



JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 10 | ISSUE NO: 277 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

DGP's grievance redressal programme scheduled for Tomorrow Postponed

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 1

Director General of Police RR Swain's office has postponed the grievance redressal programme scheduled for tomorrow, an official statement said on Friday.

The postponed date for the redressal programme has not been notified yet.

In a post on X, Jammu and Kashmir Police said, "In view of a few unforeseen and unavoidable official engagements, the grievance redressal programme scheduled to be held on Dec 2 2023 at Police Headquarters, Srinagar, is hereby postponed. The next date of this grievance redressal meeting at PHQ Srinagar will be communicated separately."

Police said that the information was shared in advance so that the people who desire to meet J-K DGP RR

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Navy appointed first woman commanding officer in Naval Ship: Navy Chief

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 1

The Indian Navy has appointed the first woman Commanding Officer in a naval ship in sync with its philosophy of "all roles all ranks" for female personnel, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference ahead of Navy Day, Admiral Kumar said the Indian Navy's ships, submarines, and aircraft have sustained a high operational tempo in the strategic waters in the last one year.

On China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean, he said Indian Navy monitors all

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Murmu presents president's colour to AFMC

JI NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, DEC 1

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday stressed the important of research and use of new technologies such as artificial intelligence in the field of medicine as she presented President's Colour to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) here.

Noting the contribution of women graduates of the AFMC which is celebrating its platinum jubilee, the President expected that more and more women would draw inspiration from them and join the armed forces. President's Colour, also known as 'Rashtrapati ka Nishaan', is the highest honour bestowed upon any military unit. "I urge that everyone

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG attends 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Panchayat Dhok Waziran

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Panchayat Dhok Waziran, Nagrota, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the PRI representatives and people for their enthusiastic participation. He urged them to reach out to maximum number of families, generate awareness about Government schemes and encourage enrolment of potential beneficiaries.

He emphasised the need to replicate the best practices of Panchayat Dhok Waziran to develop model villages in a holistic way for better livelihoods options, improved quality of life and action-oriented Jan-Bhagidari for a happy, prosperous and peaceful Panchayat.

"Hon'ble Prime Minis-



ter Shri Narendra Modi is committed towards 100% saturation of government schemes and reaching out to the unreached. It provides a significant opportunity to rural and urban areas to ensure common man and vulnerable section is empowered," the Lt Governor said.

He urged the people to actively participate in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', avail the on-spot services being provided and disseminate the information about schemes.

Individual success stories must reach out to every nook and corner of UT to highlight the trans-

formation brought about by the government's flagship schemes in their lives, he said.

"Through integrated action and involvement of every individual we can turn the villages into viable, sustainable economic centres and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K Raj Bhawan hosts Nagaland Statehood Day celebrations

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Fostering the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, the Nagaland Statehood Day was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm at the Raj Bhawan. Several captivating cultural programmes based on the famous dance forms of Nagaland were presented by the Artists of Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

While addressing the guests, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha extended his greetings to all especially the people of Nagaland on Statehood Day.



"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's development initiative for North-East has truly brought historic socio-economic transformations of Nagaland after years of

neglect," the Lt Governor said.

In the last 9 years, the state, known as the land of festivals and famous for its vibrant folk music, traditional dances, arts

and crafts, delicious cuisines, enchanting rivers and rich flora and fauna, has seen significant progress on various fronts and renewed vigour in

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

260 cases registered under NDPS Act, 452 arrested in Bla this year so far: Police

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DEC 1

Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla under its relentless campaign against drug peddling has achieved remarkable success as the number of registered cases has significantly dropped in recent months.

"As of November 2023, police have registered 260

cases under NDPS act, arrested 452 drug peddlers which include 70 hard-core drug peddlers who have been booked under PIT NDPS PSA in Baramulla district," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Moreover, properties worth crores of drug peddlers have been attached during the current year.

Police have also made substantial seizures of contraband worth more than 14 crores, the statement said.

"The concerted efforts of the Baramulla Police have yielded a notable reduction in drug peddling cases. A visible decline in drug abuse cases is seen on the ground. Citizens of the district have showed

utmost faith and satisfaction by the action of police against drugs and they have expressed their total support to the police," it said.

"Police remains steadfast in its commitment to confront drug smugglers and to seize both movable and immovable property used for illicit trafficking within the district," the statement added.

Kashmir valley incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits: Dr Jitendra Singh



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that the Kashmir Valley is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits, who have been, for centuries,

an essential part of the unique civilisation, culture and tradition that Kashmir is known for all over the world.

Speaking after releasing the Vjeshwar Jantrie (Almanac) for Saptarishi Samvat 5100 correspond-

ing to the year 2024-25 at a solemn function here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Kashmiri Pandit community has contributed to the enrichment of academics, literature and art beyond the shores of Jammu

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Father of 4 children found dead mysteriously in Sopore village

JI NEWS SERVICE
SOPORE, DEC 1

A man in his 40's was found dead under mysterious conditions at Zaloor village in Sopore in north Kashmir while his relatives and neighbours alleged the murder, urging the authorities to investigate the matter.

An official told the news agency that on Friday morning, the family of Reyaz Ahmed

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Rich nations should completely reduce their carbon footprint 'well before' 2050: PM Modi

AGENCIES
DUBAI, DEC 1

Rich nations should completely reduce their carbon footprint "well before" 2050, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday while calling on the world to deliver a concrete outcome on finance to help developing and poor nations combat climate change.

Addressing a session on 'Transforming Climate Finance' at COP28 here, Modi said India expects concrete and real progress on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), a fresh post-2025 global climate finance goal.

"Developed countries should completely reduce their carbon footprint well before 2050," he said.

Rich nations pledged in 2009 to raise USD 100 billion annually by 2020 to assist developing countries in combating and adjusting to climate change. Despite extensions to 2025, these



nations have not met this commitment.

COP28 aims to establish the groundwork for a fresh post-2025 global climate finance goal, succeeding the USD 100 billion target. Countries aim to finalize this new goal by COP29 in 2024.

Modi said that there should be no shortfall of money in the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund and that these be immediately replenished.

The Green Climate

Fund, which was proposed at the 2009 climate talks in Copenhagen and began raising money in 2014, hasn't come close to its goal of USD 100 billion annually.

The Adaptation Fund is a UN-backed fund that provides grants and loans to help developing countries adjust to climate impacts.

Released ahead of the Dubai climate talks, the United Nations' "Adaptation Gap Report 2023

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Weather improves in J&K, MeT predicts dry, cloudy conditions till December 10

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 1

After a day-long wet spell, the weather conditions improved in Jammu & Kashmir on Friday while the weatherman here has predicted dry and cloudy weather till December 10.

Several areas of Kashmir, including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Sinthan Top, Keran and others received a fresh snowfall yesterday after a weak Western Disturbance affected J&K from November 29. The plains of Kashmir were also lashed by light and intermittent rainfall.

However, the weather improved significantly from this morning while the minimum temperature at maximum places settled above the freezing point.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told news agency that from tomorrow till Decem-

ber 07, the weather is expected to remain mostly cloudy while from December 08-December 10, partly to generally cloudy is expected during the period.

Moreover, the night temperatures across Kashmir settled above the freezing point with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recording a minimum temperature of 4.5 degree Celsius.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled at 2.2 degree Celsius while in Pahalgam, it settled at 0.5 degree Celsius.

MeT officials said Gulmarg, the famous ski resort, was the coldest where the minimum temperature settled at minus 1.8 degree Celsius.

Nonetheless, Kupwara and Kokernag stations of Kashmir have recorded a minimum temperature of 2.6 degree Celsius and 2.0 degree Celsius respec-

tively. Director MeT has, however, predicted a dip in the minimum temperature, saying that fall in minimum temperature by 3-5 degree Celsius is expected from December 02 onwards.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority has issued an avalanche warning above 2800 metres in north Kashmir's Kupwara district in view of the recent rain and snowfall in the upper reaches.

An official told KNO that an avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 2800 metres above sea level in Kupwara district in the next 24 hours.

He said that people living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing out in the avalanche prone areas till further orders. KNO

ED arrests former J&K co-operative Bank Chairman in Rs 250-crore Money Laundering Case

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 1

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested former J&K Co-operative Bank chairman Mohammad Shafi Dar in connection with a Rs 250-crore money laundering case in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

Dar was arrested along with Mohammad Hilal A Mir, the chairman of the River Jhelum Cooperative Housing Building Society, a 'fictitious firm', and they will be presented before a special court, according to the officials.

The ED had conducted searches, including at Dar's residence, in con-

nection with the case on Thursday, and these resulted in recovery of incriminating evidence, they claimed.

The fraud was done in the name of the 'fictitious' River Jhelum Cooperative Housing Building Society, the officials said.

The raids were conducted by the ED's office in Srinagar under powers provided to the agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for search and seizure, they said.

In August 2020, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had filed a charge-sheet in the case against Mir, Dar and others for offences

under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Mir had moved an application to the secretary cooperatives, administration department of cooperative societies, seeking directions to the J&K Co-operative Bank for granting financial assistance to the tune of Rs 300 crore for taking over possession of 37.5 acres of land in the outskirts of Srinagar for construction of a satellite township, according to the probe by the ACB.

The application was endorsed to the registrar of cooperative societies, Jammu and Kashmir, for taking up the matter

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

World AIDS Day celebrated in GMC, other health institutions in Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 1

A series of events spreading awareness on prevention and control of AIDS were held today in Government Medical College Doda and other health institutions across the district.

At Government Medical College, the programme was organised by the Department of Community Medicine under the guidance of the GMC Principal, Dr. Puja Vimesh. The event started with a pledge taking ceremony on World AIDS day.

After that, HOD community medicine Dr Suresh K Kotwal initiated the event with warm words and summarized the importance of celebrating World Aids Day. Other faculty members like HOD Microbiology, HOD Forensic medicine HOD Dermatology and faculty from other Departments like Dr. Younis Saleem (Professor) Dentistry, Dr Jaspreet (Asst Prof) Anatomy and



other staff were also present there.

The MBBS students also took active participation with their speeches and poster presentation in order to make this even more proactive. The overall event was managed by HOD community medicine Dr Suresh K kotwal with active assistance by Dr Waliud k Balwan (Asst Prof), Dr Arjun (JR), Dr Naiyyar(JR), Shahid salem(MSW) and Shahzad manhas (MSW).

Chief Justice reviews pendency position of cases of Reasi district

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N.Kotishwar Singh today held a virtual meeting with the Judicial officers of District Reasi to review the pendency position of cases of the district as well as status of various infrastructure projects of district Judiciary.

Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District

Reasi, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary and Secretary Department of Law and Justice, Achal Sethi were also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, the Chief Justice reviewed the status and progress of various Judicial infrastructure projects and passed on the spot directions to concerned executing agency for expediting the pending work of various projects. While reviewing the pendency position of cases and working of court working, the Chief

Justice impressed upon the Judicial officers to ensure speedy disposal of the old matters and the updation of cases with their status on the CIS.

The Chief Justice also took notice of problems being faced by the Courts and issued on spot directions for redressal of problems being confronted by the Judicial Officers.

Among others, the meeting was also attended by Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem and Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M.K. Sharma.

VBSY reaches remote blocks of Dhar-Mahanpur & Baggan, panchayats of Kandi block Dinga-Amb



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 1

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra kicked off in the seven Panchayats of Block Dhar-Mahanpur, Baggan and Dinga-Amb of district Kathua, today.

The event witnessed enthusiastic response from PRI members and locals who gathered around the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) setup.

At Panchayat Chilakh-West, Vice-Chairperson District Development Council, Kathua Raghunandan Singh, ACD Kathua Kishore Singh Katoch, PRIs and numerous other prominent people attended the campaign.

The programme started with the National Anthem followed by Viksit Bharat Sankalp (pledge) to par-

ticipants.

The Vice Chairperson, ACD along with other participants took part in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp camp to sensitize the people about the benefits of welfare and developmental schemes launched for their welfare.

The Vice Chairman DDC, in his address, appealed to people to take maximum benefit of the opportunity and enroll for the welfare programmes and schemes of the government targeting last mile potential beneficiaries as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

People listened keenly to the recorded message from the Prime Minister of India, emphasizing the campaign's significance.

Simultaneously, the festivities featured a vibrant

display of cultural events presented by local artists.

The yatra showcased different flagship schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana and PM PRANAM Yojana.

It was informed that the IEC Van will traverse through the district according to a pre-defined schedule. A combo of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, the van aims to create public awareness about a myriad of Central Government schemes. The initiative aims to bring these transformative schemes closer to the people and foster a spirit of development and progress.

YUVA VANI -One Day orientation program held for unemployed youth of Kishtwar District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 1

The Career counselling and Guidance Cell (CCGC) of Government Degree College Kishtwar, in collaboration with Agriculture Production & Farmers welfare Department, organised a one day Orientation Programme -YUVA VANI to encourage the unemployed youth of the District to avail benefits of Agriculture and allied sectors schemes being provided under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (today under HADP). The programme was organised under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Parihar in convenorship of Prof. Asma Javaid.

Amjad Hussain Malik, Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar & District Nodal Officer HADP was the Chief guest of the event, while Sahil Gandotra, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Padder was the guest speaker.

Earlier, the coordinator of event and convenor CCGC GDC Kishtwar, Prof.



Asma Javaid welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest Speaker, officers from Animal Husbandry and Agriculture Department and other participants.

Speaking at the event, Sahil Gandotra highlighted a range of entrepreneurship opportunities for youth under HADP in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries, Sericulture, Apiculture, Extension Marketing and Floriculture.

In his address, Chief Guest Amjad Hussain Malik encouraged the students to explore and avail entrepreneurship and business opportunities provided

through a variety of government schemes under HADP.

The programme was attended by Dr. Usman Sheikh (VAS), Dr. Musawar Rashied (VAS), Ruksana Kousar (AEO), Humaira Nabi (JAO), Fozia Nazir, Indu Bhagat (Sericulture Department) and other participants from SHG of NRLM. About 80 Students from GDC Kishtwar attended the programme who actively participated in Group Discussion post the lecture.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Sehrish Ghazal.

Dulloo joins back as Chief Secretary of J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Atal Dulloo, a 1989 batch IAS officer having vast experience in the UT today joined back as Chief Secretary of J&K after his brief stint in Ministry of Home Affairs as a Secretary, Border Management.

Dulloo being an AGMUT cadre IAS officer has served in J&K for most part of his service. He has earlier been a key person to successfully row the UT amid the lethal Covid-19 crisis as Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education.

Before going to central deputation in June this year Dulloo was serving J&K as Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department and has been instrumental in devising of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aiming at revolutionizing the Agri sector here and



many folds increase in farmers income.

Dulloo has also served as Deputy Commissioner of key districts in the erstwhile state and has received many honours including state award for meritorious public service on Republic Day in 2013 and silver medal for successfully conducting assembly elections in the in 1996.

Later on the Chief Secretary also took round of the Secretariat campus

and interacted with the employees working there. He asked them to feel free to bring their issues either directly to his office or to the General Administration Department (GAD).

He encouraged them to be forthcoming about all such issues so that these are resolved on merit. He asked them about their work and allied facilities available to them or they want to have for smooth disbursement of their official business.

He even took note of the hygiene and renovation works going on in the Secretariat campus. He directed the concerned to upkeep the premises aesthetically so that both employees and visitors have a pleasant experience. During this visit the Chief Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Director Estates, Jammu besides other concerned civil and police officers.

Red Ribbon Club of GCW Gandhi Nagar commemorate AIDS day



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 01

The Red Ribbon Club of Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar Jammu in collaboration with Food Science and Home Science Department and under the convenorship of Dr. Shalini Sharma organised an awareness rally to commemorate the World AIDS Day on December 1st 2023.

World AIDS Day serves as a poignant reminder of the global effort to combat HIV/AIDS, promote awareness, and stand in solidarity with those affected.

In line with this spirit, a total of 64 Students and 08 faculty members participated in a spirited rally. The rally passed through the by lanes of Green Belt area and culminated back in the college premises in which students shouted slogans and participated enthusiastically. At the event, students actively participated by illuminating candles, symbolizing their engagement and support for the cause.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Neelima Gupta, Prof. Abhinav Sharma, Prof. Harmeet Singh and Prof. Sunita,

members of Red Ribbon Club. Dr. Anuradha Gandotra and Prof. Monika Hans also joined the event.

Principal of the College Prof. Minu Mahajan, congratulated the students and appreciated the efforts of organizing team of Red Ribbon Club of the college. She shared her insights and experiences, providing valuable perspectives on the efforts to combat the said issue. Overall, the event organized with the aims to contribute to the global effort to eliminate stigma, promote testing and support those living with HIV.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra accorded warm welcome in 8 Panchayats of Block Khari



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 1

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) was accorded a warm welcome by PRIs, senior citizens, youth, and local residents on its arrival in eight panchayats of block Khari, here today.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra witnessed enthusiastic and vibrant participation of all stakeholders in panchayat Shagan, Khari Lower-A, Khari Lower-B, Khari Upper-B, Khari Upper-A, Trigam Lower-A, Trigam Lower-B and Trigam Upper in district Ramban. The people from all walks of life participated in a variety of activities and learned about Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

They listened attentively to recorded video messages from the Prime Minister, emphasizing the significance of the campaign. Participants took the Viksit Sankalp Bharat pledge, affirming their commitment to holistic national development.

Beneficiaries, who have availed benefits of different government

schemes and services, shared their experiences under Meri Kahaani, Meri Zubaani initiative and expressed gratitude for the seamless services delivery. Officers and officials sensitized the people about government schemes and motivated them to register for schemes and get benefits under various employment and welfare based schemes. Various welfare, employment, insurance, social security and income generation based schemes were highlighted by all departments who had installed stalls.

Sub Divisional Magistrate, Banihal, Zaheer Abbas Bhat, Tehsildar Khari, Amit Upadhya, Block Development Officer, Asif Amin, Block Medical Officer, Ukhral, Dr. Iqbal, supervised multiple activities organized under the nationwide campaign.

Block officers and officials from line departments, PRIs, students and locals participated in large numbers in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programmes in aforesaid panchayats.

District Kathua clinches top 4 positions in UT level Kala Utsav 2023-24

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 1

As per the initiative of the Department of Education, Govt of India to draw out the talent of the students in different fields of Art and Music, a two day UT level Kala Utsav 2023-24 was held in Teachers' Bhawan Jammu by Samagra Shiksha J&K which culminated, the other day.

During the two day event, students from Kathua District won 4 First positions and 3 second positions in different art form categories.

The competition was held for male and female categories in 10 different art forms of Vocal Music (Classical), Vocal Music (folk), Instrumental Music (Percussion), Instrumental Music (Melody), Dance (Classical), Dance (Traditional), Visual Art (2D), Visual Art (3D), Traditional Toys and Games and in Solo Acting category. In all 40 winners of previously held divisional level participated.

The winners had been chosen following a grueling competition held at school level, zonal level, district level and divisional level. The event witnessed 20 contestants each from Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The District Kathua managed to secure 4 first positions & 3 second positions bringing home top overall positions among the districts. The winners of

first positions from district Kathua in different categories were Rubby from GHSS Kathua (Instrumental Percussion), Pragati Mishra from APS Janglote (Classical Dance), Anshika Sharma from APS Janglote (Instrumental Melodic-F) and Sahira Tabasum from GHSS Billawar (Visual Art 3D).

The winners of this phase will be competing in a national level competition going to be held next month. Chief Education Officer, Kathua Kishore Kumar, congratulated all the winners and wished them best of luck for the next phase of the competition. He said that it is all due to the endless efforts put in by the mentors and the support given by the respective Head of the Institutions. He congratulated and appreciated all the stakeholders including the team of DICC, ZICCs and all the SICCs. He specially appreciated the efforts by Ms. Monika Khosla, DICC and all ZICCs for bringing such success in the event and continually making efforts for making NEP 2020 a success and connecting students with their culture. He thanked worthy Director of School Education, Jammu division and the Cultural Cell, DSEJ for providing such a platform to our students to showcase their talent.

S. Karmjeet Singh DEPO Kathua and Sh. Chaman Lal Dy CEO Kathua also congratulated all the stakeholders of Kala Utsav for this success.

President Gandhi Global Family J&K, DDC Member Poonch call on Lt Governor



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, President Gandhi Global Family, J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj

Bhawan today.

Sh Riyaz Bashir Naaz, Member, District Development Council, Poonch apprised the Lt Governor on various development issues of Poonch district.

DLSA Kishtwar organises awareness event to observe World HIV AIDS Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 1

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare today organised a comprehensive awareness program in the District Hospital to mark observance of World HIV AIDS Day. The initiative aimed to educate, inform, and engage participants in understanding the implications of HIV AIDS in the society.

Advocate Pooja Shan and Advocate Iram Sabha led the program as resource persons. Dr. Mohd. Yaqoob Mir (CMO) and Dr. Yudhveer Singh Kotwal (Medical Superintendent) provided essential insights into the prevention of spread of AIDS, emphasizing measures pivotal to its control and eradication from the country. The event witnessed valuable contribution from the students of the



nursing college, further highlighting the importance of collective efforts towards combating this global health concern.

The theme for this year's World AIDS Day, "LET COMMUNITIES LEAD," underscores the significant role communities play in shaping the HIV response and global health at large. This day serves as a crucial platform to assess achieved progress, raise awareness about persisting challenges, and mobilize all stakeholders to redouble their efforts, ensuring the success of the HIV response.

Moreover, the program stressed the critical need to eradicate AIDS from the

country without discrimination. Upholding the principles of equality and maintaining confidentiality, all infected individuals are to be treated as equal citizens, availing themselves of the government's schemes and free treatment facilities.

The event witnessed a robust participation of 125 attendees, including doctors, para-medical staff, visiting patients, and nursing college students. Additionally, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Kishtwar organized five awareness programs across various locations in the District Kishtwar, amplifying the reach and impact of this vital initiative.

JKSSB exam: Training program for supervisory staff held in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 1



To facilitate smooth conduct of the upcoming JKSSB exam for Panchayat Secretary Recruitment, the District Administration Udhampur today organized a training program for supervisory staff under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, JKSSB Member Dr Pritam Lal Thapa, District Coordinator JKSSB and Deputy Director Estates, Ajay Bharti and other JKSSB members alongside supervisory staff attended the meeting.

At the outset, Dr Pritam Lal Thapa, Member JKSSB, delivered an informa-

tive PowerPoint presentation, enlightening the staff about their roles and responsibilities in ensuring a smooth and transparent examination process scheduled for December 10, 2023, at various identified centers across the district. While addressing the participants, the ADC highlighted the substantial deployment of Center Observer Magistrates, Center Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Investigation Staff, emphasizing that all necessary arrangements have been meticulously put in place for the examina-

tion's seamless conduct. ADC urged the trainees to strictly adhere to procedures for a transparent examination in their respective centers.

ADC revealed that the District Administration has established 23 examination centers across the district, emphasizing the active cooperation and support from Police, Education, and other related departments for the OMR examination test. The examination is slated for December 10, 2023, from 12 noon to 2 pm at designated examination centers.

Health Block Katra, TLSC organise orientation/awareness programme on HIV-AIDS

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 1



To commemorate World AIDS Day, a one day awareness programme was held today at Community Health Centre (CHC) Katra in Collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee under the control of Dr. Gopal Dutt, BMO.

Dr Ruchi Sharma Physician Specialist delivered the lecture on prevention and treatment of the dis-

ease. Advocate Suneel Sharma from TLSC Katra, Sunali central administrator from One Stop Centre, Ashutosh Sharma Social Worker Special cell for Women highlighted the legal aspect and ways of dealing and neutralizing the social stigma associated with the sufferers like HIV patients, child abuse

and domestic violence respectively.

The programme was attended by representatives from all health institutions of block Katra, ASHA workers, officials and officers of CHC, volunteers and attendants.

Dr. Komal MLHP conducted the proceedings of the event.

Chairperson DDC Udhampur inaugurates work on 2 vital Road Projects

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 1

District Development Council Chairperson, Udhampur Lal Chand today inaugurated two projects viz Upgradation of road from T16-Choprasop to Sunari, Kambal Danga via Chak and construction work of 9.50 KM road from Tikri to Chirayi via Sukka Talab.

Former MoS, Pawan Kumar Gupta; BDC Chairperson of Block Udhampur, Balwan Singh and District Development Councillor Udhampur-I, Puran Chand were also present.

Sarpanch, Panchayat Chopra Shop, Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Sunari, Hartaryan, and officials of PMGSY, including the superintending engineer, executive engineer, and junior engineer concerned were also present. The road from Tikri to Chirayi via Sukka Talab is being constructed at a cost of Rs 9 crore. BDC Chairperson Block Tikri, Nisha Sharma and District Development Councillor Tikri Ashu and other PRI members of the area.

The total length of the road from T16-Choprasop to Sunari, Kambal Danga via Chak is



12.925 KM. The road will be upgraded at an allotted cost of Rs. 1243.83 lakh for the construction part and Rs. 209.90 Lakh for the maintenance part, totaling Rs. 1453.73 lakh. The department has to complete the up-gradation work within the stipulated period of 18 months.

After the inauguration of the work, the chairperson congratulated the public of the area and informed them that road connectivity is a prerequisite for overall development and is the first priority of the government. He added that the road will provide better commutation facilities to the surrounding 15-20 panchayats. After the completion of the project, the logistics facilities and economic development in the area will be enhanced.

The chairperson specially thanked MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh for sanctioning important projects

which are the long pending demands of public of the area.

Ex-MoS, Pawan Kumar Gupta, BDC Chairperson, Balwan Singh and DDC Councillors Udhampur-I, Suran Chand also congratulated the public of the area for the development and urged the officials of the department to work with full zeal and honesty in order to maintain the quality of the work. The people of the area thanked the DDC Chairperson and other prominent people present there for their continuous efforts for the development of the area.

At the end of the event, the chairperson directed the officials to maintain the quality of the work and complete it within the stipulated period. He appreciated the efforts of all the PRI members present there and urged them to maintain the pace of developmental work in the area.

GDC Ramgarh hosts poster making competition to mark World AIDS Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 1

Red Ribbon Club of Govt. Degree College Ramgarh, in collaboration with, Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society, Department of Health & Medical Education, J&K Govt. organized a poster making competition to mark the World AIDS Day on this year's theme 'Let Communities lead' under guidance and co-ordination of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the college. At the outset, Prof. Risha Kumari, Nodal Officer, Red Ribbon Club, GDC Ramgarh, said that this day provides an opportunity to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. She made the students aware about the importance of the day and this year's theme. We should provide support to communities to end this

scourge in their neighborhoods, their countries and around the world.

Students of the College participated in the competition with great zeal and enthusiasm. Alisha Menia of B.A. Sem. III stood first prize; Bhoomika Sharma, Sem. I bagged the second prize; Reema Sharma Sem-I clinched the third prize. The event was adjudged by Prof. Bhram Dutt, Dr. Shivali Choudhary and Priya Sharma.

Prof. Risha Kumari, Nodal Officer, Red Ribbon Club, organized the whole event meticulously. Dr. Shivali Choudhary and Priya Sharma encouraged the students to participate in such events in future also.

All the faculty members of the college including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Bhram Dutt, Sunil Kumar were also present.

Representatives of All Sikh Minority Employees Association call on LG



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Representatives of All Sikh Minority Employees Association and All Employees Joint Association Kashmir (M) led by Ms Jagmeet Kour Bali called

on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation of time-bound redressal of their genuine issues and grievances.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Ghar Colony, Bus Stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Kaleeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Manda, New Plot, Sarwal, Part of Karan Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 03 from 8 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Industrial area of Bari Brahmana will remain affected on December 03 from 9 am to 10 am, 4 pm to 5 pm and 9 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Phalian, Mandal, Surychack, Rambagh, Karnale, Chak, Ganeshchak, Nandani and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 02 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Former Legislator calls on LG



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Sh Devender Singh Rana, former Legislator and senior BJP leader today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan and apprised

him of various issues of public importance.

The Lt Governor assured the former Legislator of appropriate redressal of genuine issues and demands put forth by him during the interaction.

JAKFAS welcomes Atal Dulloo on assuming charge as new CS

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 01

The Jammu & Kashmir Finance and Accounts Society (JAKFAS) extended a warm welcome to Atal Dulloo, upon his assumption of the charge as new

Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir.

Director General Budget, Yaqoob Ito; Iftikhar Hussain Chauhan, President JAKFAS; Vice President (J), Sonam Singh; Joint Director Budget, Shafaat Yehya;

Deputy Director Codes, Sonika Arora; Deputy Director Codes, Shafait Rehman; Deputy Director Budget, Shah Nawaz Ahmed; Accounts Officer, Tariq Malik; and Accounts Officer, Vishesh Kapoor, presented a bouquet on

behalf of the Society.

Expressing their happiness, the members of JAKFAS wished Dulloo all the best for his new role and offered their heartfelt wishes for his success as the Chief Secretary of the UT.

DC Srinagar chairs meeting of DLAC on Food Safety

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 1

A meeting of District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) on Food Safety was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the measures in place to ensure quality food to people in the District. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the functioning and achievements of the Food Safety Department.

The meeting held a detailed deliberation on the crucial issues related to food safety standards and hygiene being followed by the Food Business Operators

in the District.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman of DLAC was apprised about the current status of food safety in Srinagar District and various proactive measures undertaken by the Food Safety Department to ensure the provision of safe and healthy food for the public. Underlining the importance of maintaining high standards of food safety for wellbeing of the public, the Deputy Commissioner issued instructions to Officers to ensure hygienic food availability in the market. He emphasized the need for inspection squads to monitor and curb the sale of unhealthy and expired food products, especially those targeted at children, besides

to give focused attention towards curbing sale of misbranded food items.

The DC exhorted upon the Srinagar Food Safety Team to strengthen the intelligence network to gather the critical and sensitive information about unhygienic/misbranded food items. The DC stressed on conducting intensifying market checking across the District and laid emphasis on increasing the volume of lifting the food samples by adopting scientific procedures for study and sharing the findings with the Administration for further course the safety of the human lives. He instructed for taking strict action under law against the FPOs involved in violation of the Food Safety Act.

Dr Rameshwar organizes awareness program on World AIDS Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANI, DEC 2

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Zonal Medical Officer of PHC KOTICHANDYAR, organized an awareness program to educate the students of Government High School Koti Chandyar about HIV/AIDS. The program covered the causes, symptoms, and prevention of HIV/AIDS, emphasizing the importance of safe sex and the availability of HIV testing and treatment services. Dr. Rameshwar said AIDS, a chronic and potentially life-threatening condition caused by HIV, attacks the body's immune system,



making it vulnerable to infections. Symptoms of AIDS vary from person to person and may take

years to develop, including fever, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, night sweats, diarrhea, and

weight loss. While there is no cure for AIDS, effective treatments enable people with HIV to live

long and healthy lives, he added. "Prevention strategies include practicing safe sex by using

condoms consistently, avoiding needle or syringe sharing, and getting regular HIV testing," he added. Dr. Rameshwar emphasized the importance of societal support for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. He highlighted that despite advancements in treatment, the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS persists, often leading to discrimination and isolation. He urged the students and community members to extend empathy, compassion, and acceptance towards those affected by HIV/AIDS, reminding them that AIDS is a curable disease, and with proper treatment and support, individuals can live long and fulfilling lives.

Secretary Doda Development Front BA Mughal bereaved

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 01:

The Doda Development Front on Friday (01-12-2023) held a condolence meeting to condole the demise of Mtr. Shafiq Begum, wife of Secretary DDF Bashir Ahmed Mughal who left for heavenly abode few days ago, following prolonged illness.

In a press statement, the President Doda Development Front Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev has condoled the sad demise of Mtr. Shafiq Begum and expressed grief & sorrow besides offered solidarity with the bereaved family at this hour of grief.

Dev also prayed to the Almighty for granting peace to the departed soul and much needed strength to the bereaved families to bear the inconsolable loss.

The members of DDF

headed by its President Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev also visited the bereaved family at Mohalla Sah Doda, to offer condolences and sympathies to them, where they offered Fatiha for the deceased and prayed for peace to the departed soul in the highest echelons of Jannah.

Those present in the condolence meeting were Ghulam Hassan Pampori (Sr Leader Low Paid Employees), Sha-keel Ahmed Dev (Veteran Trade Union Leader), Niaz Ahmed Rahi (President Low Paid Employees Federation), Naseer Ahmed Khora (President Journalists Association), Manzoor Ahmed Batt (Patron YSSC Doda), Mehboob Ahmed Tak (President Chenab Citizens Forum) and Faizan A Trambo (Former District President NHM Association Doda).

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG attends 'Viksit Bharat'...

create opportunities for youth, women, farmers and vulnerable section to accomplish the vision of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts of the J&K Government to ensure benefits of welfare measures reach the poor and weaker sections of society.

UT administration is providing 5 Marla land to poor landless beneficiary under PMAY (G). This will raise the living standards of poor, vulnerable landless families, remove the existing societal imbalances and lead to their economic and social prosperity, he said.

Sh Raman Wazir, Sarpanch Panchayat Dhok Waziran and beneficiaries from the Panchayat also shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to the administration for extension of benefits under various government schemes.

The Lt Governor visited the stalls put up by different departments, witnessed the demonstration of drone, and handed over the certificates of registration to the members of newly created Farmer Producers Organizations.

'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge was also administered on the occasion.

Sh Bharat Bhushan, Chairman District Development Council Jammu; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Priyush Singla, Secretary Revenue; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Sh Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, senior officers, PRI members and people in large number were present.

Rich nations should...

said despite the clear signs of accelerating climate risks and impacts worldwide, the adaptation finance gap is widening and now stands at between USD 194 billion and USD 366 billion per year.

Modi also said that multilateral development banks should provide affordable finance not just for development but also for climate action.

The prime minister said India and other countries in the Global South have contributed little to the climate crisis but are impacted the most.

"Despite the lack of resources, these nations are committed to climate action," he said.

"Climate finance and technology are important to fulfil the aspirations of the Global South," the prime minister said, adding that the countries of the Global South expect all possible help from the developed countries to address the climate crisis. (Agencies)

J&K Raj Bhawan hosts...

its economy, he added.

The Lt Governor paid homage to the great personalities of Nagaland and remembered their significant contribution in nation building.

Nagaland, blessed with tremendous diversity and richness is fondly called as land of warrior tribes. The Naga leader and freedom fighter, Rani Gaidinliu, also known as daughter of the hills who had joined the freedom struggle at the age of 13 years had inspired the people to rebel against the British, he said.

He said the Statehood Day is also an occasion to celebrate Nagaland's unique strengths, opportunities, tourism potential and the spirit of unity in diversity.

Security personnel, students and the people of Nagaland living in J&K UT were the special invitees for the evening.

Kashmir valley incomplete...

& Kashmir and even before independence, the then Princely States across the country, as far as the Princely States of Central India, engaged Kashmiri Pandit scholars in education and administration.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, after independence, the Kashmiri Pandit community contributed immensely in civil services, academics and in the setting up of several important institutions of learning across the country. It is unfortunate, he said, that they had been displaced from their homes and hearths under most inhumane circumstances but time has now come to involve them and facilitate their contribution in nation building as India marches ahead to achieve the goal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Viksit Bharat".

The function was organized by Dr. Manmohan Jyotshi Research Foundation (a socio-religious & cultural organization) to mark the 242nd anniversary of the publication of Jantrier.

In his welcome address, Pt. Puneet Jyotshi delved deep into the services rendered meticulously by this Almanac for more than two decades. He emphasised the need to take full advantage of the Vijayeshwer Publications.

Dr Jitendra Singh, described it as a sacred religious document not only meant for Kashmiri Pandits but also the whole of Hindu community and indeed, the whole of society regardless of caste or creed. He further lauded the role of Jantrier and even remarked that those who are steadfast in faith also take refuge in Almanac before embarking upon any venture. Dr. Singh also highlighted the contribution of the Vijayeshwer Family.

A galaxy of prominent persons graced the occasion include Prof. Ashok Aima (Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu), Swami Kumar Ji, Dr Sushil Wattal (Religious Scholars), Sh. Kiran Wattal (Convenor, Vishva Kashmiri Samaj), Sh. Pintoo Ji Pandita (Chairman, Global Solace).

Prof. Ashok Aima thanked Dr Jitendra Singh for starting North India's first ISRO Space teaching centre in Central University Jammu.

Mr. Ramesh Maratha (All India Radio Broadcaster) was also awarded with Jyotish Kashi Nath Lifetime Achievement Award. Other awardees in their respective areas were Mr. Kuldeep Langoo, Prof. Virender Rawal, Mr. Avtar Bhat, Mr. Sanjay Dhar, Mr. Kanwal Peshin, Ms. Rajni Sethi, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Tantray, Mr. Sanjay Raina, Mr. Roshan Lal Saraf, Mr. Sanjay Tickoo, Mr. Varad Sharma, Mr. Kamal Ganjoo, Ms. Kusum Tickoo, Mr. Rinku Ji Koul, Mr. M.K Sharma, Mr. Chand Ji Razdan, Mr. Pankaj Handoo, Mr. Kuldeep Jyotshi, Ms. Kusum Tickoo gracefully moderated the event and kept the audience engaged.

Vote of thanks was given by P.L Hatash.

Father of 4 children...

Mir (48) of Zaloor village falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Bomai filed a missing report as Riyaz, according to them, had gone missing.

A police party searched for him following which his body was found under mysterious circumstances near his house, the official said, adding that the body was taken to the Sub District Hospital Sopore for the necessary medical procedures. Later, it was handed over to the family for conducting last rites, officials said.

Reyaz's dead body was recovered from a small water-filled trench, they said.

However, relatives of Mir said Riyaz went out of his house at around 12 O'clock, while they tried hard to search for him but he couldn't be traced.

The relatives as well as the locals at his residence claimed that Reyaz, a father of four children - three daughters and a son was so humble, pious and religious.

"Riyaz would have never taken the extreme step (Suicide). It seems like a case of murder, which needs to be investigated thoroughly," they said.

"Despite his family tensions (Altercations with her wife), Reyaz was very much concerned about his daughters, a son and would go to any extent for their safety and concerns. He was a pious, religious man, whenever he used to give Adhan (call for a prayer) the neighbours used to cry," the wailing neighbours said.

The locals, however, stated that Riyaz was attacked by his in-laws a few days ago. They were having family issues, they said.

The matter should be investigated and involved must be taken to task, they added.

"There were visible marks on his neck as well," they alleged.

The wailing relatives as well as neighbours of Reyaz urged the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and SSP Sopore to personally intervene into the matter and take strict action against the involved persons.

Meanwhile, an official from the Police department told KNO that a case in this regard has been registered and investigations have been taken up.

Officials said that they are close to cracking the case. The details will be shared later, he added. KNO

ED arrests former J&K...

with the J&K Co-operative Bank.

In the ACB probe, it was found that accordingly, the J&K Co-operative Bank in Srinagar sanctioned a loan to the tune of Rs 223 crore, without adhering to any codal formalities, including obtaining details of the society such as its balance-sheet, profit and loss, account business, activities, PAN number, income tax returns, and construction of board resolutions.

The inquiry revealed that the River Jhelum Cooperative House Building Society had not even been registered with the registrar of cooperative societies, and Mir by acting in league with Dar and others had prepared a fake and fictitious registration certificate in the society's name and managed the loan's sanction.

The loan amount was disbursed into the accounts of land owners but the land had not been mortgaged to the bank, it found.

Further, the investigation conducted by the ACB was

successful in unearthing the siphoned-off Rs 223 crore. Also, an amount to the tune of Rs 187 crore has been frozen by the bureau, the officials said. (Agencies)

DGP's grievance redressal...

Swain at Srinagar tomorrow do not face any inconvenience.

"People are once again requested that before meeting the DGP, J-K they should ideally have exhausted the option of approaching junior police units who are responsible for redressing grievances," an official statement said.

Police said that this initiative is not aimed for the recruitment of SPOs and transfers.

IPS officer RR Swain was appointed as J-K DGP on November 1. (Agencies)

Navy appointed first...

activities in the region.

"Our ships, submarines, and aircraft have sustained a high operational tempo - undertaking missions and tasks encompassing military, diplomatic, constabulary and benign roles," he said.

"Our units were mission deployed across the Indian Ocean Region and beyond, to protect and promote our national interests," he said.

The Navy has "remained a 'Combat-ready, Credible, Cohesive, and Future Proof' force enabled by what we call our 'ships first' outlook where every single action that we take is aimed to enable our women and men in operational units to perform their duties very well."

On the operational front, the Navy's sheer footprint of deployments has been satisfying as its ships have been persistently present across the Indo Pacific.

Admiral Kumar said the Indian Navy has appointed the first woman commanding officer in a naval ship.

"The overall strength of women Agniveers has now crossed the 1,000 mark. These statistics stands testament to our philosophy of 'all roles, all ranks' approach to deployment of women in the service."

He also said the Indian Navy is fully committed to jointness and cohesiveness. (Agencies)

Murmu presents...

should emphasize research in the medical field and use newer technologies. We are witnessing the use of artificial intelligence, precision medicine, 3D printing, telemedicine and other technologies in the field of medicine," said Murmu on this occasion.

All personnel in the armed forces should get healthcare of the highest standards, she said, adding that she was confident that the AFMC will play a crucial role in ensuring it.

The Armed Forces Medical Services play an important role in keeping soldiers in the best of health and battle-ready, the president said, and urged the AFMC and its graduates to put emphasis on research and the use of the latest technology.

Women alumni of the AFMC have given significant contribution and some of them are serving in top positions across all armed forces departments, she noted.

"Padma Bandopadhyay, who became the first Air Marshal in the Indian Air Force was also from the AFMC. All such women cadets who after graduating from the AFMC went on to hold top positions...I hope that by taking inspiration from such female officers, more and more women in the country will choose careers in the Indian Army.

They will become more alert towards their own rights and will help other women to go ahead in their careers," Murmu said. The AFMC has achieved recognition as a top-class institution in the field of medical education, the President said.

"The graduates of the institutes have distinguished themselves in wars, counter-insurgency operations, natural calamities and pandemic and made the nation proud by giving dedicated service within the country and across the borders.

The graduates of the institute have presented numerous examples of valour, indomitable courage and supreme sacrifice which brought honour to the nation," she said.

The valiant men and women of the Armed Forces Medical Services faced a challenging time of COVID-19 and the country will always remember the selfless service they rendered during that period and the courage they showed, she said.

Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh priests from the armed forces performed the 'consecration ceremony' on this occasion, following which Murmu presented the President's Colour to the AFMC. (AGENCIES)

Suri commends Union Govt's historic decision to extend PMGKAY

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri lauded the Union Cabinet's decision to allocate 5 Kg of free foodgrains per month to approximately 80 crore impoverished citizens for an additional five years. This monumental decision, costing the government Rs 11.8 lakh crore, aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to fortify food security in terms of accessibility, affordability, and availability. Raman Suri emphasized the BJP government's sensitivity to people's concerns, highlighting Modi's dedication to ensure uniformity across states. Starting from 1st January, 2024, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the poor will receive free foodgrains for the next five years.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Suri acknowledged Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the "monumental" decision that extends free ration facilities to 80 crore beneficiary families nationwide. In this historic announcement, Modi reassured the nation of his government's unwavering commitment

of prioritizing the welfare of the impoverished, fulfilling this promise through the PMGKAY. Raman Suri underscored the significance of this extended initiative, particularly in regions like Jammu and Kashmir which faced the dual challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and terrorism. The provision of free ration serves as a beacon of hope and sustenance for affected communities, according to Suri.

Quoting PM Modi, Suri highlighted the compassionate vision behind the PMGKAY, stating, "During COVID-19, the biggest concern of the poor was what they would feed their children. Then, I decided that I would not let any poor sleep hungry." Raman Suri commended Modi as a visionary statesman who genuinely cares for his people and the country. Acknowledging the "tireless efforts" of the government, Raman Suri recognized that this extended initiative will positively impact millions, ensuring that no one goes to bed hungry. The PMGKAY has remained a crucial lifeline, providing essential food grains under the public distribution system, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provide facilities in distt hosps to reduce burden on GMC, SMGS hosps: Dr Preeti Bhagat

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

Social activist Dr Preeti Bhagat has said that due to shortage of staff and lack of facilities in the district and sub-district hospitals of Jammu division, the entire burden of patients is falling on GMC Hospital and SMGS Hospital. Due to the government's negligence and lack of will power, the hospitals built in the districts have become referral hospitals. At present the situation is that GMC Hospital is burdened with patients from 10 districts of Jammu division. Due to lack of treatment in district hospitals, everyone is forced to come to GMC. Same is the situation with SMGS Hospital. This hospital is also burdened by about 10 districts only. Here, two

women are kept on each bed in the ward. Both these big hospitals are treating a large population as per their



resources. Doctors and other paramedical staff treat people diligently, but if the government fulfills the shortage of doctors in district hospitals and provides all types

of health facilities, then the burden on these two hospitals will reduce and people here will get health facilities. Facilities will be available in good manner. If the government truly wants to improve health facilities, then it will have to provide all the necessary facilities from district hospitals to PHCs, CHCs, and dispensaries. If people get better health facilities near their homes or in their district, then people will not be forced to go to big hospitals.

J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad



J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Jammu and Kashmir Branch (NIRC) successfully organized a seminar on MSME SAHYOG & STARTUP SAMVAD. The event held on 01-Dec-2023 at ICAI Bhawan, Canal Road, Jammu witnessed the active participation of professionals, members & students.

The esteemed Guest speaker for the seminar was CA. Manoj Lamba & CA. Hitesh Goyal.

The first session was started by CA. Manoj Lamba, Mr. Lamba is known for his extensive experience and expertise in the field of Start-ups. His insightful session covered various important aspects of Start-up registration & Benefits.

The Second session was started by CA. Hitesh Goyal, who deliberates on MSME scheme under the ministry of MSME, Govt. of India. During the seminar, CA Manoj Lamba & CA. Hitesh Goyal not only shared his in-depth knowledge but also addressed the queries raised by the members in attendance.

In addition to CA Manoj Lamba, the seminar witnessed the presence of esteemed Central Council members, CA (Dr.) Raj Chawla Vice-chairman Committee of MSME & Start-up ICAI. They graced the event with their dis-

tinguished presence and offered words of wisdom, enriching the overall experience for all participants.

The seminar commenced with the inaugural address delivered by CA Vikas Purdhani, the esteemed Chairman of the J&K Branch. His address set the tone for the informative sessions that followed, inspiring attendees to delve deeper into the subject matter.

The proceedings of the seminar were conducted by CA Sourav Pargal, the Secretary of the J&K Branch. With his remarkable expertise, CA Sourav Pargal ensures smooth execution of the seminar. His attention to detail and commitment to delivering a fruitful event contributed to the overall success of the seminar.

CA Aayush Sawhney, Treasurer, CA Nakul Saraf, Immediate Past Chairman and CA. Priya Seht, Executive Member along with senior members and number of Chartered Accountants were also present in the event.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Jammu and Kashmir Branch (NIRC) is committed to enhancing the professionalism and expertise of its members. through various educational and networking initiatives, the branch fosters growth, excellence, and ethical practices in the field of accounting and auditing.

GDC Darhal organizes Extension Lecture cum poster making competition on world AIDS Day



J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad

The Red Ribbon club and NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College Darhal organized an extension lecture cum poster making competition on the theme "Let communities lead" to mark world AIDS Day here today. Professor Mussaraf Hussain Shah, Principal Govt Degree College Darhal was chief guest whereas Dr Mohd Shakeel was a resource person on the occasion. While speaking on the occasion, Prof Shah underlined the need of greater awareness to eradicate this from roots by active response of communities youth and students especially NSS volunteers pay vital role towards its prevention, he added.

In his comprehensive talk Dr Shakeel briefed the audience about the history, biology, epidemiology and prevention by com-

munity involvement. The program was followed by an intra-college poster making competition in which Hibza Tabassum of semester-1st bagged 1st whereas Kashish Fatima semester-1st and Umer Khalil semester-3rd stood 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Dr. Ghulam Abas Head Department of Persian and Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, Head Department of English served as judges for this competition.

Earlier, Dr Mohd Akhlaq convener Red ribbon club and NSS Programme officer introduced the audience about the program and also conducted proceeding of the program. Dr Mohd Riaz, Department of Persian presented the formal vote of thanks. A large number of students and staff members participated in the program. Prominent among others were Dr. Ahsan Ul-Rehman Rizvi, Mr. Zahid and Dr. Mehwish Bukhari.

Windows of communication with children should always remain open, says Chairman, JKBOSE

J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad

The Academic Division of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) conducted a one-day programme on mental health awareness at JKBOSE, Bemina, Srinagar with the objective to sensitise students, teachers and the employees the importance of mental health and emotional well being. The programme aimed to raise self awareness, knowledge about mental health issues and recognize the importance of practising life skills such as communication, empathy, anger, stress and time management, etc. The programme was attended by eminent psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists, Assistant Professors, JKBOSE officers and officials, teachers and students from schools of District Srinagar. The event encompassed a range of activities which addressed different aspects of mental health and wellbeing focussing with the aim to create awareness and dialogue surrounding the problem. Dr Mohammad Maqbool Dar, Head, IMHANS-K presided over the function.

Prof (Dr) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Chairperson, JKBOSE in his message appreciated the

efforts of the Academics Division for conducting such programmes which help in raising awareness on significant issues among various stakeholders in the education sector as well as the civil society. He emphasized that the windows of communication should always remain open and children should be patiently heard by their parents and teachers to provide them emotional outlet and support to strengthen their mental health and wellbeing. Elaborating further, the chairperson laid stress on equipping students with twenty first century life skills, which will help them navigate the challenges of life.

In her message, Ms Manisha Sarin, (JKAS), Secretary, JKBOSE underlined the need for inculcating good habits in eating and lifestyle in children and encouraging them to eat natural foods and take regular exercise. She encouraged the students to follow a proper time management strategy in order to avoid unnecessary stress in their day-to-day activities.

Prof (Dr) Sudhir Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE, in his message, expressed that the increasing pressure to succeed, parental and societal expectations have a role in



shaping children's mental health. Elaborating on the importance of mental health and the challenges in addressing mental health in schools, the Director Academics said that lack of awareness and stigma need to be talked about in order to create a culture of conversation and cultivate positive and realistic outlook towards the problem.

Dr Arif Jan, Deputy Director, Academics, JKBOSE formally welcomed the experts and the participants. Talking about the cognitive and socio-emotional development, he said it was the need of the hour to talk and understand about mental health.

In her opening remarks Ms Naila Neelofar, Assistant Director, Academics, JKBOSE brought the audience abreast of the situation regarding mental health issues facing the young generation in Jammu and Kashmir. She talked about the integration of life skills in JKBOSE

curriculum which will help students to empathise, manage anger, stress and time, do critical thinking and problem solving to face the ups and downs of life. 'Integrating mental health and inclusiveness is the focus of NEP, 2020 and the students need to be trained to find their way through difficulties. Obstacle is the way', she said.

Prof Roshan Ara, Head, Department of Women's Studies underscored the significance of mental health awareness in the changing global social dynamics and also focused on the balance between different aspects of life in her speech.

Ayesha, a short film made by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Women's College, Srinagar on the theme of mental health and ways of coping with mental health issues, was screened for the audience. The film was appreciated as an effective tool for awareness as well as management of mental health

challenges.

In his presentation titled 'Mental Health Scenario in J&K - Challenges and the Road Ahead', Dr Mohammad Maqbool Dar, Head, IMHANS-K discussed with the audience the situation at the grassroots. He also interacted with members of the audience in an interactive session in which various themes regarding the prevalence, societal attitudes and coping with mental health issues came up for discussion. This was followed by a panel discussion titled 'Sorting out Stress - Navigating Person, Profession and Personal Relationships in the Contemporary Era'.

The panelists comprised Prof Arshad Hussain, IMHANS, K, Dr Roshan Ara, University of Kashmir, Dr Aijaz Ahmad and Mr Muzaffar Ahmad Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist, Mr Fayaz Ahmad, JKSCERT, Muqaddas and Mudaa, students from GHSS, Kothibagh. Ms Naila Neelofar moderated the panel discussion. Dr

Arshad emphasized that stress is a response to a certain situation, which if negotiated properly builds resilience. He said that in the modern times children have been bereft of play and love, which we need to return to them. The clinical psychologists foregrounded the need to reconnect in relationships to ensure a sense of belonging to children. They underscored the importance of empathy, listening and the impact of suppressed anger in our lives. Dr Fayaz highlighted the importance of digital and emotional wellbeing and the need of social media and internet, etc fasting is important for the mental health of everyone. The panel discussion focused on various strategies for managing and coping with stress in the present fast-paced life which is hugely impacted by technology and addiction to social media. The student panelists highlighted their concerns regarding managing stress, study time and family expectations.

The programme concluded with an interactive session between the experts/panelists and the audience. Iftikhar Imran, Academic Officer, JKBOSE, who conducted the proceedings delivered the formal vote of thanks.

Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, YSM, VSM Assumes Command of Army Training Command

J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad

Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh took over as the 24th General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Shimla based Army Training Command on 01 December 2023, succeeding Lieutenant General Surinder Singh Mahal, who superannuated a day earlier, the army said in a statement.

Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh is an alumnus of Sainik School Kapurthala, National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He was commissioned into 19 MADRAS on 20 December 1986.

The General Officer commanded his Battalion in an intense Counter Insurgency environment in J&K, an Infantry Brigade at the Line of Control, an Infantry Division as part of Strike Corps and a Corps deployed along Line of Control in Counter Insurgency Operations in J&K. The General Officer has tenanted varied staff appointments in Corps and Commands along the Western Front and in the Counter Insurgency Operations environment. The General Officer has also been an Instructor at Indian Military Acad-



emy and Indian Military Training Team at Bhutan. He has attended various prestigious courses such as Defence Services Staff College, Higher Command Course and also had the distinction of attending National Defence College at Thailand.

The General Officer is the COLONEL of THE MADRAS REGIMENT since 01 January 2021. He was the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Policy, Planning & Force Development) prior to taking over as the General Officer Commanding in Chief of Army Training Command.

In the prevalent contemporary security scenario and the nature of conflicts world over, the need to train and shape the Indian Army to make responsive and adaptive soldiers in line with evolving doctrines, concepts

and more importantly, adopting the niche war fighting technologies to ensure operational readiness for future challenges is an imperative. The General Officer with his vast experience at tactical, operational and strategic level now aptly heads the prestigious Army Training Command bestowed with these responsibilities to lead the transformation.

For his exemplary leadership and devotion to duty towards the Nation, the General Officer was decorated with Yudh Seva Medal in 2015 and Vishist Seva Medal in 2019.

On assuming command, the General Officer extended his warmest greetings to all ranks of Army Training Command including all Category A Training Establishments, Veer Naris, Veterans, Civilian Defence Employees and their families.

Mahant Rohit shastri calls on chairman of Master Card India Rajnish Kumar

J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad

Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan trust President Mahant Rohit shastri (Jyotishacharya) met Chairman of Mastercard India Sh Rajnish Kumar, the Chairman of Mastercard India, received



traditional greetings. It's worth mentioning that Rajnish Kumar has also served as the former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Shastri discuss the present scenario of Devvani Sanskrit language in Jammu Kashmir.

Dir Agri launches 6th Crop Insurance Week Celebrations from 1st to 7th of Dec 2023

J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad

To mark the celebration of 6th Crop Insurance / PMFBY Week, a function was held at Krishi Bhawan, Jammu, where Fasal Bima Yojna Awareness Van was flagged off by Director Agriculture Production Department, Sh Ram Savak.

Joint Director of Extension, Input and SLUB, representatives from Reliance General Insurance and Iffco Tokio General Insurance Companies, as well as officers and staff of Agriculture department was present on the occasion.

This initiative aims to raise awareness among farmers in the Jammu division through workshops, bank visits, and CSC centers. Throughout the campaign, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials will be distributed to maximize coverage during the Rabi season 2023-24.

The van campaign is being organized by IFFCO TOKIO Insurance Com-



pany in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Jammu under Pardhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna (PMFBY). Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that the purpose of celebrating Crop Insurance Week is to conduct massive awareness campaign and ensure maximum enrolment of the farmers under the Crop Insurance scheme during Rabi 2023-24. He emphasized that the Fasal Bima Yojna will go a long way in mitigating the financial risk of the farmer suffering from the crop losses and aid in stabilizing the

farmer's income. This will also ensure flow of credit in the Agriculture Sector.

Director Agriculture informed that this Van will cover all the panchayats of Jammu District to promote Pardhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) and its coverage among the farming community.

He urged farmers to enrol under the scheme to avail the benefits against weather-vagaries for the notified crops, including Paddy and Maize in the Kharif season and Wheat in the Rabi season with a minimal premium of 2% (Kh)/1.5% (Rabi season) as per the Scale of Finance.

Former Principal GMC Doda Dr Tariq Azad joins DPAP

J&K ICAI organizes Seminar on MSME Sahyog & startup Samvad

Former professor of surgery GMC Jammu & Founder Principal Govt Medical College Doda, Dr Tariq Parvez Azad today joined Democratic Progressive Azad Party in presence of Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad. The party chairman welcomed Dr Tariq and termed it as a substantial boost to the party cadre. Speaking on the occasion Azad said that his party has doors open for all those who wishes and desires to work for the prosperity and welfare of people. He said Dr Tariq,

worked for thousands of people across J&K and elsewhere in the country. "Since merit is the benchmark of success in our party, we encourage competent and dedicated people to join our party fold and allow them to grow as per their capacity," said Azad. "We are here to promote talent and ensure people of J&K are represented by the most genuine representatives. J&K has suffered a lot," he said. Meanwhile, Azad held the meeting of office bearers in Jammu Central and stressed for strong coordination with workers on ground. He told office bearers to hold

both level and corner meetings to strengthen the party cadre.

The divisive and religion driven politics over the years has broken the social bonds and the developmental and genuine public issues has taken a back seat but DPAP won't ever indulge in such politics.

He said the people have to wake up and defeat the divisive and communal forces and vote for development, peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. Azad asked leaders to visit their respective constituencies and reach out to people to sort out their problems.

EDITORIAL

Much-needed relief to consumers!

The Centre has allocated additional 293 MW electricity to Jammu and Kashmir to meet the winter demand of the Union Territory. The additional power allocation is expected to improve the electricity scenario across the Union Territory especially in Kashmir which has been reeling under unscheduled power cuts, providing the people the much-needed relief in harsh winter conditions. It followed the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's intervention who took up the matter with the Union Ministry of Power that made it possible for the Union Territory to receive additional power supply from the Centre. The Central Power Exchange of the Government of India (GoI) has increased power allocation to J&K by 293 MW from today, by transferring power from distant power houses in West Bengal, Bihar and even Bhutan. With the onset of winters in Jammu and Kashmir, the perennial problem of scheduled and unscheduled power cuts returned bringing a lot of discomfort for common masses. This happened at a time when claims were being made about improvement in power scenario after the installation of smart meters. There had been a widening gap between the demand and supply of electricity, forcing the government to purchase electricity from outside Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, the UT administration had declared that there was no alternative to the smart meters as power debt bills for the UT have mounted to Rs 31,000 crore in the past four years. It raised the moot question as if the officials concerned willfully allowed the theft of power and led the liabilities soared over the years. Due to extreme cold conditions in J&K, the electricity demand increases in winters while on the other hand, the Union Territory being primarily dependent on hydroelectric power, faces significant fall in generation during these days due to low water level in rivers. Therefore, around 85 percent of power supply during winters is sourced from thermal plants to compensate for the deficit during winters. In the current financial year, Jammu and Kashmir, according to the official statement, has entered into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for 1600 MW of Solar power, 900 MW from Hydro, and an additional 500 MW from thermal plants, currently in progress following the decision of the UT Administrative Council under the Shakti policy. It is expected that it will not only lead towards resource adequacy for the region, but will also provide an optimal mix of Hydro, Thermal, Solar generation, while the efforts are underway to harness wind power as well so that the strength behind renewable energy is utilized to the maximum. Furthermore, the need of the hour is to fix the accountability and responsibility to punish the corrupt people in the system because the perplexed situation has left the people suffering who are increasingly finding themselves plunged into darkness as unscheduled power cuts continue to haunt both the regions of the Union Territory. Given the current scenario, the UT administration should immediately start investing in upgrading and maintaining the electricity grid, transmission lines, and transformers to withstand harsh weather conditions, both in winters and summers. There should be an increased power generation capacity to meet the growing energy demand during winter, possibly by diversifying energy sources or enhancing the efficiency of existing power plants.

Have reckless cowboys replaced 'Kaoboy's' of yore?

BHARAT BHUSHAN

The United States has clearly put the squeeze on the Narendra Modi government with the filing of an indictment in New York of murder-for-hire charges against Indian national Nikhil Gupta (a.k.a. Nick). He is accused of participating in a foiled plot to assassinate a US citizen in New York City, widely believed to be Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. India clearly has not been able to fob off the US with its own high-level probe into the US allegations, formed on November 18. In less than two weeks of the Indian assurance to act on the findings of the probe panel, Gupta's indictment by a clutch of US agencies has been made public. These include the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, the Justice Department's National Security Division, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The dilemma before the Indian establishment

will be how to satisfy the US while doing nothing on a similar accusation by Canada of Indian involvement in the murder of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18. The US now has evidence of Indian agents distributing a video of Nijjar's assassination in Canada. According to the indictment, the video was sent to the US facilitator Nikhil Gupta by an Indian agent and notes, "Gupta replied that he wished he had personally conducted the killing."

Even more shocking was Gupta telling the would-be assassin (a US undercover agent) in a telephone call intercepted by the US that although the "potential" Canada job had been given to "some other guy", he had four other "jobs" for him in the US and "three in Canada."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been routinely demanding evidence from Canada, before India can act. Now it has been served on a platter by the US. How in the face of such facts – a video clip supplied by an Indian agent, conspirators spilling the beans in US custody, and

electronic evidence – can the Indian establishment still refuse co-operation with Canada? It puts an end to what in retrospect was just a daring staring match between New Delhi and Ottawa to see who will blink first. In the least, the sheer recklessness of the unnamed Indian agency has been revealed. If Gupta is to be believed, his Indian handler wanted the assassination on June 20 on a "priority" basis. This was a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to arrive in the US for a State visit from June 21 to 23. If this kind of foolhardiness, disrespecting all diplomatic norms and niceties, defines the operations of Indian intelligence agencies, then they had better be shut down before they inflict any more damage to India's global image.

Legendary spymasters such as B N Mullick and R N Kao are credited with insisting on following two cardinal principles that Indian intelligence agencies and agents should keep well away from the opposite sex and from the underworld. Both principles have been since given up – there have been cases

of officers and diplomats being 'honey trapped', and of the 'Hindu underworld' being deployed against the 'Muslim underworld'.

Gupta also appears to have criminal antecedents. Criminal cases have been registered against him in Gujarat for weapons trafficking and dealing in narcotics. According to Gupta's indictment, his Indian handler assured Gupta "on or about May 12, 2023", that his Gujarat (case) "has already been taken care of" and that "nobody from Gujarat police is calling". It notes that "on or about May 23, 2023" the Indian handler again assured Gupta that he had "spoke[n] with the boss about your Gujarat [case]" and that it was "all clear" and "nobody will ever bother you again."

The Indian handler also offered to arrange a meeting between Gupta and a "DCP", ostensibly of the Gujarat Police. It is anybody's guess whether (or not) serious cases of arms trafficking and narcotics smuggling registered in Gujarat can be dropped without political clearance at a high level. Is the US willing to alienate those

who might be responsible, or will the finger-pointing be limited to officials only?

The indictment document also seems to point towards the involvement of a particular Indian agency in the assassination plot – possibly one that takes officers on deputation from other security establishments and is also mandated to operate abroad. The Indian handler of Gupta, described as "CC-1" (presumably, Co-conspirator -1) as being employed by the Indian government as a "Senior Field Officer" who had earlier served in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and received "officer training" in "battle craft" and "weapons". It notes that he "was employed at all times relevant to this indictment by the Indian government, resides in India, directed the assassination plot from India."

Should the needle of suspicion point towards an agency that has to deal with and co-operate with its counterparts in other countries as well, it will be a major setback. Which foreign intelligence agency will co-operate with it given its clumsy track

record of throwing caution to the winds? The damage due to such overreach may take years to overcome. The US indictment and the one in Canada, likely to follow soon, will also have implications for regional peace. There have also been a series of mysterious assassinations of anti-India Kashmiri and Sikh separatist leaders in Pakistan. Pakistan's allegations of targeted assassinations by India on its soil will now gain greater traction. Cycles of blame and counter-blame, and tit-for-tat killings can thwart any future attempts at peace.

Such as India's vocal chatterati might claim that the US and West do not have a monopoly on targeted assassinations, India has clearly attempted to punch above its weight. Unlike Israel, it does not enjoy the unconditional protection of Washington against such misdeeds. The New York indictment then may be seen as not just of India's intelligence agencies but extending to a government seeking re-election in about four months' time.

(Bharat Bhushan is a Delhi-based journalist)

More visa-free travel for Indians is good for Goa, too

ANDY MUKHERJEE

Prashant Yadav scouts for locations for the well-heeled. As the India head of a destination-management multinational, his job used to be mostly about introducing global clients to exotic vacation spots in his own country. Nowadays, he spends nearly all of his time on taking rich compatriots abroad – for leisure, conferences, and, of course, big, fat, Indian weddings.

No surprise, then, that Malaysia's recent scrapping of visa requirements for Indians and Chinese citizens visiting for 30 days or less has made Yadav a happy man. The move follows similar decisions by Sri Lanka and Thailand. Yadav will soon organize a wedding with 250 Indian guests on the Vietnamese resort island of Phu Quoc, which doesn't require visas for short stays.

All Asian economies that rely on tourism for jobs and incomes are pinning their hopes on their proximity to the world's two most-populous nations. The recovery in Chinese visitors' global expenditure to its pre-Covid-19 level of \$277 billion is taking longer than expected. Hence, the overture to the only other country with more than a billion people.

Visa-free entry is a carrot to

expand the \$28 billion that 27 million Indians spent overseas in 2019. Those numbers had swelled eightfold and sixfold, respectively, in the two decades before the pandemic.

Easier and cheaper access to vacation venues in the region will no doubt expand choices for outbound Indian travelers. It may also benefit inbound traffic and domestic Indian tourism if some of the peak-season pressure on local hotspots – like Goa in December – gets diverted to rival destinations outside the country.

The hospitality industry in India has its hands full with domestic tourists. Families that would take one holiday a year two decades ago are now days going on six shorter ones, making full use of new highways and increased middle-class car ownership. After the pandemic, it has also become professionally acceptable to mix vacation time with WFH – work from hotel. Above all, a narrow group of people has acquired enormous wealth. With the stock market hitting a record \$4 trillion in value, this affluent class helped push the number of visits within the country last year to 1.7 billion, 2 1/2 times the previous year's figure. The 2019 high of 2.3 billion trips will be surpassed very soon.

That's not all good news.

To have to fight for business would create some much-needed breathing room for Indian hospitality players. "Assets are looking tired now because if I'm doing very high occupancy through the year, where is the opportunity to spruce things up?" says Yadav, a former hotelier in New Delhi and Mumbai before he switched to advising clients at Liberty International Tourism Group. "It would be good for Goa if it had to work a little harder to compete against Langkawi, Hoi An or Krabi."

Overseas destinations have by now gotten a good idea of how lucrative it can be to land a splashy Indian wedding. Sure, if live Bollywood entertainment is involved, a big chunk of the \$1 million to \$10 million budget typically goes back to India. But rents for a fleet of 250 Mercedes E-class sedans? That stays in the local economy. Some Eastern European countries now have their ambassadors in India actively scoping out opportunities, offering to help with visas and access to historical sites.

For rich Indian hosts, a foreign venue for a wedding is a no-brainer. In New Delhi and Mumbai, five-star hotel tariffs around say dates – auspicious for marriage according to the Hindu calendar – could easily exceed \$1,000 a night. One can negotiate a comparable room

at an overseas location for a quarter of that amount. Even in flower arrangements and food and drinks, Southeast Asia offers better value for money.

This needs a course correction because India – thanks to legendary hoteliers like Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi who died last month at age 94 – is known for its top-notch hospitality. However, leaving aside the rush of activity during New Delhi's recently concluded G20 presidency, tourism hasn't gotten the attention it deserves. The highly successful "Incredible India" campaign is now more than 20 years old. Safety concerns, particularly for women traveling alone, have given India a bad rap.

Between January and April, more than 3 million foreigners came to the country, a 166% jump over the previous year. But those numbers include business travelers, non-resident Indians visiting family, and Bangladeshi citizens coming for medical consultations or procedures. So-called "paying files" in a continent-sized geography stretching from the Himalayan peaks in the north to the Indian Ocean in the south don't even match up to Dubai, which has 40% more hotel rooms than all of India.

Behind the apathy, there's abundant demand. It used to be that Goa hotels would fill rooms

one year in advance with Russian tour groups at deep discounts. Now they don't need to. Plenty of domestic travelers are queuing up to book one week ahead. While that's a testament to rising prosperity, surely it's also a signal to build new capacity? "We have failed to develop another Goa," says Yadav. "We haven't taken advantage of our massive coastline."

Investment needs to accelerate. Indian Hotels Co., the nation's largest hospitality company by market value, invested 3.3 billion rupees (\$40 million) on greenfield projects and renovation in the 12 months that ended on March 31. This is more than double the previous year's outlay on capital expenditure, but unchanged from just prior to the Covid-19 outbreak before adjusting for inflation. If local chains like Indian Hotels, the operator of the Taj brand, take the lead, their foreign rivals will be bound to follow suit. More Indian states should formally recognize tourism as an industry to bring down funding costs for projects.

That's the only way to stay competitive when countries in the neighborhood are scrambling for the same Indian tourism dollar. The jostling getting a little more hectic with visa-free entry will be good for everyone.

Henry Kissinger shuttled between diplomacy and controversy

JAYANTH JACOB

Consequential yet controversial, decisive but divisive, Henry Alfred Kissinger who died aged 100 was the tallest United States foreign policy practitioner in the last six decades. His journey, both personal and professional, was unusual for the course it had taken, sterling for its accomplishments including a Nobel Prize, and defining for the impact it had in shaping America's domineering role in the geopolitics of the world.

But the path he had taken was strewn with secrecy, realpolitik, and above all guided by his abiding faith in the hegemonic prowess of the US' power.

For a statesman who could have had his way and sway in most things, he charted out to do or entrusted to deal with, it all could have been par with the course.

A Jew from Germany with half of his schoolmates and 13 of his family members perished in the concentration camp, Kissinger became a naturalised American

citizen in 1943. He had served in World War II, earned a doctorate from Harvard on the diplomacy of post-Napoleonic Europe where he was also taught, and later catapulted into public service and the tightrope world of diplomacy.

Kissinger's eight years in office under Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford between 1969 and 1977 saw the US exiting the Vietnam War, the longest foreign war fought by the Americans before Afghanistan, a détente with the Soviet Union which lasted and worked well till the Ronald Regan era, and calming the frayed nerves between Egypt and Syria on one side and Israel on the other.

His mission steeped in secrecy and indebtedness to Pakistan to open Communist China to the US and the West will remain unparalleled in his professional career.

A better measure of his significance lies in two facts – his advice was valued by US Presidents from John F Kennedy to Joe Biden, and Kissinger remained the only American who had direct access to all

the Chinese leaders from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping, though he demitted government office some 47 years ago.

His diplomatic forays and projection of American power in Asia were problematic for India primarily because of his focus on building bridges with China and courting Pakistan. Kissinger's ruffling the feathers the wrong way didn't even spare Japan, the treaty ally of the US.

Nixon's landmark visit to China which led to the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1979 is highlighted as an aspirational and ideal phase in the bilateral relationship.

An enduring marker of his role was what Xi told Kissinger last July: "China and the United States' relations will forever be linked to the name 'Kissinger'. I express my deep respect to you." Though the US-China relationship was going through a new low, Xi met Kissinger at Villa No. 5 of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, where the American met Zhou Enlai 46 years ago. Kissinger towards India

The US now finds India as a counterweight to China and both sides have comfortably confined hesitations of the past into dustbins of history to forge a relationship that spans all walks of life.

Kissinger's heydays in office was marked by deep mistrust between India and the US as Washington's support to Pakistan in the 1971 War brought a huge sense of unease to New Delhi. In the backdrop of the Cold War and India's proximity to the Soviet Union, the US diktats on many issues to India were bordering on hectoring.

As the declassified tapes revealed in 2005, both Nixon and Kissinger spoke about then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in unparliamentary language. In December 1971, India-US ties were dangerously frosty under Nixon's and Kissinger's watch. By 1974, when he visited India as the secretary of state, Kissinger spared no efforts to mend some old American attitudes towards India. Then the shifting sands of diplomacy dictated by national interest had little respect for

permanence. "Once one cut through the student, self-righteous rhetoric, Mrs Gandhi had few peers in the cold-blooded calculation of the elements of power," Kissinger later wrote.

The declassified tapes also showed Kissinger in the 1970s had referred to the Japanese as "treacherous sons of bitches" for wanting normal relations with China when he was national security adviser to Nixon. Japan established diplomatic ties with China in 1972, seven years before Washington restored the relationship with Beijing.

Despite everything consequential he did, his share of controversy always followed. That goes well with the territory he occupied and the terrain he was tasked to scale while in office. Once outside office, his desire to have his place in history ensured Kissinger could hardly do inconsequential things, nor could he shun controversy.

(Jayanth Jacob, a foreign policy commentator, has covered the Ministry of External Affairs for more than two decades. X: @jayanthjacob.)

Normal Body Temperature: Knowing The Basics

ADITISHENAI

Body temperature is a term that represents the naturally occurring temperature range generated by the human body. Any deviation from this range signifies the body's response to internal issues, potentially arising from factors such as excessive physical exertion, inadequate nutrition, or the presence of an underlying medical condition. The body temperature is a vital part of human physiology, playing a fundamental role in maintaining health, regulating internal processes, and serving as an invaluable diagnostic tool for medical professionals.

The Mechanism Behind Normal Body Temperature

Humans, as warm-blooded mammals, possess the remarkable ability to maintain a consistent internal body temperature irrespective of external environmental conditions. This temperature regulation is a prime example of homeostasis, a self-regulating process that ensures an organism's internal equilibrium is conducive to survival.

Typically, the human body's normal temperature is 37°C (98.6°F), but numerous factors can influence this value, including environmental exposure, hormonal fluctuations, individual metabolic rates, and the presence of diseases. These factors can lead to deviations in body temperature, both high and low.

Central to the regulation of body temperature is the hypothalamus in the brain, which orchestrates the following processes:

Sensory information regarding body temperature is relayed through the nervous and circulatory systems to the brain, enabling the adjustment of breathing rate, blood sugar levels, and metabolic rate to counteract temperature fluctuations.

The body promotes heat

loss through decreased muscular activity, sweat, and heat-exchange mechanisms that facilitate blood circulation near the skin surface.

Conversely, the body minimises heat loss through insulation mechanisms like reduced blood flow to the skin and underlying fat, as well as through the use of clothing, shelter, and external heat sources.

Additionally, the body can generate heat through shivering, a response regulated by the hypothalamus. Shivering is like your body's natural heater. When you're cold, your brain, specifically the hypothalamus, tells your muscles to shake, creating heat to warm you up.

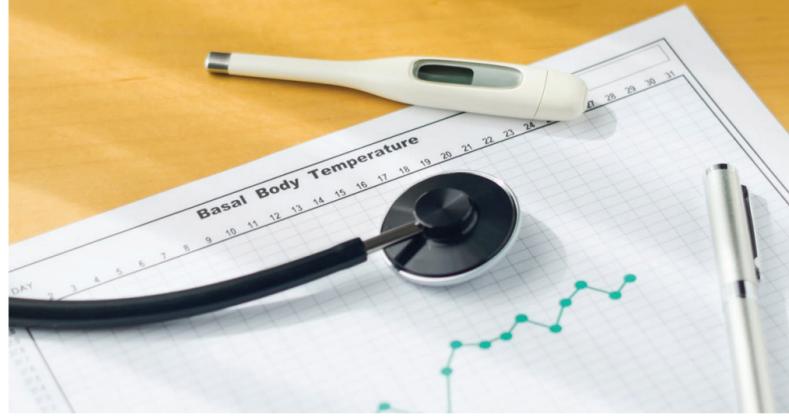
The spectrum between high and low body temperatures defines the normal range vital for sustaining life. As the body approaches either extreme, corrective mechanisms come into play, returning the system to its balanced range.

Summary

Human beings, warm-blooded mammals, exhibit the remarkable capacity to uphold a constant internal body temperature. Typically at 37°C (98.6°F), this temperature can fluctuate due to environmental factors, hormones, metabolism, or disease. Orchestrated by the hypothalamus in the brain, the body employs a complex system to maintain equilibrium. It involves adjustments in metabolic rate, breathing, perspiration, and heat-exchange mechanisms to regulate temperature. In the face of extreme temperatures, the body's corrective mechanisms ensure it returns to its normal range, preserving the delicate balance.

Normal Body Temperature Range

Normal body temperature is not a fixed value but instead exhibits slight variations among individuals. While a 19th-century German doctor



established the benchmark at 98.6°F, modern research suggests a more accurate average is approximately 98.2°F. For adults, body temperature spans 97°F (36.1°C) to 99°F (37.2°C), with a slightly elevated range of 97.9°F to 100.4°F for infants and children.

Various factors influence body temperature fluctuations, including physical activity, time of day, age, gender, diet, and menstrual cycle stage. Temperature readings can vary based on where you measure them on the body. For instance, readings from the rectum tend to be around one degree Fahrenheit higher than readings from the mouth, while underarm readings are about one degree lower. It happens because different body parts have slightly different temperatures, and these variations affect the thermometer's reading. Notably, skin temperature, in constant interaction with the environment, tends to be marginally cooler than core body temperature, averaging 92.3-98.4°F (33.5 - 36.9°C) compared to the 97-99°F (36.1-37.2°C) range for internal temperature.

Summary

The concept of "normal" body temperature is not uniform and can vary slightly from person to person. Recent

research suggests the more accurate average is around 98.2°F. Body temperature often ranges from 97°F to 99°F in adults, with infants and children having a slightly higher range of 97.9°F to 100.4°F. Multiple factors influence these variations, including physical activity, time of day, age, gender, diet, and measurement location on the body. Skin temperature typically runs cooler than core body temperature, with respective averages of 92.3-98.4°F (33.5 - 36.9°C) and 97-99°F (36.1-37.2°C).

Ways to Measure Temperature

There are various methods to measure body temperature, each suited for specific age groups and accuracy levels:

Rectal thermometers: Inserted into the rectum, offering high precision.

Oral thermometers: Placed in the mouth.

Temporal artery thermometer: Uses an infrared scanner on the forehead's temporal artery.

Armpit (axillary) and ear (tympanic membrane) thermometers: Generally less accurate.

Rectal measurements are the most precise due to minimal variations. The recommended methods for different age groups are as follows:

Under three months: Rectal
3-6 months: Rectal, Temporal, Tympanic

Six months - 3 years: Rectal, Temporal, Tympanic

Four years - teens: Temporal, Oral, Tympanic

Adults: Temporal, Oral, Tympanic

Older Adults: Temporal, Oral, Tympanic

Summary

Measuring body temperature varies by method and age group. Options include rectal and oral thermometers, temporal artery thermometers (forehead), and less accurate armpit and ear thermometers. Rectal readings are the most precise. The recommended methods for different age groups are as follows: Under three months and 3-6 months, use rectal; 6 months to 3 years, use rectal, temporal, and tympanic (ear); 4 years to teens, use temporal, oral, and tympanic; adults use temporal, oral, and tympanic; and older adults use the same methods as adults.

Impacts of Body Temperature Changes

The effects of body temperature fluctuations encompass two critical conditions: fever and hypothermia.

Fever

Fever, characterised by a body temperature exceeding 100.4°F, signifies the body's response to infections. Prolonged fever or temperatures above 103°F should prompt a doctor's consultation. Certain health conditions like hypothyroidism, diabetes, and injuries can affect temperature regulation.

Fever may manifest alongside symptoms like sore throat, headache, and vomiting. Home remedies include hydration, light clothing, and over-the-counter medications, but persistent fever warrants medical attention, especially in children under certain conditions.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature falls below 95°F, posing severe risks. It's of particular concern for infants and older people, with temperatures below 97°F being alarming for babies. Symptoms include confusion, shivering, and slurred speech. Hypothermia causes include exposure to cold, medical conditions, or substance use.

In cases of abnormal temperature changes, consult a medical professional promptly for evaluation and appropriate management.

Summary

Body temperature changes can manifest as fever or hypothermia. Fever, triggered by infections and other conditions, can be managed with home remedies like hydration and OTC medications. Persistent fever, particularly in children under certain conditions, requires medical attention. Hypothermia, characterised by low body temperature, is especially concerning for infants and the elderly. Symptoms include confusion and shivering. Multiple factors can cause hypothermia, including exposure to cold and underlying medical conditions.

Suggestion

Let's look at the top 3 foods that have a warming and cooling effect on the body:-

Here are the top 3 warming foods:

Ginger: known for its warming properties, it can be consumed in teas or added to soups.

Cinnamon: This spice may help improve circulation and contribute to a feeling of warmth.

Root Vegetables: Vegetables like sweet potatoes and carrots can have a warming effect when cooked.

Here are the top 3 cooling foods:

Cucumbers:- High water content and a refreshing taste make cucumbers cooling

Watermelons:- Composed mainly of water, watermelon is hydrating and cooling

Mint:- Whether in Teas or as a Herb, mint has a cooling effect on the body.

Also, a quick tip to bring down body temperature when running a high temperature is to soak a cloth in ice water, then squeeze out the water and apply this cloth to your forehead.

The Final Word

The temperature of the human body keeps changing based on multiple factors. The Hypothalamus, which is a part of the brain, is responsible for performing this function as it sends signals of temperature change to the body on the basis of the temperature of the surroundings and other external or internal factors responsible. Slight variations in body temperature can occur sometimes. However, if the temperature changes persist for a more extended period and the symptoms of fever or hypothermia arise, then contacting a doctor and seeking medical help is advised.

Courtesy: Healthifyme

Humidifiers: Improve Your Home's Air Quality for Health

SHWETA KUMARI

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, our quest for warmth and comfort becomes universal. Humidifiers, which can also be in the form of houseplants, play a vital role in creating a cosy indoor environment during the colder months. These devices work by adding moisture to the air, a process called humidification. This not only imparts a comforting warmth but also offers numerous health benefits. However, like any technology, humidifiers have their considerations. This article is a comprehensive guide to humidifiers, exploring their advantages and potential concerns.

Types of Humidifiers

Humidifiers come in several different types, each with its unique features and benefits. Here's an overview of the most common types of humidifiers:

Central Air Humidifiers

These humidifiers are built into a home or office to add moisture to that space. They have connections to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to humidify the entire house. Central air humidifiers are a convenient choice for maintaining consistent humidity levels in larger spaces.

Impeller Humidifiers

Impeller humidifiers are considered child-friendly because they operate without heating the water. Instead, they use a fast-spinning disc to create tiny water droplets that are released into the air as a cool mist. It means there's no hot water or steam involved, reducing the risk of burns and

making them safer for children to be around.

Steam Vaporisers

Steam vaporisers or warm-mist humidifiers produce steam, which cools before exiting the machine, using power. It boils water to create steam. If you have kids, do not purchase this humidifier. If a steam vaporiser's hot water spills, it could burn you.

Ultrasonic Humidifiers

These humidifiers use sound waves to release a cold mist. These leave water vaporising via vibrations rather than electricity. Its surface vibrates at a very high speed (1.65 million times/sec) and has a small water storage tank.

Evaporators

These devices produce humidity utilising conductive and convective heat transfer. It uses a fan to blow air through a wet wick, filter, or belt. As the air passes through, it picks up moisture and distributes it into the room. These devices are cost-effective and suitable for larger areas.

Cool Mist Humidifiers

Cool mist humidifiers work by releasing room temperature or cool mist into the air. They are safer to use in households with children and are more energy-efficient. These are further categorised into two subtypes:

Impeller Humidifiers: These use a rotating disk to produce a fine mist.

Ultrasonic Humidifiers: As mentioned earlier, these use ultrasonic vibrations to create a cool mist.

Travel Humidifiers



Travel humidifiers are designed to be compact and portable, making them friendly for travellers. They work by adding moisture to the air, which is especially useful in dry hotel rooms or during long flights where the air can become very dry. By maintaining a comfortable humidity level, these humidifiers can help travellers avoid issues like dry skin, dry throat, and discomfort caused by dry air, ensuring a more pleasant and healthier travel experience. Their small size and ease of use make them convenient companions for those on the go.

Summary

Humidifiers come in various types, each offering unique features and advantages. Central Air Humidifiers are integrated into homes and offices, connecting to HVAC systems to humidify entire spaces. Impeller Humidifiers are child-friendly, using a rotating disc to disperse a cold mist. Steam Vaporisers produce warm mist but can be risky around children due to hot water. Ultrasonic Humidifiers employ sound waves to release a cold mist. Evaporators use heat transfer with a wet wick or filter to distribute moisture effectively. Cool Mist Humidifiers, including Impeller and Ultrasonic types, release room-

temperature mist, which is ideal for households with children. Travel Humidifiers offer portability for maintaining comfort while on the move.

Benefits of Humidifiers

Humidifiers offer a multitude of benefits, not only for your home but also for your well-being. Such as:

Benefits Your Home

Moisture from a humidifier may benefit the interior environment of your house. It may make your wood floors or wooden furniture last longer. Houseplants thrive in a more humid environment, which can benefit both your indoor air quality and your greenery. Moreover, humidity can also prevent wallpapers from cracking and static electricity from accumulating.

Keeps Skin, Lips, and Hair Moist

For many, winter months mean dry skin, lips and hair. You can avoid this by getting a humidifier that adds moisture to the air and helps to ease cracked or dry skin.

Reduces Snoring

Increasing the amount of moisture in the air can also reduce snoring. Snoring results from a person's dry airways. If the airways are sufficiently

lubricated, it will help reduce snoring. Humidifiers can also provide relief from nasal congestion, sinusitis, and cold symptoms, making breathing more comfortable.

Prevents Influenza

Humidifiers may lower the chance of contracting the flu, according to studies. Studies have shown that humidity levels higher than 40% destroy virus particles, significantly reducing their infectious potential. Humidifiers help maintain optimal humidity levels, reducing the risk of airborne pollutants and allergens.

Summary

Within your home, humidifiers create a favourable environment for houseplants, extending the life of wooden furniture and preventing wallpaper cracks. Moreover, they keep skin, lips, and hair moist during dry winter months. Humidifiers can reduce snoring by lubricating airways and ease breathing discomfort caused by congestion and cold symptoms. Additionally, studies suggest they lower the risk of contracting influenza by reducing the infectious potential of virus particles through optimal humidity levels above 40%.

Possible Risks

Dirty Humidifiers

Keeping your humidifier clean is of utmost importance. If a humidifier isn't cleaned regularly (ideally every 3 to 5 days), it can become a breeding ground for viruses and bacteria. When these microorganisms are released into the air, they can lead to various health issues, potentially causing infectious diseases and triggering lung illnesses.

To prevent this, make cleaning your humidifier a routine task.

Too Damp Air

Maintaining the right level of humidity is vital to a healthy indoor environment. When humidity levels are too high (above 60%), it can create problems. Excessive moisture provides an ideal setting for common allergens like dust mites and mould to thrive, which can be troublesome. To ensure a comfortable and safe atmosphere, it's advisable to keep indoor humidity levels between 30% and 50%. Using a hygrometer can help you monitor and maintain the proper humidity.

Asthma and Allergies

Research has suggested a link between the use of humidifiers and an increased risk of asthma in children. Additionally, excessive humidity can exacerbate existing allergies and make it harder to breathe. To minimise these risks, it's essential to strike a balance with humidity levels in your home. Maintaining the recommended indoor humidity range of 30-50% is vital for optimal respiratory health, particularly for children, as it can help reduce the likelihood of asthma and allergy-related issues.

Summary

Maintaining a clean humidifier is essential to avoid health risks associated with airborne viruses and bacteria. Regular cleaning, ideally every 3 to 5 days, prevents the release of these harmful microorganisms, which can lead to infectious diseases and lung problems. Moreover, maintaining indoor humidity levels within the range of 30% to 50% is

crucial to prevent allergens from thriving in overly damp conditions. Excessive humidity above 60% can make breathing difficult and worsen allergies. By striking the right balance in humidity, especially for children, you can reduce the risk of asthma and allergy-related complications.

Suggestion

In only a few minutes, you can make your own humidifier. A plastic tub, a bath towel, a small fan, and a chair are all you need. Place the chair against a wall near an electrical outlet. Position the tub so that it is at the back of the chair. Add a few inches of water to the tub. Place one end of the towel in the water and the other over the back of the chair. Set the fan to low and place it on the seat of the chair, facing the towel. As the towel absorbs water from the tub, the fan will blow air across the damp surface, quickly raising the moisture content of the air around you.

The Final Word

Humidifiers are household devices meticulously designed to augment air moisture within enclosed spaces or rooms. They release water vapour into their surroundings, effectively elevating the overall humidity. Their efficacy is particularly noteworthy in addressing issues such as dry skin, nasal discomfort, throat irritation, and chapped lips, all of which are common inconveniences arising from low indoor humidity levels. However, remember to keep track of the humidity levels, clean the device often, change its filters, change its water regularly and practise caution whenever children are near it.

Arrangements for ensuing JKSSB Examinations finalized at Budgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, DECEMBER 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today convened a meeting to finalize arrangements for the ensuing JKSSB OMR based examination of Panchayat Secretaries.

The meeting held at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, Budgam was also attended by SSP Budgam, Al-Tahir Gillani, Member/Observer JKSSB, Yar Ali Khan and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah.

Stressing on making adequate arrangements for free, fair and transparent conduct of examination at all examination centres, the DC sensitized all the officers about their roles and responsibilities to ensure smooth conduct of the examination.

At the outset, ADC Budgam was designated as Chief Inspector for over all examination centres, while SDMs were also designated as Chief Inspectors for examination centres falling in their respective sub-division areas.

Exhorting officers to



work in close coordination, the DC emphasized on making foolproof arrangements at all centres and instructed concerned to ensure there is no lacunae at any centre.

CEO Budgam was instructed that training of all concerned including superintendents, deputy superintendents and invigilators is conducted well in time.

The arrangements for drinking water, heating, electricity, transport; manpower, videography, CCTV etc at all centres of the district were also discussed in the meeting.

The District Treasury Officer was directed to ensure safe custody of examination material at

a strong room facility, besides proper scrutiny and timely receipt and dispatch of examination material.

ARTO and DYSP Traffic Rural were instructed to ensure required transport arrangements besides smooth traffic movement particularly on the examination day.

During the meeting, SSP Budgam said that adequate security arrangements shall be made at all examination centres in the District.

Among others, the meeting was also attended by SDMs, CEO, CMO, ARTO, DTO, Tehsildars, DYSP Traffic and other concerned officers and officials.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra organised in Ramnagri Block of Shopian

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 1

As part of ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) and Prime Ministers scheduled interaction with beneficiaries of VBSY, a programme was organised today at Block Ramnagri of district Shopian.

The ongoing VBSY has marked its vibrant presence in Block Ramnagri and embarked on an impactful journey through various panchayats of Ramnagri including Ramnagri-B, Saidapora-A, Saidapora-B, Sedow-A and Sedow-B.

The programme was attended by BDO concerned officers of all line departments besides PRIs and local populations.

On the occasion, after interaction, the officers reached out to the citizens eligible under various welfare schemes, disseminating information and fostering awareness about the Government sponsored public centric schemes.

Meanwhile, people are being given awareness regarding welfare scheme



benefits under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, PM Garib Kalyan, PM Awas Yojna, PM Ujjwala Yojna, PM Kisan Samman Jan Dhan Yojna etc. to reach to the vulnerable population with the aim to generate awareness regarding the Central Government's welfare schemes and achieve 100% saturation of flagship schemes of the Government.

Through a series of engaging interactions and informative sessions, the initiative has reached the

grassroots, empowering local communities with knowledge and resources essential for their growth.

The IEC Van, a mobile hub of information, is playing an important role in creating awareness regarding various centrally sponsored schemes.

The IEC Van is emerging as a dynamic tool for disseminating essential information on health, education, skill development, and government schemes directly to the citizens.

Director Agriculture visits SMF Sumbal, Bandipora



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 1

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Seed Multiplication Farm (SMF) Sumbal Bandipora and took stock of the different agriculture activities there.

He also inspected different blocks of the farm where he was briefed by the concerned technical experts.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture reiterated the department's commitment to the complete transformation of departmental farms. He said that the department is working on a long term plan to make departmental farms the centers of excellence with respect to

different crops and agriculture activities.

He impressed upon the concerned officers to add more and more crops/varieties to the cultivation, production menu of concerned farms. The main objective is to ensure the availability of quality and sufficient quantity of seeds of different agricultural crops to the farming community of the region, he added.

Iqbal exhorted upon the concerned officers and farm managers to invite farmers and agrpreneurs to the concerned farms and hold demonstration sessions with them so that the modern scientific technologies could be transmitted to the grassroots level in a comprehensive manner.

DHEW Shopian organises awareness programme under BBBP

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 01

The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Shopian under Mission Shakti today organised an awareness programme, at Keller, Shopian under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', a step towards empowerment of girls through education.

The programme was attended by Sarpanch, Panchs, AWWs, Asha workers, social activists, local women and students.

DHEW officials highlighted the essence of empowerment of women, their role in society and encouraged the women to fight against all the odds of the society including gender-based discrimination.

The speakers and community leaders shared



their insights and stories to motivate the young girls and encouraged them to pursue their dreams in diverse fields.

The event left a positive impact on the attendees, reinforcing the message that every girl deserves a

fair chance at education and a prosperous life.

The team also highlighted government initiatives and schemes meant for women empowerment and asked them to avail the opportunities for their overall upliftment.

Distt Admin Shopian bids farewell to outgoing JDP (CPO), Khurshid Ahmad Khatana

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 01

The District Administration Shopian today organized an impressive function to bid farewell to outgoing Joint Director, Planning, Shopian, Khurshid Ahmad Khatana on his transfer to Forest and Ecology Department, Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The ongoing JDP served the Planning Department at Shopian for more than five years.

The Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb, Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain besides district officers and the staff members of Planning department were present in the function.



DC and other officers extended their best wishes to the JDP for his new assignment and highlighted his contribution in the district while hailing his working style.

JDP expressed gratitude to officers and officials for organizing such an impressive farewell and for their active support and cooperation during his tenure in the district.

TLSC Kangan organizes Awareness programme on World AIDS Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 1

Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Kangan today observed World HIV/AIDS Day at Trauma Hospital Kangan.

The programme, organized under the Chairmanship of Chairman TLSC Kangan, Easar-Ul-Nabi was attended by Medical Superintendent Trauma Hospital Kangan, Dr. Salma and medical and Para Medical Staff of hospital, Resource Person Advocate Sajad Ahmad Khan, Staff Members and PLVs of Tehsil Legal Services Committee Kangan and general public.

Chairman TLSC Kangan said on the occasion that HIV/AIDS can only be prevented by making society aware about proper preventive measures and how to maintain a hygienic life.

Dr. Shabir Ahmad Rather and Dr. Insha delivered lectures on the said topic and highlighted ways, methods and preventive measures to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Rather speaking on the occasion said that the theme of this year's day is 'Let Communities Lead' because Change depends not on a moment but on a movement. He urged the gathering to spread awareness among common people how to prevent HIV/AIDS. Resource Person Advocate Sajad Ahmad Khan threw light on the statistics of HIV/AIDS in India and the World. He said as of 2020 AIDS has killed between 27.2 million people in India and 47.8 Million people worldwide and an estimated 37.7 million people are living with HIV, making it one of the most important global public health issues in recorded history.

He also said in many regions of the world, the death rate from the AIDS epidemic has decreased by 64% since its peak in 2004.

Gandhi Memorial College, J&K Aids Control Society observe 'World AIDS Day'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 1

The Red Ribbon club of Gandhi Memorial College in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society marked World Aids

Day. The event was inaugurated by the Principal, Prof (Dr) G M Lone. In his introductory remarks, Prof (Dr) G M Lone underscored the importance of observing World Aids Day by laying stress on dispelling

myths surrounding Aids. Prof Syed Ghulam Jeelani, Convener College Red Ribbon Club, delved on the theme -Let Communities Lead, chosen for 2023. He further shed light on various facets of AIDS. On this occasion

different competitions- Face Painting, Painting and Rangoli, were held as proposed by J&K Aids Control Society. The best three students in each category were presented certificates and trophies.

World AIDS Day a global platform to unite in solidarity, reflect on progress made in combating HIV, AIDS epidemic: Advisor Bhatnagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 01

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today remarked that World AIDS Day is a global platform to unite in solidarity and reflect on the progress made in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the remarkable event organised by Jammu and Kashmir AIDS control society (JKACS) in the backdrop of World AIDS Day celebrations at Convention Centre here.

Principal GMC Jammu, MD NHM, Director Health Services Jammu/Kashmir, Director AYUSH, Additional Director, JKACS, Director Family Welfare and Immunisation J&K,

Principals of different colleges, officers of health department, Red Ribbon Club members of Jammu University and medical colleges, paramedical institutes, huge gathering of school and college students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor Bhatnagar commended the collective efforts that have contributed to advancements in treatment and prevention. He also stressed on the importance of collaborative initiatives between government bodies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector to ensure a comprehensive and sustained approach to combatting HIV/AIDS.

The Advisor highlighted that we as a society



need to take ownership of those affected by AIDS or other problems like drug addiction and take proper measures for their well being and take lead in addressing their problems, taking it as our prime responsibility. He added that the theme of this year's World AIDS Day 'Let Communities Lead' also reflects on the responsibilities we as a

society have to address the issues related to AIDS or any issue in the society. He underscored the need for continued efforts to eliminate stigma, enhance education and provide accessible healthcare for those affected. The Advisor further said that present LG led Administration is committed to establish state of art medical eco-

system in the UT so that no person of J&K need to go outside for any kind of medical care. Advisor Bhatnagar on the occasion also lauded various initiatives of JKACS and their dedication and commitment towards creating a society free from the stigma of HIV/AIDS as well as giving proper facilities to the affected persons. In his address, the Advisor

also praised the affected persons for coming out in the open to speak and share their experiences. He remarked that sharing their struggle and experiences on this platform will give a positive message to the society.

While speaking on the occasion, Additional Director, JKACS, Dr. Manu Bhatnagar reflected on the various achievements

and initiatives of JKACS to control the spread of AIDS as well as create awareness among the society about this virus. She highlighted that this year's theme 'Let Communities Lead' is a testament towards role of communities in AIDS control.

The Additional Director further said that the JKACS has amplified the facilities for the affected persons and recently MoU was signed with GMC Jammu and SKIMS Soura for testing, faster reporting and better treatment of the affected persons. During the event, Deputy Director, JKACS Dr. Tabassum Ganai presented welcome address highlighting the main motive of organising this programme while as Dr. Monica Dulloo ren-

dered vote of thanks. On the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar also felicitated winners of different competitions associated with celebrations of World AIDS day.

Earlier, Advisor Bhatnagar flagged off E-auto rally for creating awareness about AIDS and also released balloons in air to mark the occasion. He also visited various awareness booths installed by different wings of Health Department on creating awareness regarding HIV/AIDS, Free HIV Testing, TB Awareness, Ayush Medicines, among others. During the programme, students of different institutions as well as members of Red Ribbon Clubs presented colourful cultural performances.

IYA Yoga J&K team felicitated in Int'l yoga Summit 23, by VC DSVV Haridwar

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, NOV 1

Indian Yoga Association organized three days International Yoga Summit 2023, in the premises of Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya Haridwar. A team of 10 Yoga Sadhaks & State Office bearers of Indian Yoga Association, headed by Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Chairman attended the International Conference.

The conference was addressed by Shri Shri Ravi Shankar Ji, National Chairman IYA & Founder of Art of living and Dr Parnav Pandya Hon'ble Chancellor Dev Sanskriti Vidyalaya on line, to the participants 400 from 20 States of India & about 100 Scholars of DSVV, Padamshree Bharat Bhushan Ji, Director Moksha ayatan (Uttarakhand), Pujya Chidananda Saraswati from Parmarth Niketan from IYA Governing Body graced the Seminar. Besides the dignitar-

ies from National Executive Body including Maa Hansa Ji, Director ICER & IYA National President, Mr Subodh Tiwari National IYA Secy General & CEO Kaivyadhama Pune, Dr Ananda Balyogi, National Secretary IYA & Director Pondichery

Ashram, Dr Chinmay Panday Pro Vice Chancellor DSVV, Sh Dharni Dharan, National Vice Rez IYA, Dr K C Jain, Director Adhyatam Sadhna Kender Delhi, Trustee Anuvart Organisation & IYA Treasurer, Dr S P Misra, CEO-PRCD IYA, Dr GameShark Rao, Director Acadmic & Accreditation IYA Committee, and Dr Ishwar Bhardwaj, Ist IYA Life Member with their presence decorated the Seminar.

Different Speakers & Yoga Scholars from all length and breadth of India, including Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, J&K State Chairman IYA, in his address, explained Yoga as

way of life & how we can incorporate Yoga in our life slowly & make in an integral part of our life, how to attain peaceful State in everyday life & would be able to take decisions without getting clouded by our emotions. To think & act with complete attention, focus and awareness. Stress has become and acceptable way of life today, which is surely not at all good for our physical & Mental health. Yoga seeks to replace this stress with calmness and peace.

It was also explained in detail how we can stop the accumulation of toxins in the body, which leads to all physical & mental ailments.

Dr Subodh tiwari National Secretary General aware about how yoga opens up the blockages at our mind, body, breath & emotional level.

Maa Hansa Ji, National President, in her lecture explained how the yogic way of life ensures that



every situation is not viewed as stress and the body is not always in the flight or fight mode. Yoga paves the way for the rejuvenation, rest and growth of our body.

Dr Ananda Balyogi, IYA National Secretary from Pondichery Ashram explained the yoga at the physical level, yoga asans

seeks to remove blockages & rigidity and build strength over a period of time. Asans seek to create new body patterns which enables the body to operate at its potential best by removing all impurities.

Swami Chidananda Saraswati from Parmarth Niketan, described in details about the yoga at

the breath level, Pranayama seeks to extend our breath, so that Prana or the life force is not dissipated and slowly converges inside our body leading to high level of positive, clear state of Mind.

Padamshree Shri Bharat Bhushan Ji, described the basic foundation of our daily life are the principles

of Yama & Niyama, which enable us to live harmoniously with others and our own selves.

Sh Dharnidharan, National Vice President IYA, Explaining about Meditation, that over a period of time the deeper practice of Meditation brings in complete clarity, calmness and enables one to step back from momentary pleasures and seek a deeper truth which would bring in the lasting joy & bliss.

Dr Chinmay Pandey Pro Vice Chancellor DSVV, while felicitating the J&K yoga team including Dr S K Jain, Ashok Gupta & Sudha Chander Sharma, Jt Secretaries, with Esteemed Members S/Sh Kuldeep Kaushal, Abhinandan Jain, Er Ashok Gupta (State Settler Gaytri Pariwar), Dr HR Sharma, Mrs Madhu, Sunita, Darshan, explained how yogic practices recharge the body and mind with cosmic energy & facilitate: Attainment of

perfect equilibrium and harmony, promotes self healing, its detox body and mindstrength, increases self awareness, increase concentration, decrease stress, anxiety, depression & tension in the physical body by activating the parasympathetic nervous system.

All other speakers stressed upon the benefits of yoga, as it helps in all round fitness, benefits in weight management, one of the best solutions for stress relief, helps for inner peace, improves immunity, improves relationship, improves Energy & gives better flexibility and posture.

Members from Japan, Thailand & US also participated, who applauded the Mega event.

IYA which is an apex body of yoga and authority in field of yoga, appeals to everyone to live yogic life by getting in contact with IYA, so that all should remain healthy.

Col Mahan unveils statue of Amar Shaheed Raman Sharma

JNEWS SERVICE
BILLAWAR, DECEMBER 1

In a poignant ceremony filled with patriotic fervor, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) DDC Chairman Kathua unveiled the statue of Amar Shaheed Raman Sharma at Billawar near the old Army Camp, amidst resounding patriotic slogans and an emotionally charged atmosphere.

The Amar Shaheed Raman Sharma Samang has been constructed on the Billawar-Katli Road near the Old Army Camp with the active contribution of the martyr's family and the Purab Sainik Seva Parishad Billawar unit.

The event commenced with the unveiling of the statue by Col Mahan Singh (Retd) DDC Chairman Kathua, followed by wreath-laying, patriotic songs, honoring Veer Naris, and paying push-



panjali to Veer Shaheed by all present.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of dignitaries, including Capt Pawan Sharma, Capt Onkar Singh, Capt Tara Chand, DDC Members Vikram Singh and Neeru Bala, MC Billawar ex-President Omakan Basotra, ADC and Tehsildar Billawar, ex-servicemen, ladies, and youth in large numbers. A team of serving soldiers JCOs/ORs of the II Dogra parent unit of the Martyr were also present on the occasion.

The event served as a reminder of the supreme

sacrifice made by the brave heart soldier during a training exercise at Solan in Himachal Pradesh during 2021.

In his address, Col Mahan Singh paid a rich tribute to Amar Shaheed Raman Sharma and applauded the courage and valor of the Indian Army in defending the nation's frontiers. He thanked the Modi Government for granting the Indian Armed Forces the freedom to make independent field decisions and for making them self-reliant in their defense equipment and weaponry needs.

Dr Subodh tiwari National Secretary General aware about how yoga opens up the blockages at our mind, body, breath & emotional level.

GPJ inks MoU with Ahasolar Technologies Ltd & iGrowGreen Academy Pvt Ltd Gujarat

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

In a significant step towards fostering collaboration between academia and industry, Government Polytechnic College, Bikram Chowk Jammu, today signed a transformative tri-party Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AHA-solar Technologies Ltd., a prominent Gujarat-based company, and iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd. This groundbreaking agreement, sets the stage for a dynamic partnership aimed at narrowing the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in academic settings and the practical skills demanded by the evolving industries.

The MoU was signed between Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal of Government Polytechnic College, Jammu, and Sh. Pulkit Dhingra Director AHASolar Tech-



nologies Ltd. Gujarat and Sh. Ajit Bahadur Director iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd Gujarat represented by Sh. Kshitiz Vishnoi, AGM- Techno-Commercial iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd and AHASolar Technologies Ltd., Ms Shivaneer Gupta and Mr Rishabh Singh from AHASolar Technologies Ltd.

Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal of Government Polytechnic College, Jammu, said that this partnership is a significant stride towards ensuring our students to be equipped with the latest skills and knowledge demanded by the industries. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration that

benefits both our students and the industry partners. Sh. Pulkit Dhingra Director AHASolar Technologies Ltd. Gujarat represented by Mr. Kshitiz Vishnoi, AGM-Techno-Commercial from AHASolar Technologies Ltd., shared his optimism that bridging the gap between academia and industry, we can collectively contribute to the growth and development of the workforce. This collaboration aligns with our commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the next generation of professionals.

AHASolar Technologies Ltd., and iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd will

train the students and faculty by organizing the hands on training workshops on latest technologies and shall also conduct various programmes in the institute to promote the start-ups and entrepreneurship ecosystem in J&K and will provide the placement to the final year and passout students. The MoU signifies a collective effort to create a symbiotic relationship between education and industry, laying the foundation for a brighter and more aligned future. Other present on the occasion were Sh. Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical Engg., Sh. Inderjeet Singh W/Shop Supdt., Sh. Sukhdeep Singh HOD Civil Engg., Sh. Raj Kumar HOD Mechanical Engg., Sh. Himanshu Bakshi, Mrs. Devika Bhardwaj, Ms. Itika Sharma, Sh. Vicky Sharma, Sh. Ritesh Gupta faculty and student of this institution.

SMVDU Student Bags the Best Oral Presentation Certificate at Int'l Conference

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, NOV 1

Ms. Isha Kumari, a dedicated student pursuing studies at the School of Economics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently earned recognition for her exceptional prowess. At the International Conference on Recent Trends in Commerce, Management, Science & Engineering (ICCMSE-2023), hosted jointly by Maharani Cluster University (MCU), Bangalore, Karnataka, India, and RSP Conference Hub, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, Ms. Kumari clinched the prestigious Best Oral Presentation Certificate. This conference stands as a beacon for interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering the exchange of innovative ideas across Home Science, Science, Commerce, Management, and Engineering. The event was a convergence of diverse research communities, uniting to share their findings and visions. Its primary aim was to catalyze excellence among researchers, addressing contemporary issues and exploring cutting-edge topics spanning various domains. By congregating scientists, engineers, academicians, researchers, and professionals, the conference aimed to chart the course for future research endeavors, envisioning a better world for humanity. Under the expert guidance of Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, esteemed Faculty at SMVDU, Ms. Kumari presented a meticulously crafted paper titled "Impact of Healthcare Expenditure on Life Expectancy at Birth & Economic Growth in South Asian Countries." This insightful research, co-authored by Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, sought to unravel the intricate nexus between Healthcare Expenditure, Economic Growth, and Life Expectancy at Birth within South Asian countries. The conference experts lauded Ms. Kumari's diligent efforts, amidst over 150 papers presented by participants hailing from diverse corners of the globe. Her work stood out as a testament to rigorous inquiry and scholarly excellence, earning well-deserved acclaim among the scholarly community.

Dogra Degree College organised an Inter-College symposium competition on World Aids Day



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, NOV 1

The NSS Unit of Dogra Degree College, Bari Brahmana in collaboration with Red Ribbon Club, DDC and UBA PI, DDC marked the celebration of World Aids Day by organizing an Inter-College Symposium Competition today on the theme "AIDS: STIGMA AND MENTAL HEALTH". The participants from various colleges of Jammu division actively participated in the competition. The programme started with the registration of the participants from the various colleges.

The chief guest of the function was Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal Dogra Degree College. The students from various colleges of Jammu Division participated in the sym-

posium competition and expressed their diverse views on the theme "AIDS: STIGMA AND MENTAL HEALTH". The participants shared their ideas about Aids ,its origin, causes, preventions and consequences. The participants gave the detailed knowledge about the disease, its causal organism -the HIV virus, its life cycle and its whole activity that how its affects the person who gets infected with it. The participants also put light on the lack of awareness among the masses and especially young boys and girls who are more prone to this disease and gets easily affected with aids due to lack of adequate knowledge about the disease. The young participants also brought it into the lime light that one of the

major reason for the lack of awareness among the masses that in our culture the young boys and girls are not properly guided by the family ,teachers and experts about the sex education and some kind of taboo is created in the society related to these kind of issues and especially for AIDS. No one talks about it openly and finds it bad or hesitant to talk, discuss or share ideas related to it. The judges for the Symposium competition were : Ms. Indu Puri, Senior Professor, Department of Hindi, Dogra College of Education, Ms. Divya Kataria, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Dogra Law College and Ms. Palak Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of EVS, Dogra Degree College. The first prize was bagged by Sania

Rajput (Dogra Degree College), the second prize was won by Maninder Singh, (GDC, R. S. Pura), and the third prize was bagged by Abdul Haleem (Dogra Law College). The winners were awarded with prizes and certificates. The participants who participated in the competition were: Pragati Kumari, Rinchal Namgyal, Jasleen Kour, Pallavi Sharma, Abdul Haleem, Zehnabi and Dhariya Jamwal. All the participants were given the certificates of participation. The programme was well conducted by Ruksaar, student of B.A., DDC. The programme was coordinated by Divya pargal. The whole programme was organized under the supervision of Ms Priyanka Sharma, NSS, PROGRAMME OFFICER, NSS Unit, DDC.

Wynk Rewind is now live with India's favourite music of 2023

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

Wynk Music, India's number 1 music streaming app by downloads and daily active users, today, unveiled its Wynk Rewind 2023 - announcing the top artists, albums and songs to have ruled the Indian music scene this year.

Wynk Rewind 2023 collates the top artists, albums, songs and playlists played on Wynk music over the course of a particular year. Powered by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithm it draws out the music consumption patterns of users and offers Wynk users a personalised user experience on the app, delivering trends that offer a detailed view into listening patterns across total minutes streamed, favourite songs and artists, all of which can be shared across social media platforms.

This year's Rewind carries special features such as the musical zodiac, a receive activity badge based on fan consumption that helps fans get to know who they are superfans of. Additionally, it will also present Wynk listeners with a special playlist featuring all their top songs along with a special message video featuring their



favourite artist. Abhishek Biswal, Head - Digital Products & Services, Airtel said, "At Wynk, we are always trying to find engaging ways to enhance the experience on our platform. In line with this, Wynk Rewind is an incredible initiative and offers deep customer insights into music preferences and consumption trends, which helps us immensely in elevating the experience on our app and delivering greater value to our customers. We promise to continue to build on our endeavours to offer the most personalised music experience to our customers."

Wynk Studio - India's largest music distribution ecosystem for independent artists - now has over 1300 artists. 55% of these artists come from non-metro cities including cities in the Northeast, highlighting how the platform has functioned as an enabler to offer these artists a creative outlet while solving monetisation and discovery issues for them. Aditya Rikhari in Hindi, Mali in English, Harsha Prawin in Telugu, AR Anandh in Tamil, Dheemux in Kannada and Raj Burman in Bengali are some of the leading indie artists of the year.

In 2023, Wynk supported the distribution of independent singles such as "Love Token" from Manj Musik and Anusha Dandekar, "Billo" from Vishal Dadlani and Nikhita Gandhi's single "Pyaar mein Pagal", along with helping independent producers build scale such as LGF Studios whose movie "Love All" starring Kay Kay Menon and Swastika Mukherjee was promoted on the platform.

Wynk Music is accessible across an entire range of platforms including Android Drive Mode, Android Auto, SIRI, Apple Car Play, Google Nest, Apple Watch and Google Assistant.

Amazon Pay launches sign language video KYC service for hearing and speech impaired customers

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

In an endeavor towards inclusivity, Amazon Pay recently launched a video sign language Know Your Customer (KYC) service for hearing and speech impaired customers, which involves communication through sign languages, a pioneering initiative in the digital payments sector in India. The company has rolled out the initiative that enables two-way video communication in sign-language between Amazon Pay employees and customers. The goal is to make the KYC process effortless for those who rely on sign language, and making digital payments more inclusive.

The innovative initiative aligns with Amazon's commitment to Digital Bharat, ensuring that its services are inclusive and accessible to all, in line with the broader vision for a digitally empowered India. Speaking about the service, Vikas Bansal, Director Payments and Financial services, IN Payments, said, "Our sign-language video KYC service is a natural extension of Amazon Pay's focus on Customer Obsession and Financial Inclusion. With this service, which we have implemented within the scope of our barrier-free service, we enable our customers with disabilities to benefit from video KYC easily and safely. This service offers them the enhanced

benefits of digital wallet for their everyday payment needs. We want to ensure that our products are inclusive and that our services, experiences, and functionality is available to everyone, regardless of their ability."

Amazon Pay has provided Indian sign language training to over 120 employees that provide video-based KYC services to customers across India. The interactive training module, focused on equipping employees with the ability to effectively communicate with hearing and speech-impaired customers, is developed by the in-house team.

Commenting on the initiative, Deepti Varma, Vice President, People Experience and Technology, Amazon Stores India, Japan and Emerging Markets, said, "The culture of inclusivity permeates into everything that we do at Amazon. We are constantly working towards strengthening our commitment to making Amazon truly inclusive - from having a diverse workforce & inclusive culture to extending equity-centered services to our customers. We recognize that improving accessibility of Amazon services for people with disabilities is a cause that deserves attention, and through our sign-language video KYC initiative, we want to put into sharp focus the kind of thoughtful changes that can be made to help people with disabilities. Our

endeavour is to create an inclusive experience at every touchpoint, whether it is for our employees through our various Diversity Equity & Inclusion focused programs and benefits or demonstrating greater empathy for customers with disabilities through innovative solutions."

Sharing his experience of Amazon Pay's video KYC service, Rajendra Kumar, a resident of Nagpur expressed, "Earlier KYC service for setting up all my online payment wallets was majorly via voice calls; and this was a huge obstacle for deaf and hard of hearing people like me, who would ask our family members to speak as we cannot. But now, with Amazon Pay's service to help us with our KYC, it is convenient. I am pleased with the sign language video KYC experience for my Amazon Pay Wallet which was carried out with ease."

In line with the ongoing efforts to enhance the experience of customers with disabilities, Amazon has launched many such programs that benefit customers in India, such as 'Listen for Accessibility' where customer service teams listen to recordings of calls made by anonymized customers with disabilities to learn about issues faced by them and their unique needs. Additionally, the Amazon Digital, Device and Alexa Support (D2AS) organization has set up accessibil-

ity support teams that offer customer service across eight market-places including United States, United Kingdom, Canada, India, France, Italy, Spain and Germany. A high volume of these accessibility associates are based out of India. They undergo Accessibility training modules like Assistive Technologies, and Accessibility features on Amazon devices. The team replaced multiple touch points for the customer to reach Amazon with a dedicated Accessibility icon that allows customers with different kinds of disabilities to choose Phone, Chat or Email support as per their convenience and quickly get in touch with Technical Care associates with a single click.

Amazon remains committed to cultivating an inclusive culture that provides equal opportunities for all employees to unlock their full potential. The focus extends beyond gender diversity to encompass various cohorts, including women, the LGBTQIA+ community, military veterans, and the differently abled. At Amazon, a diverse workforce drives innovation, helps understand the diverse customer base, and enhances decision-making through diverse perspectives. The company's commitment to DE&I is reflected in its policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

Natrang organises workshop on folk dances of J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

In its pioneering initiative, Natrang organized a folk dance workshop at Natrang studio theatre under the direction of Sunny Mujoo. Sunny Mujoo is one of the leading dancer and choreographer who has the credit of representing J&K nationally and internationally and has successfully presented his work in London and other places.

Giving details about this altogether new initiative of Founder Director of Natrang said that Natrang has been creating and showcasing dance based events at national and international level since the last over twenty years. Fact remains that all major international dance events showcasing of Jammu & Kashmir have been devised, choreographed and presented by



Natrang team. The recent most talked about world level event was 'Colors of Jammu Kashmir' which Natrang mounted in the honour of international delegates of G20 Conference Srinagar. Every-time it was felt badly that the participating artists need to be equipped with the articulation of the dances they perform. They must know the theory part of dances as well. Ironically no institution or Academy ever tried or thought of ever educating the upcoming dancers about the history and philosophy

behind each folk dance of Jammu & Kashmir. Neither any research is available nor has any effort in this direction ever been made. Government institutions only look for the presentations based on dance but no one is bothered about articulating the performances being showcased in the name of folk dances. Natrang's this new initiative is totally aimed at enriching and equipping the dancers about the theoretical part of folk dances. Tomorrow if they are asked to explain or speak about these

dances which they keep performing almost every day, they will have little authority to explain about these dance forms. Unfortunately majority work being done in the name of the folk of J&K is inspired by Bollywood and the ethnicity, flavor and purity of regional folk is missing. Balwant Thakur concluded that we are not here to make tall claims but just making a sincere effort to sensitize the community of choreographers, dancers and most importantly the organizations mandated to actually do the academic work, research and educate the younger generation of dance aspirants about the real/fake part of dance work being done in J&K in the name of folk. This initiative of Natrang will continue and will keep alarming and educating the young aspirants in the best possible ways at its command.

B L Santhosh, Tarun Chugh, Ravinder Raina address BJP's organizational meeting

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

B L Santhosh, National General Secretary (Org.), BJP accompanied by Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K BJP, Ravinder Raina, President J&K BJP, Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO, Dr. Narinder Singh, National Secretary BJP, Ashish Sood, Seh-Prabhari, J&K BJP, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP Lok Sabha, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, MP Rajya Sabha and Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary, J&K BJP addressed a series of meetings at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

B L Santhosh, while addressing the meetings, minutely discussed and reviewed the ongoing "Booth Jana Samwad Abhiyaan" programme in Jammu & Kashmir. He said that this programme has enabled the party to cement its relationship with the common masses. He said that the programme has opened a 2-way door, by which, on one hand the party leaders are carrying the party's policies and the achievements of the Modi government to the public, this campaign is also efficiently making the party aware of the issues faced by the common masses at the local level as the campaign is being carried on the booth and the Panchayat levels. Santhosh said that Modi government has dedicated itself



to the betterment of the common people and now it is the responsibility of the party cadre to carry the Modi gov't's report card of public welfare and development works to the people and make them realize that Modi government has fulfilled its promises in earlier two terms and will further do more welfare works in future. Tarun Chugh appreciated the J&K BJP cadre for their dedicated efforts and said that now the party has a new force of youth leaders. He asked the party leaders to be vocal on the party's achievements in removing the draconian Articles 370 and 35 (A), which earlier, arrested the J&K's growth for 7 decades. He also asked the party leaders to ensure the deliverance of public welfare schemes to the needy through "Viksit Bharat Sankalp

Yatra". Ravinder Raina, on the occasion, elaborated on the progress of ongoing organizational programmes in J&K. He said that the "Booth Jana Samwad Abhiyaan" programme in Jammu & Kashmir was started on the auspicious day of 'Vijay Dashmi', in which till now, 900 programmes have been conducted successfully. He said that massive turn outs on the booth levels have testified to the acceptance of Modi gov't's policies in public. He said that the J&K BJP is actively engaged in the party's programmes which will carry its momentum till 2024 elections and beyond. Ashok Koul threw detailed insight on the forthcoming organizational party programmes. He prompted party leaders to carry on their organizational activities more vigorously and reach every nook and

corner of the UT with the splendid works under PM Narendra Modi during the last over nine and half years. District Presidents, District Prabharis, Media & Social Media Department Incharges, Morcha Presidents and youth leaders as the main speakers in "Booth Jana Samwad Abhiyaan" programmes also shared their experiences and reporting of the ongoing programmes.

Senior J&K BJP leaders Dr. Nirmal Singh, Shamsheer Singh Manhas, Ashok Koul, Kavinder Gupta, Sat Sharma, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Sham Lal Sharma, Sham Choudhary, Yudhvir Sethi, Pawan Khajuria, Devinder Singh Rana, Surjit Singh Salathia, Priya Sethi, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi and others participated in the meeting. Vibodh Gupta conducted the proceedings of the meetings.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AGROSTOLOGY WING, FOREST DEPARTMENT, SIDHRA

Contact:- 0191-2662672

Email:- dcfagrostology@gmail.com

Publication of e-tender .

E-NIT No.44 of 2023-24 dated 28-11-2023 The e-NIT titled erection of fencing & Plantation at Kirmu, Ramnagar, in Ramnagar Agrology Range, Agrology wing, Jammu under HADP Scheme 2023-24.

Publishing Date	28-11-2023
Download Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid submission End Date	12-12-2023 4:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	13-12-2023 from 12:00 PM (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Sidhra By pass Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	13-12-2023 from 12:30 PM (in the Office Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Jammu).

E-NIT No.45 of 2023-24 dated 28-11-2023 The e-NIT titled erection of fencing & Plantation at Ratta Jabad, in Rajouri Agrology Range, Agrology wing, Jammu under HADP Scheme 2023-24.

Publishing Date	28-11-2023
Download Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid submission End Date	12-12-2023 4:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	13-12-2023 from 12:30 PM (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Sidhra By pass Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	13-12-2023 from 1:00 PM (in the Office Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Jammu).

E-NIT No.46 of 2023-24 dated 28-11-2023 The e-NIT titled erection of fencing & Plantation at Gendeh Bajwal in Rajouri Agrology Range, Agrology wing, Jammu under HADP Scheme 2023-24

Publishing Date	28-11-2023
Download Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid submission End Date	12-12-2023 4:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	13-12-2023 from 2:00 PM (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Sidhra By pass Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	13-12-2023 from 2:30 PM (in the Office Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Jammu).

Publishing Date	25-11-2023
Download Start Date	25-11-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	25-11-2023
Bid submission End Date	09-12-2023 4:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	11-12-2023 from 1:30 PM (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Sidhra By pass Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	11-12-2023 from 2:00 PM (in the Office Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Jammu).

E-NIT No.47 of 2023-24 dated 28-11-2023 The e-NIT titled erection of fencing & Plantation at Ghani Baloni, in Poonch Agrology Range, Agrology wing, Jammu under HADP Scheme 2023-24

Publishing Date	28-11-2023
Download Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid submission End Date	12-12-2023 4:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	13-12-2023 from 2:30 PM (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Sidhra By pass Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	13-12-2023 from 3:00 PM (in the Office Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Jammu).

E-NIT No.48 of 2023-24 dated 28-11-2023 The e-NIT titled erection of fencing & Plantation at Kellard, in Baderwah, Agrology Range, Agrology wing, Jammu under HADP Scheme 2023-24.

Publishing Date	28-11-2023
Download Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	28-11-2023
Bid submission End Date	12-12-2023 4:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	13-12-2023 from 2:30 PM (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Sidhra By pass Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	13-12-2023 from 3:00 PM (in the Office Conservator of Forests, Agrology circle, Jammu).

Yours faithfully

Sd/
Deputy conservator of forests
Agrostology wing, Forest Deptt.
Jammu.

DIP/J-11969/23
Date: 2-12-23

G Velladurai, Vikram Sharma grace second day of NLIP Yatra Programme organized by PHDCCI

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

Second day of National Level Intellectual Property (IP) Yatra Programme which is being organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner MSME, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India on 1st Dec 2023 at Regale Park, Jammu was graced by the presence of Shri G Velladurai, Joint Director & Head of Office MSME DFO, Jammu and Mr Vikram Sharma, President, Bar Association Jammu.

The technical sessions focused on enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights and consequences of IP infringement in India. IPR Help Desk for MSMEs was also organized for handholding MSMEs in regards to their queries for



IP Rights .

In his welcome address Mr Rahul Sahai, Chair , PHDCCI Jammu Chapter emphasized that enforcement of IPR is important and it ensures that rights holders can take legal action against infringers, protecting their creations and innovations from unauthorized use.

G Velladurai, Joint Director & Head of Office MSME DFO, Jammu highlighted that J & K has huge potential to grow and industries should take advantage of MSME Schemes and

our Ministry is there to support and handhold MSMEs. He further emphasized that entrepreneurs should have focussed and right approach to grow their business and innovate in their areas.

Vikram Sharma, President, Bar Association, J&K congratulated PHDCCI for organizing this important event and in his address said that Fundamental shifts in technology and in the economic landscape are rapidly changing intellectual property rights AI may be new to the market,

existing laws have significant implications for its use. There are infringement and rights of use issues, uncertainty about ownership of AI-generated works. Kanchan Zutshi, Director PHDCCI highlighted Health and safety risks of using Counterfeit products which are often produced using substandard materials and poor manufacturing practices. This leads to health and safety risks for consumers and all of us should be attentive while purchasing goods should take a pledge of not using counterfeit products.

The session was addressed by Mr Sidharth Swain, Ms Sadaf and Mr Neeraj Bhardwaj legal experts from United & United IPR who explained in detail in regard to the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights and their consequences.

SAIC Motor and JSW Group announce a strategic Joint Venture to accelerate growth with focus on green mobility

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with annual revenues of around US\$ 110 billion and a presence in over 100 countries, and the JSW Group, one of India's leading global business conglomerates with US\$ 23 billion in revenues across diversified businesses, have entered into a strategic Joint Venture.

The Shareholder Agreement and Share Purchase & Share Subscription agreement were signed by the President of SAIC Wang Xiaoyu and JSW Group's Parth Jindal at MG UK Headquarters in London with the objective of accelerating the transformation and growth of MG Motor in India. SAIC Motor and JSW Group will create strategic synergies by bringing

together resources in the field of automobiles and new technology. The joint venture will also undertake multiple new initiatives including augmenting local sourcing, improving charging infrastructure, expansion of production capacity, and introducing a broader range of vehicles with a focus on green mobility.

According to the agreement signed, JSW Group will hold 35% in the Indian JV operations. SAIC will continue supporting the joint venture with advanced technology and products to deliver extraordinary mobility solutions with an unwavering focus on the Indian consumer.

According to Wang Xiaoyu, President of SAIC Motor, "The automobile business is a global industry, and like in any other similar industry, access and col-

laboration are crucial for its healthy growth. SAIC has always adhered to the 'win-win cooperation' approach while steadily improving our core capabilities and expanding our scale of production and sales. In the growing Indian automotive market.

According to JSW Group's Parth Jindal, "Our strategic collaboration with SAIC Motor aims to grow & transform the MG Motor operations in India with a focus on green mobility solutions. The joint venture paves the way for bringing world-class technology-enabled futuristic suite of automobile products including the new generation of intelligent connected NEVs and ICE vehicles. The JV's focus on broader localisation initiatives will yield financially accretive synergies through economies

of scale while providing the highest level of customer service to the Indian consumer. The joint venture will optimize SAIC Motor's vast automotive experience and technical expertise to demonstrate brand MG's spiritual cores - globalization, digitalization, rejuvenation, and young attitude. It will also leverage the large presence of JSW Group across B2B and B2C sectors of the Indian economy to augment local sourcing and establish a robust supply chain. Together, SAIC and JSW Group will work towards creating a smart and sustainable automotive ecosystem in India by bolstering the development of NEVs and ICEs with Carbon Neutrality, Sustainability and Green Mobility at the centre of its shared vision. Both JV partners are committed to continue staying

Shrine Board's Gurukul excels at North Zone Youth Festival held at Himachal Pradesh



JINNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, DECEMBER 1

Students of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul have brought laurels to the Shrine Board by winning haul of 11 medals in 08 events during 3-day North Zone Youth Festival held from 28 - 30 November, 2023 at premises of Veda Vyas Campus of Central Sanskrit University Balahar, Himachal Pradesh under the aegis of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi.

In the mega event around 300 students from Central Sanskrit University and Adarsh Maha Vidyalaya of Sanskrit, along with its various campuses situated in J-K, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand includ-

ing Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Katra participated in various competitions.

The events organised during the festival included Rangoli, translation competition, Sanskrit News writing, Computerized Sanskrit, Educational Short Film, Solo Sanskrit Song, Group Song & Dance Competition and various sports events like High Jump, 100 / 400 Meter Sprint, Badminton, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Chess and Wrestling.

As many as 40 students of SMVD Gurukul participated in the event and won 02 Gold medals in Group Song and Rangoli; 03 silver medals in Sanskrit News writing, Yogasana and Wrestling; besides secured 06 bronze medals in the

categories of Educational Short Film making, Solo Sanskrit Song, Wrestling and High Jump events. The winning students were congratulated by CEO, SMVDSB for this spectacular performance.

Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) Manoj Sinha has been a constant force of encouragement and guidance for the advancement of SMVD Gurukul in the field of Sanskrit based education. Earlier to the commencement of the event, Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj, Chairman, SMVD Gurukul and Member, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board visited the campus at Katra and motivated the students exhorting that they would be serving

as an inspiration for the other students and while participating in the forthcoming event should not feel the pressure of expectations and just focus on giving their 100 percent.

Dr. Sunil Sharma, Jt. Chief Executive Officer also Administrator, SMVD Gurukul also extended his congratulations to the participants nurtured at SMVD Gurukul for their commendable performance and wished them best of luck for all their endeavours.

Noteworthy that SMVD Gurukul has not only kept alive the Vedic and Sanatan traditions in the modern era but also providing a supportive and nurturing environment for its students to excel in sports and other extracurricular activities.

Awareness program on voting process held at GDC Ramnagar



JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMNAGAR DECEMBER 01

SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) and ELC (Electoral Literacy Club) Cell of Govt Degree College Ramnagar organized an awareness session on voting process under the patronage of Dr. Bhavnish Chand Anthal, College Principal.

This initiative has been undertaken to meet the objective of the election commission of India that is to encourage eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision during the elections.

Dr. Bhavnish Chand Anthal, Principal GDC

Ramnagar, also addressed the gathering on the election process in formulation of policies for the well-fare of the country and the power of the voters in this respect. He also emphasized the need for the right guidance and education to the youth of the nation regarding the entire election process. In this regard, an awareness session was organized to spread awareness among students about the election process and their importance as a voter.

The program was commenced by Dr. Divya Puri (HOD Psychology) by welcoming all the esteemed members and sharing the overview regarding the

entire session. Thereafter, Dr. Om Prakash (Convener, SVEEP Cell) also spoke about the major goals of the SVEEP/ELC program and the important steps to be taken in this direction. Thereafter, the resource person, Prof. Swarna Devi (HOD Political Science) provided detailed lecture with respect to the voting process. She discussed summary revision, future voters, entire registration process, general election 2024, types and numbers of forms (registration, updating information, correction in detail etc), existence of various apps such as C-vigil, NVSP, SVEEP, Saksham that provide knowledge related to

the voting and rights of the voters.

The response of the students was overwhelming who actively participated in the session. The doubts and queries of the students were resolved by the resource person. The program was concluded by pledge taken by non-registered voters and registered voters. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Mohd. Riaz.

The organizing members of the session were Dr. Om Prakash (HOD Sanskrit), Dr. Mohd. Riaz (HOD Urdu), Dr. Divya Puri (HOD Psychology) and Prof. Naveed Hassan Choudary (HOD Geology).

ASSOCHAM organizes J&K Access To Finance

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) J&K Council hosted a dynamic event, "ASSOCHAM J&K Access To Finance," in Jammu on Friday.

The event witnessed a compelling convergence of industry leaders, banking professionals and government officials who shared their expertise and insights on the financial landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

Manik Batra, Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council & Director Batra Group, delivered a warm welcome address, setting the stage for the insightful discussions to follow.

"Access to finance aims to promote firm growth, productivity and employment in a region leading to overall socio-economic development. Easy availability of Finance helps businesses to develop and implement strategies, invest in new products or services, and expand into new markets," he said.

"The idea behind organising this event was to understand the challenges being faced by the industry in J&K today and the benefits being given by the UT Govt to promote industrialisation of J&K,"



he added.

Chief Guest Mr. Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner/Secretary I&C J&K, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the government's commitment to fostering economic growth through financial inclusivity.

While appreciating ASSOCHAM for organising the event on Access to Finance, Mr. Vikramjit Singh said, "Many firms use to start and close down because of lack of financing, but in collaboration with the banks, government is providing financing to all MSMEs in very attractive rates."

Khalid Jahangir, MD JKTPCO, shed light on the trade promotion organization's role in enhancing financial access.

Arun Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, shared his perspectives on the inter-

section of industries and finance.

"Bankers, Government and Industry members can jointly contribute a lot in the growth of industries in Jammu and Kashmir. Finance is the basic need of the industry and when they get finance in cheaper rates, they can contribute a lot in the growth of the region," Mr. Manhas said.

Khalid Majeed, Director Kashmir also attended the event as special guest and shared his views Access to Finance in Kashmir valley.

Rajesh Dubey, Zonal Head of J&K Bank, captivated the audience with his special address, providing valuable insights into the financial sector and its role in regional development.

"J&K Bank is providing finance to all Medium, small and Micro industries in each and every part of Jammu and Kashmir on

attractive interest rates," he said.

The event also included a lively Q&A session, allowing attendees to engage with the speakers and gain further clarity on financial matters in J&K.

Bhupesh Gupta, Co-Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council & Managing Partner Hotel Radisson Blu Jammu, expressed gratitude to the esteemed speakers, participants, and sponsors, concluding the event on a positive note. The event was organised in Partnership with J&K Bank, Batra Group and TAX UPL.

Attendees applauded the event for its collaborative spirit, fostering dialogue among industry players, banking professionals, and government representatives. The comprehensive discussions highlighted the challenges and opportunities in the financial sector, paving the way for future initiatives aimed at enhancing access to finance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The success of the "ASSOCHAM J&K Access To Finance" event underscores ASSOCHAM J&K Council's commitment to facilitating meaningful conversations that contribute to the economic growth and prosperity of the region.

BJP isn't holding assembly elections in J&K due to fear of defeat: Dilip Kumar

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

BDC Chairman Miran Sahib and senior Congress leader Daleep Kumar have said that assembly elections are being conducted in all the states of the country, Lok Sabha elections will also be held in the country in the coming 6 months, but the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is such that neither the Sarpanches And elections for councilors and neither for the assembly are being conducted. He said that Lg rule has been going on in Jammu and Kashmir for almost 5 years. Every time claims are made by the government that after the abolition of Article 370, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has become peaceful, but despite this



the government is not showing any interest in holding assembly elections. The reason is clear, BJP knows that its land in Jammu and Kashmir has been exhausted. If assembly elections are held here today, even the deposits of their leaders will be confiscated and Congress

will emerge as the largest party. Due to this fear, BJP does not want to hold assembly elections here. BJP campaigned in the entire country in the name of abrogation of Article 370. Now if it gets a crushing defeat in the elections here, then BJP will be disgraced in the entire country. The government has stopped the elections here for its own benefit but the common man is having to bear the brunt of it. Due to lack of elected government and representatives, people have been left at the mercy of bureaucracy. Their work is not getting done. People are upset and have made up their mind to oust this government from power. All the problems of the people can end only with Congress coming to power.

Deputation of Sidhra residents calls on Altaf Bukhari

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 1

A deputation of Sidhra residents called on Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari here at Party Office, Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

The Apni Party Provincial President Jammu S. Manjit Singh was also present on the occasion. The deputation was led by Apni Party Youth Wing General Secretary and Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya.

The residents of ward number 71 in Sidhra apprised about the difficulties they were facing at their area because of poor development and road infrastructure.

JK Munificent Angel, SKIMS Soura unite to combat HIV Stigma on World AIDS Day



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 1

In a powerful collaboration, JK Munificent Angels, alongside SKIMS Soura's ART Centre, orchestrated a significant event on World AIDS Day to impact the lives of people living with HIV (PLHIV).

Sponsored by the J&K AIDS Control Society, this initiative not only heightened awareness about HIV but also provided crucial support to PLHIV.

The event fostered a safe and inclusive space for PLHIV, implementing targeted interventions for high-risk groups. The dedicated efforts of the TI staff played a crucial role in its success, show-

ing the community's collective commitment to making a positive impact.

Such events go beyond awareness, offering vital support and resources to those affected by HIV. They underscore the importance of compassion, understanding, and unity in the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS.

By actively supporting those living with HIV, the community works towards freeing them from the associated stigma and discrimination. This collaborative effort signifies a remarkable step forward in the battle against HIV/AIDS, emphasizing the transformative power of community-driven initiatives.

ADM Kathua fines erring traders for FSS Act violations

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 1

Court of Adjudicating Officer, Additional District Magistrate Kathua, Ranjeet Singh today imposed a fine to the tune of Rs 180,000 on Food Business Operators (FBOs) including manufacturers, wholesale dealers and retailers for violating the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act-2006.

The fine was imposed on the erring traders, during the proceeding of cases of various blocks of district Kathua related to the Food Safety and Standards Act-2006, listed before the Adjudicating Officer. He also warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food Safety and Standards Act and rules would be dealt with strictly.

World AIDS Day GDC Vijaypur organises Candle Light Vigil



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 1

Government Degree College, Vijaypur under the supervision of the College principal, Prof. Dr. Vandana Gupta organized a Candle Light Vigil to observe World AIDS Day 2023. To commemorate the day, Red Ribbon Club and NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of the college organized series of events including 'Poster Making', 'Human Chain Formation', 'Candle Light Vigil' etc. to inculcate among the college students the gravity of the problem-HIV infection/AIDS. Further they were also given knowledge about and various preventive measures which need to be adopted as responsible citizens to prevent AIDS.

Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Vandana

Gupta, while addressing the students, said that this annual event of World AIDS Day serves as a reminder of the global struggle to end HIV-related stigma and an opportunity to honor those we have lost, and a rallying cry to commit to working toward a day when HIV is no longer a public health threat.

Whole of the events under World AIDS Day were organized with the full support of senior faculty members of the college Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science) and Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology). The event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (HOD Education) and co-coordinated by Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo (Lecturer Sociology).

DDC Chairperson Ramban kick starts work on Tractor Link road in Sub-Division Gool



JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 1

Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan today kick started construction work on tractor link road here in the Sub-Division Gool.

The Chairperson kick started construction work on 0.4 km Gagersullah to Peer Nalla tractor link road being constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.45 lakh under Area Development Fund of DDC. Addressing

the gathering, the Chairperson said that with the completion of the project, a long pending demand of the area will be fulfilled which will go a long way in easing the life of locals.

The Chairperson directed the Engineers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to ensure quality and timely completion of construction work which will benefit thousands of souls of the area.

The Chairperson also asked the PRIs to person-

ally monitor the execution of work to ensure quality and timely completion of developmental works and implementation of all youth and beneficiary oriented schemes in their respective areas.

The Chairperson also interacted with the people and listened to their issues of developmental needs.

Among others, PRIs, JE Ravi Kumar from RDD and a large number of the general public present on the occasion.

DC Bandipora reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of JKSSB exams

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 1

In connection with the ensuing examinations of Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) scheduled to be held on December 10, a review meeting was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, here.

At the outset, the DC discussed threadbare the arrangements to be put in place for the smooth conduct of the JKSSB forthcoming examination.

It was given out that the examination is being held at 21 centers in the District. During the meeting the police department was directed to ensure adequate deployment of Police personnel.

Similarly, the Traffic Department was directed



to ensure proper traffic arrangements in and around the designated examination centres.

While proper escort is provided to the JKSSB for transportation of material to the exam centres through the Vehicles of RTO for transport of the material.

Likewise, PDD was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the Centers.

During the meeting, it was decided that section 144 Crpc shall be imposed around the examination centres.

While supervisors and duty magistrates were also deployed to ensure smooth and hassle free conduct of examination.

The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad, besides other concerned.

ADDC Ramban flags off group of girl trekkers to Patnitop

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 1

Additional District Development Commissioner Ramban, Rajinder Sharma today flagged off a troop of girl students from District headquarter to Patnitop for a trekking expedition.

Assistant Commissioner Development, Ashok Katoch, District Youth Services & Sports Officers, Dharamveer Singh, besides other senior officers and teachers were present on the occasion.

The five day Trekking expedition camp is being organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Ramban. As many as 50 girl students drawn from six education zones of the district Ramban are participating in the expedition.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC said that such events provide stu-



dents an opportunity to understand their ability, patience and weakness and to improve their skills which would help them in their future.

While interacting with the participants, the ADDC impressed upon them to avail this opportunity to

shape their personality as good sports persons as well as responsible citizens.

He directed the DYSSO to provide adequate facilities to the participants during the trekking, besides imparting trekking skills.

CEO presents Suresh Raina as Youth voter awareness Ambassador of J&K



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 1

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K Pandurang K Pole announced and presented letter to Suresh Raina who as been appointing as the youth voter awareness ambassador for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO said that Suresh Raina being a cricket legend and a revered figure in India, holds considerable influence, par-

ticularly among the youth. "This influence can be harnessed to encourage more individuals to participate in the electoral process, leading to higher voter turnout and greater civic engagement", he added.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Suresh Raina said that we are witnessing that many players from J&K are playing well at National as well as International level and also hoping that in coming time more and more People would come

at national and International Level.

Later, he also appealed that youth of J&K should also come forward and get themselves registered as voters before 9 December 2023 to further elect their candidates. He added that it is very necessary for healthy democracy that people should vote in large numbers.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha was also present on the occasion.

Special Summary Revision-2023 Election Department organises day-long workshop for BLOs & BLAs at Ramban



JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 1

District Election Department today organized a one day training - cum - coordination workshop for BLOs and BLAs here under the aegis of Special Summary Revision, 2023 with the objective to compile an error-free electoral roll with special focus on inclusion of new eligible voters, who are

going to attain the voting age of 18 years on 1st of January 2024.

Presiding over the function, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Giasul-Haq, who is also the AERO, AC-54 said that the joint training session for BLOs and BLAs has been organized to bridge the gap between the electoral machinery and political parties in preparing error free Photo Electoral

Roll. Stressing on inclusion of every eligible voter in the Electoral Roll, the ACR asked them to work dedicatedly.

During the interaction session, the BLOs and BLAs raised various queries and master trainers and resource persons cleared their doubts on-the-spot, besides providing them relevant forms and handholding.

Rehabilitation of street vendors in Kupwara Town being held to ensure Decongestion on roads

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 1

In a significant move towards urban development and inclusive growth, the Municipal Council Kupwara has undertaken shifting and rehabilitation of street vendors to approximately, 07 Kanal of State Land near Sumo stand Lolab.

Recognizing the vital role played by street vendors in the informal economy, this initiative aims to create a more organized and sustainable urban environment in the town.

The initiative focuses on reducing congestion in crowded market roads by relocating street vendors to designated zones. This strategic move is geared towards creating a more efficient and harmonious cityscape with smooth traffic flow. The district



administration is committed towards ensuring the livelihood security of street vendors. Adequate measures are being implemented to safeguard their economic interests and provide support for a smooth shift.

The relocation will offer development of infrastructure in the new designated vending zone, including amenities such as proper stalls, sanitation facilities, and waste management systems to enhance the working conditions of vendors in days to come.

A robust public awareness campaign preceded

to inform citizens about the rationale behind this initiative. The move has received huge support from the vast majority of people who believe that transformation will help bring positive impact on both vendors and the overall urban landscape.

Municipal Council Kupwara is actively involved in ensuring a seamless transition by involving Street vendors, as key stakeholders, in the decision-making process. Their insights and feedback are considered to make the transition process more inclusive and responsive to their needs.

Gandhi Memorial College, J&K Aids Control Society observe 'World AIDS Day'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 1

The Red Ribbon club of Gandhi Memorial College in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society marked World Aids

Day. The event was inaugurated by the Principal, Prof (Dr) G M Lone. In his introductory remarks, Prof (Dr) G M Lone underscored the importance of observing World Aids Day by laying stress on dispelling

myths surrounding Aids. Prof Syed Ghulam Jeelani, Convener College Red Ribbon Club, delved on the theme -Let Communities Lead, chosen for 2023. He further shed light on various facets of AIDS. On this occasion

different competitions- Face Painting, Painting and Rangoli, were held as proposed by J&K Aids Control Society. The best three students in each category were presented certificates and trophies.