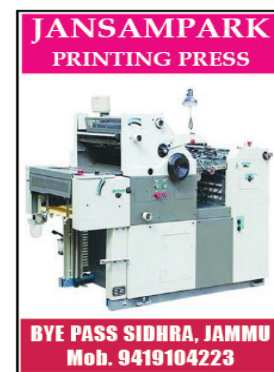


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H&ME dept forms task force for public health management cadre in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

The Health and Medical Education Department has constituted a task force for the establishment of a Public Health Management Cadre in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an official order, the Administrative Secretary of the H&ME Department will serve as the chairperson of the committee.

The committee will include key members such as the Mission Director of the National Health Mission (NHM) J&K as Member Secretary, Director Coordination of New Medical Colleges, Directors of Health Services in Kashmir and Jammu, and the Director of AYUSH, J&K. Notably, Public Health Expert Dr Himanshu Bhushan will serve as the Ex-officio member of the task force.

The specified terms of reference for the task force are to develop
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K registers 38% jump in economic offenses, claims NCRB

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 5

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a jump of 38 percent in economic offenses during the last two years, reveals the latest NCRB report.

As per the report, a copy of which is available with news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 611 cases of economic offenses were registered by the police in the year 2020.

The number of such cases has hiked to 976 in the year 2022, thereby indicating a jump of 38 percent.

In the year 2021, police as per the report had registered 669 cases of economic offense in Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Srinagar's security plan discussed in J&K review meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 5

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said that they held a threadbare discussion on Srinagar's security measures to thaw any plans of the inimical forces in the Kashmir valley.

The police said that ADGP Law and Order Vijay Kumar chaired the joint meeting of security grid in Srinagar.

"During the meeting, a detailed security plan of Srinagar district was discussed where CRPF and Police were acquainted with their new roles," the police said in a statement.

It said that suggestions were also sought from the field officers to get
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lt Governor attends historic Jhiri Mela; pays obeisance to Baba Jitto

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended historic Jhiri Mela and paid obeisance to Baba Jitto at his Samadhi in Jhiri Village, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the devotees and all stakeholders for the successful conduct of the Jhiri Mela.

He said the annual fair organized in the revered memory of Baba Jitto and Bua Kudi brings devotees from various states together to share eternal values of truth, compassion and respect to farmers for their priceless contribution to the society.

"The simplicity of Baba Jitto, his vision as an enlightened soul, his life's work as a farmer is an integral part of our spiritual-cultural ethos. His sacrifice for social justice



and equality has been so profound that it has influenced many generations across the country," the Lt Governor said.

He called upon the Youth to recognize and internalize the values espoused by Baba Jitto and contribute in building an egalitarian society, free

from the exploitation and discrimination.

It will be a real tribute to Baba Jitto that we dedicate ourselves to build an ideal and enlightened society, he said.

Reiterating the resolve of UT Administration towards the socio-economic empowerment of

farming community, the Lt Governor said the Holistic Agriculture Development Program and other farmer-centric reforms introduced by the administration are dedicated to the virtuous ideals of Baba Jitto. Yuva Vani initiative of J&K Administration

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Lt Governor participates in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Flora Nagbani Panchayat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha participated in the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Flora Nagbani Panchayat, today.

The Lt Governor highlighted the vision and aim of 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' to achieve saturation of government schemes. He said the outreach campaign is witnessing enthusiastic response from the public, especially women, youth and farmers.

Women and youth have also become Charioteer of Vikas Rath and actively engaged in spread-



ing awareness about the schemes. This constructive spirit of Jan Bhagidari will ensure benefits reach far corners of Union Territory to build a modern and prosperous Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor said.

He shared the efforts of the UT Administration, under the guidance

of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for socio-economic transformation and bringing weaker and marginalized sections into the mainstream.

"Government is committed to brighten the lives of people, who were treated unfairly and faced

discrimination for many decades. It is our prime objective to develop rural areas into business hubs and create decent lucrative employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth in villages," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K has witnessed lot of change in last four years: Anurag Thakur

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, DEC 5

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday hit out at TMC leader Saugata Ray and asserted that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a lot of change in the past four years since the abrogation of Article 370.

Intervening in the debate on the Jammu and



Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister, Information and Broadcasting

Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha, Thakur said there have been no cases of stone pelting and the Indian tricolour is now hoisted in every street of the Union Territory.

But earlier, when the National Conference (NC) was in power, BJP leaders were arrested for
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Govt ready to hold assembly polls in J&K; EC to decide: Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, DEC 5

The government is ready to hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir whenever the Election Commission (EC) takes a final decision in the matter, Union minister Jitendra Singh said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Intervening in the discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, the minister of state in the prime minister's office (PMO) said "whenever the



Dr. Jitendra Singh, राज्य मंत्री, पीएमओ
IN THE CHAIR : ANDIMUTHU RAJA

EC announces it (Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir), we are ready". He said this in response to a demand from opposition parties for holding early Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

"The EC has its own

mechanism of gathering inputs according to its requirements and it will take a final call. Let us all trust the wisdom of the EC and not appear to be interfering in its functioning," Singh added.

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Defeat in State elections failure of Congress not of INDIA alliance: Omar Abdullah

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 5

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that BJP's victory in three states is not the defeat of INDIA alliance, but to some extent failure of Congress.

Speaking with reporters in Hazratbal, Omar, as per the news agency said that the INDIA

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Opposition members ask govt to hold Assembly Polls in J&K soon

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, DEC 5

Opposition members in the Lok Sabha sought a timeline from the government on Monday for holding Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, saying a democratically-elected government is necessary in the Union Territory for its development.

Initiating a debate on two bills relating to Jammu and Kashmir, Amar Singh of the Congress asked the government about its plans on holding Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

Home Minister Amit Shah will respond to the debate on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, taken up together, on Wednesday.

One bill seeks to nominate not more than two members, one of whom shall be a woman, from the community of "Kashmiri Migrants" and one member from the "Displaced Persons from Paki-



stan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir" to the legislative assembly of the Union Territory.

The other seeks to change the nomenclature of "weak and underprivileged classes" to "Other Backward Classes" in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Territory, which has the provision for a legislative assembly, is currently under central rule.

Singh said Shah should assert that the election in Jammu and Kashmir will be held, with security forces ready to deal with any situation.

He said while a provision is being made to provide reservation for two members from the community of "Kashmiri Migrants" and one from the "Displaced Persons

from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir" to the legislative assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, a representative from the Punjabi community from Jammu should also be provided. He said the "Punjabi" should not necessarily be a Sikh.

Jugal Kishore Sharma of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who represents Jammu in the Lok Sabha, said the bill to change the nomenclature of "weak and underprivileged classes" to "Other Backward Classes" in Jammu and Kashmir will benefit people in getting reservation in other parts of the country for the first time.

Saugata Roy of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) said the government should announce a
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

NIA Raids in Seven Districts in J&K in Terror Conspiracy Case

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 5

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday carried out raids at several locations across Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the terror conspiracy hatched and operationalised by offshoots of the banned Pakistan-backed terrorist organisations, the investigating agency said.

The searches led to the seizure of several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data and documents, it said.

The NIA raided "several locations across Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the terror conspiracy hatched and operationalised by the offshoots of the banned Pakistan-backed terrorist organisations, such as Laskhar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

(HM), Al-Badr, Al-Qaeda, etc", the agency said in a release.

Teams of NIA cracked down on eight locations in the seven districts of Poonch, Shopian, Pulwama, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara and Srinagar of the Union Territory of J&K, it said.

The locations raided today were residential premises of hybrid terrorists and Overground Workers (OGWs) associated with the newly-formed affiliates and offshoots of the banned terrorist outfits, it added.

"Extensive searches were also conducted at the premises of the cadres and sympathisers of these newly floated organisations, which included The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF),

Kashmir Tigers, PAAF, among others," the NIA said. The searches led to the seizure of several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data and documents by the NIA, which has been investigating the conspiracy of the recently launched offshoots of the banned terror outfits to destabilize J&K through violent terrorist attacks and activities, the agency added. NIA had registered the case (RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU) suo moto on 21 June 2022 to probe the involvement of the cadres, OGWs and other suspects of the new outfits in the collection and distribution of sticky and magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances and arms/ammunition to spread terror, violence and subversion in J-K.

NIA investigations so far have revealed that Pak-based
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Army troops open fire at suspected Pakistani drone along LoC in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Army troops opened a few rounds at a suspected Pakistani drone along the Line of Control in Akhnour sector here Tuesday evening, police officials said.

A massive joint search operation by the Army and police is underway following the incident in forward Battalion area, they said.

Alert troops picked up the movement of a suspected drone between around 6.30 pm and fired a few rounds to bring it down, the officials said.

Due to the darkness, it was not known whether the drone went back or fell down, they said, adding that the Army along with



police had launched a massive operation immediately to check the area

for the drone or its payload like weapons, narcotics and money.

Secretary holds interactive session with Maharashtra Tour Organisers Association, tourism stakeholders in Katra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, DECEMBER 5

Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today conducted an interactive session with participants from the Maharashtra Tour Organisers Association in Katra, who were on their FAM tour.

The four day Familiarisation Tour spanned Bhaderwah, Jai Valley, Guldanda, Patnitop and Katra with culmination in Katra. The tour was flagged off from the Directorate of Tourism Jammu on 1st December.

Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, CEO KDA, Gopal Sharma and other officers of Tourism Department were present on the occasion.

Secretary informed about the amendments to Tourism Trade Act for improved ease of doing business including the pro-



cess of extending renewal period to five years.

Referring to substantial boost to tourism influx exceeding 1.97 crore till November 2023, primarily from Katra, he emphasized the need to divert pilgrims towards exploring other tourist areas. He also stressed the importance of homestays and advocated for democratising the

tourism sector, promoting adventure tourism and Prasad scheme for making Katra a Model Town.

Secretary commended the Directorate of Tourism Jammu for their efforts in identifying new adventure activities and stretches/areas, along with other commendable initiatives in the tourism sector.

Director Tourism high-

lighted the indispensable role of tourism stakeholders, calling for a symbiotic relationship and a holistic approach. He encouraged coordination with stakeholders from the film industry for tourism promotion and invited active participation in the New Year to boost tourism in the region.

Deputy Commissioner,

while highlighting transformative changes in tourism sector of the region, urged upon MTOA to collaborate with the UT administration for further tourism promotion.

Others present were Rakesh Wazir, President of Hotel and Restaurant Association Katra; Sham Lal Qesar, Senior Vice President of Hotel and Restaurant Association Katra; Virender Qesar, Senior Vice President; Shiv Kumar Sharma, Senior Vice President; Kaushal Magotra, President of Patnitop Hotel Association; Arun Sharma, President of SMVD Press Club; Vishwajeet Patil, President of Maharashtra Tour Organisers Association; Udhay Kadam, Vice President; and Rajan Parekh, General Secretary besides Shabir Zargar, President Bhaderwah tour and travel association and Ali Jaffrey, Manager Skyview.

DC Bandipora inspects ongoing work on the Auditorium at Kuloosa

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 5



The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad Tuesday visited the under-construction Auditorium at Kuloosa, Bandipora.

The DC personally inspected the ongoing construction and directed the authorities to expedite the work for the early completion of the auditorium. The auditorium, which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 3 crore under the district plan, is expected to serve as a hub for various cultural,

educational, and community events. Dr. Owais on the occasion said that the project is almost complete and shall be dedicated to the public of Bandipora soon.

He said that the auditorium is equipped with modern technology and equipment. He said that it was a long pending demand of the people and will serve as a platform for different activities, including cultural and other functions.

The DC was accompanied by Joint Director Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmad besides other concerned.

Empowering People: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camps held at numerous locations across District Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 5

The flagship Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra campaign reached today to numerous panchayats in Doda district with local residents across varied age groups and walks of life responding with overwhelming enthusiasm. The School Students actively participated by delivering speeches on moral values and adding vibrancy through captivating cultural programs.

The lively cultural extravaganza, coupled with the presence of esteemed personalities and community leaders, heightened the enthusiasm among attendees, encouraging active participation in the nation's progress. The yatra left an indelible mark by visiting Upper Behota, Lower Behota, Gadi A, Bhagwaha upper B, Chinote, Gatha, Panjgrain, Kansoo, Bhatoli, Tanti, and Inharra. Residents responded with overwhelming enthusiasm.

At Batholi Panchayat block Kahara, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra van was received with a warm welcome, and a pledge ceremony regarding the initiative was led by frontline workers and the public. The large gathering



of students actively participating in the pledge ceremony. A health checkup camp garnered significant attention, and members of self-help groups and other beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the government-sponsored schemes. The yatra's enthusiastic reception, coupled with the airing of the Prime Minister's message on a big LED screen, adds fervor to the event.

Similar events and activities were held at Panchayat TANTLI Block Changa, while the activities highlighting government-sponsored schemes took center stage. During the event, sports activities and cultural programs, along with government initiatives, are showcased for the public. The big LED-fitted screen

van is the main attraction during the event, displaying the message of the honorable Prime Minister of India. At Panchayat Gatha block Bhaderwah, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp is organized at Government Girls High School Nichlla Tharra Bhaderwah, where the van is warmly welcomed by the public. The colorful cultural programs and various sports activities enhance the event's vibrancy. The medical health checkup camp is also conducted during the event, and sports activities organized include carrom board and chess competitions. The Agriculture Department distributes soil health cards to farmers during the event at Panchayat Gatha.

Events of a similar nature unfold in various other panchayats, where government-sponsored schemes are elucidated by concerned officers and officials. Beneficiaries of different government initiatives attend the events, expressing gratitude for the benefits received. The mission of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra underscores the importance of bringing government schemes closer to communities, igniting a spirit of development. Frontline workers play a pivotal role, actively participating and strengthening the impact of this public outreach. Expressing gratitude, the Nodal Officer commends the participants, emphasizing the significance of the Viksit Bharat pledge.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reaches 10 Panchayats of block Frisal, Qaimoo of Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, DECEMBER 5

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) campaign today reached 10 more Panchayats of Frisal and Qaimoo blocks gaining further momentum in Kulgam district by covering 99 Panchayats of the district from the date of its launch in the district.

Amid active participation of all stakeholders, the campaign is spreading awareness about government schemes among the public.

During the day, Health camps, Sankalp pledges, and outreach activities were organized in these Panchayats, besides services were made available on-the-spot to the common masses.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) today reached Panchayat Badroo, Barzloo Jageer, Ashmuji A Ashmuji B, Bhan, Khrewan Chadder, Matalhama, Bolsloo, Bachroo and Tarigam where people enthusiastically welcomed VBSY at each respective location. The



primary objective of this outreach and information dissemination campaign is to empower citizens to become active stakeholders in the country's development. Success stories of empowerment and collective engagement activities towards a shared vision of national development were held in these

panchayats. Awareness lectures on various government welfare schemes by resource persons, free medical camps, cultural and sports events were also organized on the occasion.

Pertinently, the Yatra aims to reach out to the unreached population, making them aware of var-

ious government schemes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, PM Kisan Saman Yojana, Jeevan Joti Bima Yojana, along with the process to avail benefits.

Agri Deptt Kashmir celebrates 'World Soil Day-2023'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 5

Agriculture Department Kashmir today celebrated World Soil Health Day (WSD) 2023 across Kashmir with the main function held at agriculture complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The function was inaugurated by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal through virtual mode.

World Soil Health Day-2023 is celebrated under the theme of 'Soil & Water, A Source of Life'.

Addressing the function, Director Agriculture said that organising soil day provides us with an opportunity to pay attention and address the issues and challenges confronting this finite resource (Soil). He highlighted the importance of soil for human survival and said that the World Soil Health Day-2023 and its campaign are focused to raise the awareness on the importance of soil among the farmers.



Director Agriculture said that farmers should be made sensitive towards the improper soil management practices. He said the health of the soil has a direct impact on our own health therefore all possible efforts should be put in place, so that this most important natural resource could be pre-

served for generations to come.

Director Agriculture impressed upon the concerned Chief Agriculture Officers to conduct an awareness programme regarding Soil Health Management. He directed the concerned officers to regularly monitor the progress on the 'Soil Health

Card Scheme' and ensure that farmers are managing their cultural practices as per the recommendation of Soil Health card. Joint Director Agriculture Extension, G.M Dhobi; Joint Director Agriculture Inputs, Tabassum Naz; Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Manohar Lal Sharma; District Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Nodal Officer Zero Budget Natural Farming, Assistant Bio-Chemist Srinagar also expressed their views on the occasion. A Large gathering of Farmers were also present at the function. Besides holding functions at District level, World Soil Day 2023 was celebrated at Sub-Division and zonal levels across the Kashmir Division.

Newly completed Health & Wellness Center building commissioned at Dheraja- Bhaderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 5

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Harvinder Singh today inaugurated the newly constructed Health & Wellness Center Building at Panchayat Dheraja (Bhaderwah).

PRIs, local people and Civil Society members, besides Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Choudhary Dil Mir, CEO Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA) Bal Krishan, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Tehsildar and BDO attended the inaugu-



ral function.

The DDC inspected the building of the center, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of the infrastructure and its accommodation capacity. The vital facility reflects the government's commitment to extend best healthcare facility to the community.

In addition to the physical inspection, the DDC actively engaged in discus-

sions with the staff of the health department. The interaction was instrumental in assessing the functioning of the healthcare centre and coordination among health officials.

The DDC enjoined upon the health functionaries to work in a mission mode for effective and efficient functioning of the centres to serve its purpose in the larger interest

of the people. Beyond the inaugural visit, the DDC emphasized the importance of quality and timely healthcare facilities to the public. This includes continuous coordination among staff members, ensuring the availability of essential medical resources, and maintaining a commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare services. The strategic focus on continued improvement highlights the DDC's vision for a sustained and effective healthcare system that positively impacts the well-being of the areas served by the medical center.

Saurabh Bhagat addresses Business Opportunity Seminar for Rooftop Solar Power Plants

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat here today addressed a business opportunity seminar organized by J&K Energy Development Agency (JKEDA) to promote rooftop solar power plants.

The event, held by the Science & Technology Department, witnessed participation of vendors from Jammu and was aimed to accelerate the implementation of the Government of India's Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Scheme, Phase-II, specifically for the residential sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the participants, Commissioner Secretary expressed the department's commitment to achieving a target of installing 100

MW rooftop solar power through J&KEDA.

He emphasized the collaboration with the Skill Development Department, particularly engaging principals of ITIs and polytechnics.

The interaction aimed at fostering partnerships with vendors, intending not only to develop the solar sector but also to generate employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhagat outlined the plan to create 8,000 to 10,000 jobs through this scheme, particularly for ITI students who recently enrolled in the Surya Mitra skill development programme.

He detailed the unique opportunity for vendors to train and employ these students in their companies, contributing to both skill development and employment.



Commissioner Secretary emphasized the scheme's broader benefits, including the reduction of electricity bills for citizens, employment

generation, and the promotion of clean energy. Bhagat concluded by reiterating the commitment to install 100 MW of rooftop solar power in approximately 50,000 households in Jammu city. The scheme, with its attractive features and amid rising power tariffs, stands as a beacon of sustainable development for the region, he added.

Earlier, CEO of J&KEDA, Dr. PR Dhar highlighted the significance of this initiative, stating that the project's objective is to meet the electricity needs of Jammu city entirely through solar energy. The ambitious plan involves installing 200 MW grid-tied rooftop solar power plants on 50 thousand residential buildings in Jammu city under the "Solar City Mission."

ABHA registration camp held for students at Doda



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 5

To cover all the eligible beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), a special camp in connection with ABHA was organized at New Era Public School Doda by Health Department Doda.

The camp was held on the directions of the Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr Ab Fafoor Ahmed, which aims to cover all the citizens under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Speaking on the occasion, the health staff asked the people to avail the benefits of such camps as the purpose of these camps is to provide services to the common people at their door steps. They said that Aadhar Card is the most significant identity document of a person in India and a gateway to avail any kind of benefit under the schemes rolled out by the Government.

They also threw light on the benefit of ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) Card which was previously known as Health ID. "It helps individuals to access healthcare benefits and store their medical information digitally in one place.

ABHA health card benefits users by letting them enjoy healthcare services, including registration, appointment scheduling with a doctor, and storing electronic medical records. The Health ID card can also be linked to multiple health schemes and insurance plans, providing various benefits. Therefore, a Health ID card is one-stop identification for all healthcare-related activities. It makes it easier for individuals to access and manage their overall wellness," they said.

The team comprising Ms Shariqa Anjum (CHO/MLHP), Ms Monika Devi (FMPHW) and Ms Rinku Devi (FMPHW) attended the camp from the health department, who generated around 50 ABHA IDs on the spot and generated mass awareness on the occasion.

Principal of the school, Nishad Ahmed Tak who was also present on the occasion thanked the BMO Ghat and the health team for organizing such a camp in their school, which would surely benefit the beneficiaries in the time to come, in which safer and efficient digital health records shall be maintained.

Commissioner Secretary chairs RDD's workshop on Panchayat Development Index

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj today organised one day UT level workshop on Panchayat Development Index, (PDI) at Teacher Bhawan, Gandhi Nagar here.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the Capacity Building and Training of Frontline workers of line departments, field functionaries and other related stakeholders.

Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur was chief guest on the occasion.

Secretary RDD, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, Director Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Director RDD, Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat, Director Rural Sanitation, Charandeep Singh, CEO IWMP, Bharat Bhushan, Additional Secretaries RDD, Wasim Raja, Sanjay Bhat besides ADDCs, ACDs, ACPs, officers and officials of RDD and line departments were also present during the workshop.



Consultant, Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Dr Tauqueer Khan, briefed about preparation of Panchayat Development Plan for 2024-25 and other concepts of PDI through PPP mode.

Deputy Director, NIC MoPR, Bijendra Kumar Suman, presented an overview on demonstration of PDI Portal.

The MoPR and Technical team also conducted a group exercise on handling of PDI Portal and eGS Portal besides, a question answer session was also held to clear doubts of participants/stakeholders.

In her address, Commissioner Secretary, gave key note address on significance of PDI in attaining SDGs in rural areas besides role of line departments in evidence based planning through PDI.

She said the PDI contains data of 577 indicators spread across 9 sectors which has to be filled by each Panchayat on monthly basis. There are 4291 Panchayats in J&K, therefore, it is a voluminous and rigorous exercise and has to be carried out on monthly basis after proper scrutiny and cross checks, she added.

Mandeep Kaur said that the technical sessions play very important role for future planning of Panchayats to achieve sustainable goals.

Commissioner Secretary said that the MoPR is committed to conduct such workshops and seek feedback report from UT and State level functionaries. She stressed on concerned authorities to complete whole PDI exercise in stipulated time frame.

Tariq Zargar, briefed about different aspects of the workshop and presented mementoes to the dignitaries/participants.

Ensure proper maintenance of roads, timely Snow Clearance for connectivity to remote habitations: Div Com to BEACON

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 5

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting to review the maintenance of roads and timely snow clearance in Border Districts to ensure road connectivity to remote areas during the winter season.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from BEACON besides District Administrations.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed for ensuring regular maintenance of roads under the jurisdiction of BEACON for smooth movement of vehicles and constant supply chain of essential commodities to peripheral habitations.

He also directed for advance deployment of machinery for clearing snow from major roads during the winter season.

The meeting was informed that all the required numbers of men and machinery have been put at different locations in a standby position to ensure opening of roads simultaneously.

Meanwhile, Div Com reviewed construction of



retaining wall of Road at Thune Kangan in Ganderbal which had been damaged by landslide. On the occasion, Div Com directed concerned Beacon officers to start the construction work for the retaining wall from Monday on the critical portion to be identified by DC Ganderbal so that the road shall be restored at the earliest for transportation.

Div Com also reviewed road safety measures in the landslide prone areas of the districts and impressed on dis-

tribut administrations to work out the mitigation plan to protect roads and other infrastructure from damage besides precious human lives.

While reviewing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, Div Com enjoined for intensifying the campaign to educate the general public in every panchayat about centrally sponsored welfare schemes.

Viksit Bharat Yatra reaches Doongi and Pangrain Blocks of Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 5

Viksit Bharat Yatra today reached the Doongi and Pangrain blocks of Rajouri district. The 72-day outreach and awareness campaign, aims to promote government schemes and ensure the saturation of flagship programs, is designed to bring the benefits of these schemes to all targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The people from different panchayats including Tunditrar, Pallulian, Thandikassi, Pangrain Lower-A, Pangrain Lower-B, Pangrain Upper-A, Pangrain Upper-B of block Pangrain and Narian Parli, Sangpur, Sangpur Narian West, Dogani, Chingus, Loorkote, Agrati South, Agrati North and Dhanwan of Doongi block participated with tremendous enthusiasm in the event.

Through this initiative, the government intends to disseminate crucial information and foster awareness about these schemes, ensuring that no deserving individual or community is left behind.

One of the key aspects of the Yatra is the establishment of direct interaction between the government and beneficiaries. By sharing personal stories and experiences, the program creates a platform for individuals to voice their needs, concerns and aspirations. This two-way communication not only deepens the understanding of the Government of the ground realities but also allows for the identification and enrollment of potential beneficiaries based on the information ascertained during the Yatra.

The Viksit Bharat Yatra places specific focus on a range of schemes aimed at both urban and rural areas. In urban areas, the following schemes have been highlighted: PM Svanidhi, PM Vishwa-



karma Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Start-up India/Stand-up India, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana (Urban), SBM (Urban), PM eBus Sewa, AMRUT, PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadi Pariyojana, Ujjala Yojana, Subhagya Yojana, Digital Payment Infrastructure, Khelo India, RCS:UDAN, Vande Bharat Trains, and Amrit Bharat Station scheme. In rural areas, the focus is on schemes such as Ayushman Bharat PMJAY, PMGKAY, DAY-NRLM, PM Awas Yojana Rural, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Kisan Samman, PM Vishwakarma, KCC, PM Poshan Abhiyan, JJM, and SVAMITVA. The 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' stands as a resolute testament to the commitment of the Government to constructing a prosperous and equitable India. By championing government schemes, fostering awareness, and

engaging directly with beneficiaries, the Yatra aspires to instigate positive change at the grassroots level, paving the way for an inclusive and developed nation.

As this Yatra unfurls its journey across the nation, it is poised to touch the lives of millions, ensuring their access to essential services, financial assistance, healthcare, housing, and more. The resounding participation of the public with unwavering enthusiasm exemplifies the collective commitment to building a brighter and more prosperous future for all, as envisioned by the Government.

Among the others, Block Development Officer Doongi, Mohd Nawaz; Block Development Officer Pangrain, Sayela Mir; Sarpanches, Panches and public in large numbers attended the event.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 5

In order to review the progress of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers at Meeting Hall of D.C Office Complex, here.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon all the officers to work with added dedication and utmost coordination to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the VBSY in the district. She asked them to ensure mass participation of people in these VBSY camps to make it a grand success.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-Tender Notice			
Sr. DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 26.12.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
04.12.2023	12.12.2023	26.12.2023/15:00 Hrs	
S.No. Tender No. Details of Tender			
1.	327-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	TWR (Through Weld Renewal) at loop lines no. 1,2,3,5 at UHP, loop line no. 1,3 & 4 at SVDK, loop line no. 1 & 2 at CRWL, loop line no. 1 & 3 at SGR, loop line no. 1 & 3 at BLA, loop line no. 1 & 3 at RMJK, loop line no. 1 & 3 at MNVL on JAT-SVDK section & at loop line no. 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,18, ART siding, Diesel shed siding, HA siding, Parcel siding, Shunting neck, Turn Table Siding & Wheel Lathe Siding no. 1,2 and 3 at BDGM, loop line no. 4, Saloon cum Parcel siding, Goods line & HAS siding at ANT, loop line no. 1, 3 & HAS siding at GG, loop line no. HAS siding at PTTN, loop line no. 1 & HAS siding at HME, loop line no. HAS siding at KAPE, loop line no. 1 & HAS siding at PJGM, loop line no. 1 & 3 SDUA, loop line no. 4 at ATPA, loop line no. PS siding at SINA, loop line no. ORL3 BRML end at SXZM, MZMA stations on BAHL-BRML section by using Road cum Rail Mobile, Flash Butt Welding plant in jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-IV/FZR.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
5,32,85,423.36/-	4,16,400/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work :- "Welding of Rails with Mobile Flash Butt Welding Plant".			
Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 327-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Date: 04.12.2023			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
The Deputy Chief Engineer /BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-					
S. No	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Date of opening
1	OT-19-JRC-2023	Casting of PSC slabs from 3.05 m to 12.2 m span as per approved drawing inside Railway premises.	3,46,20,046.57	3,23,100.00	22.12.2023
Cost of tender form Rs. 0			Completion period of work	12 Months	
Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender: Up to 15:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender there after at 15:00 hrs on same date; Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . No.: 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation Dated: 01.12.2023					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor attends...

provides opportunity to youth to lead from the front in agriculture and allied sector. Young agripreneurs with the hard work, commitment, skilling and financial support would be the architects of a glorious future of J&K UT, he said.

The Lt Governor also impressed on the PRI representatives, social organizations and various stakeholders to actively participate in government's endeavours for extension of the benefits of schemes and programmes to build a strong support system for the entire farming community.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated progressive farmers, agripreneurs and officials engaged in the conduct of Jhiri Mela. He also inaugurated a Farmer Produces Organization - 'The Nari Shakti' from Teshil Mandal, Satwari.

Artists presented enthralling performances showcasing the rich art and culture of the region.

Sh Bharat Bhushan, Chairman District Development Council Jammu; Ms. Yasha Mudgul, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Cooperatives Department; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sh Shakti Pathak, DIG, JSK Range; Sh Sukhmandan Choudhary, former Minister, PRI members, and people from all walks of life were present.

Lt Governor participates...

commended the endeavour of the Sarpanch of Falora Nagbani Panchayat in Solid-Liquid Waste Management. He called upon PRI representatives to replicate the best practices to transform their respective Panchayat into a model Panchayat.

The Lt Governor administered 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge to officials, PRI members and the citizens present on the occasion. He visited the stalls put up by different departments and handed over the sanction letters to beneficiaries under various schemes. Ms Vandana Kumari, Sarpanch Flora Nagbani highlighted the steps taken to ensure saturation of government schemes.

Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Sh Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, senior officers, PRI members, beneficiaries, members of Self Help Groups and people in large number were present.

Opposition members ask...

time-frame for holding polls in the Union Territory. He said providing reservation and similar issues are state subjects and should be dealt with by the state legislatures. The hurry, he said, is to pass bills, but it should be for holding the Assembly polls.

Roy claimed that the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution has brought no changes in the lives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said this was the first time that a state was converted into a Union Territory.

He said the government tells tourists that everything is fine in Jammu and Kashmir but in reality, that is not the case.

Speaker Om Birla intervened to say after the abrogation of Article 370, most of the MPs have been to Jammu and Kashmir and the region is at it was earlier.

The TMC leader said it was a matter of opinion. He also said the people of Jammu and Kashmir and not the lieutenant governor should rule the Union Territory.

Roy's remarks on the LG drew protests from the BJP members.

Union minister Anurag Thakur hit out at the TMC leader, saying things have changed in Jammu and Kashmir and now, there are no cases of stone-pelting in the Union Territory. He said the Indian tricolour is now hoisted in every street of Jammu and Kashmir but earlier, when the National Conference (NC) was in power, BJP leaders were arrested for trying to hoist the flag there.

Thakur alleged that the TMC government in West Bengal is not allowing the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra", which showcases the people-centric policies of the Narendra Modi government, in the state.

The Election Commission (EC) has recently said the Jammu and Kashmir polls will be held at the "right time", keeping in mind the security situation there.

Announcing the poll schedule for five states on October 9, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said the election in Jammu and Kashmir will be held when the commission deems it the "right time", keeping in mind the security situation and other polls being held in the Union Territory.

J&K has witnessed lot...

trying to hoist the national flag there, Thakur said recalling his own experience during the Tiranga Yatra.

He was responding to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader's remarks that "ek nishan, ek pradhan, ek samvidhan" was a political slogan.

The information and broadcasting minister alleged that the TMC government in West Bengal is not allowing in the state the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra", which showcases the people-centric policies of the Narendra Modi government.

The Modi government removed Articles 370 and 35A in Jammu and Kashmir, which was not done even 70 years after Independence, he said.

Thakur slammed the opposition for not mentioning the contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh, who signed the Instrument of Accession with India, to the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Does his contribution not count? Should the contribution of Sardar Patel, who ensured the merger of princely states, not be counted? Sardar Patel laid the foundation of a strong India. The shortcomings left behind by (Jawaharlal) Nehru were rectified here on Aug 5-6, 2019 in Parliament by PM Modi," Thakur said. (Agencies)

Govt ready to hold assembly...

He further said democracy must reach the grass-root level and in the future, "we will do" what is in the best

interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh blamed Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India, for the Kashmir problem.

He further said the Congress should be grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution that provided a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh said a series of measures have been taken to ensure development in the Union Territory.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah wanted to know from the BJP-led Centre why Assembly polls are not being held in Jammu and Kashmir.

Participating in the discussion, Congress leader Manish Tewari also sought to know about the election and when statehood would be restored in Jammu and Kashmir.

He wondered that at a time when the treasury benches are claiming that normalcy has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir, "why elections" are not being held.

Tewari further said constitutional proprietary demands that the government should refrain from coming up with these legislations as a matter related to the Constitution (Amendment) Act pertaining to the abrogation of Article 370 is pending in the Supreme Court.

Home Minister Amit Shah, who was present during the debate, said he would give a detailed reply on all the issues raised by the opposition members.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said peace in Jammu and Kashmir is "more important" than elections.

He said after the abrogation of Article 370, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved and investments have started pouring in.

Intervening, Union minister Anurag Thakur said it is sad when security personnel are killed, but the opposition should not forget that 45,000 people died in Jammu and Kashmir during the 70 years of their regime.

National Conference (NC) MP Hasnain Masoodi also demanded early polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the government should tell the truth to the country and not spread the illusion of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Masoodi also claimed that unemployment is increasing in the Union Territory.

Supriya Sule of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) too demanded early polls and said the government should bring a comprehensive bill on reservation to meet the aspirations of the people of different states.

Janata Dal-United's Kaushalendra Kumar also demanded the holding of Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. (Agencies)

NIA Raids in Seven Districts...

operatives were using social media platforms to promote terror, and were also using drones to deliver arms and ammunition, explosives and narcotics to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir valley.

These activities were "being carried out as part of the terror conspiracy hatched by the banned outfits, backed by their masters in Pakistan. The conspiracy also involved radicalisation of local youth and mobilisation of OGWs to carry out violent and disruptive activities in J-K", the agency said. (Agencies)

Defeat in State elections...

alliance has not failed at all, but some statements have come to fore, which need to be discussed and put to an end.

"The state elections were not fought by the alliance, but different political parties contested on their own, thus it's not the defeat of the alliance, but to some extent the failure of the Congress party at individual level," he said.

Replying to a query, Omar said, he cannot speak whether Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has got any intimation or not, but as far as National Conference is concerned, it has received an invitation for dinner at Rahul Gandhi's residence tomorrow—(KNO)

H&ME dept forms task...

a comprehensive strategy aligning the positions of the existing health workforce (regular/contractual) in the UT with those specified in the PHMC guidance note and to ensure the implementation of appropriate career progression measures for all health workers, encompassing time-bound promotions, assured promotions, and ACP (Assured Career Progression) schemes.

The task force is also mandated to formulate a plan to facilitate career mobility and create provisions for the exchange of personnel between different services within the cadre. It has to establish and maintain a centralised repository of data related to the recruitment mechanism, sanctioned positions, workforce distribution, vacancies in different cadres, pay grades, and promotion criteria.

It is also tasked with developing comprehensive HR and training policies, along with a roadmap for providing public health training to in-service candidates, the order states. (KNO)

J&K registers 38%...

Economic offences include those crimes which are of an economic nature. These offences are committed while in the course of some kind of economic or business activity.

The National Crimes Report Bureau of India classifies only specified acts under the term economic offences. Activities like company frauds, counterfeiting of coins, and some of the terrorist activities even come under the term Economic offences as per the NCRB.

At national level, there has been an 11 per cent surge in economic offence as 193385 such cases have been registered, the report said.

It said that 62 cases of Criminal Breach of Trust under Section 406 to 409 of IPC have been registered last year.

The report also said that two cases of counterfeiting and 912 cases of forgery, cheating and fraud have been

Lt Governor reviews progress of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, recruitment to various posts and institutionalised outreach programmes across the UT

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials to review the progress of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, recruitment to various posts and status of institutionalised outreach programmes for bridging information and knowledge gap regarding government schemes and programmes across the UT of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh RR Swain, DGP; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Law & Order; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Rajesh Sharma, Chairman



JKSSB; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners; DIGs; Deputy Commissioner, SPs, senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, in person

and through virtual mode.

We must reach out to farmers, youth, women and deprived section of society to inform and educate them about gov-

ernment schemes and programmes. All the schemes should be saturated to realize Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat, the Lt Governor said.

He directed the senior officials to regularly assess and closely monitor the saturation of flagship schemes. He instructed the Deputy Commissioners, SPs, and other concerned Departments to generate awareness about Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and other public outreach programmes of the government.

The Lt Governor also took stock of the preparations for upcoming examination of Panchayat Secretary and recruitment to various other posts by J&K Service Selection Board.

Massive SVEEP Rally taken out in Kishtwar Town

J1NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 5

A mega Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) led by Deputy Commissioner/District Election Officer Dr. Devansh Yadav was today taken out in the district headquarters of Kishtwar.

The rally witnessed an impressive turnout, with 600 students and aspiring voters from different schools and government institutions, including GDC Kishtwar, Government Polytechnic College Kishtwar, ITI Kishtwar, Government Higher Secondary School for Boys and Girls, alongside several private schools, actively participating.

Key officers, Deputy DEO Kishtwar Naresh Kumar, ACR Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak, DPO Kishtwar Sunil Bhutyal, Tehsildar Kishtwar Muneeb Umar, CEO Kishtwar Prehlad Bhagat, Election NTR Sajjad Khan, SHO Kishtwar Parvaiz Ahmed Khanday, Principals, and staff from educational institutions, in addition to officers and officials from the DC office



and District Election Cell Kishtwar, were present and engaged in the rally.

The procession commenced from the Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Kishtwar traversing through the main market, Main Bus Stand, streets of the town, Mini Bus Stand Kishtwar, Hidayal Chowk, and culminated at the Chowgan Ground Kishtwar.

During the rally, the participating students demonstrated commendable awareness efforts

about the ongoing Special Summary Revision of the Electoral Roll 2024. They fervently appealed to potential and eligible voters to register themselves as new voters under the ongoing Special Summary Revision of Electoral Roll 2024 before the deadline of 9th December 2023.

This proactive engagement by the young minds underscores their commitment to civic duty and highlights the importance of active participation in

the electoral process.

During the event, DEO Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, praised the active participation of the attendees, attributing their enthusiasm to the resounding success of the rally. He mentioned that approximately 6000 citizens residing in the township and adjoining areas were sensitized about the ongoing voter registration and data modification exercise in the district.

In a concluding gesture, the girls' contingent from the Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kishtwar received an award for their exceptional and proactive involvement in the rally. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the pivotal role played by students, particularly the girls, as ambassadors for raising awareness about the voter registration process. He underscored the importance of their efforts to ensure that no eligible voter remains unregistered.

VBSY held at Block Imamsahib of Shopian

J1NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 5

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) commenced today in 6 Panchayat Halqas of Imamsahib block of the district.

These six Panchayats include, K.M. Gund, Kenigam, Losedenew, Nadigam, Sangren and Sugoo of Imam Sahib district Shopian.

During the Yatra, officers and officials continued to aware people about government schemes and interacted with them and other beneficiaries.

Under Meri Kahani, Meri Zubaani, beneficiaries of different schemes shared their experiences with the people on the occasion. Drone and soil health card demonstrations, health camps for

screening of TB, Sickle Cell Anaemia and other on spot services were provided to the locals of Imamsahib.

The Officers and officials remained busy in IEC activities at all these Panchayats of the block.

Flagship schemes, including PM KISAN, Vishwakarma, Suraksha Bima Yojna, Jeevan Jyoti, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan

Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, JJM, Poshan Abhiyaan and scores of other schemes including welfare, employment and income generation based schemes were highlighted.

The yatra witnessed mass participation of people, PRIs, prominent citizens and the officials of various departments.

registered in the union territory last year.

The NCRB report said that a total of 1956 cases were pending for investigation from the previous year (i.e 2021).

It said last year 154 cases of economic offense have been reopened for investigation by the police.

The report said that 129 cases of economic offense have been transferred to other states or agencies last year.

Moreover, 192 cases ended last year as the final report was false, the NCRB report said.

It said the police disposed-of 1044 cases related to the economic offense.

Pertinently, the government last year had declared the offices of six wings of the Crime Branch J&K as the Police Stations "for the purpose of registration and investigation" of varied economic offences besides special, cyber crimes.

These wings included Special Crime Wing (SCW), Jammu; Special Crime Wing (SCW), Srinagar; Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Jammu; Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Srinagar; Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), Jammu, and Cyber Crime Investiga-

tion Centre for Excellence (CICE), Srinagar.

In 2020, the government accorded sanction to the establishment of an independent Economic Offences Wing in the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Srinagar's security plan...

a fair idea of the shortcomings, avoid confusion in order to make it a perfect and comprehensive counter-terrorism grid.

The ADGP has stressed upon all the officers that the idea of a perfect security grid is only possible if things discussed in the meeting are implemented on ground in letter and spirit.

The police said that ADGP also focused upon strengthening the function of the joint police control room and better communication mechanism between field officers of CRPF and police in Srinagar City.

"Area domination of water bodies was discussed and included in the area domination plan in today's security meeting," the police said. (Agencies)

Dedicated section for Elderly Readers inaugurated at District Library Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 5

In a significant move, a dedicated section for elderly readers was today inaugurated at District Library Kathua by Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas.

ADC Kathua Ranjeet Singh, Librarian Sunil Sharma, and a large number of readers and Senior citizens participated.

The inauguration of this unique section has been made possible through the generous donation of infrastructure worth Rs 1 lakh by Mangal Singh & Priya Andotra. This gracious contribution has facilitated the creation and establishment of a thoughtfully designed space tailored to meet the reading needs and preferences of senior citizens.



Recognizing the importance of fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals in their golden years, the newly established section is equipped with a diverse collection of books, periodicals, and resources suiting the interests and requirements of elderly readers. The space is meticulously designed to provide comfort, accessibility, and a serene ambience conducive to unhurried reading and intellectual engagement.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, DC Rakesh Minhas expressed

profound gratitude to Mangal Singh & Priya Andotra for their benevolent donation, emphasizing the significance of initiatives that prioritize the enrichment and well-being of the senior members of our society. "Their contribution not only underscores a commitment to education and literacy but also symbolizes a gesture of respect and appreciation for our elder community members", DC said. While expressing his happiness for the contribution made to enrich the lives of senior citizens, Mangal Singh said that this is just a small token of love for

the elderly readers who are still connected with the literary world during their golden years.

The library management extends heartfelt thanks to Mangal Singh & Priya Andotra for their invaluable support in materializing this dedicated section for senior citizens. This noble act will undoubtedly serve as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging others to contribute towards initiatives that promote inclusivity and support for our elderly population.

The library welcomes all senior citizens to explore and make the most of this thoughtfully crafted section, inviting them to immerse themselves in the joy of reading and knowledge acquisition within a welcoming and conducive environment.

Nikshay Diwas observed in Samba District



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 5

Nikshay Diwas, an annual event aimed at raising awareness about tuberculosis, was observed today at the District Hospital Samba. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished dignitaries including Deputy Commissioner Samba Abhishek Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Benam Tosh, and other notable personalities from the medical field.

During the event, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma interacted with tuberculosis patients, assuring them of the administration's commitment to provide necessary support. His words of reassurance brought solace to those present,

highlighting the administration's dedication to the community's well-being.

The event reached its pinnacle with the distribution of Nikshay Poshan, provided graciously by Nikshay Mitras. The distribution was led by a distinguished group, including Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Benam Tosh, and various other esteemed individuals from medical and administrative backgrounds. Nikshay Diwas serves as a crucial platform to underscore the collaborative efforts of the community and administration in combating the challenges posed by tuberculosis. It highlights the importance of united endeavors toward eradicating this health threat.

Ace Shooter Chain Singh interacts with Students, Players at Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 5

Ace Indian Sports Shooter Chain Singh (JCO Indian Army) today interacted with Players and Students here at Rifle Shooting Hall in Indoor Sports Stadium Doda.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Harvinder Singh and SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom were also present.

Chain Singh interacted with the players/Students and shared his experience in the field of shooting with them. He appreciated the District Administration for making available adequate shooting infrastructure in the district. After threadbare

discussion and the deliberations with the officers, DDC Doda asked PWD R&B to furnish shooting range and tendering for Main Gate/ Fencing of Sports Stadium Doda within 20 days.

The DDC directed DYSSO Doda and ZPEOs to organize Talent hunt cum Trial in the discipline of Rifle Shooting in all Ten Sports Zones and furnish detailed requirements of sports equipment for archery games within 02 months.

Deputy Director Employment Idrees Ahmed Lne, DYSSO Jaffar Haider Shiekh; Xen PWD R&B, Manoj Kumar and EO MC Doda Yousaf-UL-Umar were also present.

DC Kathua reviews preparedness for Panchayat Secretary Recruitment Examination

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 5

Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Rakesh Minhas today presided over a comprehensive meeting at the DC office complex to review the preparedness for the upcoming Panchayat Secretary Examination being conducted by JKSSB. The meeting focused on ensuring meticulous planning for a fair and seamless examination process.

In the meeting, DC issued crucial directives to stakeholder departments, emphasizing the imperative of a transparent and equitable examination environment. Departments including RTO, DTO, Police, and the Principals of educational institutions were given specific instructions to uphold standards that facilitate the smooth execution of the examination. Addressing the importance of comprehensive monitoring, the Information Department was specifically directed to engage videographers to oversee and record the examination proceedings, ensuring adherence to established protocols.

Threadbare discussions were held wherein Magistrate, Center Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Observers received comprehensive briefings on their roles and responsibilities during the critical

recruitment process from the DC.

Logistics plans for the examination day were thoroughly reviewed by the DC, who emphasized the importance of pro-lighting, seating arrangements, and bold signages across all examination centers. Ensuring candidate facilitation, he stressed on making adequate arrangements for drinking water and toilet facilities.

The DC called for putting in place foolproof arrangements to avoid any malpractices during the examination. He also stressed the need to ensure adherence to the Standard Operating procedures and guidelines for fair and smooth conduct of the examination.

The DC further said that the examination being conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board is scheduled to take place on December 10 across 30 centres in the district; As many as 13252 candidates are going to appear in the Exam.

The DC stressed the significance of coordinated efforts from various departments to guarantee the integrity and fairness of the examination.

Among others, SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal, ADC Ranjit Singh, designated magistrate were also present in the meeting.

DLSCC clears 04 SRO-43 cases at Bandipora



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 5

The District Level Screening Committee (DLSCC) meeting on Tuesday cleared 04 militancy-affected cases.

The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad. During

the meeting, the cases were cleared for recruitment under SRO-43 while other cases were approved and referred to the concerned department for further necessary action. Among others, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, DySP Bandipora Shafaat Najar, besides officers of the Army, also attended the meeting.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra sensitizes people about CSSs across Ramban



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 5

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) on Tuesday visited eight Panchayats of block Ramban to sensitize the people, besides saturating the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in every nook and corner of the district.

IEC Vans accorded a rousing welcome by PRIs, senior citizens, youth, and local residents on its arrival in eight Panchayats. Under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner, officials engaged people with knowledge enriching audio-video material displayed on big screen mounted on IEC Van.

On the Eighth day, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) campaign traversed Panchayat Dhandrath-C, Dhandrath-B, Seri- A, Gam, Seri-B, Maroge, Bagna and Balihote- A in district Ramban. Started on November 28, the Yatra has gained further momentum across Ramban by covering 63 Panchayats of the district.

The people from all walks of life participated in different activities in their respective panchayats. They listened attentively to recorded video messages from the Prime Minister, emphasizing the significance of the campaign.

Pertinently, the Yatra aims to reach out to the unserved population, making them aware of various Government schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib

Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, PM Kisan Saman Yojana, Jeevan Joti Bima Yojana, along with the process to avail benefits.

During the day, Health camps, Sankalp pledges, and outreach activities were organized, besides services were made available on-the-spot to the common masses.

Beneficiaries, who have availed services, also expressed their experiences under Meri Kahaani, Meri Zubaani initiative and extended their gratitude for the seamless services delivery.

The activities that were carried out included awareness lectures on various Government welfare schemes by resource persons, Viksit Bharat Sankalp pledges, free medical camps, and Cultural and sports events were also organized on the occasion. Various welfare, employment, insurance, social security and income generation based schemes were highlighted by all departments who had established their departmental stalls.

Tehsildar Ramban, S. Harvir Singh, BDO, Tanzeel Runyal and various other officers participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in different Panchayats of Block Ramban.

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

VBSY kick-starts in 6 Panchayats of Kathua District



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 5

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) was accorded a warm welcome by PRIs, senior citizens, youth, and local residents on its arrival in six panchayats of block Hiranagar, Dinga-Amb and Duggan Blocks of Kathua district today.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra witnessed enthusiastic and vibrant participation of all stakeholders in panchayat Satura of Hiranagar block, Kattli Panchayat of Block Dinga-Amb besides four panchayats namely Dhaggar, Dhaman, Dulungal and Duggan of Block Duggan today.

They listened attentively to recorded video messages from the Prime Minister, emphasizing the significance of the cam-

aign. 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.

DC B'pora reviews preparations for forthcoming Armed Forces Flag Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 5

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for forthcoming Armed Forces Flag Day celebrations.

Highlighting the importance of the day, the DC said that Armed Forces Flag Day provides the citizens an opportunity to show their gratitude to the Armed Forces.

He asked officers to ensure contribution towards Armed Forces

Flag Day Fund, adding that this contribution towards the fund is acknowledgment of the services rendered by the armed forces towards the nation.

Dr Owais Ahmad also directed the officers to ensure participation on 07th December in Armed Forces Flag Day celebrations.

The meeting among others was attended by ADC Bandipora, DySP Bandipora, Zilla Sanik Welfare Officer Bandipora/ Baramulla, officers from various departments like Education and Health.

World soil day observed at Doda by Agriculture Department



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 5

The Department of Agriculture Doda orchestrated a World Soil Day celebration at the Soil Testing Lab, here today.

Assistant Soil Chemist Haroon Hussain led the event and delivered an insightful lecture on the program's importance.

Anil Gupta (CAO DOA) provided overall supervision, and Pawan Talwar, a District level SMS, graced

the event as the guest of honor. Among the attendees were farmers and key figures like Touqeer Kafy (Lab Incharge), Wasim Abdullah, Wajahat Hussain, and Liaqat Ali. Their participation highlighted the collaboration between professionals and farmers in promoting awareness about soil health and sustainable agricultural practices, fostering a holistic approach to environmental stewardship.

DST, GoI approves i-TBI on the proposal submitted by Deptt. of Management Studies, GDC Sopore

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 5

The Deptt. of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India (GoI) has approved Inclusive Technology Business Incubator (i-TBI) on the proposal submitted by the Deptt. of Management Studies, Government Degree College Boys Sopore.

For setting up Inclusive Technology Business Incubator in this college, a sanctioned grant of Rs. 3.90 Crores, Vide TPN No. 94686 Dated 30-10-2023 has been approved. The proposal is the first of its kind to be approved in favour of any Degree

College in UT of J&K. The i-TBI will provide ignition grant (grant in aid), a funding support to innovators/startups to convert their idea into prototypes/products that have potential for commercialization. The maximum funding support to an innovator/startup will be upto Rs. 10 Lakhs. It will provide a platform to budding entrepreneurs, innovators and start-ups for identification, development and commercialization of new products. The thrust area for the project has been identified as Information Technology, which has huge potential for innovation in J&K.

10 day Training for sheep breeders concludes

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

The 10 day Training Programme organized for breeders under the Capacity Building component for (HADP Project) for effective processing and marketing of wool & Pelt concluded today. Felicitation ceremony to distribute the certificates among Shearing trainees was

organized at Sheep Husbandry Complex Jammu. Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary emphasised the need of organizing such training on regular intervals to keep the breeders abreast of new techniques of shearing and management of sheep for better employment generation.

EDITORIAL

Breaking the ice

Finally, the ongoing stalemate between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and leaders of Ladakh came to an end after two sides held discussions on all major demands being projected by the latter. The leaders from arid region vociferously raised, inter-alia, the issue of Statehood and Constitutional Safeguards to the region under Sixth Schedule during the first official meeting of reconstituted High Powered Committee (HPC), headed by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, in New Delhi on Monday. The meeting was held in a "very cordial and friendly atmosphere" but it failed to bring result and remained inconclusive with the Centre remaining "non-committal" to fulfillment of major demands under four-point agenda put forth by Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)—two organisations spearheading the movement for constitutional safeguards for the people of Ladakh. The Centre has reportedly asked the leaders of Ladakh to explore the options other than Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for protection of land, culture, identity, and sought written representations from them. The Centre assured the joint delegation of KDA and LAB for "uninterrupted talks" to resolve all issues confronting the people of Ladakh post-bifurcation of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and grant of UT status to Ladakh. The BJP-led government is intended to engage all stakeholders in dialogue to resolve all issues amicably. The next meeting is likely to be held after the Parliament session. Apart from grant of Statehood and Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh, the leaders held a detailed discussion on their demand for a separate Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for Ladakh and employment opportunities, including setting up of the Public Services Commission (PSC). The Union MoS Home had chaired a high-level meeting of Ladakh leaders in North Block, New Delhi on June 19 wherein the KDA and the LAB leaders stressed for inclusion of their agenda whenever the HPC constituted by the Union Home Ministry to discuss issues of Ladakh, meets. Though the Union Government had earlier ruled out Statehood for Ladakh but the MHA this time conveyed Ladakh leaders that all issues could be discussed in the meeting that prompted the latter to accept the invite for talks. The MHA has constituted High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, with a mandate to discuss measures to protect the Ladakh region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and its strategic importance to ensure protection of land and employment, measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region, measures related to empowerment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil and Constitutional safeguards that could be provided to ensure the measures and protection as mentioned above. Though the leaders of Ladakh are not happy with the outcome of the meeting, yet they have kept their fingers crossed and they are hopeful that the Government of India would take a positive call to address their issues to fulfill all aspirations of Ladakhi people.

PROF. D.K. GIRI

The results of elections of 4 states are out. They have defied the pollsters, debunked many conventional election methods and despaired many. At the same time, there is much jubilation in BJP as the results seem to have queered the pitch for the 2024 General Elections. Both sides, the ruling regime at the Centre and the opposition had made these elections a litmus test for the general elections next year. It should not have been conceived that way.

In 2018 assembly elections, BJP lost in all the three states - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh but 5 months later, in the parliamentary elections, BJPs swept all the three states. The trend may repeat. One of the states, Rajasthan has maintained the trend of voting out the incumbent government, and voting differently in Assembly and Parliament elections. The southern state Kerala was similar, but it terminated that trend by re-electing the Left-Front Government. So, the political observers, commentators and pollsters should draw a lesson from these elections, that never take the Indian electorate for granted. Out of all electorates in democracies across the world, Indian voters have the unique trait of throwing up surprises, there is nothing called safe constituency nor

is there any predictable lead by any party. People's moods can change even during the campaign. Do not get me wrong, I am not suggesting that Indian electorate is volatile. On the contrary, it is one with maturity and is known for delivering political verdicts.

To be sure, voters are influenced by multiple factors - emotional, perceptual, cultural, social, economic, security - perceived or real, and so on. This is where pollsters falter. By using western tools, they tend to come to generalization. The sample is not comprehensive nor representative in densely populous constituencies as ours.

Be that as it may. Let us engage with the various reactions and interpretations of the results. Again, these reactions stem from multiple sources depending upon people's own assessment, perspectives, and predilections.

Let us sample some, it is the Modi magic that worked. It still does in North India if not in South, as was evident in the results of Karnataka and Telangana. BJP has a formidable election machinery consisting of cadres, RSS volunteers and staggering financial resources. Third, BJP has successfully polarised the electorate. All the three factors ring true to a great extent. On comparative organizational strength, BJP easily beats all the others including the Congress Party. In fact, there

are only two cadre-based parties in India. One is BJP and the other, CPM and its sister-Communist parties.

Note one grassroots unit of BJP, which is called panah pramukh, which is the head of a page. It means there is a page of party workers numbering, say thirty to fifty, someone is appointed to mentor and monitor them. There may be no such parallel structure anywhere in the world. In terms of resources, BJP may be only next to the Chinese communist party (CCP), although China does not have elections like ours. On polarisation, yes, BJP believes in majority Hindu domination, although they have Muslims and Christian members in the party. In electoral politics, they seek to consolidate and count upon the Hindu votes. By denying the ticket to their only Muslim MLA in Rajasthan, BJP reiterated their polarisation mechanism of electioneering.

The comment made by the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is instructive and merits some elaboration. She said, "BJP did not win these elections, the Congress lost them". The idiom used in reverse order illustrates her comment, "The Congress managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory". What are the avoidable factors that led to the defeats of Congress. One, Congress lacked a competitive election apparatus mainly workers on

the ground. In Madhya Pradesh, the entire election was left to Kamal Nath who was also announced to be the CM if the party won the elections. There were other leaders who were resenting him, they concentrated on winning their own seats without bothering for the party's victory. In Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Chief Ministers, Ashok Ghelot and Bhupesh Baghel activated the anti-incumbency factor. BJP mitigated this by sidelining their Chief Minister Shivraj Chauhan. So, not projecting chief ministerial faces which was supposed to be a drawback, worked for BJP. The in-fighting and factionalism with a vacillating central leadership made things worse for the Congress. In addition, Congress seems to have paid a heavy price for ignoring the INDIA partners. The Congress party pivoted the Alliance and is expected to work as the glue to hold the smaller regional partners together. But the Congress overconfidence bordering on arrogance let them down. Remember the cheap jibe made by Kamal Nath at the Samajwadi National President Akhilesh Yadav, "Chhodo Akhilesh Vakhilesh" (leave out Akhilesh and his ilk). Samajwadi Party wanted only 5 seats. Giving those seats to SP would not have made any difference to Congress. Akhilesh should have then campaigned for Congress elsewhere. It would have mobilised certainly the Yadav voters

and won seats in areas adjoining Uttar Pradesh.

Similarly, in Rajasthan, leaving out the Tribals and Dalits would have cost Congress votes. The margin of the victory in many constituencies is under thousand votes. Bhartiya Adivasi Party, a splinter of Bhartiya Tribal Party should have been accommodated, likewise the BSP of Mayawati.

On policy plank, an aggressive campaign on caste census focusing on OBC votes would have alienated the Adivasis and Dalits. OBCs are not a homogeneous group; there are several castes within OBC and are often antagonistic to each other. OBC and welfareism did not go together. The elites in the OBCs are aspirational and may not be swayed by state patronage. However, OBC politics is debatable as OBCs do constitute the majority of voters. Congress may not have played this card dexterously. Fifth, there has been a confused presentation of Congress plank. The Congress party, for a few years, has been suffering from ideological inconsistency and turbidity - swinging between cosmopolitanism and soft Hindutva. Kamal Nath is said to have indulged in soft Hindutva. At any rate, there will be more explanations for the defeat of Congress and the victory of BJP in the days to come.

Let me pontificate on the causes of Congress defeat in the election results. Admittedly, it was

a surprise for many of us. I had expected BJP to lose in the states, but win the parliament elections; a repeat of Indira Gandhi days when she lost several states, but retained power at the centre. That is not what the results showed. My take is that the Indian electorate, especially in North India, wants a strong leader both in states and at the centres. BJP provides that leadership, backed by an ideologically sound and organizationally united party. One may disagree with BJP, but cannot dispute their ideological and organizational coherence. Indian politics is leadership based. So, without strong, decisive and communicative leaders, parties cannot win elections. The comparison between Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi is always made, where the latter pales into ineffectiveness and insignificance. Rahul Gandhi does not yet represent Indian ethos, wisdom and maturity. He has a band of jejune and incompetent advisors - that makes the difference. Finally, there is a clear North-South divide in Indian electorate. Except Karnataka, BJP has no sizeable presence in the South. But Congress and regional parties need to beware that BJP is making inroads; they have ruled alternately in Karnataka, and have increased their number from 1 to 9 in Telangana Assembly. There is a lot to think about for the Congress and the Opposition!

CONGRESS HAS PERFORMED MUCH BETTER IN STATE POLLS COMPARED TO 2019

DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA

The outcome of the five Assembly elections held in November has proved almost all opinion polls and ground reports wrong. Even the few exit polls that predicted a thumping BJP victory in Madhya Pradesh gave the Congress a comfortable majority in neighbouring Chhattisgarh. The clean BJP sweep of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has therefore come as a major surprise after the BJP's recent losses in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka and given the signs of a popular yearning for change in Madhya Pradesh after eighteen years of BJP rule and no such visible anti-incumbency against the Congress governments of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

For the Congress, which was perceived to be on the ascendant after its Himachal and Karnataka victories, the only win has come in Telangana. The Telangana developments of course mark a significant change for this newly created state and also in the larger context of political balance in south India, but the Telangana victory of the Congress cannot but be overshadowed by the party's loss in the three big states in central and western India.

Before looking at the factors that led to this surprising outcome, let us take a closer look at the changes in vote share in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It will appear that in terms of vote share, the Congress has not suffered any major decline - its vote share has decreased by 0.6% in Madhya Pradesh (41 to 40.4), 0.9% in Chhattisgarh (43.1 to 42.2) and

even registered a very marginal increase of 0.2% in Rajasthan (39.3 to 39.5). What dramatically changed the outcome is a major increase in the BJP's vote share - by 7.45% in Madhya Pradesh (41.1 to 48.55), 13.27% in Chhattisgarh (33 to 46.27) and 2.9% in Rajasthan (38.8 to 41.7). On the face of it, the increase in the BJP's vote share has therefore happened not so much at the cost of the Congress as other non-BJP parties, but we clearly need to look beyond the figures at the actual social and electoral shifts on the ground.

Having suffered defeats in Himachal and Karnataka, the BJP was of course desperate to retain Madhya Pradesh and wrest Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh from the Congress. The elections witnessed brazen use of the ED all through the election period, double standards adopted by the EC in dealing with alleged violations of the model code of conduct and reported administrative manipulations at different levels and stages of the election process. But fair elections cannot really be expected in today's India. For non-BJP forces to succeed in elections, an election campaign must turn into a veritable people's movement full of energy, mass participation and meticulous booth-level mobilisation. The victorious Congress election campaigns in Karnataka and Telangana exhibited considerable mass dynamism and energy, but the campaigns in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and even Rajasthan, the best fought among the three, lacked this dynamism and energy.

In Karnataka, the Congress had won by exposing the corruption and all-



round failure of the incumbent BJP government led by Bommali. But learning from Karnataka, the BJP in Madhya Pradesh tried to defuse the anti-incumbency factor by fielding several ministers and MPs as MLA candidates even as CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan ran a hectic personalised campaign focusing on the flagship schemes of his government. To counter the appeal of the promises made by the Congress, the BJP made similar offers and termed them 'Modi's Guarantee'. The fusion of the Modi cult and the model of targeted direct transfer-based 'welfare economics' aimed at converting 'beneficiaries' into bonded voters seems to have once again worked as a complement to communal polarisation and aggressive Hindutva. The BJP had successfully applied this formula earlier this year in UP elections and now once again in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

In the wake of its impressive Karnataka victory, the Congress centrally focused on two issues - the Adani-Modi nexus

and caste census. For the Congress, which has never been a known votary of caste census and expanded reservation, the focus on OBC representation and caste census is a welcome new direction, but how far has the message percolated to the entire organisation and become an integral part of its political articulation? While the central leaders of Congress raised this issue, in Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath was busy seeking the blessings of Hindu Rashtra champion Bageshwar Baba (Dhirendra Shastri). Similarly the issue of Adani-Modi nexus does not just represent institutionalized corruption, it represents the most brazen face of corporate aggression. The farmers' movement successfully challenged this arrogant corporate power and any effective political campaign against the Modi-Adani nexus will have to forge organic ties with the growing unity of farmers and workers for a reorientation of India's economic policy towards people's welfare and the rights of India's real producers.

Another major weakness of the Congress campaign in these elections was the complete absence of any will or plan to harness the potential of the INDIA alliance. On the contrary, we saw a totally unwarranted war of words between the Congress and Samajwadi Party in Madhya Pradesh. In Telangana, the Congress has effectively channelised the accumulated anti-incumbency against the BRS government into a significant victory for the Congress, but we must remember that the BJP too has succeeded in doubling its vote share from 7% to 13.9% and the seat tally from the lone seat in the outgoing Assembly to eight seats. Any serious attempt at seat adjustment with the Left, SP, the newly formed Bhartiya Adivasi Party and at harnessing the INDIA potential in the campaign could have made significant differences in all states and even further improved the Congress tally in Telangana.

There has often been a North-South divide in India's electoral outcomes, most notably we had wit-

nessed a sharp contrast in the post-Emergency 1977 election when the Congress was wiped out from North India even as it did fairly well in the southern states. The doors being shut on the BJP in the south certainly marks a major blow to the BJP's ambitions to dominate India for decades, but the decisive defeat of the party in 2024 will have to be shaped north of the Vindhyas. In Mizoram, the ZPM has swept the polls dislodging the NDA-affiliated MNF from power, but here too the BJP has increased its tally from 1 to 2 while the Congress tally has gone down from 5 to 1.

The concluding round of 2023 elections has certainly been a big morale-booster for the BJP, and the Modi regime has already started talking of scoring a 'hat trick' in 2024. This is nothing but psychological warfare. The fact is if the Assembly results in the four states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Telangana are seen in Lok Sabha terms, the Congress actually improves its tally from its 2019 strength of 6 to 28 and BJP tally actually goes down from 65 to 46. The Assembly elections have certainly not settled the outcome of 2024 in the BJP's favour and if we draw proper lessons it is still perfectly possible to dislodge the BJP from power in 2024. The onus is of course on INDIA to get its act together without any further delay and launch an energetic mass campaign on the burning issues of the day to galvanise the people towards a decisive victory in 2024. (IPA Service)

**The writer is the general secretary of CPI(M/L) Liberation

MICRONUTRIENT STATUS AND METABOLIC HEALTH: THE LINK

HELENA EZZELDIN

Macronutrients are a primary focus area while planning a diet. However, they are not the whole story. The human body must consume a balanced diet with micronutrients – vitamins, minerals, amino acids, fatty acids, enzymes, and coenzymes. In addition, micronutrients play a multi-faceted role in your health, from strengthening your bones to enhancing the immune system.

Vitamins, minerals, and other specialized micronutrients are essential for preserving one's health. Micronutrients maintain your cells' health and the proper operation of biological processes. Maintaining optimal cellular nourishment with micronutrients is necessary to generate energy, control stress, balance mood, sleep, and other vital functions.

It is challenging to plan the proper intake of macro and micronutrients in our daily lives. Also, with metabolic illnesses like diabetes, heart issues, cancer, etc., increasing, it becomes crucial to pay attention to food intake. One way of doing it is by subscribing to HealthifyPRO 2.0. It has various features like weight analysis, blood glucose level monitoring, metabolic panel testing, and personalized consultation with a coach. As a result, you learn to create optimum meal plans and healthy lifestyle habits that keep you metabolically healthy by modifying your diet plans.

Micronutrients, specifically several B vitamins, vitamin C, iron, magnesium, and zinc, are linked to cognitive and psychological symptoms like exhaustion on a molecular and cellular level, according to substantial biochemical and clinical data. They are rich in various dietary sources (naturally occurring or fortified nutrients) and supplements. In addition, cells also produce certain micronutrients through internal synthesis.

Note

Micronutrients play a crucial role in maintaining overall growth and development. But unfortunately, most people are unaware of its significance and tend to ignore its part in the daily diet. Each source of micronutrients has potential drawbacks when attempting to eat optimally. For instance, some kinds of supplementary nutrients are less effective than others, and malabsorption and inadequate microbial synthesis of micronutrients can be the outcomes.

Micronutrients: An overview

In general, vitamins and minerals are micronutrients. Proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates are examples of macronutrients. Compared to macronutrients, your body requires fewer micronutrients. Since the body can rarely generate vitamins and minerals, humans must get their micronutrients from their food.

When you eat a nutritious diet, you intake adequate minerals and vitamins as each vitamin and mineral has a unique purpose in your body. Hence optimum health status requires an appropriate intake of all micronutrients.

Studies suggest that vitamins and minerals are essential for growth, immune system health, brain devel-



opment, and many other critical processes. In addition, according to studies and reports, some micronutrients may also help to prevent and treat chronic diseases depending on their role.

Micronutrients and Metabolic Health: The Connection

Macronutrients carbohydrates, protein, and fat are essential for the metabolic fitness of an individual. However, while these macronutrients play a significant role in how the body makes energy and fights disease, they by no means work in isolation.

They are coupled with micronutrients such as antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, trace metals, and others to work in conjunction to keep your immune system strong. Micronutrients play a crucial part in helping the cells to carry out their standard process and to let the body function at its peak at the cellular level.

Most nutrients play a significant role in the chain reactions that control every aspect of your body's metabolism and involve proteins, enzymes, and hormones. The system will break down as a whole even if one of the linkages is weak or absent. They can function as catalysts for crucial chemical processes, constituents of essential proteins, and more.

Given the wide range of micronutrients, following a nutritious and balanced diet is vital to prevent scurvy, blindness, rickets, weak bones, and other congenital disabilities. According to a study, obesity and Type 2 diabetes can also impact the micronutrient level. In addition, research links insulin resistance to micronutrient deficiencies, particularly those in calcium, magnesium, and zinc.

Effects of Micronutrients Deficiency

Consumption of micronutrients in a particular ratio is critical to carry out their specific activities in your body. A vitamin or mineral might have adverse side effects if consumed excessively or too little. A balanced diet will allow people to consume enough micronutrients for most healthy adults. However, some groups are more prone to dietary deficits than others.

Each nutrient's indications, symptoms, and long-term impacts vary. Still, they can harm your body's ability to function properly and maintain optimal health. Here's how the deficiency of micronutrients can affect your metabolic

health.

Fatigue

Since vitamins are essential for producing energy and are involved in overall processes, insufficient levels of vitamins can slow the process down and increase the likelihood of developing fatigue or weakness.

Even after eating, you might not feel energized or active because the body won't be able to fuel the cells. Such vitamin deficiencies accompanied by fatigue happen due to poor diet choices, such as those high in sugar and saturated fats.

Constant Hunger

Satiety depends on the vitamins we consume and whether or not the stomach is full. The ability to control hunger and satiety depends on various amino acids and minerals, including B vitamins. If your diet is on track and you're eating healthy foods, you may have noticed that you don't feel hungry between meals.

One reason indicates the importance of concentrating on nutrition rather than calories when attempting to lose weight. You are more inclined to overeat to feel fulfilled due to lacking specific vitamins and amino acids, eventually resulting in weight gain.

Hair Thinning

Hair loss is another negative side effect of not providing your metabolism with the proper micronutrients. For example, suppose you experience excessive hair loss or thinning when you brush or shower could be a sign of a deficit in vitamin level. Micronutrients are necessary for hair growth, and if there is any deficiency, the health of the hair and nails will be at risk. As a result, you experience severe hair loss, dandruff and others.

Depression and Lack of Motivation

With a balanced diet, you will feel motivated and want to take active steps toward your goals. Uncontrollable mood swings and a lack of motivation aren't always personality traits. Numerous brain functions depend on vitamins and minerals, so deficiencies in these nutrients increase the risk of neurotransmitter depletion.

The neurotransmitter damage can cause mood swings, anxiety, despair, and a loss of enthusiasm for activities you once found enjoyable. Remember that your body functions mainly through chemical reactions

can either be created when sunshine strikes the skin or absorbed via eating meat, or taken as a supplement. The other primary type of vitamin D, vitamin D₂, is typically consumed as a supplement or synthetic food additive. According to research, some vitamin D is better absorbed in higher-fat diets.

Three ounces of trout or salmon will get you close to the needed amount of vitamins. On the other hand, half a cup of UV-grown mushrooms has almost half the recommended vitamin D. Furthermore, a tablespoon of cod liver oil has a high level of vitamin D. Hence, please consult your coach if your usual diet is deficient in vitamin D.

Magnesium

Vitamin D doesn't function metabolically by itself. Studies suggest that magnesium is necessary for Vitamin D metabolism. A meta-analysis with six trials and around 25,000 patients shows a strong link between magnesium insufficiency and metabolic syndrome. The researchers found that a person's overall risk of developing metabolic syndrome fell by 17% for every daily increase of 100 mg of magnesium.

Ways to Get Magnesium

Pumpkin seeds, which contain 156 milligrams of magnesium per ounce, are one of the best food sources of the mineral. Chia seeds include 95 milligrams per ounce, while other healthy sources of magnesium include almonds, spinach, cashews, and peanuts. Additionally, black beans, edamame, soy milk, and peanut butter all contain it.

The magnesium most readily absorbed by the body when taken as supplements include magnesium aspartate, magnesium citrate, magnesium lactate, and magnesium chloride. Also, remember that magnesium supplements can conflict with some antibiotics and osteoporosis treatments.

Zinc

The body requires zinc in more than 300 metabolic pathways. Numerous enzymes responsible for synthesizing carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, insulin signaling, and vitamin D activation depend on zinc. It is crucial in assisting the immune system and is also associated with diabetes and insulin resistance. Furthermore, an unbalanced zinc level may increase a person's risk for high blood sugar and obesity.

Zinc Sources

The body cannot store zinc; hence, you must obtain it through your diet. Nearly seven times zinc's recommended level is present in three ounces of oysters. About half of the necessary zinc intake for men and almost the entire daily intake for women are present in an equal amount of beef or crab. An ounce of pumpkin seeds or cashews can satisfy roughly 15-25% of your daily calorie needs if you're a vegetarian.

Just remember that some seeds, nuts, legumes, and whole grains contain phytic acid, phosphorus that binds to zinc and hinders absorption. It indicates that plant-based meals are less abundant sources of zinc than animal foods. However, phytic acid levels decreased using easy techniques like soaking, fermenting, or sprouting food.

like an engine. Thus it is not possible to perform at its best level if you don't provide it with the necessary fuel.

Urge to Eat Even When Not Hungry

As mentioned above, vitamins have a role in appetite and fullness. Still, it's not just about whether you feel hungry or not. Even though you've recently had a meal, cravings for certain meals (or simply any food) are more likely to occur when you're micronutrient deficient.

Cravings are a surefire sign that you need to increase your vitamin and mineral consumption. Iodine, zinc, selenium, and tyrosine, an amino acid, play an essential role in thyroid function. While chromium, inositol, and alpha-lipoic acid are for optimal insulin activity.

Note

It's crucial to start consuming the correct vitamins and minerals and boost your activity level if you want to accelerate your metabolism. If you have dietary needs that make it challenging to meet all your nutritional requirements, combine a balanced, healthy diet with necessary supplements. Additionally, increasing your activity level by getting up to move around frequently and walking briskly for at least 20 minutes will improve your metabolic health.

Essential Micronutrients for Healthy Metabolism

Depending on heredity and lifestyle, all of us have unique micronutrient needs. Therefore, consult your nutritionist for advice on the recommended daily intake of each micronutrient.

Below are some crucial micronutrients and the ways to acquire them to prevent the onset of various metabolic-related diseases.

Vitamin D

The liver breaks down vitamin D when consumed or created through sun exposure before kidney enzymes convert it to calcitriol, the active form. The calcitriol controls how the skeleton can utilize the nutrients and the metabolism of calcium and phosphate, the two main minerals that strengthen bones.

Ways to Get Vitamin D

Sunlight exposure accounts for 50 to 90% of vitamin D consumption, as the name indicates "sunshine vitamin." Vitamin D₃, one of the two primary forms of the vitamin,

BRIEFLY HEALTH NEWS

Black or white? Study reveals the best way to drink tea for a longer life

The love for tea and coffee is a profound one – those that want a cup at the start of the day, in the evening, or at the end know how much they need the refreshing beverage throughout the day. Little do they realise how it could be key to living a longer and healthier life.

How does black tea contribute to longevity?

A new study recently decoded how drinking tea in a particular way and in specific quantities could add years to life. According to a study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* journal, people aged 40 to 69 were analysed for their diet, lifestyle habits and tea intake – 85 per cent admitted to being tea drinkers, while 89 per cent had black tea drinking two to five cups a day. Researchers discovered that people who drank more than two cups of black tea a day had a lower risk of dying from heart stroke or stroke – their cumulative risk of mortality dipped by 12 per cent upon drinking three cups of black tea in a day. Additionally, adding milk or sugar did not affect the benefits.

Black tea – A nutrient profile

And as far as the health benefits of black tea are concerned, experts say that the inflammation-curbing effects of the drink could help reduce the risk of diabetes, stroke, and heart disease. Additionally, this beverage is rich in phytonutrients, polyphenols, catechins, and antioxidants that have anti-inflammatory effects on the body. On the nutrition front, one cup of black tea contains 2.4 calories and small traces of carbohydrates, fibre, proteins, and fats. Inflammation is significantly affected by dietary and lifestyle choices – what one eats, and drinks in a day. Although it is the body's natural response to the external invasion, chronic and excessive inflammation could be associated with heightened disease risk.

Beware! Chemo brain can cause anxiety, depression, panic attacks in cancer patients

Cancer not only takes a physical toll on a person's body but there are mental health effects as well. The extensive cancer treatments that include chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and hormone therapy take a toll, causing cognitive impairment known as Chemo brain.

Many times, cancer patients experience: Memory lapses and forgetting obvious things, Concentration troubles or feeling spaced out, Problems in multitasking. Not being able to learn anything new, Super disorganised or slow in thinking and processing things, Not able to complete sentences. According to doctors, chemo brain is a temporary phase that lasts a short time but can have long-term repercussions.

What causes chemo brain?

When a cancer patient undergoes chemotherapy or any related treatments, there are a lot of changes that happen in the body, like losing appetite, hair falling, feeling weak, marks on the body, etc. These changes cause a drastic effect on a person's thinking and confidence, leading to chemo brain. Doctors say a lot of patients also end up in stress and depression when things worsen.

A few main causes of chemo brain can be classified as: Tumors, that can cause anxiety and stress, Cancer medicines or drugs that have steroids, Other co-morbidities like high blood pressure or diabetes, Fatigue or tiredness, Older age. After effects of surgery when mobility is low, Depending on others, Hormonal changes, Nutritional deficiencies.

How to treat chemo brain?

Doctors believe that if the short-term effects of chemo brain stay for a longer time, they can culminate into other mental health issues like panic attacks, anxiety, bipolar disorder, etc. Hence, it is imperative to get treated by the following:

Cognitive rehabilitation: It is another part of the cancer rehabilitation programme where activities are undertaken to make the patient normal after the treatment is over. These include performing and memory-gaining tasks and activities that help in strengthening cognitive abilities.

Therapies: Contacting a mental health professional or psychologist in case of a decline in mental health to take therapy for boosting confidence after the cancer treatment.

Exercise: It is very important to exercise to improve thinking and the ability to focus. Activities like jogging, running, swimming, rock climbing, pet walking, etc. can improve attention and concentration levels.

Meditation and mental exercises: Meditation and breathing exercises through yoga help in regulating brain function by increasing focus and awareness.

DO EGGS PROMOTE A HEALTHY METABOLISM?

Eggs are one of the healthiest food sources, rich in protein and unique antioxidants that effectively improve countless health markers. In addition, they also have a large number of vitamins and minerals that support various body functions, from bone development to brain power. Despite frequent contradicting news reports, it is evident from studies that eggs support good health.

Like many protein sources, eggs help the body perform essential tasks. However, consuming eggs with different foods like processed meats or toast can be a poor dietary choice. Hence you should include eggs in a well-designed diet plan. Subscribing to HealthifyPRO 2.0 will help you to manage your calorie intake and guide you to consume nutrient-dense foods that will enhance your metabolic health.

Note

Discussions about nutrition often centre on macronutrients like proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates and micronutrients like vitamins and minerals. Also, they are crucial for healthy metabolic function. However, the most recent empirical studies support the idea that eating eggs alone is not bad for your heart or any other metabolic process. Overall, an ideal and custom-made egg meal in your daily diet will improve your healthy metabolism and holistic well-being.

Daily Diet Tips for Egg Consumption

Your nutritious breakfast should include eggs.

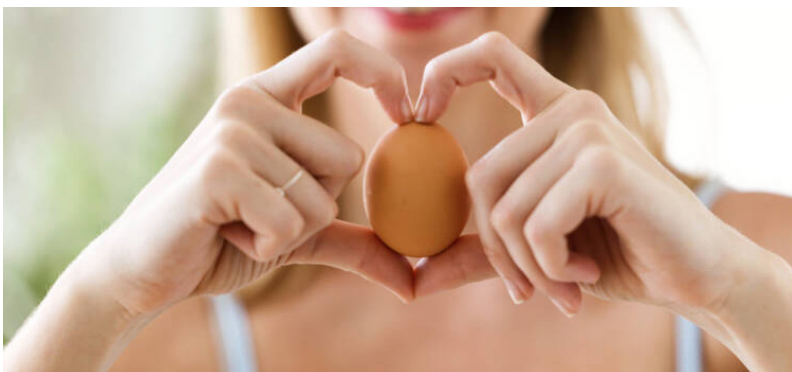
Compared to eating pancakes, syrup, juice, or sausage for breakfast, a hard-boiled egg on top of a healthy salad with fresh smoked salmon will have a very different nutrient profile. The best way to eat eggs should be as part of a low-glycemic meal. In addition, make sure you pair it with foods free of refined sugar and carbohydrates that could raise your insulin and blood sugar levels.

Pick your cooking medium carefully.

Frying eggs impact the meal's nutritional value due to the oil quality. Therefore, opt for olive oil, avocado oil, and coconut oil. You get them in natural forms. They undergo less chemical processing than other counterparts like heavily processed seed oils like canola or sunflower oils that contain harmful linoleic acids. If you choose to use ghee or butter try to limit the quantity and use the ones made from grass-fed cow milk.

Choose soft-boiled or poached.

According to several studies, boiling the egg whites but essentially keeping the yolk uncooked retains the maximum nutritional value. This technique also enables cooking to boost the protein's bioavailability and destroy any hazardous microorganisms.



Purchase high-quality products.

Higher-quality, nutrient-dense eggs are from chickens kept on pastures, promoting more environmentally friendly agricultural methods.

The Contribution of Eggs to Metabolism

Cholesterol

Egg yolks are one of the typical foods with the most significant dietary cholesterol level, with an average large egg containing 186 mg. Due to their high cholesterol content, the American Heart Association's nutritional recommendations from the 1960s recommended people limit their consumption of eggs. However, more recent research consistently demonstrates that moderate egg consumption does not increase

eggs because of their cholesterol levels.

Micronutrients

Macronutrients like carbs, lipids, and proteins, and micronutrients like vitamins and minerals are crucial for proper metabolic health. Eggs are among the foods with the widest variety in vitamin content.

Vitamins are extraordinarily abundant in eggs. Except for vitamin C, every vitamin is present in eggs. However, they are distributed differently between the yolk and the white.

Eggs contain abundant amounts of vitamins A, D, E, K, B1, B2, B5, B6, B9, and B12. In addition, egg whites contain high concentrations of vitamin B in significant proportions. As per research, 10-30% of the daily required quantity of several of these vitamins is present in just two eggs. Vitamins A, D, E, and K are examples of fat-soluble nutrients.

Eggs are a rich source of phosphorus, calcium, and potassium, as well as copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, selenium, and zinc. The proportion of selenium and iodine inside an egg is significantly impacted by what a hen consumes, just like liposoluble vitamins.

Choline

Eggs are the second-best source of choline, a water-soluble substance frequently linked to the B vitamin family. Approximately 27% of the daily required amount of the vitamin is present in one hard-boiled egg. Its

NC pays glorious tribute to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohd Abdullah on his 118th birth anniversary

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

J&K National Conference today paid floral tributes to Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah on his 118th birth anniversary during a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu.

On the occasion, Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of JKNC, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Surinder Choudhary Central Secretary, Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi, Bimla Luthra, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Satwant Dogra and other party workers paid tributes to the Baba-e-Qoum, Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah. The homage giving function started with Quran Khwani which was organized by G.H Malik Senior leader.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajay Sadhotra said sustaining secular ethos is the best and befitting tribute to Sheikh Sahib, a towering among tallest of leaders of his times in the sub-continent. "We are proud inheritors of this legacy," he said, while recalling the land-

mark and pioneering Land Reforms Act, which empowered the farmers by making them masters of their own destiny overnight.

In the face of misrule and injustice, the former minister asserted that the National Conference stands as a beacon of hope for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, the National Conference has consistently strived to safeguard the rights and aspirations of the people, unwavering in its commitment to restore dignity, integrity, and fundamental rights, he added.

Rattan Lal Gupta, in his address, discussed various aspects of Sheikh Abdullah's life and highlighted his contribution to improve the conditions for the weak and the downtrodden sections of society. He added that Sheikh Abdullah's secular and progressive outlook will continue to be a source of inspiration for generations.

Throughout his charismatic political career, Sheikh Abdullah symbolised the aspirations of



the people of Jammu and Kashmir in a manner no other individual could even dream of, Gupta said.

The best tribute to Sheikh Abdullah will be to strengthen the amity among the Hindus, Muslims and the Sikhs, Gupta said. He also urged the party cadre to take a pledge to uphold and preserve the legacy of brotherhood and communal harmony bequeathed by Sheikh Abdullah.

Surinder Choudhary Central Secretary paid floral tributes to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and pledged to work for steer-

ing Jammu and Kashmir as peaceful, progressive and a politically stable part of the country by strengthening JKNC and its leadership.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed said that National Conference is a secular party and only it will fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for the equitable development and brighter future of Jammu and Kashmir.

While paying homage to the legendary leader,

Abdul Gani Malik Zonal President Udhampur Reasi threw light on various facets of Sher-e-Kashmir's life and recalled his sacrifice and contribution to ameliorate the lot of people, especially those belonging to weaker and down-trodden segments of society.

Bimla Luthra, in her address, stated that the Party has always been at the forefront of the struggle for gender equality, and it remains committed to ensuring that women in Jammu and Kashmir are empowered in every way possible. "Women are an integral part of our soci-

ety, and it is our duty to empower them in every sphere - be it education, politics, or the economy," he said.

She emphasized that women's empowerment is not just a political slogan but a core principle of the NC's ideology. She added that women have a pivotal role to play in democracy as well as in shaping the future of the state.

Others who paid rich tributes to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah included Qazi Jalal Ud Din, Master Noor Hussain, Bushan Lal Bhat, Deepinder Kour, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik, Satwant Dogra, Dr.

Shamshad Shan, Shahmim Begum, Ch. Rehmat Ali, Ghar Singh, Ankush Abrol, Nar Singh, Harshvardhan, Zeeshan Rana, Waris Gill, Chander Mohan Sharma, Raghvir Singh Manhas, Naresh Bittu, Sudagar Chand Gupta, Rashida Begum, Pinky Khalsa, S. Tejinder Singh, S. Sandeep Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Mohinder Singh, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta, Farooq Mughal, S. Nirmal Singh, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Sandesh Shan, Som Raj Taroch, Puspita Dogra, S. Gurnam Singh, Ashwani Charak, Dharminder Sharma, Jatinder Kumar, Chander Udhay Singh, Amir-Ud-Din Kasana, Amirsh Sharma, Nitish Gowsami, Zamir Quershi, Sahil Kerni, Rajeshwar Singh, Imtiyaz Ahmed, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Asha Mehra, M. K Rana, Riyaz Hakala, Hassina Begum, Zarina Begum, Kousar Malik, Zahangir Malik, Harminder Singh, S. Prithpal Singh

Meanwhile, rich tributes were paid to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah across the Jammu province. Various functions were organized to commemorate his legacy and honor his contributions

to the state. In Kishtwar, a similar program was held under the chairmanship of District President Tanvir Kichloo; in Doda, a similar programme was organized under the chairmanship of Provincial Vice President Khalid Najeeb Suhrawardi; in Banihal / Ramban, a similar programme was organized under the chairmanship of District President Sajjad Saheen; in Udhampur a similar programme was organized under the chairmanship of District President Sunil Verma; in Poonch, a similar programme was organized under the chairmanship of Ajaz Jan Provincial President JKNC Youth; in Rajouri, a similar programme was organized under the chairmanship of District President Shafayat Khan and DDC Chairperson Liaquat Ali; in Kalakote, a similar programme was organized under the chairmanship of District President Ashok Sharma and Yashu Vardhan Singh; similar programmes were also organized by the District Committee members at Reasi, Kathua and Billwar respectively to pay homage to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

IIM Jammu Management Development Programme for PNB Metlife India ends on a grand note

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) marked the valedictory ceremony of the Management Development Programme (MDP) for PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited at its permanent campus at Jagti. The event showcased the culmination of a transformative five-month program designed to enhance managerial acumen among Life Insurance Professionals.

The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Shri Mohit Bahugana, Business Head, PNB MetLife, Shri Anjan Jyoti Talukdar, Associate Director and L&D Channel Head, PNB MetLife, Ms. Rashmi Verma, Associate General Manager, Learning and Development, PNB MetLife,

Dr. Kriti Khurana, Manager- Content Development, PNB MetLife and other officials of both the organizations. The Program Directors for this training program were Dr. Ashish Kumar, Dr. Manu Bansal, Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, and Dr. Niti Shekhar, faculty, IIM Jammu.

Dr. Ashish Kumar, Program Director, presented the program report followed by learnings from the program put forward by Shri Mohit Bahugana, Business Head, PNB MetLife along with complementing the unique program put forward by IIMs and PNB MetLife.

In his address, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, mentioned that the valediction of the first batch of PNB MetLife MDP is a testament to the commitment and diligence of the participants. During

his address, he reiterated on creating a position of Professor of Practice in the Institute for Industry leaders along with sending faculty of IIM Jammu for industry interaction leading to a unique two-way blend of academia and industry. He mentioned IIM Jammu remains steadfast in its mission to provide industry-relevant education, empowering professionals to navigate the complexities of the business landscape. We believe that the skills and knowledge acquired during this MDP will not only benefit the individuals but also contribute to the growth and success of the rapidly growing insurance industry.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu stated that IIM Jammu is committed to providing education that goes beyond traditional boundaries.

The MDP for PNB MetLife exemplifies our dedication to creating programs that not only equip professionals with essential skills but also foster a deeper understanding of industry dynamics. He mentioned that valedictory session does not mean the closure but it the start of the new journey and emphasized on the need to have peer competition, collaborating for knowledge accumulation, sharing, and taking the key takeaways from the session for their journey ahead. Lastly, he extended his congratulations to the participants on their successful completion of this transformative journey.

The program, led by the faculty of IIM Jammu, aimed to equip participants with essential skills in entrepreneurship, finance, strategy, design thinking, innovation, and communication. The valedictory

ceremony featured insights from participants and program directors, highlighting the value gained from the comprehensive curriculum. The participants expressed gratitude for the practical knowledge and strategic insights provided during the course. This was followed by certificate distribution.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Pratik Maheshwari, Program Director and Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, (EE & C), IIM Jammu. The success of this MDP further solidifies IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering industry-relevant learning experiences. The institute continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of leaders in various sectors. The entire program was coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu.

Ritika mocks opposition for blaming EVMs for defeat in Assembly polls

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan today asserted that the BJP has emerged as the first choice of the people of country and the fall of opposition is a certainty in the coming general election. In a hand-out issued here, Ritika mocked some opposition leaders raising questions on EVMs as BJP emerged victorious in three Hindi heartland states - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the recent round of Assembly polls, saying they are looking for excuses to hide their own shortcomings.

Ritika slammed the opposition and said they blame EVMs whenever they fail to win elections. "There is nothing new. The opposition, whoever it may be, when they win, they are fine with



and the Congress won Telangana."

Ritika said "EVMs have been there for the last 18-19 years. They (opposition) do not raise these questions when they win elections. Do they not trust people? I think after repeated defeats, it is ridiculous that the opposition still raises this," she said.

She said, "It was known that they would blame the EVMs. Their brains have stopped working. Their corruption and appeasement have been rejected by people, so they are saying such immature things," she said. "The country has rejected the opposition. In the future, the BJP will win every election," she asserted. She said, "The opposition will keep crying over EVMs and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come back with 400 (Lok Sabha) seats next year."

HDFC Bank, Reserve Bank Innovation Hub launch i-Innovate

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 5

In a pioneering move towards fostering financial inclusion, HDFC Bank today announced its partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBH) to introduce i-Innovate, a nationwide initiative specifically designed to champion FinTechs focussing on differently abled persons. This initiative is singularly focussed on leveraging Assistive Technology (AT) to not only enhance, but also revolutionise the financial inclusion for differently abled persons.

RBH, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), spearheads efforts to cultivate an environment conducive to innovation across the financial sector. HDFC Bank, under its CSR brand Parivartan, supports startups working in the social space through its Parivartan StartUp Grants pro-

gramme. HDFC Bank and the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub have come together to leverage social innovation and entrepreneurship to bridge existing gaps and enhance financial accessibility for differently abled persons. Further, AssisTech Foundation (ATF) has been roped in as a supporting partner to contribute with expertise in innovating for this segment of the population, as well as provide specialised support in incubation, acceleration and nurturing startups in this space.

With more than 2.2% of the population falling under this demographic, i-Innovate aims to implement a range of programmes aimed at nurturing innovation and inclusivity within the financial sector for differently abled persons. This partnership will embark on an extensive journey to study today's financial landscape, focus on identifying key market gaps and

challenges at the intersection of assistive technology and finance. Additionally, various initiatives such as innovation challenges, hackathons, acceleration programmes, and awards will be rolled out to actively support and recognise startups dedicated to building solutions for the financial inclusion of differently abled persons.

Smita Bhagat, Retail Branch Banking Head, HDFC Bank said, "Nearly three-quarters of persons with disabilities reside in rural parts of the country. Persons with special needs in our country lack access to formal financial services. HDFC Bank is collaborating with RBH to identify gaps in the adoption of financial service and innovate inclusive financial products that enable economic independence and empower persons with special needs. We are a Bank for all, and believe that financial inclusivity for persons with spe-

cial needs is not a niche agenda; it is a catalyst for nationwide economic growth and innovation. Our goal is clear - to build a banking system that is as diverse as India itself."

Shalini Sahay, Head - Corporate Communications, Marketing and Partnerships, RBH said, "This partnership is a significant step towards innovation and inclusivity in finance. Through iInnovate, we commit to bring forth groundbreaking solutions at the intersection of assistive technology and finance."

The official launch of i-Innovate took place on December 3, 2023, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. With the insights gained from this project, HDFC Bank and RBH are committed to setting new benchmarks for accessibility in banking, striving to ensure that financial empowerment is attainable for all, irrespective of physical ability.

BJP committed to social justice, equitable socio-economic devp: Kavinder

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. CM and senior BJP leader accompanied by Shailja Gupta, J&K BJP working committee member, listened to the public grievances at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP All Cell Incharge Rakesh Mahajan and Mahila Morcha leader Salma Sheikh were also present on the occasion.

While conducting grievance redressal at BJP headquarters, Jammu, Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, said that with the responsiveness and commitment to the masses, senior party leaders are daily attending the public at the party headquarter.

Kavinder Gupta said that Bharatiya Janata Party is committed to social jus-



and equitable socio-economic development. The party has committed itself to the development of all the sections of the society and particularly those classes which were neglected earlier due to the skewed policies of the past Congress led governments.

Kavinder Gupta said that certain opposition parties are hell bent to destroy the social harmony in the society for their own petty gains. He

Kashmir and has special care to provide benefit to all while not snatching advantage from anyone.

Shailja Gupta, remained present and diarized the issues presented. She said that senior party leaders listen to the issues of public daily at the party headquarter and many people visit the party leaders to present their issues.

Numerous individuals and deputations from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leaders.

Listening patiently to the various issues represented by the deputations, senior BJP leaders telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials for resolving the issues and also issued letters to many of them.

Tata Motors launches all-new Intra V70 pickup, Intra V20 Gold pickup and Ace HT+

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, announced the launch of the all-new Intra V70, Intra V20 Gold and Ace HT+, in line with its commitment to make first and last mile transportation more efficient. These new vehicles are engineered to carry higher payloads over longer distances with better economics. Offering best in class features, these vehicles can be used for a variety of applications, delivering higher profits and productivity, both in urban and rural India. Tata Motors also launched improved versions of its popular Intra V50 and Ace Diesel vehicles, reengineered to lower fuel consumption with reduced cost of ownership. With these new launches, Tata Motors offers the widest

range of small commercial vehicles and pickups, enabling customers to choose the most optimal vehicle for their requirements. Bookings for these vehicles are now open at all Tata Motors CV dealerships, across the country. Launching these vehicles, Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors, said "In addition to providing optimal solutions for a variety of applications, our small commercial vehicles and pickups are known to provide livelihoods and improve quality of life of our customers. The vehicles we are launching today have been developed based on specific inputs and demand from a large segment of actual users. They are engineered to optimise fuel efficiency and carry higher payloads over longer distances. Fuelled by rapid urbanisation, booming e-commerce, increase in consumption and rise

of the hub-and-spoke model, the significance of efficient and effective last and first mile transportation in logistics management can't be emphasised enough. Hence, every vehicle is designed to provide a robust and reliable cargo transport solution along with the assurance of greater commercial benefits to individual customers as well as fleet owners, both proudly servicing the buoyant needs of India's growing economy."

In addition to robust and reliable vehicles, Tata Motors customers also enjoy a range of benefits and complete peace of mind with the widest array of value-added services. Support from India's largest service network, benefits of the new-age telematics system Fleet Edge for efficient fleet management, convenience of annual maintenance contracts, easy availabil-

ity of spares for highest uptime and a comprehensive Sampoorna Seva 2.0 programme ensures a holistic and hassle-free vehicle ownership experience, reinforcing Tata Motor's strong commitment to customer satisfaction.

The launch of these new vehicles is being amplified with a purposeful marketing campaign to expand customer outreach, increase top-of-the-mind awareness and brand recall. This impactful campaign leverages digital technologies, including social media and influencer engagement, along with rich presence in conventional marketing and advertising mediums.

Tata Intra V70: Highest payload capacity and best-in-class efficiency

The Intra new-gen pickup redefines the pickup landscape with enhanced drivability, highest payload capacity,

large loading area, high ground clearance and powerful drivetrain. It is powered by the trusted 1.5-litre diesel engine, comes with Fleet Edge telematics system and the longest load body of 9.7 feet. Its cabin is designed to offer car-like comfort and fatigue-free driving experience.

Tata Intra V20 Gold bi-fuel: Unparalleled range of over 800km and enhanced payload capability of 1200kg

India's first and only bi-fuel pickup, conceptualized for an anxiety-free commute, leverages the efficiency and profitability of CNG with all-terrain capability and comes with Fleet Edge telematics system for efficient fleet management. With enhanced payload capacity of 1,200kg and three CNG tanks for go-anywhere capability, it is designed to deliver uninterrupted operations and higher profits.

Tata Ace HT+: Perfect choice for highest profit potential in its category

India's most successful commercial vehicle, with over 20 lakh customers, now comes with higher power and efficiency of a turbocharged diesel engine with a longer load body and increased payload capacity of 900kg. Its reliable aggregates offer lower maintenance costs and higher earnings. It represents a twofold advantage - the operating economics of Tata Ace with power and performance similar to pickups.

Additionally, Tata Intra V50 now offers customer friendly technology on emissions, providing low cost of ownership to customers. And the Ace Diesel is meticulously enhanced to seamlessly adapt to a diverse range of duty cycles, ensuring optimal performance and delivering peace of mind to the customers.

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today stressed upon Govt of India to set up Fodder Corporation of India on the analogy of Food Corporation of India so that problem of environment pollution due to stubble burning and scarcity of fodder is also tackled with. Speaking during a special mention in the Rajya Sabha here today, establishing a Fodder Corporation of India, modeled after the successful Food Corporation of India, is imperative to combat the escalating menace of environmental degradation, the adverse effects of stubble burning and scarcity of fodder. The agricultural and animal husbandry sectors, are crucial components of India's economy, faces a pressing challenge with the traditional practice of burning stubble/crop residues, scarcity of fodder, high prices and animal dying due to hunger, contributing significantly to air pollution and animals

devoid of adequate fodder, he said. MP Khatana further said that dedicated Fodder Corporation would play a pivotal role in addressing this issue by promoting sustainable agricultural practices. It could incentivize farmers to adopt alternative methods for managing crop residues, such as converting them into fodder for livestock. By establishing efficient collection centers and processing units, the corporation can streamline the conversion of crop residues into nutrient-rich fodder, reducing the reliance on environmentally harmful practices like stubble burning. Moreover, the Fodder Corporation can act as a catalyst for rural development by creating employment opportunities and promoting the use of eco-friendly technologies. By integrating modern farming techniques and providing training to farmers, the corporation can enhance agricultural productivity while mitigating the environmental impact of traditional practices, he said.

BJP, Natmanch jointly felicitate 37th Nat'l Game Medallist of Roll Ball at Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) and Dr Tarun Sharma (Chairman, Natmanch) felicitated Antra Mahajan, Khushi Gupta, Ashima Gupta, Bavanshi Verma who won bronze medal in 37 national games (Goa) in Roll ball.

Er Palvi Sharma (International Karate Player), Ankush Gupta, Pawan Sharma and others were present on the occasion.

In the program dignitaries honoured Athletes by presenting them Appreciation certificate and Memento.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot Congratulated Antra Mahajan, Khushi Gupta, Ashima Gupta, Bavanshi Verma and their coach for this big achievement and wish them all for bright and better future ahead.

He appreciated whole sports fraternity for this achievement and said that this proud moment for all jammutes that our little children are represent-



ing at Jammu Kashmir at national levels and clinching medals.

He also appreciated all sports achievers and said they are our pride because they highlighted the name of Jammu Kashmir globally because of their commendable performances at international and national events. He congratulated all medalists and their coaches who have won medals for Jammu Kashmir in National games and said when an

athlete shines and become successful, it is result of hardwork of that athlete as well as his coach and family.

He said our dynamic PM Narendra Modi is working alot in the field of sports and construction work of many sports Stadiums is going on and very soon these stadiums will be hand over to coaches and their trainees very soon.

He said our PM Narendra Modi is also sports lover person. Modi ji is

also organizing felicitation ceremonies for Meritorious sports. He is providing sports facilities in urban as well as remote areas across nation and as a result India is shining in the field of sports and even talent of Jammu Kashmir is excelling at International/ National events. He congratulated all medal winners who won medals for Jammu Kashmir recently and he extend greetings to their coach who make them a sports star from a civilian.

He said along with them many athletes have brought laurels to Jammu Kashmir by clinching various medals at international and national events of different sports disciplines and many of them are giving their services in various government departments.

He urges all students and youth to join sports and make carrier in sports it will make physical and mentally strong and said BJP always stands with our sports pillars and if any sportsperson needs any kind of help he/she can contact us any time.

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Workshop on Management of Anxiety and Stress at Work place organized at PTTI Vijaypur

JINNEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, DEC 5

Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur, organized one day workshop on Management of Anxiety and Stress at work place in the Institute for staff and trainees. On the occasion Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Psychiatrist delivered an impressive lecture on the topic and explained about different types of anxiety and stress, symptoms, sources and its effects. He also discussed the ways to manage stress to live healthy and stress free life to improve work efficiency. While interacting with staff and trainees, Dr. Rajinder Kumar told that stress is the main cause of maximum diseases and in order remain mentally fit and agile one



should avoid memorizing past miss-happenings repeatedly as such state of mind may lead to stress and ultimately depression.

He advised to keep away from negative thoughts and involve in healthy discussions with family members and friends. He

also thanked Principal Shri Shiv Kumar, IPS for organizing workshop on the subject matter. Shri Shiv Kumar, IPS, Principal PTTI Vijaypur also paid his sincere gratitude to Dr. Rajinder Kumar for sparing his valuable time to interact with staff and trainees and guiding them about managing day-to-day stress.

Shri Khushwant Singh, Dy. SP Admn., Shri Kuldeep Raj Dy. SP Tech/Inoor, Shri Asif Iqbal, Sr.PO, Dr. Vijay Thapa, Dr. Abdul Qayoom, Insp. Javed Hussain (RI), Insp. Surinder Singh (CDD), Insp. Anil Kumar, Insp. Pawan Kumar, Insp. Vivek Kalsootra, Insp. Himanshu Dutta (CTD), Insp. Ashish Dhar, Insp. Shehbaz Khan and others were present on the occasion.

JKNC Distt unit Udhampur pays tributes to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on birth anniversary

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DEC 5

J&K National Conference, Udhampur Unit, today paid tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 118th birth anniversary in a function held at Udhampur today.

The function was organized under the leadership of Sunil Verma, District President JKNC Udhampur in which Capt Pavitar Singh, General Secretary JKNC Udhampur, S Gurmeet Singh josh Vice President, Savitri Devi Women wing President Udhampur, Provincial Vice President and In-charge Udhampur District-Akash Verma, Ch Abdul Ghani, Chhanna Ram Sethi, Vir Singh, Bishan Dass Sharma, Sham Lal Sharma, Riyaz Ahmed Faqir, Madan Lal and other party workers were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Verma said that throughout his charismatic political career, Sher-e-Kashmir symbolized the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir people as no single individual could have even dreamed of doing. "The best tribute to



Sher-e-Kashmir will be to strengthen amity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs.

He said the slogan of 'Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Itihaad' preached and practiced by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah is continuously reverberating the valleys, planes and mountains of the State. This is central to the glorious fabric of the state," he said.

"Although rooted in Kashmir, he had attained a national standing with his name becoming synonymous in the minds of countrymen with the socialism, humanism, pluralism, and democracy. He was a popular leader and a social reformer who fought for the rights of the oppressed sections of the

society, irrespective of caste, creed or religion and strived for the sustenance of secular and pluralistic values. He nurtured and strengthened this characteristic and cemented the bonds of love between various sections of the society and different regions of J&K and Ladakh," he added.

The senior NC leader said "On this day, Let join hands and take pledge to work for strengthening the bonds of unity, integrity, brotherhood, peace, progress, and prosperity of the people of J&K, besides protecting the values of secularism, socialism in order to maintain communal harmony and uphold the democratic, constitutional and legitimate rights."

BJP denying democratic rights to people of J&K: BSP

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K UT General Secretary Rajesh Gupta has accused BJP of avoiding Assembly elections in J&K and continuing with direct Central rule.

Gupta flayed BJP and accused Election Commission of India (ECI) for delaying elections.

"For more than four years, there has been proxy rule by the BJP," he said adding that BJP in collaboration with ECI is denying democratic rights to the people of J&K.

The BSP leader said that one more lie of BJP has been exposed as two senior BJP leaders B.L Santosh and Tarun Chug had claimed that Assembly elections will be held in J&K in April-May 2023.

Gupta said "It is irony that the voice of people of Jammu who are known for their secular and nationalist credentials has always been suppressed and discriminated."

Sher-e-Kashmir laid strong foundation of brotherhood in J&K: Sadhotra

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

In connection with the celebration of the 118th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Kashmir Jenab Sheikh Abdullah, the National Conference Central Zone (Jammu, Samba & Kathua) distributed eatables and other items among the specially-abled children, here today. Former Minister and NC Additional General Secretary, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra was the chief guest on the occasion whereas NC Provincial Joint Secretary, Ankush Abrol presided over. The programme was organized by Coordinator Jammu District Urban and Secretary Central Zone JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma.



the vision of Sheikh Sahib which laid the strong foundation of Jammu & Kashmir.

"He played an important role in the integration of Muslim majority J&K with the India and made it the crown of our country. Nobody can forget contributions made by him in the socio-economic development of the people of J&K," he mentioned.

"Sheikh Abdullah laid

emphasis on the philosophy mutual brotherhood and peaceful co-existence of all the people in Jammu & Kashmir. His philosophy is still relevant and will remain so in future as well. He was the visionary leader who gave right of land ownership to the poor tiller," he said.

He emphasized upon the need to carry forward the agenda of inclusive development of Sheikh Abdul-

lah with special focus on the upliftment of poor and deprived classes besides special care for the specially-abled people.

Among those who were present on the occasion included, Sandesh Shan, Dr Rajesh Singh, Dr NK Sharma, Vikshay Vashist, Mohd. Umar, Ashish Sharma, Ram Singh, Abhishek Uppal, Bhushan, Munari Singh, Rohit and others.

Team 'NATEX K2K 2023-24' enthralled audiences at Airforce Station Jammu during its expedition journey

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 05 DEC 2023

The Indian Army Micro-light flying Expedition 'NATEX K2K 2023-24' commenced their challenging expedition journey from Army Adventure Nodal Centre (Microlight & PHG), Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow (MP), their home base on 20 Nov 2023. The expedition Team reached Udhampur (Jammu & Kashmir) on 01 December 2023, where a 'Flag Off' by Army Commander was conducted as part of a 'Curtain raiser Event'.

This expedition has been organised under the aegis of Army Adventure Wing to Commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas & the Centenary of the Bombay Sappers War Memorial in honour of our brave soldiers who laid down their lives in service of the Nation, as also to spread the spirit of adventure in the Indian Army and the youth of the Nation.

The motto of expedition is parvatasesaagararanga. The team is proudly hoisting the national flag along with the Indian Army Flag and other banners, high above in the skies from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, spreading the spirit of adventure, courage, camaraderie and team work. They commenced the phase 2 and came to Jammu where they conducted an action packed Aero Show for young and large audience including school children at the Air Force Station Jammu, which is also celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. The pilots of the Army Adventure Expedition, Col Mankanwal Jeet Chawla, Lt Col Aby TM, Lt Col Jitender Siwach and Hav A Saravanan with their young Co-pilots carried



out precision manoeuvres including formation flying and display of flags & banners and some adrenaline rushing low flying to the amazement of the crowd. They will now continue their expedition as per plan to go to the southern most waypoint at Kanyakumari before overflying the fabled Ram Setu and continue along the western coast to reach Pune and complete the expedition at BEG & Centre. While at Pune the expedition will also add to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.

One Day Workshop on Aero Modelling conducted at SMVDU



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

One Day Workshop on Aero Modelling conducted by the School of Mechanical Engineering and Automation and Emerging Technology Club at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. Mr. Yadvinder Singh Kokkhar, CEO, Khokhar Hobby Tech, Bhatinda, Punjab took a theoretical session on the theory of flight and conducted a practical session on flying

handmade models of aircraft. Students of the AET Club have shown a keen interest in learning about making models and flying models. Students of the AET club are getting exposure to the latest technologies in the fields of Automation, robotics, 3D printing, aero-modelling etc under the mentorship of faculty mentors, Dr. Balbir Singh, Assoc. Professor, Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Assistant Professor from the School of Mechanical Engineering. Chief Guest, Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU advised students to venture into the field of Drone and UAV having vast job potentials in the fields of agricultural, security and defence applications. Dr. Varun Dutta, Secretary of the Workshop facilitated the smooth conduct of the workshop and expressed a vote of thanks in the concluding session of the workshop.

Awareness program by systematics voter's education & electoral participation (SVEEP)

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

A session was conducted by a team of Systematic Voter's Education & Electoral Participation (SVEEP) to create awareness programme that acquainted the students about voting and electoral process under ECI.

The team comprised of Mr Ashok Kumar, Mr Sandeep Chaudhary & Mr Subhash Singh. Mr Ashok Kumar led the session followed by Mr Sandeep Chaudhary explaining the technical terms like ECI, New Voter's Service Portal, Voter's Helpline, Polling Station - its number & Assembly Constituency. The students were apprised of the process of registration as a new voter in online as well as offline mode. Different forms relevant to the voter's card



creation (form 6), voter's card for an NRI (form 6A), correction of voter's card (form 8) and shifting of vote (form 8A) were detailed.

The session was attended by 250 students of class XI & XII & 15 teachers alongwith the Vice-Principal Dr Rakesh

Chander. The session was culminated by a pledge led by the Head Boy of the School Master Gaurav K Gautam. Principal Mrs Geeta Devi, APS Akhnoor thanked the team for the conduct of the awareness programme and ended the session with a marvelous and motivating speech.

Billawaria kick starts work of laying paver tiles, drains at ward-56, Gangyal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Continuing the campaign to provide better development as well as basic facilities to the people, Former Deputy Mayor Jammu and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria kick started the construction work of laying of paver tiles and drains at Ward 56 Gangyal in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency. The work will be executed by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). Speaking on the occasion, Former Deputy Mayor Jammu and BJP senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria said that during his tenure as Deputy Mayor of Jammu, he had got these development works to fulfill the demands of the people and today the same development works are being started. "I am happy that I am getting the privilege to kick start the development works that I had planned", he added. He said that during his tenure, he tried to get development works done in every ward of Jammu city so that development could be given to the people at their doorstep. Addressing the people about the welfare schemes of the Central Government, Billawaria said that the Bharatiya Janata Party worked on the agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas and this was the main reason that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP getting a hat-trick in the election results of four states with huge majority in three



states is a guarantee of the public's faith in Modi's guarantee. He said that the main objective of the BJP party is to get development work done equally in every field with full honesty, hence women power, youth power, farmers and people from poor families have expressed confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also stated that BJP is the only party which has taken overall development as the primary task and government schemes have reached out to every household under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi. He said that there are many works that are to be taken

up in areas soon so that best possible infra is provided to the masses. Local people praised Former Deputy Mayor and senior leader BJP Baldev Singh Billawaria for carrying out development works in the area and said that he is always ready for public welfare works. The people of the area also assured full support to BJP in the upcoming elections. Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Harbans Choudhary, Jugal Kishore, Surjit Kumar, Rakesh Sangral, Sunil Sharma, Mulkh Raj, Om Nath, Rajinder Singh (Poppy), Punjab Singh, Vinod Sharma, Hardeep Singh and other dignitaries were present.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra draws large crowds in Jammu's city-centre amid growing enthusiasm

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

As Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continues To expand its footprints in Jammu city, more and more people are participating in it with each passing day. Today, the yatra entered the city centre areas of DC Office Chowk and Indira Chowk. As the word spread about its entry, people came in their droves to avail services like free health check up, opening of India Post Payments Bank accounts, loans up to 10,000 under PM SVANidhi scheme for streets vendors. A large number of people also benefited from on-the-spot facility to get either new aadhaar cards issued or existing ones updated.

As part of the unique initiative to bring Government services at people's



doorsteps, the specially designed IEC (Information, Education, Communication) van created awareness about various schemes and initiatives of the Government of India to better people's lives in the country, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. On the occasion, Viksit Bharat Sankalp pledge to make India a developed and self-reliant nation by the year 2047 was administered to the participants. Calendars issued by the Government of India were distributed free of cost to the participants.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra was launched by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on November 15, 2023. Its aim is to cover over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats and over 3,600 urban local bodies by January 25, 2024, touching every district of the country. The objective is to reach out to public to create awareness and attain saturation of welfare schemes on sanitation, essential financial services, electricity, access to LPG cylinders, housing for the poor, food security, proper nutrition and reliable healthcare.

PHQ's Welfare measures DGP sanctions special welfare relief of Rupees 88 lakh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Continuing with its endeavour to provide financial assistance to the families of the police personnel who passed away while in service, the Director General of Police, J&K Shri R. R. Swain has sanctioned rupees 88 lakh as special welfare relief for NoK of four deceased police personnel under different orders issued by Police Headquarters.

Special welfare relief of rupees 22 lakh each has been sanctioned in favour

of deceased Police Personnel, HC Wali Mohammad, HC Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, HC (Tel) Tariq Ahmad and Constable Waseem Amin. The relief has been sanctioned out of the Central Police Welfare fund.

Police Headquarters has many welfare schemes operational for the welfare of its personnel and their families including schemes for the wards of Police personnel and SPOs, schemes for the NoK of martyrs, their wards and for the retired Police personnel and their spouses.

Ramesh Mukhiya takes over as managing director of CVPPPL

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Ramesh Mukhiya, Executive Director, NHPC, has assumed the charge of Managing Director, CVPPPL on 05/12/2023. He is an alumni of Jadavpur University, Kolkata and completed his Graduation in Civil Engineering in 1990. He started his career as Probationary Executive at Rangit Power Station, Sikkim in 1991 and played an active role in the commissioning of Rangit Power Station in the year 2000. He was also instrumental in commissioning of Teesta-V Power Station in the year 2008, Teesta Low Dam-III Power Station in the year 2013. Moreover, during his tenure at Teesta Low Dam-IV HE Project, he was instrumental in getting all the Statutory Clearances of the project and start the construction activities.

Sh. Ramesh Mukhiya had been Head of Project for Teesta-IV Project (500MW) and Pakal Dul HE Project (1000 MW) and also held additional charge of Regional Office, Bankkhet as Executive Director. As Project and



Regional Head, he was instrumental in taking critical decisions which have paved way for smooth functioning of Project as well as Power Stations.

Given the vast experience of 32 years and his prowess in different spheres of Hydro Power Development including construction of HRT with TBM, Dam works, Power House Works & Arbitration of Major Works, his experience would be of great advantage for CVPPPL in timely construction of Pakal Dul, Kiru & Kwar HE Projects & also in Kirthai-II Project where balance investigation works are under progress.

Disillusioned after polls, key INDIA Bloc members to abstain from crucial meeting: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has said that disillusioned after the recent poll outcome, several key constituents of INDIA Bloc have decided to part ways as they conveyed publicly not to attend the crucial meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

In a statement issued to media fraternity, the BJP stalwart maintained that the only agenda of the opposition parties is to oust Prime Minister Narendra Modi as their amalgam viz INDIA Bloc is a rudderless entity with no other vision or mission to ensure welfare of the people of the country.

"The biggest drawback of INDIA Bloc is its lack of policy or plan to steer the country to attain progress and that is one of the main reasons of debacle of Congress in Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh", Kavinder said, adding, on the contrary the Bharatiya Janata Party's ideology solely addresses the issues which the people of the country are confronting and above all, PM Modi's

vision to make India's economy a vibrant one touching 5 trillion target and enabling it to join the elite club of top three economies of the world.

Referring to the reports about Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar and now Akhilesh Yadav abstaining from crucial meeting of INDIA Bloc, Kavinder said that members of this amalgam have by now gauged very well the fate of this venture and that is the reason behind showing disinclination.

The senior BJP leader said that this is the beginning of end of the aforesaid group as sooner than later more of these will join the tirade and will say goodbye to this 'misadventure'. He said that whatever was promised by the BJP in election campaigning trails during 2014 and 2019 has been fulfilled and party leadership is clear about future course as people-friendly and futuristic policies of the party have already given final shape and the beginning of the third term of PM Modi in 2024 will ensure India surfacing as the world power standing along other nations of same stature.



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No: GDCS/2023/
Dated:

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
For
SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO LIBRARY GDC SIDHRA

Due to non response the last date for receiving the sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) which was earlier published in Greater Jammu dated 18-11-2023 regarding the supply of books to the library of GDC Sidhra from the vendors/suppliers/distributors who are registered with the Bookseller's Federation (National/State) for supplying of books to the library for the year 2023-24 is hereby extended for 7 days from the date of publication.

This document is also available on college website: www.gdcsidhra.in

DIP/J-12112/23
Date: 5-12-23

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL
GDC SIDHRA

CBJ charge sheets Couple for cheating on pretext of arranging a JDA plot

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu produced 214 page charge-sheet in case FIR No. 63/2023 U/S 420, 120-B RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu in the Court of law for judicial dertermination against accused - Husband-wife duo - viz 1) Jameel Anjum S/o Nasir Ahmed and 2) Sana Mir W/o Jameel Anjum both residents of H.No.45 Naraina Mohalla Jammu for hatching criminal conspiracy and cheating the complainant - Tripta Charak D/o Lt. Sh. Kartar Singh Charak R/o H.No.133, Afghana Mohalla Jammu on the promise of arranging allotment of JDA plot after swindling an amount of Rs. 6 Lakhs from her.

The case originates from a written complaint lodged by Tripta Charak I/C Lecturer DIET Jammu, alleging that accused Jameel Anjum took an amount of Rs. 6.00 lacs from the complainant through cheques on the pretext to arrange allotment of a piece of JDA land (plot) situated at Channi Rama Jammu for which complainant had to get the personal loan sanctioned



from the bank and later paid Rs. 3.47 Lakh interest towards the bank. The accused also induced the complainant that he was Public Relation Officer of a Cabinet Minister, in October, 2013. However, the accused neither arranged a piece of JDA plot for her nor refunded the money taken from her as an advance amount.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary enquiry was initiated and during the course of enquiry the allegations levelled were prima-facie substantiated, leading to the registration of formal case under relevant sections of law for in-depth investigation. During the course of investigation material

evidences were gathered from which it came to fore that the accused Jameel Anjum S/o Nasir Ahmed and Sana Mir W/o Jameel Anjum connived and took an amount of Rs. 6 lakh from the complainant on the pretext of providing JDA plot. On the basis of statements of complainant, witnesses, Bank account statements, and other material records, documents obtained from the concerned department, it has been proved that accused with malafide and dishonest intention have cheated the complainant on the pretext of providing JDA plot. The culprit is a habitual offender and is involved in 04 more criminal cases.

Health Deptt organizes ABHA registration camp at New Era Public School, Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DEC 05:

In order to cover all the eligible beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), a special camp in connection with ABHA was organized at New Era Public School Doda by Health Department Doda.

The camp was held on the directions of worthy Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr Ab Gafoor Ahmed, which aims to cover all the citizens under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Speaking on the occasion, the health staff asked the people to avail the benefits of such camps as the purpose of these camps is to provide services to the common people at their door steps. They said that Aadhar Card is the most significant identity document of a person in India and a gateway to avail any kind of benefit under the schemes rolled out by the Government.

They also threw light on the benefit of ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) Card which previously known as Health ID. "It helps individuals to access healthcare benefits and store their medical information digitally in one place. ABHA health card benefits users by letting them enjoy healthcare services, including registration, appointment scheduling with a doctor, and storing electronic medical



records. The Health ID card can also be linked to multiple health schemes and insurance plans, providing various benefits. Therefore, a Health ID card is one-stop identification for all healthcare-related activities. It makes it easier for individuals to access and manage their overall wellness," they said.

The team comprising Ms Shariqa Anjum (CHO/MLHP), Ms Monika Devi (FMPHW) and Ms Rinku Devi (FMPHW) attended the camp from the health

department, who generated around 50 ABHA Ids on the spot and generated mass awareness on the occasion.

Principal of the school, Nishad Ahmed Tak who was also present on the occasion thanked the BMO Ghat and the health team for organizing such a camp in their school, which would surely benefit the beneficiaries in the time to come, in which safer and efficient digital health records shall be maintained.

Army organizes Cross Country Championship at Vilgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
HANDWARA, DEC 5

As part of countrywide celebrations of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav to commemorate 25 years of Operation Vijay, a Cross Country Championship was organised at Vilgam Army Camp for the girls of Ramhal, Kupwara, Magam, Taratpora and Zachaldara Blocks.

The competition was designed for a distance of 5 km for the age group of 13 - 16 years. The event was participated by a total of 122 girls with full spirit and

enthusiasm. To further motivate the students and instill the competitive spirit amongst the girls, a Cash prize of Rs 5000 for 1st, Rs 3000 for 2nd, Rs 1000 for 3rd and Rs 300 consolation prize for next 7 places were given. Ms Seerat Ahad, Ms Romisa Habib & Ms Sadiya Bashir of Gotingo Boys High School proved themselves to be better than others and secure 1st, 2nd & 3rd position respectively. Such sport events organised by Army Camps promotes physical activity amongst the youth and are widely appreciated.

KVK Kishtwar celebrates World Soil Day at Balgran



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

KVK Kishtwar today celebrated world soil day at Panchayat Balgran Block Drabshalla under the guidance of Dr SK Gupta Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. The programme was conducted by Dr Narinder Paul Head KVK Kishtwar in collaboration with Ampy Singh, Agriculture Extension Officer Zone Binoon Subdivision Paddar. The theme of programme was Soil and water: A Source of life. On the occasion, a farmers' training programme on balanced nutrients use and a kissan goshti on soil health management were held.

Ampy Singh, AEO Zone Binoon, Ajay Chander

JAE0, Jwalapur, Ghulam Mohammad Sarpanch Balgran, Karim Baksh Member Panchayat Balgran and more than 50 progressive Farmers and farm women of the Panchayat participated in the programme.

During the programme Dr Narinder Paul made the participants aware about the importance of balanced nutrition in crops for maintaining healthy soils ecosystem, the ways and means of soil health management and called for balanced plant nutrient use for soil health management practices.

Ampy Singh stressed upon the farmers to incorporate the soil health card recommendation based fertilizers in the

crop to maintain proper soil health. Ajay Chander called upon the participants for enriching the organic matter content of the soil for better soil health.

Others present during the programme were Ghulam Mohammad, Noor Mohammad, Dewan Chand, Surjeet Kumar, Mohammad Latief, Babli Devi, Swami Raj, Mohammad Shaffi, Fateh Mohammad. At the end of the programme organic soil amendments and vegetable seed were distributed among the participants. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Ghulam Mohammad, sarpanch Balgran who lauded the efforts of KVK for conducting the programme in the panchayat.

Brigadier P.S.Cheema SM, VSM Visits GCW Gandhinagar - inspires and motivates NCC cadets

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Group Commander NCC Jammu Group Brigadier Paramjeet Singh Cheema SM ,VSM paid his maiden visit in the campus of GCW Gandhinagar along with Col.Muneesh Jasrotia, Commanding Officer 2J&K Girls Bn.NCC Jammu on 4th of December, 2023. This visit is set to be a momentous occasion for the NCC cadets, as they will have the unique opportunity to interact with an esteemed military leader.

Prof. Minu Mahajan, the Principal of the college extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests along with Lt. Suman Bala ANO , 2J&K Girls Bn NCC and C/T Dr.kusum.

It was followed by an interaction with Principal and ANO that how NCC adds into the personality of cadets , facilities in the Institution and future goals to be achieved.

During the interac-



tive session with the NCC cadets, Brigadier P.S.Cheema SM, VSM provided valuable guidance on leadership, discipline, and the importance of teamwork in NCC. He also

interacted with the achievers whom NCC provided wings to soar high.

The visit concluded with the formal Vote of thanks and presentation of Souvenir.

Gurdeep Saini inaugurates devp work in Village Chak Nanak

JI NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, DECEMBER 5

Gurdeep Saini, Sarpanch Panahayat Gandli and General Secretary of All Jammu Kashmir Panchayat Conference, today inaugurated the development work of construction of a nallah and allied works near CSC Center at Village Chak Nanak, Ward No 5, Panchayat Gandli in RS Pura. The development project is estimated to cost Rs 3 lakhs.

Speaking on the occasion, Gurdeep Saini said that the inauguration of this project marks the fulfillment of a long-pending demand of the people of



the village. He also stated that as per his commitment, near 10 development works are expected to be started in this week itself. The Sarpanch further emphasized his commitment to ensuring that the people of the Panchayat receive the benefits of all government schemes. He highlighted that many projects have been started

in the Panchayat under government schemes in the past, and he will continue to strive for the initiation of more projects in the future. He expressed his gratitude to the Modi government at the Center for extending the benefits of government schemes to the Panchayat level.

Gurdeep Saini asserted that the union territory

of Jammu and Kashmir has experienced unparalleled development during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He passionately appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to extend their unwavering support to Prime Minister Modi's endeavors, ensuring the continued progress and equitable development of their beloved region.

Other dignitaries present at the inauguration ceremony included Chairman Adalati Committee Darshan Singh, Panch Anju Bala, Lambardar Chhru Singh, Vijay Singh, Harjinder Singh, and others.

Theft case solved, cash Rs 3,16,000 and stolen items recovered

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

A complaint was lodged at PS Gangyal regarding theft of cash and camera from a paint factory in the area under the jurisdiction of PS Gangyal. On this case FIR No. 111/23 u/s 457/380/34 IPC was registered in PS Gangyal and investigation started. On this special police teams of PS Gangyal led by SDPO South Sachit Sharma assisted by SHO PS Gangyal Inspr Jaswinder Singh did strenuous efforts and finally rounded three

suspected persons namely Bablu mandal s/o Joginder Mandal R/o Ekchari, Distt Bhagalpur, Bihar A/p Digianna Jammu Azad S/o Shivam Mahato R/o Narela Delhi A/p near Trikuta palace, Trikuta nagar Jammu Rohit kumar s/o Rajesh Tanti R/o Ekchari, distt Bagalpur, Bihar A/p Shiva chowk, Trikuta nagar Jammu. On questioning accused confessed their involvement in the above case and on their disclosure stolen cash Rs 3,16,000 and a camera was recovered from their possession.

Hunnerpreet and Divjot Kour of DPS Jammu shine in Inter-School sports tournament



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 5

Hunnerpreet Kour (VII-K) and Divjot Kour (VIII-D), both students of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to their institution and their parents by winning 1st positions, gold medals and a glittering trophy in Singles & Doubles, respectively in Inter-School Badminton Tournament organized at K.C Sports Complex from 20-26 November, 2023. Both the girls participated

in U-14 girls category. The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, Hon'ble President-RCT, Sh. M.K Ajatshatru Singh Ji, distinguished PVC-Kuwarani Dr. Ritu Singh Ji, Hon'ble Director-Sh. S.S Sodhi Ji along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ms. Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated the winners, their parents and coach, Mr. Amar Jyoti Sharma for their brilliant performances in the event. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

District-Level Armed Forces Flag Day Committee Meeting held at Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 5

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a crucial meeting of the District-level Armed Forces Flag Day Committee in her office chamber.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Addl. SP Anwar-Ul-Haq, DTO Alok Gupta, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Head Quarter and other officers of concerned departments

attended the meeting.

The DC underscored the significance of Armed Forces Flag Day, urging the activation of government departments and educational institutions in the collection of donations. She emphasized the importance of expressing gratitude to India's military personnel and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to install donation boxes in every

government office across the district. Emphasizing the need for widespread participation, she called upon civil society members, students, youth clubs, and volunteers to actively contribute to Armed Forces Flag Day at the district and sub-division levels. DC directed officers to ensure the contribution of Flag Day from all employees of District Udhampur, recognizing it as a collective effort to honor and support the armed forces.

DC Doda reviews preparedness for Panchayat Secretary Recruitment Exam

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 5

Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, led a meeting in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to evaluate the preparations for the upcoming OMR-based recruitment exam for Panchayat Secretary posts being conducted by the J&K Service Selection Board.

The meeting, attended by SSP Doda Abdul QAYOOM, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Bharti, observers, and district officers, delved into crucial aspects of the examination.

Discussions encompassed the deployment of Magistrates, supervisory staff, examination observers, and videography of the exam.

The DC stressed the importance of training staff and providing neces-



sary facilities for a seamless examination process. Furthermore, the deployment of female police personnel and security arrangements for storing sensitive material was tasked to the police department.

Instructing officers to ensure ample staff deployment at examination centers, the DC emphasized the need for backup arrangements to tackle unforeseen circumstances. Transportation of examination materials and

logistics planning were also key points of discussion. The examination, scheduled for December 10, 2023, from 12 noon to 2 pm, will take place across 38 examination centers, expecting around 9000 aspirants. The meeting concluded with directives to concerned departments to finalize all necessary arrangements, highlighting the importance of coordination and cohesion for a smooth and peaceful examination.

The DC issued spe-

cific directives to various departments, including a ban on mobile phones and electronic devices inside examination centers. The PDD department was directed to ensure proper power supply during the examination hours, while the Jal Shakti department was tasked with arranging adequate water supply at all examination centers. The ARTO Doda received instructions to ensure proper vehicle arrangements required for conducting the examination.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reaches six Panchayats of Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 5

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a nationwide campaign to empower and enlighten the rural masses, visited six Panchayats of District Samba today. The Yatra was welcomed by the enthusiastic locals, who participated in different activities and programs conducted by the government officials and nodal officers. The Yatra also showcased the achievements and benefits of the government schemes and initiatives, and inspired the people to join the vision of Viksit Bharat. The IEC Van for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra covered a total of six Panchayats of three blocks of the district, including Panchayats Deon and Purmandal of Block Purmandal, Panchayats Trindi and Khanpur of Block Ramgarh, and Panchayats Sodam and Kard of Block Sumb.

IEC van disseminated the information about various flagship government schemes, such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and others. Besides, a Session on agricultural activities, such as soil health card, organic farming, micro-irrigation, and crop diversification was also held. Free medical camps and check-ups, where people received health advice, medicines, and COVID-19 vaccination were conducted during the event.

Further the Distribution of Golden Cards and KCC cards to beneficiaries, who can avail the benefits of Ayushman Bharat and Kisan Credit Card schemes was done. The important aspect of the event was the Sankalp pledge, where people vowed to work for the development and progress of the nation and their villages.

DHEW Shopian organises Awareness programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 5

The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Shopian under Mission Shakti today organised an awareness programme regarding 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', an initiative towards empowerment of girls through education at Government Higher Secondary School Ramnagri Shopian.

The programme was attended by Teachers, students, AWWs, Asha workers, sarpanches, panchs,

social activists and local women of the village.

DHEW officials delivered awareness on women's role in society and encouraged the Women to fight against all the odds of the society.

The speakers and community leaders shared their insights and stories to motivate the young girls and encouraged them to pursue their dreams by venturing into different career fields. The speakers emphasised that every girl deserves a fair chance at education and a prosperous life.

DC distributes Sewing Machines, Raw Material among SHG members at Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 5

Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Saloni Rai, who is also the Chairperson of WCDC-IWMP, today distributed sewing machines and raw materials among Women Self Help Group Members here in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Rajni Sharma (President), Miss Pooja Devi (Secretary), and other members of the Self-Help Group of Panchayat Bredian received the assistance under the livelihood com-

ponent of WDC-PMKSY 2.0. During the interaction with the Self-Help Group members, the Chairperson gave valuable advice on self-employment and attaining sustainable livelihoods. Pertinent to mention here that these women were unemployed till now and with the creation of New SHGS they get job opportunities and it will make them self-reliant.

Dr. Manmeet Kumar (PO IWMP), Dr. Nasir Hafiz (DLTE), Raj Kishore (AAO), Bimal Kumar, Purnima, Anita (WDT), and Rekha (DEO) were also present.

Kathua: 10 dumpers seized for illegal transportation of minor minerals

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 5

To crackdown against illegal mining activities, a team of the Mining department led by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kathua Rajinder Singh Rana initiated action against 10 loaded dumpers at Kathua here today.

During an operation, the team visited multiple crushers where minerals are dispatched to Punjab. The team seized all vehicles which were later handed over to police till realization of penalty from them. During seizure, it was also found that all the dumpers were carrying expired e-challans of the crusher units with them which were also verified on the spot from the official portal of the department.

The DMO informed that no crusher unit is allowed to operate and load vehi-



cles during night hours in the district and instructions have already been issued to work during day time but due to no entry in Punjab, the vehicles wait for a long time and their e-challans expire.

District Mineral Officer also informed that the action has been initiated as per the MMDR Act of 1957 and SRO-105 of 2016 wherein powers have been delegated to officers for controlling illegal transportation and illegal mining activities. Over 300 vehicles and

heavy excavators have already been seized by the department from Ujh, Tarnah, Sahar Khad, Ravi and other areas in the district for their involvement in illegal mining and illegal transportation of minerals.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas has instructed the Geology and Mining department to keep check on vehicles involved in transportation of mining material and no one should be spared, if found guilty of illegal mining.

World Soil Day 2023: KVK Samba hosts farmers' awareness program

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 5

Samba Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology - Jammu celebrated "World Soil Day 2023" witnessing participation of more than 200 farmers. The theme for World Soil Day 2023 is "Soil and Water: A Source of Life".

The event was held under the leadership of Professor. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, instructions of Professor S. K. Gupta Director Extension, SKUAST-J and the supervision of Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief scientist & Head, KVK Samba.

N.S Jamwal, Director Command Area Development Jammu was the Chief Guest, while Balwan Singh, Vice Chairman DDC Samba was the Guest of Honour, and Dr. Sanjay Khajuria presided over the function.

The Chief Scientist & Head, KVK, in his welcome address, emphasized upon the importance of soil in agricultural productivity and expressed concern over the rising soil erosion in the district. He advised the farmers to use agro



forestry techniques to promote soil health. He gave an insight into the importance of millet crops like pearl millet, sorghum millet, little millet, foxtail millet, barnyard millets in our daily diet and their role in maintaining the soil health and fertility.

Further, he emphasized upon the advantages of growing millet crops in kandi region and their suitability in rain fed areas of Samba district. He appraised the farming community about the health benefits of these crops and their demand thereof. As the GOI, is celebrating 2023 as "International Year of Millets", so the efforts of the KVK to promote the farming of the millets can be well understood. More than 50 ha area was covered under the millets in District Samba, disclosed Dr.

Khajuria. The Chief Guest, in his address, lauded the efforts of KVK Samba for reaching out to each and every nook and corner of the district. He also stressed to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, fighting soil-salinization, and increasing soil awareness to improve soil health. He also told the farmers that such awareness programmes shall be the regular feature for the farming community at village level to make them aware of the balanced use of fertilizers to increase productivity and maintain soil health. Balwan Singh, Vice Chairman DDC Samba also appreciated the team of KVK Samba for their tireless efforts for

enhancement of farmers income under the leadership of Prof. Sanjay Khajuria and also highlighted the importance of World Soil Day, 2023.

During the programme, KVK Samba demonstrated an Agriculture drone for the benefit of the farming community.

Interacting with the participants, Prof. Khajuria briefed them about the use of drone in agriculture as it has many distinct advantages such as high field capacity and efficiency, less turnaround time and other field operational delays, wastage reduction of pesticide and fertilizers due to high degree of atomization, water saving due to ultra-low volume spraying technology in comparison to traditional spraying methods, reduction in cost of spraying and fertilizer

application in comparison to conventional methods etc. besides reduction of human exposure to hazardous chemicals.

A demonstration on Natural Farming was also conducted on the occasion.

Dr. Neerja Sharma, Sr. Scientist, Horticulture KVK Samba elaborated upon the adoption of various Horticulture practices for improving the soil fertility. Dr. Saurav Gupta, Scientist, Entomology, KVK Samba sensitized the participants about the ill effects of injudicious use of pesticides and deteriorating health of soil. The farmers were also advised to use natural farming practices, adoption of organic farming and other measures of soil conservation. He further informed that World Soil Day is celebrated throughout the

Arrangements for ensuing JKSSB examinations finalized at Shopian



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 5

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today convened a meeting at Conference Hall of Mini-Secretariat, here to finalize arrangements for the ensuing JKSSB OMR based examination of Panchayat Secretaries.

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.

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.

The arrangements for drinking water, heating, electricity, transport, manpower, videography, etc at all centres of the district were also discussed in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; Dy.DEO, Jahangir Ahmad; Tehsildar Shopian, faculty members of GDC, Lecturers and other concerned.