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First time after Independence, 2 Crore tourists visit J&K up to November this year: Union Tourism Minister

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 7

Union Tourism Minister G Kishen Reddy Thursday said that for the first time after Independence, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded the arrival of two crore tourists up to November this year.

Replying to a query in the Parliament, Reddy, as per news agency, said that for the first time after India's Independence, Jammu and Kashmir has seen two crore tourist arrivals including foreign-



ers up to November this year. "The figure is set to go up further by December end," he said.

He said that there has been 155 per cent increase in the overall tourist arrivals in 2023 compared to

2021 and 2022. "85 lakh foreign tourists visited India this year so far," he said.

The Union Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has played a huge role in showcasing India's tourism potential and tourism industry. "PM Modi has been the brand ambassador of India's tourism industry. In his (PM's) every foreign visit, Modiji showcased India's huge tourism potential that attracted lakhs of tourists to India," he said.

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J&K's Opposition parties react over Amit Shah's remarks on Nehruvian blunders

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 7

The opposition political parties in Jammu and Kashmir including Congress on Thursday repulsed back to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks against the Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, claiming that Kashmir has suffered due to his blunders.

Congress Working Committee (CWC) member and former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPC) president, Ghulam Ahmad Mir told news agency that Amit Shah and his party Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) has reached this stage after reading the negative part of the country.

"BJP has never been part of independence, not even shared their bit in this regard, they don't even know how the country has emerged, how things have been done," he said.

"It is because of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that Kashmir is the part of India," he said, adding that Congress has never taken their statements seriously as they only mislead people by distorting the facts.

National Confer-

ence (NC) President and Member of Parliament Dr Farooq Abdullah while speaking to media persons in New Delhi, said Rajouri and Poonch wouldn't have been part of India today in case Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru would have focused on Muzaffarabad, adding that the forces were diverted to secure Rajouri and Poonch.

"Pt Jawaharlal Nehru's decision has secured Rajouri and Poonch at that time as the situation was quite different then. There was no other solution than going to the United Nations as everybody at the time was in favour of

it," he said.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) spokesman, Najam-us-Saqib, stated that it is completely wrong and unfortunate to blame someone for the crisis Kashmir has faced. "Blaming Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru is completely dishonest; he was a tall leader, who laid a foundation of a secular democratic India," Najam said.

He added that given the situation at that time, J&K needed a different kind of approach as it was a Muslim majority state and ruled by a Hindu ruler. "Nehru played a

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Srinagar shivers at minus 2.6 degree Celsius night temp

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 7

The night temperature has plummeted further in Kashmir parts with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recording the coldest night of the season at minus 2.6 degree Celsius.

As per the details available with the news agency, a few other places of Kashmir including Qazigund and Kupwara, also recorded the coldest night of the season.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled at minus 2.2

degree Celsius while in Gulmarg, a minimum temperature of minus 2.5 degree Celsius was recorded.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist place, recorded a low of minus 4.9 degree Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.1 degree Celsius.

The minimum temperature plummeted after the day-long wet spell in Kashmir on November 30, 2023. The weatherman had predicted a significant drop in the minimum temperatures, saying that the night tem-

perature is expected to fall by 3-5 degree Celsius. Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the minimum temperature is expected to go further down in the coming days as there is no forecast of any major weather activity till December 14.

However, he said that light snowfall is expected at isolated places in the higher reaches on December 12. "Overall, no major weather activity is expected till December 14 and the weather would remain mostly dry and cloudy during the period," he said. KNO

Power to nominate MLAs should rest with elected govt not LG, says Omar



JI NEWS SERVICE
TRAL, DEC 7

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that power to nominate MLAs as per the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Act-2023

should have been given to the elected government instead of the Lieutenant Governor.

As per news agency, while talking to reporters at Tral after addressing workers, the former chief minister said

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J&K Police mourns heroic loss of Inspector Masroor DGP Swain vows stronger stand against terrorism

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Director General of Police (DGP) R.R. Swain Thursday condoled the heroic loss of Inspector Masroor Ahmad, who succumbed to injuries at (AIIMS) New Delhi.

In his message, Swain said, "As the Director General of Police, it is with profound sorrow that I extend my heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of Police Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani."

"Today, we mourn the loss of Police Inspector



Masroor Ahmad Wani, a courageous officer who valiantly served amidst the looming threat of terrorism. His sacrifice embodies the harsh reality our J&K policemen face, dedicating their lives to shield our communities from the

shadows of terrorism," the DGP has stated as per a statement issued to the news agency.

The DGP has said that "Inspector Wani's tragic sacrifice reminds us of the immense

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NIA attaches residential house in Awantipora village

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 7

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday attached a residential house in Chursow district of Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama village under UAPA.

An official told the news agency that the house is owned jointly by Khursheed Ahmed Bhat and his five brothers. He said that house has been attached under the provisions of UA(P)A by the order of MA 4 Special Court Jammu. KNO

Day 2: Search ops to trace body of Sopore girl in Jhelum resumes

JI NEWS SERVICE
SOPORE, DEC 7

The authorities on Thursday launched search operation to locate the body of a teenage girl who jumped in the River Jehlum at Jamia Bridge in Sopore on Wednesday afternoon.

An official told the news agency the search operation, which was halted yesterday evening due to low visibility, entered day two today. He said that police along with locals and SDRF are on job to locate the body of the girl. 16-year-old girl had jumped into the river Jhelum at Jamia bridge yesterday. KNO

1 dead, 2 injured after vehicle skids off road in Budgam village

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, DEC 7

One person died while as two others were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off road in Rupwan area of Charari Sharief in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday, officials said.

An official told the news agency that the driver of the vehicle lost control of his car and skidded off the road. He said that in the incident one person died on the spot while two were injured. The deceased has been identified as Abdul Kabir Hajam of Pulwama. KNO

CS for focus on agriculture extension and quality inputs to increase the productivity

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday had a detailed review of the schemes under implementation here to revamp all the sectors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in the Union Territory.

Besides the Principal Secretary, APD the meeting was attended by Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP); Secretary in Agriculture; HoDs of allied departments and other concerned officers.

Speaking in this meet-



ing, the Chief Secretary observed that the Agriculture sector plays a pivotal role in changing our economy for better as it has not yet been harnessed optimally as per our innate

potential. He made out that there are number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) along with HADP currently under implementation in the UT that can be game

changers in this direction, if implemented successfully here.

He maintained that the main focus areas for the Department in

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Dr Jitendra updates Rajya Sabha about 'digital life certificate' for pensioners

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, DEC 7

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy Dr. Jitendra Singh today updated the Rajya Sabha about "Digital Life Certificate" (DLC) for pensioners and the nationwide campaign undertaken to for its awareness and use..

In reply to a question, the Minister said, Digital Life Certificate was introduced soon after Narendra Modi assumed office as Prime Minister in 2014. It was inspired by the con-



viction that it was neither feasible nor humane to expect every elderly pensioner to reach out to a Doctor and procure his certificate of being alive every year. Therefore, through the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), the technique of Biometric technology was adopted

to generate Digital Life Certificates with ease and convenience for the pensioners.

It is pertinent to mention that sometime back, it was observed that the fingerprints and biometric may not be reliable after certain old age and therefore, the DoPPW was

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PoJK part of India, no reason to change our statement: MEA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, DEC 7

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Thursday supported Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) by saying that India's position on PoJK is very clear: "it is part of India and we don't see any reason to change the stance."

"I don't think I need to really reiterate our position on PoJK. I don't need to clarify the Home Minister's statement in Parliament. Our position on PoJK is very clear; we con-

sider it a part of India and we certainly see no reason to change our statement," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Bagchi was responding to a question regarding Pakistan's rejection of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in the Lok Sabha, saying 'PoJK is ours'.

The Home Minister, during his address in the Lower House, reaffirmed that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of the country.

Shah said, "The Delimitation (Commission) went everywhere in J-K. The representatives of several communities, including

Kashmiri migrants and people displaced in PoJK, had submitted applications to them regarding their representation in state assembly. I am happy that the commission has taken cognizance of this and the (then) Election Commissioner of India has nominated two seats in state assembly for Kashmiri migrants and one seat for a person displaced in PoJK, which has been occupied unauthorisedly by Pakistan."

"Earlier there were 37 seats in Jammu (division), now there are 43. Earlier there were 46 in Kashmir, now there are 47.

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Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra outreach campaign continues in District Doda amid impactful activities

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 7

District Doda is experiencing a significant wave of change ignited by the highly impactful Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra outreach campaign. This ambitious initiative, spanning across Marmat, Bhagwaha, Assar, Bhaderwah, Chiralla Kahra, and Changa blocks, stands as a beacon for fostering awareness about government-driven initiatives aimed at uplifting the region. Through a collaborative effort engaging community members, leaders, and enthusiastic individuals, this yatra serves as an informative platform elucidating the diverse developmental programs in progress. The yatra not only showcases the rich cultural tapestry of the region but also acts as a conduit for various government departments to exhibit their flagship



schemes and services. With vibrant cultural showcases, esteemed personalities, and an array of community leaders in attendance, the event ignites fervour and active involvement in the nation's advancement. Witnessing an overwhelming response at every stop, including panchayats like Bijarni, Mangota B, Beoli, Puneja, Bhallara, and others, the yatra features health check-up camps, pledge ceremonies, and

grand displays of government-sponsored schemes on large LED screens. At each panchayat, like Kulsari Panchayat in Bhaderwah block and Dhareja Panchayat, the yatra's arrival met with enthusiastic receptions. The gatherings actively engaged in pledge ceremonies, health checkups, and revel in cultural performances and sports activities. Displaying the Prime Minister's messages on a sizable LED

screen, the yatra encapsulates the positive sentiments of beneficiaries of government schemes, highlighting their substantial impact on the community. Its overarching mission emphasizes community outreach and acknowledges the pivotal role of frontline workers in driving development and awareness. Further amplifying its impact, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra graced various other panchayats, including Bhallara, Goila, Kencha, Changa A, Changa B, Bijarni Lower B, drawing a huge crowd of locals and students. The dissemination of crucial information on government initiatives, coupled with selfie points to commemorate the yatra, underscores its success in reaching the masses, fostering awareness, and championing the spirit of a progressive India.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri approves 3 Cases under Holistic Agriculture Development Program



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 7

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal today presided over a significant meeting where three cases were approved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). The meeting focused on evaluating the progress made in achieving the objectives of the program and informing farmers about the innovative interventions that have been made.

The HADP is an ambitious initiative aimed at establishing a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the overarching goal of the program which is to empower local farmers by equipping them with knowledge and tools that can significantly enhance their productivity and profitability. Simultaneously, the HADP seeks to contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural sector.

One of the key features of the HADP is its provision of a platform for farmers to engage with experts from the Agricultural and allied departments. This engagement allows farmers to seek expert guidance on various aspects of farming, enabling them to improve their agricultural practices. By adopting such a multifaceted approach, the HADP aims to elevate agricultural productivity, enhance livelihoods, and make substantial contributions to the

region's broader economic growth. Among the others who attended the meeting were the Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Khurshid, Chief Agriculture Officer Sohan Singh, Chief Horticulture Officer Dr. Khalid Hussain, District Sheep Husbandry Officer PP Sagotra, Lead District Manager Sanjeev Bhasin, Project Officer DIC Abid Hussain, and Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Adnan Rather and other concerned officers.

Awareness camp on Nasha Mukht Bharat, BBBP held at Tikri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 7

The Department of Social Welfare, Udhampur, on Thursday organized a sensitization program on "Nasha Mukht Bharat," "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)," and other women-centric schemes here in Middle School Baasani in Block Tikri.

The event aimed to address the issue of drug abuse, especially among the youth, under the guidance of District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta. BDC Chairman, Tikri, Nisha Sharma, urged participants to actively contribute towards 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' and play a pivotal role in eliminating drug abuse from society. District Mission Coordinator, Jyoti Pathania, DHEW, emphasized the program's objective to raise awareness about the destructive impact of drugs, encourage positive actions among youth, and promote the slogan



"Say No To Drugs" under "Nasha Mukht Bharat." Gender specialist Sheetal, DHEW, enlightened participants about women-centric schemes and BBBP, advocating for the protection and promotion of the girl child. The focus was on improving child sex ratios, engaging communities, and challenging age-old biases against girls. DHEW and OSC staff also urged parents to empower girls through education. The event witnessed the presence of various

stakeholders, including the Principal of Baasani Middle School Tikri, teachers, JKEDI staff, sarpanches, naib sarpanch, panches, senior citizens, members of SHG groups, and 66 students, with a total of 54 other participants. In conclusion, tokens of appreciation were distributed to students, baby kits provided to newborns, and medical kits handed to senior citizens by the department, reinforcing their commitment to community well-being.

DC Kulgam visits far-off Nagras tribal village; listens issues of people for early redressal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, DECEMBER 7

Continuing the endeavour to reach out to people and provide governance at their doorsteps, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday visited far-off Nagras tribal village and convened public grievances redressal camp there.

The programme witnessed overwhelming response of people from Watihaal, Nagras, Cheki Badwani, Silyalo and other villages.

Auqaf Committee members and PRI members also participated in this grievance redressal camp and put forth issues and demands of the area.

The visiting delegations of public and the PRIs unanimously demanded inclusion of the area with block Qazigund and sanc-



tion of PMAY-G huts for the beneficiaries of the area.

A delegation from Chekibadwani demanded establishment of a dispensary and installation of street lights in the village.

People from Watihaal village demanded construction of Borewell for Irrigation facility to their fields.

People also demanded development and repairs of Naseerpora and other

roads besides flagged-off other developmental requirements of their areas.

The DC listened to all the issues of people and some of the issues of immediate nature were also redressed on spot.

On the occasion, the DC apprised the people about various welfare schemes of the government and urged them to avail ben-

efits of these schemes. He urged youth to avail benefit of various government self-employment generation schemes to set up their business units.

He also instructed the concerned to develop a playfield in the area.

Jal Shakti Department was instructed to construct a borewell at Watihaal functional at an earliest. Addressing the occasion, the

DC said that the Administration is committed for holistic development of all areas with special focus on development and progress of tribal areas.

Earlier, ACD apprised the chair about the status of ongoing work projects in the area.

Among others, ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather was also present in the camp.

NABARD sponsored Skill Training concludes at RSETI Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 7

Under NABARDs Skill Development scheme, 30 specially-abled candidates from Shopian completed their one month on-site skill training programme on tailoring at Zainpora.

The training was conducted by Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Shopian.

The valediction ceremony was held at RSETI Shopian in which the District Development Manager NABARD, Rouf Zargar was invited as chief guest. The programme was attended by Lead District Manager Farooq Ahmad, Director RSETI, Nazir Ahmad, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer and President Handicapped Association Shopian Speaking on the occasion, DDM NABARD said that NABARD has sanctioned various Skill Development programmes to professional skill agencies and RSETIs across the UT and provides grant based financial assistance to agencies towards the conduct of such programmes.

He said the programmes are aimed at enhancing the skills of rural youth and thus providing them the avenues of livelihood by setting up their own units or opting for wage employment. The course for specially-abled was intended to provide gainful livelihood to these target groups.

Director RSETI complimented the candidates for completing the course and assured all possible handholding support to them from RSETI. He urged the candidates to properly utilize the skills learned during the course. LDM assured all the financial support from banks specifically targeted for weaker sections of society. TSWO gave an overview of various schemes available with the Social Welfare Department for specially-abled people. She assured that the department would provide the benefits of those schemes to these groups.

The candidates were felicitated with mementos and course completion certificates.

Div Com reviews progress on Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme of Greater Srinagar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 7

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday reviewed the progress on Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme in Zone-III of Greater Srinagar under Languishing Scheme of erstwhile JnNURM executed by H&UDD/UEED.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineers of PHE, PWD Central, General Manager NBCC, officers of SMC

and representatives of the area.

The meeting was informed that Trunk Sewer Line has been 99 percent completed while Lateral Sewer Line has been entirely completed, besides, 60 MLD STP is near completion with 98% work already done. It was further informed that due to non-availability of fronts for Trunk Sewer Line at 90 feet road for shifting of 16 Shops & Re-alignment of PHE pipes at Alamgari Bazar the remaining work is pend-

ing for completion.

On the occasion, Div Com directed concerned officers to speed up the execution of work so that the concerned area does not face inconvenience due to water logging.

He enjoined the concerned to make arrangements for providing electricity to ensure the operation of the STP.

He also instructed for the completion of the rehabilitation process of shopkeepers so that the remaining segment of Sewer Line is completed.

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Republic Day 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police, Anand Jain today chaired a meeting of the Heads of Departments to review the preparations for the celebration of Republic Day-2024.

The Div com discussed in detail the arrangements to be made for smooth conduct of the National event. He stressed on close synergy among the concerned departments in the process of making available all required logistics well in advance.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on selection of contingents, finalization of cultural presentations, provision of Transportation, sanitation, cleanliness, face lifting of the venue, decoration of stage, seating arrangements. The stakeholder departments were allotted different tasks with strict instructions for accomplishing the assignments with precision and planning.

The Divisional Commissioner asked Director School Education and Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages to immediately furnish the



lists of student contingents and cultural presentations, while BSF, Army, Police were also told to share the lists of respective contingents.

Asking the stakeholders to finalize the cultural items, he stressed on starting the rehearsal at the earliest.

The JMC functionaries were told to ensure sanitation, water tanker, and mobile toilet facilities at the main venue and venue for rehearsals.

Necessary directions were issued to the concerned departments for selection of contingents, cultural programmes, rehearsals, transportation facilities for participants, traffic management, security and other important arrangements for smooth conduct of the event.

The Div Com asked

Deputy Commissioner Jammu to visit the venue to assess the works required to be done before the event like face lifting, whitewash etc and also finalise the commentators in consultation with the Information Department.

The Div Com also directed Departmental Heads to appoint nodal officers of their respective departments for coordinating and finalising the arrangements. The Div Com asked for establishment of a Control room at the venue comprising officers of all the concerned departments for finalizing arrangements. He issued strict directions to ensure presence of officers from all concerned departments. Meanwhile, the Div Com and IGP also reviewed arrangements for Republic Day celebra-

tion in the districts. The DCs instructed to ensure smooth celebrations at Tehsil, Block level also. IGP instructed SSPs to ensure adequate deployment at Block levels also. The meeting was attended by DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, Shakti Pathak; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; SSP Jammu, SSP Security Jammu, SSP Traffic besides senior officers of Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, SSB, Air Force, Traffic, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, PWD, JMC, Health Services, Information, Education, Cultural Academy, Youth Services and Sports, Hospitality and Protocol, JKRTC and other concerned departments while Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu division participated through video conferencing.

2-day mega Job Fair organised at Boniyar B'la

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 7

In a groundbreaking collaboration between the District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC/MCC) Baramulla and the Dagger Division of the Indian Army, a two-day Mega Job Fair was inaugurated at NOU JAWAAN Club Boniyar.

The event, graced by Gen Rajesh Sethi, GOC of Dagger Division, and Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla Aijaz Abdullah Sharaf, aimed to provide diverse employment opportunities for educated youth in the district.

With a participation of 1723 job seekers, the job fair served as a unique platform where 23 employers from different sectors including Banking, Finance, Insurance, IT, and more, interacted with the potential candidates. The event marked



a significant milestone as 18 candidates received on-the-spot job offer letters, and 144 were short-listed for further rounds.

The joint effort of the Indian Army and Civil Administration underscored the commitment to address unemployment challenges. The fair focused on three major aspects: facilitating self-employment through government schemes, skill upgrading, and fostering private sector employment.

During the event, Joint Director Employment, Zeenat Ara distributed sanction letters to beneficiaries under various self-employment schemes. Additionally, the Dignitaries presented on-the-spot job offer letters to deserving candidates, further highlighting the success of the fair.

Dagger Division of the Indian Army, having conducted skill development courses for over 10 years, emphasized the need for up-skilling. Around 1100

candidates trained at Nou Jawaan Club Boniyar and Chinar Club Baramulla will receive further skill enhancement through government skill training institutes and private skill training institutes in the district.

Under CSR, the State Bank of India contributed Rs 01 lakh and machinery equipment to support the up-skilling of candidates, reinforcing the commitment to youth development and employment.

Six Panchayats covered on Day 10 of VBSY

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 7

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continues with full vigor in Kishtwar district as the outreach campaign reached ten far-off Panchayats here on the 10th Day.

People in huge numbers thronged the venues to listen to the message of the PM of India at Kundal and Atholi Panchayats of Block Paddar, Chingam-A and Chatroo Upper Panchayats of block Inderwal besides Butna Churyana and Karool-A Panchayats of Block Drabshalla.

The venues presented a festive look with colourful cultural events. The beneficiaries of different schemes including progressive farmers, entrepreneurs shared their success amid an impressive IEC campaign on centrally sponsored schemes.

The field functionaries of stakeholder departments spread aware-



ness about government schemes, while Audio-Video sessions through LED mounted IEC Vans were the key attractions for the locals.

The people were imparted awareness about welfare schemes related to sanitation facilities, financial services, electric-

ity connections, access to LPG cylinders, housing for the poor, food security, proper nutrition, reliable healthcare, clean drinking water, etc.

The villagers, young and old, thronged the venues of IEC vans and enthusiastically participated in VBSY, while beneficiaries

lauded the govt for extending key flagship beneficiary schemes to them on the ground level. Additionally, beneficiaries were felicitated with essential resources, including Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), Ujjwala Scheme connections, and Bank ATM cards, in a seamless process during the event.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues to forge ahead under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav, striving to reach the unreached and empower them with the knowledge and means to benefit from various government schemes, fostering a more informed and engaged society poised for collective growth and progress.

BARC Outreach Program enlightens GCET Jammu students on Nuclear Science and Career opportunities

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

The Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET) Jammu organised an enlightening outreach program by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on "ATOMS IN THE SERVICE OF NATION" under the patronage of Dr. Sameru Sharma, Principal in the college campus. The event aimed to acquaint students with career opportunities in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and to provide them insight into various aspects of nuclear science.

Resource person Santosh H Takale, a Senior Officer/Head from BARC (MDD), delivered the lecture, emphasizing the significance of the nuclear field by highlighting the career opportunities within the DAE.

The speaker highlighted the historical milestones including the development of indigenous reactors in India. It delved into the essential role of nuclear power in national security, energy production, and other applications, such as radioisotopes and advanced technologies. The students were also provided the information on the 1974 Pokhran nuclear tests and its impact on nuclear technology in fields like plant biotechnology, achieving 42 crop variations through radiation. The future vision of the DAE, incorporating fusion reactions and advancements in materials, were discussed, encouraging students to identify their interests and pursue careers aligned with their passions.

G.R. Ursal, a Senior Officer/Group Head from BARC (TTCD), focused

on career opportunities and the recruitment process, including the Orientation Courses for Engineering Graduates (OCES) and qualification required for various categories, within BARC. The students were further informed about the two nuclear tests conducted by India, undetected by foreign satellites. The program concluded with an open forum for questions, wherein students clarified doubts and sought advice. Aspiring candidates were motivated to excel in their academic pursuits, with specific focus on the upcoming GATE examination. In the evening, "Star gazing and Sky observation session" was organized for students at Maha Maya Temple, Jammu providing students with a unique opportunity to explore the wonders of the night sky.

Prof. Sameru Sharma,

Principal GCET Jammu emphasized that the BARC Outreach Program will play a pivotal role in providing students valuable insights to explore the world of nuclear science, fostering an understanding of career opportunities. She further opined that the interaction facilitated a dynamic exchange of ideas and knowledge, enabling students to gain a more comprehensive and practical understanding in the concerned subject. She further acknowledged the efforts of the organizing team of the college comprising of Prof. Bhawna Sharma, Dr. Ajay Abrol, Er. Sanjeev Gupta, Er. Satdev, Ms. Cherry Sharma, Er. Rajat Sharma, Er. Amit Pandoh and student coordinating team including ReeyaRehan, Krishma Raina and Satvik in making the program a grand success.

PM-SHRI Scheme: Deputy Commissioner flags off Students' field tour from Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 7

In a significant step towards the advancement of education in Bhagwaha zone, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, today flagged off a group of students of Government High School Sooli on a field tour.

The students shall visit Baglihar hydraulic project and the site of the highest railway bridge at Reasi.

The initiative falls under the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme, a new centrally sponsored program launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Teachers Day. The event, attended by CEO, teaching staff, and students, marked a milestone in the mission to upgrade nearly 14,500 schools across India. During the event, DC Doda also had an ardent interaction with the students leaving for the field tour. The flag-off ceremony served as a symbolic launch of the mis-



sion under the PM-SHRI scheme, emphasizing the government's commitment to enhance the educational infrastructure and quality of education in government schools. The scheme, introduced by Prime Minister Modi, seeks to elevate schools across the nation, fostering an enabling learning environment and promoting academic excellence.

Prime Minister Modi's announcement on Teachers' Day laid the foundation for the PM-SHRI

scheme, focusing on the up-gradation of schools to meet modern educational standards. The presence of teaching staff and students during the flag-off ceremony highlights the collaborative effort to realize the vision of improved educational facilities in the region. This initiative reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that every student has access to quality education, aligning with the overarching goals of the PM-SHRI scheme.

Armed Forces Flag Day celebrated with patriotic zeal

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 7

District Administration Kathua observed Armed Forces Flag Day with patriotic zeal and fervor.

The office bearers of Zila Sainik Welfare Board, Kathua formally pinned Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas with Flag.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said "We have to respect brave soldiers all the time besides taking initiative for the welfare of families of ex-servicemen & martyrs." He urged the countrymen to contribute generously towards the Armed Forces Flag Day fund and support the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families. He said invaluable sacrifices of the defence forces cannot be repaid, but we must strive hard to look after them in their hour of need. The Nation cannot forget the supreme sacrifices, dedication to duty and maintaining an eternal watch to safeguard the frontiers of the country made by our soldiers during the course of duty while serving the motherland. He appealed to the officers/officials of the department to contribute generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day.

On the occasion, students of various schools were present and some of them recited poems on patriotic themes as a tribute to the members of the Armed Forces.

To mark the occasion, the District and Sectoral Officers, officials of different departments pinned the token Flag and donated it for the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The fund raising exercise was carried out by NCC cadets, school children, Ex-servicemen and officials of Zila Sainik Welfare Board, Kathua.

FCI Jammu to be upgraded as Institute of Hotel Management soon: Saurabh Bhagat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

The Food Craft Institute, Jammu, would soon be upgraded as Institute of Hotel Management to cater to requirement of skilled manpower for the industry in the region.

This was informed during the 18th Governing Body meeting of Food Craft Institution, Jammu, held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Saurabh Bhagat, here today.

It was revealed in the meeting that the proposal, in this regard, has been submitted to the Union Ministry of Tourism for approval.

The meeting accorded approved to purchase of bus for the institute, installation of rooftop panels and creation of hostel facility within the campus.

The Commissioner Secretary appreciated the efforts of the institute which has tied up with J&K Police for training of their jail inmates and kins of matrys for making them employable. He also lauded FCI for conducting various Skill Development Programmes in the hospitality sector within



the campus and other satellite centres creating more entrepreneurs for the industry.

It was decided in the meeting that soon a mega millet festival would be organized to enable students of FCI showcase their culinary skills wherein industry leaders and professionals shall be invited. Besides, FCI Jammu has already come up with a booklet of millet recipes.

The Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon FCI to explore opportunities to work with industry leaders and tie up for industrial visits, visit of industry executives and professionals to the institute. This will help the institute to adopt latest industrial trends in the

learning stage of students to equip them with latest know how, he added.

He urged upon Rakesh Wazir to arrange visit of high profile industry leaders to the institute for long term tie ups and interactions with students helping them in placements.

President Hotel & Lodges Association Katra, Rakesh Wazir, apprised the meeting that all major hotel chains have set up their hotels in and around Katra and there is an ever increasing demand of skilled manpower for the industry. He appreciated the administration for taking up FCI upgradation proposal which would immensely help the hotel industry get the skilled manpower within

the region.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Director, Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar, Additional Secretary, Tourism Department, Sachin Dev, Additional Secretary, SDD, Narayan Dutt, General Manager JKTDC, Sham Lal, HoD & Administrative Officer, IHM Srinagar, Nirmata, HoD Food Science, PG Department Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Anuradha Gandotra, President Hotel & Lodges Association Jammu (Hotel & Catering Technology), Pawan Gupta and Principal of the institute, Jyoti Bhatti in person and virtually.

Viskit Bharat Sankalp Yatra IEC Van visits Six Panchayats in Samba District

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 7

The Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van of Viskit Bharat, an initiative of the Government of India, visited six panchayats across three blocks of Samba district, here today. The primary objective of the IEC Van is to raise awareness and mobilize people regarding various government schemes and programs.

The IEC Van covered the blocks of Patti, Gurha Slathia Lower of Vijaypur block, Panchayat Ratwana and Surara in Ghagwal block, and Panchayat Darui and Moutlian Kallan in Ramgarh block.

The local communities enthusiastically welcomed the IEC Van, appreciating the efforts made by Viskit Bharat IEC Van to disseminate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to the masses.

To mark this momentous occasion, a grand event was organized at

Gurha Slathia Lower. DDC Vijaypur-A Sudarshan Singh Slathia, Sarpanch Gurha Lower Jatinder Singh, and BDO Vijaypur Abhilove Mahajan graced the event with their presence. The students of Government school presented a captivating cultural program under the theme "Dharti Kahe Pukar Ke". The beneficiaries of various schemes shared their experiences through "Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani". Addition-

ally, health and farmer facilitation camps were set up, providing free health check-ups and guidance on scientific farming practices. To show their commitment to the vision of Viskit Bharat and contribute to the nation's development, all participants took a pledge. The visit of Viskit Bharat IEC Van to the six panchayats in Samba district was a resounding success, fostering awareness and garnering support for government initiatives.

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- 28.12.2023 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 this 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 logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
06.12.2023	14.12.2023	28.12.2023/15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	338-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR	Provision of deep borewell at Srinagar and Budgam stations and other allied water supply works in BAHAL - BRML section under ADEN/BDGM.	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
			2,16,54,953.17/-	2,58,300/-	60 Days
			Similar Nature of work :- "Construction/Boring of deep tube wells/Rainey Wells"		
Period of Completion		06 Months			

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 338-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR Date: 06.12.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

First time after...

The Union Minister said G-20 meetings have played a great role in promoting India's tourism. "The ambassadors rather than the representatives sent by over 30 countries were the cream of foreign countries. Almost 200 meetings of G-20 were held across India including one in J&K. The participants went back to their respective countries as ambassadors of tourism," he said, adding that the Tourism Industry of India got a big push after a successful G-20 meeting this year.

Interestingly, Tourism officials in J&K believe that the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar in May this year helped lure a large number of foreign tourists to Kashmir. Official source said that this year upto November, almost 50,000 foreign guests visited Kashmir and the number went up after the successful G-20 summit in Srinagar.

On Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, told the Parliament that J&K will surpass 2 Crore tourist arrivals this year and the previous record set by BJP will be broken by none other than BJP itself. A Tourism official told KNO that exploring offbeat destinations, reviving film and border tourism, promoting home stays were some major steps taken by the Tourism department to lure large number of tourists this year to Valley. KNO

J&K's Opposition parties...

pivotal role in convincing the leaders here to join with the Union of India," he said, adding that the people of J&K had been subjugated from everywhere, but Pt Nehru came and tried to free the inhabitants here from the clutches of subjugation.

Apni Party (AP) leaders, however, seconded the union home minister Amit Shah over his remarks, saying that whatever people of Kashmir have faced so far, is because of the Congress and Abdullahs.

AP Chief Spokesman, Javid Beigh, said that it is a fact that the people are facing the brunt of their (Congress and Abdullahs) wrong doings.

Pertinently, Union home minister Amit Shah, during discussions on the J&K Reservation Amendment Bill and J&K Reorganisation Amendment Bill in the lower house on Wednesday, highlighted "two big mistakes" made by the late former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

According to Shah, these mistakes were responsible for the prolonged suffering of Jammu & Kashmir. Shah stated, "Two mistakes happened due to the decision of (former PM) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru after which Kashmir had to suffer for many years. The first was to declare a ceasefire when our Army was winning. If there had been a ceasefire after three days, PoK would have been a part of India today... The second was to take our internal issue to the UN."

Referring to this as a "historic blunder," Shah expressed the belief that if Nehru had taken the right steps, PoK would be an integral part of India today. While addressing the lower house, Shah also attributed the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the region to the actions of past governments in the erstwhile state. KNO

Power to nominate...

that the supreme court is yet to give its judgement on the reorganisation act but everyday new laws and changes are being made.

"Giving these powers to LG clearly indicates that they want to help BJP here as they are aware that they won't win elections. They are now resorting to backdoor help so as to increase their seat share," he said.

Abdullah said that once elections are held, the local government will review such decisions.

"When we approached the court against the changes brought in Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, the PDP remained silent," he added.

He said that the case is already in the court and PDP wants to approach the court then they can definitely do so and his party won't have any objection.

About party candidates for the coming Lok Sabha elections, he said they are yet to decide it. "But Farooq Abdullah will be first choice for Srinagar and if he will decide not to fight due to health issues, then the decision will be taken after consulting all party leaders," Abdullah added.

He said that BJP has failed to fulfill promises made during the abrogation of Article 370.

They are claiming that crores of tourists have been visiting Kashmir now then show me how many have visited Shikargah Tral. KNO

DGP Swain vows...

challenges our personnel encounter daily, even in moments of leisure. It is a grim reminder of the perils faced by our brave personnel while safeguarding the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

"The sacrifices made by police personnel like Inspector Wani in Jammu and Kashmir will forever remain etched in our memories. His noble spirit and unwavering commitment to serving the community serve as a shining example to us all," the DGP has added.

"In the face of this heartbreaking loss, our thoughts and prayers are with Inspector Wani's family, friends, and the entire police fraternity. We stand united in mourning this profound loss and honoring his memory," the DGP has said.

"The cowardly attack on a policeman, enjoying a moment of leisure, is a stark reminder of the vicious mindset perpetuated by terrorist networks operating at the behest of Pakistan. This tragic incident strengthens our resolve at the J&K Police to redouble our efforts in combating terrorism. Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani's legacy of bravery and selflessness will continue to inspire us. His memory will forever fuel our determination to dismantle the bones of terrorism in Kashmir."

"We reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the people of Kashmir and eradicating the menace of terrorism from our soil. May Inspector Wani rest in peace, knowing that his sacrifice will not be in vain. His dedication to duty and his ultimate sacrifice will always be remembered as we forge ahead, stronger and more resolute in our fight against terrorism," he said. KNO

CS for focus on agriculture...

agriculture sector should be on provisioning of quality agricultural inputs like seeds, rootstock, fertilizers, equipments bolstered with agri extension for bringing substantial improvement in the productivity of our arable lands.

The Chief Secretary further made out that in order to enhance the capacity of our farmers, it is imperative to give them hands-on training about the use of new techniques and technology.

He advised the Department to designate public/private farms of Agriculture, Poultry, Dairy, Sheep or Honey in each block here and nominate a trainer for each of them to bring knowledge of labs into practice in the field. He asked for targeting at least 2 lakh farmers for imparting such a training in next 5 years period.

Dulloo further shared that an extensive baseline survey of about 20000-25000 farmers from different areas should be carried out to know about their concerns, expectations, priorities, income, awareness in addition to taking in consideration the fertility, profile, cropping pattern, weather and use of inputs and machinery by the farmers.

He expressed that this survey done under the University experts should be transformed into a well crafted research document which would act as a book to reckon upon for guiding us in better implementation of our schemes here. He asked for having a symbiotic relationship between our agricultural universities and departments for taking advantage of resources and infrastructure available with them to obtain desired outcomes in revolutionizing the agricultural sector in the UT.

As far as bringing further ease to the farmers of J&K is concerned, the Chief Secretary asked for having simplified procedures for availing different government sponsored benefits by them. He told them to provide them assistance in preparation of quality DPRs and approvals from the credit lending institutions to seek timely financial help for establishment of different units. He further directed for providing Smart Cards to the farmers availing credit facilities from financial institutions as per the RBI guidelines.

He asked for making it sure to extend the crop insurance to the farmers to secure them from any losses happening due to calamities. He even told them to disseminate the literature and display other Audio-visual content to the youth to depict the success stories and profits made possible in agriculture. He asked for making this sector lucrative for them to get them attracted towards it.

Dulloo also stressed on having intense follow-up of all the key outcomes of each scheme under implementation here. He asked for making strenuous efforts to obtain GI tagging of all the products in the pipeline besides adding more to the list.

He asked for optimum exploitation of the sectors like dairy development, food processing, high density farming and value addition of the produce as these have greater potential and higher returns to offer. He even called for having export plans for the niche crops here and adding more items like Walnut, Kiwi to the e-NAM in addition to the apple already there.

In his presentation the Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar informed about the progress made in each scheme under implementation here. He gave an overview of expenditure made under Capex, CSS and HADP till date. He even apprised about the future plans of the Department to make the agriculture sector a thriving enterprise here in the UT.

He said that the Department is aiming at establishing a Milk processing unit in every district of J&K. He even revealed that the total business on e-NAM jumped to over Rs 300 Cr from mere Rs 30 Cr in the past. He made out that the progress in the implementation of HADP would fairly improve from next year as the process of grounding and capacity building has largely been accomplished in the first year of its implementation in J&K. KNO

NIA attaches properties...

investigations," it reads.

It added that all the prime accused in the case (RC-08/2015/NIA/DLI) have been charge-sheeted and are under trial under various provisions of Ranbir Penal Code, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act 1946, Passport (Entry into India Act 1920) and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967.

"In the instant case, four Immovable properties, that include a single storied residential house belonging to Fayaz Ahmed Itoo, in village Khudwani, Tehsil Qaimoh in district Kulgam and a double storey residential house, along with two plots of land, belonging to Khurshid Ahmed Bhat @ Surya in village Chursoo and Sail, Awantipora, District Pulwama, have been attached under Section 33 (I) of UA (P) Act, 1967, in pursuance of the recent orders of NIA Special Court, Jammu," it reads. KNO

Dr Jitendra updates...

quick to introduce a Face Recognition Technology (FRT), wherein a pensioner could use a Mobile App, which used face's photographic impression to generate Digital Life Certificate in less than a minute.

The number of Digital Life Certificates generated every year is as follows respectively: 2014-15 : 109751, 2015-16 : 1315150, 2016-17 : 5058451, 2017-18 : 9901542, 2018-19 : 8994834, 2019-2020 : 9965509, 2020-2021 : 9897459, 2021-2022 : 11191451, 2022-2023 : 11310388.

To make the scheme more accessible to the pensioners, the following steps are taken.

Due publicity is given through Short Messaging Service (SMS) and Social Media using tweets, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and short films on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, both in English and in Hindi.

New mode of submission of DLC through Face Authentication Technique using mobile phones was launched.

Nation-wide DLC Campaign was conducted in November, 2022 in coordination with Banks, Pensioners' Welfare Associations and Ministries/ Departments where Camps were organized for pensioners to submit DLC. Support from Unique Identification Authority of

Kashmir Displaced leaders lauds Modi govt's decision for reserving seats

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, DEC 7

Displaced community of Kashmir Hindu places on record its pleasure, said Kashmir Displaced Community leaders, while addressing a Press Conference at BJP office, Kachi Chawni, Jammu.

Former MLC Girdhari Lal Raina and BJP KDD President Chandji Bhat accompanied by other community leaders addressed the media persons on the occasion.

Delight and appreciation for the government's decision to reserve two seats in the assembly of Jammu Kashmir for the Kashmiri migrant community. This move is historic as well as futuristic. This remarkable step has put an end to the manipulated marginalization and exclusion of the religious minorities of Kashmir. It empowers the community politically and will help restore its political legacy in the Kashmir valley.

The displaced commu-



nity reminds that in the first election held after the State's accession to union of India minority community of Kashmir was able to send four representatives to state legislature. But successive governments headed by political parties with divisive agenda manipulated delimitation of territorial constituencies in such a manner as would render the minority community politically ineffective and without their legitimate representatives in elected form.

With passage of the Jammu and Kashmir reorganization Amendment Bill which seeks to nomi-

nate two members from the Kashmir migrant community and one representing the displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) to the legislative Assembly, this discrimination has been put to an end.

This significant step will empower the community politically and reintegrate the displaced community with the Kashmir milieu and pave the way for dignified, secure and meaningful rehabilitation.

The displaced community expresses its gratitude to the Narendra Modi led Union government and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

JKSSB Test

24x7 Police surveillance teams, flying squads stationed around Centers: DC Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 7

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav today inspected the examination centres for the OMR-based exam being conducted by J&K Services Selection Board for the posts of Panchayat Secretary.

Accompanied by ADDC Kishtwar Sham Lal, ASP, Rajinder Singh, ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak and Dy SP Hqrs, Ishan Gupta, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the arrangements made for the Exam. Observers and Centre Superintendents were present on the occasion.

They were instructed to ensure all arrangements were in place ahead of the examination day.

A total of 13 examination centres have been established by the district administration in the town and its adjoining areas for conducting the SSB Exam. Flying squad teams were also constituted to supervise and ensure the smooth conduct of the



examination.

The DC expressed satisfaction with the arrangements in place for the aspirants' convenience during his visit to the examination centres. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure fair and transparent exams.

Earlier, DC Kishtwar issued a video for the Exam Aspirants of the district, urging them to follow the instructions issued by SSB (Dos and Don'ts) to facilitate a hassle-free, fair, and transparent exam in

the district.

DC informed that the implementation of round-the-clock police surveillance teams and flying squads stationed around the exam centers, coupled with stringent penalties for cheaters, is designed to guarantee the transparency, fairness, and smooth execution of the exam. DC Kishtwar assured that all necessary measures have been meticulously put in place to uphold the integrity of the examination process.

India (UIDAI) & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) was also taken in this regard.

During November 2023, the Department organized a Nation-wide Digital Life Certificate Campaign 2.0 covering 500 locations in 100 cities through Pension disbursing banks, Ministries/ Departments, UIDAI and MeitY. Such dedicated campaigns have enabled pensioners to submit their life certificates seamlessly and from the comforts of their homes.

Pensioners' Awareness Programmes, Bankers' Awareness Programmes and Pre-Retirement counselling are held on regular basis, physically as well as online to familiarise and popularise DLCs, in particular Face Authentication Technique.

PoJK part of India, no...

And 24 seats for PoJK have been reserved, Kyuki Woh Hamara Hai (because PoJK is ours)," he added.

The MEA spokesperson also replied to the question on the Afghanistan Embassy and said, "Afghan Embassy in New Delhi and the consulates in Mumbai and Hyderabad are functional. You can see from the flag who they represent and our position on the condition of entities has not changed. The Afghan diplomats will continue to provide services to the Afghan nationals here."

He also updated about the Indian government's appeal for eight former navy personnel in Qatar and mentioned that the Indian ambassador got consular access on December 3.

"There have been two hearings. We filed an appeal from the families, and the detainees had a final appeal. Two hearings have since been held. We are closely following the matter and extending all legal and consular assistance. Meanwhile, our ambassador got consular access to meet all eight of them in prison on December 3. This is a sensitive issue, but we will continue to follow and whatever we can share, we will do so," he added. (Agencies)

HDFC Bank to organise one of the largest Blood Donation drive across 1200+ cities and 6,000 centres

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, DEC 7

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank is planning to organise the 15th edition of its nationwide 'Blood Donation Drive' starting from Friday, December 8, 2023. Under its flagship CSR programme Parivartan, it will conduct the Blood Donation camps across 6,000 centres in 1200+ cities of India.

Over 4.5 lakh donors are expected to participate in this year's blood donation drive. HDFC Bank is set to mobilise a diverse range of donors, including employees, customers, corporates, Defence forces and local community members. In a unique approach this year, HDFC Bank has launched a film called 'Feeling of Saving Someone' encouraging people to donate blood. The film encourages individuals to contribute to this life saving cause and emphasises the critical need for blood donation. This film will be released across all digital platforms of the Bank. It will also create awareness among the public about the impact of their contributions and inspire mass participation in the campaign.

Mr. Bhavesh Zaveri, Executive Director, HDFC Bank said, "At HDFC Bank we take great pride in encouraging people to participate in this endeavour, as every drop of blood donated is a potential life saver. With our 15th All-India Blood Donation drive, we wish to give citizens a platform to participate and make their contribute towards this noble cause."

The initiative was started in 2007 with just 88 centres and 4000 donors, which was run only among Bank employees. Over the years the scope of the drive was widened to include college students, corporates and Army and service personnel. It received recognition and certification from Guinness World Records™ as the 'Largest (single-day, multiple venue) Blood Donation Drive' in 2013. In 2022 the Bank collected over 1.25 lakh units of blood. Some of the significant donors came from the 1500+ colleges, 550+ corporates and 105+ Defence and service personnel who participated in the Blood Donation drive. The large scale and broad base of HDFC Bank's Blood Donation Drive has led to significant contribution towards increasing the overall blood collections of the country.

Gram Sabha resolution for diversification of Forest Land a must: Minister

J1 NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DEC 7

Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu answering a question by MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana on Forest Rights Act stated that Land and its management falls under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of States as provided under the Constitution of India [Seventh Schedule - List ii (State List) - Entry No. (18)] "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for certain facilities managed by the Government, as specified in that Section, which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if, - i. the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in the said sub-section is less than one hectare in each case; and ii. the clearance of such developmental projects shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.

Advisor Bhatnagar reviews functioning of GMCs, district hospitals of Jammu Division

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of GMCs, Associated Hospitals as well as District Hospitals of Jammu division at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar; Managing Director, JKMSCL, Director Coordination new GMCs, Director Health Services Jammu, Principals of GMCs of Jammu, Doda, Kathua, Rajouri and Udhampur, Medical Superintendents of all district hospitals and Associated Hospitals of Jammu division, CMOs of Jammu division and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar closely examined the operational efficiency, infrastructure



and overall healthcare delivery of each district and Associated hospital besides the progress of ongoing works in newly established medical colleges were also ascertained in detail during the meeting. During the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized on the importance of continuous improvement and innovation in healthcare services. He underscored the need for collaborative efforts to address challenges and enhance the overall quality of medical education and patient care. The Advisor delved upon the officers to devise yearly plans for development, infrastructure improvement, technology upgrades and capacity

building for each medical facility. He directed the officers to establish proper mechanism for checking regular medical supplies received in each health facility.

He also asked them to establish a QR code mechanism for certification of each supply received besides feedback of doctors and other concerned should also be collected from each district hospital and other facilities.

The Advisor also asked the management of JKMSCL and health authorities to establish a mechanism for requirement of emergency medicines and equipments in case of any exigency at any hospital.

While reviewing the functioning of GMC

Jammu, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the Principal and Medical Superintendent to identify space for installation of Cath Lab. He also asked them to augment the emergency services at the hospital so that people are not compelled to go outside for any kind of treatment.

While reviewing the functioning of newly established GMCs, Advisor Bhatnagar called upon the officers to formulate a committee for preparing a department wise list of essential equipments required for these facilities within a month.

During the meeting, Director Coordination new GMCs gave a detailed presentation on the functioning of these facilities.

Forces recover arms, ammunition, incriminating material from Behrote Budhal

Two terror associates arrested for terror links

SAYED ZAHID
RAJOURI, DEC 6

Security Forces on Wednesday recovered arms, ammunition, incriminating material and other material during an operation in Behrote area of Budhal in Rajouri with two terror associates have been arrested for their terror links.

Mentionable that an encounter took place on Nov 17 at Behrote Gali area of Budhal police station jurisdiction in Rajouri district in which one terrorist was eliminated by forces and an instant case was registered on this

with investigation was set into motion.

During investigation some vital leads were developed and two locals were detained for questioning.

During their questioning, their terror links got established and it came to fore that they are actively working for terrorists after which they have been arrested.

The two person have been identified as Mohd Nazir (58) son of Mohd Din resident of Behrote Budhal and Farooq Ahmed (42) son of Mohd Lateef resident of Guller Budhal. On their dislo-

sure, J&K Police of District Rajouri, 33 RR & 237 Bn CRPF launched an operation and made recovery of arms, ammunition and incriminating material from Behrote Nallah in Budhal.

The recovery include 01 pistol, 02 pistol magazines, 28 pistol bullets, 02 grenades, 01 bag, 01 uniform camouflage, 01 plastic belt, 01 polysheet (Tarpal), 01 knee cap, 07 bandages, 01 hot strip (Garam patti), 01 syringe, 01 underwear, 01 electric tester, 01 Cipladine ointment. Further investigation into the matter is going on.

Rs 60 Lakh Education Assistance provided to wards of construction workers in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 7

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today provided Rs 60 lakh as education assistance to the children of registered construction workers under J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOC-WWB).

The government has taken several proactive measures to enhance the welfare of buildings and other Construction workers. These initiatives have been meticulously designed with the primary aim of not only regulating their employment and



working conditions but also ensuring the safety, health, and overall well-being of the registered workers.

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal directed the Assistant Labour Commissioner to continue unwavering dedication towards the betterment of workers within the construction sector.

This commitment extends to a continued and concerted effort to provide timely and highly effective support to these invaluable contributors to infrastructure development.

This support not only acknowledges their importance but also serves as a beacon of hope, promising a brighter future for their children through education assistance.

GDC Vijaypur hosts lecture on Voting Rights

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 7

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur, in collaboration with District Election Office, on Thursday hosted a lecture on special summary revision under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation campaign to create awareness among the young college students/citizens about the importance of their participation in the upcoming elections.

The lecture was delivered by Tejasvi from GDC Samba to impart the students knowledge regarding voting rights and its importance for electing a healthy and competent government. She informed the students that the government has launched a new portal for registration of citizens so that they can get their voter cards.

The program was organized in collaboration with



The program was attended by faculty members, college students and NSS volunteers of the college.

The program received positive feedback from the students, who found it informative and engaging. Principal of the college, Prof. Dr. Vandana Gupta appreciated the efforts of the District Election Office Samba in organizing such an informative and educational lecture and also for creating awareness about the electoral process. The program was organized with the full support and coordination of the senior faculty members of the college Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science) and Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology). The event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (HOD Education and Convenor IQAC) and co-ordinated by Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences).

the Election Commission of India (ECI).

A team from District Election Office Samba visited GDC Vijaypur for the awareness of voting and its rights. Kameshwar Dubey (BLO Supervisor) briefed students regarding the process of voting.

The Students of College were also briefed about the electoral process, includ-

ing the role of the Election Commission of India, the process of voter registration, the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and the importance of ethical voting. Muneer Husain (BLO), Mohd. Abdulla (BLO) and Sunil Sharma (Handloom Deptt.) also interacted with students and also answered the questions raised by them.

VBSY covers 22 more Panchayats in Kupwara; mega Event held at Panchayat Halqa Magam B

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 7

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continues in frontier Kupwara district with massive public participation.

Today 22 Panchayats of Magam, Nutnoosa and Handwara blocks were covered under VBSY. With this, 217 Panchayats of the district have been covered till date under the campaign in which more than 70,000 people have participated.

A mega event of VBSY was organized today at Boys Higher Secondary School Magam in Panchayat Halqa Magam B.

BDO Magam administered the Viksit pledge to the officers, PRIs and Public, affirming their commitment to the nation's holistic development.

Addressing the gathering, the BDO said that each and every individual across the length and breadth of India has to play an active role in making India a developed and self-reliant nation by 2047.

He added that India's



various Panchayats to screen Hon'ble Prime Minister's message and to generate awareness on Central Government's initiatives for public welfare through movies.

The line departments displayed products and provided on the spot services to the general public at the stalls. Students of local schools took part in skits and cultural events.

Women and other achievers were also felicitated for their exemplary work in respective fields during the programme.

Local participants also availed health services including screening for various ailments at health camps conducted at the mega event.

Meanwhile, similar events were also organized today during VBSY in other panchayats like Tirsch, Vodhpura, Waterkhani, Magam A, Magam B, Magam C, Neelipora, Opezwani, Palpora, Pozalpora, Shogpora, Sodal, Baderhar, Bedarkali, Bakhakar, Batkote, Chowgal (Gundchogal), Dudipora, Gonipora, Kulangam A, Kulangam B and Machipora.

current strong Foreign policy is also the outcome of the country's 'Atma Nirbharta'.

Mega event of VBSY at Magam B witnessed a massive and enthusiastic response from the public. Participants listened keenly to the recorded message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. On the occasion, people received information about various government schemes and other initiatives and got themselves enrolled for different services.

Under 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' beneficiaries of centrally sponsored schemes shared their experiences about the benefits they availed after enrolling themselves under these schemes. They urged others to come forward and reap the benefits of welfare schemes.

Resource Persons of different departments also generated awareness regarding public welfare schemes.

The IEC Vans of VBSY also traversed through

VBSY in District Rajouri: IEC Vans Traversed Through Panchayats of Border Block Nowshera

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 7

The ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) in District Rajouri has reached a significant milestone as it enters the border block of Nowshera. The 72-day campaign aims to promote government schemes and ensure their maximum reach and benefits to the targeted beneficiaries within a specified time-frame.

The VBSY has evoked tremendous enthusiasm and active participation among the local communities and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the district. The event has garnered strong support from the public, showcasing their commitment to the nation's development and progress.

The IEC Vans, which are at the heart of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, have been traveling through the picturesque locations of Rajal-A, H Thakra, Bajnowa, H Khanka, Nonial Lower, Nonial Upper, Dhanaka, Chowki, Handan, Kalsian, Bhawani-A, Bhawani-B, and Khamba. These vans are equipped with state-of-the-art audio-video facilities and serve as mobile information hubs, engaging the local residents and providing them with valuable knowledge about government schemes and programs.

At each location, the Yatra has received a warm welcome from PRIs, senior citizens, government officials, and the local residents. Commu-



nity members have eagerly gathered to witness enlightening audio-video presentations showcased on the Special IEC Vans. They have also had the privilege of listening to a recorded video message from the esteemed Prime Minister, emphasizing the significance and impact of the campaign.

The Prime Minister's message has served as a powerful inspiration, encouraging everyone present to actively participate in the holistic development of the nation.

During the event, participants have taken the "Viksit Sankalp Bharat pledge," reaffirming their unwavering commitment to the comprehensive development of the nation. This pledge symbolizes their dedication and determination to contribute towards the progress and upliftment of their communities and

the country as a whole. The Viksit Bharat Yatra continues to make a lasting impact in Rajouri district, empowering local communities and ensuring the effective implementation of government schemes. Through its extensive outreach and focused efforts, the Yatra strives to bring about positive change, uplift the underprivileged sections of society, and foster an environment of inclusive growth and development.

As the Yatra progresses, it is expected that more individuals and communities will actively participate, recognizing the transformative potential of government programs and schemes. With the collective resolve of the people, the Viksit Bharat Yatra is poised to create a brighter and more prosperous future for all citizens of Rajouri district and the nation as a whole.

Through initiatives like the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, the government continues to work towards building a healthier and more prosperous India. As Mohan Lal's experience demonstrates, the Golden Card under the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana has emerged as a crucial tool in empowering individuals and families to avail necessary healthcare services, thus bolstering their overall well-being and quality of life. The government's commitment to providing healthcare security and improving the accessibility of healthcare services in rural areas has received validation through testimonials like that of Mohan Lal. His heartfelt gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi serves as a powerful reminder of the tangible impact of the government's efforts in ensuring healthcare for all.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: Kathua Resident hails PM's Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 7

Mohan Lal, a resident of Panchayat Badnota, Block Lohai Malhar in Kathua district has expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the benefits of the Golden Card under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The appreciation of Mohan Lal and Lakhs of other beneficiaries bears testament to the success of the government's commitment to provide healthcare security to the people of India. He shared his personal testimony under the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" segment during the ongoing "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra."

Mohan Lal, a beneficiary of the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, highlighted the significant impact of the Golden Card in providing access to quality healthcare services. His testimonial sheds light on the positive transformation in the lives of individuals and families who have benefitted from this healthcare initiative.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana has emerged as a cornerstone of the government's commitment to ensure affordable and accessible healthcare services for all. The success stories, such as that of Mohan Lal, underscore the tangible benefits brought about by the government's initiatives in the healthcare sector.

The "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" has brought to the forefront numerous such narratives that showcase the positive impact of government schemes on the lives of citizens across the country. Mohan Lal's expression of deep gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands as a testament to the transformative changes that have been ushered in through initiatives like the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana. The government remains dedicated to expanding the reach and effectiveness of healthcare services, with a focus on ensuring that every citizen has access to comprehensive and affordable healthcare. Through initiatives like the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, the government continues to work towards building a healthier and more prosperous India.

As Mohan Lal's experience demonstrates, the Golden Card under the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana has emerged as a crucial tool in empowering individuals and families to avail necessary healthcare services, thus bolstering their overall well-being and quality of life. The government's commitment to providing healthcare security and improving the accessibility of healthcare services in rural areas has received validation through testimonials like that of Mohan Lal. His heartfelt gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi serves as a powerful reminder of the tangible impact of the government's efforts in ensuring healthcare for all.

EDITORIAL

Receding glaciers call for strict measures

It is quite worrying that at-least 15 major Himalayan glaciers in the Union Territory of Ladakh have retreated significantly due to climate change during the last five decades (from 1971 to 2021). This is against the backdrop of recent study that three glacial lakes are likely to form around Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh due to rapid ice melt. The report on retreating of Himalayan glaciers is based on the various scientific studies and regular monitoring of several Indian institutes, universities and organizations funded by the Government of India through Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and Department of Space- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The 15 Himalayan glaciers in Ladakh, including Pensilungpa, DurungDurung, Parkachik, Sagtoga, Sagtoga East, Thara Kangri, Garam Pani, Rassa-I, Rassa-II, Arganglas Glacier, Phunangma, Panamik-I, Panamik-II, Saser-I and Saser-II, have witnessed annual retreat between 1971 and 2021. Except Thara Kangri glacier that reported a surge of 11.13 m per year, all other glaciers have witnessed average retreat ranging from a minimum of 2.85 meter per annum (Saser-II) to the maximum 18.86 meter per annum in case of Arganglas Glacier. The mass balance (gain and loss of ice from the glacier) assessment of nine glaciers in the Himalayan region, including two each in J&K and Ladakh UTs, have also reported net change in its mass during the last five years.

"Kolahoi Glacier and Hoksar Glacier in J&K with Jhelum as their basin have reported shrinking as their mass balance was negative which means melting across these glaciers increased. Similarly, Stok Glacier with Indus as its basin and Pensilungpa Glacier with Suru river as basin, both in Ladakh, have also reported negative mass balance," the document said. A new study by scientists of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology has observed that the Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh is likely to have three lakes of different dimensions due to subglacial over-deepening -- a characteristic of basins and valleys eroded by glaciers. The glacial melt is worrying as it not only increases chances of glacial lake outbursts but can also lead to paucity of water, glaciers being the region's primary source of water.

The study, published in the journal 'Annals of Glaciology', is based on satellite imagery between 1971-2021 and supplemented by extensive field surveys between 2015-2021. The group of four scientists, led by Dr Manish Mehta, has found that the glacier retreat varied between 1971 and 2021. Remote sensing data shows that the glacier retreated at an average rate of around two metres per annum between 1971 and 1999, whereas between 1999 and 2021, the retreat was at an average rate of around 12 metres per annum. The recent research studies have also pointed to a constant rising temperature in J&K, leading to a serious impact on the health of glaciers. According to the experts, Jammu and Kashmir has lost 22 percent of its glaciers in just five decades and if this trend continues, it will lead to a serious water crisis in the next 30 years. The scientists carrying out long term studies on glaciers in J&K claim that accumulation of black carbon, generated mainly by use of coal and petroleum products remains trapped due to the peculiar geological shape of valley, surrounded by majestic Himalayan ranges is affecting the glaciers, source of several high altitude lakes and rivers.

Is India losing sheen for investors?

ASMITTAL

India's GDP grew by 7.6% in the second quarter (July-September) of the year, a positive sign of economic growth. However, the steepest declines in foreign direct investment (FDI) are a matter of concern, especially considering India's recent emergence as a promising investment destination and a viable alternative to China. This decline is particularly worrying as it is happening despite positive projections of India's growth by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and The World Bank.

According to the latest report by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), FDI inflows have slowed down drastically. The decline in FDI inflows has been steep, and the situation has only worsened, with a further decline of -24% in April-September 2023. The current FDI inflows stand at \$20.48 billion, down from \$26.91 billion over the same period last year. Even the overall FDI inflows in 2022-23 witnessed a 16% decline, standing at \$71.3 billion from \$84.8 billion in 2021-22.

The steepest declines in FDI have been in crucial sectors such as computer software and hardware, automobile, infrastructure construction activities, and metallurgical

industries. For instance, inflows in computer software and hardware fell from \$14.4 billion in 2021-22 to \$9.3 billion in 2022-23, in the automobile industry from \$6.9 billion to \$1.9 billion, in infrastructure construction activities from \$3.2 billion to \$1.7 billion, and in metallurgical industries from \$2.2 billion to \$219 million.

The slowdown in foreign direct investment (FDI) in India is a cause for concern, as multinational corporations (MNCs) are finding Vietnam, Indonesia, and other competitors more attractive. This is a clear indication that the "China plus one" strategy of MNCs is not working for India. During January-September of this year, FDI in Vietnam increased by approximately 8% compared to the same period last year, reaching about \$18 billion. In the case of Indonesia, FDI flows stood at around \$10 billion during January-September of this year, similar to the levels seen last year.

The factors that influence capital flows into countries include the global and domestic macroeconomic environment, the domestic policy and regulatory environment, and political stability. Since India is expected to benefit greatly from the "China plus one" strategy, policymakers must pay closer attention to these

FDI trends.

It is well known that FDI flows are more likely to gravitate towards countries with broader and deeper trade agreements. Lower tariffs and other benefits negotiated through free trade agreements (FTAs) incentivise foreign investment. Therefore, the decline in FDI flows to India may reflect this. A deeper assessment of the country's prospects is needed to address this issue.

India is genuinely the alternative to China for companies looking to diversify if it is the "one" in China plus one strategy if the Government's PLI scheme is a powerful enough incentive to draw in investments, and if the solid foundations of India's growth forecasts are taken into account, then MNC investor should be long on India. Any concerns regarding an uncertain business environment, an uneven playing field, or the fear of arbitrary changes to the rules of the game must not deter investors from investing in India.

More states should be in the ambit of FDI: The scope of FDI must be expanded to more Indian states. FDI has been concentrated in only a few states due to their location and favourable business environment. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat have together attracted a staggering 69%

of the FDI inflows into the country, with Maharashtra being the top recipient. However, it is disappointing to note that Punjab ranks a lowly 12th in attracting FDI, with a cumulative investment of a meagre Rs. 7693 crore in the past four years, which is a paltry 0.49% of the total inflows of Rs. 15.08 lakh crore from October 2019 to September 2023.

In contrast, the neighbouring state of Haryana has been more successful, ranking sixth with FDI equity inflows of Rs. 67,502 crore, accounting for a substantial 4.17% of the total inflows during the same period. Punjab's successive governments have been striving to attract investments, particularly from foreign investors, but they have been facing major hurdles such as location disadvantage, poor connectivity, and frequent protests.

The existing industry in Punjab has also been complaining about disruptions in their operations and movements due to the aforementioned issues. Haryana is way ahead in this regard with a significant advantage due to its proximity to Delhi NCR and superior connectivity.

It is high time that Punjab takes firm steps to improve its position in attracting FDI, as its highest ranking was only ninth in 2020-21, when it attracted FDI equity investment of Rs. 4,719.45 crore, pri-

marily in food processing, auto components, engineering goods, and textiles. The declining trend in FDI inflows to Punjab since then is a cause for concern. Therefore, the state must create a more conducive environment for businesses and investors, and promote its potential in various sectors, to attract more FDI and boost its economy.

Disadvantage: Despite signing and negotiating bilateral free trade agreements, India has failed to secure a trade agreement with the European Union or become part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries including China, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea for free trade agreements. The trade agreement between the 10 member states of ASEAN and their free trade agreement partners - Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and Korea - has deepened economic integration between these countries, which are at the heart of manufacturing supply chains.

As a result, India's exclusion from such agreements and the supply chains that run through these regions puts it at a significant disadvantage in this manufacturing ecosystem. The Way Forward: Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) have a far greater potential to facilitate the growth

of the Indian economy than Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI). However, India needs to take swift and assertive action to speed up structural reforms, root out corruption, and reduce red tape in bureaucracy to strengthen its position as the most attractive investment destination for FDI. India has adopted a negative list approach in its FDI policy, which outlines only those sectors and activities where foreign investment is regulated. Sectors not mentioned in the document are open to obtaining 100% FDI under the automatic method.

The liberal and attractive policy regime for investors, combined with a favourable business climate and reduced regulatory framework, have resulted in higher FDI inflows. But this alone is not enough. India needs to complement this with a sound trade policy that boosts exports, encourages inclusive development, and incentivises R&D to make our manufacturing ecosystem globally competitive, thereby fetching FDI at a large scale.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are strictly personal)

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the steel industry

ALOK SAHAY

Technology is ever-evolving. While it becomes difficult to keep pace with rapid technological advancements in all expanses of life, it is equally difficult to discount them because these are highly value-accretive. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one such technology. The manufacturing sector, in general, and the steel sector, in particular, are integrating AI into their daily operations to improve productivity, health and safety, reduce operational costs and reap countless other operational and functional benefits. Survival will be at stake for those who will not.

In a developing nation or the Global South, cheaper availability of steel is a prequel to ensure sustainable development. Since raw materials for making steel are unlikely to be economical in the foreseeable future, adaptation of modern disruptive technologies and processes is the only way out. Estimates suggest that the proper adaptation of AI in the entire value chain of

steelmaking can save between \$60 and \$100 per tonne. Apart from this, a key takeaway from the recently concluded ISA Steel InfraBuild Summit in Lucknow was that the use of AI in architecture will enable engineers and architects to design, plan, and build steel structures more efficiently, resulting in proper economics and savings in infrastructure and real estate.

In the steel sector, AI can be adopted from R&D and innovation to procurement, manufacturing and back-office process digitalisation to supply-chain inventory, marketing, and what-not. All these can lead to a 60% growth in EBDITA in three years. Greenhouse gas emissions can also be reduced by 5-10%.

Maintenance is, as always, a difficult task. Each manufacturing unit has its maintenance plan tailored to its particularities. Proper implementation and use of AI can help predict the exact timing of maintenance, thereby reducing shutdown time, cutting maintenance costs, and enhancing the lifespan of the machinery. The Indian steel industry

has been the early adopter of AI.

Adaptation of AI has the highest impact on steel manufacturing in the entire value chain. In the coke oven plant, sinter plant, blast furnaces, continuous caster and rolling, among others, the implementation of AI has multiple benefits ranging from 1-2% yield improvement to a 50-80% reduction in quality losses. Energy consumption also improved by roughly 10%. Autonomous or semi-autonomous data or content examination also makes predictions and recommendations easier. Integration of sales and production data improves revenue management and customer satisfaction.

With precise data, AI's ability to predict market data and price fluctuations helps manufacturers adjust production, manage inventories, and respond swiftly to changing market conditions. Enhancing safety is also another essential aspect. No wonder steel manufacturers worldwide are embracing AI to ensure faster delivery of business requirements. This is the age of intelligent manufacturing. Far

from having a steel-producing smart factory, intelligent manufacturing encompasses all of it - sourcing raw materials to production to marketing products through an integrated intelligent supply chain.

Steel consumption mirrors the health of an economy. Aspiring to be in the league of a developed nation, India has miles to go to catch up with the global steel consumption average. The building, construction and infrastructure sector consumes nearly 70% of all steel in India. The growth of the steel sector will largely depend on the demand emanating from the infrastructure sector. While AI adaptation will benefit the steel sector, implementing AI in the infrastructure sector will help assess the sector's specific needs - such as identifying cost-effective high-strength steel structure-based designs and offering tailor-made products.

Adaptation, both in the steel and the infrastructure sector, is a challenging task. A mindset of experimentation and a determination to bring about

positive changes are required. With AI, the ultimate goal is to implement an automated and unsupervised process linked with software and processes to improve performance over time. However, there is no substitute for human capital, and once integrated with AI, it will do wonders if used for the benefit of mankind and planet Earth. The apprehension that AI will displace jobs is unfounded. However, the dynamics of the job will change, requiring manpower with digital skills. It also warrants upskilling existing employees. A step-by-step approach is the best to implement AI. Building on the following line from the learnings of the first will yield the best results. Scores of AI models are in use in different steel manufacturing units in the country. The use of transformative technology will only go up in the days ahead. We need to be ready to adapt to the changes and implement it.

(The writer is the Secretary General of the Indian Steel Association (ISA), views are personal)

Discipline your senses

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We have six senses, which are actively looking for gratification by contact with their objects. For example, our tongues look for tasty foods except when we are full. There is nothing wrong with it if these pleasures are within 'dharma'/'maryada' (within allowable limits). God has allowed it, as stated by Lord Krishna in verse # 7.11 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, in which He stated, "I am passion in beings, according to religious principles." He emphasised this point further in verse # 6.17, when He counselled, "One whose eating and recreation are appropriate; of one who strives appropriately in activities; of one who sleeps and stays awake, as required; his sufferings are less. Because sufferings there will be

in this material world, described by the Lord as a place of miseries." (8.15) But despite such warnings, we are forever ready to transgress allowable limits hoping to escape punishment.

What happens will be clear as we go through the activities of these six active senses. Beginning with our tongue, all of us are guilty of indiscretions sometimes or other. Picture yourself invited to a very rich buffet dinner. You survey what is on offer, which will be a lot unless you are on a restricted diet. What should I eat? People load their plates as if they are starving. This explains our control over our senses. Shouldn't we consider what is best for us to eat? Is it on offer? Then, why think so much? Just eat enough because more food will be available in a



few hours for breakfast.

Let us go to our eyes next. It used to be okay till multiple channels came and now smartphones. There is so much to see, especially now one can watch with no one watching. Unfortunately, we are being watched all the time because 'karmaphalas' are being made by our acts.

Wise people restrict themselves to what is useful and at worst, what is harmless like a sports programme.

The pleasure of speaking occupies a very high place in modern man's desires. Everyone is an expert on everything with Google playing its role. Doctors get frustrated when patients begin telling

them what they should know. One doesn't want to consider that if one was so wise why should he or she be in so much trouble?

The fourth sense, which is also very active is our ears. What do we want to hear most? Our appreciation, which is how good we are compared to everyone around us. Again, like question begs an answer: why aren't we satisfied with our lives then?

Our skin occupies an important position in how we think. We place comfort in all considerations. Air conditioners, heaters, etc are all fine, but how about a little sweating it out with walks, yoga exercises, etc? What does a modern person value the most? Muscles of course to show off. People spend hours in gyms to build what is not needed which

gives them trouble as they age.

I have saved the next sense for the last, which gives us the maximum trouble. Yes, you have guessed it right. The sex pleasure is considered the topmost pleasure of all by almost everyone. Our thinking is normally defined by it. Lord Krishna has warned us about it in verse # 18.39, when He cautioned about 'pramad'.

The conclusion is obvious. We have senses and they would always seek contact with their objects. This is normal, but what is not normal is not restricting oneself to what is allowable. God would not have made such a system if it was not workable. It is very much so; only we have to be highly disciplined in thinking and acting, and we can live a satisfactory life.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

Awareness/ Enrollment camp for PWD voters under SVEEP held at Handwara



JIN NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 7

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, the Electoral Registration Officer (AC-05) Handwara today organized a mega Awareness-cum-Enrolment Camp, under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), for specially-abled persons at Environment Hall Handwara. Tehsildar Handwara, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Handwara, District Election Trainer, Election Staff, besides, a large gathering of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) attended the programme.

The programme was aimed to enhance awareness, accessibility, and participation of Persons with Disabilities in the

electoral process, ensuring inclusivity in the democratic framework.

The Election Trainer gave the awareness regarding NVSP, VOTER HELPLINE and other mediums of registration.

The Tehsildar Handwara in his address said that voting right is the most powerful weapon in the hands of people in a democracy. Government is providing special facilities to the specially-abled persons to exercise their right to vote. He appealed to the PWDs to come forward and get enrolled in the electoral rolls.

The District Election Trainer said that PWDs are part of our society and it is our duty to provide them with a conducive environment necessary for dignified polling experience.

He also elaborated the AMF and other privileges available to PWD voters.

Various stakeholders including officials from Election Office, Social Welfare Department provided thorough awareness to the participants about the registration process under SSR-2023. They also highlighted the benefits of getting registered as a voter.

Meanwhile, Pamphlets regarding the registration process under SSR-2023 and Form-6 were also distributed among the participants. Tehsildar Handwara also conducted a review meeting of BLOs of AC 05. The AERO directed all the BLOs to recheck and recombine their whole habitation and ensure that no voter is left unregistered in their jurisdiction.

DDC Reasi reviews progress of Jal Jeevan Mission Schemes



JIN NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 7

To review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission in the District, District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today convened a meeting of officers and field functionaries of Jal Shakti Department here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship initiative of the Government of India, aims to ensure tap water supply to all rural households by 2024. During the meeting, the DDC conducted detailed assessment and evaluation of the progress of the JJM scheme in the district.

The DDC reviewed the status of progress of under construction Water Supply Schemes, formulation of Detailed Project Reports, revising of detailed action plan, tendering, work allotments under JJM.

A threadbare discussion was held with regard to the important

schemes being executed in the district for the augmentation of the water supply. He reviewed the physical and financial progress of the works being executed under JJM. The DDC instructed officers to expedite the implementation of water supply projects and ensure that the benefits of the JJM scheme reach the targeted beneficiaries within the stipulated time frame.

The DDC stressed upon the engineers to gear up their men and machinery for speedy execution of all the pending works so that the people in large are benefitted under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission of the Government.

The DDC directed the concerned to complete all ongoing schemes within the district by December 31st.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning Sunita Kanchan, Superintendent Engineer PHE and other concerned officials present in the meeting.

2 heavy excavators among 9 vehicles seized for illegal mining at Kathua



JIN NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 7

A total of 09 vehicles including two heavy excavators were seized by Geology and Mining department during day long inspections at multiple locations here today.

The team of mining department led by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Rajinder Singh seized two excavators and two vehicles at Gandial, one at Taraf Tajwal, one Bhagtali and three at Ghatti areas.

The two heavy excavators were seized for illegal mining at Gandial and other 06 vehicles were seized for transporting crushed mineral without

valid documents while as one tractor trolley was seized for loading nallah boulders in Ravi near Punjab border.

DMO informed that all the vehicles after seizure were handed over to police and shall remain in their custody till realization of penalty in Directorate office Jammu on the day of appearance mentioned in the seizure memo issued to the violator. Strict instructions were also issued to the violators for not indulging in illegal mining and they were also advised to lift mineral only from legal source and minor mineral blocks identified by the department.

Armed Forces Flag Day commemorated with reverence in Doda

JIN NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 7

The Armed Forces Flag Day was marked with reverence and honour in Doda, as Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Wing Commander Tirath Singh (Retd), joined Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and SSP Abdul Qayoom at the DC office complex to celebrate the occasion. Remembering the valour and sacrifices of the personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the day aimed to pay tribute to their services.

The significance of the Armed Forces Flag Day was elucidated during the commemoration, emphasizing its primary objectives of the rehabilitation of families affected by battle casualties, welfare support for serving personnel and their families, and resettlement and welfare initiatives for ex-servicemen and their families.

In addition to the official celebration at the DC office complex, Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Doda, Paramount Public School Doda, and other Schools and Colleges across the district also observed the day's significance. Zila Sainik Welfare Officer Wing Commander Tirath Singh (Retd), serving as the chief guest at Paramount Public School, shared insights about the importance of the Armed Forces Flag Day with teachers and students. Notably, NCC Cadets from the school were briefed about the goals and impact of AFFDE.

The occasion also aimed to raise donations from the public for the noble cause. The collective effort of officials, students, and citizens in acknowledging the sacrifices and supporting the welfare initiatives showcased the spirit of unity and gratitude towards the armed forces.

Yuva Vani: GHSS Badhat students acquainted about HADP schemes



JIN NEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, DECEMBER 7

The Yuva Vani awareness program was today held at Government Higher Secondary School Badhat in Block Drabshalla to attract Students and local youth towards Agri-pre-shipment schemes under Holistic Agriculture Development Program. The event was conducted on the direction of Principal Secretary Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, J&K UT, Salindera Kumar and guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu, Ram Savak and District Nodal officer/Chief Agriculture Officer Kishitwar, Amjad Hussain Malik.

Students, local youth and Farm Women (SHG) evinced keen interest in employment opportunities in the agri-sector.

The participants were encouraged by experts to become job providers instead of job seekers by undertaking projects

under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), in the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, and other allied sectors. They were also informed about Kisan Sathi and Daksh Kisan.

Block Nodal Officer, Ampy Singh (AEO coordinated the event in the presence of Sanjay Kumar Sharma, District Agriculture Officer Kishitwar, Nadeem Gundana I/C Principal HSS Badhat along with other staff members.

The AEO enlightened the youth about the benefits of agriculture as a profession. Dr. Umair (VAS) Animal Husbandry, I/C AEO Kandani Safia Dev Jan, Sanjeev Gupta JAO, Mohd Saleem JAO, Narindre Kumar Gupta, officers/officials of other departments, besides a large number of students and youths, and Women Self Help Group (SHG) were present on the occasion.

DHEW Jammu organises public services camp



JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

Mission Shakti -District Hub for Empowerment of women Jammu organized a Four day online services camp here at its Office.

The camp, hosted in collaboration with CSC Centre, will provide services of issuing Domicile

Certificate, UDID Card, E-SHRAM, ABHA Card, Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme, Ayushman Card. The team of District Hub for Empowerment of women sensitized the public about the benefits of all the services being provided by the government and how these services can benefit them.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra empowers Communities, amplifies impact of Govt Schemes in District Rajouri



JIN NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 7

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continues to make significant progress in transforming District Rajouri, ensuring comprehensive coverage of government schemes and uplifting the lives of the residents. This visionary initiative has embarked on an extraordinary journey, reaching the unreached and achieving unprecedented saturation of various government programs and initiatives.

To effectively disseminate information and create awareness about the initiatives, an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van has been deployed as part of the Yatra. This mobile communication platform has played a pivotal role in engaging with the local communities and equipping them with the necessary knowledge to benefit from government schemes.

One of the remarkable achievements of the VBSY is the saturation of various government schemes in District Rajouri. These schemes, designed to improve the quality of life and provide essential services, have been imple-

mented on the ground with exceptional success. As a result, the community has witnessed tangible benefits and positive changes in their everyday lives.

The impact of the Yatra goes beyond mere statistical figures. It can be seen in the smiles on the faces of the people, the improved access to healthcare, education, and basic amenities, and the overall progress of District Rajouri. The meticulous planning and execution of the initiative have ensured that it aligns perfectly with its core objective of holistic development, leaving a lasting and positive impact on the community.

The VBSY serves as a beacon of progress and collaboration, embodying the spirit of Viksit Bharat Sankalp. By bringing government schemes to the grassroots level and ensuring comprehensive coverage, it has created a platform for empowerment and upliftment. This transformative journey in District Rajouri stands as a shining example of effective governance, community engagement, and the collective determination to build a better and prosperous India.

Chief Justice inaugurates first aid awareness camp by Indian Red Cross Society at Jammu HC



JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

Chief Justice of High Court J&K and Ladakh, N. Kotiswar Singh, today inaugurated a first aid awareness camp, specifically tailored for advocates, organized by the regional Indian Red Cross Society in collaboration with J&K High Court, Bar Association, Jammu.

Chief Justice along with Justice Tashi Rabastan, M K Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Sanjay Parihar, Principal and District Judge, Jammu in presence of Vikram Sharma, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Parvesh Singh Salaria, General Secretary, J&K and Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT.

The initiative aimed to empower advocates with essential first aid knowledge and skills, fostering a safer and healthier legal community. The event was comprised of informative and interactive sessions besides practical demonstrations providing participants with hands-on experience in administering immediate assistance during emergencies. Large number of

Advocates participated in the session.

During the camp, awareness was raised by staff of Indian Red Cross society including Dr. Aasia Noor, Medical Officer, assisted by Kanchan Devi, Sup Pharmacist. The training session was specifically designed to address scenarios that advocates may encounter in their professional lives in which practical skills, such as basic life support, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and wound care, were emphasized.

General Secretary, IRCS J&K, expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice and President, Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu for their support in making this initiative a huge success. Such collaborative efforts underscore the importance of promoting health and safety awareness across diverse sectors of society during natural and man-made disaster, he asserted.

The first aid awareness camp was supervised by Vironica Marwah, Field Officer, IRCS, J&K-UT, Chetan Misri, Joint Secretary, Utkarsh Pathania, Treasurer and Rohit Sharma, President YLA, Jammu.

Distt Admin B'pora celebrates Armed Forces Flag Day-2023

JIN NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 7

The District Administration Bandipora Thursday celebrated Armed Forces Flag Day to honor both soldiers serving in India's armed forces as well as veterans. The program was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, M Ashraf Hakak and was attended by ADC Bandipora, ACP Bandipora, District Officers, officers from Zila Sainik Welfare and other concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that the aim of celebrating Armed Forces Flag Day is to offer our gratitude to brave heroes from Armed Forces and give the civilian population a chance to contribute to the welfare of Armed Forces Personnel.

Hakak said it is our obligation to honor the martyrs and surviving heroes as well as their families who played a key role in this sacrifice.

He said all the citizens should voluntarily contribute towards the noble cause that extends various welfare schemes to ex-servicemen fraternity and their dependents.

The program also witnessed a fund raising event to contribute generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra-Day12: Outreach campaign navigates across 10 Panchayats in Udhampur

JIN NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 7

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a transformative initiative aimed at reaching the unreached and maximizing government schemes' impact, unfurled across 10 Panchayats in the district on 12th Day. Throughout the day, diverse activities were conducted in the Panchayats of Madha Upper-A, Kud-Lower, Rasli Thakarari, Pachound- 2, Malhar, Malhar Lower, Ghordi Khas East, Ghordi Khas West, Battal, and Mansar. The program witnessed enthusiastic and vibrant participation from stakeholders.

District Samba celebrates Armed Forces Flag Day

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 7

The Armed Forces Flag Day Fundraising Campaign was launched today in District Samba by the NCC cadets and ZSWO Samba staff.

The campaign aims to raise funds to support the martyrs and war veterans, as well as encourage the citizens of the country to contribute for the welfare of our national heroes who selflessly safeguard the borders of the nation.

Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner of Samba, was honored as the campaign's first participant by being pinned with the flag. SSP, Benam Tosh, ADC Samba Suresh Sharma besides other district officers were also present on the occasion.

Administrative Secretary of IT, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma Chairs Meeting on C-DAC E-Pramaan Authentication and E-Services

J1NEWS SERVICE
LEH, DEC. 7

The Administrative Secretary of Information Technology, UT Ladakh Amit Sharma chaired a meeting on E-Pramaan Authentication, and E-Services at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

At the outset, IT Secretary Amit Sharma along with others went through a virtual presentation delivered by the expert team of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), offering a comprehensive overview of the E-Pramaan Authentication system. The presentation delved into the details of the technology, emphasizing its potential to streamline and enhance authentication processes.

IT Secretary's meeting centered around into comprehensive discussions on the integration of E-Pramaan Authentication into various services,



with a focus on streamlining processes, reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks, and bolstering data security.

The discussions extended to the optimization of E-Services, exploring avenues to enhance user experience, accessibility, and inclusivity in line with the Ladakh administration's commitment to digital governance.

Amit Sharma highlighted the pivotal role of digital governance in development and reiterated the commitment to ensuring that E-Services are not only efficient but also accessible to all segments of the population.

IT Secretary Amit Sharma also emphasized the critical role that advanced computing technologies play in the era of

digitization. He underscored the importance of leveraging C-DAC's expertise to enhance the efficiency and security of e-services in the Union Territory of Ladakh. He also expressed his gratitude for Yes Bank's proactive involvement and stated that collaboration is a testament to the shared vision of the Ladakh administration and Yes

Bank in leveraging technology for the welfare of the citizens of Ladakh.

Before the culmination of twin meetings, Secretary IT Amit Sharma expressed enthusiasm for embracing innovative solutions to propel Ladakh into a digitally empowered era. He highlighted the strategic importance of the C-DAC E-Pramaan Authentication system in ensuring secure and seamless authentication procedures, a crucial aspect in the contemporary landscape of information technology.

The meetings were attended by the State Informatics Officer of NIC, UT Ladakh, Director of Rural Development, UT Ladakh, Deputy Secretary IT Department, and Junior Scientists of NIC whereas NIC Officers from J&K and Officers from C-DAC of Yes Bank team attended the meeting virtually.

DoC PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar Jammu, organizes Lecture on "Interview Skills"



J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Department of Commerce, Padma Shri Padma Sachdeva, Govt. College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Jammu organised a special lecture on "Interview Skills" on 6th December, 2023. The programme was initiated with the formal welcome address presented by Prof. Mamta Gupta, HOD, Commerce where she briefed the students about the resource person and the importance of continuously

organising such special lectures. The resource person Mr. Kiran Kurwade, Director-Office Strategic Initiatives at Chitkara University, Chandigarh laid stress on the various skills needed for Job interviews. He wonderfully initiated the session by engaging activities, fostering a participative environment and primarily focused on providing valuable insights into excelling in group discussions and interviews. Lastly, he emphasized on how to maintain a positive approach towards

life and becoming a good human being for overall development including both personal and professional growth. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Asha Devi, Assistant professor.

The lecture was attended by 75 students. Among the attendees were faculty members, including Dr. Vaishali, Prof. Sandhya, and Achlesh Kumar from Chitkara University, Chandigarh. Their presence added depth to the learning experience, contributing to the overall success of the event.

Apni Party leaders hold series of meetings in Doda, Bhandarwah

J1NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR/DODA, DEC 7

Apni Party State Secretary Mohinder Singh Parihar today directed Party cadre in Chenab Valley to gear-up political activities.

A review meeting was chaired by Party's State Secretary, Mohinder Singh Parihar in presence of District President Kishtwar, Mashood Mattoo, Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani, Raman Shan and District President Youth Wing Basharat Hussain also present with other leaders.

The meeting was organized by Apni Party Doda District President, Saleem Magray at Bhalla in Doda.

In the meeting, Mohinder Singh Parihar directed both the District President as well as youth District President to gear-up the political activities in Kishtwar and Doda Districts.

He asked the Party cadre to increase their membership drive as well

as the public outreach program to educate about the policy and agenda of Apni Party. He said that the people in Kishtwar and Doda Districts are the victims of underdevelopment, poor health care and educational infrastructure. He directed the Party cadre to highlight the developmental issues and increasing unemployment in Chenab Valley.

Earlier, dozens of people, especially youth joined the Apni Party under the leadership of Mohinder Singh Parihar.

Parihar was accompanied by District President Kishtwar Mashood Mattoo and Raman Shan during his visit to Doda, and Bhandarwah where they held a series of meetings with Party workers.

At Bhalla, they held an impressive workers' meeting organized by Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani where dozens of prominent political and social workers joined the



Party.

Prominent among those who joined Apni Party include DPAP Block Secretary, Bhalla, Mohd Ashraf, PRI - Santosh Kumar, PRI - Mohd Irfan, renowned social activist, Tariq Hussain Zarger, BJP minority Morcha Treasurer, Ajaiz

Ahmed Magray, Ganesh Kumar, Azhar Bashir, Bitu Kumar, Pawan Kotwal, Bushan Kumar, Mashqoor Ahmed Rishi, Ghulam Hassan Rishu, Rahid Mush-taq Zarger, Farooq Ahmed Tantary, Abdul Wahid, Rayees Ahmed, Sher Ali, Salam Din, Shazar Man-

zoor, Abdul Latief, Majid Azhar, Tariq Hussain and others.

Parihar welcomed the new entrants into the Party fold and hoped that their joining would strengthen the Party.

All the new entrants were welcomed in the

party fold and they expressed their full faith upon the leadership of Party President, Jenab Syed Mohd Altaf Bukhari.

Similarly, PDP and BJP workers also joined the Apni Party in Bhandarwah. During his tour to the district, Mohinder Singh Parihar along with District President Kishtwar, Mashood Mattoo, Raman Shan and Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani, visited the district office of Apni Party at Bhandarwah.

A meeting was organized by District President, Bhandarwah Anil Kumar where some prominent PDP and BJP workers also joined the Apni Party in front of Mohinder Singh Parihar, Basharat Hussain and others.

The prominent among those who joined JKAP include PDP workers i.e., Mohd Nawab, Mohd Ibran, Roshana Begum, Noora Bibi; BJP workers Nitash Rana, Rajesh Kotwal and others.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra receives Warm Welcome in 6 Panchayats on Day 12 of outreach campaign

J1NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 7

On the 12th day of the flagship outreach campaign, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reached six Panchayats of in the Reasi district, fostering community engagement and awareness.

Local PRI members and residents extended a warm welcome to this impactful initiative, demonstrating the widespread support for developmental endeavors. The campaign unfolded in the panchayats of Dadura, Sira Kotla, Chassana A, Chassana B, Hunder, and Harotkote, where a series of activities were organized throughout the day. The program garnered enthusiastic participation from stakeholders, reflecting the community's keen interest in the development initiatives.

Government officers and officials played a crucial role in informing the public about various government schemes aimed at improving livelihoods. Attendees were encouraged to register and take advantage of the diverse employment and welfare programs available. Live telecasts of the Prime Minister's interactions were arranged at all venues under the umbrella of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, drawing crowds to the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van in these diverse blocks of the Reasi district.

KVK Kishtwar holds Capacity Building Programme for Agriculture Officers



J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Krishni Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu organized training programme on use of glyphosate in agriculture for the extension personnel of Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare Kishtwar at Kishtwar involved in the pest control advisory services in the district under the guidance of Dr S.K. Gupta Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. 30 officers and extension personnel of the department from the district attended the training programme. Dr Narinder Paul, Head KVK Kishtwar organized the programme.

Amjad Hussain Malik Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Sanjay Sharma, DAO(Extension), Jamsheh Hussain, Rakesh Padha, Ajay Sharma, SMSs SDL, Manzoor Ahmad Zargar SDAO Marwah, and Agriculture extension officers of different zones of the District Participated in the programme. During the programme Dr Narinder Paul deliberated upon the misuse of glyphosate by the farming community due to lack of awareness and trainings regarding the herbicide. However, not recommended for use in any crop in the district, farmers have been found using it which is very hazardous. He called upon

the extension functionaries to conduct training programme and farmer awareness programmes for proper farmers education regarding the herbicide.

Amjad Hussain Malik CAO Kishtwar called upon the participants to educate the farmers about practices of safe use of pesticides. The participants were trained about safe use of pesticide so that they can train the farmers of the district. At the end of the programme an interactive session was held in which the queries of the participants were discussed. Programme ended with vote of thanks by Sanjay Sharma DAO (Extension) Kishtwar.

Modi govt did justice to all sections in Jammu & Kashmir: Ravinder Raina

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government has done justice to all the sections in Jammu & Kashmir, said Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, while addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Surjit Singh Salathia, J&K BJP Vice-President, Adv. Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary and former Dy. Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria accompanied Ravinder Raina on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina lauded the Modi government and thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah for the historic decision to nominate MLAs in J&K Assembly, which has been passed in Lok Sabha. He said with this historic step, women, Kashmiri Displaced and PoJK refugees would be nominated as MLAs in the Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Several communities faced injustice in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, but their voices remained unheard over the decades. Now the Modi



government has empowered these communities as now the nominated MLAs would be able to represent their community issues in the Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir", said Raina.

Ravinder Raina said that these communities faced innumerable difficulties during the course of the time including displaced communities from either PoJK or Kashmir and now the Modi government has provided justice to them.

"The Modi government has sincerely worked for these neglected communities, for which we thank the PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The Modi government believes in the mission of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwaas' and has worked for every section, has done justice to them", said Raina.

Raina further said that

injustice for 70 years by NC, Congress and PDP governments.

Similarly, the Valmiki community would also get justice now with the strong will of the Modi government.

Ravinder Raina, on behalf of all the residents of J&K lauded the Modi government's decision and thanked the PM Modi and Amit Shah for the historic decision.

The Modi government has in fact brought justice to all the sections in Jammu & Kashmir, which were denied even the basic fundamental rights. He said that the Modi led government has worked for the welfare of every person from every region and every religion. With the strong faith in the policies of the BJP and Modi government, the residents of Jammu & Kashmir have made up their minds to vote for BJP in the upcoming Assembly election here, he said.

He stressed that their reservation will not snatch any other community's quota, making clear that there will be no dilution of the 10% reservation of Gujjar-Bakerwals.

The OBC community, which includes nearly 40 sub-castes, will also receive justice, which earlier received criminal

injustice for 70 years by NC, Congress and PDP governments.

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Diverse Engagements foster Community Awareness as VSBY gains momentum in Reasi District

J1NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 7

Diverse Engagements amid Viksit Bharat Sankalp yatra has helped to foster Community Awareness amid myriad of engaging activities.

The events featured insightful segments such as "Meri Zubaani" and "Meri Kahani," providing a platform to the participants to share their stories and experiences. The on-the-spot quiz challenged participants' knowledge, adding an element of excitement to the gathering.

Cultural performances, including the stirring "Dharti Kahe Pukar Ke" and the uplifting "Swachata Song" performed by women Self-Help Group (SHG) members and school students, added vibrancy to the occasion.

Highlighting sustainable agriculture, the session on Satat Krishi Activities included a captivating Drone Demonstration, showcasing modern agricultural techniques. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with progressive farmers, gaining insights into Natural Farming practices and the importance of soil health cards.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra inspires villagers across Poonch district

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, DECEMBER 7

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) on Thursday traversed a number of Panchayats in different blocks of Poonch District, drawing huge participation of people.

IEC Vans reached Panchayat Gohlad Reelan of block Mendhar; Panchayat Chajjla of Block Mankote and Panchayat Hill Hundian of Block Surankote and sensitized the people, besides saturating the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in every nook and corner of the Block.

IEC Vans were 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 screen mounted on IEC Van.

Today the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) campaign traversed Panchayat Gohlad Reelan of Block Mendhar. The people from all walks of life participated and 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 underserved 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.

Nodal officers should ensure effective saturation of public welfare schemes during VBSY: Sham

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC. 5

Designated Nodal officers and other concerned officials should make dedicated efforts to achieve hundred percent saturation in the public welfare schemes, Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, said this while he appreciated the decision to undertake "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government.

Sham Lal Sharma said that the Modi government has taken a nationwide campaign to raise awareness for the public welfare schemes under the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra", which will ensure more reach of such schemes to the needy. However, at the same time, he emphasized that the effort will not yield full results unless the entire involved government machinery puts dedicated and collaborative efforts involving all the segments of the society as well to reach every needy person in society.

Former Minister & J&K BJP Vice-President Sham JMC Mayor & J&K BJP Vice-President Chander



Mohan Gupta accompanied by party secretary Vikas Choudhary and Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan BJP Incharge Dil Bahadur Jamwal listened to a number of grievances put forth by visiting individuals and deputations at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Individuals and deputations of people from various areas of Jammu & Kashmir like Budgam Srinagar, Talab Tillo, RS Pura, Samba, Subhash Nagar, Manohrama Vihar, Bishnah, New Plots, Paddu Kathua, Handwara Kupwara Srinagar, Uri Baramulla, Arnia, Ploura Bohri Nowshera, Ware House

Jammu had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances.

Issues related to the shifting of relief office from residential area, JDA land issue, installation of transformer, old age pension, promotion, subsidy, repair of lanes/drain, EWS certificate, realignment of PHE pipe from fields, construction of link road at Arnia, repairing of hand pumps, repairing of tube wells etc. were presented before the senior party leaders.

Chander Mohan Gupta said that the BJP leaders make sincere efforts to sort out the issues presented by the people by taking

them up at the appropriate platforms. He added that the public grievances camp is proving to be of major help in solving the day-to-day issues of people of the UT.

Vikas Choudhary said that the senior BJP leaders patiently listen to the problems presented by the people, which are then taken up with the concerned officials stressing for early resolution.

Dil Bahadur Jamwal said that dozens of deputations visited the BJP office to present their issues. He informed that many of the presented issues were resolved providing relief to the public.

"Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" takes central stage amid Ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 7

In the heart of the ongoing Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Kishtwar district, the stories of transformation of people's lives continued to surface in Panchayats of district Kishtwar.

In the course of activities "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" has emerged as the focal point, highlighting the transformative impact of the flagship government schemes on the lives of the people.

The beneficiaries from diverse sections of society expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the government for the invaluable support provided through various flagship schemes /initiatives, benefiting farmers, women, patients, youth, and other marginalized segments.

During the VBSY, One such inspiring tale comes from Krishan Lal, a farmer hailing from Atholi Panchayat in the Paddar block of Kishtwar district. Krishan Lal, a beneficiary of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, expressed how the 15th installment enabled him to acquire essential seeds and fertilizers, elevating his farming prospects.

Chairperson DDC Ramban launches work on developmental projects in Gool

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 7

Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan today kick-started construction work on various developmental projects in the Sub Division, Gool.

Block Development Council, Chairperson, Dharam, Javed Iqbal Manhas, AEE, Vimal Krishan Sidha, JE, Tariq Hussain, PRIs and general public were present on the occasion.

The Chairperson initiated construction work of Block Headquarter Building of BDO and BDC Office at Dharam-A near H.S Dharam under Aspirational Block Development Programme with an allotted cost of Rs. 13 lakh.

Acharya Abhishek Kumar Upadhyay gets title of Vidyavaridhi (PhD)

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 7

The first convocation ceremony was organized grandly at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi. On this occasion, in the special presence of Honorable President, Mrs. Draupadi Murmu, he gave his address by awarding gold medals and degrees to more than 4 thousand graduates of the university. In his address, he said that Sanskrit language has an important place in the Indian knowledge tradition, without it the idea of a knowledge-rich India is incomplete. Today, after studying the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads written in Sanskrit language, India has gained pride in the whole world by traveling on Chandrayaan. Without considering Sanskrit language as the language of any particular class, we



all should adopt it in our lifestyle. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Honorable Minister of Education, Skills and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, who came as a special guest in the program, said that today the whole world is looking towards Devani Sanskrit. Sanskrit is not only a language but is also famous as a language helpful in the all-round development of human life. A person who has studied Sanskrit can provide mental treatment to

any person in the world. He praised the far-reaching vision of former Prime Minister of India Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

In the program, Dr. Abhishek Kumar Upadhyay, a native of Rattichapra village of Bagi Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Trustee of 1008 Shri Mouni Baba Charitable Trust, Convener of the Consultative Committee of Srikashi Vidvat Parishad, Kashi and former Principal of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan was honored.

In the dignified presence of Honorable President and Education, Skills and Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, with the title of Vidyavaridhi (PhD degree), Honorable Vice Chancellor Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi, Prof. Murali Manohar Pathak and Honorable Vice Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, Prof. Shrinivas Barkhedji was honored with lotus flowers. Expressing his gratitude on this occasion, Dr. Upadhyay said that the biggest and most important degree in the world of education is Vidyavaridhi (Ph.D.), after obtaining it the student becomes authorized to do and get excellent research work done in the field of education, along with Awareness towards higher education will also increase in the new generation.

MIER College Organizes Nukkad Natak on AIDS Awareness



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

The Extension Unit of MIER College continues its commitment to community welfare by organizing an impactful Nukkad Natak (street play) centered around the critical theme of "AIDS and HIV" at its adopted village, Purkhoo, in Jammu. The event, held on 6th December 2023, was designed with a primary focus on spreading awareness about AIDS, emphasizing prevention measures, and combating the stigma associated with the disease. A group of about 26 student members of the unit, along with their Incharge Mrs. Suman Devi, visited the village.

Ms. Snober, a student B.Ed. Semester III, welcomed the Sarpanch, Panch, and audience. Through the Nukkad Natak, the student showcased the mindset of people towards AIDS and HIV patients, the psychological trauma of stigmatization and discrimination experienced by them. The performance showcased real-life scenarios, shedding light on the misconceptions surrounding AIDS, advocating for safe practices, and promoting empathy and support for those living with HIV/AIDS. They also highlighted the treatment options available and different medical schemes for such patients.

The villagers, along with Panch and Sarpanch, expressed their gratitude to the students and the Extension Unit of the college for taking up social causes and educating the youth. Ms. Bhavya, student B.Ed. Semester III, proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Principal MIER College, appreciated the efforts of the Unit in spreading awareness among the villagers regarding AIDS and HIV and said that providing an opportunity for villagers to come together, learn, and engage in discussions. Such endeavors contribute significantly to spreading awareness and fostering a more informed and supportive community.

17th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament kicks off with thrilling matches

Sports tournaments promote teamwork, healthy living among youth: Yudhvir, Priya

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

The highly anticipated 17th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament, organized by the All J&K Sports and Cultural Welfare Association under the aegis of J&K Football Association (DFA, Jammu), kicked off today at GGM Science College Ground, Jammu.

The opening match of the tournament saw J&K Bank Academy take on United FC Kathua in a nail-biting encounter. J&K Bank Academy emerged victorious with a convincing 5-1 scoreline, showcasing their impressive skills and teamwork.

The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President



BJP, who was the Chief Guest while Priya Sethi, former Minister was the Special Guest. They were accompanied by a group of esteemed personalities, including Parveen Kerni, Anil Masson, Arun Sethi, Sanjay Mahay, Hari Om, Rahul Mahajan, Anita Gandotra, Ramesh Chander (International Player),

Yousaf Don, David Masih, Rajesh, and Kamaljeet. Adding to the excitement, a women's exhibition match was held between Jammu XI and Downtown Arrow Srinagar. Downtown Arrow Srinagar demonstrated their dominance and secured a 2-0 victory. Speaking on the occasion,

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President, lauded the organizers for their efforts in promoting sports and cultural activities in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of tournaments like the Christmas Gold Cup in fostering teamwork, discipline, and a healthy lifestyle among

young people. He also commended the players for their dedication and sportsmanship.

Priya Sethi, former Minister, in her address, congratulated the winning team and expressed her appreciation for the enthusiasm and talent displayed by all the participants. She highlighted the crucial role of sports in uniting people and promoting a sense of community spirit. She encouraged young people to actively participate in sports and contribute to the development of a vibrant sporting ecosystem in the region.

The tournament continues tomorrow with two exciting matches including Hero FC vs. Nagrota FC at 1:30 PM and Young Star FC vs. Young Hero's at 3:00 PM.

Dr Shreyansh Jain calls on CS JKUT Atul Dulloo

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Vichar Kranti Manch International President Dr Shreyansh Jain (State Yoga Commissioner) calls upon recently appointed Chief Secretary J&K UT, Sh Atal Dulloo here today, accompanied by Sh Abhinandan Jain, Financial Advisor VKMI. DR Jain congratulated on becoming the highest Administrative head as Chief secretary.

Jain composed his life sketch in poetry, which was presented to Mr Dulloo. He is IAS of 1989 batch and first from Kashmiri Pandit Smaj after Mr Vijay Bakaya. He has remained Add Chief Secretary & Jk Financial Commissioner and was Home Secretary in Ministry of



Home Affairs, Govt of India.

President explained CS about working of VKMI, how it is working to inculcate & promote Moral, Ethical & Spiritual values in the society by organizing different awareness programmes in civil society and in schools. Also holding yoga camps to impart trainings about life style, dietary Habits & disease free life by adopting yoga way of life and Natu-

ropathy. Dr Jain is also State Chairman Indian Yoga Association & Kaivlya Dhama Lonavla Pune. & Ex Guest yoga Faculty in Jammu University & Central University.

Mr Abhinandan Jain was introduced to Mr Dulloo, as Senior 10KM Marathon qualifier, at the age of 70 years, organized by J&K police Deptt & was felicitated by the then DGP Mr Dilbagh Singh at Gulshan Ground Jammu.

Vi and EaseMyTrip sign a strategic partnership to extend exclusive propositions around travel and international roaming

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Vi, the leading Indian telecom operator partners with EaseMyTrip.com, one of the largest online travel tech platforms, in continuous endeavor to build more value for its users. In this partnership, EaseMyTrip will offer Vi customers exclusive deals in flights, hotels, trains, buses, and cab bookings on the Vi App. With this partnership, Vi aims to bring more convenience and best offers for Vi users. As an introductory offer, there will be zero convenience fees on all flight bookings. Additionally, the users will soon be entitled to get offers on domestic & International hotels, holidays, buses, activities and cab bookings.

As part of the association, the users will also be able to avail exclusive benefits on travel-related services such

as activities, experiences and holiday packages on the Vi App. In future, users will have access to other value-added services like free airport pick up/drop on flight and hotel bookings at a minimum booking value.

Commenting on the launch of Travel Section on Vi App, Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vi said "At Vi, it's our continuous endeavour to bring the best for our customers, be it on the telco front or any category that consumers are engaging with. Travel is one of the high demand categories and is only growing with time, whether domestic or international. EaseMyTrip in many ways is at the forefront of this phenomenon. We are extremely excited with this partnership and hope our consumers will appreciate what this partnership will bring out for them to make their travel bookings more delightful."

Commenting on the association, Mr. Rikant Pittie, Co-Founder, EaseMyTrip, said, "Vi is one of India's leading telecom service providers and is at the forefront of developing infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies and offering world-class tech-driven experiences to customers. We share a common ground with Vi of being a digital-first brand and believe in servicing our customers with nothing but the best. Our unique association will go a long way in providing exceptional services to our and Vi customers ensuring travel bookings become easy and seamless for them through the Vi app."

Vi offers exclusive services like Vi Music, Vi Games, Vi Jobs & Education and Vi Movies & TV on the Vi App. The partnership with EaseMyTrip will add another new service Travel on the Vi App.

PMAY Transforms Lives in Block Purmandal: Karan Singh's Story reflects real Empowerment

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 7

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a transformative initiative launched by the Government of India, has left a profound impact on the lives of individuals in Block Purmandal. Karan Singh, a resident of Panchayat Khara Madana, Block Purmandal, who has become a proud homeowner by availing PMAY scheme, is now inspiring others in his community to follow his footsteps.

For years, Karan Singh had nurtured a dream of owning his own house. However, due to the lack of affordable housing options and financial constraints, this dream seemed out of reach. The pathway to a brighter future appeared bleak for

him and his family.

Everything changed when the Government of India introduced the PMAY scheme, aimed at providing affordable housing to all. Karan Singh's life took a significant turn as he became a beneficiary of this life-altering initiative.

Determined to make his dream a reality, Karan Singh meticulously gathered all the necessary documents and diligently followed the application process. After enduring the challenges of the application process, he received the life-changing news that he had been approved as a beneficiary under the PMAY scheme. The joy and relief that washed over Karan Singh and his family were immeasurable. They could now envision a future free

from the uncertainties of inadequate housing.

With the assistance of the PMAY scheme, Karan Singh erected a modest yet comfortable home for his family. The pride and sense of accomplishment that accompanied building their own abode were indescribable. Karan Singh's perseverance, combined with the government's commitment to improving the lives of its citizens, had paid off.

The impact of the PMAY scheme extended far beyond the physical structure of the house. Karan Singh and his family experienced newfound security and stability, positively influencing every aspect of their lives. With a permanent roof over their heads, they were able to embrace a future filled with optimism and hope.

Yuva Vani-Awareness programme for Youth held at Govt Degree College Dharmari



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 7

The Awareness programme for educated youth was held at Degree college Dharmari today to attract the College youth towards agripreneurship.

The programme was organised as per the instructions of Directors Agriculture, Ram Savak and guidance of District Nodal officer/ Chief Agriculture officer Reasi, Harbans Singh.

The programme was aimed at educating the rural youth to come forward and adopt agriculture as a full time/part-time profession for remunerative returns. The participants were motivated by experts to become job providers instead of job seekers by adopting any project under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme

(HADP) including Agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, sheep husbandry, fishers and other allied activity. Awareness regarding Kisan sathi and Daksh Kisan was also provided to the participants.

Technical session was conducted by Vikas Sharma (SMS Dharmari), Anil Thakur, AEO Matlote, Harmeet Singh, AEA Budhun in the presence of the Sub Divisional Agriculture officer, S. Dalbir Singh, Principal, Dr Preetpal Kaur and SMS, Sush-eel Suri along with other college staff.

Moderators, Vikas Suri, Pankaj Sharma and other officials of the departments besides a large number of students were present. The programme was a great success with the full cooperation of college faculty and staff besides enthusiastic participation of students.

DB expresses serious concern over frequent Road Accidents

Expert Committee constituted to visit vulnerable spots on NH-44, NH-244, Mughal Road

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

A Division Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu comprising the Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi while taking serious note of frequent road accidents at Mughal Road, Batote-Doda-Kishtwar stretch and Ramban directed the Constitution of an Expert Committee consisting of a Professor from IIT Jammu having expertise in Road Safety, an Engineer to be nominated by the Chief Engineer SAMPARK, an Executive Engineer to be nominated by the Chief Engineer PWD(R&B), Jammu and Prof.(Dr.) G.M. Bhat- Former HOD of the Department of Geology, University of Jammu who is an acclaimed Expert in Land Slides on National Highways. The Division Bench further directed that Divisional Commissioner, Jammu who is already appointed as Nodal Officer in this PIL will coordinate the functioning of the

Expert Committee. The Expert Committee has been directed to visit and inspect NH-44, NH-244 & Mughal Road and to ascertain the causes and reasons for frequent road accidents.

These significant directions were issued on three PILs filed by Intikhab Ahmed Qazi, Bar Association Doda and Asif Iqbal Bhat highlighting frequent Road Accidents and Dance of Death in Pir Panchal and Chenab Region. Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, Syed Asim Hashmi, Rahul Raina, Supriya Chouhan, M. Zulkarnain Chowdhary, Suraj Singh, Syed Majid Shah and Adnan Mush-taq Jaral appeared for the petitioners whereas Advocate Vishal Sharma, DSGI and Sr. AAG S. S. Nanda appeared for U.O.I and Govt. of J&K.

The Expert Committee has been directed to submit its report by or before the first week of February, 2024. The PIL will come up for further proceedings on February 13th, 2024.

VBSY empowers communities

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 7

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a flagship campaign aimed at fostering community development and national progress, made a resounding impact as it reached numerous panchayats in Kathua district. Residents from diverse backgrounds and age groups evinced overwhelming enthusiasm, contributing to the success of the initiative.

The Yatra, which witnessed active participation from local residents, saw an incredible display of cultural prowess and fervor. School students, in particular, took center stage, delivering stirring speeches on moral values and presenting captivating cultural programs that added vibrancy and energy to the gatherings. The presence of esteemed personalities and community leaders further elevated the spirit of the event, encouraging active involvement in the journey toward the nation's advancement. As the Yatra made its mark across Chandwan, Seswan, Bann, and Chadwal panchayats of the Marheeb block, the response from residents was nothing short of remarkable.

Additionally, the Yatra covered Panchayats Malad, Kindli, Badnota, and Machhedhi, where the enthusiasm and support from the local communities were overwhelming. The engagement and commitment displayed by the residents reflected their dedication to contributing to the nation's progress and development.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra aims to empower communities, foster unity, and encourage participation in initiatives that drive the country's growth. The resounding success in Kathua district stands as a testament to the collective determination and commitment toward a better, more prosperous India.

Administrative Secretary of IT, UT Ladakh Amit Sharma chairs meeting on C-DAC E-Pramaan Authentication, E-Services

J1 NEWS SERVICE
LEH, DEC 7

The Administrative Secretary of Information Technology, UT Ladakh Amit Sharma chaired a meeting on E-Pramaan Authentication, and E-Services at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

At the outset, IT Secretary Amit Sharma along with others went through a virtual presentation delivered by expert team of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), offering a comprehensive overview of the E-Pramaan Authentication system. The presentation delved into the details of the technology, emphasizing its potential to streamline and enhance authentication processes. IT Secretary's meeting centred around comprehensive discussions on the integration of E-Pramaan Authentication into vari-



ous services, with a focus on streamlining processes, reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks, and bolstering data security. The discussions extended to the optimization of E-Services, exploring avenues to enhance user experience, accessibility, and inclusivity in line with the Ladakh administration's commitment to digital governance. Amit Sharma highlighted the pivotal role of digital governance in development and reiterated the commitment to ensuring that E-Services are not only efficient but also accessible to all segments of the population.

IT Secretary Amit Sharma also emphasized the critical role that advanced computing technologies play in the era of digitization. He underscored the importance of leveraging C-DAC's expertise to enhance the efficiency and security of e-services in the Union Territory of Ladakh. He also expressed his gratitude for Yes Bank's proactive involvement and stated that collaboration is a testament to the shared vision of the Ladakh administration and Yes Bank in leveraging technology for the welfare of

the citizens of Ladakh.

Before culmination of twin meetings, Secretary IT Amit Sharma expressed enthusiasm for embracing innovative solutions to propel Ladakh into a digitally empowered era. He highlighted the strategic importance of the C-DAC E-Pramaan Authentication system in ensuring secure and seamless authentication procedures, a crucial aspect in the contemporary landscape of information technology.

The meetings were attended by the State Informatics Officer of NIC, UT Ladakh, Director of Rural Development, UT Ladakh, Deputy Secretary IT Department and Junior Scientists of NIC whereas NIC Officers from J&K and Officers from C-DAC of Yes Bank team attended the meeting virtually.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra criss-crosses Jammu city; VBSY camps held in Tpt Nagar and Sai Park, lower Muthi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is progressing with much enthusiasm and wide public participation in Jammu city. On Day Ten of the yatra, camps were organised in Transport Nagar and Sai Park near lower Muthi. Under the programme, various departments and agencies today set up stalls at the two venues to provide on the spot services like free health check to public. Many residents availed the facility get new aadhaar cards issued or the existing ones updated. Loans under PM SVANidhi yojana were also sanctioned to street vendors during the events. On the occasion, Viksit Bharat Sankalp pledge to make India a developed and self-reliant nation by the year 2047 was administered to the people who joined the yatra. Under the campaign, the specially designed IEC (Information, Education, Communication) van created awareness about various schemes and initiatives taken by the Government of India for the welfare of citizens, especially in



Jammu and Kashmir.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is a nationwide outreach initiative aimed at informing and empowering citizens about the Central Government's flagship schemes and programmes. It also focuses on reaching the vulnerable population, disseminating information,

learning from citizens and enrolling potential beneficiaries. The yatra will cover over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats and over 3,600 urban local bodies by January 25, 2024, touching every district of the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched it on November 15, 2023 from Jharkhand.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL
DIVISION JAMMU**
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 199 of 2023-24 Dated:05.12.2023
Due : 13.12.2023

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	AAA/TS	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	REPAIR/SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF HEATING SYSTEM OF PACKAGED AIR CONDITIONING UNIT IN WARD 10 and DUCTABLE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS IN HDU-I AND HDU-II OF GOVT. SMGS HOSPITAL, JAMMU	Principal GMC & Associate Hospital Jammu	2.44 LACS	ACCORDED	Rs 5000.00 in the Shape of CDJ/FOR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 00970101000 02163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0TNHALL MICR CODE: 180051025	10 days	OEM/Authorized /Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" Electromechanical nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBLITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Jammu

DIP/J-12221/23
Date: 7-12-23

De-freeze 8 Legislative Assembly seats for Displaced Persons in J&K: Apni Party

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Apni Party has demanded de-freezing of 8 Legislative Assembly seats out of 24 free seats in Jammu and Kashmir in favour of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) - Displaced Persons.

In a joint statement to the press, Provincial President Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour and Provincial President Youth Wing, Jammu, Vipul Bali have expressed grave concern over the negligence of the PoJK people who have been deprived of their representation in the Legislative Assembly.

"For decades, our population suffered after they were uprooted in 1947, 1965 and 1971 from their ancestral houses and agricultural fields. These Displaced Persons (PoJKs) were settled in the border belt of Jammu region on the Line of Control and International Border," they said. They said that "The DPs were not given representation by reserving their seats in the Legislative Assembly. At the time, when the country has acknowledged different tribes and provided them reservation under the Indian Constitution, it becomes important to accept the political igno-

rance of the DPs and accordingly, 8 Legislative Assembly seats should be reserved for DPs in their respective constituencies across the Jammu region."

"The nomination of one DP as legislator in the legislative assembly of J&K is not acceptable for the entire DP community. Therefore, the Govt must reconsider its decision, and grant political reservation on 8 Assembly seats in Jammu region," they added.

They said that the DPs have faced ignorance for decades and their issues could not be resolved by the traditional political parties even after assurances and re-assurances. "The DPs used a vote bank, but they were not granted political reservation so that they could address their own problems. The DPs are socially, economically, and politically backward even after having a vast population in the region," they stated.

They said that the unemployment among young DPs has increased, and they are facing problems economically because of less scope of employment. "The DPs should be provided reservation in jobs, and on the spot recruitment for the DP youths in the border belt," they added.

Kavinder chairs monthly review meeting of Reasi Assembly constituency



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DEC 7

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta asked the party cadre to strengthen the party base at booth level to ensure resounding victory in all the ensuing political battles in the Union Territory.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said this while chairing a monthly meeting of Reasi Assembly Constituency in connection with 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan'. The meeting was attended by Rohit Dubey District President, Arvind Gupta Parbhari, Baldev Sharma Ex MLA, Kuldeep Dubey senior Leader, Pardeep Singh Seh Prabhari, Adv Pawan Dev Singh Dist in-Charge Booth Samvad Abhiyan, Sheel Magotra Ex President, Shashi Gupta Ex Chairman MC, Sudesh Puri Ex MC, Sukhdev Singh, Romail Singh District General Secretary, DDC Arnas Raj Kumari, Mandal and Morcha Presidents were also present.

Addressing party workers, Kavinder Gupta held threadbare discussion on the ongoing Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan and Bharat Sankalp Vikas Yatra, asking party cadre to take these campaigns at ground level and make it a grand success. He asked them to strengthen

the organization from the booth-level, and reach out to prospective voters from all segments and age-groups. He laid stress on strengthening organizational setup to the hilt so that the party's triumph at all the political contests could be ensured in the coming future.

The senior BJP leader also asked the booth level workers to disseminate information about Modi government's flagship schemes among the common masses so that doubts if any can be warded off timely leaving no scope for the opposition parties to take undue benefits by swaying people by misleading them.

Kavinder said that it is important to bring the voter to the polling booth and efforts should be made by the party workers to meet this challenge with utmost ease through strong resolve and conviction. He also said there is a need to strengthen the support base and take it to another level in the ensuing poll season. He also emphasized on strengthening BJP at the grassroots level. He said that ground level workers are the real ambassadors of the party as their efforts can prove to be the game changer especially to get favourable results in elections.

Successful Health Mela marks culmination of Ayushman Bhava Campaign at SDH Nowshera

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, DEC 7

A successful Health Mela was organized under the Ayushman Bhava Campaign at the Sub District Hospital in Nowshera, District Rajouri. This event was orchestrated under the guidance of esteemed figures in the healthcare sector, including Dr. Rajeev Sharma, Director Health Services, Jammu; Sh. Kartar Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera and Dr. Iqbal Malik, Block Medical Officer Nowshera.

The 'Ayushman Bhav' initiative aims to saturate all healthcare services in every village/town, aligning with the commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi ji to ensure reach to the last mile and enable access to healthcare services for everyone in society. The campaign started on September 2023 and will continue until December 31, 2023.

A commendable total of 370 individuals benefited from the diverse health



services offered during the Mela. The health Mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and notable personalities who availed themselves of a diverse array of health services. It is worth noting that all services were rendered free of charge, underscoring the organizers' commitment to the community's well-being.

The team of dedicated medical professionals included Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Dr. Vikram Maha-

jan, Dr. Rahul Sharma, Dr. Chander Parkash, Dr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Balvinder Singh, Dr. Bilal, Dr. Akram Rashid, Dr. Jyoti Rao, Dr. Shivangi, Dr. Muzahir, and other esteemed staff members, alongside ASHA workers.

Block Medical Officer Nowshera, Dr. Iqbal Malik, conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to all organizers, volunteers, and participants for their collective efforts in making the Ayushman Health Mela an unequivocal triumph.

Tarun Uppal meets CS Atal Dulloo, highlight his role in COVID-19 crisis management

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Tarun Uppal, Chairman of the Nirbhay Bharat Foundation and President of the Jammu & Kashmir Speed Ball Association (JKSBA), along with Sunny Nanda, General Secretary of the Jammu & Kashmir Speed Ball Association met Atal Dulloo on his appointment as the Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Uppal highlighted that Dulloo, an AGMUT cadre IAS officer with most of his career spent in Jammu and Kashmir, was instrumental during the COVID-19 crisis. As the Financial Commissioner of Health & Medical Education, he played a crucial role in guiding the Union Territory through the pandemic.



Uppal, expressing his views, mentioned that Sh. Dulloo, being a resident of J&K, has an in-depth understanding of the region's realities. With his new role as Chief Secretary, the expectations of the local populace have heightened. Uppal expressed his confidence in Sh. Dulloo's abilities to meet these expectations.

Nanda, a respected figure in the sports community, also extended his support for Sh. Dulloo, acknowledging his insight into the regional challenges and the potential for positive impact in his new position.

SKUAST-Jammu organizes guest lecture on Agro-tourism



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

School of Biotechnology, SKUAST-Jammu, under the guidance of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, organised a guest lecture for the UG and PG students on "Entrepreneurship via Agro-tourism". The program was funded by National Agriculture Higher Education Project, ICAR, New Delhi (NAHEP-IDP).

The lecture was delivered by Mr. Vivekanand Rai, IRS, Director, Tourism, Jammu, Department of Tourism, J&K. In his lecture, Mr. Rai gave a comprehensive account of Jammu Agro-tourism and various government initiatives being taken by the tourism department to promote agro-tourism. He advised the students to harvest benefits from the recently accorded GI tags

to the various districts of Jammu division. He encouraged the students to establish start-ups based on agro-tourism and publicize the same with the help of social media. After the lecture, there was a healthy interaction in which Mr. Rai answered the queries of students related to agro-tourism and offered them a tour to the rural potential areas of Jammu division for having interaction meetings with the agro-tourism entrepreneurs.

Earlier, Prof. R.K. Salgotra, Coordinator, School of Biotechnology gave an overview of SKUAST-Jammu and welcomed the esteemed speaker and participants. The lecture ended with a vote of thanks from Dr. G.K. Rai, Organizing Secretary and the proceedings were handled by Dr. Susheel Sharma, Assistant Professor, SBT.

BJP Govt provided justice to those deprived of their rights for over 70 years in J&K: Ritika.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan today hailed PM Modi Govt after Lok Sabha passed two important pieces of legislation regarding Jammu and Kashmir which are The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, that aims to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and The Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, aimed at amending the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004.

In a handout issued here, Ritika said, "Earlier there were 37 seats in Jammu which have now become 43, earlier there were 46 seats in Kashmir which have now become 47, and 24 seats have been kept reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. She said two Bills will bring justice to



community and said this will empower it politically. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill will nominate two members from the Kashmiri migrant community and one representing the displaced persons from PoK to the legislative assembly. She said this restored the political legacy of the Kashmiri community in Kashmir Valley which was eroded earlier. She said it will give representation to the community in legislative setup for the first time under the reservation category. Both the bills will provide justice to those deprived of their rights for over 70 years. Ritika added that they will also "bring justice to those against whom injustice was done, who were insulted and those who were ignored." Ritika accused the Congress party of hindering the progress of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the country.

and providing rights to those against whom injustice was done, who were insulted and those who were ignored. She said that in any society, those who are deprived should be brought forward and that is the basic sense of the Constitution of India.

Ritika welcomed the decision of the government to reserve two seats in the assembly for the Kashmiri migrant com-

"NC, PDP or Cong wouldn't have dared such actions"

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Hailing the action taken by Jammu and Kashmir Police on terror associates and drug peddlers by attaching their properties, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri said that no previous government ever dared to initiate such an action to end the menace of terrorism and drug mafia in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP leader said that such a stringent action was needed to end the menace of terrorism and drug peddling in Jammu and Kashmir but previous governments lacked spine. Now that the properties of these anti-national and anti-social elements have started getting attached, they will think twice before getting into any such misadventure.

Raman Suri said, the recent incident, in which 14 marlas residential land belonging to a terror associate's family in north Kashmir's Bandipora district has been attached by the police, has sent a clear message to those into such misadventures. Prior to this, police had also seized properties of drug peddlers and dealers

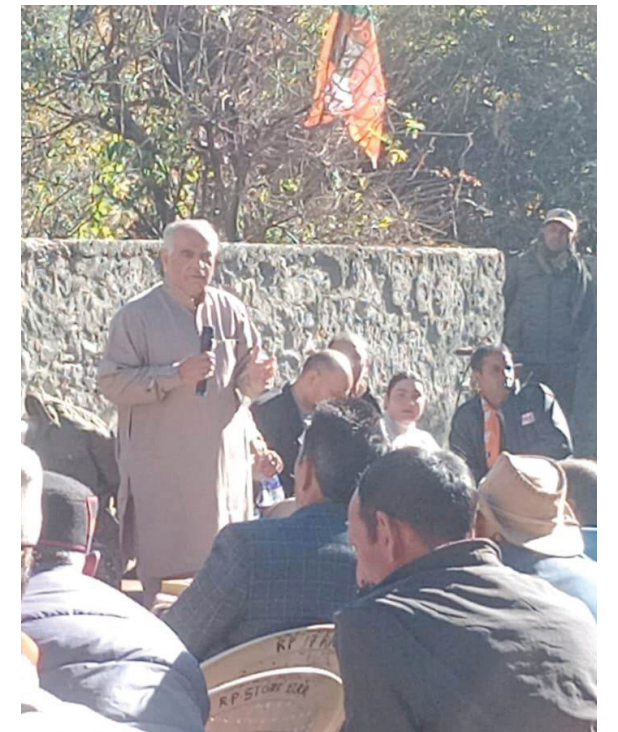


in other districts.

He added that several young boys and girls had fallen into the trap of drug peddlers and several were lured into terrorism but no government belonging to that of National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP) or Congress ever dared to initiate such a strong action against the anti-social elements, who were out there to damage our next generation.

Attachment of properties under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) is rightful and is aimed at preventing unlawful activities and associations in India, Raman Suri said, adding that its main objective is to deal with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of Bharat.

Ashok Koul addresses Booth Jan Samvad at Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DEC 7

Jammu & Kashmir BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, along with General Secretary & former Minister Sunil Sharma, addressed a massive gathering at Panchayat Dool 'A' in Dool Pochhal Mandal of Kishtwar District under 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan' programme.

Ashok Koul, in his address, said that the BJP is reaching at the booth level in every assembly segment in a district with a motive of highlighting the splendid works of the Narendra Modi led government during the last about ten years. In these years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took many historic and bold decisions with an objective of bringing revolution in the field of infrastructure development, welfare of masses and taking the country to new heights in all spheres. He said that through the programmes being organized under 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan', the people are made aware about all the major developmental projects and welfare schemes, guide them to avail benefits of social welfare schemes if not known to them till date and also remain in regular touch with the people and extend every kind of assistance in mitigating their problems.

Sunil Sharma, while speaking in the programme, said that the Modi government schemes are not confined to a particular region or class but people living in every nook and corner of the country are availing the benefits. He also spoke on various development projects of road, power generation in the Kishtwar district. Kishtwar District President Chuni Lal Shan introduced the beneficiaries of various schemes and said that the people are appreciating the efforts of the Narendra Modi government, which are proving helpful to them. District Prabhari Gajay Singh Rana, Parliamentary Constituency General Secretary (Org.) Vipin Sharma, District General Secretary Gulab Chand also addressed the programme. Similar programme was also held at panchayat Ghar in Nagsani Mandal of district Kishtwar, which was addressed by Ashok Koul along with other party leaders. In Rajouri, a program was held in Thannamandi Mandal Manjakote Panchayat Ghambir Mughla C, Panchayat Rajdhani Uppar and Panchayat Ghambir Ghulati A. another programme held in Panchayat Badhakana in Mandal Behrote. In district Reasi, Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly Constituency, programme was held in Ward 3, Katra Mandal.

SMVDU Faculty delivers Talk at ASME Webinar on Additive Manufacturing

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 7

Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Assistant Professor, SME) delivered an invited talk on 'New Product Development & Additive Manufacturing during a webinar hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, India Section on 22nd November 2023. Dr. Haq spoke about fundamental concepts of New Product Development (NPD), and the technology of Additive Manufacturing (AM). Further, the mechanical aspects of AM parts such as tensile, compressive, and tribological properties were also discussed. The talk was attended by 150+ participants from across the



globe. Also, the research work carried out in the area of Additive manufacturing was shared with the participants. A detailed discussion with the participants in the question and answer session was also held. Dr. Haq thanked the ASME India section and SMVDU authorities.

Dulloo for taking steps for full operationalization of all major health facilities



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today while reviewing the health care scenario of the UT impressed upon the concerned authorities to take meaningful steps for full operationalization of all the major health facilities across the UT.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health besides Director SKIMS; MD, SHA; Principals of all the Medical Colleges; MD, NHM; Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu; MD, JKMSCL; Director, Family Welfare; Drug Controller and other concerned officers.

During this meeting Dulloo observed that the UT has one of the best health infrastructure facilities allocated by the centre in the shape of 2 AIIMS, 7 new medical colleges, Nursing Colleges besides other institutions for bringing quality health care services to people here. He stressed on taking concrete steps for making fully functional all such mega health facilities to bring the tertiary care health services nearer the homes of all the J&K residents.

He also enquired from the Principal of each Medical College about the staff strength and those in place among the faculty positions. He emphasised upon filling of all the vacancies at an earliest so that the patient care do not take hit there. He even asked for all the machin-

ery and equipments necessary for effective medical care to be provisioned by these health institutions and their status in there. He advised the Department to take measures for procurement of such machinery, instruments and medicines for each of the health centre so that patients do not have to suffer here. He called for tendering of all the essential drugs in one go as per requirements to evade any possibility of their shortage during the year.

Chief Secretary directed all the HoDs including the Chief Medical Officers to be in the field most of the times and monitor the delivery of services in their areas. He asked them to check on daily basis the patient load in each of the health facility and the availability of doctors there. He directed for ensuring that each medical facility in remote areas have sufficient staff available as per the sanctioned strength so that people there are not put to trouble anymore.

Moreover the Chief Secretary also took note of the functioning of Nursing Colleges here. He maintained that the quality paramedic staff is equally significant as that of medics and these colleges should endeavor for producing the qualified nurses by imparting best training and education.

Chief Secretary took this occasion to take stock of all the projects under execution here. He asked for completing each of

them on time and dedicate them to public after finishing them in all respects. He advised for resolving all issues faced in execution of these projects by having better synergy and coordination with each other.

During this meeting the Secretary Health & Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar informed the Chief Secretary that under Universal Health Insurance scheme 10.18 lakh treatments were done valuing Rs 1735 Cr since its inception.

It was further said that Digital interventions such as Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Ambulatory services, e-sanjeevani, Tele-Radiology, Telemedicine, Tele-X-Ray, Tele-CT, Scan and Share, Chatbot and Tele-Manas have been accomplished here.

In addition it was said that Scan and Share facility for digital patient Queue management has been operationalised in tertiary care and secondary level health facilities and also being extended to next level shortly. Regarding the availability of health facilities across the UT it was said that more than 4000 health facilities including mega projects like 2 AIIMS, 2 State Cancer Institutes, 2 Bone & Joint Hospitals, 7 new Medical Colleges enhancing total MBBS Seats to 1300 for a UT with population of around 1.40 crore is phenomenal and first of its kind in the entire history of J&K.

DDC reviews progress of work on key Development Projects in Reasi District



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 7

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi Vishesh Mahajan today convened a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of works being executed by PWD and PMGSY under various heads.

The DC took extensive review of all roads, completed and ongoing and directed to furnish the status of completed roads. He also asked to set the timeline for completion of ongoing projects. The executing

agencies were directed to ensure regular follow up of pending issues like NOC from the Forest Department and supervise all the ongoing works and keep checks on the contractors constructing the roads. The contractors who are causing unnecessary delay in the construction works will be fixed and action shall be taken against them, the Deputy Commissioner added.

DDC instructed the officers to work with utmost dedication and zeal. He asked them to maintain the quality

while executing the work and establish a close liaison with the local population so that the progress and quality of the work can be monitored by the public for whom these developmental activities are carried out. Besides, he directed the engineers to start the allotted works and complete all the works both physically and financially within stipulated time. He said the Reasi administration remains committed to fostering robust infrastructure and sustainable development for the benefit of the local populace.

3 week 'Yuva Vani' programme under HADP concludes in District Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 7

The three week 'Yuva Vani' Programme under HADP concluded in district Ramban after successful awareness events held in all 11 blocks and 5 Degree colleges.

The aim of the programme was to sensitize the youth about Agri-business. On the last day a series of 'Yuva Vani' programmes were held in Gool and Rajgarh blocks of the district to encourage youth to avail Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) schemes.

Attending the program at Block Gool, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Suhail Jan Kawoosa, who is also Nodal Officer HADP in the district, sensitized the participants about the 'Yuva Vani' programme and Daksh Kissan. "There are ample business opportunities available in agriculture and allied sectors for the youth," he said. The par-



ticipants showed keen interest in opting for Agricultural entrepreneurship which has been designed exclusively for the youth within the age group of 18-35 years.

The programme was also attended by Dr Ilyas Zargar, VAS Gool, Dr. Rayees Ahmad Bafanda (MVO Ramban) and representatives of different line departments, besides

a large number of youth. Similar programme was also organized at Block Rajgarh under the patronage of the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), Ramban, Ram Gopal Sharma. Sensitizing the youth, the CAO encouraged the unemployed youth to avail the benefits of Agriculture and allied sector schemes being provided under Holistic

Agriculture Development Plan. He said that unemployed youth should come forward and avail benefits of various schemes of allied departments.

The programme was also attended by Dr. Mohsin Ahmad Parry, Dr Parimveer Mobile Veterinary Officer and representatives of different line departments, besides a large number of youth.

SKUAST-Jammu organises guest lecture on Agro-tourism



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 7

School of Biotechnology, SKUAST-Jammu, under the guidance of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, on Thursday organised a guest lecture for the UG and PG students on "Entrepreneurship via Agro-tourism".

The program was funded by National Agriculture Higher Education Project, ICAR, New Delhi (NAHEP-IDP).

The lecture was delivered by Vivekanand Rai, IRS, Director, Tourism, Jammu, Department

of Tourism, J&K. In his lecture, Mr. Rai gave a comprehensive account of Jammu Agro-tourism and various government initiatives being taken by the tourism department to promote agro-tourism. He advised the students to harvest benefits from the recently accorded GI tags to the various districts of Jammu division. He encouraged the students to establish start-ups based on agro-tourism and publicize the same with the help of social media. After the lecture, there was a healthy interaction in which Mr. Rai answered

the queries of students related to agro-tourism and offered them a tour to the rural potential areas of Jammu division for having interaction meetings with the agro-tourism entrepreneurs. Earlier, Prof. R.K. Salgotra, Coordinator, School of Biotechnology gave an overview of SKUAST-Jammu and welcomed the esteemed speaker and participants. The lecture ended with a vote of thanks from Dr. G.K. Rai, Organizing Secretary and the proceedings were handled by Dr. Susheel Sharma, Assistant Professor, SBT.

Arrangements finalized for JKSSB Panchayat Secretary written Exam in Udhampur



JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 7

The arrangements for the upcoming written examination for the post of Panchayat Secretary, conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board on December 10, 2023, were finalized in a review meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai at the DC Office Complex Conference Hall.

The meeting was

attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Additional SP Anwar-Ul-Haq, JKSSB Member Dr Pritam Lal Thapa, and other officials, focused on ensuring a smooth conduct of the OMR-based Panchayat Secretary written exam.

A total of 9822 candidates are expected to appear at 23 designated centers across the district. DC emphasized the

need for proper arrangements, including drinking water, sanitation, lighting, and other basic amenities. Magistrates, Centre Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Observers, and invigilators are deployed to ensure a fair and seamless examination process.

The Traffic Police Department was instructed to implement an efficient traffic management system.

DC Kupwara visits families of fire victims at Tregam

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 7

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today visited the families affected by the fire incident that took place on the intervening night of 6th and 7th Dec, at Tregam Kupwara.

The DC expressed heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the grieving families.

During the visit, DC assured affected families of all necessary assistance. She expressed gratitude to the community for the courage and cooperation and said that the District Administration stands with the families affected by this tragic incident.

Ayushi also met local authorities, emergency responders, and volunteers who played a crucial role in managing the aftermath of the incident.

Instant relief kits consisting of blankets, utensils and tarpaulin were distributed among the affected families by Tehsildar concerned.

CEO Kishtwar chairs meeting of HoIs, ZEOs



JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 7

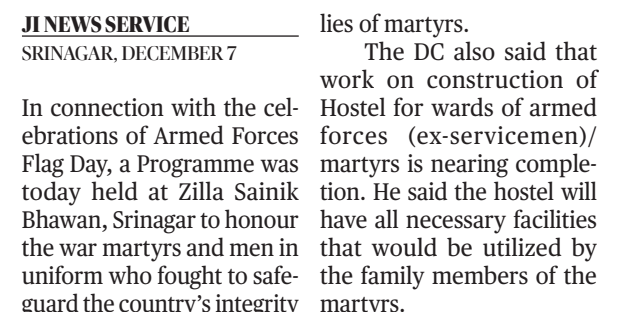
Chief Education Officer, Prahlad Bhagat, chaired a significant meeting focusing on key aspects crucial for the seamless functioning of schools in the coming days. The meeting involved discussions on ensuring fundamental facilities such as proper sanitation (toilets), access to clean water, and uninterrupted electricity across all schools to facilitate the smooth conduct of the imminent Election.

Among the critical points deliberated upon was the sensitization of Superintendents appointed for the SSRB Panchayat Secretary Exam scheduled to take

place on 10-12-2023. The objective was to ensure they are well-prepared and informed for their roles in the examination process. Additionally, Principal and Zonal Education Officers received directives during the meeting to expedite the timely completion of the Taalash Survey, specifically focusing on identifying and addressing the issue of Out-of-School Children.

Chief Education Officer Prahlad Bhagat emphasized the significance of these measures in maintaining the integrity of the education system and ensuring a conducive environment for both learning and administrative processes within the educational institutions of Kishtwar.

Zilla Sainik Welfare Board Srinagar celebrates Armed Forces Flag day



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 7

In connection with the celebrations of Armed Forces Flag Day, a Programme was today held at Zilla Sainik Bhawan, Srinagar to honour the war martyrs and men in uniform who fought to safeguard the country's integrity and sovereignty.

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also President Zilla Sainik Board, Srinagar was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the role of Sainiks and called them guardians of the Nation who protect its citizens. He said Flag Day brings to the forefront our commitment of looking after our veer naris, disabled soldiers and families of martyrs.

The DC also said that work on construction of Hostel for wards of armed forces (ex-servicemen)/martyrs is nearing completion. He said the hostel will have all necessary facilities that would be utilized by the family members of the martyrs.

During the interaction with the veterans, the DC Srinagar assured all support from the civil administration towards welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their families.

Later, the DC felicitated the Veer Naris and families of martyrs. Meanwhile, Ex-Servicemen community thanked Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar for the initiatives taken by District Administration Srinagar for the welfare of ex-servicemen community.