

# Omar advances tribal empowerment for Gujjar-Bakerwals: Gupta

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta reiterated Party's firm commitment to the welfare, empowerment and overall development of the Gujjar and Bakerwal tribal communities, in line with the party's long-standing vision of social justice and inclusive growth. Addressing a workers' meeting in Ward No 32 Gujjar Basti Om Nagar Jammu, Gupta said that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is actively steering tribal welfare programmes to ensure the all-round progress of these marginalized communities.

Gupta highlighted that the National Conference has historically championed the cause of Gujjar and Bakerwal communities. During previous NC Govt's, several landmark initiatives such as the establishment of



mobile schools and hostels were introduced to ensure access to education and opportunities for nomadic tribal populations.

Carrying forward this legacy, the present government has intensified efforts to strengthen tribal welfare through focused policy initiatives and infrastructure development. Tribal Affairs Minister Javed Ahmed Rana has been holding interactive sessions and high-level reviews to address key issues

related to education, health-care, and infrastructure in tribal areas. "The government is prioritizing the construction and upgradation of Gujjar-Bakerwal hostels, establishment of smart schools in tribal belts under the Dharti Aaba Mission, and deployment of Mobile Medical Units to ensure healthcare access in remote areas. Steps are also being taken to resolve land-related issues for hostels and expedite the establishment of

Tribal Bhawan in Jammu" Gupta added.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Gupta said that the National Conference will continue to safeguard the rights of Scheduled Tribes and work tirelessly to ensure their socio-economic upliftment, development, and dignity across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the meeting Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC

Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, and Satpal Karlopa former corporator said that the extension of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to Jammu and Kashmir has begun, its implementation remains incomplete, and urges the Government of India to ensure its full and effective enforcement so that eligible forest-dwelling communities can meaningfully exercise their statutory rights.

Earlier Choudhary Rafiq highlighted the problems faced by the Gujjar and Bhakerwal community such as drinking water, electricity, road and lack of basic amenities faced by the people in the area. The functionaries unanimously condemned assassination attempt on Dr. Farooq sahib calling it direct attack on regions identity, democracy and the tallest citadel of pluralism. They called for thorough investigation and stern action against culprits.

# Kesri raises alarm over LPG black marketing in J&K, vows vigilant action

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

In a strong move against profiteering, Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K president Pandit Rajesh Kesri today condemned the black-marketing of domestic LPG cylinders in Jammu and Kashmir, accusing certain agencies and delivery personnel of charging exorbitant rates ranging from Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,300 per cylinder despite official assurances of "no shortage" by the government. Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Kesri described such overcharging as a criminal act and demanded immediate registration of FIRs and stringent action against those found violating the government-notified rates. He warned that Shiv Sena volunteers would soon be posted outside LPG distribution outlets to ensure that genuine consumers are not exploited and can access cylinders at the official prices. Kesri highlighted that the government has main-



tained uninterrupted supplies of LPG, diesel, and petrol, emphasizing that any attempt by agencies or their delivery staff to profiteer is entirely illegal. He urged distributors to enforce strict compliance among their employees and display clear boards showing official prices at all distribution points to prevent further malpractice. He also added that black-marketeers would be immediately handed over to the nearest police station if caught. The press conference saw participation from senior party leaders, including Border Cell Head Sanjeev Sharma, Vice-Chairman Raj

Kumar, Secretary Raj Kumar, Treasurer Praveen Gupta, and members Darshana Devi, Neeru Devi, and Anu Devi, who collectively supported Kesri's call for transparency and accountability in LPG distribution.

The party reiterated its commitment to protecting consumer rights and ensuring fair access to essential commodities in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that citizens will be closely assisted to prevent exploitation. Kesri concluded by warning that Shiv Sena Hindustan would actively monitor distribution points and take strict action against anyone found flouting the law, underscoring the party's resolve to safeguard public interest. This move comes amid rising concerns over irregularities in LPG distribution, and Shiv Sena Hindustan's proactive approach aims to curb black-marketing while reinforcing accountability among distributors and delivery personnel.

# Two Hippopotamuses arrive safely at Jammu Zoo via Rail in landmark wildlife transfer

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

In yet another successful example of effective coordination between the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir, and the Indian Railways, two hippopotamuses transported from Chennai were safely received at Jammu Railway Station on Thursday before being shifted to the Jammu Zoo. The animals were transported in a specially arranged parcel coach attached to Train No. 16031 (Andaman Express) from Chennai Central. Covering a distance of about 2,804 kilometres, the journey was completed in nearly 51 hours—considerably faster and less stressful than road transport. A dedicated team of wildlife experts and vet-

erinarians accompanied the animals throughout the journey to ensure their well-being. The team closely monitored the hippopotamuses and ensured regular supply of food and water during the transit. Officials described the operation as a major achievement for the Jammu Division in the field of long-distance wildlife transportation. The successful transfer was made possible through close coordination between officials of the J&K Wildlife Department and the Railways.

Experts note that rail transport is often considered safer and more comfortable for animals during long-distance transfers compared to road transport, as it reduces travel stress and ensures smoother movement. The arrival of the two hippopotamuses is

expected to enhance the attractions at Jammu Zoo and give a boost to tourism in the region. Speaking on the occasion, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said that railway staff and wildlife experts worked in close coordination throughout the 51-hour journey to ensure the safe and hassle-free transport of the animals.

He also recalled another significant wildlife transfer carried out earlier this month. On March 3, two Himalayan Black Bears and two Leopard Cats were successfully transported from Jammu to Chennai via Train No. 16032, marking another milestone in coordinated wildlife logistics between the Railways and the Wildlife Department.

# Drug peddler arrested with heroin in Kathua

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**KATHUA, MAR 13:**

Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested a drug peddler and recovered approximately 6.35 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance during a crackdown on drug trafficking in the jurisdiction of Police Post Hatli. Acting on reliable information, a police team intercepted a suspicious person riding a motorcycle near Shamsan Ghat Barmora area. During questioning, the accused identified himself as Akshay Kumar, son of Kala Ram, resident of Changran, Tehsil and District Kathua. During the search, around 6.35 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession and the motorcycle bearing registration number PB06AP-1211 was also seized. A case FIR No. 126/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Kathua and further investigation is underway. Police appealed to the public to share information about drug-related activities on helpline numbers 112 or 9858034100, assuring that the identity of informants will remain confidential.

# Two bovine smuggling attempts foiled; eight animals rescued

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

Continuing its drive under Operation Kamdhenu, Jammu Rural Police foiled two bovine smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Jhajjar Kotli and rescued eight bovine animals. In the first incident, a police team intercepted a Mahindra Bolero Load Carrier (JK03L-9149) during vehicle checking at Naka Point Panjal. On seeing the police, the driver fled from the spot. During inspection, four bovines were found loaded in the vehicle in a cruel manner. The animals were rescued and the vehicle seized. FIR No. 29/2026 under Section 223 of BNS and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act has been registered. In another incident, police laid a naka at Nadhal on Battal Dhar Road. On noticing the police party, the driver of a Scorpio vehicle (JK02AJ-5859) stopped the vehicle about 200 meters before the naka and fled. During checking, four bovines were found loaded illegally. The animals were rescued and the vehicle seized. FIR No. 30/2026 under Section 223 of BNS and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act has been registered. Investigation in both cases is underway.

# Kathua Police organize 'Thana Diwas' to address public grievances

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**KATHUA, MAR 13:**

As part of the ongoing public outreach initiative "Thana Diwas," District Police Kathua organised programmes at multiple locations to strengthen police-public relations and address grievances of citizens. The events were held at Police Station Kathua, Police Station Hiranagar, Police Station Billawar and Police Station Bani. Senior police officers, including Additional SP Kathua Rahul Charak, DySP Headquarters Ravinder Singh, and SHO PS Kathua Inspector Ashish Sharma, interacted with the public during the programme at Police Station Kathua. Similar programmes were organised at Dinga Amb under Police Station Hiranagar, Kohag under Police Station Billawar and Chandal under Police Station Bani under the supervision of senior officers. A large number of civil society members, PRI representatives and local residents participated and raised various issues related to tenant verification, drug trafficking, installation of CCTV cameras, traffic management and maintenance of law and order. Police officers also sensitised participants about the prevailing security situation and requested them to inform police immediately about any suspicious activity or unknown persons. Addressing the gathering, officers stressed the importance of community policing in strengthening public trust and combating crime, with special emphasis on tackling drug abuse. Senior Superintendent of Police Kathua Mohita Sharma reiterated that District Police Kathua remains committed to transparency, accountability and close cooperation with the public in maintaining law and order.

# CPI condemns attack attempt on Farooq Abdullah

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

The Communist Party of India (J&K) has strongly criticized the attempted attack on National Conference president and former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah. A meeting was convened today at the CPI office in Jammu where party leader Comrade Rakesh Sharma termed the incident as serious and deeply concerning. He said that violence of this nature cannot be accepted as it harms the democratic fabric and political atmosphere of the region. Rakesh stressed the need for a thorough investigation into the incident and called for identifying any lapses in the security arrangements. He asserted that those responsible must be brought to justice. He further stated that political representatives must be allowed to carry out their responsibilities without fear or pressure. He also expressed satisfaction that Dr. Abdullah escaped unharmed and urged the authorities to enhance security arrangements to avoid such incidents in the future. Rakesh added that any effort to create panic or disturb peace through violent activities should be handled with strict action. CPI State Committee members Com. Ashwani Kapoor, Com. Amarjeet Singh, Com. Sanjay Kotwal and Com. Rajinder Kumar also spoke during the meeting.

# AESL signs MoU with Army, BSF to support education of personnel's families

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a leading national test preparatory institute, has signed separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Indian Army to support the welfare and educational aspirations of defence personnel and their families. The initiative aims to extend academic opportunities to serving personnel, retirees, gallantry awardees, personnel with disabilities, and families of those who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Under the MoU, AESL will provide linked scholarships to eligible personnel and their dependents who enrol at any AESL centre across India. These scholarships will complement the institute's existing merit-based scholarship programmes, thereby expanding access to quality coaching and academic guidance.

To ensure wider accessibility, AESL will conduct national scholarship and talent identification assessments such as the Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam (ANTHE) and other similar tests at designated Defence school facilities as well as

AESL centres across the country. This arrangement is expected to make it easier for eligible candidates from defence families to participate and benefit from the programme.

For BSF personnel and their families, the scholarship package includes a 100 per cent waiver on tuition and other academic charges (except registration/admission fees) for the wards of personnel who lost their lives in service. A 90 per cent tuition fee waiver will be granted to wards of gallantry awardees and personnel with more than 20 per cent disability will receive a 50 per cent waiver on tuition fees, while wards of serving and retired personnel will be entitled to a 20 per cent tuition fee concession after the adjustment of other scholarships.

Speaking on the initiative, Mr. Chandra Sekhar Garisa Reddy, MD & CEO of Aakash Educational Services Limited, said that education remains the strongest foundation for a brighter future. He noted that the partnership with the Indian Army and BSF is a tribute to the sacrifices of the nation's brave soldiers and aims to empower their families through quality education, mentoring, and counselling. In addition to financial assistance, the MoUs also include provisions for academic mentoring, career guidance, and counselling services for students through both virtual and physical platforms. The scholarship programmes will be widely promoted through defence units and institutions to ensure that eligible students are aware of the opportunities and can apply for them. The newly introduced scholarship will operate alongside AESL's existing scholarship schemes, which are open to students across the country seeking admission to its coaching programmes.

# CLUJ Signs MoU with employability life to establish future of work lab

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

In a significant step towards enhancing global career readiness among students, the Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Employability. life, a wholly owned subsidiary of Federation University Australia. The collaboration aims to establish a Future of Work Lab that will equip students with internationally recognised micro credentials and practical skills required for the evolving global workforce. Through this partnership, students of Cluster University of Jammu will gain exposure to industry-aligned, work-simulated projects (XPro) across diverse domains such as Management, Commerce, Biotechnology, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence. The

initiative will provide learners with an opportunity to engage in experiential learning environments that mirror real-world industry challenges. As part of the programme, students will also receive international microcredentials from Federation University Australia, along with a Workplace Readiness Profile and Score. These credentials will enable them to showcase their employability potential on global platforms while preparing for sustainable and future-oriented careers. Speaking on the occasion, K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, in a statement remarked that, this partnership with Employability. life aligns with our vision of integrating innovation and practical exposure into higher education. It will open new global opportunities for our learners and help them

develop future-ready skills through real-world experiential learning. "Commenting on the collaboration, Raja Dasgupta, CEO of Employability life, added that at Employability life, our mission is to bridge the gap between education and the evolving demands of the global workforce. This partnership with Cluster University of Jammu will allow learners to experience industry-relevant, work-simulated learning while earning internationally recognised microcredentials from Federation University Australia. Together, we aim to prepare students for successful careers in the digital economy. The collaboration is expected to strengthen industry-academia linkages and enhance employability prospects for students by aligning academic learning with global work-practice expectations.

# NHM Team reviews implementation of health programmes in Doda

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**DODA, MAR 13:**

To review the functioning of key health programmes, a mentoring and monitoring visit was conducted by a team from the National Health Mission (NHM) Jammu & Kashmir to District Doda on March 12, 2026. The visit was carried out on the directions of the Mission Director NHM J&K, Akriti Sagar, with the objective of reviewing the implementation and progress of major health programmes including ASHA, NTEP, NCD, DNB, Tele-Radiology, Blood Services, and Trauma & Emergency Care.

The visiting team was headed by Dr. Jatinder Mehta, Programme Manager NHM J&K, and included Dr. Mir Mohd Iqbal, Programme Manager NHM J&K; Dr. Younis Mushtaq, Assistant Programme Manager NHM J&K; and Dr. Mudasar Majeed, WHO Consultant.

During the visit, a district-level review meeting was held at the District Headquarters Doda, which was chaired by the visiting team. The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Tanveer A. Rather; Deputy Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. S.



L. Manhas; DHO/DTO Doda, Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma, along with Block Medical Officers, staff of the District Programme Management Unit (DPMU), Block Programme Management Units (BPMUs), and other officials of the health department.

At the outset, the CMO Doda welcomed the visiting team and delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting programme-wise work carried out and achievements made in the district. The visiting team also held an elaborate discussion with the participants and issued necessary directions to the concerned officers and officials to further strengthen

programme implementation and improve performance wherever required, with the aim of achieving 100 per cent targets under various health programmes. Meanwhile, the team also called on the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Krishan Lal, at his office and apprised him about the purpose of the visit and the review of various health initiatives being implemented in the district. Later, the team visited the AAM Sub Centre Druhdhu and Sub-District Hospital Bhaderwah to assess the on-ground functioning of health programmes and interacted with staff members to review service delivery and programme implementation.

# Railways extend new Delhi-Katra Special Train for Chaitra Navratri devotees

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

Taking into account the surge in passenger traffic and the convenience of devotees, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has decided to extend the operational period of the special reserved train No. 04081/04082 (New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra). The decision has been taken in view of the large number of pilgrims expected to visit the shrine for Darshan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi during the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri. The extension of the special train service is expected to ensure a smoother and more comfortable travel experience for devotees travelling to Katra during the festive period. The details of the

extended train services are as follows: Train No. 04081 running from New Delhi to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, which was earlier scheduled to operate from February 21 to March 8, 2026, will now run for an extended period from March 17 to March 30, 2026, with a total of 14 trips. Similarly, Train No. 04082 operating from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to New Delhi, previously scheduled from February 22 to March 9, 2026, has also been extended and will run from March 18 to March 31, 2026, completing 14 trips during the extended period.

Speaking on the extension of the service, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said the

Railways remains committed to meeting the growing travel needs of passengers. He stated that the decision to extend the operation of the New Delhi-Katra Special train was taken in view of its immense popularity among passengers and the 100 per cent occupancy recorded during earlier trips. He added that the extended service will particularly benefit pilgrims visiting the shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi during Chaitra Navratri, as well as tourists travelling onward to Kashmir. Passengers have been advised to check the updated train schedule through Railway enquiry number 139 or the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) before commencing their journey.