



# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## MULTI-LEVEL PARKING FACILITY AT PANJTIRTHI, JAMMU

### Improving the quality of life of every citizen is the prime objective of the administration: Lt Governor



**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated a Multi-Level Parking Facility at Panjtirthi, Jammu. Dedicating the new parking facility to the people of Jammu, the Lt Governor said that the project under AMRUT-Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation is part of the smart parking initiative using modern solutions to considerably reduce parking on roads and generate revenue for the city.

The Lt Governor said that it is high time for Urban Local Bodies to reinvent their economic base and fully utilize the assets to generate revenues and spur the local economy. Many under-utilised assets can generate employment, business opportunities with engagement of local community, he added.

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## Armed Forces Flag Day observed at Raj Bhavan



**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today extended warm greetings and best wishes to all members of the armed forces and their families on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day.

In a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Director Sainik Welfare Department, Brig. Gurmeet Singh Shan (Ret.) planted the Armed Forces Flag on the jacket of the Lt. Governor and Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta.

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## Security situation in J&K has improved significantly: MHA in Rajya Sabha

**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday said the government has a policy of zero tolerance against militancy and that security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rai, while informing the Rajya Sabha as per the news agency, said there has been substantial decline in militant incidents from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021.

"14 persons belonging to minorities including 3 Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in J&K since January, 2022 till 30th November, 2022," he said.

He also said there were certain media reports of Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti highlighting their security concerns.

"Various measures have been taken by the government to protect the lives of minorities which include group security in the form of static guards, day and night area domination, round the clock Nakas at strategic points, patrolling and speculative Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs), security arrangements through appropriate deployment," he said.

He added a robust security and intelligence grid is in place in J&K to thwart any attempt at the hands of the militants. ❧

## '180 militants, 31 civilians as many SF personnel killed in J&K this year'

**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday said 180 militants have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir during encounters with security forces this year so far.

Nityanand Rai, while informing the Rajya Sabha as per the news agency, said that 62 security forces personnel including 31 civilians were also killed during the current year.

He said added 123 militancy-related incidents took place in J&K during the current year with 31 security forces personnel and 31 civilian being killed.

He also said 8 journalists working with Srinagar based local newspapers received threat through "Kashmir Fight" blog and 4 journalists belonging to the media house Rising Kashmir also resigned.

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## '3K govt jobs created for Kashmiri migrants in J&K under PM Package'

**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday said that under Prime Minister's Development Package, 3,000 government jobs have been created for Kashmiri Pandits with 2,639 migrants appointed in the last 5 years.

"2,830 Kashmiri migrants appointed in last 5 years including 841 in 2020-21, 1,296 in 2021-22 and 502 in 2022-23. As for the remaining 361, selection for 198 posts at different stages of completion," Rai, as per the news agency, informed the Rajya Sabha.

He said out of the remaining 361, the selection process for 198 posts is at various stages of completion, 40 posts relate to cases, which are sub-judice and 123 posts are re-employment.

He said the government has also approved construction of 6000 transit accommodations for Kashmiri migrant

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## Fields along LoC bloom with crop as peace prevails

In Jammu, border villagers happy, term it golden period

**JAMMU:** Farming in fields along Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch districts was never so easy for villagers. But with ceasefire on borders, villagers are heaving a sigh of relief with no fear of going to their fields.

Locals said over one and a half dozen villages and hamlets are located ahead of barbed wire fence in LoC in the twin districts while over 50 villages fall in indirect shelling range. They were affected during because of shelling.

For the last nearly two years, things have changed towards a constructive atmosphere in the areas of LoC as ceasefire agreement between armies of India and Pakistan stand.

Talking to news agency, farmers of LoC areas termed ceasefire agreement as a 'golden period' for their lives as not only their lives and property is safe from shelling but they are having

ample opportunities to do agriculture works and are having a good yield from their fields which otherwise were lying barren since one decade.

Subash Chander Sharma, a farmer from Doongi Keri area of Rajouri who land is close to LoC said they were not able to do any agriculture work in the field due to threat of shelling.

Similarly, another farmer Yousif Ahmed from Niaka village of Rajouri said that situation has improved and they cultivate maize on their land along LoC.

"Our land was almost turning barren and there was no yield from it but now we are able to do work in field and have had a good yield of maize crop last season. Now we have sown wheat and soya and are hopeful of good crop this season as well," said Ahmed.

A number of other LoC villagers especially from Namd Kadali, Sehara Makli, Pukharni

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## PM Modi addresses Rajya Sabha at the start of Winter Session of Parliament

**NEW DELHI:** The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the Rajya Sabha at the start of the Winter Session of the Parliament and welcomed the Vice President to the Upper House today.

The Prime Minister began his address by congratulating Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice President of India & Chairman of Rajya Sabha on behalf of all members of the parliament as well as all the citizens of the country. Throwing light on the prestigious position of the Vice President of the country, the Prime Minister remarked that the seat in itself is a source of inspiration for millions.

Addressing the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister expressed delight that today coincides with Armed Forces Flag Day and saluted the armed forces on behalf of all members of the house. Referring to Jhunjhunu which is the birth-



place of the Vice President, the Prime Minister acknowledged the contributions of numerous families of Jhunjhunu that have played an advanced role towards the service of the nation. He highlighted the close association of the Vice President with Jawans and Kisans and said, "Our Vice President is a Kisan Putra and he studied at a Sainik school. Thus, he is closely associated with Jawans and Kisans."

The Prime Minister highlighted that the esteemed upper house of the Parliament is welcoming the Vice President at a time when India has witnessed two monumental events. Modi pointed out that India has entered into the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal and also got the prestigious opportunity to host and preside over the G-20 Summit. He further added that India will play a key role in determining the direction of the world in the days to come other than marking a new era of development for New India.

"Our democracy, our Parliament and our parliamentary system will have a critical role in this journey," he added.

Underlining that today marks the formal beginning of the Vice President's term as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister remarked that the responsibility

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## Study leaves being sanctioned in violation of leave rules: Government

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that the Administrative Department either sanction study leave in violation of Leave Rules at their own level or recommend cases to the General Administration Department without adhering to the other relevant parameters.

The government also directed that the study leave shall not ordinarily be granted to a government servant who has rendered less than five years' service under the Government.

As per a circular issued by the government under 49-JK(GAD) of 2022, dated 07-12-2022, the government has said that "In terms of J&K Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1978 (SRO-44 of 1978 dated 18.01.1978, issued by Finance Department), as amended from time to time, grant of study leave in respect of an employee of the Government is governed by some conditions, which, inter-alia include certifying exigencies of

public service, direct and close connection with sphere of his/her duty."

The study tour has to be of definite advantage to the Government from the point of view of public interest etc. The grant of study leave does not affect regular work or cause cadre difficulties as long as the employee is on leave, the circular said, a copy of which lies with the news agency.

It further said that there is dearth of such technical qualified officers/officials in the Department and that Study leave shall not ordinarily be granted to a Government servant who has rendered less than five years' service under the Government.

"Notwithstanding, the above mentioned provisions governing the issue, it has been observed that the Administrative Departments either sanction study leave in violation of Leave Rules at their own level, or recommend cases to the General

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## CBK files challan against 3 accused for illegally extracting insurance money

**SRINAGAR:** The Economic Offence Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir produced a challan against three accused persons for producing a fake death certificate to extract insurance money fraudulently.

According to a statement, issued to the news agency, challan was produced in case FIR No. 15/2008 U/S 420, 467, 468, 471, 201, 120B RPC before the court of Forest Magistrate Srinagar against Taveen Hussain Shah, Late Gul Fatima and Late Sakhi Shah—all residents of Kupwara.

The statement reads the instant case had been registered upon a receipt of a written complaint from one Jatinder Pal Singh, Area Manager, ILCI Prudential Life Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, wherein it was alleged that Taveen Hussain Shah had opted for life insurance policies twice with ILCI Prudential Life Insurance and had fraudulently extracted the huge amount by showing himself as dead.

It reads accordingly a case FIR No. 15/2008 had been registered and investigation into the matter was set in motion.

"During the course of investigation, it has surfaced that accused Taveen Shah had hatched a criminal conspiracy

## Mission Youth, engaging, mobilizing young volunteers under Youth Clubs initiative

**SRINAGAR:** Mission Youth is focusing on encouraging, engaging and mobilizing young volunteers of J&K to support the government efforts of socio-economic transformation of Jammu & Kashmir.

Youth Clubs provide an opportunity for the young generation of J&K to contribute to society and achieve self-growth under Mission Youth initiative, an official said.

As energetic and vibrant partners of Panchayats and district administration, these clubs are ensuring that governance effectively reaches to the grassroots level.

The official added that through Youth Clubs, Government is not only generating awareness about various employment and self-employment schemes but also uniting young men and women of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir to pursue their dreams.

Youth's commitment to social service, national integration provides the foundation of developed level.

"More than 74,000 members have become a beacon of hope for thousands of others. Youth are now active partners in the process of building a peaceful

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## Progressing JK

### Mission Youth, engaging, mobilizing young volunteers under Youth Clubs initiative



and prosperous J&K," he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that more than 74,771 youths from 20 districts have joined the Youth Clubs, which are playing a significant role in providing youth an opportunity to work through real challenges and make meaningful change. A total of 4,522 Youth Clubs have been constituted across 20 districts with a maximum 9,000 youths enrolled in Poonch district.

Young people in these clubs, who volunteer, regularly develop a civic identity, as leaders and change-makers and therefore become more socially active. They also learn new social skills like collaboration and problem solving that are vital to succeed in academics, the workplaces and their personal lives. Thus, Youth Clubs are playing a pivotal role in creating lifelong change among youth and result in their overall personality development, which happens to be the core agenda of Mission Youth, which runs the Youth Clubs," he stated.

Pertinently, the initiative of Youth Club was approved by the governing body of Mission Youth, headed by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in its first meeting held on June 17, 2021.

## BJP holds distinction of being only 'true Democratic Party': Ravinder Raina



**JAMMU:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir conducted a meeting of its newly nominated District Prabharris and District Presidents at party headquarters, District level.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul chaired the meeting, which was also addressed by J&K BJP Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma, BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta and BJP General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, congratulating all for their new responsibilities as well as making them aware of their huge responsibilities.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the meeting, said that the BJP holds the distinction of being only the 'true Democratic Party'. He asserted that only the BJP holds the very basic principle of democracy in the highest moral spirits. He congratulated all party leaders who have been endowed with the herculean responsibility of party's Prabharris and Presidents at District level. He asked them to put their all energy for the new assignment, as they have to withstand the pressure of organizational principles as well as the public issues, which will surely be for the new society for a better future of the Nation.

Ashok Koul, in his address, said that this whole process enables the party activist to prove mettle for the new responsibility giving new energy for every job. He said that this change of posts is an essential process for keeping the organization healthy as it also gives new candidates who can meet the expectations of the party and the public.

## DGP sanctions welfare loan/relief of over Rs. 99 lakh in favour of 83 serving Police personnel

**JAMMU:** Continuing with an aim to provide financial assistance to meet the urgent needs of Police personnel, the Director General of Police, J&K Shri Dilbag Singh has sanctioned over Rupees 99 lakh welfare loan/relief in favour of 83 serving officers and personnel of J&K Police vide PHQ Order No. 4087 of 2022.

Under this order, Welfare loan ranging from rupees fifty thousand to rupees 1.50 lakh each has been sanctioned in favour of 46 personnel, for the purpose of their own marriage, or for marriage of their wards/relatives. Similarly, welfare loan of rupees 3 lakhs has been sanctioned in favour of 02 Police personnel for pursuing higher education of their wards and rupees 50 thousand has been sanctioned in favour of one Police personnel for circumcision of his ward.

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## IIM Jammu Management development programme for Chartered Accountants off to a positive start

JI NEWS SERVICE

07th Dec 2022 Jammu: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu in association with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organized a three-day management development residential program from 07th-09th Dec 2022 for the Chartered Accountants of India at its Srinagar Off-Campus. The main objective of this residential management development programme is to help them acquire the requisite knowledge of other functional areas to ensure their effectiveness in their managerial roles. 35 members of ICAI working across various domains and in practice from all over India are participating in the three-day residential programme. The programme was formally inaugurated by CA (Dr.) Raj Chawla, Vice-Chairman, CMI&B, ICAI Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu said, "The programme intends to hone the management, leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills of Chartered Accountants. The modules within the programme are structured to offer a good understanding of the newest, and most relevant techniques and approaches in management that help in the development of managerial and leadership skills of these young professionals."

Speaking on the occasion, CA (Dr.) Raj Chawla, Vice-chairman, CMI&B ICAI said, "In a fast-changing world, chartered accountants are increasingly assuming managerial responsibilities which demand enhanced understanding of other business functions including leadership & effective interpersonal and communication skills, skills in domains of marketing, strategy, change and cri-



sis management and ability to analyze business eco-system, the MDP will help to address and enhance the existing skillsets of the chartered accountants. I am confident that, the participants will not only become much more effective in their managerial roles by acquiring cross-functional perspectives."

The three-day management development residential programme sessions will feature interesting sessions by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics and other faculty of IIM Jammu. The programme Directors of this programme are Dr. Baljeet Singh, Assistant Professor, Dr. Aparna, Assistant Professor, and CA Rajat Jain, FACAQ, IIM Jammu. The programme commenced with the welcome address and introduction of the participants by Dr. Baljeet Singh and the introduction of the participants by CA Parmajet Singh Bakshi, Finance and Accounts Officer, IIM Jammu. This was followed by a brief introduction of IIM Jammu by Dr. Muqbil Burhan,

Chairperson, Srinagar Off-Campus. The programme will use extensive interactive experiential learning methods to meet its objectives. The programme highlights are classic approaches to leadership, self-management and leadership, developing organizational excellence, design thinking for sustainable growth, creating high-performance teams, crisis management, digital transformation using AI and emerging technologies, understanding business environment and competitive strategies, developing excellence through interpersonal communication and training, embracing transformational changes that technology and digitization will bring.

The various tools used to enhance learning shall include role-play, case studies, individual and group exercises, theme-based discussions, and experience sharing. The programme will also include practitioner sessions. A certificate of participation was issued to the participants at the end of the programme.

## Weekly Block Diwas held at 4 places in Doda district

DC, SSP assess services delivery at Tehsil office Bhella, PP Karara

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, DECEMBER 07: Public Outreach Programme was held today at four places across District Doda to listen to the issues and grievances of the people under the weekly Block Diwas.

The grievances redressal camps were held at Panchayat Chilli Bala, Sub Division Gandoh; Panchayat Ghar Ganotla, Sub Division Assar; Near Park Panchayat Trown, Block Bhalla, Sub District Baderwah; and Higher Secondary School Bhella, Sub Division Thathri.

Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Poul Mahajan along with SSP, Abdul Qayoom, BDC Chairperson Chiralla, ACD, Dy Director Employment, CMO, CEO and other District and sectoral officers listened to the public grievances at Government Higher Secondary School Bhella.

Earlier, the DC and SSP inspected Tehsil Office Bhella and Police Post Karara. They interacted with the staff and assessed the online and offline services delivery mechanism in the Tehsil Office and Police Post.

They also visited Government Higher Secondary School Bhella and interacted with students and staff of the school.

Several public delegations, individuals besides PRI members projected the local demands and problems being faced by the public.

The locals demanded early construction of Bhella to Panchai road; Widening and upgradation of Karara-Bhella road; Release of compensation in favour of land owners

of Thalela- Jagota Road; Receiving Station for the area; Meeting out the shortage of Doctors and staff at PHC Bhella; Establishment of ATM and Bank branch in the area; Augmentation and repair of water supply schemes; Additional infrastructure for Government High School Chagsoo and other schools; Augmentation of Transformer; Checking unscheduled power cuts and other related issues. The concerned officers were directed to address the genuine public grievances raised in the Block Diwas program today at an earliest.

The DC said that Block Diwas was aimed at getting first hand appraisal of the problems and developmental aspirations of the people. He informed that the District Administration has started a unique initiative 'Apka Tehsildar Apke Gaon Mai' in which Tehsildars would visit one village on every Saturday to provide necessary services and awareness to the public at their doorsteps.

He called upon the field functionaries of different departments to work in close coordination to ensure prompt delivery of essential services especially during winter months.

The DC encouraged the People to learn to avail Online Services for efficient, transparent and corruption free governance.

The DC assured people that their demands will be redressed on priority by mobilizing all available resources. He also made public aware of special initiatives of

District Administration like Swachh Gaon Sunder Gaon, Innovation Challenge, Know your Real Heroes, Talent haunt, School Prabhari scheme, Aap Ka Tehsildar Apke Gaon Mai etc.

At Panchayat Trown, the camp was presided over by ADC Baderwah Chowdhary Dil Mir. All the sectoral officers of Sub District Baderwah were present in the camp where a large number of public and PRIs presented their demands and issues which were disposed off giving directions to the concerned authorities for the time bound redressal.

At Panchayat Chilli Bala, SDM Arun Kumar Badyal interacted with the PRIs and the general public while at Panchayat Ganotla Tehsildar Assar addressed the genuine demands of the Public. At all designated locations, the daylong Block Diwas proceedings were witnessed. Public and PRIs put forth a range of issues/ demands.

They demanded augmentation of water supply and electricity, macadamization of roads, meeting dearth of staff in schools and hospitals, upgradation of schools, banking facilities in rural areas, release of pending wages under MGNREGA etc.

The Presiding officers of the Block Diwas gave patient hearing to the issues and demands and directed the concerned officers to prepare a list of issues/grievances raised pertaining to their departments and resolve the same at an earliest.

## ASCOMS holds 1st Dr. Ritu Gupta lecture in ASCOMS



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, DEC 7: ASCOMS & Hospital and Dr. Ritu Gupta Foundation organized FIRST Dr. Ritu Gupta Lecture which was attended by a large number of faculty, staff and students. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Sh. Bhupinder Kumar, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Govt. of UT of J&K. Dr. Saleem-Ur-Rehman, Director Health Services, Jammu and Sh. D.K. Batra, Secretary, ASCOMS were the Guest of Honour. The other dignitaries who attended the function were, Mr. Manik Batra, Trustee, ASCOMS, Mr. Bisham Batra, Trustee, ASCOMS, Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal, ASCOMS & Hospital, Dr. Ghanshyam Saini, Officiating Principal, GMC, Jammu, Dr. A.S.Bhatia, Principal, GMC, Rajouri, Dr. Noor Ali, Principal, GMC, Doda, Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Principal, IGDC, Jammu, Dr. Ashok Sharma, Prof & HOD, Ophthalmology, GMC, Jammu, Dr. Abhishek Mahajan, IPS, SSP, Samba, Sh. Babu Ram Gupta, Father-in-Law of Late Dr. Ritu Gupta.

of Dr. Geetika Gupta, Prof. & Head Physiology, ASCOMS & Hospital who said that Dr. Ritu Gupta was her teacher in GMC, Jammu. She was an epitome of humbleness and passionate medical teacher who was always prepared to help her students at any time. She said that the vacuum created with her demise can never be filled but she will remain in the hearts of all students she taught and the friends and colleagues.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra while addressing the gathering said that this Lecture of series was conceived when Dr. Ritu Gupta passed away to keep her memories alive in medical academia of Jammu & Kashmir as she was dedicated and committed teacher who would not leave any stone unturned for the progress in Physiology subject. He said that she left us on 7th of September, 2022 and the Management of our Institution under the guidance of Mr. D.K. Batra, Secretary and Dr. Ritu Gupta Foundation decided to keep her name alive and with this objective we have started the ongoing Lecture Series and this is the first one in sequence. He also threw light on the personal bonding which

he had with Dr. Ritu for a long about 30 years and it has left unforgettable impression on his mind. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. A.S.Bhatia, Principal, GMC, Rajouri also expressed his association with Late Dr. Ritu Gupta when he was serving in GMC, Jammu as Prof & HOD, Biochemistry where he always found her working very hard, smartly and with a smile on her face. He quoted "Kuch Zindagi Ko Aise Asaan Karliya, Kisise Maang Li Mafi Aur Kisise Ko Maaf Kar Diya". He also said that he is grateful to Dr. Pavan Malhotra for arranging this Lecture Series. He also appreciated the courage of Dr. Ravinder K Gupta for situating this grim situation very bravely and accepted this challenging situation.

Dr. Urvi Gupta, Daughter of Dr. Ritu Gupta also conveyed her feelings for her departed mother in the form of a wonderful and heart touching documentary which brought tears in the eyes everyone. Mr. Suresh Jandiyal, Brother-in-Law of Dr. Ritu Gupta also in his address thanked ASCOMS Management, Director Principal and the faculty members of ASCOMS for arranging

this Lecture in the loving memory of Late Dr. Ritu Gupta.

Dr. Ashok Sharma, Prof & Head, Department of Ophthalmology, GMC, Jammu also expressed his feelings about the sad and unfortunate demise of Dr. Ritu Gupta which left everyone in shock. He informed the audience that before her death, she had donated her both eyes which has brought light in the life two needy persons who happen to visit his department for the check up. Dr. Sharma gave a detail presentation/lecture on cornea transplant, need for having an eye bank and proper handling of the donated eyes which was quite educative and encourage the masses for pledging to donate eyes.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal in his address thanked Sh. Bhupinder Kumar, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education for accepting the invitation. He paid his gratitude to him on behalf of family of Dr. Ritu Gupta. Dr. Malhotra also explained at length about the 'Expiry of Drugs: A Myth or Fact' in his presentation which was patiently heard by each and everyone present there. He also said that the idea on this presentation and selecting the topic of "Expiry of Drugs" came long back in his mind when a question was asked by Dr. Ritu Gupta, that what is expiry of drugs? and on what ground it is determined?.

He gave a brief account of Expiry of drugs and concluded with the remarks that expired drugs do not become poison.

## DC Rajouri meets injured at GMC&AH; Assures every possible support to victims

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, DECEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kunal, visited Government Medical College in late hours to inquire about the condition of the persons injured in a bus accident at Mandir Gala of tehsil Kotranka.

Dr. Mehmood Bajar, Medical Superintendent District Hospital and other officers also accompanied the DC during the visit.

The Station House Officer Kandi informed that an Eco vehicle bearing number JK 11D 4443 turned turtle near Mandir Gala resulting in injuries to passengers.

"Total 9 passengers were travelling in the ill fated vehicle," he added.

Medical Superintendent GMC Rajouri said that out of total nine patients referred to GMC Rajouri, one



was declared dead on arrival, one has been referred to GMC Jammu, and seven are undergoing treatment and are out of danger.

Interacting with the injured, the Deputy Commissioner asked about their well being and instructed the

medical team to provide best possible treatment for their early recovery. Furthermore, he promised that the district administration would provide all necessary assistance to the injured and the families of the deceased during these difficult times.

## Development is the top priority of BJP: Vinay, Rekha

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, Dec 07: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Senior leader and Seh-Prabhari BJP District Jammu North Vinay Gupta along with Rekha Mahajan President BJP District Jammu South, Bharat Bhushan Vice Chairman Cantonment Board and Mandal President Gandhi Nagar kick-started the file work in Cantonment ward no.1 at Narwal pain Airport Road Jammu, this was the long pending demand of inhabitants of the area has been fulfilled.

While addressing the gathering, Vinay Gupta said that the Central team led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the overall development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir by giving equal stress on both rural as well as urban areas. Vinay expressed that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) believes in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas' Sabka Parvay' as a result of which the party has been progressing by leaps and bounds with each passing day. He said that it is the



ground performance of the party and its Modi-led Govt at the Centre that speaks itself of the unprecedented pace of developmental works going on across the nation, especially in Jammu. While speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan said, that such developmental works shall be undertaken in each Ward of the Corporation so that there can be equal development of all the Wards. Rekha further appealed to the general public that JMC is trying its best to provide basic amenities to

hands to Jammu Municipal Corporation for maintaining proper sanitation facilities and also while undertaking any kind of developmental works in the Ward.

Vinay and Rekha also interacted with the locals and listened to the area's developmental issues. They asked locals to identify the developmental needs of their area so that the works can be enlisted for execution by the concerned departments on priority. They said that regular monitoring is also being done to ensure no lapses. Vinay and Rekha also stressed upon locals to avail of benefits under various welfare schemes and programs launched by the central Governments. Prominent among others Sr. Hardev Singh ex-Vice Chairman Cantonment Board, Narinder Koki, Vinod Sharma, Shanti Swaroop Bakshi, Ramesh Gupta, Mohit Raina, Pawan Raina, Nareesh Kumar, Mestu Sharma, Ashwani Kumar, Dev Raj and other Prominent persons of the area were present on the occasion.

## Jal Shakti Deptt invites people to avail online services

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu has started a host of services on the Single Window System Portal for all the Urban and Rural areas of the Jammu Province.

The public can avail service of Obtaining Water Connection (Domestic), Obtaining Water Connection (Commercial) and NOC for extraction of Ground Water

All the applications for these services will only be received in the online

mode on the website <https://singlewindow.jk.gov.in/>.

The User manual/guide for applying on the Single Window System can be accessed through the link [https://singlewindow.jk.gov.in/information\\_wizard](https://singlewindow.jk.gov.in/information_wizard).



## Dulloo reviews status of Farmers' Produce Organizations of Kashmir division

'CBBOs and FPOs have to play their role in doubling farmers' income'

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the progress of Farmers Produce Organizations (FPOs) of Kashmir Division.

Secretary in APD, representatives of MD NCD, MD Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium, MD Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, New Delhi, Director General Planning (APD), Director Finance (APD), representatives of NABARD, Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, MD, JK Agro Industries Development Corporation, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Floriculture Kashmir, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Fisheries J&K, Chief Executives of FPOs and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the heads of several FPOs from the Kashmir division presented an overview of their respective organizations viz product, membership, shareholders, trainings, preparation of business plans etc.



They also informed the meeting about the farmers registered with their FPOs, turnover, funding, and implementation etc. of the FPOs.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion of all the aspects of FPOs and their functioning while the ACS also received several inputs from the FPOs, schemes implementation and future plans.

While taking the review of Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs), Dulloo asked the CBBOs and IAs (Implementing Agencies) to lend their support to FPOs while also motivating farmers to contribute the equity.

He asked the officers to also focus on

the wool sector and milk sector as there is a lot more to be done in these fields and FPOs should be guided with these sectors having immense potential.

He further impressed upon the concerned to keep monitoring this programme and review the progress of FPOs and facilitate these FPOs in the best possible way to get desired results on ground.

He added that CBBOs and FPOs have to play their role in doubling farmers' income for which there is a need for CBBOs to mobilize small and marginal farmers to join the FPO movement.

## NIT Srinagar wins finals of All India Inter-NIT Faculty, Staff Cricket Tournament

Director, Registrar NIT Srinagar extends greetings to entire team

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
Srinagar, Dec 07: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday defeated NIT Uttarakhand by 26 runs in the finals of All India Inter-NIT Faculty and Staff Cricket Tournament at Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (NIT) Nagpur.

The tournament was hosted by VNIT Nagpur and 20 NITs from across India participated in the mega event.

Earlier after winning the toss, NIT Uttarakhand decided to field first. On a tough surface, NIT Srinagar started well and scored 125/8 in 20 allotted overs.

While chasing the target, NIT Uttarakhand made a shaky start and lost their 5 wickets quickly during the Powerplay and were eventually bundled out for 99 in 18.2 overs.

For NIT Srinagar, Captain Faisal Irshad (Dy Registrar Administration) played a vital knock of 36 and was the top scorer from the side. While Sohail Baba scored 22 runs and Dr. Majid contributed with a quickfire 17 off 9 balls in the end.

In the bowling department, Mustafa Zargar took 3 wickets in his 4 overs conceding only 13 runs. Mohsin Shabir and Dr. Shakeel Waseem also chipped in with 2 wickets each. During the post-match ceremony, Mustaf



Zargar was declared man of the match.

Captain Faisal Irshad (Dy Registrar Administration) was declared the best batsman of the tournament and Dr. Shakeel Waseem was declared best bowler of the tournament.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr) Rakesh Sehgal congratulated the entire cricket team for achieving the extraordinary feat of winning the prestigious tournament. He said NIT Srinagar dominated the tournament by remaining unbeaten throughout and reaching the finals, where it showcased top-class sporting spirit against strong opposition.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari extended his greetings to NIT Srinagar's cricket team for winning the final of the Inter-NIT Faculty and Staff Cricket Tournament.

"NIT Srinagar team played exceptional cricket and they made our institute proud.

Our team bounced back from tough situations during the entire and won the finals. Congrats to the entire team," he said.

Team manager Dr. Abdul Liman congratulated the whole team and thanked Prof M A Tantray for supporting and sponsoring the team kits. Captain Faisal Irshad (Dy Registrar Administration) expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr) Rakesh Sehgal, and Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari for their consistent support and motivation during the entire tournament.

"We are thankful to each and every faculty member, non-faculty members, staff members, Department of Physical Education, Electrical Division, Security and sanitation wings for supporting the team," he said.

Mr. Irshad also thanked Prof. MA Tantray for sponsoring the uniform kits for the NIT Srinagar team and

Team manager Prof. Abdul Liman for his consistent guidance during the mega tournament.

"NIT Nagpur had organized the event beautifully and we thank them for hosting this mega event. During the matches every NIT was supporting each other to make the event a grand success," he said.

The NIT Srinagar Cricket team was led by Captain Faisal Irshad (Dy Registrar Administration), Dr. Tanveer Rasool, Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Sohail Ahmad Baba, Agib Ahmad (Jr. Asst), Mohammad Hazik (Asst. Registrar Legal and PIO), Tanveer Hussain, Mohammad Asif, Dr. Shakeel Waseem, Dr. Majid Hussain, Dr. Mohsin, Mustafa Zargar, Mushtaq Ahmad and Shabir Mustafa.

While as Prof. Abdul Liman, Dean and Students Welfare (Manager), and Abdur Hamid Dar (Senior Technician) were also travelling with the team.

## Awareness programme on MWSPSC ACT held for police functionaries at Rajouri

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 07: A one-day awareness programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (MWSPSC Act) for police functionaries was organised today by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in Rajouri, in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Justice and the Anugraha Regional Resource and Training Centre on Ageing.

Sub-Judge and Secretary DLSA Rajouri, Wajahat Hussain Kazmi, was the chief guest at the program.

The programme was divided into four sessions. In the first session, Advocate Shoket Ali acted as a resource person and delivered a lecture on the features and significance of the MWSPSC Act.

In the second session of the program, a social activist, Pariksha

Sharma, acted as a resource person and laid emphasis on different contours of the act.

In the third session of the program, Advocate Tarun Vasson delivered a lecture and highlighted the importance of the MWSPSC Act. Similarly, in the 4th and final session, Advocate Shivangi Kant acted as a resource person and delivered a lecture on the salient features of the Act.

While addressing the event, the Sub Judge Secretary, DLSA Rajouri, gave an overview of the MWSPSC Act and advised the police officers to help the senior citizens in their respective areas within the mandate of the said Act. Highlighting the salient features of the act, he said that the MWSPSC Act was enacted to ensure that parents and senior citizens are given basic amenities so that they don't face any inconveniences. He further said

that the act makes more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens.

The Sub Judge (Secretary DLSA) said that with increasing age, older persons become dependent.

In addition to the health issues, they are also subjected to different forms of abuse, like emotional, psychological, financial, and verbal.

He also maintained that the Act makes it mandatory for children or legal heirs to provide the basic amenities to their parents or grandparents (or senior citizens), and maintenance tribunals have been established to ensure the implementation of the law.

The Secretary of DLSA also highlighted a number of measures being taken by the government for the welfare of the elderly and urged the participants to educate the general public about various provisions of the act.

## Central Zone JKNC delegation meets Dr Farooq Abdullah

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, DEC 07: A delegation of Central Zone, Jammu Kashmir National Conference under the leadership of Zonal President Babu Rampaul met Dr Farooq Abdullah, who was recently re-elected as NC

President, at his residence.

The delegation members congratulated Dr. Farooq Abdullah on his re-election. Dr. Abdullah asked the delegation members to strengthen the communal harmony in the society and defeat the divisive forces. Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta was also present

reaching out to the masses at all levels and garner support for the party. He further asked them to strengthen the communal harmony in the society and defeat the divisive forces. Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta was also present

during the meeting. Those who were part of the delegation included Dr Vikas Sharma, Sham Lal Mehra, S. Surjeet Singh Sasan, Raja Naved Ahmed, Yashpaul, Birbal and Prem Kumar.

## Maharashtra has never been so embarrassed: Sanjay Raut calls border row 'Delhi's conspiracy'

**MUMBAI:** Amid the escalating border issue between Karnataka and Maharashtra, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday alleged Centre's hand behind the attack on Maharashtra. He said the attack is not possible without New Delhi's support. Questioning the silence of those who joined Eknath Shinde to topple the Uddhav-led government, Raut said indeed a 'revolution' took place three months ago -- the game of ending Marathi self-esteem by breaking the backbone.



"Without Delhi's support, Maharashtra vehicles and people cannot be attacked in Belgaum. The attacks are part of the same conspiracy. Get up Marathis!" he tweeted.

On Tuesday, trucks from Maharashtra were stopped and attacked in Belagavi, Shiv

agreed that both states would maintain peace but no state has changed their stance regarding the claim on the border villages which are at the centre of the dispute.

Bommai recently sought a merger of "Kannada-speaking" areas in Maharashtra's Akkalkot and Solapur and had also said some villages in Jat taluka in Sangli district wanted to join the southern state. "Since there is a harmonious relationship between the people of both the states, however, there is no change in our stand as far as the Karnataka border is concerned. And the legal battle will be pursued in Supreme court," tweeted Bommai.

Devendra Fadnavis urged Maharashtra people to not react and said he will speak with Union home minister Amit Shah.

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) CITY DIVISION NO-II JAMMU.

E Mail : pheimcitydivii@gmail.com

Fax No 01919-2439890

- Sub:-**
1. Replacement of CI pipe 150 mm dia from 2.00 lac gallons OHT Gangyal to welding workshop by M.Spire 150 mm dia Gravity main feeding to Deshmeh Nagar and adjoining area under UT Capex.
  2. Improvement of water supply of Masjid Mohalla near Police line at Channi Rama under UT Capex.
  3. Improvement/ Construction of Manifold at Mahant Manjeet Singh under UT Capex
  4. Improvement and Extension of water supply of Shanker Nagar near the House of Mantoo CE including near K.C Hundai at Channi Rama under UT Capex.
  5. Improvement of water supply of Lane near House No 111 Sector C Sainik Colony under UT Capex
  6. Improvement/ providing water supply to the houses 23, 24 and others Sector E Sainik Colony under WSS Sainik Colony under UT Capex.
  7. Laying of GI pipe line for providing water supply to Haji Sadiq Ali and others at Madina market Mohalla Karyari Narwal Baba under UT Capex.
  8. Improvement/providing water supply to the Houses 388-389 and others Sector C Sainik Colony under WSS Sainik Colony under UT Capex
  9. Providing water supply 1.00 lac gallons GSR Nowabad along nallah side Palli Hall in Bathindi under UT Capex.
  10. Replacement of water supply to Sector 2 Model Town by way of laying of pipes from Model Town Tube well to Sector 2 in H.S.Ball lane and Jarnail Singh Lane in Model Town under UT Capex.
  11. Laying of pipe from providing drinking water supply to the Environment Park Reika under MH 5425 Capital Outlay on other scientific research
- Ref:-** This office E NIT No 74 of 2022-23

### CORRIGENDUM

Due to poor response this office E-NIT NO PHEC/II/74 of 2022-23 is hereby extended upto 09.12.2022 at 4.00 PM and tender shall be opened on 10.12.2022 at 3 PM. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged

NO: PHEC/II/ 4860-75

Dated:- 03/12/2022

SD/-

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

JAL SHAKTI (PHE) CITY DIVISION NO.II

JAMMU

DIP/J-12639/22

## Police Notice To Suspended BJP MLA Raja Singh For Objectionable Online Post

Hyderabad (Telangana): The Mangalhat police in Hyderabad has issued a show cause notice to suspended Bharatiya Janata Party MLA, T Raja Singh, for violating court-set norms after the BJP leader was found making provocative remarks against other religions despite a warning.

The Telangana High Court and the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, had ordered invocation of the Preventive Detention Act against the suspended lawmaker for habitually delivering provocative and inflammatory speeches, as per the notice issued by the Police Department on Tuesday. It has been alleged that Raja Singh on November 25, posted in Hindi on social media that loosely translates to, "Akbar had Anarkali walked up because there was no fridge at that time. Even after years only their method has changed, not their mindset".

Raja Singh was referring to the Delhi case in which Aaftab Poonawala murdered and butchered his live-in partner Shraddha Walker into 35 pieces.

According to the Mangalhat police show cause notice, "You have posted the photo under an objectionable caption targeting a particular community, which is a violation mentioned in the condition imposed by the High Court".

The order also mentions another post by Singh on December 6, which translated from Hindi, said: "Tribute to the martyrs' Ram Kothari and Sharaad Kothari, and people who sacrificed their lives in Karseva on the day of bravery! Millions of salutes to all those Karsevaks on whose foundation of sacrifice, the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya is taking shape with full grandeur".

While disposing of a writ petition

involving Raja Singh, the high court in its order had stated, "In future, the detainee shall not make any provocative speeches against any religion or post any derogatory or offensive posts on any social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Youtube, etc".

"Hence, you are hereby instructed to give your reply within two days from the receipt of this notice that why you are violating the conditions imposed by the Hon'ble High Court". Failure to comply with the terms of this notice can render you liable for taking legal action", the notice further reads.

Speaking on behalf of MLA Raja Singh, Advocate K Karunasagar while talking to the media stated, "Two notices have been issued to MLA Raja Singh by Mangalhat police.

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

“Don't Dream to be something but Rather dream to do Something great” - PM Narendra Modi

## JINDRAH IMAGES

## Maintain a close tab on progress of infra projects

Recently, it came to fore that 27 mega projects of the central government worth Rs 150 crore and above each have recorded over 72 percent cost overrun while jumping their respective deadlines up to 20 years in Jammu and Kashmir. It sounds quite surprising as well as shocking that infrastructural development has remained a casualty in the Union Territory because of law and order problems and administrative red tape. In conflict-ridden Jammu and Kashmir where terror and gun culture overshadow all development activities, seldom a project has been completed within the stipulated timeframe. The report on central sector projects reveals that 27 projects having original cost of Rs 47,696.67 crore had been facing cost overrun of 72 percent as they are now expected to be completed with an anticipated cost of Rs 82,076.18 crore. Out of these projects, nine projects with original execution cost Rs 16,439.47 crore have been facing time overrun ranging from eight months to 247 months (more than 20 years) and the anticipated execution is now Rs 50,951.73 crore. At least 13 projects with original cost of Rs 1,000 crore and above each had been witnessing a cost overrun of 82.31 percent. These projects were expected to be completed with an original cost of Rs 41,767.84 crore which has now been revised to Rs 76,147.35 crore. Four such projects have missed deadlines by 4 years to 20 years. To the utter dismay of an ordinary citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, authorities have never bothered to fix the accountability and responsibility for the failure of executing agencies for inordinate delay in execution of these projects. They have not been penalized for jumping deadlines, one after another, while cost escalation went up by several times. There was a need to fix responsibility for all lapses that led to delay in timely completion of these projects. For instance, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, one of the biggest projects in the construction of a mountain railway since independence, has been delayed by more than 20 years, resulting in cost overrun of over Rs 34,500 crore. The original cost of the project was just Rs 2,500 when it was approved in March 1995 but the cost of the project has escalated to Rs 37,061.06 crore with expected date of commissioning in April 2023. In this particular case, successive regimes, including recent dispensation, have not taken any action against any officials for a delay of 20 years. Similar is the case of the establishment of AIIMS at Awantipora in Kashmir. The project was approved with an estimated cost of Rs 1828 crore in March 2019 but the executing agency has spent just Rs 303 crore till date. Had the government kept a close tab on the progress of these projects, cost as well as time overrun could have been avoided. A well-devised mechanism should be put in place to ensure that a constant watch is maintained on all major projects to ensure that they are completed within stipulated time. It will not only help in building infrastructure on time but also reinforce the faith of common people in the efficiency of executing agencies.

# Dragon throws its weight around in the sea

Did India ever provoke China or the USA in the Indian Ocean? Never. It's always been the other way around. India has never expressed any wish to make the Indian Ocean her 'backyard'. In contrast, the CPC-PLA duo claims monopoly and irreversible ownership of the choppy South China Sea.

Abhijit Bhattacharyya

NOT too long ago, when the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) thundered that “the Indian Ocean isn't India's backyard”, the West maintained a stoic silence. Again, when the USA followed suit and said that “the Indian Ocean isn't India's Ocean”, the West kept mum. Today, the West and its spearhead, the USA, have woken up to realise their folly as China is spreading its wings simultaneously in the Indian Ocean Region and the Indo-Pacific waterfront, from Djibouti to Cambodia, thereby signalling the helplessness and decline of the US-led West in the sea. China is determined to extract its geostrategic pound of flesh from all through the sea.

Did India ever provoke China or the USA in the Indian Ocean? Never. It's always been the other way around. From 1971 to the present times. First came the western naval bully, the fleet which chased and chastised distraught Delhi even as America's own Vietnam War had not yet ceased.

And today, virtually every South Asian shoreline is dotted with Chinese-made warships as Beijing's men, machines, management and money are causing a stir in India's neighbourhood.

The initial altruistic facade of defence and development didn't take long to drop off and turn into a debt trap, sounding the death knell for territorial sovereignty. India has never expressed any wish to make the Indian Ocean her 'backyard'. In contrast, the CPC-PLA duo claims monopoly and irreversible ownership of the choppy South China Sea where 'nine points' have been earmarked, as if those are nine sentry posts, dug deep into a land border. In the Dragon's dream, the high seas can be 'fenced'!

Thus, the explicit Indo-phobic utterances of China and America notwithstanding, Delhi deserved appreciation for its remarkable foresight to establish the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) with the participation and membership of 23 states in 1997. It was a well-intentioned plan of action for the forum: maritime security, trade investment and facilitation, fisheries management, disaster risk reduction, academic and scientific cooperation, tourism promotion and cultural exchanges. The Indian initiative had a positive impact.

The IORA looked impressive as member countries genuinely brought together the Indian Ocean states for common cause and linking them to the vast waterfront. All 23 states were sea states, and none was remote or unconnected from or to the sea. Apart from the bigger Indian Ocean littoral states, important island states of Comoros, Seychelles, the Maldives and Mauritius made the quorum lively. Sea bound were the participants' common interests, where none was a bully.

Thus, what India thought of doing 25 years ago to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and eco-



nom development for the littoral states, the USA came up with the Pacific Ocean-specific military Quad in the second decade of the 21st century and, thereafter, arrived in 2018 the CPC-PLA-masterminded China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) as a supplementary military and imperialistic expansion scheme of the BRI, piercing through the Indian Ocean littorals, copying Captain Basil Liddell Hart's 'strategic indirect approach'. Money thrown in the front; the naval gun positioned in the rear. Suave diplomacy was the prologue, debt burden the epilogue.

Nevertheless, without inviting India to the recent CIDCA meet, the CPC-PLA slyly managed to lure some Indian traders who seem beholden to China for allowing them to make money. As if India's development and prosperity solely depended on the shoulders of a few traders, even at the cost of territorial integrity, sovereignty and self-respect. Can't India at least try to de-couple when the entire West (at last) is desperate to do so? Fifty years ago, the Nixon-Kissinger duo preposterously led their prosperous and industrial country down the garden path; and now, multinational corporations of both the USA and Europe (especially Germany) are constantly challenging the authority of their governments. No wonder the CPC-PLA cracked down on their home-grown multinational corporations' billionaire bosses who could very well challenge the Chinese government, too, through sheer might and weight of money bags.

In future, the very concept of nation-state can surely be further weakened because of the way the so-called globalisation bubble is bursting. The present all-round global turmoil, from commodities to commerce, proves that despite everybody being linked to everybody through various multilateral treaties, agreements, protocols and the supreme benches from Brussels to Geneva, New York to

Paris, for the majority of the people, prosperity is going downhill.

Coming back to Beijing, note the name of the Chinese entity: China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). It doesn't have words like 'sea' or 'ocean'. Why? Because the CIDCA is a 'foreign aid agency' of the home state, a former wing of the Ministry of Commerce, now reporting direct to the CPC State Council. Obviously, Beijing's aim is self-development through all means, as can be seen from Xinjiang to Xizang (Tibet); Taiwan to trade; terror aid to Pakistan to usurping India's territory. Owning ports of the West to the out-of-area fishing zones of South America, to the coast of Africa, all are under severe strain. Even Ratnagiri on India's Konkan coast is under the scanner of the CPC-PLA fishing fleet with powerful intelligence penetration devices. The CIDCA, therefore, unlike India's IORA, is a muscle-flexing forum of unequal members consisting of perceived or potential client states whose ports and economies could be tapped for possession. One instance would suffice. According to the 2022 report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), “China delivered major arms to 48 states in 2017-2021, but 47% of its arms exports went to just one state, Pakistan,” which is a CIDCA member. Of the 19 ‘participating’ member states, two (the Maldives and Australia) flatly denied their CIDCA ‘participation’. Incidentally, the CIDCA consists of two remote, landlocked states amidst the Indian Ocean member-states. Why? Because they're potential targets for Han subjugation and also for countering the IORA. “South China Sea can be China's Sea”, but “Indian Ocean is not India's Ocean” — the nefarious intention is to force the Indian Navy to move out to operate anywhere except the waters along the 4,104-nautical mile coastline.

## Protests compel China to soften its Covid policy

YOGESH GUPTA

ARELY a week after returning to Beijing following his high-profile diplomacy at the G20 and APEC summits, Chinese President Xi Jinping was rattled by widespread protests at home against his zero-Covid-19 policy. While Xi tried to underplay these as the handiwork of “mainly students who were frustrated after three years of the pandemic”, the reality was that the protests erupted simultaneously in several major cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, Nanjing, Chengdu, Wuhan, Urumqi, Guangdong and Zhengzhou with the participation of students, migrants, workers and other citizens around a single cause.

The protests spread after 10 people were killed in a fire mishap in Urumqi city of western China, with the protesters believing that the zero-Covid measures had prevented the victims from escaping from their blocked apartments and the firefighters from saving lives — allegations which the Xi regime has denied. The protesters in the other cities feared that the traumatic incident at Urumqi could occur again as the authorities were putting the zero-Covid policy ahead of human lives.

The protesters shared the prevalent opinion that the zero-Covid policy had become unscientific and irrelevant and

The protests by Chinese people against the zero-Covid policy show that even a docile population under the most repressive control would rise against the government's unscientific and irrational policies when these hurt their lives. In today's interconnected world, people can't be suppressed by information firewalls, surveillance tools, prison terms and other measures. Also, the Xi regime has remained indifferent to the miseries of its people.

was being foisted upon the country due to Xi's ideological obsession. Watching the World Cup soccer matches on television, people in China were wondering why they were being kept in quarantine when people in other countries were mingling freely.

The protests were as much against Xi's faulty governance as the zero-Covid policy. As per media reports, several hundred students gathered at Xi's alma mater, Tsinghua University, on November 27, seeking “democracy, the rule of law and freedom of expression.” Peking University students, demonstrating on November 26, had painted slogans on building walls, saying, “We want freedom, not lockdowns, dynamic zero-Covid policy is a lie.” Similarly, the protesters at Guangdong, Zhengzhou and Lhasa were asking for an end to prolonged lockdowns and frequent Covid tests. Some protesters were holding blank sheets of paper to complain against heavy censorship and were asking for constitutional reform and regime change.

The signs of public impatience with the zero-Covid policy had been building up for months. In May and June,



protests had erupted in Beijing against the Covid restrictions. At the same time, 20 university professors across China had criticised the “Covid excesses” of the Shanghai government where the residents of a multi-storied building were sent into central quarantine due to just one positive case. Even the Director General of WHO, Tedros Ghebreyesus, had warned on May 10 that China's zero-tolerance Covid policy was unsustainable, considering the new facts about the behaviour of the Covid virus.

The Xi regime was, however,

adamant about its zero-Covid policy, arguing that its withdrawal would lead to millions of infections and a large number of deaths as the virus had not been allowed to spread earlier due to control measures; a large number of elderly population (who had low faith in China's domestic vaccines) had not been vaccinated (vaccination rate among people over 80 years was barely 40 per cent by November); and the country's health infrastructure would not be able to cope with the mass infections. While the rest of the world prepared to cope with Covid by expand-

ing healthcare facilities, giving triple vaccination to its people and localised quarantine measures, China spent the three years in perfecting virus control measures (building quarantine facilities, codes for the detection of infected people and manufacturing supplies for Covid tests) instead of preparing to live with the virus. Not to give the impression that China trails the West in science and technology, the Xi regime did not allow the more efficacious foreign m-RNA vaccines to be used in China; in fact, it linked the entry of foreigners into China to those vaccinated with the Chinese vaccines.

Xi's zero-Covid policy has damaged China's economy, forcing millions into quarantine camps and, thus, unable to work, a large number of industries getting closed, hurting the government finances and a spike in the number of unemployed youth. Unfazed by these hardships, the Xi regime continued its zero-Covid policy, only fine-tuning certain aspects till the protests hit it hard. The demonstrations have compelled the Xi regime to relax its zero-Covid policy. Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan, who is in charge of policy formulation, now says, “China has

entered a new phase, faces new tasks in the fight against Covid-19 as the Omicron virus has become less pathogenic.” Some provincial and local governments are now asking people to take rapid antigen tests, to quarantine at home, use public transport and enter public buildings without a negative test result. The government is trying to step up the vaccination of the elderly people and expand health infrastructure. The expectation is that the zero-Covid policy will be relaxed in a gradual manner without the regime admitting its mistake. The ministers in charge of intelligence and public security are taking strong measures to “crack down on hostile forces.”

The protests show that even a docile population under the most repressive control would rise against the government's unscientific and irrational policies when these hurt their lives. In today's interconnected world, people can't be suppressed by information firewalls, surveillance tools, prison terms and other draconian measures. The Xi regime has been indifferent to the miseries of its people for long and has been formulating policies cut off from the ground realities.

# Priyanka Chopra Jonas on Bollywood: 'I'd earn 10% of my male co-actor's salary'

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas tells BBC 100 Women that she received equal pay to her male co-actor for the first time in her 22-year career for her role in a forthcoming US spy series, Citadel. She is a hugely successful star in India and has acted in more than 60 Bollywood movies. About a decade ago she made a foray into Hollywood and is now one of the few Indian actors to make a mark for themselves in the US entertainment industry.

"I've never had pay parity in Bollywood. I would get paid about 10% of the salary of my male co-actor," said Ms Chopra Jonas.

"It [the pay gap] is large, substantially large. And so many women still deal with that. I'm sure I will too if I worked with a male co-actor now in Bollywood," she added.

"My generation of female actors have definitely asked [for equal pay]. We've asked, but we've not got it."

Speaking after having been named on the BBC 100 Women list for 2022, Ms Chopra Jonas recounted how as a young actor in the Indian film industry she accepted deep rooted patriarchy as "normal".

"I thought it was absolutely OK to sit for hours and hours on set, while my male co-actor just took his own time, and decided whenever he wanted to show up on set is when we would shoot," she said.

When she started out in Bollywood, she recalls facing body shaming because of her complexion.

"I was called 'black cat', 'dusky'. I mean, what does 'dusky' even mean in a country where we are literally all brown?"

"I thought I was not pretty enough, I believed that I would have to work a lot harder, even



though I thought I was probably a little bit more talented than my fellow actors who were lighter skinned. But I thought that was right because it was so normalised," she said.

"Of course, that comes from our colonial past, it's not even been 100 years since we shed the British Raj, so we still hold on to it, I think. But it is up to our generation to be able to cut those ties and change it so that the next generation doesn't inherit the equity placed on light skin."

When asked how different Hollywood is regarding pay parity, Chopra Jonas said, "Well, the

first time it's happened to me, it has happened in Hollywood. So I don't know going forward. Because this was my first show with a male actor as a co-lead," referring to her upcoming role in action-packed spy series Citadel.

Despite being known and adored by millions in South Asia, the actress had to struggle for a decade to carve a niche for herself overseas.

"I would go into meetings by myself, introduce myself and take my show reel. I worked with acting coaches and dialect coaches. I did auditions, got rejected, cried, then went back for another one. I

did the hustle that I needed to do to make it in any new industry. It was a humbling experience," she said.

In 2015, Ms Chopra Jonas became the first South Asian to be the lead in a network television programme in the US, with thriller series Quantico. She has also been the first Indian on the cover of multiple prestigious fashion magazines.

But she says it's still difficult to get mainstream work in Hollywood for people of her ethnicity, despite a greater awareness to be more inclusive and diverse.

"I think maybe I've built a certain amount of credibility, and so I'm doing interesting work. We'll see if that's accepted or not. It's really hard to be South Asian and Indian in Hollywood. There's still a long way to go," she said.

As an international celebrity who is often vocal about global events, Ms Chopra Jonas has faced criticism in India for not commenting on domestic issues. Her publicist intervened to stop her responding to a question about that criticism.

When replying to an earlier question about receiving positive and negative attention on social media, she said: "There will always be people that will say, 'You didn't say something about something.' You should have said something about something." And it's just like, you can never please everyone."

Ms Chopra Jonas spoke to BBC 100 Women in Lucknow, in northern India, where in her role as Global Unicef Goodwill Ambassador, she visited health centres and schools, meeting young female students.

She's been associated with Unicef for 15 years and in addition to India, has travelled to Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Jordan and Bangladesh, among other countries, meeting children affected by conflict and natural disasters.

"When you're a public person, people are interested in seeing where I am, where I'm going. So I feel like that's where I find my purpose, if I can use the platform that I have to talk about the initiatives and the problems children face, and how they have overcome them... maybe the people who consume me will also consume their message," she said.

"So I amplify the voices of people, especially of children, whose voices don't travel. This is the greatest job of my life."

## Vicky Kaushal says Katrina Kaif 'begs me not to put such videos' as he grooves to Kya Baat Hai

Vicky Kaushal has shared a candid video of him grooving to his new song Kya Baat Hai and mentioned that his wife Katrina Kaif doesn't like him posting such videos. The actor shows some dance steps without getting up from his chair. The song is from his upcoming film Govinda Naam Mera and features him and Kiara Advani on the dance floor.

Sharing the video, Vicky wrote on Instagram, "My wife begs me not to put up such videos, but I can't help it. Hopefully one day she'll say... 'KYAA BAAT HAI!!!!'"

His fans loved the video. A fan commented, "Oh I live for these videos!!!" Another said, "Your wife is wrong... we LOVE these videos!!!!!!" One more wrote, "In this matter pls don't listen to your wife." A comment also read: "Even Katrina Maam should join too." Many also wrote, "kya baat hai" as their reaction to the video.

There were however a few who said "You should listen to your wife sir!" Many also expressed their desire to get Katrina's reaction to the song.

Kya Baat Hai 2.0 is the third song from Govinda Naam Mera. It released on Tuesday. It is a recreated version of Harry Sandhu and B Praak's hit Punjabi song by Tanishk Bagchi. Two other songs have also been released from the film that also stars Bhumi Pednekar. Kiara and Vicky are seen in a romantic setting in the song. Bana Sharabi and dance to desi beats in Biji. The film has been directed by Shashank Khaitan and will release on Disney+ Hotstar on December 16. Vicky often shares videos of him grooving to Punjabi songs in his car or in other places. He tied the knot with Katrina last year.

## 'Bigg Boss 16': Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia Breaks Down Over Being Called 'Weak Contestant'



In the upcoming episode of 'Bigg Boss 16', contestant Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia will be seen having a breakdown and crying inconsolably after being called a "weak contestant" in the reality show.

In the last episode amid the nomination task, Sumbul Touqeer, Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia, MC Stan, Tina Datta got nominated. After coming out of the activity area, where the task was held, Priyanka, Archana celebrated that finally they could nominate Nimrit as she was getting saved since past few weeks. They even called her weak.

A promo shared by the channel Colors on Instagram, Nimrit can be seen having an emotional breakdown in front of Shiv Thakare, Abdu Rozik, Mc Stan and Sajid Khan.

She is also seen complaining to Sajid Khan for not being their and giving his support when she needed the most. In the video, a tearful Nimrit says, "I'm sick and tired of being called a weak contestant, fu\*\* you all, I am not, I am irritated."

Sajid calls her "depression ki murat".

She says, "Sir, I am feeling low, and in the house I am close to Shiv and you and if I don't share my problems with you guys then what's the point. There are so many people in the house who come and comment 50 different things but I let go them. I have a complain with you that you don't have enough time for me. Aaj main shayad perli baar ap ko haq se bol rahi hoon, jab mujhe zaruri thi aap kaahan the."

## Paras Arora To Play Lead Role In Family Drama 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

'Udaan' actor Paras Arora has been roped in for the upcoming show 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan' in which he will be portraying a character full of positivity.

Talking about the show, he said it is a story of a man in Punjab who is upset as his son went abroad. However, the son who is abroad is also not happy.

Sharing his experience of being part of the show, Paras said: "It's a surreal feeling. I look forward to a remarkable experience through my show 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'. It feels like a homecoming, as an artist, I couldn't have asked for anything better. I am fortunate to have bagged this opportunity as it's definitely something very different from my previous characters."

He said: "When I was told about my character and the storyline that would follow, I was surprised and very excited. This is one special opportunity where a show allows me to perform a character that is so rare, loving, and believes in the goodness of people."

"I can't wait to watch the episodes on television as this show beautifully narrates the story of a family which is parted due to migration. We are putting in our best efforts as a team, and I hope it all reflects on the screen well."

Fingers crossed," he concluded.

Paras is known for his role as Chhatrapati Shivaji in the historical show 'Veer Shivaji'. Karan in 'Laal Ishq', Vikrant Rahaia in 'Dil Hi To Hai', Dr Pramod Chautala in 'Kaateal & Sons' among others.

'Dil Diyaan Gallaan' is all set to start on December 12 on Sony SAB.

## Alia Bhatt Opens Up On Embracing Motherhood, Working With Sanjay Leela Bhansali on 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'



Alia Bhatt had a great 2022. She started off by featuring SS Rajamouli's 'RRR', and went on to feature in projects like 'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva' with Ranbir Kapoor, Netflix release 'Darlings' and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' - which is now amidst Oscars and the BAFTAs campaign.

On the personal front, she got married to

Ranbir Kapoor in April and welcomed her first child in November.

While she says she has not yet figured out how motherhood will be reflected in her film choices, she is excited to see how her "journey pans out."

On embracing motherhood, Alia told Variety, "Motherhood has changed me so much in the span of - I mean, it's, as I just said in this interview, it's barely been a month, just over three weeks, but I don't know about how it's going to change the way I pick my roles yet because I haven't gotten to thinking about that."

"But it's changed the way I look at everything."

Just think my heart is a little bit more open than it was before. I don't know what change that is going to bring about. But we'll see. I'm excited to see how that journey pans out," she added.

She went on to address the buzz around

campaigns for 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', and revealed that she had wanted to work with Bhansali ever since she was a little girl.

She maintained, "I always knew I was going to work with Sir [Bhansali] - there was no way in hell that I would land up saying 'No, I can't do this.'"

It was just a matter of convincing myself that I can do it. And then it just was all taken away by the sheer desire of like, "Listen, this is the biggest opportunity that you've waited for for such a long time."

"And I keep saying this to Sir that I feel like he's totally spoiled me, it's gonna be very difficult for me to top up this experience. But I don't think of it too seriously. I just want to lose myself to a certain world, not just a character I like."

I like going for worlds, every character, every aspect of that film. And that experience should be just a little sweet bubble-ish world, which I just get lost in," she added.

## Jenna Ortega Draws Flak After Revealing She Filmed 'Wednesday' Dance Scene While Having Covid

Actress Jenna Ortega is facing backlash after she confessed that she filmed the dance scene on the hit Netflix series 'Wednesday' while testing positive for Covid.

The 20-year-old actress made the confession during an interview with NME. During the candid chat, she revealed that her infamous dance scene was filmed during her "first day with COVID so it was awful to film," reports aceshowbiz.com. "I woke up and it's weird, I never get sick and when I do it's not very bad."

I had the body aches," Jenna further described the symptoms. "I felt like I'd been hit by a car and that a little goblin had been let loose in my throat and was scratching the walls of my esophagus."

## BABIL KHAN'S PERFORMANCE IN 'QALA' IMPRESSES KANGANA RANAUT: TERRIFIC AS DEBUTANT

Kangana Ranaut is a fan of Babil Khan after watching his debut film, Netflix original Qala. She also praised director Anvita Dutt and lead actor Tripti Dimri for showing such a great story.

Kangana wrote in a series of Instagram Stories that she posted Wednesday morning, "#Qala is a great film, it's not your usual three-act structure neither is it a literal story of the physical world, it's a metaphorical representation of creative consciousness...with an open mind sit back to let it flow, magic

will unfold."

She further wrote, "Director of Qala @anvita\_dee is one of the greatest creative forces right now. I had the privilege of working with her in my film Queen (@anvita\_dee wrote Queen) After a smashing directorial debut #bulbul in her second film as a director. She penetrates into the dreadful depths of the human psyche. And does the unthinkable dances with the demons of desire, hate jealousy, and insecurities."

"All departments are great!!! special mention for all perform-

ances...@babil.ik as a debutant is terrific...@tripti\_dimri as a fellow Himachali pahadi girl makes me so proud. I just can't take my eyes off her," she added. The film also features Swastika Mukherjee, Amit Sial, Girija Oak, Abhishek Bannerjee, and Swanand Kirkire. Qala traces the story of Indian playback singer Qala Manjushree in the 1930s and 40s. Produced by Kamesh Seharna through his banner Clean Slate Filmz, the film also features his sister, actor Anushka Sharma in a special appearance. Kangana is currently working



on her new film Chandramukhi 2 - a sequel to Rajinikanth's 2005 Tamil movie Chandramukhi. Tamil actor-director Raghava Lawrence will star opposite Kangana in the film. She has been sharing pictures and updates about the film on her Instagram. Apart from Chandramukhi, Kangana Ranaut

also has three other films in the pipeline including Tejas in which she plays the role of an Air Force Pilot.

Her other anticipated projects include political drama Emergency in which she plays Indira Gandhi and a biopic on Bengali theatre legend Binodini Dasi.

# Is a Vegan Diet Safe For Children? A Pediatrician Weighs In



Despite vegan and plant-based diets soaring in popularity in recent years among parents who are also subjecting their children to these dietary choices, some pediatricians are critical of the practice of a vegan diet for children. Their biggest concerns with the vegan diet have to do with nutritional inadequacy since they believe a plant-based diet without dairy or meat does not provide enough vitamins and minerals children need for growth.

The latest research shows that individuals of any age following a vegan diet are at risk for deficiencies in vitamin D, calcium, iron, Omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamin B12 since these are the key nutrients from a whole-food, plant-based diet and require you to eat a range of foods to get all your nutrients daily. New research out of France suggests that a vegan diet can be safe for kids as long as children are getting all of those nutrients either through food or supplementation.

This Day In History  
That study said specifically: "Regular dietary monitoring is essential. [to make sure the growing child is getting] vitamin B12 and vitamin D. The study also said that supplementation is often necessary since kids need iron, calcium, [omega-3] fatty acid, and zinc. So parents interested in keeping their children

on a plant-based diet should be monitoring them for deficiencies and these micronutrients may need to be helped along with supplements on a case-by-case basis.

A 2018 study published in *Nutrients* recommends healthcare providers to encourage a vegan diet and emphasize the consumption of nutritional supplements, which can be fortified as needed.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has deemed the vegan diet safe for children and infants. Research has shown a plant-based diet can be a healthy one for children and adolescents, establishing lifelong healthy eating patterns with lots of fruits and vegetables. A 2018 study published in *Nutrition Reviews* found that a plant-based diet during childhood reduces the risk for cardiovascular disease in adulthood, promoting longevity and good health.

To learn more about the plant-based diet and the safety of children, we spoke to Dr. Jackie Busse, MD, FAAP, a board-certified physician with expertise in evidence-based lifestyle and preventative medicine. On her platform @plantbasedpediatrician, she seeks to educate others on the power of plant-based nutrition for children while sharing delicious recipes and moments of her own young ones.

In this exclusive interview,

Dr. Busse weighs in on the safety of a plant-based diet for children, advice for parents on getting their kiddos to transition to a vegan diet, and her recommendations for nutrient-dense vegan foods. She leads by example and shows that a whole-food, plant-based diet is not only safe for kids but it gives them the best foundation for lifelong health. Let her advice empower you to hearten your body with fruits and veggies and share with your young ones too!

**The Beet:** How has living a plant-based lifestyle influenced your role as a physician?

Dr. Busse: My husband and I transitioned to a plant-based diet 9 years ago, about a year after I finished my pediatric residency training. It completely changed how I practice medicine, shifting my focus to the power of diet and lifestyle to prevent and reverse disease. I have seen multiple diabetic patients come completely off their medications, chronic hypertension cured, chronic joint pains resolved, migraines, acne, allergies, and asthma significantly improved and constipation cured. Patients experience increased energy, better sleep and less anxiety and depressive symptoms. These patients are not anomalies. I've seen this over and over again in the years I've been teaching plant-based nutrition. It never ceases to amaze me how much good it can do.

I've since gone through two plant-based pregnancies and have two healthy and thriving plant-based kids, now 4 and 6 years old. A whole-food, plant-based diet should be the cornerstone of healthy lifestyle changes for children and adults. It is the most powerful change we can make.

**TB:** What do pediatricians have to say about the safety of a plant-based diet for children?

JB: Pediatricians all want what's best for the children they take care of but many lack familiarity and training to properly advise families about vegan and vegetarian diets. The most common concern I hear from colleagues as regarding calcium, vitamin D, protein, and fat. These nutrient needs can all be easily met with plant-based foods.

# The secret to youthful skin unlocked

Beauty might only be skin deep, but for those wondering how to keep that skin young, scientists may have found an answer in the form of a protein that encourages cell competition.

The prosaically named COL17A1 might not sound like a fountain of youth, but the new study suggests it does the heavy lifting when it comes to keeping skin intact and unimpaired. The protein works by encouraging cell competition, a key process to maintain tissue fitness. That effectively "drives out" weaker cells, while encouraging replication of stronger ones.

"Damaged or stressed stem cells can be selectively eliminated by intact stem cells every day in our skin," said Emi Nishimura, a professor at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University's Stem Cell Biology department, who led the research.

But aging results in a depletion of COL17A1, as do familiar enemies of youthful skin, like UV radiation and other stress factors. And when that happens, weaker cells replicate, leaving the skin thinner, more prone to damage and slower to heal.

The research published recently in the journal *Nature* is based on investigations using mice tails, which share many of the same characteristics as human skin.



James DeGregori.

After confirming the importance of COL17A1, the team decided to investigate whether they could stimulate the protein once it was depleted, effectively looking for compounds that could kickstart the anti-aging process in skin.

They isolated two chemical compounds - Y27632 and apocynin, and tested both on skin cells, with positive results.

"Application of these drugs to full-thickness skin wounds significantly promoted wound repair," the study said. The two compounds point to ways of "facilitating skin regeneration and reducing skin aging," the study added.

In a review of the study commissioned by Nature, two professors from the University of Colorado said cell competition had previously only been studied extensively in fruit flies. The research "provides evidence that healthy cells in mammals can also efficiently re-populate adult tissues, replacing unfit or damaged cells," wrote professors Ganna Bilousova and

And they said the research offered "proof-of-principle" that the two chemical compounds could combat ageing. "Future studies are needed to determine the mechanisms of cell competition in other tissues, and to identify compounds capable of reversing ageing in other organs," they said.

Nishimura told AFP that the work could eventually lead to products like creams or tablets that could stop skin deterioration and promote repair. "We are going to collaborate with pharmaceutical or cosmetic companies for the clinical use of the chemicals," she said.

She said additional research would investigate whether the same process might also be at work in other parts of the body that have so-called epithelial cells like skin does.

"We are working on other epithelial organs as well to find out (whether) similar competition may underlie long-term tissue maintenance as well as organ ageing," she said.

# Workout styles Librans prefer to do in order to stay healthy and fit

Libra is one of the most balanced zodiac signs of all. They are attracted to elegance and class. This air sign doesn't like intense workout styles that require a lot of physical efforts and strength. They like to do light things that are calming, relaxing and rejuvenating. Libra season is from September 22 to October 22. Also, this sign is a social butterfly, so going to the gym or Zumba class is more like socialising for them. They find it more interesting than doing any individual exercises.

These are the workout classes that Librans people like to do regularly:

## ZUMBA

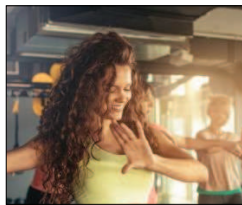
Zumba is one of the most popular forms of workout that is the first choice of Librans. This exercising style with dance moves is fun and helps them to loosen up.

## PILATES

Pilates can improve your strength and posture and it also has body-sculpting moves. Librans are always very conscious of their moves. So, they may opt for Pilates as well.

## WEIGHT LIFTING

Libra people would sign up for weight



training just for the results of it. They will do it regularly with concentration to get the best out of it.

## HILIT

This high-intensity, low-impact training (HILIT) exercise easily catches their attention. Since it is in trend, Librans will follow it.

## YOGA

As people of this zodiac sign love any workout style with less-intense efforts, so they will find yoga to be highly soothing and relaxing. They will never skip their yoga sessions to keep themselves fit and healthy. They also prefer aerial yoga as this completely is in trend and Librans like trendy things a lot.

# Depression can't be predicted by a few genes: Study

A team of US scientists claim that no specific set of genes can predict the risk of depression, and efforts to treat the mental disorder by targeting a few 'genetic culprits' is bound to fail. The researchers, who assessed genetic and survey data from 620,000 individuals, found that the 18 most highly-studied candidate genes for depression are actually no more associated with it than randomly chosen genes.

Over the past quarter-century, researchers have published hundreds of studies suggesting a small set of particular genes or gene-variants plays a substantial role in boosting susceptibility to depression.

research fuelled hopes that clinicians could soon use genetic testing to simply identify those at risk, and drug companies could develop medications to counteract a few genetically-driven culprits, researchers said in a statement.

According to the team



from the University of Colorado Boulder in the US, previous studies were incorrect—or "false positives"—and the scientific community should abandon what are known as "candidate gene hypotheses". study confirms that efforts to find a single gene or handful of genes which determine depression are doomed to fail," said Richard Border, a gradu-

ate student at University of Colorado Boulder. "We are not saying that depression is not heritable at all. It is. What we are saying is that depression is influenced by many variants, and individually each of those has a miniscule effect," said Matthew Keller, an associate professor at University of Colorado Boulder. For the

study, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, researchers looked at 18 genes which have appeared at least 10 times in depression-focused studies.

Among them was a gene called SLC6A4, involved in the transport of the neurotransmitter serotonin. Research dating back 20 years suggests that people with a certain "short" ver-

sion of the gene are at significantly greater risk of depression, particularly when exposed to early life trauma. The researchers also looked at genes involved in the production of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) a protein involved in nerve formation, and the neurotransmitter dopamine.

Using genetic and survey data gathered from individuals via the UK Biobank, 23andMe, and the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, they set out to see if any of the genes, or gene variants, were associated with depression either alone or when combined with an environmental factor like childhood trauma or socioeconomic disparity.

"We found that, as a set, these candidate genes are no more related to depression than any random gene out there," said Keller.

Keller said that in the field of genetics, scientists have known for years that candidate-gene hypotheses were flawed.

# Addressing the mental health needs of homeless persons

As many as 66.1% of those worst affected in India during the Spanish Flu belonged to oppressed classes and suffered the consequences of multidimensional poverty. Similar trends persist today. The inability to adhere to public health protocols that prescribe distancing and use of hygienic products, the absence of private toilets and basic amenities, and the lack of adequate nutrition are all realities in lower- and middle-income countries.

Amongst those most affected are homeless persons and the ultra-poor, many of whom are employed in the informal sector. They are exposed to greater adversity against the backdrop of intergenerational social disadvantage and lack of social security.

Health shocks could precipitate a downward spiral into a state of not just homelessness, but also hopelessness. Globally, unpreparedness to handle the pandemic and near collapse of the health systems denuded our ability to focus on health. Many countries have attempted to make amends for the unjustifiable perpetuation of structural barriers and inequities.

However, are we awakened to the needs of our poor only during a disaster? The pandemic has made a sound case for increased investments in the health and social sectors.

States must also re-examine the role of social determinants of health in perpetuating unjust structures that normalise deprivation.

# Tracking nutrition and health status of Indians

As for milk and milk products, only 8.7% in rural and 14.3% of the population in urban areas consumed as per the recommended intakes.

City-based Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) has initiated 'Mapping of nutrition and health status - A national level participatory real-time data generation programme' to develop a mobile-based device to be used by nutrition researchers at district level nationwide during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The mapping will be done region-wise simultaneously in collaboration with the Nutrition Society of India (NSI) and this platform will be used to collect data in future periodically too. "This will help us develop food-based strategies through inter-ministerial convergences for ensuring food and



for Health & Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan in the presence of ICMR chief Balram Bhargava in Delhi on Monday.

'What India Eats' had revealed a majority of the population consumed lower than recommended levels of pulses, legumes, milk, nuts and vegetables while consumption of cereals and millets was higher than recommended levels.

## TRACKING NUTRITION AND HEALTH STATUS OF INDIANS

Dietary data analysis of adults in urban and rural India on macronutrient intakes based on household 24-hour dietary recall showed an average urban adult consumed 1943 Kcal/day, 299 g carb, 69g protein, 51.6 g fat and 35.4 g protein. In rural region, an average adult consumed 2081 kcal/day, 368 g of carbohydrates, 36 g of fat and 69 g of protein.



## SMVDU Students Visit Microsoft Office, Gurugram



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DEC 7:** Microsoft, Gurugram hosted a technical session for students of Engineering of Shri Mata Devi University. The event was

conducted by Sarthak Jain, Head of Community Rekill, and Microsoft Employees which provided sixty students with an opportunity to explore the latest technologies and get hands-on

experience. Microsoft employees provided students an in-depth understanding of the industry, the latest trends and best practices. The students were also

visited Microsoft Office and interacted with the employees. The students gained industry knowledge and explored the possibilities of internships and job opportunities. They were also provided with the \$100 Credits of Microsoft Azure and Goodies each. The trip was organized by Dr. Manish Sabraj (Head, SoECE), coordinated by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma (Assistant Professor, SoCSE). Also, student coordinators: Jatin Sharma, Sudeep Kumar, vAman Raj, Aman Kumar, Ritik Sharma, Nischay, and Ritihika Kaseria helped to make this event a success.

## Govt only giving false hopes to KP employees serving in Valley: Rajesh Kesri

*Expresses serious concern over suspected blast near Sidhra Bridge checking point*

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DEC 7:** Shiv Sena Hindustan today expressed serious concern over threats to Kashmiri Pandit employees. Addressing media persons in a press conference, President Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K Pt Rajesh Kesri alleged that administration has failed in protecting them and that over the years they have been only given false hopes and promises while seeking immediate relocation to safer places.



He said that they were feeling dismayed and are living a life full of threats and humiliation. PM package employees appointed for various superannuation posts under CBMs in 2010 and onwards, are still living as deportees, unsettled, unsecured; now almost 13 years in a row," Kesri said. Kesri also expressed serious concern over suspected blast near the Sidhra bridge checking point in Jammu on Tuesday evening few meters away from Lt Governor House. He demanded immediate thorough search and high level investigation to punish whoever is involved in this Kesri further said that PM package employment policy has completely failed as a policy at all levels and has only multiplied their woes and vulnerabilities. They are doing their job at the cost of their lives even as we recently witnessed the killing of PM package employees," he said. He demanded repealing of the "unconstitutional bond" which, he said, were forced to sign at the time of joining their services for the survival apart from relocation to the safest, terror-free

places outside the Kashmir division. He said that he believes it is a complete failure of administration which has resulted in the toll on the lives of the innocent PM package employees. He appealed to the J&K Lieutenant Governor to prioritize the security of Kashmiri Pandits over their service location and relocate them to Jammu division until the situation becomes normal. The killings have shown that security breach is a reality and thus accepting this reality, KP employees need to be relocated to Jammu," he said. "With a lot

of false assurances, lip service that these package employees received from every government, politician and administrators for last 13 years, they are now highly disappointed and engulfed with uncertainties and continuous life threats," Kesri said. They will not be able to work in the present circumstances and Government should take necessary steps regarding our safety. He said KP employees feeling vulnerable and are not sure about their safety. "Who knows who will end up killing them; it is just not safe here," he said. He said KP employees feel trapped rather than in a job due to wrong and inhuman policies of the Government where, he said, there is no special flexibility in norms so to give it a humanitarian touch and thought which in turn could render some relief to hapless PM package employees who saw 33 year-long gloom full life post-migration.

## Department of Botany, GDC Udhampur organises quiz competition on Microbiology

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**UDHAMPUR, DEC 7:** In the Continuous programmes under Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal Celebrations, and to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. J.C Bose, a renowned biologist, physicist and early writer of science-fiction, the Department of Botany of the College organised a quiz contest on Microbiology to pay JC Bose a tribute, under the stewardship of Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta.



The quiz was organised in 5 rounds of 30 questions each. The teams were named after the famous biologist viz team Levenhock, team Robert Koch, Team Louis Pasteur, team Edward Jenner, Team Alexander Fleming. The team Louis Pasteur emerged to be the winners while the team Fleming had to satisfy as Runner-Up. However there was a neck-to-neck fight for the

Summit-slot between the winner and runner-up team, as the winning margin was just 0.5 marks. The certificates of merit and participation were distributed amongst the contestants. Prof. Asma javid was the Quiz master, while Dr. Swarn Singh was timekeeper and Prof Shivani Sharma was the score-keeper. The Valedictory function started with the welcome address of HOD Botany, Prof Romesh Kumar Atri. Prof Shalabh from IIT

Kanpur was the Chief guest, while Dr Romesh Kumar Gupta principal GDC Udhampur was the guest of Honour. The chief guest Prof. Shalabh appreciated the Department of Botany and the participants for their efforts and involvement of the students in competitive activities as a great initiative to infuse excellence. He added that these competitions are the milestones in the journey of success. The Patron and worthy Principal encouraged the students for maximum participation in such competitions and lauded the Department of Botany for organising such kinds of relevant academic events. The session was attended by Prof. Rozy Bamba, Prof. Jawaid Sarver and Mr. Rajneesh Mahajan, lab assistant of the department. The session was co-ordinated by Prof. Shivani Sharma. Around fifty students of the Department of Botany witnessed the Quiz Competition.

## Shivsena protested, seek peoples to wake up not to pay property tax without basic amenities

*People suffering from inflation, Govt remains busy in recovery: Sahni*



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DEC 07:** The purpose of repealing Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir has proved to be arbitrariness, loot and indifference to public issues, the government remains busy in filling its coffers, after handing over water bills to the people, wildly increasing power tariff, has now completed preparations to collect property tax. Get up, wake up, hit the streets for your rights, can't tolerate tax collection without facilities, Shiv Sena is with you. This was stated by

Manish Sahni, President J&K Shiv Sena while leading a protest against government over its planning to introduce property tax in Jammu. Shiv Sena leaders, under the chairmanship of Manish Sahni, today assembled at channi crossing near party centre office and staged protest against the government. Talking to reporters, Sahni said that preparations have been completed to put the burden of property tax on the people who are suffering from the economic crisis and unbridled inflation that started due to

demonetisation, GST and Corona epidemic. "After the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, the tax burden on the people of the state is continuously being increased. Plans have been made to hand over water bills to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, rich in immense water resources, increase in electricity bills, installation of smart meters and now completely break the back of the public through property tax," he added. Sahni said that these days the area of every

house and shop is being measured, it is clear that preparations have been made to collect huge property tax from the public. At the same time, nothing is being done in the name of facilities. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is being flouted at various places, collection is being done to collect garbage from the houses, most of the localities have streets and Chowks, he added.

Sahni warned that Shiv Sena will not allow the imposition of property tax under any circumstances. He appealed to the public to come on the streets and gear up to teach a lesson to the ruling party and cooperate and support Shiv Sena.

Among those who joined the protest include General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, GI Singh, Senior Vice President Harsh Kumar Gupta, President Kamgar Wing Raj Singh, Secretary Youth Wing Rajesh Handa, Vice President ShashiPal, Sanjeev Sudan, Suman, Meenakshi were present.

## Full Court Reference held on superannuation of Chief Justice, Ali Mohammad Magrey

*DC Kupwara participates in valedictory functions at MC Handwara, MC Langate*

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DECEMBER 07:** A Full Court Reference was held today in the Jammu wing of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, to bid farewell to Chief Justice, Ali Mohammad Magrey, upon his superannuation. Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohan Lal, Justice Ali Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Saadiq Nagal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri were present on the occasion.

Advocate General, D C Raina and President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, M K Bhardwaj delivered the farewell address which was subsequently responded by the Chief Justice. Advocate General in his farewell address described Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey a gentleman par excellence and lauded the role of Justice Magrey for his dedication and

commitment to his professional responsibilities. He said that Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey has endeared one and all in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh by his conduct and behaviour. Advocate General emphasized that with the superannuation of Justice Magrey, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh would lose a brilliant and illustrious President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, in his address, described Justice Magrey a kind hearted person having great qualities of head and heart. He expressed his gratitude to Justice Magrey for a full hearted support to the various initiatives taken by the High Court for the institutional upliftment. Bhardwaj further said that Justice Magrey was very popular amongst the lawyers of entire two UTs of J&K and Ladakh for his amiable and intellectual aura.

Justice Magrey thanked everyone including Judges of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, officers of Registry and Judicial Officers for their undaunted professional commitment and the support extended to him during his tenure. During his address, he recounted the upbringing and good wishes of almost all the people involved in his development specially his parents, teachers and family in making Ali Mohammad Magrey as Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey. He also made special mention of his personal staff in successful discharge of his duties as Judge and as Chief Justice of the High Court. He emphasised upon the young lawyers to display patience and work hard to ensure success in the profession.

The dignitaries who were present on the occasion included Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, Dilbag Singh, DGP, Sr. Advocates, Achal Sethi, Secretary Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Deputy Solicitor Generals, Government of India, Sr. Additional Advocate General, Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu, Officers and staff of the Registry of the High Court. The proceedings of the Reference were conducted by Shahzad Azeem, Director J&K Judicial Academy and the event was live telecasted on YouTube Channel.

## Doda admin launches pan district initiative -Ap Ke Gaon Mein Aap Ka Tehsildar'

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**DODA, DECEMBER 07:** Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir has accorded top priority to provide different services to the citizens at their door steps.

The recently concluded Back to Village - 4 (B2V4), and second phase of My Town My Pride (MTMP) were chiefly organized to reach out to the public by saturating various schemes being implemented by the Government. Further, as per the directions of higher authorities, almost all the revenue services are being provided in online mode. Besides, to ensure timely disposal, all the revenue services have been included under the Public Services Guarantee Act with the prescribed timeline within which the issuing

authority is bound to act. The public has to be made aware of various initiatives of the Government like Apki Zameen Apki Nigriani, Land pass-books distribution, Jhan-Bhagidari, SVAMITVA and other programmes.

ing help to the citizens in applying for various revenue e-services.

Moving a step further, District Administration Doda has launched a special initiative/programme "Ap Ke Gaon Mein Aap Ka Tehsildar". The initiative envisages that on every Saturday of the week is notified as the Visiting Day for Tehsildar to a Village of the Tehsil.

The public of the said village shall be intimated at least five days prior to the visit, so that the service seekers may apply in advance. The Tehsildars shall ensure presence of concerned VLEs/CSOs prior to the Visiting Day (Saturday) for provid-

The Tehsildars shall issue a monthly calendar of villages to be visited on every Saturday, which shall be publicized through electronic/print and social media to attract maximum number of citizens to avail the benefit of efficient and timely service delivery. Special camps for attestation of mutations, pending demarcations, petty revenue court cases and any other miscellaneous revenue matters shall be resolved/dealt on the spot.

All the Sub Divisional heads shall supervise and monitor the said programme and submit the report of each Tehsildars to the Deputy Commissioner's office not later than every Monday.

## Azad visits Ex DGP Vaid's family to offer condolences



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, Dec 07:** Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Chief Minister J&K and

Democratic Azad Party Chief on Tuesday visited the residence of former DGP S.P.Vaid at Bakshi Nagar

Jammu to offer his condolences. He expressed his sympathies with the Vaid family over the demise of Mulk Raj Vaid, uncle of SP Vaid. He said he stand by the bereaved family at this hour of grief though the loss is irreplaceable for the Vaid family.

Party's senior leaders including R.S. Chib, General Secretary DAP, Corporator Gourav Chopra, DAP leaders Anil Kohli, Vishal Chopra, Ashwani Handa, Anoop Khajuria & others were accompanied Mr Azad.

## Yasar demands financial assistance for families who lost their three houses in blaze

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**BANI, DEC 07:** Apni Party Kandi President (Bani-Basohli), Yasar Choudhary today appealed to the administration to provide financial assistance to three families who have lost their homes due to devastating fire that gutted their residential houses in Panchayat Barota.

In a statement issued here to the press, Yasar said that the residential houses of Mohammed Farooq and Mohammed Sabir, both sons of Mohammed Sultan Batt, Sarpanch Barota, have gutted in a devastating fire incident. He said that the authorities have not provided any kind of relief compensation to rebuild the three houses as the victims are very poor and the

civil administration has not taken care of the matter. "These people have to move from pillar to post as the administration has not responded positively to their demand for any kind of financial assistance to rebuild their houses," he said. He demanded the intervention of LG so that the victims can be given justice.

## Block Diwas: DC Rajouri presides over public outreach camp at Moughla

People hail government for quality; time bound redress of public issues through weekly programs



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, DECEMBER 07: People are reaping the benefits of Block Diwas also called 'Youm-e-Block' initiative which is organized by the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in every district once in a week.

Block Diwas is a part of the ambitious 'Jan Abhiyan' program during which Deputy Commissioners and other officers assess the progress of developmental works being executed and listen to public issues, grievances and demands. It also provides the Administration an opportunity to interact directly with people, obtain feedback from them and do on-the-spot Grievance Redressal.

"We are reaping the benefits of Block Diwas being organized in the district", said one of the Panchayat Raj Institute Members during the public outreach program held at Moughla block. He also highlighted that the issue of lack of doctors at PHC Moughla has been redressed, and the same was raised by the public during Block Diwas at Treru block.

Shri Kasturi Lal also appreciated the efforts of the District Administration in removing the bottlenecks for Development which have been raised in the previous block diwas at Treru.

Continuing the mega public outreach initiative of the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kunal today chaired a Public Outreach Camp here at Moughla and listened to the issues and development aspirations of public representatives as well as the locals.

Among the issues projected on the occasion were GDC for Moughla, blacktopping of RDD roads, adequate manpower for the education sector, shortage of technical assistants and VLWs, Kendriya Vidyalaya for Moughla etc.

Other issues were provision of 108 Ambulance service for PHC Moughla, buildings for schools and Health institutions, provision of electricity poles, revenue entries of playfields, one community toilet and one hand pump for Dakbungalow at Moughla etc. Officers of different departments also replied to the queries raised by the public and their representatives during the event.

They also highlighted a number of schemes and programs being implemented in the district and motivated the public to avail the benefits of the same.

While highlighting the schemes of the Social Welfare Department, the DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt said that 70000 beneficiaries were getting pension under old guidelines.

He also informed that the guidelines of the pension schemes have been revised and urged the beneficiaries and PRIs to ensure registration of beneficiaries through online portals.

The DSWO also imparted awareness among the masses about Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan and urged the public to work in coordination with the District Administration to eradicate drug menace from the society.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to all the issues projected by the public during the event and assured them that the demands raised shall be fulfilled in a time bound manner.

Addressing the event, the DC said that the Block Diwas ensures doorstep public service delivery and redressal of the genuine grievances of the common man.

He also listed public initiatives of the District Administration and said "We are working on a multi pronged strategy for the holistic development of all the areas of the district and every sector is being pushed to achieve the desired results on the ground." He called for coordination among the departments and PRIs to achieve desired development objectives besides timely intervention and action to mitigate the sufferings of the people. He also urged the public and their representatives to work shoulder to shoulder with administration to take the district to new heights of development.

While responding to the public issues, the DDC said that timely and quality disposal of the issues of the general public is the top priority of the district administration.

Highlighting the progress of the power sector, he informed that 08 new creations and 09 Augmentation projects are being executed in Moughla Block under power sector.

While informing about the status of schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission, the DC said that 26 villages of the block are being covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He also said that the protection work worth Rs 35 lacs is being constructed along the Moughla Nallah. He further informed that 7500 specially abled persons of the area have been facilitated in getting the UDIDs.

DC also distributed Age Proof Certificates among beneficiaries for old age pension scheme of Social Welfare Department.

While responding to the demand of construction of a bus stop for Terayth, the DC directed the concerned officer to identify suitable land for the same.

The DC also directed tehsildar to ensure door to door delivery of ration and issued directions for resolving all other issues.

## Alok Kumar unveils Manzilein 2.0 Career Guidance Portal for 9th to 12th classes

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, DECEMBER 7: Principal Secretary, Education Department, Alok Kumar, today launched prestigious Jammu and Kashmir career guidance portal Manzilein 2.0 at a ceremony held at Jammu.

The career portal, titled 'Manzilein' has been developed in collaboration with UNICEF India to provide career guidance to the students of classes 9 to 12 in government schools.

The www.jkcareerportal.org is accessible to all the students of government schools from class 9th to 12th through unique Aadhaarshila IDs in Jammu division and LMS IDs in Kashmir division. This portal will help students in exploring over more than 555 careers, 21000 colleges, 262,000 programs in 16 countries and also 1150 entrance exams, vocational courses and 1120 scholarships.

Alok Kumar, while speaking on the occasion, expressed gratitude towards UNICEF India for developing this portal for the benefit of students. He added that this portal will help students to access different career courses and can choose their career path matching with their aspirations, interest, inclination and aptitude.

Principal Secretary called upon the teacher counsellors to help students navigate through the portal to derive its benefits.

Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, during his opening remarks, said that NEP 2020 also stresses on timely career guidance



of students.

He added that this portal will complement the efforts of the Directorate of School Education Jammu to provide career guidance to students to fulfill their aspirations by setting up realistic goals. With this portal, students can discover their prospective career from the comfort of their home, he added.

Danish Aziz, UNICEF Education Specialist, gave orientation on Manzilein Career Portal 2.0 to counselling task force members present on the occasion. He enlightened the students about the navigation of this portal. Dr. Ramesh Kumar IC Counselling Cell DSEJ presented a brief note on counselling initiatives undertaken by Directorate of school education Jammu during recent past and interacted with counselling task force regarding implementing career guidance programmes in schools.

Students and teachers shared their valuable feedback regarding counselling initiatives in the schools.

On this occasion, District Counselling Coordinators, District Counsellors, Zonal Counselling Coordinators, Tele counsellors, Faculty Counsellor, team members of Counselling Cell DSEJ were felicitated for their valuable contribution in counselling initiatives.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sudershan Kumar Director Skill Development Department, Dr. Sajad Parvez Head IIEDC, NIT Srinagar, Subeh Mehta, Joint Director (JSK), Monika Bhandari, Jalpa Ratna, Chief of Field Services, UNICEF India, Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal Polytechnic college, Chief Accounts Officer DSEJ, Suraj Singh Rathore, Chief Education Officer Jammu.

The event was organised by Counselling Cell, Directorate of School Education Jammu in collaboration with Move Beyond a start up of IIEDC NIT Srinagar and coordinated by Dr. Alka Sharma.

## BJP works for people, not just to win elections: Sat Sharma

Sat Sharma, others listen to the public grievances at BJP headquarter



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, DEC 07: BJP works for people, not just to win elections, stated Sat Sharma, former J&K BJP President & former Cabinet Minister.

Sat Sharma (CA), accompanied by Ashwani Sharma, former MLA and Sanjay Baru, Convenor,

Urban Local Body Cell, J&K BJP was attending to the public grievances at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The BJP leaders listened to the numerous individuals and deputations from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir who visited the party office to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns.

Main issues presented in the camp related to the water, electricity, lanes, drains, roads, health, revenue departments, ration issue etc. A deputation requested for the construction of road from main

road Suhagpur to Goushala. A deputation presented issue of incomplete bridge at No. 2 Seer.

Sat Sharma, Ashwani Sharma and Sanjay Baru immediately discussed their issues with the concerned officers after which they assured them that their issues would be addressed soon. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma stressed that BJP is serving the people on a mission mode.

He said that a J&K activist serves the people continuously for the betterment of the society, while safeguarding the interests of the Nation as well. BJP and its activists work for the people, not just to win elections, he asserted.

## Dr Raghav Langer visits Salamabad Uri; reviews development projects

Lays foundation stone for construction of Tehsil Office

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 07: Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Dr Raghav Langer, who is on 3 day tour to Baramulla district, today visited Salamabad Uri to review development projects besides assessing public grievances. Secretary was accompanied by SDM Uri, Jatin Kishore, Joint Director Planning, M Yousuf Rather, DSO, Ishiyah Ahmad Khan and other concerned officers.

Secretary laid foundation stone for construction of Tehsil Office at Uri under Samridhi Seema Yojana.

He also held a Gram Sabha at Salamabad Panchayat wherein Sarpanchs, Panchs, officials of line departments besides a huge gathering of people enthusiastically participated. On the occasion, the functionaries of



Panchayat Raj, PRIs, frontline workers and local youth discussed various issues of public importance including cleanliness, sanitation, augmentation of water supply, enhanced health facilities, better education and other development needs. Secretary asked the officers to prepare Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) as per the

needs of people of the village. Dr Raghav Langer documented all the grievances projected during the Gram Sabha and assured them of an early redressal of their issues.

Meanwhile, the people were also sensitized about scores of welfare schemes and programmes being implemented in the district.

## DAP demands probe in leakage of threat list, security to KPs

There is no security, no rehabilitation and only politics over this community: Nizami

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, DEC 7: The Democratic Azad Party strongly condemns the threats by terrorist organization TRF against Kashmiri Pandits living in Kashmir under Prime Minister Employment Package. In a statement issued here, DAP's senior leader Salman Nizami said that the threats to the minority community employees shall be viewed seriously and all such employees named in the list released by TRF must be provided adequate protec-



tion by the government.

"The government can't ignore the threats issued by terrorist organization to the employees mentioned in the threat list must be provided proper security," he said in

a statement. Nizami said that the government must also probe the matter to find out how the list of these employees has been leaked to TRF. "It is a serious security breach that has put innocent lives in danger. Probe must be done and we strongly condemn this breach," he added.

The DAP leader criticized the government for failing to protect the innocent civilians and especially minority community members in Kashmir.

He said that when Mr

Ghulam Nabi Azad was the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, not only the Pandits were properly rehabilitated but their security was ensured.

"Mr Azad built separate colonies for the Pandits and provided them relief. Every single Pandit was protected under his rule.

But what we see now is complete failure on part of the government.

There is no security, no rehabilitation and only politics over this community," he added

## Awareness Program on PMFME ODOF conducted at Chasana- Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI, DECEMBER 07: An awareness programme on 'Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME Scheme)' for promotion of One District One Product' was conducted here at Panchayat Ghar Chasana.

More than 50 farmers including unemployed youth participated in the Awareness programme.

Chief Agriculture Officer and District Nodal Officer PMFME, Harbans Singh inaugurated the aware-

ness programme in presence of District Agriculture Officer Extension Rajesh Verma, Agriculture Extension officers Dara Singh, Sanjay Sharma and JAEO Karan Dev Singh & other officials of Agriculture Department & Sarpanches Shergarhi and Chasote. The District nodal officer gave a detailed presentation on the scheme and enjoined upon the youth to set up micro food processing units of Mustard Chutney, Chilly powder packing & marketing, spices grinding, Garlic paste etc. The District Agriculture Officer elaborated the eli-

gibility and terms of subsidy, interest and other related details of scheme.

District Resource Person, Layaqat Hadri explained the process of online application. Bank Manager JK Bank Chasana also addressed the farmers and elaborated the role of the Bank in implementation of the scheme by encouraging the youth of this inaccessible and far flung area of the District.

Officials from allied departments also participated in the programme. Vote of thanks was presented by Sarpanch Shergarhi Mohd Hanief.

installed in the panchayat by Rural Development Department in collaboration with Central Electronics Limited, Government of India.

Government of India supported the efforts to universalise the concept under Gram Ujya scheme and Umat Bharat Abhiyan. IIT Jammu along with participating institutes conducted the base survey on the energy consumption and emissions of CO2 in Palli which became the foundation for formulation of a mitigation plan referred as Local Climate Action Plan, formulated in collaboration with SKUAIST Jammu, Forest, Health, Agriculture, Finance, Animal Husbandry, Sheep

Husbandry, Education, JAKEDA and other departments. A committee under Deputy Commissioner Samba converted the plan on the basis of findings of the survey into an implementation framework to be funded out of the running schemes of different departments. On the occasion, Mandeep Kaur reviewed the status of implementation of the plan and ways to universalise it across JK. She further stated that Palli Panchayat is the first panchayat which is on its way to become Carbon Neutral Panchayat and is serving as a precedent not only for Jammu and Kashmir but for other Panchayats across the country.

## Deputy Mayor inaugurates Women Skill Development Training center

**Demands restoration of Statehood, holding of Assembly Polls in J&K**



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DEC 7:** Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurated a Women's Skill Development Training center at Ward 55, Kunjwani in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency. The center was established in collaboration with Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust (Regd.) and Jagriti Mahila Udyog Kendra, who provided sewing machines for the center. The inauguration ceremony was attended by several dignitaries and the president of Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust Rajiv Sharma, Jagriti Mahila Udyog Kendra president Veena Bakshi.

It will be a great source of empowerment for the women of the area, as it will not only provide them with a skill to make a living, but also give them a sense of confidence and self-esteem. He also appreciated the efforts of Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust and Jagriti Mahila Udyog Kendra in providing the necessary resources for the center. He said that the center will be a great step towards the socio-economic development of the region.

The center will provide training and resources to women in the area in order to help them become self-sufficient and secure a better future. It will also provide free sewing machines to empower the women of

the said area. Deputy Mayor, Jammu said that the Trust will provide the training at no cost. He said that the trained women can start their own business or get employed with the help of the Trust. He also said that the Trust will provide financial help to the women who wish to start their own business. Deputy Mayor, Jammu said as Deputy Mayor of Jammu, I am committed to empowering the women of Jammu. We are taking various initiatives to ensure that the women of Jammu have access to the same opportunities and resources as the men in our city.

We are focusing on providing better education and employment opportunities to women, and also providing them with better access to health care and other essential services. Additionally, we are also working to create a more inclusive society for the women of Jammu, providing them with better representation in all aspects of life.

Finally, we are also taking steps to ensure that the women of Jammu are ensured of their safety and security, and that their voices are heard in decision-making processes. Bjp Kunjwani Mandal president Ranjit Singh, Inderjeet Kour, Vikram Singh, Neenu Mehra were present.

## Interactive session with Commanding Officer 4 J&K NCC Battalion held at DGC



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**SAMBA, DEC 7:** The Commanding Officer of 4 J&K NCC Battalion paid a visit to Dogra Group of Colleges (Dogra Degree College & Dogra Law College). The visit was planned for a formal interaction of Col. R M Sharma, CO, 4 J&K NCC Battalion and his team with the newly inducted batch of NCC Cadets of Dogra Law College & Dogra Degree College. Cadets from Rich Harvest School, Bari Brahmanna, accompanied by their CTO NCC Mr. Mohit

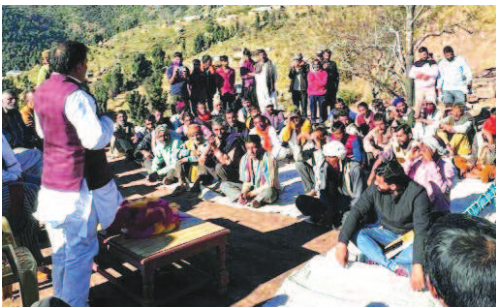
Sharma were also a part of the interactive session. The event formally began with a sapling presentation to the visiting Commanding Officer followed by a welcome address. During his address Col. R M Sharma enlightened the Cadets about the benefits of joining NCC, as through this they can join the armed forces. He enthusiastically encouraged the students to follow the noble values of discipline and unity in their everyday lives and contribute towards Nation building. He also lauded the noble efforts of

the College management for opening NCC wing and providing the students with an opportunity to join NCC. He explained about the different aspects of NCC to the students. A question-answer session was also held and Col R M Sharma very convincingly answered all the queries of the students.

ANO Dogra Law College made a power point presentation wherein he shared all the activities undertaken by the NCC Cadets of Dogra Degree College & Dogra Law College. The efforts of the NCC Unit were lauded by all.

The event saw the presence of Dr. Darshana Sharma, Director, DGC & CD, Prof. V P Mangotra, Principal, Dogra Law College, Mrs. Bela Thakur, Principal, Dogra Degree College & Mr. Sachin Prabhakar, Assistant Registrar, Dogra Educational Trust. The event was hosted by Junior Under Officer Abhishek Sharma, D.L.C. Mr. Rishabh Bakshi, CTO NCC Dogra Degree College presented the vote of thanks. The event finally wound up with the singing of NCC Song.

## Biggest threat to Jammu is from opportunist leaders: Harsh Dev



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DEC 07:** "While Jammu region continues to lose and to suffer despite the incessant chest thumping of the saffron regime, the people of dogra land need to give a serious thought for finding a viable alternative to the deceptive politics of power hungry politicians. It is sad that the opposition leaders of Jammu region are abandoning their respective parties one by one and falling in the lap of either BJP or Kashmir centric parties. And these were the very leaders who would swear by the cause of Jammu accusing the BJP of having betrayed the sentiment of the Dogras for vested interests and fulfillment of their political ambitions. And while they all along

depicted the BJP and PDP as anti-Jammu parties and their leaders as power hungry politicians, they opted to embrace them at the first available opportunity and to acknowledge them as their leaders. While some of these prodigal sons of Jammu were opting for BJP, the others had chosen JKAP as their mentor and saviour". This was stated by Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and senior AAP leader who was addressing public meetings in Satalya and Malal in Chenani constituency today.

Urging upon the people to beware of opportunist politicians, Mr. Singh said that Jammu region has often been cheated by its own leaders. "In 2014, the Dogra land gave massive mandate to the saffron

party and ensured victory of its 25 Assembly candidates with both MP seats also falling in its kitty. But what did it do? It conceded the CM's chair for full term accepting the leadership of PDP whom they had vowed to decimate during the said elections. Those who were projected as monsters by BJP were embraced by it as partners. And subsequently also after the collapse of PDP-BJP coalition, it made a desperate though unsuccessful attempt to hand over the reins of power to Sajad Lone of PC which had only two MLAs from Kashmir. And now again, it's the saffron party which is reportedly providing tacit as well as overt support to the new leaders. "In 2014, the Dogra land gave massive mandate to the saffron

party and ensured victory of its 25 Assembly candidates with both MP seats also falling in its kitty. But what did it do? It conceded the CM's chair for full term accepting the leadership of PDP whom they had vowed to decimate during the said elections. Those who were projected as monsters by BJP were embraced by it as partners. And subsequently also after the collapse of PDP-BJP coalition, it made a desperate though unsuccessful attempt to hand over the reins of power to Sajad Lone of PC which had only two MLAs from Kashmir. And now again, it's the saffron party which is reportedly providing tacit as well as overt support to the new leaders. "In 2014, the Dogra land gave massive mandate to the saffron

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## Tarun Uppa calls on Anna Hazare, discusses issues of farmers

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**SAMBA, DEC 7:** Tarun Uppal, social activist and Chairperson Nribhay Bharat Foundation today met Anna Hazare, 85-year-old anti-graft activist in Ralegan Siddhi and discussed various issues related to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.

Tarun Uppal requested Anna to visit Jammu and Kashmir and make the farmers of the Union Territory aware about the farming techniques being adopted by him in making the Ralegan Siddhi a sustainable village model for the country. He said Ralegan Siddhi is in a drought-prone and rain-shadowed area of Maharashtra. In 1975, this was a place of poverty and hopelessness. The abuse of their natural resources coupled with water runoff and soil degradation meant that this village of about 2,500 people, mostly farmers, was un-farmable. Wells ran dry which made it difficult for

people to find drinking water during part of the year. As a result of which people started leaving Ralegan Siddhi in search of work and a livelihood elsewhere, an understandable choice considering the situation they were facing. Tarun Uppal said it was hectic efforts of Anna ji which has made the Ralegan Siddhi a sustainable village model for the country. He urged Anna ji to must pay a visit to J&K and make farmers aware

of the advanced techniques of farming without using fertilizers, rain water harvesting, water shed development, Nasha Mukht so that the villages of Jammu and Kashmir can also bring at par with model villages of the country. Anna Hazare appreciated the thought of Tarun Uppal and assured to visit Jammu very shortly to make farmer familiarize with the advance technique of farming.

## Contribute generously towards cause of Armed Forces: Col Mahan

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**KATHUA, DEC 7:** Col Mahan Singh has appealed to the general public to contribute generously towards the cause of the Armed Forces. He said Indian Armed Forces are one of the best forces in the world as each and every soldier of Indian Army is committed to defend National Boundaries and ready to sacrifice for the sovereignty of our motherland.



Zila Sainik Welfare Officer Col Chahal and his team today started a campaign for distribution of Armed Forces Flag Day coupons/stickers. The first such sticker was pinned up to Col (Retd.) Mahan Singh, DDC Chairman Kathua.

Notably, on December 7 every year, people of India celebrate Armed Forces Flag Day and honour the soldiers who safeguard the country. On this day, coupons, stickers and vehicle flags are distributed in dark blue, light blue and red colours, representing the Army, Air Force and Navy. Funds are collected for the armed forces and their families. The contributions to the AFFDF can also be made by Cheque/Demand Draft drawn in favour of Armed Forces Flag Day Fund payable at New Delhi, India.

Paying tributes to the bravehearts of armed forces, the DDC Chairman said that the Flag Day is an opportunity for the countrymen to express their gratitude and show solidarity with the armed forces personnel. He thanked the Armed Forces personnel, whose valour & sacrifice, has safeguarded the sovereignty and integrity of the country. He said, it is a collective responsibility of the nation to help the soldiers and their families.

The DDC Chairman asserted that "the welfare of soldiers, who ensure our national security, should not be the responsibility of only the government, but it should be the duty of all". He emphasized that industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where national security is not strong.

Reiterating the Modi Government's commitment towards the welfare of the country's bravehearts, Col Mahan Singh said that a number of initiatives have been taken in this direction. The initiatives include 'Bharat Ke Veer' portal, 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' website for contribution to the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund.

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## JMC Corporator Amit Gupta inaugurates Deep Drain Works

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DEC 7:** Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Corporator Amit Gupta, inaugurated Deep drain work At Chand Nagar in Ward-19 at the cost of Rs 5 lakhs which are in dilapidated condition since long.



The Deep Drain work are in dilapidated condition since long and the residents especially old persons were facing lot of problems while passing through these busy lanes. Corporator Amit Gupta while addressing the media appealed the general public to come forward and cooperate with Jammu Municipal Corporation in various development works undertaken by the department with in the Jammu

city. He urged upon the residents to avoid using single used plastics, polythenes in their routine work, don't throw debris, garbage filth etc in the

public drains and lanes and nallahs. Amit Gupta added that kindly to adopt the habit of segregation of dry and wet garbage at their own

level so that Jammu can be made neat, clean, green and beautiful city. Local residents including and other were present on the occasion.

## BJP holds distinction of being only 'true Democratic Party': Ravinder Raina



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
**JAMMU, DEC 07:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir conducted a meeting of its newly nominated District Prabharris and District Presidents at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by BJP General

Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul chaired the meeting, which was also addressed by J&K BJP Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma, BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta and BJP General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Jammu. J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by BJP General

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# Sarita Chauhan visits Samba Municipal Council under MTMP 2.0

Distributes sanction letters under MUMKIN, Golden Cards, PMAY-U, PMSVA Nidhi

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, DECEMBER 7: As part of ambitious 'My Town My Pride' (MTMP) 2.0 programme of taking governance to doorsteps of urban populace, Commissioner Secretary, Labour and Employment, Sarita Chauhan today visited district Samba and interacted with ULB Councilors including President and locals.



Commissioner Secretary, who is also visiting officer to the district, interacted with social activists and citizens besides traders' federations and market associations who apprised her of various issues and development needs seeking her intervention in timely redressal.

Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by President MC Samba, Pawan Kohli, Vice President, MC Samba, Rajni Sambyal besides other Councilors and ward members.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Social Welfare, Vivek Sharma, ADC, Rakesh Dubey, ASP Surinder Choudhary, CPO, EO Municipality Samba besides other district officers were also present.

During the interaction, the locals raised several issues including availability of building materials, dearth of staff in district hospital and women College, new bus routes, beautification of town, street lights on Hospital road, road widening besides augmentation of electricity and water infrastructure in Samba, town.

Sarita Chauhan, while speaking on the occasion, said that to make our towns, cities smarter in terms of modern mobility plan, encroachment free areas, sustainable tourism besides incorporat-

ing green and beautification city plans public participation is of utmost importance. She said under 'My Town My Pride' the administration is reaching out to last person for ensuring holistic development of our urban areas. "Various initiatives like good governance index, digital j&k, public services through online portals, stress on self employment skill development, special focus on youths engagement has been taken up to connect with public in a more transparent and effective manner" added Chauhan.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary distributed sanction letters under self employment schemes like Mumkin through JK Bank and also provided certificates to beneficiaries of PMAY-U as 'Greh Parvesh' and PMSVA Nidhi Yojana, besides blankets, baby kits, sports kits and other benefits were also distributed

among the beneficiaries.

Commissioner Secretary laid foundation stone for Upgradation of existing Municipal Complex Samba with an estimated cost of Rs 500.0 lakh. The upgradation will include creation of parking facility at ground floor, an auditorium at first floor and office complex at 2nd floor of building.

During the event, various line departments put up stalls to generate awareness and register beneficiaries under various government sponsored schemes including Aadhar registration and other digital services. Visiting officer inspected stalls of agriculture, horticulture, education, revenue department, social welfare, handicraft handloom, ICDS, IT department and others. She laid emphasis on ensuring 100% saturation of beneficiaries under the schemes through dedicated outreach among public.

## DC Ramban flags off group of students for trekking expedition

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musaarat Islam today flagged off a group of students to Patnitop for trekking expedition.

CPO, Dr. Kasturi Lal, ACD Ashok Singh, DYSSO, Dharamveer Singh, and other senior officers were present on the occasion. The six day Trekking expedition camp is being organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Ramban. As many 50 students from six different education zones of district Ramban are participating in the expedition.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that such types of events provide the students an opportunity to understand their ability, patience, and weakness and encourage them to improve their skills which would help them in their future.

While interacting with the participants, the DC impressed upon them to avail this opportunity to shape their personalities as good sportsmen as well as responsible citizens to lead the society.

## IIM Jammu organises Blood Donation Drive in association with Red Cross Society



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Kartavya - Social Responsibility Club of IIM Jammu in association with the Red Cross Society, Jammu on the proud occasion of Armed Forces Day organized a Blood Donation Camp at its Jalloch Campus, IIM Jammu.

The Blood donation drive conducted under the able guidance of Prof B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu was inaugurated by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, and Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu in the morning hours.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu appreciated the initiative taken by the students at the Institute and assured to extend all support from the Institute for the cause. We strongly believe in sensitizing our students towards developing social sensitivities and a strong need for blood donation drives amongst the youth of the country towards the cause. At IIM Jammu, we are always committed to the welfare of the society and nation at large.

"Someone lives when someone donates. Sympathy alone cannot save people in chronic conditions, but blood can. A drop of blood donated is a life saved, and this was the stronghold that guided our students into an impressive turnout for the cause" said Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu.

The drive saw close to 90 students, faculty, and staff members coming together in large nos. to donate blood for a noble cause. The drive was successfully conducted by Dr. Zulfiqar, Deepa, Sunita, Badal, Meenakshi, Rakesh and Vinod from the Blood Transfusion Department and the Red Cross Team, Jammu. The samples were carefully sealed and transported to the Blood bank. This camp helped students in getting awareness about their social responsibilities and showed enthusiastic participation for the same.

## GC Ramgarh organises series of activities under "My College My Pride & My Town My Pride"

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, DECEMBER 07: Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a series of activities under the aegis of 'My College My Pride' and 'My Town My Pride' today. The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit 'Prabha', College Beautification Committee (CBC), Red Ribbon Club (RRC) and Eco Club (EC) of the College carried out the designated activities, viz., making of new flower beds in college premises, a slogan-writing competition on the theme 'My College My Pride', Plantation of marigold plants in the flower bed.

The activities were organized under the leadership and supervision of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur.

The new flower beds were laid at the designated sites in the College premises by cleaning the area and the surroundings. In the coming days of this month, new plants, especially herbal plants, will be planted.

The event was organized by Dr. Aditi Khajuria of the Department of English and Amanjyot Kour of the Department of Computer Applications.

A total of eight students of the College participated in the competition. The first position was secured by Priyanka, the second position was secured by Sunaina Devi, and the third position was secured by Shivani Devi. The competition was judged by Prof. Seema Sharma of Department of Education, Dr. Sandeep Kumar of Department of Statistics, and Prof. Risha Kumari of Department of Punjabi.

The Eco-Club & RRC organized Plantation of marigold plants in the designated site and planted the marigold plant in the new flower bed.

## GHSS Bhagwah celebrates Annual Day

DDC Chairman advises students opt for skill based subjects

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, DECEMBER 07: Government Higher Secondary School Bhagwah today organised a scintillating function to celebrate Annual Day.

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman, Doda, Dhanant Singh Kotwal was the chief guest on the occasion. Besides the GHSS Bhagwah, students of GHSS Kanhal, GUPS Bhagwah, GUPS Kharote, KGBV Bhagwah also attended the programme.

Students mesmerized the audience by presenting a variety cultural show featuring folk dance, songs, skits and school Tarana, besides theme based skits.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman advised the students to opt for skill based subjects and avail the opportunities being provided by the Central government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Chairman stressed on the need to deal effectively with the threat of drug addiction which is more serious in nature.

The Chairman advised students to excel in different fields of education with full spirit and confidence to achieve success.

DEPO Doda, Principal HSS Doda, Principal HSS Trown and other concerned officials participated in the programme.

## DLC approves 5 change of land use cases in Udhampur

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 07: The District Level Committee on change of land use today approved 5 applications here at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The DLC Committee approved the five applications received online from the applicants from across the district. The DC enquired about the status of NOCs being issued in favour of applicants and applications received and follow up status by the concerned departments.

Necessary directions were issued to concerned departments to ensure timely issuance of NOCs to the applicants after proper verification of documents. The DC asked the concerned officers to get field certification before disposal of the applications.

Among others, DFO, Rushal Garg, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral and other officers were present.

## Anti-Corruption Day observed at SKUAST-J

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, DECEMBER 07: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology Jammu today organised a program on the occasion of Anti-corruption day.

Mayor of Jammu, Rajinder Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion.

The program began with lighting of the ceremonial Lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana.

After the formal welcome of the chief guest by Vice Chancellor Prof. J.P. Sharma SKUAST and Prof. Rakesh Nanda, Director Education SKUAST Jammu, the Mayor, in his address, highlighted the different problems faced by the public and the steps being taken by him as Mayor Jammu to combat the same. He emphasised the importance of ease of doing business by bringing in transparency in service delivery for common citizens.

"This will go a long way in preventing corrupt practices in the service sector," he added. He also impressed upon the students to play their role in making a corruption free India in particular and a corruption free India in general.

The Mayor urged the students to participate in large numbers in the match being organised by IJC on 9th of December, 2022 - the International Anti-Corruption Day.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Rakesh Nanda, Director Education SKUAST Jammu and the singing of the National Anthem.

The event was coordinated by Professor Sushil Gupta Registrar SKUAST Jammu in association with Prof. Manmohan Sharma, Prof. Subash Kashap, Dr. Harsh Sharma. The event was attended by HODs, faculty members and students in large numbers.

## Karmayogi Police Person training program concludes at SPTC (Talwara) Reasi

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, DECEMBER 07: A Two Day Training Programme on "Karmayogi Police Person" concluded today at SPTC Talwara. The training session was inaugurated by Jameel Ahmed, SSP, Principal SPTC Talwara, the other day.

Sanjeev Kumar, Dy. SP was the Course Coordinator for the Training Programme in which (20) officials/Trainees of the Institute participated. The idea behind the training programme was to bring about the change in attitude and skill set in Police Personnel. The participants were trained in

08 modules as per guidance provided by Capacity Building Commission. Principal SPTC Talwara, in his valedictory address, laid advised the Police trainees to inculcate "Service Attitude" in dealing with the general public.

"The more we become Karmayogi Police Persons, the more our Service Power will manifest itself the positive impact we can make on society," he added.

The training evoked a very positive response among the participants and they seemed confident to serve the society in a better way after acquired training.

# Saurabh Bhagat visits SMVDU, Katra; Discusses augmentation of Science, Technology, Innovation EcoSystem in JK

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
KATRA, DECEMBER 7: Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katriyal, Katra, to explore possibilities of areas of mutual interest where Science and Technology Department & SMVDU can take joint initiatives for augmenting the Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

During a meeting held in this regard, Dr. R K Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, assured that the University would facili-

tate and cooperate in all the endeavours of the Department in order to make the UT robust in terms of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Later, Commissioner Secretary held detailed discussion with the Research Innovation Council members of the University headed by Dr. Vijay Bhat, Dean, Humanities and Professor of Mathematics. The discussion was held for development of Biotechnology with special focus on bio-fuels, aromatic and medicinal plants. The deliberation was held by Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Dr.

Sharada Potukuchi, who is a lead researcher in medicinal plants.

Bhagat discussed about the mission programmes of the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council and appraised of various schemes of Government of India and PM's initiatives regarding the upliftment of science through technology development. Sanjay Kharoo, Joint Director, discussed the potential collaboration of University in the area of patents and start-ups and reiterated that very soon both S&T Department and SMVDU, Katra, will organise workshop regarding the same

where the experts would deliver about the intellectual property rights, procedure for patent filings its benefits to the researchers, innovators and students.

Sunita Razdan, Joint Director, encouraged the faculty for applying in the Research and Development Project proposals sponsored by the J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council.

Commissioner Secretary expressed gratitude to Vice Chancellor Professor K Sinha, Padma Shri, for sparing his time and wished the meeting will soon bear fruits.

# G P Fund cell concludes 2nd phase of "Grievance Redressal-cum-Awareness mela"

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7: The second phase of "Grievance Redressal cum Awareness Mela" Organized by G P Fund Cell, Civil Secretariat, concluded here today.

The initiative, launched by the J&K Funds organization, Finance Department, was aimed at to redress the grievances of G P Fund subscribers, former subscribers and SLI insurants besides sensitizing the subscribers about the e-services being provided by J&K Funds organization.

Director General, J&K Funds organization, Neeraj Gupta Bakshi, ensured that all grievances of the subscribers and insurants are resolved during the event.

During the grievance redressal-cum-awareness mela, the subscribers and former subscribers of Civil Secretariat and other moving offices registered their grievances by personally visiting the office of Accounts officer, G P Fund Civil Secretariat.

The subscribers/SLI insurants also registered their grievances on the

official e-mail Id provided for the purpose through their official Notice. A dedicated cell of the officials of G.P. Fund Civil Secretariat, J&K also attended to the phone calls on daily basis for registration of Grievances of the subscribers through dedicated Mobile Numbers provided for the purpose.

All the Grievances received during the event were disposed of on the same day/next day. On spot redressal of the Grievances of the subscribers were also made regarding viz, documents required for

Settlement of FR cases/SLI Maturity Claims, providing Status of adjustment of Inward T.E.s, Issuance of Annual Account Statement and updating the designation of subscribers in the portal.

The Subscribers were also sensitized regarding the various e-services viz "SMS alert Service" and "Know Your G.P Fund Balance" provided by the J&K Funds organization through Print and Electronic media and also by way of hanging of banners at prominent places both at Civil Secretariat Jammu and

Srinagar. Pamphlets depicting the e-services, Deposit linked insurance Scheme and various SLI Policies were also distributed to the DDOs/Subscribers of the Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Subscribers were also informed about the path breaking e-initiatives taken by the J&K Funds organization such as Shifting of manual posting of ledger accounts to real time posting of ledger Accounts and switching to e-T/E /Auto T.E. mode from manual T.E.s with effect from 01/04/2021. Special Focus was laid on the deposit

linked Insurance Scheme for legal heirs/ registered nominees of the deceased Subscribers & the various State Life Insurance policies for the Employees of the UT of J&K.

The Subscribers as well as the Insurants whose accounts are maintained with G.P Fund Civil Secretariat J&K actively participated and appreciated the 2nd phase of Grievance redressal cum awareness initiative taken by the J&K Funds Organization for redressing the Grievances of the Subscribers/ Insurants.