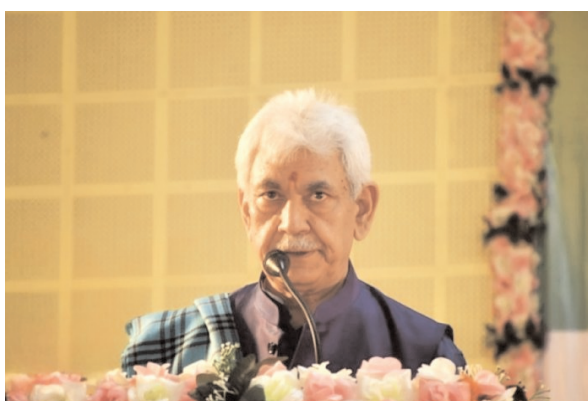
He was a beacon of hope for the underprivileged section of society and dedicated himself to dignity, equality and opportunity for all. His life and ideals will inspire generations to come: LG

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today paid tributes to veteran leader and Parliamentarian Shri Lalmuni Chaubey.

Addressing a public event commemorating the Death Anniversary of Shri Lalmuni Chaubey, at Buxar in Bihar, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the lifelong campaigns of the seasoned political figure dedicated to public welfare and nation building.

"Shri Lalmuni Chaubey Ji was a widely respected leader who had dedicated every fragment of his



body and every moment of his life to the service of the people and to restore the glory of Mother India.

He was a beacon of hope for the underprivileged section of society and dedicated himself to dignity, equality and opportunity for all. His life and ideals will inspire generations to come.

During the Emergency, when individual freedom was in peril, Lalmuni Chaubey protected it with all his might. He Champi

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House passes grants of Agriculture Production, RDD, Cooperative, Election Departments

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today passed the Demands of Grants for various departments.

The approved grants included Rs. 258369.98 Lakh for Agriculture Production Department, Rs. 122899.58 Lakh for Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, Rs. 22524.86 Lakh for Fisheries Department, Rs. 475485.95 Lakh for Rural Development Department, Rs. 70429.33 lakh for Horticulture Depart-

ment, Rs. 35960.43 lakh for Election Department, and Rs. 9642.4 Lakh for the Co-operatives Department.

Winding up the discussion on Demands for Grants, Minister for Agriculture Production, RDD, Cooperative and Election, Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, said that agriculture and allied sectors are indeed the backbone of Jammu & Kashmir's economy, contributing a staggering Rs 37,559 crore, which accounts for 18 percent of the State's Gross Domestic Product

(SGDP). The Horticulture sector takes the lead, accounting for a whopping 41 percent of this contribution, reaffirming J&K's dominance in high value fruit production. He said that the Livestock sector plays a crucial role, contributing 33 percent to the economy, while core agriculture activities make up 25 percent, demonstrating the region's diverse and resilient agrarian economy.

He said that the government is complementing its ongoing investments in infrastructure

with a stronger emphasis on beneficiary-oriented schemes, ensuring that the farmers directly benefit from targeted interventions. One such initiative is the High-Density Plantation (HD) Scheme, which has already brought 836 hectare under high-density orchards, including 174 hectare covered in the current financial year. With Rs 30 crore budget allocation during 2024-25, this initiative is driving higher productivity,

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Militant hideout used as logistical base busted in Anantnag

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

Security forces busted a militant hideout in a forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, Police said on Monday.

They said the hideout was busted by a joint team of Special Operations Group (SOG) Anantnag, Army's 19 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), and CRPF in the higher reaches of Sanglan forest, under the jurisdiction of



Police Station Utersoo.

"Based on specific intelligence inputs, security forces conducted a thor-

ough search operation in the dense forest area, leading to the discovery of

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Dr Jitendra announces genome sequencing of 10,000 "Mycobacterium Tuberculosis" Isolates

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

In a significant breakthrough in the fight against tuberculosis, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the completion of genome sequencing of 10,000 isolates of "Mycobacterium tuberculosis" at a summit organised on the occasion of "World TB Day" at Vigyan Bhawan here.

The achievement marks a major stride in India's commitment to eradicating TB ahead of the World Health Organi-

zation's (WHO) 2030 targets.

Addressing a gathering of leading medical academicians, health scientists, researchers, and senior officials, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the government's ambitious efforts to eliminate tuberculosis five years before the WHO's global goal. He underscored the importance of collaborative research and the need for a whole-of-science, whole-of-government, and whole-of-mission approach to achieve this tar-

get.

The genome sequencing initiative is part of the Dare2eraD TB program (Data Driven Research to Eradicate TB), launched on March 24, 2022, which focuses on data-driven research to eradicate TB. A key component of this initiative is the Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance (InTGS) Consortium, spearheaded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with major clinical institutions. The program aims to sequence over 32,000 TB isolates to identify drug resistance mutations and improve treatment outcomes.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that the deep genomic dataset being developed has the potential to revolutionize TB diagnostics and drug resistance prediction. He noted that genome sequencing

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J&K Cong Chief Says Security Situation In J&K 'Deteriorating', Centre Should Call All-Party Meeting

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra on Monday questioned the BJP's claim of normalcy after the abrogation of Article 370 and demanded an all-party meeting to discuss the "deteriorating" security situation in the union territory.

He said the frequent terror incidents, especially in the Jammu region, indicate that the militancy has shifted base from Kashmir to the otherwise peaceful region, which is negating the BJP's "false narrative" that terrorism has ended in the union territory.

Karra was speaking to reporters at the

Congress headquarters ahead of the start of the party's intensified campaign for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

His remarks came a day after security forces on Sunday launched a massive offensive to neutralise a group of terrorists who took shelter in a dense nursery after infiltrating from across the border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district in the Jammu region.

The operation to track the terrorists entered the second day on Monday.

"The Congress has been repeatedly saying that a wrong impression is being

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Jammu Smart City Project: Over rs 800 cr spent in past six yrs

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

Over Rs 800 crore were spent on the Jammu smart city project over the past six years, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Assembly on Monday.

Abdullah, who is also minister in-charge housing and Urban Development Department, said no major complaints were received in respect of completed works under the Jammu smart city mission.

"As on date, Jammu smart city has incurred an amount of Rs 815.37 crore on projects, including administrative and office expenses (A&OE)," the chief minister said in a written reply to BJP's Vikram Randhawa.

Giving a year-wise breakup, he said Rs 52 crore were incurred in 2019-20, Rs 75.18 crore in 2020-21, Rs 128.05 crore in 2021-22, Rs 196.21 crore in 2022-23, Rs 225.63 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 138.30 crore in

2024-25 till date.

He said the funds to the tune of Rs 830.98 crore were so far released for the Jammu smart city projects, out of which Rs 815.37 crore were utilised.

The chief minister said though no major complaints were received with regard to the completed work under the mission, minor complaints raised by people were promptly addressed.

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Militancy cannot be finished without support of people: CM

Omar Says Rs 144 Cr Disbursed Among People For Border Fencing Compensation

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

Asserting that militancy in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be finished without the support of people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said his government is extending support to the Union Home Ministry to ensure the security situation remains peaceful in the union territory.

"Though it (security) is directly not our responsibility, I am repeatedly saying that militancy cannot be finished without the support of the people. The elected government



is making attempts and is supporting (Lt Governor) to keep situation under control and maintain peace," the chief minister told reporters outside assembly here before the start of the day's business.

He was responding to a

question on the ongoing anti-terrorist operation in Sanyal near International border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district. "Such things have happened in the past as well and as far as my information is concerned, no con-

tact was established (with terrorists). The search and cordon operation launched on the basis of suspicious movement is going on and let us see how the situation develops," Abdullah said.

He said the operation is taking place in a border village and it is possible that they have come from across the border. "Making any statement on this right away will be premature. Let us see how the situation develops," he said.

Asked about frequent

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Anti-terror operation intensified in Kathua

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

The search operation against a group of infiltrating terrorists in the dense jungles of Kathua district of Jammu region entered the second day on Monday, officials said.

The operation led by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat was intensified with additional deployment of commandos, drones and sniffer dogs this morning as security forces carried out searches in the dense nursery where the terrorists are believed hiding after infiltrating from



across the border, they said.

The operation was launched following an intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists inside a 'dhok' — a local

term for an enclosure — located within the nursery in Sanyal village, approximately five km from the International Border with Pakistan.

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J&K Police conducts raids across awantipora in connection with terror-Related Cases

**JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24**

Awantipora Police on Monday conducted raids at multiple locations linked to members of the banned organisations Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), and Jammu and Kashmir People's League.

The raids were carried

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CBI Arrests NHAIGM, 3 Others Over Graft Charges

of the NHAIGM, had allegedly sought the bribe of Rs 15 lakh for “extending undue favours in processing and passing of the bills related to the contracts/works of the NHAIGM”, the CBI said in a statement.

“Searches conducted in this regard have led to recovery of Rs 1.18 crore cash (approx.),” it said.

The CBI had booked 12 accused, including six public servants of the rank of chief general manager and general manager (GM) and other senior ranks of the NHAIGM, one private company, four senior representatives of the private company, including its two GMs, besides one other private contractor and unknown other public servants and private persons in connection with the bribery case.

The CBI raided the meeting place between the accused GM and the employee of a private company where both were caught immediately after the bribe was exchanged, officials said.

“Searches were conducted by the CBI at the residential and official premises of the accused at Patna, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Begusarai, Purnia, Ranchi and Varanasi which led to recovery of Rs 1,18,85,000/ (approx.), several incriminating documents and digital devices,” the statement said.

J&K Finance Deptt Sets Mar 27 As Last Date For Receipt Of Bills At Treasuries

New Delhi, will remain functional on March 29 (Saturday).

Additionally, treasuries will be open on March 30 (Sunday) and March 31 (Monday) for cash and remittance transactions only.

The Finance Department has also stated that bills and claims presented in March may be subject to a special audit if required.

JKAS Officers Transferred, Assigned Additional Charges In Ladakh

Director, Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh, with the additional charge of Regional Transport Officer (RTO).

Similarly, Hidaitullah Mir has been posted as District Social Welfare Officer, Leh, and will also serve as Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO).

Meanwhile, Mohammad Nazir Sheikh and Inzar Ahmad Rana have been relieved from the Ladakh administration and directed to report back to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Over Three Lakh Houses Constructed Under PMAY In Jammu And Kashmir

trally sponsored PMAY-G scheme, against the sanctioned 2,86,057 houses in Jammu and 48,806 houses in the valley, the minister said.

He said the maximum houses were completed in Rajouri district (55,829) followed by 46,752 (Poonch), 31,714 (Ramban), 28,097 (Doda), 26,449 (Reasi), 21,143 (Udhampur), 21,061 (Kathua), 14,442 (Kishtwar), 12,285 (Jammu) and 2,352 (Samba).

In Kashmir, Anantnag district accounted for the maximum houses (9,999) followed by 9,775 (Kupwara), 5,534 (Baramulla), 5,238 (Kulgam), 3,852 (Bandipora), 2,918 (Ganderbal), 2,479 (Pulwama), 2,398 (Shopian), 2,164 (Badgam) and 63 (Srinagar).

In a related unstarred question by Congress legislator Irfan Hafiz Lone, the minister said in case of landless PMAY(G) beneficiaries who are eligible for housing assistance, five marlas of state land are being allotted to mitigate the difficulties being faced by landless to avail the facility.

In a separate written reply to an unstarred question by National Conference legislator Khurshid Ahmad, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said 1,288 houses were gutted in separate fire incidents across J-K over the past two years.

While 574 houses were gutted in 2023-24, the number increased to 714 in 2024-25, Abdullah, who is also minister in-charge disaster management, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction department said.

He said the maximum 107 houses were gutted in Kishtwar district, 97 Kupwara, 64 Kulgam, 61 Anantnag, 56 Srinagar, 52 Budgam, 51 Baramulla, 47 Ramban, 36 Bandipora, 20 Doda, 21 Shopian, 17 each Pulwama and Udhampur, 16 Rajouri, 15 Reasi, 12 Poonch, 11 Ganderbal, seven Samba and six Jammu in the FY 2024-25.

Similarly in 2023-24, the maximum 91 houses were gutted in Srinagar, 76 Kupwara, 71 Anantnag, 68 Baramulla, 48 Bandipora, 30 Budgam, 27 Ramban, 25 Kulgam, 21 Kishtwar, 20 Pulwama, 18 Poonch, 14 each Udhampur and Jammu, 11 each Shopian and Rajouri, eight Ganderbal,

five Kathua and two Reasi.

An amount of Rs 1.30 lakh is given as compensation for completely gutted houses under SDRF norms, he said. (Agencies)

Lieutenant Governor pays tributes to veteran leader Shri Lalmuni Chaubey

oned the cause of national unity and integrity and propagated discipline and self-confidence among people,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people, especially the youth to take inspiration from the life of Shri Lalmuni Chaubey and his commitment to public service and work selflessly for the betterment of the society.

The Lieutenant Governor said, “If we all dedicate ourselves to a noble cause that could make a strong and prosperous society and contribute to a developed India and Aatm-Nirbhar villages, only then we will be able to pay our real tributes to that great soul.

Hon’ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan; senior political leaders, and prominent personalities from all walks of life also paid their homage to Shri Lalmuni Chaubey.

Militancy cannot be finished without support of people: CM

targeting of Kathua and Billawar by terrorists, the chief minister said many areas of Jammu belt has seen terror activities over the past couple of years as “we have seen it in Rajouri and Poonch and several others areas” and their attempt is disturb peace”.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday observed that border dwellers face numerous challenges and said his government will convene a meeting of MLAs from border areas in April to address the issues faced by them.

He also said that over Rs 144 crore have been disbursed to farmers, whose lands were affected by fencing along the International Border (IB).

Responding to supplementary questions from various MLAs representing different parties regarding concerns raised by border residents, Abdullah told the House, “This is a humanitarian issue. Border residents face numerous challenges.” He added that following the conclusion of the session in April, a meeting with all border area MLAs will be held.

“I will convene a meeting with all MLAs representing border areas along with officials. The government will take whatever steps are necessary,” he said.

Several BJP members, including Vijay Kumar, Surjit Singh Salathia, Devinder Kumar Manyal, and CPIM member M Y Tarigami, raised issues related to land compensation, agricultural activities by locals before fencing, and poor conditions of border hamlets.

A heated exchange of words also took place between Tarigami and BJP MLA Balwant Manokita, who alleged there is no border area in the constituency of the member, who is asking questions about a border areas of Jammu.

Tarigami countered him by saying he can raise question about any area and Jammu does not belong to him alone.

The chief minister said Rs 155.08 crore has been allocated as compensation, out of which Rs 144.12 crore has already been disbursed to landowners, with the remaining amount pending title verification.

“We are not sitting on funds. Rs 11 crore remain unspent in the disbursement process. We will instruct the department to expedite the disbursement efforts on fast track,” he assured.

He said the border issue is not just one MLA’s concern but is a broader concern for people living in border areas, whether in Jammu or the Kashmir Valley.

Earlier, responding to a question from Hiranagar MLA Vijay Kumar during the Question Hour, Minister for Revenue Sakina Itoo informed that the BSF has acquired 13,415 kanals of land across 113 villages in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts of Jammu division for border fencing along the Indo-Pak border.

She said the BSF has laid fencing along a 135-feet wide strip in these border districts.

J&K Cong Chief Says Security Situation In J&K ‘Deteriorating’, Centre Should Call All-Party Meeting

created at the national and international level that the situation has improved and peace restored with the end of militancy after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019,” Karra said.

“If the government is claiming that everything is alright, then why has militancy intensified in the Jammu region that has been declared militancy-free by the previous popular governments,” he said.

Karra accused the BJP of sacrificing the national interest over its interests by ignoring the security threat.

“We request the government to call an all-party meeting to deliberate on measures to control the growing militancy, which is the biggest concern for all of us,” he said.

The Congress leader said the central government is answerable to the people over the growing terror activities as Jammu and Kashmir Police is directly under its control.

“The terrorists are striking at will... the ongoing operation in Hiranagar in Kathua is the latest example,” he said.

The central government should give up its “misadventure” as the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not in the national interest.

Karra further said, “The BJP should stop selling its hollow narrative and instead take effective and positive measures to deal with the situation otherwise it will continue to deteriorate further.”

The Congress has flagged the issue time and again but the central government has taken no action except holding security review meetings, he said. (Agencies)

J&K Police conducts raids across awantipora in connection with terror-Related Cases

out in connection with their alleged involvement in terror-related cases.

According to the police, the raids were conducted in the presence of concerned executive magistrates.

“Police Awantipora remains committed to maintain-

ing peace and security in the Police District, besides is aimed at to take strict /lawfull action against the miscreants involved in unlawful activities. Such raids shall remain continue till the terrorism is eradicated from grass route level for creating peaceful atmosphere in Police District Awantipora,” it added.

House passes grants of Agriculture Production, RDD, Cooperative, Election Departments

increased farmer income and long-term sustainability in the horticulture sector, he added.

The Minister said that the government is also driving transformational growth in the livestock sector through targeted interventions that enhance productivity, employment and income generation for farmers. He said 3,220 dairy units were established in 2024-25 under Integrated Dairy Development Scheme, generating employment for nearly 5,000 people. Similarly, 2,170 units were set up in 2024-25 under the Integrated Sheep Development Scheme.

Jammu and Kashmir’s agriculture sector is experiencing a remarkable transformation under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), delivering tangible results, said the Minister. He extolled that agriculture in the UT is undergoing a transformative shift, from a focus solely on produce to a producer-centric approach. This evolution is driving higher returns for the farmers, nurturing entrepreneurship and creating a more sustainable and commercially viable agricultural ecosystem, he added.

He said that there are 29 projects under HADP, spanning across all sectors within the Agriculture Production Department (APD), driving a fundamental transformation in Jammu & Kashmir’s agri-economy.

The Minister highlighted significant strides in horticulture, particularly in the expansion of High-Density (HD) Plantations. The government is developing rootstock banks and mother orchards to support growth of HD plantations across 5,500 hectare under Project 21 of HADP. During 2024-25, the government promoted protected cultivation with 9,083 square meters already developed for rootstock production besides establishment of 45 hectares as mother orchards and cultivating 18.6 hectare for rootstock production, he maintained.

He said that assistance will now be disbursed in three phases, 50 percent after plantation, 30 percent upon sprouting and the final 20 percent after one year, if survival reaches 90 percent, to address setbacks in traditional orchards due to reduced farmer engagement post-financial support.

The Minister said that the government is also launching scientific measures to improve livestock breeding besides implementing Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) and Artificial Insemination (AI) to enhance the genetic potential in cattle, sheep and goats. He said that 191 satellite heifer rearing units had been established in 2024-25 to reduce dependence on animal imports and improve the quality of dairy animals in J&K. Additionally, 19 milk value-addition SHGs were supported with Rs 25 lakh each, equipping 88 SHGs with automatic milk collection units linked to bulk milk coolers.

Regarding the mutton sector, he informed that four breed-based farms (each housing 500 sheep) and 673 commercial sheep farms had been established during 2024–25 said. Besides, the government is importing 900 high quality Texel and Dorper sheep from Australia to enhance the meat production.

The Minister said that 210 trout units, 6 Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) units and 8 biofloc units had been established in 2024-25, to boost fish production, improve livelihoods and promote sustainable aquaculture in J&K. He added that the government is focusing on improving irrigation coverage, promoting climate-resilient cropping and ensuring judicious use of water resources for expanding irrigation infrastructure and enhancing water efficiency in rainfed areas.

He informed that the District Irrigation Plan aims to cover 415,000 hectare of Culturable Command Area (CCA). So far, 191,000 hectare has been covered and efforts are underway to bring an additional 33,000 hectare under irrigation. He said that, to bridge this gap, 18 projects are in progress under UT Capex and 14 new projects worth Rs 48.83 crore have been sanctioned. Also, 20,102 hectare has been brought under irrigation during 2024-25. Over the next three years, an allocation of Rs 116.86 crore will be utilized on establishment of 200 community borewells, integrated with drip and sprinkler irrigation systems to significantly enhance water use efficiency and boost agricultural productivity across 2,000 hectare.

The Minister said that, simultaneously, the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) Project 16 is focused on making rainfed farming more sustainable and climate resilient under HADP. He said that the department through its project on “Promotion of Vegetables and Exotic Vegetables under Open and Hi-Tech Protected Cultivation” is expanding both open-field vegetable cultivation and hi-tech protected farming, ensuring higher yields, better quality and greater market competitiveness.

The Minister revealed that 21 lakh soil health cards have been issued to farmers under the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme.

He said that currently there are 37 mandis with 24 fully operational and the remaining 13 in various stages of development. Significantly, out of the 19 wholesale mandis, 17 have already been integrated with the e-NAM platform, while the integration of the remaining two is underway. In 2024-25 alone, 54,975 stakeholders were registered on the platform, including 3,634 growers, 72 traders and 108 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). In 2024-25, a total of 9.44 lakh quintal of agricultural and horticultural produce worth Rs 594 crore, was traded through e-NAM, as compared to 6.55 lakh quintal worth Rs 416 crore in 2023-24, he said.

The Minister said that introduction of the rail network in Kashmir will be a game-changer for the apple growers, significantly reducing freight costs and ensuring better profitability.

“Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) is a forward-looking initiative being launched with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)” the Minister said.

Javid Dar said that in J&K, there are 10.82 lakh active KCC accounts, 8.49 lakh for crops and 2.33 lakh for animal husbandry. This year alone, 61,316 new KCCs were issued. The total sanctioned limit stands at ?9,726 crore with an outstanding credit of Rs 7,393 crore. The NPA ratios remain low at 4.7% for crops and 2.1% for animal husbandry, reflecting strong credit discipline. In FY 2025–26, we aim to add 1 lakh new KCCs in the crop sector and 2 lakh in Animal Husbandry, he added.

He said that the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme is also being implemented to promote small food processors, improve value addition and enhance market access. Based on a One District One Product (ODOP) strategy, it offers a 35% credit-linked subsidy up to ?10 lakh, and support to SHGs and FPOs. He said upto 2024-25, 1743 applications were cleared by District Committees, with 1,326 sanctioned, 927 disbursed and 1,000 new units targeted for establishment in 2025-26.

Militant hideout used as logistical base busted in Anantnag

the hideout. Preliminary investigations suggest that it was being used as a logistical base by terrorists,” police said.

The items recovered included 200 empty AK cartridges, two gas cylinders, one Chinese grenade, a night vision device (NVD), bedding, utensils and food packets

“The recovery of these materials highlighted the hideout’s role in supporting terrorist activities,” police said.

Police said that this operation underscored the relentless efforts of the Anantnag Police and security agencies in countering militancy and ensuring the safety of the region.

Police also urged residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement agencies to contribute to ongoing efforts in maintaining peace and security.

Dr Jitendra announces genome sequencing of 10,000 “Mycobacterium Tuberculosis” Isolates

can significantly improve diagnostic accuracy and enable faster resistance profiling, reducing the time needed to determine effective treatments from weeks to mere hours or days. This, he said, will help in tailoring treatment regimens to individual patient needs and reduce the risk of treatment failure or relapse.

Drawing from his own medical background, Dr. Jitendra Singh reflected on the historical challenges of TB treatment in India, from the stigma surrounding the disease to the evolution of medical advancements. He called for greater community engagement, emphasizing that TB eradication is not just a scientific or medical challenge but a societal one. “Unless we involve common people, raise their consciousness, and evoke their participation, our fight against TB will remain incomplete,” he said.

Appreciating the pioneering scientific advancements and their instrumental role in fight against tuberculosis, Hon’ble Minister said that while phenotypic drug-susceptibility tests and M. tuberculosis culture are generally regarded as the gold standard for diagnosis, genome sequencing technologies are increasingly being applied for strain identification and drug resistance prediction, providing valuable insights for clinical decision-making and surveillance activities.

He also added that the adoption of molecular methods for TB diagnosis and resistance testing remains uneven, significantly influenced by socioeconomic disparities across countries. To fight the incessant TB, it is important to propel these innovations to scale and embed them into real-world implementation.

Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary DBT, hailed the compl

Jammu Smart City Project: Over rs 800 cr spent in past six yrs

He said 400 complaints relating to installation of unique Digital Door Number (DDN) plates were received, out of which 350 have been resolved. The DDN plates are being installed as part of the government plan to geo-tag and assign the unique number to every household and commercial property.

Similarly, 300 complaints relating to e-Buses operation, ticketing, misbehavior by driver or conductor were received and in 285 cases penalties on defaulting persons or agencies were imposed, he said.

He said 16 complaints with regard to construction of table top crossings, water logging at Panama Chowk, drains in Gandhi Nagar and Bharat Nagar near Poonch House, non functioning of decorative poles light, installation of poles in front of shops at residency road, disruption of traffic during to construction of gates at Indira chowk and Raghunath Bazar and transfer of funds were received and resolved.

NOTICE

Kala son of Gulam Hussain R/o Village Thub Tehsil Thakrakote District Reasi has applied for the registration of date of birth of his son namely Mushtaq D.O.B 01-01-2013 in the Court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Thakrakote . Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned Authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Commissioner Secretary HUDD chairs meeting on Interest Subsidy Scheme under PMAY-Urban 2.0

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur, today chaired a high level meeting with senior officials from J&K Bank (Lead Bank, J&K UTLBC) and other financial institutions operating in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting focused on devising strategies for effective implementation of the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) component under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

Pertinently, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0, launched by the Prime Minister on 17th September 2024, included the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) as a key initiative to enhance affordable housing accessibility. Under this Central Sector Scheme, the eligible beneficiaries from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Group

(LIG) and Middle-Income Group (MIG) categories will receive an interest subsidy on home loans sanctioned and disbursed on or after 1st September 2024. The subsidy aims to support the beneficiaries seeking to construct or purchase a house.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized the urgent need for all banks to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any Central Nodal Agency (CNA) designated by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India. This step is crucial to facilitate the timely claim and transfer of subsidies to the eligible beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, the eligible beneficiaries with an annual family income of up to ₹9 lakh can avail of an interest subsidy of ₹1.80 lakh. Home loans up to ₹25 lakh for properties valued at up to ₹35 lakh, with a carpet area of up to 120 square meters, qualify for a 4.0% subsidy on the first ₹8 lakh for a loan tenure of up to 12

years.

During the meeting, Mandeep Kaur asked the J&K Bank, as the Convenor of J&K UTLBC, to ensure that the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) is thoroughly reviewed in the upcoming J&K UTLBC meeting. She also urged all financial institutions to actively participate in the scheme's rollout and provide necessary support to beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board (Mission Director, PMAY-Urban 2.0), Director Finance, Housing & Urban Development Department; General Manager, J&K Bank Ltd.; Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, J&K Housing Board; Assistant General Manager, National Housing Bank (NHB); Regional Chief, Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO); Chief Manager, State Bank of India (SBI); and other senior representatives from public and private sector banks.

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat ul vida, Eid-ul-Fitr

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

In order to review the arrangements for the upcoming auspicious religious occasions of Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida and Eid-ul-Fitr in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here on Monday.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed assessment of the arrangements being made by all line Departments on the auspicious occasions of upcoming Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, including availability of essential supplies and services, sanitation measures, traffic and parking management.

The DC directed the Officers of all the line departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance so that devotees/ people do not face any difficulty during the observance/ celebrations of the holy occasions.

The DC also directed the PDD authorities to ensure uninterrupted supply of power during Jamat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, while the PHE Department was asked to ensure adequate water supply to the people during the auspicious days. The Department was also directed to deploy water tankers at prominent Shrines of the City so that people do not face any difficulty in performing ablution.

Similarly, the SMC authorities were asked to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness arrangements across the City particularly at Hazratbal and other main Shrines, besides installation and repairs of the Street lights at important religious places where large congregations are expected to be held.

SMC Officers were further asked to take adequate measures to contain dog menace in the City particularly at prominent Shrines.

Dr Bilal stressed for ensuring adequate Transport and Parking facilities at Hazratbal and other prominent Masjids and Shrines for the devotees on the auspicious days. He asked the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive route plan, besides creating temporary additional parking slots for better traffic regulation.

The DC directed the Health Department to set up first aid & medical camps with paramedical staff, critical care ambulance and medicines at main congregation places and major Shrines.

The Fire and Emergency Department was directed to provide 24x7 services across the district to tackle any eventuality.

The DC stressed all concerned officers to work with added zeal and utmost coordination for the seamless and hassle-free culmination of large congregations of Jamat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr across the district.

In order to curb black marketing, profiteering and hoarding, the DC asked the concerned to intensify the market checking in the City and take strict legal action against the violators. He asked them to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates with standard quality and sufficient availability.

During the meeting, the DC directed for setting up of a Joint Control Room at the DC Office to ensure proper coordination among the Departments.

Earlier, during the meeting, the DC discussed the arrangements with the Wakaf Board authorities and representatives of Jenab Sahib Saura, Asar-e Sharif Nowshera, Dastageer Sahib Khanyar and other prominent shrines of the City.

Besides Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioners, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik and Syed Ahmad Kataria; RTO, Kashmir, Qazi Irfan and Superintendent of Police, Umer Shah, the meeting was attended by senior Officers of Revenue, PDD, SMC, PHE, Health Services, FCS&CA, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned Officers.

The representatives from Shrines of Hazratbal, Jenab Sahib Saura, Asar-e Sharif Nowshera, Dastageer Sahib Khanyar and other prominent shrines also participated in the meeting.

21 day residential training for Yuva Aapda Mitra volunteers as “Master Trainers” concludes

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

The 21 day residential training programme for Yuva Aapda Mitra volunteers as “Master Trainers” (TOT) concluded here today at CTI, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

Nearly, 92 male and female trainees from Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh participated in the training course.

Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti was the chief guest at the valedictory ceremony of the programme.

The Principal Secretary lauded the role of these young trainees for their voluntary services to the nation. He appreciated the services of NDRF/SDRF and other resource persons besides all the officers and officials who made this training programme successful. He also emphasised upon the trainees to impart training to other civilians of their respective areas to assist the community during any disaster like situations by using the basic disaster techniques.

On the occasion, S.J.M Gillani, DGP/Commandant General HG/CD and SDRF, J&K, presented a brief history and achievements of the training institute. He underscored the objective of this TOT course for the Aapda Mitras, being conducted under the aegis



of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi, at 7 different locations in the country including Central Training Institute (CTI), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

This training module has been designed in consultation with NDMA which included Basic Disaster Management, earthquake safety, cloud burst, lifting of moving patients, basic search and rescue, flood and cyclone.

He asserted that services of NDRF/SDRF Instructors and resource persons of Health Department and professors from Jammu University besides J&K Police and Armed Police were utilised for smooth conduct of the training programme.

Later, the Principal Secretary distributed participation certificates among

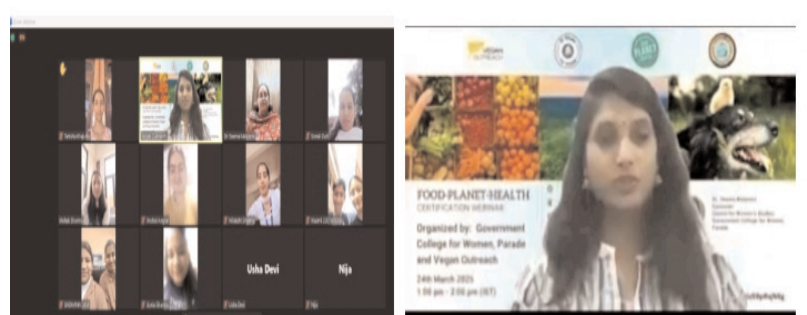
the trainees besides presenting the mementos to Z. N Manhas, Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu and Dev Raj, Principal CTI Kot Bhalwal, Jammu and Nodal Officer, Atul Sharma.

The closing ceremony was attended by M.K. Sinha, ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ J&K, Alok Kumar, Director Fire & Emergency Services J&K, Sujit Kumar, IGP Security J&K, Sarah Rizvi, DIG IRP Jammu, Shakti Kumar Pathak, Incharge Director ACB J&K, Vikas Gupta, DIG ACB J&K, Rajeshwar Singh, Z.N Manhas, SSP Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu, Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu, Manoj Kumar Pandita, SSP AIG (T&P) PHQ, Snober Jameel and Deputy Secretary, DM-RRR, Jammu.

GCW Parade organises a National Webinar on “ Food-Planet-Health

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

A one-day National Webinar titled 'Food -Planet-Health' was organised by the Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) GCW Parade in collaboration with the Vegan Outreach Organisation whereby a total of 250 participants from different states took part in the programme. Food-Planet- Health is a campaign by Vegan Outreach that educates the youth in India about the impact of our dietary choices on animals, health, and the environment. The event's keynote speaker was Dr. Nija Dhillon, Outreach Co-ordinator, Vegan Outreach India and an educator from Vadodara. Dhillon explored vital issues, including the connections between health, dietary choices and environmental sustainability and highlighted the harmful effects of meat and dairy consumptions on animal welfare



and the Earth. She said that one can stay more healthy by getting all the nutrients one needs from plant-based food. Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of the college said that today there is a need that people should practice to adopting a plant-based lifestyle and this will strengthen environmental protection and the future better and safer. On this occasion, the programme coordinator of the webinar and convener of CWS

thanked all the participants and the Vegan Outreach Organisation. The overall response obtained was positive and encouraging with the majority of the participants finding the event very relevant and helping them. The event was attended by all committee members of CWS Prof. Anita Sharma, Dr. Shally Chadha, Prof. Usha Devi, Prof. Dinesh Jamwal, Prof Sukhvinder Kaur and other faculty members of the college.

Jal Shakti Department Daily Wagers Continue Protest for Fourth Consecutive Day in J&K



JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

Jammu and Kashmir's daily wage employees of the Jal Shakti Department have intensified their protest for the fourth consecutive day, demanding job regularization, pending wages, and implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. In Rajouri, a massive demonstration

was held as protesters staged a sit-in at the division office before marching to the district administration complex, where they submitted a memorandum outlining their demands. The agitating workers accused the government of neglecting their long-pending grievances, leaving them in financial distress. They also

demand compensation and aid for the families of daily wagers who have lost their lives while on duty. “The government has turned a blind eye to our plight,” a protester said. “Instead of addressing our demands, the authorities are using force to suppress our voices.” Allegations of police action against the demonstrators have further

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

An awareness programme was organised today at the Circuit House Pulwama to mark the occasion of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ruquaya Rasool Kapta, District Tuberculosis Officer Pulwama, emphasized the concerted efforts made towards TB elimination.

She highlighted that the roadmap for achieving TB-free status has been drafted in 2014 and since then, relentless efforts by the DTO Pulwama and Shopian have led to the reduction of mortality rate to less than 4% and drug defaulter rate to



less than 2%, while treatment success rate has reached almost 90 %.

Additionally, she underscored the special focus given to TB patients from the private sector, ensuring comprehensive follow-up for up to two years post-treatment.

hatma Gandhi, along with certificates, were awarded to TB Mukht Panchayats, guests and speakers who played a pivotal role in TB awareness and control.

The programme saw the participation of Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Pulwama, Gul Afsha Nighat; alongside Chief Medical Officer Pulwama, Dr. Tehmeena and participants. Additionally Deputy CMO Pulwama; District Immunization Officer; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Pulwama; District Health Officer Pulwama; Block Medical Officer Pulwama, Pampore, Rajpora & Tral also attended.

Awareness camp organised for artisans at Atholi Padder

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, organized an awareness camp for weavers and artisans here at Atholi Padder.

The event aimed to educate artisans and weavers about various departmental schemes and encourage them to take advantage of departmental schemes.

The program was attended by more than 100 artisans of Padder areas, besides officials from the Handicrafts Department.

DDC Hari Krishan, Social Activist Veena Parihar, and Jagdish Ji encouraged artisans and weavers to take advantage of departmental schemes.

Assistant Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kishtwar, Pardeep Shan informed participants about various schemes, including, Credit Card Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Weavers Mudra Yojna, Financial Support Scheme, Karkhandar Scheme, Education Scholarship Scheme etc.



He also urged artisans and weavers to register with the department to avail benefits, including the formation of Pechan Card to access Development Commissioner Handicrafts and Handloom, GOI schemes.

During the event, registration certificates of two Handicrafts industrial Co-operative Societies were distributed, and pamphlets covering departmental schemes were shared among participants.

Poster Making Competition on World Water Day held at GCW Parade



JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

The Science Club of Government College for Women Parade, under the patronage of Principal Dr Ravender Kumar Tickoo and guidance of Prof. Anjali Abrol (Convener, Science Club) today celebrated World Water Day by organizing Poster Making Competition and Power Point Competition on the theme "Glacier Preservation".

The purpose of organizing the event

was to highlight the steps required to preserve the Glaciers and to educate the students about the importance of Glacier Preservation for our future generations. Students from various Major subjects and semesters took part in the Poster Making Competition.

The Judges of the event were Dr. Balbir Singh (HOD, Physics), Prof. Anita Sharma (Associate Professor, Mathematics) and Dr Shally Chadha (Associate Professor, Chemistry).

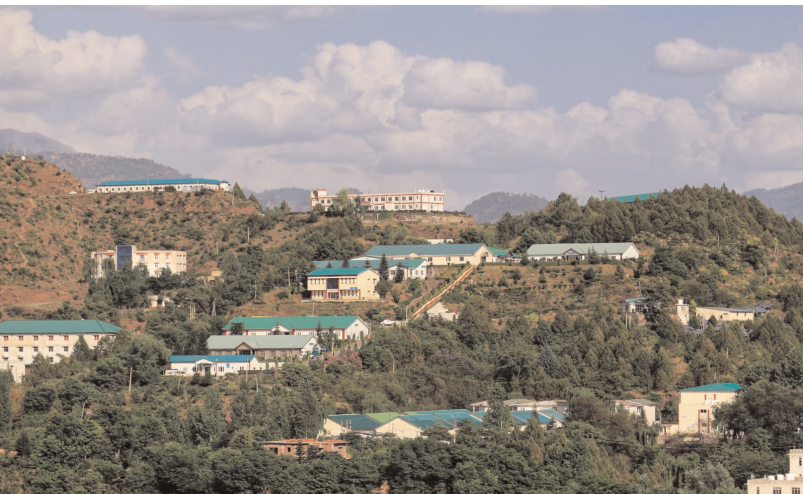
The first prize was bagged by Deepankshi, second prize by Amrita Sharma and third prize by Saliha Sultan in Poster Making Competition. Sonal Devi, Kanvi Hans and Amrita Sharma gave Power Point Presentation and all the participants of this category were then appreciated with the trophies. The event concluded with vote of thanks by Prof, Bhawandeep Kour. Dr Usha Bhagat, Dr Neha Gupta, Dr Manjulla Gupta, Dr Sushma Sharma and Dr Atiya Syed organized the event.

Achievements Made by BGSBU in the Last 100 Days Under the Leadership of Prof. Jawaaid Iqbal

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

Since assuming office in November 2024, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jawaaid Iqbal has spearheaded a transformative era at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), driving unprecedented advancements in academics, research, infrastructure, financial stability, and administrative reforms. With a steadfast commitment to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, student-centric initiatives, and institutional excellence, BGSBU has emerged as a trailblazer in higher education, setting new benchmarks of innovation, inclusivity, and academic distinction. In alignment with NEP 2020, BGSBU has introduced four-year undergraduate programs in Basic Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, and Engineering with multiple entry-exit options, ensuring flexibility and interdisciplinary learning. This major academic reform equips students with 21st-century skills, fosters research-driven education, and aligns the university with global academic standards. With a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary studies, BGSBU has significantly expanded its academic offerings by establishing new departments and launching innovative undergraduate and post-graduate programs to meet evolving industry demands. The university has introduced the Departments of Sanskrit, History, Political Science and International Relations, Sociology, Linguistics, and Mechanical Engineering, fostering a diverse and comprehensive educational environment. The newly launched programs include Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri, Persian, English, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Linguistics in the language domain, along with History, Sociology, Political Science, Islamic Studies, Economics, and Education in the humanities and social sciences. To stay at the forefront of technological advancements, BGSBU has introduced B.Tech programs in Electrical and Computer Engi-



neering, Electronics and Computer Engineering, and Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, ensuring that students acquire cutting-edge skills relevant to the modern workforce. Recognizing the importance of specialized studies in engineering, the university has also launched M.Tech programs in Computer Science and Engineering, Power and Energy Systems, Electronics & Communication, and Water Resource Engineering. These initiatives reaffirm BGSBU's commitment to academic excellence, research innovation, and industry-aligned education. Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University remains dedicated to the welfare and professional growth of its faculty and staff. The university has implemented Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) promotions for teachers, recognizing academic excellence and facilitating their professional growth. Additionally, the enhancement of Dearness Allowance (DA) for employees, in accordance with government norms, ensures financial well-being and stability. In a significant move to address longstanding financial concerns, BGSBU has also prioritized the payment of arrears to GDH, demonstrating its strong administrative commitment to employee welfare. BGSBU has secured a ₹20 crore grant from RUSA, Ministry of Education, Government of India,

marking a significant milestone for infrastructure development and research expansion. This funding will facilitate laboratory upgrades, digital learning advancements, and modernization of academic resources, ensuring a world-class educational experience. Additionally, the grant will support faculty recruitment and student scholarships, promoting academic excellence and accessibility. In another major financial achievement, BGSBU has received a revision in the grant-in-aid from the government with an increase of ₹11 crore. The university has also implemented a Rotation Policy in academic departments, a major administrative reform designed to enhance transparency, efficiency, and leadership opportunities. This policy encourages faculty participation in decision-making, ensures collaborative governance, and fosters a dynamic and accountable academic environment. The University has initiated the process to resume work on key infrastructure projects that had been stalled, marking a significant step toward strengthening the university's academic and residential facilities. The projects set to restart include the Central Library, Guest House, Academic Departments, and Scholars' Hostel, all of which are essential for the university's growth and development.

DC felicitates 14 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs for declaring facilities as TB-Free Zones

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

To mark World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, a series of awareness and recognition programs were organized by the District Tuberculosis Centre Kathua today. The event underscored the collective commitment of healthcare authorities and the community towards the fight against tuberculosis.

A felicitation ceremony was held here at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, where the In-charges of 14 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs were recognized for declaring their facilities as TB-Free Zones. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas emphasized the need for sustained efforts to ensure a TB-free Kathua and urged the community to actively participate in the mission.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina flagged off an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) awareness van for public announcements across Kathua city.

The initiative aims to spread awareness about TB and promote health-seeking behavior among the public.

Dr. Raina was joined by District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Radha Krishan and Block Medical Officer Parole, Dr. Vivek Mangotra. The staff of the District



Tuberculosis Centre and CMO Office was also present.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Raina commended the relentless efforts of healthcare teams in identifying and treating TB patients in the district. He highlighted that 760 TB patients have been diagnosed and treated in the past year.

Under the ongoing 100 Days TB Elimination Campaign, which commenced on

December 7, 2024, a total of 298 cases have been detected so far. The campaign has also resulted in extensive diagnostic efforts, with 4,280 tests conducted, including 1,210 multiparty tests and 4,110 X-ray examinations.

The event concluded with a pledge to intensify efforts toward TB elimination, aligning with the national goal of a TB-free India.

World Tuberculosis Day 2025 observed at Kishtwar

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

The Department of Health Kishtwar today marked World Tuberculosis Day 2025 with a significant event held in the District Tuberculosis Centre.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan was the Chief Guest. In a gesture of support, the DC distributed 12 TB care kits among TB patients.

This year's theme for World TB Day-2025 "Yes - We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver," offers an opportunity to reflect on ongoing efforts and encourage a stronger commitment at local, national, and international levels to end TB, including combating the growing threat of drug-resistant TB.

During the event, four distinguished speakers from the ANM School Kishtwar shared their valuable insights on the current state of tuberculosis in the region, preventive measures, and the critical need for early detection and treatment.

Additionally, the event saw the vaccination of 22 jail prisoners with the



adult BCG vaccine, furthering the Health Department's commitment to tackling TB in all sections of society.

As part of ongoing efforts, a comprehensive TB screening initiative is being rolled out across Kishtwar.

A total of 70 Panchayats out of 136 total Panchayats in the district have been recommended for TB-Free Panchayat status to the Central TB Division Ministry by the Health Department of Kishtwar.

ment of Kishtwar.

In a phased approach, the remaining 66 aspirational Panchayats will undergo thorough screening and testing to ensure early detection and treatment of tuberculosis.

The event was attended by CMO/DTO Dr. Rajinder Kumar, along with staff from the District Tuberculosis Centre Kishtwar and the Health Department of Kishtwar.

Mission YUVA: 3-day Technical Training for SBDU, BHU members begins at Jammu

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

The Labour and Employment Department of Jammu and Kashmir today launched a three-day technical training program for Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desk Units (BHU) in the Jammu division here at Udyog Bhawan.

Administrative Secretary Labour and Employment department Rajeev Ranjan was the chief guest at the program.

In his keynote address, he emphasized the role of SBDUs and BHDs, motivating them to have a positive approach to deliver maximum results in Mission YUVA.

This training program aims to enhance the capabilities of business development units, providing valuable insights into the government's mission of fostering entrepreneurship across the region. A total of 266 participants from SBDU and BHU units at the district and sub-division level are attending the program.

Director Employment and Mission Director for Mission Yuva, Shahzad Alam in his inaugural speech, emphasized the importance of understanding the government's goals in launching the scheme. He encouraged participants to make the most of the training to bring these goals to fruition.

Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Mission Youth/YUVA Dr. Murtaza Rashid gave a detailed overview of the program emphasizing on the four strategic pillars, vision and outcomes of the program through four interventions of Ecosystem creation, capital, capacity building and connectivity.

Mission Yuva is a flagship program of the Jammu and Kashmir govern-



ment, designed to create 137,000 entrepreneurial units, generating employment for 4,25,000 individuals across the region over the period of 5 years. The program envisions establishing Jammu & Kashmir as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship culture and unlocking its inherent potential.

The training program includes- an in-depth overview of Mission Yuva Scheme: Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the scheme's objectives, benefits, and implementation strategies.

- Yuva Portal and App Guidance: Experts will provide hands-on training on using the Yuva portal and app, ensuring participants can effectively utilize these tools.

- Preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPR): Participants will learn the es-

sential skills required to prepare DPRs, a critical component of the Mission Yuva initiative.

Credit Facilitation: Sessions will focus on credit facilitation, enabling participants to understand the process of accessing credit for entrepreneurial ventures.

Experts from renowned institutions, including NABARD, J&K Bank, Skill Development, OSD, and GDI partners, are leading the sessions, providing valuable insights to the participants.

The training aims to equip SBDU and BHU members with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement the Mission Yuva initiative successfully. This will ensure Jammu and Kashmir sees increased entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in the coming years.

Friend Warriors Dhanori clinches Tanta 1st T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket championship -2025

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

Friend Warriors Dhanori clinched the Tanta 1st T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship 2025 by defeating JKP Warriors in the final match. The tournament saw participation from over 20 village teams, promoting sportsmanship and a drug-free society.

DDC Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal attended the prize distribution ceremony as the Chief Guest. He awarded trophies and medals to the winners and encouraged youth to stay engaged in sports.

Earlier, the event began with a two-minute silence in memory of Nazim Batt, followed by the National Anthem and a pledge for a drug-free society. Teams from Tanta, Gundna,



Malwana, Dhanori, and other villages displayed great enthusiasm and talent.

The tournament aimed to keep youth away from drugs through

sports. The organizers thanked all players, spectators, and officials for their support in making the event a success.

DC reviews progress of Border Area Development Plan in Poonch District

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today convened a meeting to review physical and financial progress achieved in the execution of the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) in the district.

The meeting brought together officers from stakeholder departments providing a brief on the current status of expenditure, highlighting both completed and pending projects. The DDC emphasized the necessity for timely completion of ongoing initiatives.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner sought updates on the physical status of ongoing projects and requested information regarding the number of completed schemes. This proactive approach aims to enhance the development efforts in the border areas and ensure that the intended benefits reach the local communities.

The meeting saw participation from the Chief Planning Officer, SE PWD



(R&B) and Executive Engineer JaL Shakti, who joined virtually to provide

insights on roads and other projects within their respective divisions.

Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu hosts awareness event on Menstrual Hygiene

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu (Social Welfare Department) on Monday organised an awareness session on Menstrual hygiene here at Hindustan Pencil Pvt Limited Factory Talab Tillo.

The officials of Mission Shakti educated Factory's female workers about menstruation and its biological significance, importance of safe and hygienic practices.

They addressed the myths and misconceptions, encouraged confidence and open discussions on menstrual health. The target audience was female factory workers.

Officials also explained the menstrual cycle in simple terms, the role of hormones and why periods happen,

Stressing on hygiene & Safe Prac-



tices, the team highlighted the importance of using clean sanitary products (pads, menstrual cups, cloth pads), way to change and dispose of sanitary products properly, preventing infections through proper cleaning and drying of

reusable cloth pads etc.

Further, the Officials of Mission Shakti also distributed Sanitary Napkins among the workers and made female workers aware about the ways of water conservation.

Bhaderwah admin reviews arrangements ahead of festival season

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

The local administration in Bhaderwah has geared up for seamless arrangements for the upcoming festival season.

With several major festivals approaching, including the Eid-ul-fitre, Navaratri and Baisakhi, the administration is on the job to take all measures to meet public expectations.

In this regard, Additional District Development Commissioner Sunil Kumar conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements for the upcoming festival season, ensuring smooth operations and safety for the locals and visitors alike. The review meeting focused on key aspects including security, traffic management, healthcare facilities, and waste management.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildars from Bhadarwah and Bhalla, local SDPO, Executive Officer MC, Block Medical Officer and officials from functionaries from Power, Jal Shakti, MVD, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affair, fire and emergency department, representatives of religious organizations and traders unions.

The meeting reviewed the availability



of essential commodities, especially mutton, Chicken, Vegetables and milk and the mechanism in place for regulation of market prices, quality of food, hygiene besides checking overpricing and hoarding.

The officers of all departments were asked to work in a synergized manner so that the people do not face any inconvenience during the Festivals.

The ADC directed the PDD and PHE to ensure that the consumers get adequate power and potable water supply

during the festivals in all mosques and at all temples particularly at Mata Chandi Temple, the main venue of Navratra. He also directed them to repair all defunct street lights, damaged poles, transformers and water pipes and gravity lines to ensure smooth supply.

The FCS&CA department was asked to keep available essential commodities and effectively monitor the ration distribution mechanism in the Sub District to ensure that the quota of the same reaches to the people well in time.

District level Healthy Baby competition held at Udhampur

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

To raise awareness about child health and nutrition, a District-Level Healthy Baby Competition was held here today.

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai was the chief guest and inaugurated the event in the presence of District Programme Officer Poshan Subhash Chander Dogra; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas, Chief Education Officer, CDPOs, officials from ICDS, parents and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, the DC commended the efforts of the Poshan Department in organizing the competition and emphasized the



importance of early childhood nutrition. She urged mothers to prioritize breastfeeding and balanced diets for their children. The DC stressed the need for community-wide awareness to ensure proper child nutrition, fostering a healthier future generation. She high-

lighted that the primary objective of the competition was to promote the health and well-being of newborns and ensure adequate care for mothers.

Earlier, PO Poshan briefed the DC on various initiatives undertaken in the district in implementing the

Poshan Abhiyan. He stated that the Healthy Baby Competition aimed to educate parents on early childhood care, proper nutrition and best parenting practices. The healthy baby competitions were organised throughout the District starting from panchayat level, sector level, project level and finally culminating at District level. This event encouraged mothers to adopt healthy habits for their children's holistic development and well-being.

During the event, several activities such as frog jump, singing, reciting of the poems and dancing competitions were organized for the children.

Yoga Session Organized at JKAP-8th Bn to Promote Holistic Well-being

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

Miran Sahib, Jammu, March 24, 2025

A yoga session was conducted today at JKAP-8th Battalion, Miran Sahib, in collaboration with Bharatiya Yog Sansthan, Gole Gujral, Jammu. The initiative aimed at enhancing physical, mental, and spiritual

well-being under the overall supervision of Sh. Suram Singh, JKPS (SSP), Commandant JKAP-8th Bn. Around 60 police personnel actively participated in the session, engaging in various yoga asanas and breathing exercises. Addressing the gathering, Commandant Suram Singh highlighted the significance of yoga in main-

taining overall health, particularly in managing stress. He emphasized that regular practice of yoga can help in reducing the risk of chronic illnesses and serves as a holistic approach to addressing health concerns. "Yoga, an ancient practice of Indian origin, is a crucial tool for achieving mental, physical, and spiritual balance."



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION
KATHUA
email: xenmedkathua@gmail.com



NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

e-NIT No: MHDK/TECH/e-NIT/ 2024-25/40, dated 22.03.2025
due on 07.04.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Tenders are invited by Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Kathua, by e-Tendering mode in Two Cover system from Authorized service providers of OEMs /Registered firms / registered/reputed contractors, for the following work for the below mentioned.

1	Name of Work	Expansion of MGPS system for SNCU ward of Associated Hospital, Govt. Medical College, Kathua.
2	Estimated Cost (in ₹)	₹4,07,833.00
3	Earnest Money	2% of the estimated Cost
4	Performance Security	5% of the quoted amount
5	Time of Completion	45 days
6	Cost of Tender Documents (in ₹)	₹ 600.00
7	Eligibility criteria of bidder	OEM's/Registered/Reputed firms having sufficient experience for the similar nature work
8	Tender Receiving Authority	Executive Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Division, Kathua.

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. **Cover I** consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover II** consisting of Financial Bid, in the prescribed BOQ.

Position of AAA : Accorded
Position of T.S : Sanctioned
Project Authority : Principal Govt. Medical College Kathua

CRITICAL DATES:

a)	Publish Date	22.03.2025
b)	Document Download/sale start date	22.03.2025
c)	Date of Pre-bid meeting	24.03.2025
d)	Bid submission start date	25.03.2025
e)	Bid submission end date	07.04.2025
f)	Date of Bid opening	08.04.2025

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
2. The pre-bid meeting shall held in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division, Kathua.
3. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
4. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division, Kathua.
5. Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in row3&6 of the table and shall be payable at Kathua.

DIP No:DIP/J-11337/24 Dt: 24-03-2025

No. MHDK/Tech/4960-64
Dated:- 22-03-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical and Hospital Division,
Kathua

EDITORIAL

CMO Jammu , JK NRLM, & NGO SUPPORT & SDH Kotbhalwal Unite to Launch "Anemia Muk­t Bharat" Campaign in Pakk­hian Mishriwala Kotbhalwal block Jammu

Collaborative Initiative Aims to Combat Ane­mia Among Rural Women, Children, and adoles­cents . The Department of Health Services (DHS) CMO Jammu in partnership with the the dept of (JK NRLM) and NGO SUPPORT, today held Anemia Muk­t Bharat campaign this for the rural women and girls, Kotbhalwal Block. This multi­stakeholder initiative seeks to address the high prevalence of anemia, particularly among women, children, and adolescents, through tar­geted interventions in healthcare, nutrition, and community awareness.

Campaign was Aligned with the national Ane­mia Muk­t Bharat strategy, the campaign focuses on:

Prevention and Treatment:Expanding access to iron­foli­c acid supplements, deworming, and forti­fied foods.

-Screening and Diagnosis: health camp for he­moglobin testing in rural and urban underserved area of Mishriwala in Kotbhalwal block

Educating communities about nutrition, men­strual hygiene, and dietary diversity through awareness and testing .

Inaugural Medical Camp in Mishriwala was done by Dr. Navneet Kaur an eminent Social Re­former of J&K . She also set her team of NGO SUPPORT for organising the Campaign in col­lab with the govt institutions . FREE medical camp will be held in the rural belt of Mishriwala to prioritize women and girls on 22 March 2025 from 10 AM to 3 PM at Village Sukka Pakhian Anganwadi Centre, Mishriwala Block

Anemia screening and awareness sessions in­cluded - General health check­ups - Consulta­tions with expert doctors and paramedics

Dr. Navneet Kaur, Founder Chairperson NGO SUPPORT stated

that , "this camp marks our commitment to reaching the most vulnerable , by providing free screenings and consultations, we aim to empower rural women and girls with the knowledge and tools to fight anemia."

Key Collaborations

JK NRLM , DHS , Team of Doctors & Para­medics under the supervision of CMO Jammu Dr Harbaksh Singh lead medical interventions, leveraging ASHA workers & Anganwadi centre for last­mile delivery of services at the rural belt .

BPM Shruti Uppal JK NRLM mobilise its net­work of Self­Help Groups (SHGs) to integrate anemia awareness into livelihood programs, em­phasizing kitchen gardens and nutrient­rich di­ets.

NGO SUPPORT provided awareness , Dieti­cian & nutritionist,, and facilitat­ing community engagement .

Additional Partners , SDH Hospital Kotbhal­wal, Rotary Club Bahu under the flagship of Ro­tary (3070), MH­SF, and ISBTI.

Urgency and Impact

Recent screenings in Mishriwala Block re­vealed 122 women tested for anemia with 65 from Sukka Pakhiyan village alone and the ad­joining villages , with 33 Young children. This underscores the critical need for targeted in­terventions. The campaign aligns with India's goal to reduce anemia prevalence by contributing to the national target of an anemia­free India by 2025.

CMO Dr Harbaksh Singh stated that prioritizing awareness, we can enhance quality of life and re­duce anemia's impact on women and girls .

This multi­stakeholder initiative seeks to ad­dress the high prevalence of anemia, particularly among women, children, and adolescents, through targeted interventions in healthcare, nutri­tion, and community awareness.

-DHS Jammu Leads public health initiatives to ensure quality healthcare across the UT.

JK NRLM:Aims to alleviate poverty through women­led livelihood programs.

- NGO Support . A non­profit dedicated to health, education, and community development. Working towards women & girls health .

SDH Hospital Kotbhalwal Provided critical healthcare services in rural belt . Rotary Club Bahu (3070), MH­SF, ISBTI Key supporters of community health initiatives in the rural belts .

Together, we can build an anemia­free future for Jammu and Kashmir.

Women's contribution to higher education

VIJAY GARG

Women are leading in Academia or education, media, health, armed forces and many other areas today. There has been a widespread change in the country today than accept­ing the first female leader­ship. The Indian higher education scenario is also changing due to a strong female­enemy force. He has founded the progress of the country, has opened oppor­tunities for socio­economic progress, and has in­creased the quality of self­reliance and life. No need to say that 'developed IndiaEducation is neces­sary for women empow­erment in the journey. Educated women bring change, raise families, strengthen communities and ensure national progress and leave perma­nent effects on future gen­erations. As far as leader­ship is concerned, data shows that male dominance remains in Indian higher education, although women play an important role in it. In 2021, women leadership in Indian higher education was only 9.55 percent, while men were giving 89.57 percent leadership. ThisThe leadership of women under academic leadership becomes very important. If we compare India with an international scenario, there is a wide­spread shortage. Women are leading 25 percent of the 200 global highest uni­versities internationally. Good news that this picture is changing rapidly. And especially in the last few years has changed. Even in the past, the country has seen many visionary women leaders, including social reformers like Savitribai Phule. Who together with her husband Jyotirao PhuleIn 1948, the first school of girls was established and thus the advocates of women educa­tion and social justice. Other notable and practical female leaders making significant changes in higher education include Prof. Chancellor of 'Lovely

Professional University' and Dr. Uma Bhardwaj, Vice Chancellor of 'Noida International University', Dr. Uma Bhardwaj, Prof. Chancellor of 'Chitkara University'. Higher educa­tion entrepreneur Dr. Chitkara, with 42 ­year widespread experience, made a successful universityIs received. In Delhi­NCR, the institute of Dr. Ananya Mukherjee, Vice­Chancellor of 'Shiv Nadar University', has been considered as 'Institution of Emign'. Along with this, women leaders in the field of business and entrepre­neurship have inspired emerging Indian youth. Among them, Kiran Majumdar Sha and Indira Nui are especially notable female leaders who have made changes in Indian higher education from dis­covery and inclusive en­vironment. In leadership sit­uations, more women will be encouraged and the aca­dem­ic sector will get new dimensions. OurWith efforts, she is inspiring future generations in India to develop more progressive and equal education sce­nario. However, women are facing many challenges in the academic field, includ­ing social bias on the one hand and obstacles in in­sti­tutions on the other. Many women are still facing many prejudices against them­selves, which are related to their capacity in traditional areas, especially in tradi­tional areas. Networks for getting women 'centers' and for their professional progressProblems have to be faced in making A. There is a 'work­life balance' in main issues for women leaders around the world and a low attendance in senior leadership situa­tions. India has adopted a holistic view of the orienta­tion and training of women faculty through the University Grants Commission UGC across the country. The purpose of these initiatives is to pre­pare women for leadership roles and equip them with appropriate skills and knowledge. In other coun­

tries such programs have been created in which aca­dem­ic sector womenThe leadership training and inclusion have been noted to break the obstacles. Some countries have regis­tered a great increase in the number of women in the academic areas, but despite this, the rest of the world including India has to go a long way in this regard. The meaning of empowerment in education is not only a question of reaching, it also includes giving women the role of teachers, leaders and models. Increase in the number of women in schools and colleges served as an inspirational force for girls, so that they are aca­dem­ic areasIn the direction of excellence in the same, they move forward. Miscellaneous ideas about the role of women led by higher education institu­tions create an inclusive and investigative scenario. Women professors have acted like a spinal cord in the quality of progressive education policy and research. Now women are operating many important departments and research institutes, which is a proof of their growing influence in the lives of universities. Programs and fellowships, especially for girls and women, created creativityAnd has helped in creating a world of excel­lence. At present, women are at the peak in some of the most high­profile uni­versities and institutions in India. They are making it equal to create more access to education. Women lead­ers are playing an impor­tant role in the academic field. Women ­led institu­tions, including competitive examination coaching in­sti­tutes, are giving direction to thousands of students and giving their ambitions form. It is thus clear that women leaders are making extensive changes in the field of educationHe is and he is a good manager. Women are teachers and carriers of change. Through the promotion of inclusion and emptying communities, they are playing the role of

a good leader by filling the vacant space. Women are especially indispensable as powerful, solutions centered and reactive work­force because they ensure not only economic progress, but also social justice. The most influential role of women in education is seen in adult literacy and skill development. Women teachers have rural and marginalizedCommunities have played an important role in changing their socio­economic conditions, increasing the literacy rate. Women entrepreneurs are also bringing revolution in the education sector through various investiga­tive solutions towards learning all over India. The 'Edtech' platform of women financing women has encouraged variable mod­els, digital classroom experiments and AI­based analysts. This has improved the performance of students in higher edu­cational institutions and has increased their reach to high quality education. Social wormS and technical education are helping each other. Increasing the num­ber of female leaders in higher education is also necessary for higher educa­tion, but also for gender equality which plays an important role in India's progress. National Education Policy, 2020- In NEP, many reforms have been proposed to under­stand the importance of participation of women in academic fields. Through leadership training and mattership facilities in higher education, India can play an important role in advancing women as aca­dem­ic leaders.Is. It is nec­essary to increase women's participation in higher edu­cation to take advantage of 'developed India' and 'self­reliant India' and India's 'population dividend'. This will also make a significant contribution in making India a 'world guru'.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist malout

Congress forces a reappraisal of coalition dharma

RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

A cry of despair from a Congress sympathiser—who is so passionate about the party's travails that he could be a faceless member in an ocean of sycophants—framed the ills afflicting the Congress far more perceptively than the reams tumbling out of 'informed' analyses following the BJP's comeback in Delhi. But Ranchod Das Chanchad's 'open letter' to Rahul Gandhi on X was likely lost in the pile of emails or old-fashioned epistles reach­ing Gandhi and his staff. In any case, it's whispered that the Gandhi scion is hostile to even well­intended criticism. Congress's joyous celebra­tion of AAP's rout—framed as a revenge for Sheila Dikshit's defeat by Arvind Kejriwal in 2015—was intriguing to say the least because the party itself was annihilated in the national capital. Without mincing words, Chanchad posted, "Our obsession with Arvind Kejriwal is misplaced. He didn't destroy Congress in Delhi, our own complacency did." Among the points Chanchad raised were the "hypocrisy" embedded in Congress's federalism stand that manifested in the party's social media warriors "openly questioning the very exist­ence of regional parties", fix­ing one's own house before mocking others, and either reinventing the party or fade into oblivion. In the euphoria over AAP's fade­out, the Congress has not cared to reflect on its own role and conduct in the Delhi polls or even attempt to nail the local leaders who report­edly counselled Gandhi to assail Kejriwal and AAP

instead of attacking the BJP. The Congress's conflicted stand over seeking regional electoral partners has signifi­cant implications for the vir­tually defunct INDIA bloc that beamed a ray of hope in the opposition when it was launched in Bihar in July 2023. It was meant to be a big­tent coalition of 'progres­sive' federal forces to chal­lenge the BJP­led NDA. The Congress arrogated to itself the right to head INDIA by virtue of its national pres­ence, but none of the other parties were willing to con­cede leadership to the Gandhis. The bloc has since unrav­elled. Nitish Kumar, who cheerfully piloted the project as part of a 'secular' coalition, was the first to jump ship and embrace the BJP. The Janata Party and Janata Dal experiments of the past—a ragtag of state parties wedded together by the anti­ Congress glue—at least took off and made a go of it until the ideological con­tradictions between the BJP and some others became irreconcilable. For the BJP, more than the egos nursed by its leaders such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani, it was the RSS's pressure to work towards getting an in­dependent majority on the Hindutva plank that scup­pered the Janata coalitions. To be noted, however, is the BJP's exemplary pragmatism towards the so­called smaller participants when help was needed in cobbling the num­bers required for a majority in the Lok Sabha and state leg­islatures. The Congress, on the other hand, could never shed the aura of being the 'grand old party' and a self­

anointed supremo. Today, the BJP holds power in 12 states on its own, and with an ally, the Janata Dal (United) in Bihar. It has NDA chief ministers in Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya. In contrast, the Congress can call just three states as its own. It is part of the coalition governments in J&K and Jharkhand, and a constituent of the DMK­led compact in Tamil Nadu. It was part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi and Mahagathbandhan govern­ments in Maharashtra and Bihar, which could not com­plete their tenures. Regardless of the Delhi ver­dict, is the Congress posi­tioned to disparage regional parties on whose backs it rides in at least five states? Any party in its place, grand or unpre­possessing, would be casting round for partners to face a slew of impending elec­tions. In Maharashtra, the MVA, consisting of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray), NCP (Sharad Pawar) and Congress, exists notional­ly. Uddhav, a former chief minis­ter who lost most of his MLAs to a BJP­engineered coup, declared his intent to fight the prestigious local body polls in Maharashtra solo. The cash­rich Brihan­mumbai Municipal Corporation is on his radar as well as the BJP's. NCP chief Sharad Pawar, wounded as much as Uddhav from the defections his party was subjected to, will need a miracle to revive the original NCP. The Congress is rudder­less as its allies are looking for life away from the Gandhis. In Tamil Nadu and Bihar, the Congress will willy­nilly

have to ride on the back of the DMK and RJD, while in J&K, after its poor showing in Jammu, it has no choice but to go by the NC's diktat. In Uttar Pradesh, where the Samajwadi Party put up an impressive performance in the Lok Sabha election, there's no way its chief Akhilesh Yadav will yield more seats to the Congress than what he deems deserv­ing. Rather than the federal forces, the Congress is fast losing its salience within INDIA or what remains of it. The Congress treated the AAP, notionally an INDIA con­stituent, as its arch­enemy in Delhi. It got a shock when Akhilesh Yadav, Mamata Banerjee, Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar announced their support for the AAP, although materially it made no difference. The prospect of regional parties, loosely aligned with the Congress, banding together to form a separate non­Congress coalition cannot be ruled out because those like Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR (Congress) might find such a formation more palatable than Congress's INDIA. Can ideology be a cement­ing element in today's cir­cumstances? The BJP has artfully finessed the skill of blending ideology with the lure of power to add to its strength. The Congress's ide­ology remained fuzzy in the post Mandal­mandir era. Regional parties, including the socialist­secular adher­ents, couldn't care less about ideology, mouthing their anti­BJP rhetoric for the con­sumption of the religious minorities.

This Moment Melted Hearts

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Sunrisers Hyderabad kicked off their IPL 2025 campaign in emphatic fashion, lighting up the Rajiv Gandhi international stadium with a jaw-dropping display of power-hitting on Sunday.

But while the SRH batters turned the game into a six-hitting spectacle, it was a little figure in the stands who quietly stole hearts -- Heinrich Klaasen's two-year-old daughter Laya.

Eyes wide with excitement, Laya watched her father go into overdrive, smashing 34 off just 14 balls in a ruthless takedown of Rajasthan Royals' bowling attack.

Laya Klaasen
Laya's presence seemed to sprinkle a little magic in the sultry afternoon in Hyderabad as Klaasen's thunderous knock propelled SRH to the brink of rewriting their own -- and the IPL's -- highest-ever total of 287/3. Two late wickets in the final



over denied them the record, but not the result.

Despite spirited resistance from Sanju Samson and Dhruv Jurel, the Royals crumbled under the weight of the chase, falling short by 44 runs.

For Klaasen, it was another power-packed masterclass. For SRH, it was a statement of intent. And for young Laya, it was a front-row seat to a memory she'll cherish -- watching her dad own the spotlight on one of the IPL's biggest stages.

Could not sleep because of happiness: MI debutant's parents

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

A pat on the shoulders and a few words of appreciation from legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni would go a long way for the unheralded Mumbai Indians' 24-year-old spinner Vignesh Puthur, who announced himself on the big stage of IPL with a three-wicket haul on debut.

It wasn't just his skills that made the world take notice of the left arm wrist bowler from Kerala, his doggedness and self-belief were equally compelling.

Puthur's three-wicket burst included prized scalps of Rituraj Gaikwad (53), Shivam Dube (9) and Deepak Hooda (3), who all failed to clear the ropes off the wily 24-year-old.

"(It is) never easy -- (the) first game against CSK -- it's a big game. But purely the way he responded, hats off to him," former India and current MI bowling coach Paras Mhambrey told the media after the match on Sunday night.

"He was able to hold his nerves and handle pressure superbly, (he) really got us in the game. Very happy about his performance," he added.

MI have unearthed talent like Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya from the far-reaches in the past and Puthur only serves a reminder of their robust scouting system.

"Amazing, MI is known for that -- giving youngsters opportunities, the scouts do this for 10 months and he (Vignesh) is a product of that," said MI's stand-in skipper and India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav after the match.

He hasn't yet played First-Class cricket but Puthur's talent was enough for MI to bring him on board.

The nurturing began immediately after Puthur joined the camp. From interacting with the coaches to accessing the training facilities as well as working with analytics and data, his cricket journey took flight and Puthur soaked it



all in.

"We never expected him to play in the first match itself. We are so happy. We never even thought he will get an IPL contract. Now, a lot of people are calling us to congratulate, and hopefully he will live up to everybody's expectations," said Sunil Kumar, his father.

Puthur's mother Bindu was equally delighted.

"He had called up last evening saying there was a chance for me to play tonight. We were watching every ball last night, and this was his performance. He called us around 12.30 am last night after the match and then again he called after an hour.

"He was so happy. I have never seen him so happy. We also could not sleep because of happiness."

Vignesh Puthur celebrates Shivam Dube's wicket with Mumbai Indians Captain Suryakumar Yadav

Puthur's childhood coach Vijayan, who has worked with renowned Mumbai coach Vasu Paranjpe said, "He's got a lot of time ahead of him. Hopefully he will climb a lot more heights. A very disciplined kid, and he worked hard on his a tough craft like left-arm wrist spin."

When asked about the potential that MI saw in the left-arm spinner, Mham-

brey said. "The idea at MI is always seeing the potential more than anything else, and when we saw him for one of our trials, we saw the potential in him rather than looking into how much cricket he has played in the past."

Puthur attended MI's selection trials in November ahead of the mega auction and after he was picked for a base price of Rs 30 lakh, he was sent to be around the MI Cape Town team which won the SA20 tournament.

He spent around a month bowling in the nets alongside MI Cape Town skipper Rashid Khan, while bowling coach Lasith Malinga also kept an eye on the young spinner and the two developed a bond.

Back from a successful stint, it was now time to impress the big names and Puthur did exactly that.

"When Rohit (Sharma) and Surya and Tilak (Varma), all these guys batted against him, they felt it wasn't that easy, so (that was) one of the reasons we felt we had the confidence of pushing him in this game," Mhambrey said.

"Yes, he spins the ball, (he is) pretty consistent, lands the ball on pretty much what (areas) we wanted, he is pretty accurate with it. Those are the tick marks that we look into," the former India pacer added.

who is the vice-captain of India's ODI team, endured a tough season as GT captain, with the team finishing in 8th spot in 2024 after a title win and runner-up finishes in 2022 and 2023 under Hardik Pandya.

Both Gill and Iyer are in great form, having played crucial roles in India's Champions Trophy-winning campaign in Dubai earlier this month.

Iyer finished as India's top run-scorer in the Champions Trophy with 243 runs in five games, while Gill also struck a century in the opening match against Bangladesh and contributed significantly to India's triumph.

As for team dynamics, GT's batting strength will rely on a solid start from Gill and England's wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler, who will be looking to bounce back from recent poor form.

Yuzvendra Chahal

The middle-order will be in the hands of West Indian Sherfane Rutherford, Sai Sudharsan, and Masood Shahrkh Khan, with all-rounders Rashid Khan, Rahul Tewatia, Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar, and Mahipal Lomror expected to contribute.

On the bowling front, Mohammed Siraj will look to make a big impact and return to the national reckoning after missing out of the Champions Trophy, while Kagiso Rabada, Prasidh Krishna, South African Gerald Coetzee, and veteran Ishant Sharma will provide added firepower to GT's pace attack.

GT's spin department will be led by Rashid Khan with left-arm spinner Sai Kishore providing valuable support.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, will depend on skipper Iyer, Josh Inglis, Prabhsimran Singh, Marcus Stoinis, and Glenn Maxwell for their batting. The Punjab outfit also boasts a strong line-up of all-rounders in Azmatullah Omarzai, Stoinis, Marco Jansen, Shahank Singh, and Musheer Khan. The pace bowling department will be led by Arshdeep Singh, who will be itching to get back in action after not getting a game in the Champions trophy. He will have Lockie Ferguson, Kuldeep Sen, and Yash Thakur in the pace unit, while leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar will hope for a successful season.

Why spinners are IPL's true game-changers...

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Much of the talk ahead of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League had been about teams potentially going past 300 runs but Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians showed that the bowlers, particularly spinners, will still have a huge role to play.

Afghanistan's Noor Ahmad registered the best figures for a Chennai spinner against Mumbai with 4-18, restricting the five-times champions to a below-par 155-9 and laying the foundation for his team's four-wicket victory on Sunday.

Despite having only a modest total to defend, Mumbai pushed Chennai hard, as unheralded debutant Vignesh Puthur bagged 3-32



with his left-arm wrist spin.

"It feels special to play here in the IPL," Ahmad said.

"I'm happy for the team and happy with my contribution. The focus was to land the ball in the right areas and the wicket of Suryakumar Yadav was special, the stumping from Mahendra Singh Dhoni was out of this world.

"It feels great to have someone like him behind the stumps, it's a great support for me."

Chennai skipper Rituraj Gaikwad said his spin unit had done exactly as they expected on a turning track at home.

"Right after the auction, we were excited about bowling three spinners in tandem at Chepauk Sta-

dium," he said, referring to the trio of Ahmad, Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin.

"Noor brings the X-factor."

Quality spinners in world cricket can sometimes be a rare commodity and Mumbai skipper Yadav was full of praise for the 24-year-old Puthur, who is yet to play senior cricket for his state, Kerala.

"It's amazing, Mumbai is known for that - giving youngsters opportunities. The scouts do this for 10 months and he (Vignesh) is a product of that," Yadav added.

"I kept one over of his in my pocket if the game went deep, but it was a no-brainer to give him the 18th over."

Who's in, who's out? BCCI surprises with women's contracts

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Pacer Renuka Thakur, all-rounder Jemimah Rodrigues, wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh and opener Shafali Verma managed to hold on to their Grade B contracts. Left-arm orthodox bowler Rajeshwari Gaikwad, who was in Grade B last year, didn't find a place this season.

Young off-spinner Shreyanka Patil, fast bowlers Titas Sadhu and Arundhati Reddy, all-rounder Amanjot Kaur and wicketkeeper Uma Chetry have got their first central contracts as they have been included in Grade C along side Yastika Bhatia, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Uma Chetry, Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar.

Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, Sabbineni Meghana, Anjali Sarvani, and Harleen Deol, however, missed out.



A woman cricketer in the A category earns Rs 50 lakh over and above match fee and Rs 30 lakh and Rs 10 lakh are allotted for B and C categories respectively.

The Indian team will have to rise to the occasion later this year when the ODI World Cup is at home. Despite all the resources at their disposal, Indian women are yet to win a global trophy.

Dhoni: 43 And Still Lightning Fast!

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

The wait was over. The stadium buzzed, a sea of yellow chanting a name that resonated through the ages.

M S Dhoni was back, and within moments, he reminded the world why his name remains synonymous with cricketing brilliance.

At 43, Dhoni proved that reflexes don't age, they sharpen.

His stumping, a lightning strike of precision, ignited the stadium, a testament to the enduring magic of a cricketing legend.

Suryakumar Yadav, leading Mumbai Indians in their season opener in Chennai, attempted to assert dominance over debutant CSK spinner Noor Ahmad. He stepped out for an inside-out lofted drive, but the ball gripped and turned sharply away.

In a flash, before Suryakumar could even finish his swing, Dhoni collected the ball and whipped off the bails in a single fluid motion, crouching forward with trademark precision.

No hesitation. No second chances. Just vintage Dhoni.

The replay confirmed what the crowd already knew -- Dhoni's reflexes hadn't aged a day. It was a stumping plucked straight from his prime. For Noor Ahmad, it was a dream first wicket in CSK colours. For the Chepauk crowd, it was yet another reminder that time may pass, but Dhoni's genius is eternal.

Noor, the Afghan left-arm wrist-spinner, ended the match with a sensational spell of 4-18, earning him the Player of the Match award. Bought for Rs 10 crores (Rs 100 million) at the IPL 2025 auction in Jeddah -- the highest purchase by CSK this season -- he lived up to the billing on debut.

Speaking after the game, Noor was full of gratitude. "It feels special to play here in the IPL. Happy for the team and happy with the contribution. The focus was to land the ball in the right area and the wicket of Surya was special, and the stumping from MSD was out of this world. Feels great to have someone like Mahi bhai behind the stumps, it is a great sup-



port for me.'

For Noor, it was a breakthrough moment. For Dhoni, it was just another night under the lights -- another classic chapter in a career full of them.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni reflected on the game's transformation over the years

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, after stepping down as Chennai Super Kings captain, has clarified that he is no longer making key decisions behind the scenes. Instead, his focus is on adapting his batting style to remain effective in the IPL.

In a candid chat with JioHotstar following CSK's win over Mumbai Indians on Sunday, March 23, Dhoni spoke of the evolution of modern cricket and how batters are now more willing to take risks.

'They believe that with proper cricketing shots, they can play big strokes, and at the same time, they are improvising with their shot selection... whether it's a reverse scoop against a fast bowler, a sweep, or a reverse sweep against a pacer.

'I am no different, I have to adapt as well. This is what is required of me, based on where I am batting. You have to try and stay relevant,' said Dhoni, who reflected on how the game has transformed over the years.

Dhoni says he shares his thoughts with Rituraj Gaikwad, but the latter has the final word as captain

From the early days of the IPL in

2008 to the present, the landscape of T20 cricket has evolved drastically.

'The way we played T20 in 2008 and the way we played IPL last year,' Dhoni noted, 'it's very different. Earlier, there was a lot of turn in the wickets. Wickets were two-paced. Now, India's wickets have become much better; they are more batter-friendly.'

Dhoni, who has led CSK to five IPL titles, spoke warmly about his role as a mentor to new CSK Captain Rituraj Gaikwad. 'Rituraj has been part of us for quite some time. His temperament is very good, he's very calm, very composed. Those were the reasons we considered him for leadership,' Dhoni said.

'Before the tournament, I told him, 'If I give you advice, it doesn't mean you have to follow it. I will try to stay away as much as possible.' During the season, many speculated that I was making decisions behind the scenes, but the truth is, he made 99 per cent of the decisions. Bowling changes, field placements -- those were all his. I was just helping him out.'

Virat Kohli had made his India debut under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy

On his relationship with Virat Kohli, Dhoni spoke fondly of their evolving dynamic.

'It was always an honest exchange of ideas -- whether a certain approach was right or if an adjustment could have been made.

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Inside the bizarre world of anti-ageing millionaire Bryan Johnson: Hush NDAs on discussing ‘sexual activities’ and more

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Tech entrepreneur and multimillionaire Bryan Johnson recently took the internet by storm on the release of the Netflix documentary, Don’t Die: The Man Who Wants to Live Forever. Suddenly jettisoned to a health guru of sorts in pursuit of immortal life, no Lazarus pit could ready him for the latest damning NYT expose.

While the documentary feels like a long-drawn advertisement for his longevity startup Blueprint to sell more healthcare equipment, diet plans, and health supplements, Johnson presented it as a gift to the world, as some sort of research for humanity to reach its “lowest possible biological age.”

His breakout moment came when 47-year-old Johnson shocked the world with extreme anti-ageing techniques, including receiving blood transfusions from his then-17-year-old son, and running tests on his penis to increase erections.

Yet, the most bizarre thing about Johnson was revealed in the latest report which stated that at least three of Johnson’s employees, including his former fiancée, filed complaints against him. The accusations? Wild confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) that violate US federal labour laws.

It is alleged that Johnson used these NDAs to silence his staff. More than 20 pages long, these confidentiality agreements covered almost everything—any non-public information regarding Johnson’s home, office, personal effects, spaces and vehicles rented or owned by Johnson, everything.

Johnson, on X, posted that the agreement just evolves along with improvements to Blueprint. But the icing on the



cake was an ‘opt-in’ agreement that the report underscores employees felt coerced to sign.

In this optional NDA, employees were to be okay with Johnson wearing “little and sometimes no clothing/no underwear” and with “discussions of sexual activities, including erections”, NYT revealed.

From selling a \$49 “longevity mix” supplement pack to billing \$2,100 to participants of clinical testing, the information of the expose is damning despite the flowery Netflix documentary that came out in January.

According to the report citing internal documents, 60 per cent of the 1,700 participants of his study of supplements and meals called “The Blueprint Stack” developed at least one side effect. Some even saw their testosterone levels plummet and turn prediabetic, too, it stated.

Johnson hit back on X, posting: “The New York Times knowingly published false and misleading statements about Blueprint”

“There was no statistically significant change in testosterone and it re-

mained normal throughout the study,” he said. Calling the prediabetic claim “false”, Johnson added, “The NYT made it up. There was not a statistically significant change in HbA1c, Insulin, or Glucose.”

In his documentary, Johnson in 2023 announced that he reversed his biological age by more than 5 years. He revealed that he spent \$2 million each year on his bizarre routine, including popping north of 50 pills and supplements, tracking his nighttime erections, and even shock therapy.

Bryan Johnson on Netflix

A production still of Bryan Johnson in the Netflix documentary, ‘Don’t Die: The Man Who Wants to Live Forever’ | Netflix

Fast forward to 2025, and Johnson has already announced his own ‘AI’ religion “Don’t Die”—after his slogan for longevity.

How this former Mormon missionary-turned-health guru will respond to the expose legally is yet to be seen, but this adds to a long list of things filed under “don’t believe everything you see on the internet”.

RBI approves ATM interchange fee hike by ?2 for cash withdrawals, effective May 1

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

The Reserve Bank of India approved a hike in ATM interchange fees, according to a Financial Express report. The rise in charges, effective May 1, includes a ?2 hike for financial transactions and ?1 for non-financial ones.

Interchange fees are paid by a customer’s bank (Bank A) to the bank that the ATM belongs to (Bank B), whenever the Bank A customer uses Bank B’s ATM.

The move comes after various reports last month hinting that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), recommended a slew of transaction fee raises to the RBI, including lifting the maximum cap for cash transaction fees and the ATM interchange fees for both cash and non-cash



transactions.

White-label ATM players and banks supported the move by the NPCI. According to reports, the cost of operating ATMs shot up sharply in non-metro areas due to rising inflation, higher borrowing costs over the last couple of years, and an intandem rise in costs involved in transportation, replenishing cash, and compliance.

Opposition MP Supriya Sule grills Centre on fate of 20,000 IDBI Bank employ-

ees amid privatisation push

‘No need for depositors to react to the speculative reports’: RBI issues official statement on IndusInd Bank

Started saving money? Here are 5 investment methods in India you can check out

However, it remains to be seen if the hike in interchange fees would impact customers. “Whenever interchange fees were revised over the past 10 years, banks always passed the changes

on to customers,” a senior bank official told Financial Express, “This time will be no different, and banks are expected to hike fees for customers.”

This time, cash withdrawals and other financial transactions would attract an ATM interchange fee of ?19 versus the earlier ?17, while non-financial transactions, such as mini-statement requests and balance checks, would now attract a fee of ?7 compared to the earlier ?6.

This hike would be more relevant to small banks and ATMs in rural areas, where customers may not take lightly the hike in fees.

The last change in ATM interchange fees from RBI came back in 2021. An official notification from RBI is yet to be published in the public domain.

Foxconn Chief's Ride May Bring Good News For Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

In mid-August 2024, Young Liu, chairman of the world's largest electronics manufacturer Foxconn, landed at Chennai airport in his private jet.

Tamil Nadu Industries Minister T R B Rajaa was waiting for him with a bouquet.

The Foxconn chief’s destination was the inaugural function of the first mega industrial housing project in India for 18,720 women employees of Foxconn, also a supplier of Apple, at Vallam Vadagal near Chennai.

Then came the spontaneous decision of the minister himself driving the global industry doyen to the venue, which was 45 minutes away from the airport, in a Range Rover.

Photos of the two leaders travelling together went viral. However, what transpired during that drive was one of the most compelling investment pitches made by an Indian state in decades -- details of which remained undisclosed until now.

Addressing the Business Standard Tamil Nadu Round Table 2025, Rajaa revealed that the discussion ranged from doing value addition in critical minerals to enhancing storage capabilities to improving the component ecosystem.

"We might soon have very good news, hopefully, coming out of that drive," Rajaa said during a fireside chat.

"We spoke about the capabilities of Tamil Nadu, how we need to do more value addition on critical minerals, and do more on the existing capabilities to build on storage. He also spoke



about how he is looking at storage in the future.

"We also spoke about going down the value chain, bringing clusters for component manufacturing to enable whatever the manufacturing is -- already you know what they manufacture," Rajaa added.

'We are eager to bring our 3+3 future industry initiative to India,' the Foxconn chief had said during his visit, adding that talks happened with Rajaa in Tamil Nadu about potential collaboration on Battery Energy Storage Systems.

According to media reports, the electronics giant has lined up plans to diversify its presence in India beyond smartphones, including areas like electric vehicles, energy, and digital health.

Later, there were reports that Foxconn is likely to open its second-largest battery plant in Tamil Nadu and

is looking for land near Manalur in Tiruvallur district, about 50 km north of Chennai.

"For that manufacturing, we wanted to bring more of the components into India to increase the percentile of the components that are already available, and we have done that," Rajaa added at the Round Table, organised in association with the State Planning Commission and Guidance Tamil Nadu.

When asked in detail about how this unconventional investment pitch happened, the minister explained: "I was just wondering why that single drive went viral. In my mind, it was a very casual request. I said we have one hour."It was one hour with the chairman of Foxconn -- not many people get that, and I would rather have it with him. We actually removed the driver and enabled one more in the car. I took my managing director of Guidance in the car. I drove my car."

'Our industry outperformance is not a one-year story'

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Midcap information technology services firm Hexaware Technologies returned to public markets with the country's largest IPO by an IT services company.

The firm also announced its full-year 2024 results, reporting 13.7 per cent year-on-year growth.

In Mumbai, R Srikrishna, CEO, Hexaware, discusses with Shivani Shinde/Business Standard the timing of the IPO and the company's growth strategy.

The timing of Hexaware's IPO was unusual, given that the sector is experiencing one of its slowest growth phases and market conditions are shifting.

What was the rationale behind it? I'm not overly concerned about daily stock price fluctuations-- we are in this for the long term. Our investors have already seen strong returns.

In fact, a down market presents an even better opportunity for investors to enter.

One way to look at it is that we were the last to go public in a challenging market. The day we listed, the market wasn't at its best, but that didn't deter us.

The reality is that every company, regardless of industry, is striving to become a platform-driven business.

There is no shortage of long-term, secular demand for our services.

How do you see the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on growth?

There is some truth to the statement that software engineering will be compressed. If I need to write a piece of code, it'll take me less time, but the volume of code that needs to be written is multiplying all the time.

The current slowdown for the sector has been the longest. How has it impacted you?

It depends on what one defines as a slowdown. We just announced our 2024 results. We consider January to December as the financial year.

Look at any of the last four quarters -- except for three companies -- most firms have reported 2-4 per cent growth.

We're not seeing a slowdown. If we grow at 20-22 per cent, we will be happy to do so, and I think there's an opportunity for us to grow faster.

What is driving Hexaware's double-digit growth?

Our industry outperformance is not a one-year story. What is working is quality management, great teams, engineers, platforms, and highly differentiated services.

Add to this our culture and how we treat our customers. We have 170 customers in the \$1 million segment.

However, 90 per cent of our revenue comes from 40 customers, with about 50 being strategically crucial for us.

Housing sales to fall 23% in Q1 in top 9 cities

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Housing sales are estimated to decline 23 per cent annually to nearly 1.06 lakh units during January-March across nine major cities on subdued demand due to high prices and concern over economic growth, according to PropEquity.

Real estate data analytics firm PropEquity on Sunday released its housing sales data for January-March period.

As per the data, housing sales are estimated to fall to 105,791 units in the first quarter of the 2025 calendar year from 136,702 units in the same period last year.

Only Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru are expected to witness a rise in sales this quarter among nine major cities.

Samir Jasuja, founder & CEO, PropEquity, said: "The housing market is witnessing some correction after three years of record supply because of which absorption/sales is also on a declining trend."

New supply of housing properties is estimated to decline 34 per cent to 80,774 units in the current quarter from 1,22,365 units in the year-ago period.

"Rise in home prices and caution on the part of investors due to geopolitical developments and certain weaknesses in the Indian economy have resulted in drop in sales," Jasuja added.

GCCs reach new heights in India with neo and mid-sized banks

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

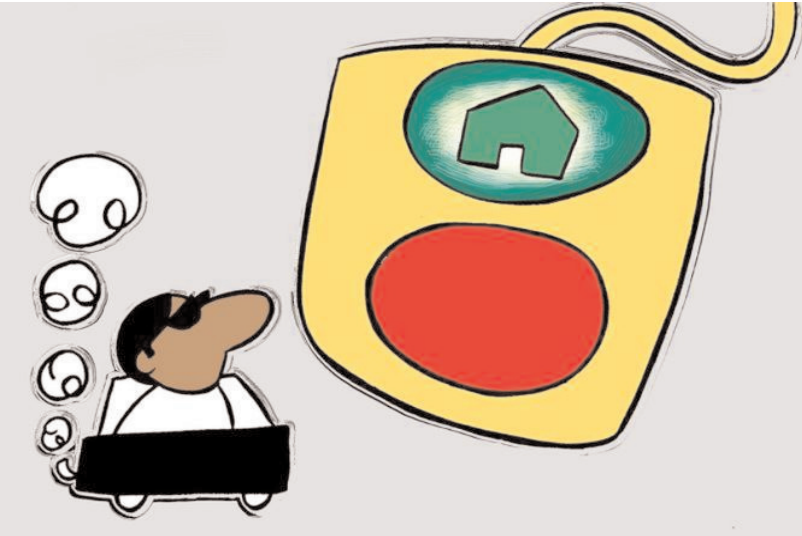
Neo banks, along with mid-sized banks, are establishing global capability centres (GCCs) in India, mirroring the expansion strategies of larger global counterparts.

This trend is being seen as the next major wave in the country’s banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector.

Neo banks exist solely online and operate independently or in partnership with traditional banks.

Their market size is expected to grow to \$395 billion in 2026, up from about \$19 billion in 2018, according to PwC.

Such banks, spread across the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, and Japan, are looking to tap the huge number of engineers in the country and work in some high-



In Bengaluru, housing sales are likely to rise 10 per cent to 18,508 units in January-March 2025 from 16,768 units in the year-ago period.

Delhi NCR is also expected to see a 10 per cent growth in sales to 11,221 units from 10,235 units.

However, sales of residential properties in Chennai might fall 2 per cent to 4,858 units from 4,962 units.

Hyderabad could see a drop of 47 per cent in sales to 11,114 units from 20,835 units.

Housing sales in Kolkata are estimated to decrease 28 per cent to 4,219 units from 5,882 units.

In Mumbai, the housing sales are projected to fall 36 per cent to 10,432

units from 16,204 units.

Navi Mumbai, too, is expected to see a drop of 7 per cent to 8,551 units from 9,218 units.

Housing sales in Pune are likely to fall 33 per cent to 17,634 units from 26,364 units.

In Thane, the housing sales could drop by 27 per cent to 19,254 units in January-March 2025 from 26,234 units in the corresponding period of the last year, the PropEquity data showed.

PE Analytics Ltd, a NSE-listed firm, owns and operates PropEquity, an online real estate data and analytics platform covering over 1.7 lakh projects of more than 57,000 developers across 44 cities.

ing director and chief executive, Nataxis Services, India.

The French bank started operations in 2021 and has about 300 people in corporate investment banking, trade lifecycle, global market operations, having customers on board, credit analysis, and risk management.

“Headcount is not the predominant measure of success anymore,” Iyer added when asked if the bank would ever scale up to the size of HSBC, Wells Fargo, or Deutsche Bank in India.

Simar Singh, partner and national sector leader, KPMG India, said BFSI GCCs in India started with a minimum of 10,000 people nearly two decades ago.

It previously needed a solid business case and an established presence.

value, cutting-edge technology and finance operations with fewer people than what behemoths such as JP Morgan, HSBC, and Goldman Sachs need.

Often the number of people in these small banks is a tenth of the larger peers, or even less than that.

Some prominent names that have set up or are likely to set up GCCs include First Citizens Bank, PNC Financial, and Fifth Third Bank from the US; Nataxis, Credit Agricole, and Santander from France; UniCredit from Italy; and Revolut and Monzu from the UK, according to people familiar with knowledge of the matter.

“Not only is there a cost advantage but also the talent is there.

"The presence of large players has a ripple effect on the vendor partner ecosystem,” said Nilesh Iyer, manag-

Bengaluru weather: IMD forecast predicts 'partly cloudy sky' until March 28 but will it rain? FIND OUT HERE

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Karnataka weather update: Bengaluru received heavy rainfall on Saturday but is unlikely to get any in the days to come, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reportedly said.

Bengalureans were relieved as the summer showers brought some much-needed respite from the summer heat on the weekend. Bengaluru city recorded 3.6 mm of rainfall with thunderstorms from 8.30 am to 8.30 pm on Saturday, causing waterlogging and traffic congestion across several parts.

The traffic police kept alerting commuters about necessary diversions owing to waterlogging in several parts of the city. Many trees were uprooted as the showers were accompanied by gusty winds. At least 19 flights were diverted to other destinations due to the adverse weather. A negligible downpour was recorded in the city on Sunday



as well.

However, no further rain is expected in Karnataka's capital city for the next few days although the skies are likely to remain cloudy, the IMD said. On Tuesday, the maximum temperature is expected to be around 33 degrees Celsius while the minimum is likely to be around 22 degree Celsius. For the rest

of the week, the maximum and minimum temperatures as said to be 33 degrees Celsius and 23 degrees Celsius respectively.

"Partly cloudy sky" is likely to cover Bengaluru's skies until March 28, Friday, in both Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural, the weather department said.

From Rs 25 lakh to 1.2 crore: Complaint against former Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti for illegal property gain

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

A complaint has been sent to Lokpal demanding an investigation into allegations of gain of illegal property against former Union Minister and MP Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti. The complainant against Jyoti, who last held the portfolio of Minister of State for Rural Development, is Amitabh Thakur, a former IAS officer-turned-politician.

This comes on the heels of an allegation by Mukhlal Pal, the Fatehpur district president of the BJP against whom his party has conducted an inquiry into the alleged taking of a Rs 50 lakh bribe. Pal has in turn accused other BJP leaders, including Jyoti of conspiring against him; and also that they too had a hand in the transaction.

Thakur has attached Jyoti's election affidavits of 2014, 2019 and 2024 to support his complaint.

According to these affidavits, in the year 2014, her total property was about 25 lakhs, which increased by Rs 45 lakhs to 70 lakhs by the year 2019. Her total income in these five years stands at Rs 24 lakhs. According to the affidavit



of the year 2024, her assets increased from Rs 1.2 crore to Rs 1.9 crore between 2019 and 2024; but her total income in these five years was only Rs 33 lakh.

Thakur has termed this as 'very suspicious' and written to the Lokpal to investigate.

Samajwadi Party president, Akhilesh Yadav has also taken a jibe at Jyoti wondering how someone could have acquired 300 bighas of property

and 50 dumpers in the decade that the complaint refers to. This is the figure that Pal had quoted in his defence when confronted with the bribe allegations.

Jyoti, is no stranger to controversies. In 2014 she had, in a public rally, asked that it was up to the people to decide whether they wanted to be governed by Ramzade (the sons of Ram) or 'Haramzade' (bastards). Despite a huge uproar, she was not stripped of her ministerial post just then.

'Golden chapter' says Pushkar Dhami on completing three years as Uttarakhand Chief Minister

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Terming the three years of his government a 'golden chapter', Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami called for a celebration of its 'historic decisions' including the Uniform Civil Code and the Anti-Copying Law.

During a roadshow in Udhampur on Monday, Dhami said that his government was working towards making the state the most powerful and the happiest in the country.

He also launched the 'Fit India, Fit Uttarakhand Run' and a cycle rally. His bid to connect with the youth included riding a cycle and doing push-ups with young people on Sunday.

While some Muslims in the state have reported feeling discriminated against, Dhami said that some people, through their careless speech, propagate regionalism or casteism. He said that anyone talking about this in Uttarakhand was not only dishonouring the sacrifices of those who fought for the formation of the state; but also acting against their motherland. He appealed that unity and brotherhood be maintained at all times while speaking



about how his government had curtailed land jihad and 'thook' (spit) jihad.

He touched on the government's priorities in the last three years: the future of the youth, women's empowerment, and the prosperity of farmers. The next two years, he said, would be devoted to creating new employment opportunities, further enhancing tourism, implementing special schemes for women and youth, and strengthening of infrastructure. The guiding lights would be self-reliance, prosperity, and sustainable development,

The three-year mark is being celebrated in the state through road shows, public gatherings, and multi-purpose camps. The last is to provide access to public services and to send out a message that serving the people would always remain the government's priority.

Multi-purpose camps are being organised in all districts of Uttarakhand to provide health check-ups, pension schemes, self-employment assistance, educational benefits, and benefits of other welfare programs.

Karnataka BJP to seek revocation suspension of its 18 MLAs

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

The Opposition BJP is mulling over seeking revocation of the six-month-long suspension of 18 of its legislators in the just-concluded Budget session of the Karnataka legislature.

The 18 BJP MLAs were suspended for showing "disrespect" to the Speaker's chair during the protest demanding a judicial inquiry into the honey-trapping attempt alleged by Co-operation Minister KN Rajanna.

The BJP legislators tore copies of the

financial bill when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah did not yield to their demand and rushed to the Speaker's podium and flung them in the air. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil passed a motion suspension against the 18 MLAs - BJP chief whip Doddanagouda Patil, former Deputy CM C N Ashwath Narayan, S R Vishwanath, B A Basavaraju, M R Patil, Channabasappa, B Suresh Gowda, Umanath Kotyan, Sharanu Salagar, Dr Shailendra Beldale, C K Ramamurthy,

Yashpal Suvarna, B P Harish, Bharath Shetty, Dheeraj Muniraju, Chandru Lamani, Muniratna and Basavaraj Mattimud, which was adopted by the House. The legislators have been suspended from the House for six months and barred from attending the standing committee meetings too.

Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, justifying his decision said that the Speakers' chair was a "symbol of democracy" and the action of the BJP legislators was "condemnable".

Telangana tunnel collapse: Trapped for 32 days, search continues to save 7 workers

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

The search operation to save seven workers trapped inside the partially collapsed Srisailem Left Bank Canal in Nagarkurnool, Telangana is progressing at a brisk pace, with authorities continuing efforts to locate workers trapped for over a month.

According to authorities, efforts are continuing to dewater and remove soil and debris from the locations identified for possible human presence. Steps are also being taken to remove the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) which got stuck inside the tunnel during the collapse. In a statement, District Collector B. Santhosh said the broken parts of the Tunnel Boring Machine, which were blocking excavation at the D1 and D2 spot where human presence was found, are being removed.

Students of Hyderabad Central University and Osmania University up in arms against administrations

Telangana tunnel collapse: Trapped close to a month, search ops continue for 7 workers

Telangana tunnel collapse: Robots, cadaver dogs... search continues for 7 trapped workers

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy in-



tensifies his stance against delimitation

The muck inside the tunnel was being removed using water jet and soil was being shifted out using excavators and a conveyor belt, authorities said in a statement. Officials have also expedited search operations inside the tunnel, they added. Authorities have restored electricity and ventilation at the accident site as about 12 agencies are working to locate the trapped workers. Over 700 personnel were involved in the operation. The state government has also deployed robots to carry out rescue operations at dangerous spots within the tunnel.

Eight workers got trapped inside the under-construction tunnel in Nagarkurnool on February 22. The workers include four labourers, two engineers and two operators. Rescuers recovered the body of Gurpreet Singh, a TBM operator from Punjab, on March 9, and handed over to his family in Punjab. The Telangana government also announced a solatium of Rs 25 lakh for his family. Trapped persons have been identified as Manoj Kumar (UP), Sunny Singh (J&K), Gurpreet Singh (Punjab) and Sandeep Sahu, Jegta Xess, and Anuj Sahu, all from Jharkhand.

RG Kar case: Calcutta HC asks CBI to clarify whether there were signs of gang rape

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Following the Supreme Court's approval, the Calcutta High Court on Monday asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to clarify whether more people were involved in the rape and murder of the trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in August last year along with Sanjay Roy, the only convict in the case so far.

During the hearing of a plea by the victim's parents requesting further investigation into the case, Justice Tirthankar Ghosh also directed the CBI to present the case diary in court and provide an update on the progress of the investigation in the next hearing on March 28.

Unhappy with the CBI investigation, the victim's parents approached the Calcutta High Court, which directed them to seek clarification from the Supreme Court. Last week, the Supreme Court permitted them to present their plea before the Calcutta High Court.

In their petition, the parents have requested a court-monitored reinvestigation by the CBI, reportedly arguing that three key witnesses were not ques-



tioned by the federal agency.

During the day's hearing, Justice Ghosh further questioned the CBI, asking whether there were indications of gang rape and who were initially on the list of suspects when the investigation began. The CBI informed the court that the investigating officer is currently out of the state. The agency requested some additional time, assuring that they would respond to all queries.

Advocate Shamim Ahmed, representing the victim's parents, criticised the state government outside the court,

alleging that it was unwilling to allow further investigation. The state, however, stated that while it had no objections to an additional probe, it raised concerns about whether the law permitted it, given that the trial had already concluded.

Meanwhile, the court denied the request of convict Sanjay Roy's lawyer that his client be included in the case proceedings. The court stated that his involvement would be reconsidered only if a future ruling posed any potential harm to him.

Kunal Kamra should apologise for insulting Shinde, can't escape showing Rahul Gandhi's 'red' book: Fadnavis

NEW DELHI, MAR 24

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis slammed stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra for his alleged insulting remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and demanded his apology. Fadnavis said "Urban Naxals" and "Left liberals" supporting such acts will be taught a lesson.

Addressing presspersons, Fadnavis said the state will not tolerate misusing freedom of speech. He charged that individuals cannot insult people deliberately. The chief minister said, "Kamra cannot justify his actions and escape action by showing Rahul Gandhi's Constitution (red book)," PTI reported.

"When you attack the freedom of others, your freedom is restricted. If you insult people on constitutional posts to create disturbances by taking supari (contract) to get publicity, it will not be tolerated. No one will object to stand-up comedy and satire. If we behave recklessly in the garb of

freedom of speech and expression, it will not be tolerated. Strict action will be taken as per law," the CM asserted, the publication reported.

Kamra, during his performance at the Habitat Studio at the Uniconcontinental hotel in Mumbai's Khar area on Sunday, referred to Shiv Sena leader Shinde as a "traitor" and sang a parody, modifying the Hindi song 'Dil Toh Pagal Hai'. Kamra targeted Shinde for deserting erstwhile Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and forming a party of his own for power.

Fadnavis said, "Kamra's aim was to belittle Shinde in the eyes of the people. The opposition is supporting such a talk and one wonders whether Kamra is hand-in-glove with the opposition. He has posted a picture of himself with a red copy of the Constitution book which Rahul Gandhi carries," the publication reported.

'Devendra Fadnavis govt protects those who insult Shivaji': Maharashtra Congress president Harshward-

han Sapkal

Nagpur violence: 'Will not rest until stern action is taken against those who attacked police', says Fad-

navis

Nagpur violence: 'Mastermind' Fahim Khan accused of editing, circulating videos to spark riots.



Happy birthday 🥳🥳🥳❤️

Yami Gautam reveals why she wants her film ‘Article 370’ to re-release in theatres



Bollywood actress Yami Gautam recently opened up about her desire for her film ‘Article 370’ to be re-released in theatres. While the film originally had a limited release, Yami, who was expecting her baby at the time, didn’t have the opportunity to experience it with a live audience. Now, the actress shares why she is eager for fans to see the film on the big screen and why it holds such a special place in her heart. When asked about the films she wishes to re-release in theatres, Yami Gautam told IANS, “That’s a question for the audience! But personally, I would love to see Uri or Vicky Donor on the big screen again. Also, Bala, A Thursday, and Article 370—especially Article 370 because I didn’t get the chance to watch it with an audience. I was expecting my baby at the time, so that’s one film I would love to experience in a theater setting. I know I’ve given multiple names, but each has a special reason.” “Article 370,” directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, revolved around Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which granted special autonomous status to the region of Jammu and Kashmir. Produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar, and Lokesh Dhar, the film also starred Priyamani, Skand Thakur, Ashwini Kaul, Vaibhav Tatwawadi, Arun Govil, and Kiran Karmarkar. The film was released worldwide on 23 February 2024. Further speaking about her approach to choosing scripts, Yami emphasized the importance of connecting with the story on a personal level. She shared, “I rely on my instincts. I make a conscious effort not to get too comfortable with what I’ve previously done or what I consider my strengths. I don’t over-analyze. The first feeling I get after reading a script—whether it excites me or challenges me—guides my decision. I strive to be as versatile as possible and stay true to my choices. There is always a deliberate effort behind making something appear effortless. It’s about consistently working in a certain direction and taking on roles that push my boundaries.”

Hina Khan proudly flaunts her ‘radiation burns’ during her latest workout session



Hina Khan has been extremely open about her battle with cancer, keeping her fans in the loop every step of the way. She took to the stories section of her Instagram and dropped a photograph from her latest workout session in the gym. Hina Khan proudly flaunted her radiation burns from the treatment and penned a heartfelt note that read, “Radiated skin scars...Also called Radiation burns...It’s ok, the marks will likely fade away over time and we will get through this...There are thousands beautiful things waiting for you my girls...Belief, strength, faith, kindness and gratitude #OneDayAtATime #ScarredNotScared.” Prior to this, Hina Khan dropped a screenshot featuring the veteran actor Dharmendra on her IG stories. The photo is from their recent video call. While Dharmendra posed in a maroon T-shirt, along with a black cap, we can also see a glimpse

of Hina Khan in the pic wearing a grey-hued top. Calling it a blissful “fan moment” she wrote in the caption, “When the OG superman of India appreciates your strength and journey and gives you his warmest blessings..Thank you for video calling me Dharam uncle. I am coming to see you soon. And love you so so much @aapkad-haram.” Meanwhile, Hina Khan recently revealed that she is done with her chemo sessions and is taking immunotherapy at the moment. For the unversed, Hina Khan was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer back in June 2024. Additionally, Hina Khan has been accused by actress and cancer survivor Rozlyn Khan of lying about her medical condition. Rozlyn Khan took to her IG on 20th February and dropped the alleged PET scan reports of Hina Khan in an attempt to expose her lie about her cancer treatment.

‘Nadaaniyan’ co-stars Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor turn into workout buddies

Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor are presently busy promoting their upcoming drama, “Nadaaniyan”. Taking some time off from their busy schedules the co-stars decided to hit the gym together. The Archies’ actress took to the stories section of her IG and dropped a glimpse of her latest workout session with co-star Ibrahim Ali Khan. While these two indulge in some high-intensity exercises together they are also seen having fun with each other. From hitting each other playfully to sharing a laugh, Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor make for perfect gym buddies. “Nadaaniyan” will be premiering on streaming giant Netflix on March 7. While Ibrahim Ali Khan will be seen as Arjun Mehta in his Bollywood debut, Khushi Kapoor will play Pia Jai Singh in “Nadaaniyan”. Mahima Chaudhary, Suniel Shetty, Dia Mirza, and Jugal Hansraj have also been roped in to play supporting roles in the drama. The project dives into the delicate maze of Gen Z romance, where emotions are complicated, and pretending can sometimes feel all too real. The young adult romantic drama revolves around a bold and spirited girl Piya from South Delhi, and a determined middle-class boy, Arjun from Noida. As their two completely opposite worlds collide, they embark on a journey filled with mischief, heart, and the sweet messiness of first love. Helmed by first-time director Shauna Gautam, the drama has been produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra under Dharmatic Entertainment. Adding to the excitement, the maker recently released its second track from “Nadaaniyan” titled “Galatfehmi”. Dropping the song that dives into the complexities of love, the makers wrote on social media, “For the ones who loved, lost, and never got to explain! #Galatfehmi song out now. Link in bio. #Nadaaniyan #NadaaniyanOnNetflix.” Scored by Sachin-Jigar, the track features lyrics penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The soulful number has been crooned by Tushar Joshi and Madhubanti Bagchi.

Anjini Dhawan calls sharing the screen with Salman Khan in ‘Sikandar’ a ‘pinch-me moment’

Actress Anjini Dhawan will be making her big screen debut with Salman Khan’s much-awaited drama “Sikandar”. Talking about her experience of sharing the screen with Salman Khan, she revealed that it was about living a dream she never thought would come true so soon. Anjini Dhawan shared, “It was literally a pinch-me moment! I’ve been such a big fan, and then to be working with him (Salman Khan) was so special.” She further shared that the one thing that kept everyone coming together on the set of “Sikandar” was food. She added that one of the most cherished memories from the shoot was how the entire cast and crew bonded over delicious meals prepared by Salman Khan’s personal chef. She said, “Special memories were everyone bonding over the tasty food Salman sir’s chef made for us every day.” The makers recently unveiled the highly anticipated teaser for “Sikandar,” starring Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna. The preview features Rashmika Mandanna highlighting Salman Khan’s immense popularity, which extends even to his enemies. The clip opens with Salman Khan delivering a power-packed dialogue, “Dadi ne naam Sikandar rakha tha, Dada ne Sanjay aur Praja ne Rajasahab.” The powerful introduction of Salman Khan’s character later transitions into high-energy action sequences, featuring him in his signature larger-than-life style, taking on several enemies effortlessly. The video further includes some catchy one-liners such as “Kayde mein raho, fayde mein rahoge” and “Insaaf nahi, hisab karne aaya hun”. The teaser also gives us an insight into Rashmika Mandanna’s character as Salman Khan’s love interest in the movie.

SEERAT KAPOOR: Revisiting ‘It’s Complicated’ has been an incredible journey



Actress Seerat Kapoor, who portrays the lead role in the film “It’s Complicated”, has expressed her excitement over her film’s re-release. The actor expressed, “Revisiting It’s Complicated has been an incredible journey. The overwhelming response to its re-release is a testament to the film’s enduring connection with audiences. It’s heartwarming to see both longtime fans and new viewers embracing the story with such enthusiasm.” It was in 2011, when Seerat worked as assistant choreographer in Ranbir Kapoor’s Rockstar. She announced in 2014 that she would appear in Run Raja Run opposite Sharwanand, directed by Sujeeth. Run Raja Run was a commercial success. In the same year, she was seen playing the role of Nancy in “Zid”, a thriller, directed by Vivek Agnihotri. The film stars Karanvir Sharma, Mannara Chopra and Shraddha Das in the principal roles. In 2015 Madhu B. and N.V. Prasad signed her to play Ganga in the action film Tiger. Set against the backdrop of Varanasi, the film also starred Sundeep Kishan and Rahul Ravindran. Her next release came alongside Sumanth Ashwin in the R. Shamala directed romantic comedy, Columbus. In October 2017, she completed filming Raju Gari Gadhi 2 opposite Nagarjuna and was filming Touch Chesi Chudu opposite Ravi Teja and Allu Sirish’s Okka Kshanam. She was then seen on Netflix titled Krishna and His Leela. The actress was last seen in “Usha Parinayam”, a Telugu-language romantic drama film directed by K. Vijaya Bhaskar. The film features Sree Kamal, Tanvi Akaansha and Surya Srinivas. Seerat studied in Podar International School and completed her pre-university course at R. D. National College, Bandra. She subsequently enrolled for a Bachelor Of Arts degree in Mass communication, but quit it due to scheduling conflicts with her acting. Ahead of her career in front of the camera, Seerat was a full-time dance instructor at Ashley Lobo’s academy in Mumbai.

Taapsee Pannu celebrates 5 years of ‘Thappad’, asks Anubhav Sinha ‘what next’



As her film “Thappad” completed five years in Hindi cinema, actress Taapsee Pannu celebrated the moment by saying “some associations mark the start of conversations” and asked filmmaker Anubhav Sinha “what next”. Taapsee took to her Instagram, where she shared a picture featuring her and Sinha, who directed “Thappad”, which released in 2020. In the image, the actress’ back is towards the camera holding on to a script and having a conversation with the director, who is sitting opposite her. “Some associations mark the start of conversations. 5 saal aur is Thappad ki goonj abhi bhi utni hi saaf sunaai deti hai jitni taaliyan ki gargarahat aur ab? Sirji What next?! #Thappad #5years #WhatNext.” “(Some associations mark the start of conversations. “Even after 5 years, the echo of this slap is just as clear as the roar of applause.” And now???? Sirji... What next?!” #Thappad #5years #WhatNext).” The film, which also stars Pavai Gulati and Dia Mirza, follows the story of a woman named Amrita, who leads a content life with her husband, Vikram. However, their happiness is shattered

when he slaps her at an office party causing her to file for a divorce. The actress will next be seen in the actioner “Gandhari”, where she will be seen doing her own stunts. It was reported that she aced the action sequences flawlessly. “Gandhari” promises a riveting storyline filled with relentless determination and intense personal stakes, set against the backdrop of gripping mystery and high-powered action. Audiences will see Taapsee Pannu as a fierce mom on a mission,” reads the plot description from streaming giant Netflix, reports variety.com. “Gandhari”, which also stars Ishwak Singh, marks Kanika Dhillon and Taapsee’s sixth collaboration after back-to-back success with “Manmarziyaan”, “Haseen Dilluba”, “Phir Aayi Haseen Dilluba” and many more. “Gandhari” is the second project under Kanika Dhillon’s banner Katha Pictures post the success of mystery drama “Do Patti” and for this action drama the ace producer has roped in highly acclaimed director Devashish Makhija known for his movies like “Bhonsle”, “Joram” and others. Taapsee was last seen in “Khel Khel Mein” directed by Mudassar Aziz. It also Akshay Kumar, Fardeen Khan, Taapsee Pannu, Vaani Kapoor, Ammy Virk, Aditya Seal and Pragya Jaiswal.

Want to recover from lung damage due to infections during monsoon season? Follow THESE tips



The monsoon season in India brings with it a much-needed respite from the scorching heat, but it also marks the arrival of a host of respiratory ailments. From common colds to severe pneumonia, the damp, humid conditions create an ideal breeding ground for various pathogens. This can lead to

lung damage, which, while often temporary, can be a cause for concern.

Understanding the Impact When we spoke to Dr Ashish Kumar Prakash, Associate Director, Respiratory & Sleep Medicine, Medanta, Gurugram, he said that the human lung is a delicate

organ and is one of the internal organs in direct contact with the extent environment hence any infection can potentially cause damage to it. Common monsoon infections like bronchitis, pneumonia, and even the flu can inflame the lung tissue, leading to symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, and chest pain. In severe cases, it can result in fluid accumulation in the lungs, making breathing extremely difficult.

While most cases of lung damage due to monsoon infections heal with proper treatment, it's crucial to understand that the lungs are not invincible. Repeated infections and exposure to irritants (pollutants) can lead to chronic respiratory issues, such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Tips for Recovery Recovery from lung dam-

age depends on several factors, including the severity of the infection, the overall health of the individual, and the timely initiation of appropriate treatment.

Medical Intervention: Antibiotics are often prescribed for bacterial infections. In severe cases, hospitalization might be necessary for oxygen therapy and other supportive measures.

Rest: Adequate rest is essential for the body to fight off infection and repair damaged tissue.

Hydration: Drinking plenty of fluids helps thin mucus and aids in recovery.

Healthy Diet: A balanced diet rich in vitamins and minerals supports overall lung health.

Avoid Irritants: Smoking and exposure to pollution can further aggravate lung damage. Avoiding these irritants is crucial.

What happens when TLC increases in blood? Recognise the early symptoms to stay away from serious diseases

Due to leukocytosis (high white blood cell count), your health may face several serious issues. If you do not control high white blood cell count in time, then your health can be badly damaged. Excessive white blood cell count in the body can hurt your immune system. Due to an increase in TLC in the blood, your immunity can become very weak.

One can become a victim of serious diseases if they have increased TLC

Due to high white blood cell count, your body will face difficulty in fighting infections and diseases. If more white blood cells develop in your body than required, then the risk of serious and life-threatening diseases like blood cancer can also increase. Apart from this, high white blood cell count can also increase the chances of bone marrow disorders to a great extent. To protect yourself from such problems, it is very important to control high white blood cell count.

It is important to recognise the symptoms Do you know how to identify high white blood cell count? If not, then you should know about some of its warning signs. Due to high white blood cell count, you may experience symptoms like fever, fatigue, pain and difficulty in breathing. Apart from this, you should also be careful if you sweat while sleeping at night. Sudden weight loss or rash can be a sign of high white blood cell count.

What are the major mental disorders faced by youth? Know how to curb this burden

Emotional disorders are common among youngsters, especially adolescents. According to World Health Organisation (WHO), 3.6% of 10-14-year-olds and 4.6% of 15-19-year-olds experience an anxiety disorder. Depression is estimated to occur among 1.1% of adolescents aged 10-14 years, and 2.8% of 15-19-year-olds. Mental health issues among youngsters are a major global concern that impacts millions of young people and presents formidable obstacles for individuals, families, and communities. Owing to the intricate interactions between biological, psychological, and social elements that come

with this crucial developmental stage, adolescents and young adults are especially susceptible to mental health problems. India is the country with the highest youth population in the world. According to the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), India is the country with the highest youth population in the world, 6-7% of the population suffers from mental health disorders. Know about the major mental disorders faced by youth

Depression, anxiety disorders, ADHD, eating disorders, behavioural disorders, and substance use disorders are common mental health issues among youth.

Depression manifests as persistent sadness, loss of interest, and changes in sleep and appetite, impacting academic performance, social interactions, and daily functioning.

Anxiety disorders, such as generalized anxiety, social anxiety, and panic disorder, stem from academic pressure, social challenges, or traumatic experiences. Behavioural disorders, like ODD and conduct disorder, involve defiant or aggressive behaviour, leading to conflicts with authority figures and peers. When we spoke to Dr Lav Kaushik, M.B.B.S, M.D Psychiatry, Consultant Psychiatrist, Sarvodaya

Hospital and Research Centre, he said that the emergence of social media, academic pressure, and the COVID-19 pandemic's after-effects have led to an increase in mental health issues, especially among the younger generation. Cyberbullying, constant exposure to internet content, and pressure to live up to social norms have increased stress and anxiety among the youth. Furthermore, young people are frequently discouraged from seeking care due to the stigma associated with mental health disorders, which can result in untreated conditions that deteriorate over time.

What is the role of raw garlic in cholesterol management? Know here



A bad lifestyle affects many parts of your body. Problems ranging from diabetes to high cholesterol worsen due to lifestyle and can only be controlled through lifestyle. When bad cholesterol increases in the body, the risk of heart attack and stroke increases. To control cholesterol in the body, first of all, change your eating habits. For this, make some vegetables and Ayurvedic remedies a part of your daily routine. This will help in making the body disease-free and reducing bad cholesterol.

Include such things in your daily routine that you can keep as a part of your lifestyle for a long time. Garlic is a very effective remedy for this. Include raw garlic in your food.

This can easily reduce bad cholesterol and increase triglycerides. Garlic is also considered effective in controlling high blood pressure. If you want, increase the amount of garlic in your food or include garlic chutney and pickles in your diet. How to eat garlic to reduce bad cholesterol

Eating garlic on an empty stomach in the morning is considered most beneficial for a patient with high cholesterol. Garlic can be easily chewed and eaten. If the taste seems bitter, you can drink some water after that. Bad cholesterol can be reduced by eating garlic in this way. Raw garlic contains an element called allicin which reduces cholesterol. Garlic also thins the blood. This improves blood circulation in the body and also reduces pressure on the heart. The risk of heart attack and stroke is also reduced.

Benefits of eating garlic and honey

Garlic tastes a little bitter, so people who have trouble eating raw garlic can eat it with honey. For this, dip the garlic clove in honey and eat it. This will make the taste of garlic less bitter and you will also get all the benefits of eating raw garlic. If you want, you can chop garlic, mix it with honey and store it in a box for a week.



Mouth ulcers, also known as canker sores, are small, painful lesions that develop on the soft tissues inside your mouth, including your gums, tongue, or inner cheeks. Although they are generally harmless, they can be quite uncomfortable, making eating, drinking, and even talking difficult. Understanding the causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment options can help manage these pesky sores more effectively.

Causes of Mouth Ulcers The exact cause of mouth ulcers isn't always clear, but several factors can contribute to their development:

Injury or Trauma: Accidentally biting your cheek, brushing your teeth too hard, or wearing poorly fitted dentures can cause mouth ulcers.

Stress and Anxiety: Emotional stress can weaken your immune system, making you more susceptible to mouth ulcers.

Dietary Deficiencies: Lack of essential nutrients like vitamin B12, iron, and folic acid can lead to the development of ulcers.

Food Sensitivities: Certain foods, such as citrus fruits, spicy foods, and acidic vegetables, can trigger or worsen mouth ulcers in some people.

Are you a smoking addict? 5 essential medical tests you must consider



Smoking addiction can lead to a plethora of health issues, often lurking beneath the surface. If you're a smoker, it's crucial to stay on top of your health to prevent or detect problems early on. Here are 5 essential medical tests you should consider to ensure your body is functioning at its best, despite the harmful effects of smoking.

1. Chest X-Ray A chest X-ray is crucial for monitoring the health of your lungs. It helps detect abnormalities such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, and even lung cancer. Regular chest X-rays can provide early signs of lung damage or disease, allowing for prompt treatment.

2. Lung Function Test (Spirometry) Spirometry measures how well your lungs are functioning by assessing how much air you can inhale and exhale and how quickly. This test is important for diagnosing conditions like asthma and COPD, which are more common in smokers. It can also help track the pro-

gression of lung diseases and the effectiveness of any treatments.

3. CT Scan of Lungs A CT scan provides a more detailed image of the lungs compared to a standard X-ray. It is often used for a more thorough examination if there are abnormal findings or if you have a history of heavy smoking. This test can help in early detection of lung cancer and other serious conditions.

4. Blood Tests Regular blood tests can help monitor overall health and detect issues related to smoking. Key tests include:

Complete Blood Count (CBC): Assesses overall health and detects conditions such as anemia and infections.

Lipid Profile: Measures cholesterol levels to assess heart disease risk, which is elevated in smokers.

Carboxyhemoglobin Levels: Measures the level of carbon monoxide in the blood, which is higher in smokers and can indicate how smoking is affecting your body.

5. Heart Health Screening Smokers are at a higher risk for cardiovascular diseases. Regular screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and an electrocardiogram (ECG) can help monitor heart health and detect issues such as hypertension, coronary artery disease, and irregular heart rhythms early.

For smokers, staying on top of your health is crucial. These tests can help identify problems early and manage them effectively. Make sure to discuss these tests with your healthcare provider to keep your health in check and reduce the risk of serious health issues.

Men are twice as likely as women to develop psoriasis, say experts

It is noteworthy that, according to doctors on Wednesday, men are twice as likely as women to have psoriasis. August is designated as Psoriasis Awareness Month each year. An autoimmune skin condition called psoriasis causes thick, red, scaly areas on the scalp, lower back, and elbows.

Environmental and genetic variables play a role, with men more susceptible because of differences in hormones, genetic predispositions, and lifestyle choices.

What is psoriasis? Psoriasis is a long-term skin disorder marked by thick, red, scaly skin patches caused by a fast buildup of skin cells. The elbows, knees, lower back, and scalp are the most often affected areas. This is an autoimmune disease that causes a cluster of immature skin cells.

Symptoms include Itchy or burning feelings Swollen nails dry Cracked skin Red areas covered in silvery scales

While there is no cure, medications and lifestyle changes can help manage the condition and prevent problems.

"Notably, psoriasis seems to affect men more frequently than women. Men can additionally delay getting medical help, which could result in symptoms that are worse by the time they are diagnosed. Itchy or burning feelings, swollen or pitted nails, dry, cracked skin that may bleed, and red areas of skin coated in silvery scales are typical signs of psoriasis. Although there isn't a cure for psoriasis, there are medications and lifestyle modifications that can help control the con-

dition and avoid problems," said Dr Ruben Bhasin Passi, Consultant - Dermatology, C.K. Birla Hospital Gurugram.

Psoriasis prevalence is influenced by hormonal differences, genetic predisposition, environmental and occupational exposure, and immune system differences. Oestrogen, a hormone with anti-inflammatory properties, is higher in women, while testosterone, predominant in men, may exacerbate inflammatory pathways.

What causes psoriasis in men? Men may inherit certain genes linked to immune system regulation and skin cell turnover, increasing their susceptibility to the condition. Environmental triggers like stress, smoking, and alcohol consumption, as well as occupational hazards, can exacerbate psoriasis symptoms. Men's immune systems tend to mount more aggressive inflammatory responses, leading to an increased risk of autoimmune conditions like psoriasis.

"Psoriasis prevalence is influenced by hormonal differences, genetic predisposition, environmental and occupational exposure, and immune system differences. Women have higher oestrogen levels, while men have predominant testosterone. Men inherit genes linked to immune system regulation, environmental triggers, and occupational hazards. The psychological impact is profound," said Dr Rashmi Aderao, dermatology consultant at Pune's Ruby Hall Clinic. "Men can additionally delay getting medical help, which could result in symptoms that are worse by the time they are diagnosed," Dr Passi added.

Grappling in pain with Mouth Ulcers? Know causes, symptoms, prevention and ways to cure these sores

Hormonal Changes: Hormonal fluctuations during menstruation or pregnancy can increase the likelihood of developing mouth ulcers.

Underlying Medical Conditions: Conditions like Crohn's disease, celiac disease, and certain autoimmune disorders can cause recurrent mouth ulcers.

Symptoms of Mouth Ulcers Mouth ulcers typically present with the following symptoms:

A round or oval sore inside your mouth with a white, yellow, or gray center surrounded by a red border.

A burning or tingling sensation before the sore appears.

Pain or discomfort, particularly when eating, drinking, or talking.

In severe cases, fever, swollen lymph nodes, and general malaise may accompany the ulcers.

Prevention of Mouth Ulcers Preventing mouth ulcers involves taking steps to avoid known triggers:

Maintain Good Oral Hygiene: Brushing your teeth gently with a soft-bristled toothbrush and flossing regularly can help prevent injury

to the mouth lining.

Manage Stress: Stress-reducing techniques like meditation, yoga, or deep breathing exercises can help reduce the risk of mouth ulcers.

Eat a Balanced Diet: Ensure your diet is rich in essential vitamins and minerals to avoid deficiencies that could lead to ulcers.

Avoid Trigger Foods: If you know certain foods trigger your ulcers, try to avoid them. This may include acidic, spicy, or highly processed foods.

Stay Hydrated: Drinking plenty of water helps keep your mouth hydrated and can prevent the development of ulcers.

Ways to Cure Mouth Ulcers

While most mouth ulcers heal on their own within 1 to 2 weeks, several remedies can help alleviate the pain and speed up the healing process:

Over-the-counter medications: Gels, ointments, or mouthwashes containing benzocaine, hydrocortisone, or other pain-relief ingredients can help reduce discomfort.

NHIDCL to re-sanction Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel under MoRTH: Dy CM

Over 3.7 lakh unemployed youth register on employment portal

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

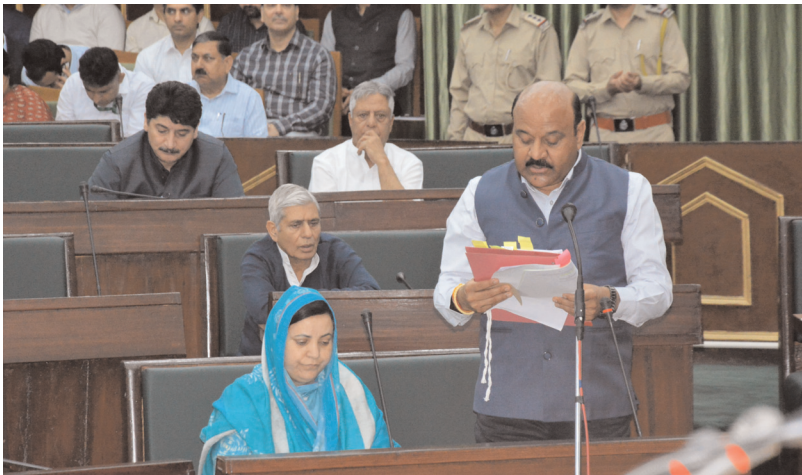
Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel will be re-sanctioned by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under the Ministry for Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH).

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Payare Lal Sharma.

He informed the House that bids were invited for Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel, which was annulled due to administrative reasons. He said that the project was sanctioned under Bharat-mala Pariyojna Phase-I, which was ceased and the said project requires sanction under NH (O) scheme of MoRTH.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the matter has been taken up with MoRTH for re-sanction of the Project by the NHIDCL and the bids will be invited pursuant to sanction of the project from MoRTH. He further informed that there is no proposal under consideration for Changer, Bhoonda, Choidraman, Warwan, Dardpora and Vailoo Tunnels.

Mohammad Chowdhary Akram



raised the supplementary to the question.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that a total of 370811 unemployed youth including 240502 males and 130309 females have been registered on the Employment Portal ending January, 2025.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ali Mohammad Sagar.

The Minister informed the House that registration of the unemployed educated youth is a voluntary process and job seekers register themselves on the Employment Portal to access different Self Employment Schemes. He apprised that, as of February 2 2025, a total of 558870 potential entrepreneurs have been surveyed under the Baseline Survey of Mission YUVA. The survey revealed 154695 employed, 347247 unemployed and 56928 unregistered potential entrepreneurs.

He further informed that 12524 selections and appointments have been made during the past two years by the JKPSC and JKSSB in the government sector.

Besides, the Minister informed that 246 job fairs have been organised across J&K in which 4893 job seekers were given on spot placements and 6640 were recommended for different skill training.

Govt working tirelessly to meet infrastructural needs of new Colleges: Sakeena Itoo

243 Doctors, Paramedics deployed in Ramnagar Constituency

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the government is actively working on meeting the infrastructural needs of newly established Degree Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Abdul Majeed Bhat.

She said that the government is pursuing infrastructural needs vis; land, buildings and related things of the 50 new Colleges established vide Government Order No: 48-HE of 2019 Dated: 05.02.2019 and Government Order No: 106-HE of 2019 Dated: 01.03.2019.

The Minister said that establishment of new Degree Colleges involves huge capital by way of creation of staff including both the Teaching and Non-Teaching, besides infrastructural requirements and a good chunk of land.

Regarding establishment of a Degree College in Achabal, she said that the Department is receiving demands for establishment of new Degree Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir which includes a request with regard to Achabal for which feasibility is being sought as per the norms in vogue on the subject.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that out of 252 sanctioned posts of Doctors, Paramedics, Non-Gazetted, 142 have been filled up and an additional staff of 101 Doctors and Paramedics have been deployed under the National Health Mission to improve healthcare in remote areas of Ramnagar Constituency.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the House



that, out of 365 newly appointed Medical Officers, 17 have been posted in Udhampur while selection process for 181 Medical Officer posts is still underway with the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). “Once the selections are received, the appointed doctors will be assigned to health institutions experiencing severe staff shortages” she added.

The Minister informed that in addition to this, the department is also in the process of operating the waitlist for 91 selected Medical Officers. She said that, additionally, 292 vacancies in non-gazetted, paramedical categories from the Directorate of Family Welfare and 290 from the Directorate of Health Services have been referred for recruitment to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board to strengthen the healthcare in the region.

Regarding Ramnagar Constituency, the Minister informed that 51 health institutions have been sanctioned with 19 in government buildings, 29 in rented buildings and 3 in other departmental

buildings.

The Minister said that construction and repair work on nine institutes was initiated, out of which, six have been completed and three are under execution. Additionally, initiatives like e-Sanjeevni, Tele-radiology, Tele-Manas and implementation of National Health Mission schemes, Pradhan Mantri AB-HIM and PMJAY-SEHAT are strengthening the healthcare services immensely for the UT populace, the Minister informed. The Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir, with 554 NT-PHCs as of now, is among the top in health institution density in the country, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s 2023 report. The region is working on consolidation of existing health facilities with over 4,200 health institutions across primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The creation and upgradation of health institutions will follow the IPHS-2022 guidelines, which serve as the benchmarks for developing or upgrading the existing healthcare facilities.

Govt aims to boost farmer income, productivity & sustainability: Javed Dar

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

Minister for Agriculture, Javed Ahmad Dar, today said that the government is focused on revolutionizing agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir with emphasis on enhancing farmer’s income, productivity and sustainability.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ranbir Singh.

He informed the House regarding key initiatives being undertaken to transform the agriculture sector in J&K. These included introduction of advanced technology, crop diversification, soil health management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), financial support and subsidies, Research and Development, Training and Capacity Building, Infrastructure Development, Market Linkages and Promotion of Agro-based Industries.

The Minister further said that various schemes have been initiated by the government to extend financial assistance to unemployed youth in the agriculture sector under Interest Subvention and

Credit Linked Schemes including KCC, AIF, AHIDF, PMFME and NLM.

He added that several initiatives have been undertaken to promote agricultural growth and sustainability in the UT, as part of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). These included Custom Hiring Centres, Hi-Tech Polygreen Houses, Controlled Cropping Mushroom Unit, Establishment of Pasteurized Compost Unit, Apiculture, KKG, Millet Restaurants, Establishment of Millet Mills, Establishment of Mini Soil Testing Labs, Establishment of Seed Processing Units, Dairy development projects, Self Sufficiency in Mutton Production, Poultry Development Project, Fish Seed and Trout Production besides Fodder production.

The Minister said that, similarly, many other schemes have been initiated under the Agriculture Sector Centrally Sponsored Schemes. These included Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Soil Health Card, Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM), Per Drop More Crop scheme,

Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Sub Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF), Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) besides Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP).

The Minister informed that 4.14 lakh hectare of total land has been brought under Culturable Command Area (CCA), of which, 1.91 lakh hectare has already been covered. Besides, 0.33 lakh hectare is being covered under new projects to facilitate the farmers to overcome irrigation challenges.

He said that 18 irrigation projects are currently being implemented with financial assistance from NABARD while 14 additional projects have been sanctioned under RIDF with an outlay of Rs 4883.54 lakh to cater 11678 Hectare of land in J&K. He added that 200 community bore wells are under construction under the Per Drop More Crop scheme.

Corps Commander Reviews Security Situation In Rajouri-Poonch Sector

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

General Officer Commanding (GOC), White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, visited the Rajouri-Poonch sector on Monday to review the prevailing security situation in the region.

The GOC commended the troops for their professionalism in challenging conditions and exhorted them to maintain a high state of morale and motivation.

The strategic “Ace of Spades” division, also known as the 25 Infantry division with headquarters in Rajouri town, is responsible for guarding the Line of Control (LoC) in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir.

“The GOC White Knight Corps, along with GOC Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo) and GOC Ace of



Spades division and GoC Delta force visited the division to assess the security situation,” the White Knight Corps said on X.

He received a briefing on the current

operational readiness and modalities.

The GOC praised the forces and urged all ranks to maintain high morale and professionalism to face future challenges. (Agencies)

Over Rs 1833 lakh released for G&B Hostels, Rs 294 lakh for Pahari Hostels under DIET: Satish Sharma

Govt intends to eliminate bogus, ineligible ration cards

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAR 24

Minister for FCS&CA, Satish Sharma, today said that funds worth Rs 1833.40 lakh have been released for Gujar and Bakarwal Hostels across Jammu and Kashmir during the current financial year under DIET head.

The Minister was replying to a question, on behalf of the Minister for Tribal Affairs, raised by Ifikhar Ahmad.

Regarding the Gujar and Bakarwal Hostels, the Minister informed the House that, during the current financial year 2024-25, funds to the tune of Rs. 1833.40 lakh including Rs. 1801.90 lakh under Major Head and Rs. 31.50 lakh under sub-head were released in favour of the 28 G&B Hostels, having an intake capacity of 3000 students.

The Minister, while speaking about the Pahari Hostel, said that Rs. 294.00 lakh have been released under the DIET head for the financial year 2024-25 and the grant has been disbursed for intake capacity of 700 inmates in respect of 09 Boys/Girls Pahari Hostels. The Pahari Board has desired to enhance the diet/food charges due to expensive essential commodities and other daily needed items in the market, he added.

He said that Rs 541.18 lakh were released under Article 275 (1) of the constitution of India for welfare of Scheduled Tribes in Rajouri Constituency during 2024-25. Out of which, Rs 328.63 have been spent, so far, on various projects including construction of Eklavya Model Residential School in Gurdhanbala, construction of roads, pathways, harvesting tank among other projects.

The Minister added that there are 76 ongoing projects worth Rs 270.75 lakh under UT CAPEX in the Rajouri Constituency being executed under the Tribal Plan.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, today said that the government intends to



make all endeavours to eliminate bogus and ineligible ration cards as a continuous process.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Mir Saifullah.

He informed the House that the General Administration Department has ordered a verification of beneficiaries to make the PDS database clean and credible. He added that the Government of India has advised the States/UTs to undertake proper verification and remove undeserving beneficiaries from the ration cards from time to time

The Minister said that the process of verification has been ordered to include and retain genuine beneficiaries under PDS and weed the undeserving beneficiaries so as to meet the requirements of Targeted Public Distribution System. He said that every AAY household receives 35 Kg of food grains every month while every PHH beneficiary receives 5Kg of food grains every month, free of cost, under the ambitious National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The Minister assured the House that the order issued by the GAD for verification of beneficiaries shall be put on hold.

G.A Mir, Sajjad Gani Lone, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Syed Bashir Veeri and Mehraj Malik raised the supplementary to the question.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, today said that the Department is contemplating opening of 1600 new Fair Price Shops across J&K, as part of Jammu and Kashmir Targeted Public Distribution. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ajaz Ahmad Jan. The Minister today informed the House that the government intends to rope in the elected members to firm up new Fair Price Shops in J&K. He added that the uncovered underserved panchayat areas shall be prioritized for opening of these new Fair Price Shops.

He apprised that food grains are being provided to different categories in accordance with the entitlement prescribed under NFSA. Additionally, a top up upto 10 Kg is also being provided to an eligible household in PHH category under J&K Government run scheme of PMFSS, he added.

The Minister said that there is also a proposal in the Annual Financial Statement of 2025-26 to provide additional free food grains in the context of AAY households only.

He said that the Department does not maintain any updation lists of the beneficiaries, however, complete details of the beneficiaries under all the groups are available on RCMS portal, which is in public domain and can be accessed at rcms.jk.gov.in.

Nasha Mukht Bharat IEC Campaign conducted in Doda, Thathri

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAR 24

An Information, Education and Communication campaign was conducted under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan here at Community Hall Doda and Dak Bungalow Thathri.

The twin events were held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Tariq Qazi to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of community involvement in combating the menace of drugs.

A comprehensive training program was held for Panchayat-wise Resource Persons as part of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign against drug abuse. The initiative aimed to equip resource persons with the necessary knowledge and skills to spread awareness at the grassroots level and sensitize communities about the dan-



gers of substance abuse.

The participants were trained on the causes, effects, and preventive measures related to drug addiction, along with strategies to engage youth, parents, and educators in the fight against this growing menace.

Emphasis was placed on early intervention, counseling support, and the role of self-help groups in rehabilitation. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a drug-free society by strengthening awareness programs, enforcing strict measures against drug peddling, and encouraging community participation in the fight against substance abuse.

A large gathering of students, youth, community members, and officials from various departments participated in the campaign. The event featured interactive sessions, motivational talks, and awareness skits emphasizing the harmful effects of drug addiction. Health professionals and social welfare experts also addressed the audience, discussing the psychological, social, and legal consequences of substance abuse.

District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi provided insights into government initiatives under the Nasha Mukht Bharat program and stressed the importance of early intervention and reha-

habilitation support. He highlighted the role of collective action in combating drug addiction and encouraged community members to actively participate in awareness drives.

The event concluded with participants taking a pledge to contribute towards a drug-free society. The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment to conducting regular awareness drives, strengthening community participation, and ensuring strict action against drug trafficking. Through continued collective efforts, the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in Doda and Thathri aims to foster a healthier and drug-free community.