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Retired Police Officer shot dead by Terrorists while giving call for 'Azaan'



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

A 72-year-old retired police officer, who was the local "muezzin", was shot dead by terrorists while he was giving the call for "azaan"

from a mosque in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday, police said.

Recalling the moments before Mohammad Shafi Mir was killed, his

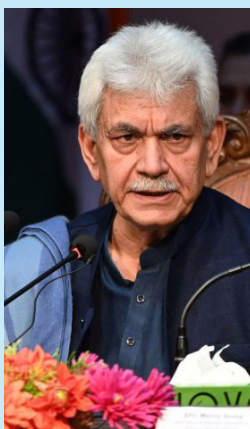
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Cowards responsible for this barbaric act will not be spared: LG Sinha condemns

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed condolences on the demise of former senior Jammu and Kashmir Police officer Mohd Shafi, who was shot dead by terrorists while offering prayers at a mosque in Baramulla on

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Army Chief likely to visit Jammu today

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Amid the recent terrorist attacks in the Poonch-Rajouri sector, India Army chief General Manoj Pande is likely to visit Jammu to review the situation there and discuss further strengthening the counter-terrorism grid there on Monday, defence sources said.

The visit comes a few days after four troops were killed in action in a terrorist attack on a convoy near Thanandi in the Rajouri sector of the state.

The Army chief is likely to visit Jammu and discuss the recent and ongoing counter-terrorist operations and the casualties



that have been suffered in the recent terror attacks there, defence sources said.

The Poonch-Rajouri sectors are the responsibility of the 16 Corps which is going to see a routine change in command as the incumbent Lt Gen

Sandeep Jain is handing over command to Lt Gen Naveen Sachdev.

The Army Headquarters is also watching the situation closely and keeping track of operations there closely.

The Army is also likely to take action and give

charge to officers who have dealt with situations in areas where multiple attacks on troops have taken place in this sector.

Around two to three major attacks have taken place in the 13 Sector Rashtriya Rifles area in recent times and a change of command is likely.

A visit by high-level defence ministry functionaries is also expected to take place this week where they will be briefed about the situation on the ground and the steps being taken to address the recent increase in activities by Pakistani terrorists in this area.

Indian Army is also further strengthening

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Special DG BSF visits troops in Jammu frontier, reviews security situation

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Special Director General of Border Security Force Y B Khurania visited the troops along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu frontier, officials said on Sunday.

Khurania, who heads the Chandigarh-based Western command of the BSF, arrived here on Saturday on a two-day visit to review the security situation, a spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

D K Boora, Inspector General, BSF, Jammu frontier, briefed the Special DG



about the prevailing security situation here.

Khurania visited the border outposts along the IB and also reviewed the

operational preparedness of field formations along the LoC in Sunderbani and Rajouri sectors, the spokesperson said.

He then interacted with the BSF sector commanders and battalion commanders and guided them on border management.

The Special DG also applauded the professional acumen of the troops in safeguarding the border in tough conditions with dedication, the spokesperson added.

He encouraged troops to carry on their excellent work in effective domination of the border to check anti-national activities, the spokesperson said.

2 Drone-dropped packets with arms, cash seized near LoC in Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Two drone-dropped packets containing arms and cash were seized in a joint operation by the Army and the police from a village near the Line of Control in Akhnoor sector here on Sunday, officials said.

The packets, believed to have been dropped by Pakistani drones for subversive activities, were noticed lying in an open field in Channi Dewano village in the Khour area at around 7.50 am, they said. The Army and the police launched a

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PM Modi aims to make 140 crore people including poor self-reliant: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to make 140 crore people, including the poor, in the country "atmanirbhar" (self-reliant) and has worked with dedication for it.

PM Modi wants to make India self-reliant in space technology and defence, and also aims to make the poor people self-reliant, Shah said addressing a gathering here of beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme, which helps street vendors get easy loans.



The Union minister said poor people have benefited the most under the Modi government.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was also present at the function to give loans to beneficiaries of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi

scheme). Shah said Prime Minister Modi has given a call to make India "atmanirbhar" and wants to make the country self-reliant in space technology, defence, all kinds of businesses and other fields. "PM Modi wants to make

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Last rites of former J&K cop shot dead by Terrorists performed in Baramulla

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DEC 24

The last rites of former senior Jammu and Kashmir Police officer Mohd Shafi, who was shot dead by terrorists while offering prayers at a mosque on Sunday, were performed in Baramulla on Sunday. Villagers and family members of Safi paid their last tribute to him by offering prayers.

Amid the ongoing search for terrorists in the forests of Rajouri after an ambush attack claimed the lives of four soldiers, unidentified terrorists on Sunday opened fire at the former police officer while he was offering prayers at a mosque at Gantmulla in the Baramulla district.

Rusted mortar shell defused in Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DEC 24

A bomb disposal squad of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday defused a rusted mortar shell in a controlled explosion in Samba district, officials said. The mortar shell was found lying in a field in Regal, a border village in the Rajpura area, by locals, they said.

Acting on information, the bomb disposal squad reached the spot and recovered the mortar shell, the officials said.

The explosive weapon was taken to an isolated place and later safely destroyed in a controlled explosion, they added.

Katara-New Delhi Vande Bharat to have two more stoppages in Udhampur, Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

In a piece of good news for the people of Jammu & Kashmir's Udhampur and Kathua, the New Delhi-Katara Vande Bharat Express train will have its stoppage in the two towns. Union Minister Jitendra Singh took to X to announce the news.

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Army Pays tributes to fallen Soldiers as search for Terrorists continues

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI/JAMMU, DEC 24

A wreath laying ceremony was on Sunday held in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri for the five soldiers who lost their lives after being ambushed by terrorists in nearby Poonch district, officials said.

A search operation to track down the fleeing terrorists continues near the scene of the ambush, while mobile internet services remained suspended in the twin districts for the second day on Sunday, they said.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, North



ern Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi led the wreath-laying ceremony of Naik Birendra Singh, Naik Karan Kumar, rifleman Gautam Kumar and rifleman Chandan Kumar at a military camp where their mortal remains were shifted.

General Officer Commanding of Jammu-based White Knight Corps Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal, Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri Amritpal Singh and other officers and ranks of the Army also

paid floral tributes.

The soldiers lost their lives when their two vehicles were ambushed by terrorists at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buffiaz in the Surankote area of Poonch on Thursday.

Lt Gen Dwivedi interacted with the next of kin of the slain soldiers at the wreath-laying ceremony. Later, their mortal remains were dispatched to their hometowns in Uttarakhand, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh.

The officials said a massive search operation continued in

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Army orders probe into deaths of 3 civilians in Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

The Army has ordered a thorough internal investigation into the deaths of three civilians in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir following allegations that they died

in its custody, people familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

The three civilians were allegedly picked up by the Army for questioning in the wake of the killing of four Army jawans in an ambush by

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Disability categories for PwDs reservation increased from 3 to 5: Dr Jitendra

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

Number of disability categories for reservation for PwDs (Persons with Disability) has been increased from 3 to 5 by the Modi Government.

Sharing this information with a delegation of Divyang Employees national organisation who called on him, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Incharge DoPT (department of Personnel & Training), said that in addition to the earlier three categories of 1) blindness and low vision 2) deaf and hard of hearing and 3) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy, the two more categories included are 4) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness, and 5) multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (1) to (4) including deaf-blindness.

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has implemented several welfare schemes for the benefit of Divyangs. This, he said, is in keeping with PM Modi's



commitment to attend to those sections of society which were left out of the mainstream by the previous governments.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that since PM Modi assumed office in 2014, several initiatives have been taken by him for the welfare of Divyangs.

"Under 'The Rights of

Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016', the categories of disabilities have been increased from 3 to 5 and the Central Government retains the power to add more types of disabilities. Besides, the reservation quota for Divyangs has been increased from 3 to 4 per cent in Central Government Services and 5

per cent in Education for them," he said.

Stating that Divyangs are an integral part of human resource, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Government is all committed to work for an inclusive society and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

"Be that the fee remission for Divyangs in Civil Services Examination, two choices of home cadre for Divyangs qualifying Civil Services Examination, increase in the Divyang pension, hike in attendant allowance etc., all possible steps have been taken by this government for the welfare of Divyangs," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that around 15,000 posts

meant for Divyangs, which were lying vacant for long years, were filled under a special drive by the government. It was the idea of PM Modi who gave the title 'Divyang' (Divine Body) instead of 'Viklang' to address persons with disability.

Lauding the concerns of the Prime Minister by empowering the Divyangs, the delegation submitted a memorandum to the Minister, suggesting inputs for promotion avenues and service conditions.

The Union Minister recalled that the Prime Minister, in his speech from the historic Red Fort to mark the 77th independence Day, promised

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Administrative office/ Laboratory Block of KVK Shopian inaugurated by Dy. DG, ICAR, VC SKUAST-K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 24

The Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) (Agriculture Extension), Professor Udhm Singh Gautam and Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai today visited KVK Balpora, Shopian where they inaugurated the Administrative office cum Laboratory Block of the Kendra.

Director ATARI, Zone-1, Ludhiana Professor, Parvender Sheoran, Director Extension SKUAST-K, Professor Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi and Estates Officer SKUAST-K were also present on the occasion alongwith officials of KVK and farmers of the area.

The dignitaries were welcomed by Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK Shopian.

Addressing the gathering, Dy.DG praised the



efforts of KVK especially its head with regard to quality of work being done at the grassroots level and provided his suggestions to make further improvements in farmer-oriented extension activities.

He also appreciated the KVK for making its name among the best KVKs of country, which he attributed to meticulous efforts and much needed hard

work that has been done to achieve the same.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K highlighted the role of KVK in betterment of the farming community of District Shopian. He also pointed out some major achievements which KVK had achieved during last few years.

Director ATARI Zone 1 Ludhiana stressed upon uploading the day-to-

day activities on KVK Portal and also stressed upon documentation of field activities to further improve the ranking of KVK. The Director ATARI was also apprised of various constraints which the KVK has been facing every now and then and he assured all his help and cooperation in this regard.

Director Extension Professor Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi in his address advised the educated youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

The dignitaries also paid field visit and undertook a comprehensive tour of the demonstration units including Horticulture, Field Crops, Poultry cum Duckery unit and other units of the Kendra.

Some farmers presented their feedback of different farm activities with the dignitaries. They praised the role of KVK in dissemination of technologies from lab to land.

Convergent programme of NRLM & Animal Husbandry held at Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 24

An awareness programme was conducted today at (DMMU) NRLM Office, Shopian by NRLM and Department of Animal Husbandry.

On the occasion, Experts from Department of Animal Husbandry Shopian carried session wise participatory orientation of identified Farm Community Resource Persons from SHG on Milk Analysis and Fodder consultation. The orientation was carried in the backdrop of MOU signed between DAHD and MoRD for leveraging SHG platform for rural economic growth through convergence between Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).



District Programme Managers, Uzma Mehraj and Irfan Basheer highlighted the role of this convergence in context to have an alternative opportunities to women SHG members by which they can increase their economic conditions by adopting best practices of farm livelihoods and particularly dairy based enterprises.

Furthermore, during the introductory sessions, the accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production programme commonly known as A-HELP was discussed within the partici-

pants and its importance in economic growth of rural women populace was taken on board.

Dr Manzoor and Dr Waseem from the department of Animal Husbandry Shopian highlighted the importance of Milk Analysis and also discussed within the participants the methods and processes for appropriate recording of milk and selection of breeds for dairy farming.

They emphasized on proper fodder consultation practices which could transform the basic structuring of livestock business for better production and cost reduction per liter of milk which will directly lead to better income generation of households.

At the concluding session, more 25 Kits were distributed on the spot among the identified farm CRPs.

VBSY continues transformative journey in Pulwama

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, DECEMBER 24

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is making significant strides in District Pulwama, transitioning seamlessly from rural to urban areas.

The Yatra's core objectives, centered around saturating government schemes and fostering public awareness, are gaining traction, ensuring widespread benefits.

A pivotal moment unfolded as Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reached Municipal Committee Khrew. The community actively participated, turning the event into a joyous celebration. Government departments took the forefront, elucidating their schemes and guiding citizens on how to avail themselves of these opportunities.

The impactful message



from Hon'ble Prime Minister resonated deeply, capturing the audience's attention and instilling a

sense of commitment towards progress. The Sankalp pledge became a poignant declaration, with individuals expressing their dedication to the ideals upheld by the Sankalp Yatra.

Beyond informative sessions, the event offered essential services, ensuring immediate benefits for attendees. Cultural events infused vibrancy, reflecting the dynamic spirit of Viksit Bharat Yatra. Recognition was not only reserved for Government schemes but extended to achievers, notably women, who were honored for their outstanding contributions.

As the Yatra continues its momentum, it leaves an enduring impact on District Pulwama, epitomizing the essence of a developed and empowered Nation.

Jt. Director Union health Ministry attends VBSY camp at SDH Baderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 24

A significant event, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp was organized today at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Baderwah. The chief guest for this notable occasion was Dr. Simmi Tiwari, Joint Director in the Ministry of Health, Government of India. Dr. Tiwari received a warm welcome upon her arrival at the hospital.

In her address to the health community, Dr. Tiwari emphasized the importance of coordination and teamwork in delivering health benefits to the local area. She urged the health department to fully utilize its facilities



and infrastructure for the betterment of society. Highlighting the Pradhan Mantri Infrastructure Scheme, she mentioned its vast potential in strengthening the health sector's

infrastructure and functioning.

Dr. Tiwari also took the opportunity to commend the frontline health workers for their dedicated service to the community. A

key highlight of the event was the distribution of golden health cards to attendees under the PM JAY-SEHAT Scheme, a gesture symbolizing the commitment to public health and welfare.

The event saw the participation of several dignitaries, including Dr. Hamid Zargar, Chief Medical Officer Doda; Dr. Mohd Ashraf, Block Medical Officer Baderwah; Anoop Kumar, Block Development Officer Baderwah; Yudhvir Singh Thakur, the DDC Counsellor West and Shabir Khan, Sarpanch Udrana B. Their presence underscored the collaborative effort across various sectors in enhancing the region's health services.

State Taxes Department records 73% revenue increase against last fiscal; Recovers Rs 3.16 crore penalty from GST defaulters

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes Enforcement Kathua, HQ Lakhanpur Ranjeet Singh conducted a detailed review of activities of enforcement wing Kathua from April 2023 till 23rd December 2023.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Lakhanpur, STOs and other field staff of the enforcement wing.

The main highlights of the review are the remarkable realization of Rs 3.16 crore penalty from GST defaulters. Major commodities on which penal-



ties were imposed during the period included cases without proper docu-

ments, marble/ granite, metal scrap, furniture products, tobacco prod-

ucts and other defaults. The office of the Deputy Commissioner State Taxes registered an increase in revenue realization of 73% as compared to the last fiscal year.

The whole exercise was carried out by the staff of Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement Lakhanpur under the close supervision of Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement Lakhanpur, Ranjeet Singh under overall supervision of Addl. Commissioner State Taxes Namrata Dogra and Dr Rashmi Singh, Commissioner State Taxes Department.

Delegation of Trainees from ISTM New Delhi visits IIKSTC Dusoo Pampore

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

A delegation of 33 trainees from Institute of Secretariat Trainings and Management New Delhi (ISTM) today visited India International Kashmir Trade Centre IIKSTC Dusoo Pampore.

The visiting delegation was received by Director Agriculture Kashmir,

Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal at the centre. The delegation visited different section (facilities) of IIKSTC where the concerned officers briefed them regarding the functioning of the centre.

Later, Director Agriculture presided over an interactive meeting with the visiting delegation. He highlighted the present scenario of saffron

crop in the area and the role of India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre for the promotion of saffron at national and international level.

He informed the meeting about the interventions by the department for the revival of saffron crop over the last few years. He said that besides the e-auctioning facility at IIKSTC the

department has introduced a multi-dimensional marketing strategy to present our G.I tagged saffron at global markets like Dubai, Abu Dhabi and other International markets.

Later, the delegation thanked Director Agriculture Kashmir for Cooperation and arrangements made at the IIKSTC.

Director AHD concludes 2 day tour to district Kishtwar; visits Padder area- last corner of UT

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 24

Director, Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, who was on a two day tour to district Kishtwar, concluded her visit today after engagements in Padder area- the last corner of UT.

Earlier, she conducted a comprehensive review of the progress and initiatives within the Animal Husbandry sector in Kishtwar district on Friday.

Accompanied by Dr. Nadeem Ahmed, Extension Officer of the Publicity Wing, Animal Husbandry

Department Jammu, the visit to district Kishtwar aimed at assessing the status of various programs and schemes.

Dr. Shubhra Sharma inaugurated the Tehsil Unit Kishtwar Building and Animal Operation Theater at Veterinary Complex Kishtwar.

Later, the Director Husbandry Department Jammu met a delegation of Paravets association (Technical Field Staff Association) Kishtwar presence of Dr. Ajaz Hussain Patagaro, CAHO. Dr. Shubhra assured them that all their genuine demands will be

fulfilled.

Director Animal Husbandry Jammu along with CAHO Kishtwar Dr. Ajaz Hussain today visited Nagensi and Padder Blocks of Kishtwar District. During her visit she inaugurated the newly constructed Livestock Development centre Building at Dool village and met with Self Help group members and the Public of Nagensi Block. During the interactive session, Dr. Shubhra Sharma attentively listened to the issues and concerns raised by the public. She assured them that all their issues will be resolved and Vet-



erinary services will be strengthened in Kishtwar District.

Dr. Sharma visited Padder area of Kishtwar

District, the last corner of J&K UT. This is the first time that Director Animal Husbandry visited Padder. Director Animal

Husbandry Jammu along with CAHO Kishtwar inaugurated Walk in Cold room facility at Sub-unit Gulabgarh for maintenance of

cold chain. She met Public Representatives of Padder Block who demanded stocking of adequate medicine at Veterinary centres of Padder.

Dr. Shubhra assured them that demand will be fulfilled and on the spot directions for the same were issued. She also engaged with Self-Help Groups at Community Hall Gulabgarh Padder. This interaction facilitated a closer understanding of community needs and aspirations within the ambit of animal husbandry initiatives.

In a significant gesture

towards boosting the animal husbandry infrastructure, Dr. Shubhra Sharma allotted funds for procurement of Ultrasound and X-ray machines at TU Kishtwar and Sub unit Atholi and augmentation of PDC. Kishtwar so that Poultry farming sector in District Kishtwar can be boosted

Dr. Sharma's visit and proactive engagement highlight the commitment of the Animal Husbandry Department in fostering progress, inclusivity, and sustainable development within Kishtwar's animal husbandry sector.

Lt Governor addresses commemorative event at Jagatpur PG College, Varanasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
VARANASI, DECEMBER 24

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the commemorative event at Jagatpur, Varanasi, today. He paid tributes to Babu Shivnath Singh Ji, freedom fighter, social reformer, well-known educationist and founder of Jagatpur Post Graduate College.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor said Babu Shivnath Singh Ji played a historic role in Champaran Satyagraha.

Babu Shivnath Singh Ji promoted the idea of universal access to education and established a senior secondary school in 1945 to bring the quality education within the reach of all sections of society, he said. The Lt Governor said, our forefathers like Babu Shivnath Singh were committed to the promotion and all-round development of the nation and the institutions founded by them are actively engaged in this task.

The sacrifice of our freedom fighters and their vision continues to be a great source of strength for the nation. The youth



must follow their ideals and values to put the country on the path of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

Termining education and knowledge as a prerequisite for complete socio-economic equality, the Lt Governor said education is the only tool to transform a society.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji, India is making impressive strides in new areas of knowledge connectivity. The entire nation is today working with one

objective to make India self-reliant and a developed country by 2047, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor shared the transformational journey in School and Higher Education in Jammu Kashmir. He also highlighted the College on Wheels initiative launched recently to provide the students an opportunity to learn beyond the walls of classrooms.

In his address, the Lt Governor also gave his suggestions on incorporating students feedback

in the education system, organizing innovation competitions and to focus on inter-disciplinary education.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also inaugurated the BBA and BFA blocks of the Jagatpur PG College. A publication, 'Smruti Granth' was also released.

Satish Chandra Dubey, Member of Parliament, Sh Aniruddh Singh, President, Managing Committee, Professor Anil Kumar Singh, Principal, people from all walks of life and students were present.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues its successful journey across Ramban District

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 24

Steered by Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is making remarkable strides in Ramban district, successfully covering 136 Panchayats and 3 municipalities to date.

Under the initiative, events at the Panchayat level are strategically designed to enhance awareness and ensure the saturation of government schemes among the local populace.

The activities orchestrated at these events aim at fostering growth, promoting participation in government initiatives, and achieving program saturation, with a special focus on flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, and Kisan Credit Card (KCC), showcasing an unwavering commitment to community empowerment.

In a majority of Panchayats, the Yatra tran-



scends mere awareness, featuring interactive sessions spotlighting technological advancements in agriculture and nutritional awareness led by Poshan (ICDS) officials.

Furthermore, the Yatra provides access to free healthcare services under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, with beneficiaries sharing their positive experiences through the 'Mari Kahaani Meri Zubaani' initiative, adding a personal touch to the Yatra's profound impact.

During a noteworthy

event, SDM Banihal, Zaheer Abbas, joined PRIs, the general public, and prominent citizens at Panchayat Sarachi, emphasizing the collaborative spirit that propels this transformative effort.

Guided by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer Ul Haq, a dedicated team of senior officers, including ADDC Rajinder Sharma, PO ICDS Jahangir Hashmi and ADC, Harbans Lal are closely monitoring the progress of Yatra for its successful impact.

Good Governance Day | Centre to launch curated training programmes for govt staff

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

The Centre will launch curated training programmes for government employees on Good Governance Day on Monday, an official statement said.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is going to celebrate Good Governance Day on December 25, the statement issued on Sunday said.

Singh, the Union Minister of State for Personnel, will launch three new features on the iGOT (integrated government online training) Karmayogi platform: My iGOT, blended programmes, and curated programmes, it said.

My iGOT delivers targeted training courses on the home page of individual officers that directly address the unique capacity-building needs of the officer as identified in the capacity-building plan for their ministries/departments thereby facilitating a highly personalised, focused and targeted capacity-building experience, it said.

More than 28 lakh users have onboarded the platform till now with about 830 high-quality e-learning courses being made available on the platform, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

Blended programmes on the iGOT-Karmayogi platform will facilitate equitable access to training methodologies across all levels to meet the dynamic training needs of the officials, it said.

Blended programmes integrate traditional offline (in-person) classroom courses with online learning components, it said.

It enables officers and faculty to leverage the flexibility and convenience of online courses while retaining the invaluable benefits of face-to-face classroom interactions, the statement said.

Curated programmes on iGOT Karmayogi are designed to cater to the diverse learning needs of the ministries/departments and training institutions.

The course providers will be able to curate relevant content, resources, and assessments from the repository of iGOT with a programmatic approach to provide a tailored learning journey, it said.

Singh will on Monday launch 12 domain-specific capacity-building e-learning courses developed in two months as part of the Annual Capacity Building Plan of the DoPT by Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab.

These 12 courses will not only directly address the domain competency requirements of the civil servants working in DoPT, but also help the other government organisations in handling functional matters on a day-to-day basis in an effective manner, the statement said.

The minister will also launch a new blended learning programme named VIKAS (Variable and Immersive Karmayogi Advanced Support) meant for capacity-building of middle management civil servants in the Central Secretariat.

Lt Governor's greetings on Christmas eve

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, has greeted the people on the eve of Christmas.

In a message the Lt Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Christmas, I extend my greetings to all, especially the Christian brothers and sisters.

The sacred festival of Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, is a special occasion to spread joy, happiness and to follow his ideals of love, service, self-sacrifice, compassion and forgiveness.

May the Christmas this year usher in peace, happiness and joy for all".

Advisor Bhatnagar extends Christmas greetings

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In his message, Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that Christmas is a special opportunity to spread joy, share happiness and spirit of brotherhood.

Recognizing the significance of Christmas in fostering unity and goodwill, the Advisor emphasized the importance of coming together to celebrate the spirit of giving and compassion on this cheerful occasion.

"As we gather with our loved ones and reflect on the year gone by, let us cherish the moments of joy, appreciate the bonds that bring us closer, and extend a helping hand to those in need," said Advisor Bhatnagar.

ADGP (L&O), Div Com Jammu visit Poonch to assess security scenario post DKG encounter

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, DECEMBER 24

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Vijay Kumar and Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar visited district Poonch today to take stock of security scenario in the district post Dera ki Gali (DKG) encounter in which 5 army personnel attained martyrdom.

Inspector General of police Anand Jain, DIG Rajouri Poonch Range Dr. Haseeb Mughal also accompanied the ADGP.

During the visit, the officers met with civil society delegations and got feedback on a wide range of

issues. Interacting with the locals, the Divisional Commissioner assured local communities of enhanced security arrangements and a revamped plan of action to prevent terror related incidents in the district.

Further, the Divisional commissioner assured the residents of fair treatment/compensation to all the victims of terrorism related events. He assured that the LG administration is committed towards maintaining peace and providing a sense of complete security to all districts, especially border districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

A detailed discus-

sion on various security related aspects was conducted with Deputy Commissioner Poonch Yasin M. Choudhary and SSP Poonch Vinay Kumar. As the discussion ensued, the ADGP (Law and Order) and Div Com issued a slew of instructions to district administration for stepping up vigil to improve general security scenario in the district.

Local delegations appreciated the prompt response of LG administration in tackling issues of vital security interest in the district and assured their full support to the administration in maintaining peace and tranquility.

Numerous Panchayats, ULB host VBSY in Jammu District

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

As part of the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the Special IEC Van today made its impactful presence felt at Panchayat Pounthal in block Dansal.

Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma graced the occasion, emphasising the significance of this nationwide initiative. The entire event was orchestrated with precision, where stakeholder departments showcased respective schemes through stalls, pamphlets, posters and exhibitions well coordinated by BDO Dansal Joni Kumar. Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Manjeet Singh was also present. The students of Government Middle School Pounthal added a cultural flair to the proceedings, participating in debate activities and skits centred around the theme of National Integration.

The VBSY Van, upon arrival, was welcomed with flower petals, setting the stage for the display of the PM's message and the achievements under different government



schemes in Pounthal.

In a similar event, the VBSY Van reached panchayat Dager in block Kharah Balli, receiving a warm welcome from the Swagat Committee and PRI representatives. Other prominent citizens also graced the occasion, aligning with the Yatra's spirit.

The van projected PM Modi's video message, inspiring the audience to pledge their commitment to the progress and prosperity of the nation. A compelling Nukkad Natak against drug abuse captivated the crowd, followed by cultural performances by students. A health camp provided free screenings for NCD, accompanied by the dis-

tribution of prizes, T-shirts and caps.

Line department representatives actively engaged with the public, explaining government schemes and distributing informative material. The public availed free health care services under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, sharing their success stories through 'Mari Kahaani Meri Zubaani'.

These events, including one at panchayat Meshian in block Miran Sahib and MC Khour as well, seamlessly integrated into the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, amplifying its impact and spreading awareness about government initiatives.

Christmas Milan Party organised at Sangyog Ghar Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 24

The vibrant Christian community of Reasi organised a get-together on the upcoming merry Christmas at Sangyog Ghar Reasi.

The event was graced by District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, who presided as the chief guest

The function commenced with a soulful prayer, setting the tone for spiritual enrichment and cultural festivities. The cultural segment of the event witnessed engaging performances by the spirited and talented youth, junior members and Sunday school students, showcasing their remarkable talents and enthusiasm.

The highlight of the function was the captivating performance by the IPC Church Band, whose melodious tunes and uplifting music resonated with the attendees, creating an atmosphere of joy and celebration.

DDC lauded the contribution and the philosophy of Lord Jesus and the vibrant Christian community for organiz-



ing such a splendid event that embraced the true essence of unity and cultural exchange.

DDC emphasized that such events are significant for fostering harmony and understanding among communities, appreciating the efforts put forth by the organizers and participants alike.

The Christmas Milan Party at Sangyog Ghar served as true example of unity in diversity while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Christian community in Reasi. The event not only

brought people together in joyous celebration but also provided an avenue for cultural exchange and appreciation.

DDC thanked and wished Merry Christmas and urged everyone to celebrate with great enthusiasm and make this year Merry Christmas a memorable one.

Present in the Milan Party were President Christen Community J&K S. Petter, Beli Ram, Tariq Bhat, Makhan Ram and other prominent citizens and youth of the community.

DDC Chairperson Ramban kick starts work on link road

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 24

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

The Chairperson kick started construction work on 3 KM Dhar to Kohli link road under State Plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 2.60 crore.

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

The Chairperson direct-



ed the Engineers of the PWD to ensure quality and timely completion of construction work which will benefit thousands of souls of the area. She asked the PRIs to personally monitor the execution of work to ensure quality and timely completion, besides implementation of all youth and beneficiary oriented schemes in their respective areas.

The Chairperson also

interacted with the people and listened to their developmental needs. Among others, PRIs, Engineers of PWD and the general public present on the occasion.

Later, the DDC Chairperson inaugurated Final cricket match of Dharam Premier League played between Ababil and the DRS team in presence of PRIs and the general public.

15th Stakeholders' Meet: CMD, IREDA Highlights Financial Viability for Emerging Renewable Energy

PIB
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), reiterated the company's commitment to leading the charge in transforming new and emerging Renewable Energy technologies into financially viable ventures. He made these remarks during the 15th Stakeholders' Interaction Meet of IREDA, held today through a virtual platform, which serves as a platform for discussions aimed at advancing the development of the Renewable Energy sector.

The session commenced with a comprehensive presentation highlighting recent business initiatives undertaken



by IREDA, showcasing notable achievements and advancements in the Renewable Energy sector. A key focus was placed on recent amendments to IREDA's existing Loan Products, and an action report was presented on

the major suggestions received from stakeholders during the previous interaction meet held on 16th September 2023.

A group of people sitting at a table Description automatically generated In his address, CMD

Shri Pradip Kumar Das expressed sincere gratitude to IREDA's dedicated business partners, underscoring their pivotal role in the company's historic growth and achievements over the last three and a half years. He emphasized that the Stakeholders' Interaction Meetings have played a crucial role in propelling IREDA's rapid growth, serving as a catalyst for collaborative efforts within the Renewable Energy sector.

CMD, IREDA, attributes the significant success of IREDA's IPO primarily to the valued customers, who have maintained continuing business relationships with the company over an extended period. Emphasizing the pivotal role of IREDA's IPO in raising awareness within the investor community and

the public at large regarding Renewable Energy development. The meeting witnessed strong participation from esteemed business partners, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives.

During the meeting, borrowers extended their congratulations to IREDA for its historic listing and 'CMD of the Year,' along with four other prestigious awards recently received. The borrowers actively participated in the dialogue, contributing several productive suggestions for the development of the Renewable Energy sector. Their insights and suggestions were welcomed by IREDA as valuable inputs that will be considered appropriately in future policy formulations and strategic planning.

Shouting that Kashmir is peaceful, large numbers of tourists are visiting; will not end terrorism: Farooq to Centre

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference president, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Sunday told the central government that terrorism in the Union Territory cannot be uprooted by beating the drums of peace and normalcy and increasing the number of tourists.

"We have to find a way out to end terrorism. Only by shouting that the situation in Kashmir is peaceful and large numbers of tourists are visiting, terrorism will not end," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a book release function here.

On the killing of a retired police officer in Baramulla, he said, "I fail to understand that those who are doing it, how they will achieve their goal."

"We were part of India, we are part of India and will remain part of India," he said, adding that the Government of India must give a thought that only the army and police will not bring terrorism to an end. We need to go to the foundation, which must



be set correctly to end the terrorism," he added.

On the Rajouri-Poonch situation, Abdullah said, "the Government of India claims that all is well and it was Article 370 that was responsible for terrorism but what is happening now. Has terrorism come to an end. They need to find out the solution."

"Where are those who used to raise their fingers at us?" he questioned.

He said, "our soldiers lost their lives in the terrorist attack. Our police personnel detained some locals. Are we fighting terrorists or our people? If we are fighting with our people then we can never win this."

"I want to request

the Home Minister Amit Shah to visit Surankote to address people's sentiments. It is important that he tells people that they would investigate the issue and put it in front of people. It is a serious situation and violation of human rights," said the NC leader.

On the preparedness for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he said, "we were ready for Panchayat, DDC and Municipal elections but what put the government to be on back-foot and they withdrew the notification on elections."

"My message to the people of Jammu and Kashmir is to always be ready for the polls," he said.

Sudarshan Patnaik creates world's largest Santa Claus made of Onion & sand

AGENCIES
PURI, DEC 24

World renowned sand Artist Sudarshan Patnaik has made a 100 ft long, 20 ft high and 40 ft wide Santa Claus, made of sand and onion on Blue Flag beach, Puri On the occasion of Christmas.

The World Record Book of India has declared the sand art as the World's biggest onion and sand Santa Claus.

Sudarshan Patnaik has created the sand art with a message "GIFT A PLANT GREEN THE EARTH". Two tons of onions have been used in the installation of this sculpture.

Students of his sand art school joined hands with him to complete it. Patnaik took 8 hours to complete this sculpture.

World Record Book of India Chief Editor Sushma Narvekar and Senior Adjudicator Sanjay Narvekar declared it as a new world record and presented a certificate and a medal to Sudarshan.

Patnaik said it is an honour to set a new world record.

Patnaik said "Every year we try something different in sand. Last year we had created a Santa Claus on sand with the installation of Tomatoes.

Puri is a tourist place, and a lot of people visit here during holidays, so every year during this Christmas we arrange a sand art festival here."

So far, Sudarshan has participated in more than 65 International sand sculpture festivals and competitions around the World and won many awards for the country. He always tries to spread awareness messages through his sand art.

His sand art is based on social awareness like HIV/ AIDS, COVID19, Save Environment, Stop Terrorism, Stop Global Warming, Beat Plastic Pollution, Save Water.

Israeli strikes kill 166 people in Gaza Strip over past 24 hrs

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, DEC 24

Israeli strikes have killed 166 people in the Gaza Strip and injured 384 others over the past 24 hours, the Al Jazeera broadcaster reported on Sunday, citing the enclave's health ministry.

The total death toll from Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7, when the Israel-Hamas conflict escalated, has increased to 20,424, the broadcaster reported, adding that 54,036 others had been injured.

On October 7, Palestinian movement Hamas launched a large-scale rocket attack against Israel from the Gaza Strip while its fighters breached the border, opening fire on

the military and civilians. As a result, over 1,200 people in Israel were killed, and some 240 others were abducted.

Israel launched retaliatory strikes, ordered a complete blockade of Gaza, and launched a ground incursion into the Palestinian enclave with the declared goal of eliminating Hamas fighters and rescuing the hostages.

On November 24, Qatar mediated a deal between Israel and Hamas on a temporary truce and the exchange of some of the prisoners and hostages, as well as the delivery of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

The ceasefire was extended several times and expired on December 1.

16 dead in central Nicaragua traffic accident

AGENCIES
MANAGUA, DEC 24

At least 16 people were killed and 26 others injured in a traffic accident in the central Nicaraguan department of Matagalpa on Saturday, said Vice President Rosario Murillo.

Among the fatalities were several children, she told local television Channel 4.

The accident occurred in the morning when a



"We are dismayed with this tragedy in the city of Matagalpa," said Pedro Haslam, political secretary of Matagalpa.

Matagalpa government authorities, the Ministry of Health, the National Police and units of the Fire Department were at the scene to attend to the victims, Haslam added.

bus carrying some 70 passengers crashed into the fence of the Mancera river bridge in the Rancho Grande municipality.

of Health, the National Police and units of the Fire Department were at the scene to attend to the victims, Haslam added.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Retired Police Officer...

cousin Mohammad Mustafa, who was at home, said the call for the pre-dawn prayers was being given by a loudspeaker and suddenly it stopped. His last words were "reham (mercy)," he said.

The "azaan" had stopped at "Ashhadu Anna Mohammadu Rasool-Allah (I bear witness that Mohammad is the messenger of Allah)," he said.

Police said Mir retired as a senior superintendent of police in 2012. He was shot dead by terrorists inside the mosque in the Gantmulla locality of the north Kashmir district's Sheeri area early Sunday, they said.

"Terrorists fired upon Shri Mohd Shafi, a retired police officer, at Gantmulla, Sheeri Baramulla, while praying 'azaan' in the mosque and succumbed to injuries," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X.

Mir had become the local "muezzin" - a person who calls for prayers - and he was devoted to his duties at the mosque, his family members said.

Following the incident, a large number of people gathered at Mir's house and at the mosque complex. Mir is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Talking to reporters, Mustafa said, "He (Mir) was my cousin. He used to call for prayers every day. This morning, while I was reading the Quran, as usual, he started the 'azaan', so I closed the Quran."

"He recited 'Ashhadu Anna Mohammadu Rasool-Allah' and then the 'azaan' stopped. I only heard a shout of 'reham' (mercy). It was in a heavy voice," he said.

Mustafa said he thought Mir might have stopped his call due to some other reason and guessed he could have collapsed due to dizziness. But it was after some time that people came to know about the incident, he said.

"My daughter came and told me that Shafi uncle is died. We went to his house and learnt that Mir had been taken to Baramulla (hospital)...We were told he had suffered bullet injuries," he said.

Some of Mir's relatives claimed he was shot four times.

Mir's younger brother Abdul Kareem said he was sleeping, but was woken up by sounds which he assumed could have been caused because of a problem in the microphone. "My daughter-in-law said she heard people crying..." he said.

"Mir used to give the call for 'azaan' every day. I think this was planned as the Imam Sahib (prayer leader) goes home on Saturday and returns on Sunday," Kareem said.

Political parties condemned the killing and expressed their condolences to the former police officer's family.

The National Conference (NC) said violence can never be tolerated in any form. "JKNC president Dr Farooq Abdullah and VP @OmarAbdullah express profound sadness over the tragic Baramulla incident, where retired SP Mohammad Shafi was senselessly shot dead,"

the party said in a post on X.

Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said innocent people have become "collateral damage to maintain the facade of normalcy touted" by the Centre.

"Five jawans martyred in a militant ambush, three innocent civilians tortured to death in custody by army, many still battling for their lives in hospitals and now a retired SP killed. Innocent people have become collateral damage to maintain the facade of normalcy touted by GoI," Mufti posted on X.

The BJP termed the act dastardly and said terror and terrorists have no religion.

"Dastardly act of killing of 72-year-old retired police officer by those who have no religion. The sons of devil can't even tolerate 'azaan'... Terror and terrorists have no religion. Strongly condemn this killing, express my solidarity with the bereaved family," BJP's Jammu and Kashmir spokesman Altaf Thakur said.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari in a post on X said, "Condemn the cowardly killing of retired SSP Mr. Mohammad Shafi Mir in Gantmulla, Baramulla. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of utter grief and demise. May the departed soul rest in peace and solace in the world hereafter."

He said the cowardly act goes on to show the true colours of the killers as the slain was shot upon while giving a call for prayer.

Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone also condemned the killing. "Yet another sad news. My prayers and thoughts are with the family of Mohd Shafi Sahib. May Allah grant him Jannat. And hope that J-K Police recognises the challenges facing it. Evaluating security threat is a science and can't be left to likes and dislikes, and whims," Lone said in a post on X. (AGENCIES)

Cowards responsible...

Sunday, saying that "cowards responsible for this barbaric act will not be spared."

LG Sinha said that he is pained beyond words by the dastardly terrorist attack on retired police officer while he was giving a call for prayer in a mosque.

"Pained beyond words on the dastardly terrorist attack on retired police officer, Shri Mohammad Shafi Mir while he was giving a call for prayer in the mosque. Cowards responsible for this barbaric act will not be spared. My condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief," Office of LG Jammu and Kashmir posted on X.

Army Chief likely to...

its preparedness on the Line of Control and the International Border from where these terrorists have been

trying to infiltrate into the Indian side from across.

2 Drone-dropped...

joint operation immediately and the packets were opened with the help of a bomb disposal squad, leading to the recovery of the arms and cash, officials said.

The recovery included a 9 mm Italian-made pistol, three magazines, 30 rounds, three improvised explosive devices, three IED batteries, a hand grenade and Rs 35,000 in cash, they said.

The recovery comes a day after Army troops scuttled an infiltration bid by eliminating a terrorist in the same sector. (Agencies)

PM Modi aims to...

140 crore people including all the poor people atmanirbhar. Besides space technology, research and development among other things, the prime minister has worked with complete dedication to improve the standard of life of 60 crore poor people," Shah said.

"In the last nine years, around three crore people got their own homes, four crore people got electricity connections, 10 crore people got gas cylinders, 12 crore people got toilets, 80 crore people got free ration and 60 crore people have been covered under the Rs 5 lakh health insurance (scheme)," he said. Various schemes are being implemented to bring the poor people out of poverty, Shah said.

"In my constituency (Gandhinagar in Gujarat), over 1.5 lakh people have availed the benefit of PM-SVANidhi scheme, under which financial assistance is given to those who are running small businesses and hand carts without any collateral," he said.

"In Gandhinagar constituency, there is 90 per cent saturation of various pro-poor schemes," he added.

Chief Minister Patel said as a result of schemes launched by PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the poor people in the country are now living a self-reliant life.

Shah is on a day's visit to his constituency where he is scheduled to attend various programmes. (Agencies)

Army Pays tributes to...

Surankote and nearby Thanamandi forest area of Rajouri for the fourth day on Sunday in search of the terrorists responsible for the ambush.

Army along with the police and the paramilitary forces are searching the forest area and the natural caves but success has eluded them so far, officials said.

Mobile internet services were suspended early Saturday following the killing of three civilians within hours of being allegedly picked up by security forces for ques-

tioning in connection with the ambush.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday announced compensation and jobs to the families of the dead civilians and said the medico-legal formalities were conducted and legal action in this matter has been initiated by the appropriate authority. (Agencies)

Army orders probe into...

unidentified terrorists in Poonch on December 21. The three civilians, aged between 27 and 42, were found dead on December 22.

A thorough investigation has been ordered into it (the deaths of the civilians) as part of the standard operating procedure, the people cited above said.

The Jammu and Kashmir police are also probing the deaths.

The Army on Saturday said it stands committed to extending "full support and cooperation" in the conduct of investigation. (Agencies)

Disability categories...

to develop para-athletes and elevate them to advance in the Paralympics.

During the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics held in August-September, 2021, Indian Paralympians created history by winning 19 medals including 5 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 Bronze.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the government has set up a special sports training institute for the Divyang at various places in the country including one at Shillong.

In the Ministry of Science & Technology also, Dr Jitendra Singh informed, several schemes had been introduced in the last 9 years to support Divyangs in science, technology and StartUps.

Katara-New Delhi...

In a series of posts on X, Singh said, "Heartening news for Udhampur and Kathua. Ever since the first Vande Bharat train started operating from #Katra and Delhi in 2019, there had been a consistent demand for its stoppage in Kathua and Udhampur as well. Thanks Prime Minister Narendra Modi for responding to our request."

"The new Vande Bharat from Katra to Delhi starting 30 December will have a Stop in Udhampur and Kathua also. This will not only come as a huge relief but also provide ease of travel, ease of business and overall ease of living," Singh added.

The Indian Railways also achieved a significant milestone in the Udhampur-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project with the successful completion of Tunnel T-1, measuring 3,209 meters, between Katra and Reasi Stations on December 20.

Terrorist attack on former cop an act of cowardice, insult to a worship place: Chugh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh has strongly condemned the incident in which a retired police officer was shot dead by terrorists while offering prayers at a mosque in Baramulla today. Chugh said it was not just a cowardly act of



terrorists but was also an insult and disgrace to the

religious place.

He said it was a shame that terrorists fired on Mohammed Shafi, a former SP, during Azan in the mosque which showed how desperate they are.

Attacking a person in the place of worship was the most heinous crime for which the terrorists will have to pay heavily, Chugh added.

Slathia terms participatory democracy as mantra for Atmanirbhar Bharat



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DEC 24

Pradesh BJP Vice President and former minister Surjeet Singh Slathia today underscored the significance of participatory democracy, saying this is the only Mantra for realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the Karyakartas and functionaries at Sangwali Mandi Samba, under the BJP's Jan Samvad Abhyan, Slathia said the public outreach campaign allows for a dynamic exchange of ideas, fostering a culture of inclusivity and responsiveness, the party's core philosophy to involve the people at the grassroots level in the decision-making process.

"By establishing a direct line of communication at the grassroots level, the BJP aims to understand the concerns, aspirations, and feedback of the people", Slathia said, adding that this enables in devising policies and programmes for the uplift of people and holistic devel-

opment of the various areas. He dwelt in length the milestones achieved by the PM Modi led government during the past over nine years for steering the nation on the path of becoming an economic power. Already India is the fifth economy globally and given the resolve of the Prime Minister India is destined to become the third economy of the world during the third successive term of Yashasvi Narendra Modi, he added.

Referring to the ongoing campaign, Slathia described it as a significant initiative that embodies the essence of grassroots democracy and political engagement. It also recognizes that the strength of a democracy lies in the active participation and informed choices of its citizens, he said, hoping that the sagacious people of Jammu and Kashmir will utilize this platform to express their views, share their grievances, and actively contribute to the democratic process. The BJP's commitment to open dialogue reinforces the idea that governance is a collective responsibility and that every citizen's voice matters, he added.

On this occasion, prominent sociologist-political activists Rajeshwar Singh, Arun Singh, Jeevan Singh, Deepak Singh, Ajay Singh, P. D Singh, Arvind Singh along with their supporters joined the BJP.

Welcoming the new entrants in the party fold, Slathia said that the BJP is a mass movement that stands for national integration and service of the people. This spirit makes the BJP as a party with difference that believes in the concept of 'Nation First'. He hoped that with the joining of the public-spirited activists, the BJP will be further strengthened at the grassroots level.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included President BJP Samba Kashmira Singh, Naresh Singh District General Secretary BJP Samba, Mandal President BJP Samba Ankush Mahajan, Vice President MNC Samba Rajni Sambyal, Corporator Raj Singh, Narinder Singh, Sanjeev Padha, Naresh Amba, Rajeshwar Singh Bika and others.

Modi has shaped India's destiny as superpower: Vibodh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

The wave of development that the country has seen in the last nine-and-a-half years has shaped India's destiny as a superpower. This New India is the India of Modi's guarantee. This new India gives guarantees to provide benefits of every scheme of the government without any discrimination, said BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta while speaking at a public meeting organized in Panchayat Kanhal, Bishnah.

"Today, the vehicle of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is becoming the vehicle of Modi's guarantee in every village. Modi's vision is the guarantee of 'Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan'. BJP believe in serving people with the resolve of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas Aur Sabka Vishwas' and empowering the unprivileged uplifting them from the clutches of poverty and ignorance, said Vibodh.

Vibodh further asserted that the India of Modi's guarantee is tapping into India's potential, building a prosperous and advanced nation for the generations to come. He maintained that under the BJP government, India is witnessing the growth of world-class infrastructure, advanced technology in every sector including agriculture, health, and



education and the benefits of the government schemes are reaching to everyone with complete transparency and accountability without any corruption or leakage.

Vibodh further highlighted historic decisions of the Modi government such as the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A which has established peace and prosperity in J&K and has further empowered marginalized sections of societies such as Gujjars, Paharis, Valmiki Samaj, West Pakistan Refugees, PoJK displaced people etc. He also maintained that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have complete trust in Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra

Modi Ji and have rejected power-hungry political parties such as PDP, NC and Congress.

Speaking on the occasion BJP district president Sunil Dutt Shastri said that the BJP government has focused on empowering common people and rooting out corruption from India. He highlighted various government welfare schemes that have benefited the masses and empowered them while further stating that the BJP has become people's first choice in the nation. He strongly asserted that people will overwhelmingly support BJP in the next parliamentary elections because of its people-friendly government.

Modi Govt is committed to the welfare of every Section: Sat Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

A monthly meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Talab Tillo Mandal was held under the Presidentship of Keshav Chopra Mandal President today at Shree Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Talab Tillo in which the ongoing programmes were reviewed.

Former Minister Sat Sharma CA accompanied by District President Parmod Kapahi, JKUT BJP Secretary Ayodhya Gupta, Media Incharge Dr Pardeep Mahotra, Vistarak Ashok Kumar, Ex Councillors Jeet Angral, Neelam Nargotra, District General Secretary Adv Rajesh Gupta and office bearers of Talab Tillo Mandal participated in the meeting.

The Motive of the meeting was to discuss the works done during the last one month and also to make strategy for upcoming programmes of the party. Speaking on the occasion Sat Sharma said that the Modi government is committed for the welfare of every section of the society, Sat also appreciated the work of Talab Tillo Mandal team and said that the Mandal team is doing commendable work for



the Party.

Speaking on the Occasion Parmod Kapahi reviewed the status of ongoing Booth Jan Samvaad Abhiyaan and discussed upcoming programmes of the party, Kapahi also applauded the work of Talab Tillo Mandal and acknowledged their commendable efforts in serving the downtrodden sections.

Keshav Chopra thanked the Mandal team for their work in strengthening the party at grass root level he said that organizing these meetings gives us a platform to make plans for upcoming programmes of the party and reviewing previous programmes, Keshav also assured the leaders that he along with his team will continue work for the weaker sections.

Ayodhya Gupta and Dr Pardeep Mahotra while speaking emphasized on

the importance of providing door step services of Modi govt schemes to the common man.

Mandal General Secretary Munish Gupta managed the proceedings of the programme and Paramjeet presented vote of thanks.

Co-Convenor Swachh Bharat JKUT BJP Sahil Sharma, President Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Krishan Sangral, Rajesh Gupta, Pratibha Sharma, K.L Sharma, Gurcharan Singh, Deepak Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Rahul Nargotra, Rajesh Saini, Bablu Chand, Sanjeev Gupta, Bhubesh Thapa, Manohar Lal, Ghansham Sharma, Kusum Gupta, Vikas Gupta, Jatinder Khajuria, Sonali Gupta, Vikas Kumar, Omkar Verma, Sachin nargotra, Dr Sanchit Sharma, Ritesh Peer and others were also present.

Dozens of NC, Congress Party, DPAP leaders join Apni Party



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DEC 24

Expanding its roots, the Apni Party State Secretary Mohinder Singh Parihar today said that the Party has gained popularity in District Kishtwar.

Addressing a joining program, Parihar said that the people from all the regions have extended their support to Apni Party because of its policy of equitable developmental, protection of land, job rights and equality to all the people.

"The traditional political parties have exploited the people in Kishtwar, and therefore, the development has taken backstage. The politicians from traditional parties have exploited people emotionally as their vote banks that has turned the hilly district into one of most backward districts in Chenab Valley,"

he further said. He was speaking at a joining program that was organized by Choudhary Jamal Din in which members of National Conference, Congress Party and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) joined Apni Party in presence of the senior leaders at Tehsil Mughalmaidan, Panchayat Bhata.

Meanwhile, Incharge Inderwal Constituency, Ashiq Hussain Choudhary and Mohinder Singh Parihar welcomed the politicians and workers of different political parties into the Apni Party fold. They hoped that their joining would boost morale and help the Party to strengthen its roots in District Kishtwar. Ashiq Hussain Choudhary also spoke on the occasion and highlighted various developmental and unemployment related issues.

Whereas the new entrants who joined Apni Party expressed their full faith upon the leadership of Apni Party President Syed Altaf Bukhari Sb.

The prominent among those who joined JKAP include Choudhary Abdul Gani, Choudhary Zubeer Ahmed, Choudhary Rafeeq Ahmed, Choudhary Bashir Ahmed, Choudhary Mohammed, Shafi Choudhary, Quasimodo Din, Choudhary Mohammed Amin, Choudhary Ghulam Husain, Choudhary Jamaludin, Choudhary Mansoor, Choudhary Abdul Wahid, Choudhary Azim, Choudhary Akther Husain, Choudhary Fareed, Choudhary Talab Husain, Choudhary Noor Husain, Choudhary Mohammed Sharief, Choudhary, Ghulam Hassan, Choudhary Mohammed Sharief, and others.

Apni Party holds workers convention in Charar-i-Sharief

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

Apni Party's Provincial President, Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, urged the party cadre on Sunday to remain in touch with the masses so that they could make people aware of the party's pro-people agenda and policies.

He said that the Apni Party was committed to ensuring people are out of the present uncertainty and miseries.

Mir made these comments while addressing a



workers' convention in the Charar-i-Sharief constituency in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Party's constituency incharge for Charar-i-Sharief, Mushtaq Zuhami, also addressed the gathering. Block Presi-

dent Sursyar Mohammad Sultan Dar, Youth Block President Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, Abdul Rashid Gorsi Brenwar, Ali Mohammad Brenwar, Bashir Ahmad Mir Kutbal, and other senior workers

MP Khatana advocates for promotion of own culture among youth



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

In a fervent call to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of India, Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has urged for a concerted effort to instill a sense of appreciation for local traditions among the younger generations. Expressing concern over the increasing influence of Western culture on the youth, Khatana emphasized the need to ensure that the roots of Indian culture remain firmly embedded in the hearts and minds of the upcoming generation.

MP Gulam Ali Khatana lauded the commendable efforts of the organizers of the Gurjar Mahotsav at Suraj Kund in Faridabad, Haryana, for their dedication to promoting and showcasing the vibrant Gurjar culture and traditions. The Gurjar Mahotsav serves as a beacon for cultural enthusiasts, providing a platform for various groups from all corners of India and even abroad to come together and celebrate the diverse

cultural tapestry of the nation.

The ongoing three-day Gurjar Mahotsav at Suraj Kund, Haryana, has attracted participants from across the country and beyond, creating a melting pot of cultural exchange and appreciation. The event has become a focal point for showcasing the artistic, culinary, and traditional aspects of the great Gurjar heritage.

In recognition of his commitment to cultural preservation, MP Gulam Ali Khatana was felicitated by Tej Choudhary and Dharmendra Bhagat Gurjar. This gesture symbolizes the acknowledgment of Khatana's role in championing the cause of cultural heritage and encouraging initiatives like the Gurjar Mahotsav.

The Bharatiya Janata Party MP expressed optimism that such events would not only foster a sense of pride and identity among communities, but also bridge the generational gap by actively involving the youth in the celebration of their cultural roots.

JKPCC condemns the killings, seeks effective measures to counter terrorism

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, DEC 24

Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress has strongly condemned the targeting killing of a former SSP in Baramulla today early morning by terrorists and termed it as a dastardly act against humanity.

Expressing grave concern over the terror attacks and loss of precious lives, JKPCC Senior Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma has termed it highly condemnable & a serious situation due to rise in terror attacks.

He said that the recent spurt in terror activities is indicative of the grim situation on ground contrary to government claims of normalcy. The government should adopt more effective measures to counter the serious threat of terrorism.

We are together in

our fight against the Pak sponsored terrorism and fully behind the efforts to defeat terrorism but government should take the cooperation of people to counter this grave threat.

Our forces are sacrificing their lives for the sake of nation and are becoming frequent targets of terror attacks as per a strategy and nefarious designs. We laud the valour and bravery of our jawans. The government should evolve an effective mechanism to defeat the design and seek the cooperation of people as part of this mechanism.

In this regards, the killing of civilians is also very serious and counter productive and any such unfortunate happening like DKG, should be probed fairly to establish the faith of people in rule of law, he added apart from adequate compensation to aggrieved people.

EDITORIAL

Ensure complete overhaul in WFI

There seems to be no end to the controversy surrounding the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) as it has again come into news for all wrong reasons. The fresh controversy started following the decision of Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik to take retirement from wrestling after BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh managed to retain control of the WFI as one of Singh's loyalists succeeded him as its president. What shocked the aggrieved wrestlers most was the brazen display of power, in a most unapologetic manner, by Brij Bhushan. A heavily garlanded Brij Bhushan flashed the victory sign after the panel led by his aide Sanjay Singh clinched 13 of the 15 posts in the WFI poll. The wrestlers, who had been fighting hard against the powerful parliamentarian, took it as a humiliation. The outgoing chief of WFI has been accused of sexual harassment by several women grapplers. The results were a foregone conclusion and Brij Bhushan had exuded confidence on poll eve that Sanjay's team would easily defeat the panel led by Commonwealth Games gold medalist Anita Sheoran. Sakshi Malik, being disheartened, hanged her boots and she was followed by international wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, who had been spearheading an agitation seeking justice for Brij Bhushan's alleged victims. A thorough clean-up of the WFI was another key demand of the protesters, but things are back to square one after Thursday's lopsided results. What added more twist to the tale is that the Sports Ministry on Sunday suspended the newly elected WFI till further orders after the newly-elected body made a 'hasty announcement' of organising the U-15 and U-20 nationals 'without following due procedure and not giving sufficient notice to wrestlers' for preparations. It has further added to controversy surrounding the WFI. The WFI elections were held on December 21 with former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's loyalist, Sanjay Singh, and his panel winning the polls by big margins. It is yet not clear as what prompted the Sports Ministry to take stern action against the WFI but definitely clamour at national level against the overhaul of WFI controlled by Brij Bhushan, who had promised that the new dispensation would work impartially and the protesting wrestlers would not face vendetta. However, his words are not enough to pacify the aggrieved players. They wanted no supporter of Brij Bhushan to become an office-bearer of the WFI; according to them, the government had given them reassurance in this regard. They have every reason to feel frustrated and betrayed now. Punia has decided to return the Padma Shri award. This is a sad reflection on the administration of Indian wrestling; it is also symptomatic of the all-pervasive politicisation of sports in the country. Now, the Sports Body making strong remarks that the new body has not followed the WFI constitution should be seen as a major step to revamp the WFI. The Wrestlers need to give more time to the government to ensure overhauling of the Federation which so far has seemingly remained under political clout.

Cricket Australia launches Multicultural Action Plan

ASHUTOSH MISRA

Australian demography has undergone a dramatic transformation, with communities originating from South Asia, predominantly Indian, making a significant presence across Australian society.

According to the Australian Census 2021, South Asians are amongst the fastest-growing populations including 30% of Australians born overseas. Of these 48.5% of the Australian population are multicultural and 4% (1.1 million) have a South Asia birth or descent. Since 2013, Indian migrants recorded a 128% rise (from 295,000 to 673,000), Sri Lankan 53% (86,000 to 132,000), Nepalese 392% (25,000-123,000), Pakistan 200% (30,000-90,000) and Bangladesh 82% (28,000-51,000).

This demographic transformation has not escaped Cricket Australia's attention which launched the pathbreaking Multicultural Action Plan (MAP) 2023-2027 on 22 December informed by hundreds of hours of research and engagement across the community.

Supported by the Australian Government Legacy Fund, the MAP primarily aims at the South Asian community, where in India is expected to be the key driver of growth in the coming years. Indian diaspora would soon overtake as the largest migrant community in Australia surpassing English, and the MAP strives to create a sense of belongingness and ownership amongst



them.

The MAP also highlights the 90,000 plus attendance during the India versus Pakistan match and the 85,000 plus attendance during the India versus Zimbabwe match during the ICC T20 World Cup in 2022 in Australia. Indian-Australian cricketers namely Lisa Sthalekar and Allana King, along with Harmanpreet Kaur the Indian captain feature prominently in it. In addition, Usman Khawaja, the Pakistani-origin cricketer holds a pivotal place for his inspirational struggle to make it into the national squad, and for his Foundation's Cricket Blast program for kids in schools and the community.

The Multicultural Action Plan (MAP) hopes to create opportunities; break down barriers; build trust in relationships; and make a difference in the community. The rationale is simple: engage with the community which allows Cricket Australia to tap

into the larger talent pool in the future, generate more participation and revenue from their participation, enlarge its fan base and encourage community members to take on more leadership roles.

Cricket, therefore, is becoming a vehicle of social cohesion and unity for all Australians, and championing diversity and inclusion at all levels.

In the coming years, MAP will roll out the following ten key deliverables: bespoke social cricket programs, products and tournaments; community coach and voluntary leadership program; working with foundations and partners to enhance talent pathways; elite coach and umpire bursary scheme; South Asian monitoring and leadership program; cultural awareness and unconscious bias training; new multicultural Ambassador program; engaging with new media channels with positive storytelling; new cultural festi-

vals and enhanced match experience; and more personalised engagement through enhanced data capability.

Of these, the cultural awareness and unconscious bias training is very well-thought-out and also critical for promoting greater understanding in Australian cricket of their unconscious bias and the cultural differences of the community and breaking down existing barriers in the game.

MAP is aiming for 100,000 South Asian registered participants in Australian cricket by 2027, and doubling the numbers of South Asian cultural background players in first-class teams as well as Women Big Bash League and Men's BBL and 2027 to 8%.

MAP is expected to boost recruitment of more employees from the South Asian background, since only 2% of South Asians were on Australian cricket boards, and executive

teams in 2022, and over 18% were on the Cricket Australia payroll. Cricket Australia has also created a specialised position of Multicultural Officers at the Queensland Cricket and Western Australian Cricket Association to introduce new initiatives and engagement programs and gather feedback for the Action Plan.

Queensland Cricket's successful taped ball format has also found a special mention in the MAP. In this format –the Multination Cup 2023 involving India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Afghanistan; Rising Stars U-13 Junior Tournament and Corporate Cup involving corporate companies have created a vast constituency of cricket lovers who have been either missing out due to time and physical constraints or limited opportunities.

Undoubtedly, cricket continues to enrich Indo-Australian bilateral narrative and ties and the political leadership on both sides time and again very eloquently uses the appeal of the game to promote deeper understanding and friendship. In March 2023, Queensland Cricket led a delegation to Gujarat, spearheaded by its CEO Terry Svenson, deputy chair of the QC Board Ian Healy, former cricketer Adam Dale and the author, to attend the fourth test match of the Border-Gavaskar series. Their visit coincided with the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese at the majestic

Modi stadium. This visit built Queensland Cricket's contacts with senior BCCI officials such as Jay Shah-BCCI secretary, Roger Binny-BCCI president, Dhanraj Nathwani-president Gujarat Cricket Association, Colonel Arvind Singh-COO, Gujarat Titans and several business leaders.

The visit is expected to yield medium to long-term cricketering exchanges of players, coaches, administrators and teams between the two sides in the coming years. Queensland Cricket is also in discussion with the Baroda Cricket Association to reach an understanding to this effect and is also expected to pick up the threads of discussion with the Karnataka Cricket Association.

As Indo-Australian relations continue to thrive, cricket will continue to add ballast at various levels—sporting, community, diplomatic and also commercial. In this context, Cricket Australia's Multicultural Action Plan is very timely in positioning the South Asian/Indian diaspora at the forefront of its strategy, which offers a historic opportunity for the Indian community champions to invoke their love of cricket for an creating an inclusive, diverse and multicultural society and a stronger Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

(The writer is CEO and Executive Director Institute for Australia India Engagement and Editor-In-Chief, of Australia India News; views are personal)

Unmasking the silent epidemic threatening our youth

GIRDHAR J GYANI

In the ever-evolving landscape of tobacco use, a new spectre looms large - New-Age Gateway Products including Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), heat-not-burn (HNB), e-hookah, e-cigarettes and Vapes. Beyond the familiar realms of smoking, this trend is not just a fad; it's a burgeoning concern with far-reaching consequences. Delving into the heart of the matter, we confront an escalating crisis that extends beyond traditional boundaries, ensnaring individuals including children globally in a web of lifelong addiction.

Recent studies underscore the alarming trend that indulging in New-Age Gateway Products such as vaping is becoming a gateway for more individuals, especially young adults, to initiate tobacco use. A notable survey reveals that a significant number of

young people are getting hooked on e-cigarettes which can have a dangerous impact. This shift in initiation patterns raises serious concerns about the long-term health consequences and the potential for a new generation to be ensnared in the clutches of addiction.

One critical aspect of this issue is the data suggesting that these New-Age Gateway Products are not a substitute for smoking as pushed by international tobacco companies but a distinct and powerful initiator of addiction of a different nature. Several studies indicate that the number of individuals trying vaping is fast surpassing those who take up smoking. The allure of flavours, discreet packaging, and the misconception that vaping is less harmful contribute to its growing popularity, particularly among the youth.

An Australian expert recently addressed the

Members of the Scottish Parliament, shedding light on a disconcerting reality – the vaping industry seems to have a profound interest in cultivating a new generation of lifelong customers. The marketing strategies employed by these international tobacco companies are designed to appeal to younger demographics, creating a concerning link between the rise in vaping initiation and the long-term goals of these corporations. The expert's testimony emphasizes the urgent need for regulatory measures to curb the influence of these entities on the youth.

While traditional smoking has long been associated with health risks, these New-Age Gateway Products introduce a different set of concerns. E-cigarettes often contain high levels of nicotine, a highly addictive substance. The ease with which one can access and use these devices, coupled with enticing

flavours, makes them particularly appealing to young individuals. It is not uncommon for those who start with vaping to transition to an addictive model soon, amplifying the potential for lifelong addiction and its associated health hazards.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also expressed apprehension about the impact of vaping on public health. The organization highlights the need for comprehensive regulations to address the risks associated with these products, ranging from their appeal to minors to the potential for serving as a gateway to other substance use. Governments worldwide are grappling with the challenge of crafting policies that strike a balance between harm reduction for existing smokers and protecting the youth from the allure of vaping.

In light of these findings, policymakers, public

health officials, and communities must collaborate on effective strategies to curb the rising tide of initiation to New-Age Gateway Products. Education campaigns targeting both parents and students can play a pivotal role in dispelling myths surrounding vaping and its perceived harmlessness. Additionally, stringent regulations must be put in place to restrict the marketing outreach of these New-Age Gateway Products companies that seem intent on creating a new generation of addicts.

There is a need to advocate for a holistic approach around stringent enforcement on the ground to address the vaping epidemic. This includes robust educational initiatives, evidence-based policy reforms, and collaboration with experts and lawmakers to create a comprehensive framework that safeguards the well-being of our youth. By acknowledging the distinct

threat posed by New-Age Gateway Products and taking decisive action, we can work towards mitigating the long-term consequences of this burgeoning public health crisis.

While it is alarming that a vast majority of children are unaware that these New-Age Gateway Products are already banned in India, access to these products seems to be at ease for those seeking them. Even law enforcement at the grassroots level needs to be made aware of this, or else porous and mis-declared imports into the country and their easy availability through those having access to school children can make this a serious upcoming health disaster waiting to happen.

(The author is Director General, Association of Healthcare Providers; Views expressed are personal)

God is ubiquitous, everything

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

There is a verse in the Bhagavad-Geeta, that goes like this, "After efforts of many births, a yogi in the end becomes wise, and he takes My shelter. A great soul, who considers Lord Vasudeva thus as everything is very rare." (7.19) Lord Krishna spoke this verse. I have been reading the Geeta for more than three decades. I kind of didn't take this verse seriously, because its purport did not sink in. Now having many experiences in this regard, I am beginning to have faith in God's words.

I will share some experiences with my readers. I will take up a few verses and explain how they made sense to me; and how I experienced the veracity of them. The first one has

to be verse # 7.16, "Four kinds of virtuous people worship Me. These are a distressed person, an inquisitive man, a seeker of wealth and a wise person." I have been highly distressed, with many kinds of fears, anxieties, etc. Finding no relief elsewhere, I turned to God with some sincerity. My initial reaction was somewhat mixed. Maybe God was helping, maybe nothing like this was happening. Having exhausted all other options, I pursued. Gradually, I began to find the connection between my prayers and what relief I was getting. Surely, I was attracted to the other part of the quoted verse about becoming a seeker of wealth. There was some evidence that God was being generous to me. Wasn't Sanjay quite convinced about it, when he said, "Where there

is the Yogeshwar Shri Krishna and where there is the archer Arjuna, there will be opulence, victory, wealth and morality (dharma). This is my view." (18.78) It gradually became my view also, as I benefitted.

Now greedy for more, I sought guidance from God. Is He not omniscient? Wouldn't He know everything? This will eliminate my endless search for answers. Lord Krishna promised this, "From Me only memory, knowledge and removal of delusion takes place." (15.15) Surely, guidance in the form of instructions, and advice from near and dear ones, who act as mediums of God, began to become available. And I started to taste what was promised, "By being especially kind to them, I, situated within, destroy the darkness, born of ignorance, by the shin-

ing lamp of knowledge. (10.11)

Over some time, I began to get out of trouble, because God, was helping, which Lord Krishna has promised, "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My grace." (18.58) Buoyed by such success, I focused on becoming more conscious, as instructed in verse #18.65, "Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifices for Me; and offer obedience to Me." Patiently, I started doing these spiritual practices. It wasn't easy because they went against my nature, which was for lusty enjoyment. Taking the next step was still more difficult, which was "Take My shelter only." (18.66) God has left no doubt what is needed to be done, which is, "In all respects take shelter of Him (God) only.

So, what should we conclude?

There is too much evidence believe that God is everything. But it is hard for just anyone to accept this fact; this has to be realized over a long period. That is why Lord Krishna has stated that such a soul is very rare. One has to have faith and get started. The other option is not to accept. Then, one loses what all God can give, which is a lot in this place of misery. I will continue the way I am progressing I believe in, "Whatever you do; whatever you eat; whatever offering you make; whatever you give in charity; whatever austerities you perform, you do that as an offering to Me." (9.27) Who controls 'karmaphalas' (results of our acts)? God of course.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Natrang stages Ismat Chughtai's 'Ghunghat': a tale of love, prejudice, and waiting

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 25

Natrang presented a new Urdu play 'Ghunghat' here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. Based on the story of Ismat Chughtai, the play was ably directed by Neeraj Kant.

The play begins where a narrator, while presenting the story, praises the beauty of eighty year old Gori Bibi and tells that no man had ever touched this virgin. The narrator further tells that when the golden-haired blonde was thirteen years old, her mother and father had lost their sleep. They were afraid that someone might take away their daughter, because she did not seem to be a creature of this earth.

A thirteen year old white girl gets engaged



to a black man who is extremely irritated by his dark complexion. During the engagement, everyone teases Kale Miyan that if the groom touches the bride, the bride will become dirty. The beauty of the bride has such an effect on Kale Miyan that he refuses to marry her. Everyone explains a lot and the elders even abused, then finally the groom agrees and the marriage takes place. But

hearing the mention of black and white people in wedding songs, Kale Miyan gets so irritated that during the wedding night, they ask the bride to lift her veil and when the bride does not lift her veil, he leave her and go to Jodhpur. Gori Bibi's parents get worried. After seven years, when Kale Miyan's grandmother falls ill, he comes home. And once again an attempt is made to mix Gori Bibi

and Kale Miyan. But Kale Miyan again asks the bride to lift the veil and when she does not lift it, he runs away from the house.

For years the fair lady keeps waiting for the black man. When Kale Miyan grows old, he returns home for the last time and an attempt is made to reunite eighty year old Gori Bibi with him. But before Gori Bibi can lift her veil, Kale Mian dies and the play ends.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Abhimanyu Choudhary, Harshul Kaul, Chaitanya Shekhar, Vishal Sharma, Aadesh Dhar, Sonali Sharma, Mehak Chib, Anand Verma and Suneha Angural. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant whereas Kushal Bhat rendered the music of the play. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

NC President releases Dr. Vikas Sharma's book on Statistics

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24



JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Former Chief Minister and NC patriarch, Dr. Farooq Abdullah today released an academic book titled "Basic Elements in Statistics" authored by Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr. Vikas Sharma and Dr. Amit Sharma during a simple yet impressive function organized at Press Club here.

Dr Abdullah was the chief guest whereas Former Minister and NC Additional General Secretary Ajay Sadhotra presided over the occasion. NC Provisional President, Rattan Lal Gupta; and Vice Chancellor, ICFAI University Himachal Pradesh, Prof Keshav Sharma were the guests of honor. NC Provincial Joint Secretary, Ankush Abrol was the special guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Abdullah lauded Dr. Vikas Sharma for using his expertise in Statistics and authoring such a useful book for the students. He emphasized upon him to write a comprehensive research paper on the economic situation of Jammu and Kashmir

so as to lay roadmap for its developmental needs which are essential from futuristic point of view.

He said, "J&K is an economically backward state where unemployment is sky-rocketing and we have to urgently look into this. Our neighbouring states are growing rapidly. We also need big industries here but they should be environment friendly. Only that way we can address issue of unemployment and economic development."

Ajay Sadhotra also congratulated Dr Vikas Sharma for bringing out a scholarly publication for the benefit of scholars and students. He lauded the leadership and organizational skills of young NC leader who spearheaded many student agitations during his college and university days.

He asked Dr Sharma to author a paper on the economic situation of J&K and suggest measures to uplift the same using his expertise in the subject.

Prof Keshav Sharma also spoke on the occasion and shared the moments of his association with Dr. Vikas Sharma. He said the

book authored by young NC leader is one of its kind and will immensely help the scholars and students of Statistics in understanding the basic concepts.

Earlier, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Ajay Sadhotra were accorded warm welcome and both of them were felicitated with bouquet and shawl by Dr Vikas Sharma, Jyoti Chib, Papinder Singh, Roshan Sharma and Mohd Umar Farooq.

The vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Vikas Sharma. He expressed gratitude to Dr Abdullah, Ajay Sadhotra and other dignitaries for sparing their valuable time and gracing this occasion. The stage was compered by Dr Urvashi Gupta.

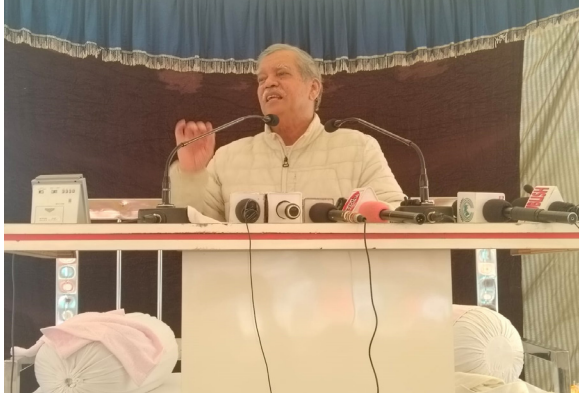
Several prominent people including Former Deputy Speaker Javed Rana, Aijaz Jan, Raghbir Singh Manhas, Tanveer Kichloo, Ghar Singh, Dr Rakesh Singh, Rahul Mahajan, BD Dalotra (Retd SP), Rakesh Sharma, Devinder Sharma, Kuldeep Khajuria, Sahil Kerni, Arunpaul Singh, Ashwani Sharma, Dr Rajesh Singh, Dr Vishal Singh, also remained present during the function.

Sahib Bandgi Satsang in Satwari, Jammu: Exploring the Beyond with Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Sadguru of Sahib Bandgi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while delighting the Sangat with the nectar of his sermons during the Satsang in Satwari, Jammu today, said that even the great intellectuals consider themselves to be the nirgun worshipers of Kabir Sahib. But Kabir Sahib was neither a Sagun worshiper nor a Nirgun worshiper. He was beyond both.

The whole world is a fan of the mind. Whatever the mind wants, it is getting it done. Every person works according to the waves of the mind. The mind has kept the whole world confused. Everyone is talking about formlessness. No



one knows the further secrets.

Sahib is saying the same thing to Dharamdas that he has neither heard nor read the devotion that you are talking about. All the religious scriptures, all the sages and sages are talking about the formless and the formless. But you

are saying something different.

When you got the name, a strength came within you. Now you understand what that power is.

Sahib has spoken about that immortal world in infinite words. The soul came from that country. Then Sahib has spoken about

the Guru. Sahib asked to be Gurumukh. Guru does not have such great importance in Saguna and Nirguna. But on the path of a saint, things will not work without a Guru. Sahib spoke too much about the name. If we churn the Uttarkand of Ramayana, Kabir Sahib will emerge. Sahib asked to be an introvert. There is no area on which Sahib did not speak. Sahib spoke on his mind. No one is speaking on this mind. This mind is your enemy. The whole world is engrossed in it. The mind keeps rotating the soul in various forms. But after attaining the true name the soul goes to that country. Then one does not have to come to this world again.

PMGSY plays major role in development of rural area: Jugal Kishore MP



JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Today Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu Poonch inaugurated Kathar to Ponthal road and Bridge at Ghambhir Nallah Constructed Costing Rs 9 crores in Block Dansal in Nagrota Constituency under PMGSY.

Jugal Kishore also attended Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Panchayat Ponthal in Block Dansal in which BDO Joni Kumar, Sarpanch Anil Barsala along with other Sarpanches Panches & officials of various departments were present.

Member of Parliament also took stock of various development works in Block Dansal. Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering said that this road & bridge was long pending demand of the inhabitants of Panchayat

Ponthal and adjoining areas of Block Dansal. He said that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji every rural sector is getting share of development and Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana is playing major role to develop the rural corners. He said that Kathar to Ponthal road is stretched over the length of 8 kms including a motorable bridge is constructed with the cost of 9 crores approximately under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana is today dedicated to the public will serve as a major source of development of Panchayat Ponthal and adjoining areas of block Dansal.

Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering present at viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra program Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra program at Ponthal said that Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is

started with the theme of "Sarkaar Apke Dwar" to enroll every poor who is left out without getting the benefits of Modi welfare schemes. He said that we should take the advantage of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and register people who are left out to get the benefit of welfare schemes. The students of Govt Middle School Ponthal presented debate activities and skits centred around the theme of National Integration. Member of Parliament also distributed certificates among beneficiaries. SE PMGSY Ajay Kapahi, Xen PMGSY NU Khan with team, Senior BJP leaders Ajeet Kumar, Vikas Gupta, Pankaj Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Parkash Singh, Chuni Singh, Vijay Kumar, Sagar Singh, Charanjeet Singh and others also present at the occasion.

JKBS members visit Lord Shiva temple at Chak Mohd Yar

JIN NEWS SERVICE
R.S.PURA, DEC 24

Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha visited the lord Shiva temple at Village Chak Mohd Yar of Tehsil R.S.Pura.

While offering prayer, R.L.Kaith said that lord Shiva is mercy and compassion incarnate. He protects the devotees from the negative tendencies like greed and anger, he said.

Kalash Yatra in Channi Himmat; Inauguration of Shree Ram Mandir On January 22

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Channi Himmat witnessed a grand spectacle today as the Akshat Mangal Kalash Yatra marked the commencement of celebrations for the historic inauguration of the Shree Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024. The procession, starting from Surya Chowk and culminating at Panch Mandir, garnered immense enthusiasm.

Dr. Gautam Mengi, Prant Sanghachalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Many Political leaders including Ex-Corporator Ward No. 50 Neena Gupta, State IT Head BJP J&K Adv. Ishant Gupta, Kamlesh Magotra, Poonam Gupta, Pawan Kumar Dhunna, Rajinder Mehta, Balwan Singh, and Prominent Citizen like Bhumi Chand Sharma,



Sachiv Gupta, Adv. Parddeep Gupta, Satish Gupta, Neera Gupta, Ashok Gupta, Vipin Mahajan, Navneet Sharma, Rishi, Amit Gandotra and others joined and graced the occasion.

Dr. Gautam Mengi, urging devotees to celebrate January 22 as a festival day. He appealed to the public to unite in celebrating this historic event by partaking in hawan poojan, observ-

ing live broadcasts, and engaging in Hindu rituals with friends and family. The Panch Mandir in Channi Himmat witnessed several rituals performed in the presence of hundreds of devotees, creating a sacred atmosphere. The collective spirit of the community, along with the presence of esteemed leaders, exemplified the significance of this momentous occasion.

Devotees gathered in the mail of Chashyal Rajput community

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SUNDARBANI, DEC 24

The semi-annual fair of Chashyal Rajput fraternity was celebrated in Mandyala village of Sundarbani with full respect and faith. Thousands of fraternity members paid obeisance on this occasion in the pre-independence shrine of the idol king Mandalik. After worship at eight o'clock on Sunday morning, the goats of the idol were released in the name of the deity. After that Bhandara was started which lasted till evening. After receiving the offerings, the devotees started returning with the family members after taking the blessings of the deity.

Before this, the Jattar which was held late on Saturday evening lasted till Sunday morning, in which solutions to the problems of various clans were also suggested. Raja Mandalik Devasthan Committee members and servants Krishna Lal, Master Dev Raj, Bhushan Lal, Ratan Lal, Subhash Chandra, Ram Lal, Gautam Kumar, Balveer Singh etc. gave their services. At the shrine, Tikka Sham Lal and Dayala Ashok Kumar and Paushaki Vishwanath duly concluded the kharke given to the deity King Mandalik every six months of the new harvest. In which the corn harvest was offered to the deity. Mel Mein Kot,



Dadani, Tunteya, Seriyen, Panori, Dhun Katora, Seri, Solki, Thangar, Dhangra, Panyar, Poona Kater, Dharamshala, Geetpur Bhalwal, Sohal, Tatta Pani, Baniyari, Parda, Pother, Dabar, Seri Siyal, Kot, Punari, Ghai Panyas, Tiryath, Kalakot, Rajouri from different areas including brotherhood members arrived with their families. The servants said that before independence, the temple was established

here in 1942. Earlier this temple was in Na-Nali area of Bhinwar Tehsil of Pakistan. Later the country was divided and then the families were separated. Now again hundreds of families have reached this shrine. Every year their number is increasing. The gods continue to show their miracles. The Agni Gotra Chashyal Rajput fraternity is spread across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Brotherhood

AJBRCEAK greets people on Christmas

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

All Jammu based Employees Association Kashmir extended hearty greetings to the people for upcoming auspicious festival of Christmas and urged them to follow the ideals of Jesus Christ, while Speaking on the occasion Chairman AJBRCEAK Sh Vipen Kumar said "As we celebrating the joyous occasion on 25th December,

Christmas epitomises spirit of selfless service, forgiveness and peace. The auspicious occasion also provides us an opportunity to imbibe the Lord Christ's noble message of sacrifice, love, compassion in our lives and spread joy Sh Kumar added, Chairman AJBRCEAK expressed that this occasion shares happiness and the spirit of brotherhood to build a peaceful and harmonious society Responding to the question regarding Comprehensive Transfer Policy, Chairman AJBRCEAK Sh Vipen Kumar retriated full hope that notification for the Policy shall be come out soon,

He urged LG Administration to notify Comprehensive Transfer Policy on the eve of new year 2024 ,While extending strong gratitude to Administration sh Vipen Kumar appreciated the steps taken by the government to address the sentiments of Jammu Based Employees, We believe in coming days Employees will see their long pending demand is going to be a reality" he said.

He also requested for requested Administration for Continuous engagement with Employees to understand their concerns, Chairman AJBRCEAK particularly appreciated the positive response of Worthy Chief Secretary J&K, for resolving genuine issues of employees under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Lt Governor Sh.Manoj Sinah ji. We believe this is indeed a golden Era of development and prosperity for J&K, hopefully we will get, for which we are eagerly waiting Since many years, Chairman AJBRCEAK added.

Moreover Vice Chairman AJBRCEAK Sh Kuldeep Kumar, President AJBRCEAK Mr.Anil Radhey ,Mr Yashpal Bhagat Gen. Secretary also extended heartfelt greetings on the occasion, while speaking Mr Anil Radha Said let's follow the noble path shown by Jesus Christ, and to devote ourselves to society for peaceful existence. Mr Yashpal Bhagat in his message expressed hope that we should see the life of Jesus Christ as an inspiration to guide us in every situation, to leave a meaningful and life with pure heart and soul.

Targeted killings expose discrepancy in BJP's claims of normalcy in J&K: Sadhotra



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

The BJP government at the Centre has pushed Jammu and Kashmir into unprecedented political uncertainty due to its inability to maintain law and order in the Union Territory.

This was stated by Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former minister while addressing a meeting of Party cadre of Jammu East Block at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, Jammu was also present.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra sharply criticized the government at the Centre for its failure to ensure the safety and security of Jammu and Kashmir's citizens. He drew attention to the increase in targeted killings and consistent attacks on the armed forces, pointing out the significant discrepancy between the BJP leadership's claims of 'normalcy' in J&K and the actual situation on the ground.

The former minister said that the recent tragic incident in Surankote area of Poonch district, where five courageous soldiers were martyred, is a stark reminder of the deteriorating security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The violent attack outside a mosque, coupled with the killing of a retired Senior Superintendent of Police, has shaken the local community and raised serious concerns about the safety of civilians and former law enforcement personnel, he said, adding that these distressing events emphasize the pressing

need for a comprehensive and effective strategy to restore peace and stability in the Union Territory.

Sadhotra said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve security, peace, and a return to normalcy, and it is imperative for the government at the Centre to prioritize their safety and well-being.

The meeting was presided over by Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East.

Earlier, at the outset of the meeting, Chandar Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, apprised the senior functionaries about the problems being faced by the people of East Block with regard to shortage of basic amenities like scarcity of power and water supply, civic amenities, etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, Jammu, termed it unfortunate that people were being subjected to immense suffering for want of basic amenities in absence of popular government in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that due to lack of vision and wrong policies of the government, people of J&K are facing a crisis like situation with each segment of society feeling abject neglect. The present government has failed to ensure delivery at the basic levels like availability of ration, power, health, education sector and unemployment.

Rattan Lal asserted that the governance failures writ large in almost every field, adding to the miseries of each and every section of the society. He said that people of Jammu

and Kashmir are fed with hollow policies of government as it promised the moon but delivered nothing. He lamented that the common people are today crying hoarse for basic amenities and the government seems to be least bothered.

The Provincial President urged party cadre to take proactive steps in strengthening the party's at the grassroots level. He encouraged party members to engage in outreach programs, community initiatives, and to actively listen to the needs of the people in order to build a stronger and more responsible political organization that truly represents the voices of the citizens.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary, JKNC, Jammu, asked people of East Constituency to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah as the National Conference alone can steer Jammu and Kashmir to peace, progress and political stability.

Among others who were present include: Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Chandar Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, Dilshad Malik, Rahul Mahajan, Rita Gupta, S. Gurnam Singh, Shom Raj Taroch, Ajay Kumar, Ravinder Verma, Sanjay Suri, Mohd Ashraf, Sanjeev Kumar, Francis Bhatti, Raman Singh Manhas, Parbhat Kapahi, Ayub Ch, Vinayak Singh and others.

Militancy in Poonch, Rajouri is BJP's gift to people of J&K: Bhalla

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

The working president of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and former Minister Mr. Raman Bhalla on Sunday while interacting with residents of Jammu Bahu Constituency at Ambedkar Nagar and Guru Nanak Nagar area said that the BJP-controlled administration has plunged Jammu and Kashmir into unprecedented crisis and the dispensation has become synonymous with chaos and uncertainty.

Expressing his anguish over repeated terror attacks in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Raman Bhalla said that the BJP-controlled administration has failed to contain militancy in J&K.

Three days after a dreaded terror attack in Dera Ki Gali on the border of Poonch and Rajouri districts in which four soldiers lost their lives in the line of duty, a retired Superintendent of Police was shot dead by militants in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. "Poonch, Rajouri, and Baramulla were free from militancy but now militancy has slowly gripped these peaceful areas", Mr. Bhalla regretted and



added that militants are being struck in Poonch and Rajouri districts after repeated intervals.

Recalling the twin militant attacks on January 1 and January 2 in Dangri village of Rajouri district, Mr. Bhalla said that almost a year has passed but the administration has failed to track down terrorists involved in executing the attack. Bhalla said that apart from political uncertainty, Jammu and Kashmir is also suffering from a governance crisis for the past eight years and pointed toward the failure of the present regime on all fronts. Pointing toward the failure of the present regime to conduct Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Mr. Bhalla said that this regime has shamelessly bulldozed the system of governance and eroded the sanctity of democratic institutions just to enjoy power.

"Tenure of this regime would be remembered as a period when all the democratic institutions were

shamelessly bulldozed by the ruling elites just to enjoy absolute power", he observed and pointed out that failure of Government to conduct Urban Local Bodies elections reflects their dictatorial mindset. "Instead of allowing democratic institutions to strengthen in J&K, the government has rather eroded the sanctity of such institutions", he said.

While reiterating the demand to restore statehood, Mr. Bhalla assured that Congress will ensure rights to jobs and land for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The government has agreed to hold elections and restore statehood as well. We want the government to guarantee the exclusive right to jobs and land to the locals in the statehood", he said.

Bhalla assured the people that he will continue to fight on the political front to ensure statehood is restored to Jammu and Kashmir.

Restore Statehood to J&K with land and job Guarantees: JBM



JJ NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, DEC 24

Jammu Province Bachao Manch (JBM) launched week long "Ekta Abhiyan" to unite the people of Jammu Province on one social platform for statehood with land and job guarantee and also to fight against unrest among youth, farmers and workmen, eradication of corruption, drug abuse etc here today in a simple but impressive meeting held at Bawa Talab after offering prayers for its success before Bawa Jitto, the Deity.

Chairman Mr. Ashok Sharma Advocate, former MLA on the occasion disclosed that during this Ekta Abhiyan people at the grass root level will be conducted while holding meeting at Raj Pura, Talab

Tilloo, Bharat Nagar, Rehari, Roop Nagar, Sainik Colony and Jarh Abtal, which will culminate into "Ekta Sammelan" to be held at Press Club Jammu on 04-01-2024 at 11.00 AM. On this occasion Sh. Bishan Verma was unanimously elected as President for Ban Batehra and Sh. Nirmal Singh elected President for village Gura Singhu. They will constitute their teams shortly.

Among others who spoke on the occasion included Dr Kuldeep Sharma, Satish Puncti Vice Chairman, Dr Yesh Paul Sharma Advocate IGP (retd) S Kamalpreet Singh Vice Chairman, Davinder Singh Jamwal General Secretary and Kailash Nath Joint Secretary. The meeting was organised by Advocate Naresh Chander Sharma, Coordinator JBM.

Declare statehood before elections: Vikar Rasool

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARI BRAHMNA, DEC 24

Strongly advocating restoration of statehood as a prerequisite to holding assembly elections the Congress has said this has now become imperative after the recent observations and directions by the Supreme Court while hearing the case pertaining to partial abrogation of Article 370. Holding elections without granting statehood will defeat the basic purpose of restoring the institutions of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing an impressive conference of the prominent leaders and workers of Vijaypur assembly constituency here today, Pradesh Congress Committee chief Mr Vikar Rasool said the Supreme Court observations in regard to fixing a deadline for holding assembly elections and restoration of statehood, is a full-scale indictment of the Centre government and the Lt Governor's administration who are guilty of depriving people of their basic democratic rights. Time has come to rectify this wrong done to Jammu and Kashmir without any further delay and apologize to the people for having committed this



wrong.

Mr Rasool gave a clarion call to the party workers and Congress sympathisers to gear up for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and support the democratic forces spearheaded by the Congress along with other I.N.D.I.A alliance constituents. Time has come for the people to call the bluff of the LG's administration regarding overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. Falsehood is being spread in the name of development as people are suffering on all counts and reeling under severe power and water crisis.

Speaking on the occasion former Deputy Chief Minister and chairman of the PCC's campaign committee Mr Tara Chand said the people have been made to suffer by depriving them of the services

of their elected representatives. In the face of the Supreme Court setting a deadline for holding assembly elections and directions on restoration of the statehood, the Centre and the LG's administration owe an explanation and must apologise to the people for depriving them of their democratic rights. Time has come for all of us to join hands and expose the devious designs of the BJP, which has caused immense damage to Jammu and Kashmir and democratic fiber of the country, he added.

Mr Chand exhorted the party workers to gird up their loins and create awareness regarding the misdeeds of the BJP-led dispensation at the Centre and the LG administration who have pushed Jammu and Kashmir to the brink of disaster. Imposition of

heavy taxation and prevailing poor civic amenities are among the plethora of anti-people policies and failures of the local administration whereas the Central Government simply looked the other way.

PCC general secretary and Senior Advocate Mr Mohinder Bhardwaj reiterated that the Centre must honour the views of the Supreme Court and immediately declare statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. Illegal and unconstitutional demolition to a Union Territory status has been the root cause of immense difficulties which the people have been facing. There is no redressal mechanism for the people in the absence of their elected representatives and it is imperative that statehood should be declared along with immediate holding of assembly elections.

Mr Bhardwaj expressed serious concern on the Union Territory facing the highest ever rate of unemployment which stands at above 18 per cent which is much higher than the national average of about 10 per cent. The Centre and the LG Administration must explain why this situation has arisen if everything was perfectly right as per the rosy pic-

ture being portrayed by them. The ground realities point to a different direction as people continue to suffer due to deprivation of political empowerment, protection of land and job rights, rising prices due to heavy taxation and failure of the administration and rampant unemployment particularly in border areas of Jammu region.

Where are the special recruitment drives particularly in JK Police and Central Paramilitary Forces as repeatedly promised by the Centre and LG Administration, he asked.

Among others who spoke on the occasion included Thakur Balwan Singh (Former Vice President), S Tarlok Singh Bajwa (former MP and Vice President), Sh Naresh Sharma (General Secretary), Sh. Gurmeet Singh (General Secretary) Sh Dwarka Choudhary (Former Corporation and General secretary) Sh Madan Chalotra (Chairman OBC Cell PCC) Smt Gurbachan Kumari Rana (former minister), Sh Narinder sharma (General Secretary) Sh Pawan Raina (General Secretary) Sh Bhushan Dogra (Secretary) Sh Ashok Dubey Sh Janak Raj, Sh Surinder Sharma, Sh Jeet Raj, Sh. Rashpal Sharma, Sh. Kirpal Singh, Sh. Ghanishyam Sharma.

J&K will progress towards development; Our govt will end insecurity, fear: Azad

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SOPORE DEC 24

Former Chief Minister and DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday promised that he will provide subsidized pesticides to apple growers of Jammu and Kashmir once he is back to power since supporting farmers is very important to give flip to the local economy. Azad said that if we have to focus on organic economic growth, we need to support the farmers and ensure they are stress free and have pesticides and other facilities available at genuine rates since they are the engine of our economy which is predominantly agrarian based.

"I believe as long as our farmers are not happy, the economy of Jammu and Kashmir won't grow. Over 60 per cent population is directly or indirectly depending on horticulture sector and shares a substantial revenue to keep our economy growing," he said while addressing a public rally at apple rich Dangerpora, in North Kashmir. Azad said alongside the subsidized pesticides, the farmers also need convenient



transportation facility to ensure on timely basis the goods could reach mandis and fetch the deserving price. He said road convenience for the fruit laden trucks would be his priority once people vote his party to power. However, the former chief minister focussed on enhanced road and train connectivity in the UT especially Sopore town which houses the second largest fruit mandi of Asia.

"Maximum share of fruit from Kashmir is sold in Sopore Mandi and remain busy most part of the year. So it needs to have enhanced connectivity. I will pitch for immediate start of train services besides the hassle free road services for fruit laden trucks," he said. For boosting the agrarian economy of the UT, he promised that taxes would be substantially reduced. "I want the people of Jammu and Kashmir to smile and see them pro-

gressing and prospering economically. I will do whatever I can to fulfill this dream, with no insecurity & fear" he said. Azad, however condemned the growing terror attacks in J&K and said that such attacks only consume innocent human lives. He said terrorism needs to be dealt with iron fist so that innocent people can have a sigh of relief. Among others who were present in the public meeting were G.M.Saroori, Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, Ch Haroon Khatana Gen Secretary, Gulzar Wani Zonal President, Shoaib Nabi Lone Distt President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Shafiq Shabnam Provincial Gen Secretary, Irshad Tantray Gen Secretary Zone, Sajjad Ahmed Dar, Adv Saleem Parray Spokesperson, Haji Musadiq VP Province, Amir Rasool Provincial GS, Tasleema Akthar, Ab Ahad yatoo, Arif Maqbool, Shubi Jaan and others.

Tony, Prof Gharu, Tarsem jointly inaugurate development works worth Rs 1.38 cr at GHSS Dablehar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, DEC 24

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Member from Suchetgarh, along with DDC RS Pura, Prof. Gharu Ram, and BDC Tarsem Sharma, jointly inaugurated a multiple-development works at the Government Higher Secondary School in Dablehar, RS Pura.

These development initiatives, with an estimated cost of Rs 1.38 crore,

encompass various essential aspects, including the establishment of state-of-the-art bio-labs, construction of boundary walls, creation of a playground, water-proofing measures, and more. Among those present on the occasion were Sarpanch Hazara Singh, Executive Engineer Sunil Dogra, AEE Vikesh, and prominent members of the local community.

Addressing the gathering, Taranjit Singh Tony emphasized the importance of delivering quality education to the youth



without compromise. He stressed the need for concrete proposals to address the issue of unsafe school buildings, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for students.

Prof. Gharu Ram, DDC RS Pura, highlighted

the significance of these development works in enhancing the overall educational infrastructure of the region, further emphasizing the commitment to improving educational facilities.

BDC Tarsem Sharma

expressed optimism about the positive impact of these projects on the school's overall environment and the educational experience of its students.

The inauguration of these developmental initiatives underscores the commitment of local leaders and authorities towards promoting education and ensuring the safety and well-being of students in RS Pura.

Irvendar Kour, Principal GHSS Dablehar and staff members were also present on the occasion.

Arshad Bhat from Pulwama joins BJP, Er Kamran joins at Srinagar with large number of supporters

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

In a significant event Social Activist Arshad Bhat of Pulwama welcomed into BJP along with a large number of supporters by Ashok Koul & Dr Darakhshan Andrabi,

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) got a big boost today when two prominent personalities joined the party along with thousands of supported in presence of Party General Secretary (Org) Mr Ashok Koul & BJP National Executive Member & Chairperson Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi. Earlier a programme was held by the party at Town Hall Pulwama in which eminent Social Activist & patron of Awaam Ki Awaaz NGO Arshad Bhat joined BJP along with his supporters.



On his induction Arshad Bhat thanked Ashok Koul & Dr Andrabi for their magnificent work at the ground level. He said that it was his good luck to get the opportunity to be part of the BJP's Development Agenda in Kashmir. In yet another significant programme held in the lawns of the New Mamta Hotel at Kohnakha Srinagar, Ex NC Vice President for Central Kashmir Kamran Bhat joined BJP along with

thousands of his supporters amid huge sloganeering. Many prominent trade union leaders and leaders of the transport unions also joined BJP at Srinagar. Engineer Kamran said that BJP has delivered in Kashmir while others only talk and loot. He said that his new journey with BJP will change the political atmosphere in Srinagar as he has a huge public support at his back. Speaking on the occasion BJP J&K Gen

Sec (Organisation) Ashok Koul said that BJP family's extension in Kashmir valley speaks volumes about our government's decision making for peace, prosperity and development in this blessed valley. "We are becoming stronger with each passing day in Kashmir also and the youth of Kashmir have understood that their future is bright with BJP only. BJP growth story is directly related to the growth story of J&K", said Ashok Koul. In her addresses Dr Andrabi while welcoming the young new leaders along with their supporters into the BJP fold, said that this expansion movement will continue in all parts of J&K. "Kashmir has seen the deceitful and bloody politics of the dynasts and their by-products working under different old and

new banners selling the old wine in new bottles, but Kashmir has resolved to be with the peace and with the guarantees of Prime Minister Modi & thus such programmes attain significance when young dynamic leaders like Arshid Bhat & Engineer Kamran Bhat become part of this new political reality in Kashmir called BJP", said Darakhshan.

Other senior party leaders who were also present on the occasion were Seh Prabhari Kashmir Rafiq Wani, Media Incharge Kashmir Adv Sajid Yousuf Shah, Social Media Incharge Er Sahil Bashir, District President Pulwama M Lateef, DDC Pulwama, DDC Tral Avtar Singh, Ex-MC President Pampore Yaquob Bhat and other senior leaders of the district and state.

Painting, Poetry, & Story telling Competition for students of Balgran organised by Aarunya



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Aarunya- a youth initiative conducted an event under the theme Smriti-Reminiscing the culture of Bharat at Balgran- a charitable home for destitute children at Channi Rama, Jammu on December 24, 2023.

The event was a tribute to the Bengali poet, writer, composer and painter Shri Rabindranath Tagore ji. A Nobel laureate and a gem to the Indian nation.

Painting, poetry and story telling competition was held for the students of Balgran.

Ms. Priya Badyal who is JKAS officer serving as Chief Accounts Officer, office of Financial Commissioner Revenue was the chief guest.

The occasion was graced by the presence of our guests of honour namely Suresh Sharma ji, who is the visionary behind the renowned Artist Jammu and Kashmir fine arts society (JAKFAS).

An eminent artist and a social activist.

Advocate Meenu Padha, who along with practicing her legal profession is a women and child rights activist and Dr. Ramesh who is currently a faculty member of The Law School, University of Jammu. Actively mentoring the students in his subject matter.

The Painting event was adjudged by JAKFAS - Artist Suresh ji and the Poem recitation and story telling by Dr. Ramesh respectively.

The winners of all the competitions were felicitated by the chief guest and guests of honour.

Advocate Meenu Padha while speaking to the gathering announced to provide financial aid to two students who expressed their desire to become legal professionals. This was a proud moment for our team.

Formal introduction about the initiative of Team Aarunya was given by Ms. Bipasha Raina, founder Aarunya. Ms. Anshika Gandhi was the anchor of the event. Vote of thanks was presented by Mr. Deepak.

Musical performance of Rabindra Sangeet by Ms. Ashmita was appreciated by the audience.

Mr. Harsh, Ms. Nazia, Mr. Rajat, Ms. Simran, Mr. Samar and Mr. Abhi were the volunteers for the event.

Terrorism has no religion: Shiv Sena

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni strongly condemned the killing of a retired senior superintendent of police who was offering Azaan in Baramulla, Kashmir, and said that it should be proved that terrorism has no religion.

In a press release issued from the Shiv Sena state office Jammu, state chief Manish Sahni said that terrorists have once again carried out their nefarious plans in Baramulla district of Kashmir. This time the terrorists targeted a retired police officer who was offering Azaan in the mosque and riddled his body with bullets.

114th AGM of Ramakrishna Mission held

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

The 114th Annual General Meeting of the Ramakrishna Mission was convened at Belur Math, West Bengal.

Swami Suvirananda, General Secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, presented the comprehensive 'Report of the Governing Body of the Ramakrishna Mission' for the fiscal year 2022-23.

The report provided an overview of the mission's diverse activities and accomplishments during the past year.

The Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission received accolades for their service activities, including the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award from Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, and prestigious grades

from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Four degree colleges associated with the mission secured notable rankings in the India Rankings by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

The Narendrapur off-campus center of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute was honored as the 'Best Centre of All India Network Programme on Organic Farming' by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The mission expanded its outreach with the establishment of new branch centers in Sahudangi Hat (West Bengal), Bhuj (Gujarat), Chengam (Tamil Nadu), and Yadadri Bhuvanagui (Telangana).

During the fiscal year,

the Ramakrishna Mission and the Ramakrishna Math, operating through their extensive network of 224 Indian branch centers and sub-centers, allocated a total expenditure of Rs. 1171.61 crore across various service sectors. This included Rs. 7.46 crore for Relief & Rehabilitation, benefiting 5.31 lakh individuals; Rs. 28.42 crore for General Welfare, reaching 38.75 lakh beneficiaries; Rs. 412.08 crore for Medical services, serving 86.30 lakh beneficiaries; Rs. 594.53 crore for Educational initiatives, impacting 3.08 lakh individuals; Rs. 101.54 crore for Rural Development, assisting 70.67 lakh beneficiaries, and an expenditure of Rs. 101.54 crore for the Publication of literature. These initiatives reached millions of beneficiaries across India, reflecting

the mission's commitment to social welfare.

The mission's global presence continued to grow, with noteworthy achievements such as the consecration of the Shri Ramakrishna Temple in Bangladesh, the inauguration of 'Home of Harmony' in Chicago, and recognition of Sunday schools in Sri Lanka. The mission's 96 centers and sub-centers in 24 countries outside India actively engaged in service activities. The Ramakrishna Mission and Ramakrishna Math expressed their heartfelt gratitude to members, well-wishers, and devotees for their unwavering support and cooperation. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing the mission's service programs and fostering positive change in society.

Shiv Sena membership drive and joining function at Panasa Reasi



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Shiv Sena organized a joining function at Panasa Reasi where scores of Youths & Womens joined the Party in Presence of State President Hon'ble Sh. Ashwani Gupta, State Secretary (Organisation) Sh. Sanjay Bhat and State Youth President Sh. Ajay Dhar.

Program was Started by observing two Minute Silence for the Martyrs of Rajouri ambush.

While Welcoming the Youth and other Prominent Personalities of District Reasi the State President Sh. Ashwani Gupta welcomed the new Members and said Shiv Sainiks admire BalaSaheb Thackeray, and it is duty of everyone to spread his principles. He further said that ShivSena follow

the path of Service and will be on toes to work for the public. While condemning the unfortunate Rajouri ambush, Gupta urged the Central and State Government to take strong action against the culprits responsible for the incident.

Sh. Sanjay Bhat said Shiv Sena party is for the public, development is their main agenda & further he said emphasized the need for conducting SKILL DEVELOPMENT programs in the Districts for the benefit of the youth.

While addressing the function Sh. Ajay Dhar said that youth's strength is nation's strength and youth should come forward to work for nation building.

Sh. Mohan Lal District President Reasi welcomed the new entrants

and appealed them to work for the betterment of Society.

Sh. Vijay Kumar District Youth President said that ShivSena will be the frontrunner in fighting for the rights of public of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sh. Vinay Abrol Chairman said that party will contest all elections with full enthusiasm and asked the party cadre to remain ready. The others who were present in the joining program are Rakesh Kumar (Mandal President), Sachin Singh, Banu Partap Singh, Ashish Raina, Chander Mohan, Jugal Sharma, Amit Singh, Binny, Hoshyar Singh, Manav Singh & Hoshyar Singh. Tara Devi, Anjana, Darshana Devi, Bimla Devi, Ritu Devi, Babli Devi, Kamlesh Devi, Chachala Devi, Renu Devi, & Pooja Sharma.

Gau Gopal Yagya enter 7 day at Shri Dwaranath Shastri ji Samadhi Sathal Suhajana



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Today Dwarkanath Shastri ji, had no idea that they accepted the food prasad while listening to the birth anniversary of Shastri Maharaj ji on 25th December.

Here a huge crowd gathered from all four directions like Jammu, Bhagatpur, Ring Road, Meeran Saheb, Gajansu and Akhnoor. Due to the unlimited crowd, the Bhagatpur road across Tawi was stopped for hours due to which the devotees got delayed in reaching the place of Samadhi and Yagya. However, one-way traffic was reduced from December 23.

Like every day, God and patriotism should flourish together in everyone's life, Shredey Gangadhar ji hoisted the national flag along with many religious lovers.

Apart from satsang and religious rituals, a huge fair is also in full swing in the Holy Samadhi complex.

The sacred platform of this satsang of knowledge, devotion and social concern was inaugurated today by the President of Jammu and Kashmir Sant Samaj, 1008 Maha Mandaleswar, Mahant Rameshwar Das Ji, Mahant Dr. Satyanarayan Das Ji, Mahant Kameshwar Das Ji, Mahant Rajesh Giri Ji, along with the saints of Kinnar Samaj, Jammu. Kashmir Kinnar Samaj President Mahant Baba Ji, Kinnar Mahant Mani Ji, Radhika Ji, Ramayani Ji, Janak Mahatma Ji, and Swami Bua Dita Ji graced the occasion. Apart from this, today three former ministers of Jammu and Kashmir Ma Sham Lal Sharma, Ma Ganga Sharma, Ma Sukhmandan, BJP General Secretary Vidyut Gupta, Vishwa Hindu Parishad President Rajesh Gupta also participated and were also honored with a shawl. Social worker Advocate Ankur Sharma. Presently, he took blessings of the Samadhi site and Yagya.

Sajjad Kichloo visits Padder; A Number of youth of Padder joins NC- Kichloo

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DEC 24

Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo Ex- Home Minister, Zonal President JKNC Chenab Valley Zone alongwith Faisal Hussain (DDC Nagensi) visited several Villages of Padder Block of Padder-Nagseni Constituency of Kishtwar District and held interaction with people of villages.

He patiently listened the grievances of people and assured the redressal as soon as possible. During visit Kichloo held a series of workers meetings with youth of Padder and many youth joined National Conference party in his presence. Those who joined include Rahul Kumar S/O Jodh Ram R/o



Massu, Ranjeet Singh R/o Dhundhi,

Kishori Lal R/o Dhundhi. Kichloo wholeheartedly welcomed the new entrants in party. He enjoined all the party workers to work in tandem and co-ordination for betterment of people and strive hard to envision the party's main objective

of addressing the genuine problems of poor masses. He emphasized that his party has strong foundation and roots in Padder Nagseni constituency and he expressed his gratitude to people of Padder Nagseni constituency for their support and full faith on National Conference party.

Col Mahan inaugurates tourism project worth Rs 80 lakh at Purthu

J I NEWS SERVICE
BASOHLI, DEC 23

In a landmark event, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua today unveiled a transformative tourism project worth Rs 80 Lakh in the picturesque Purthu, often referred to as Mini Goa.

The project encompasses a 600 meters long and six meters wide riverfront road, the development of a high ground park near Jetty Point, and the construction of a crucial sanitary complex.

Accompanied by BDC Chairperson Sushma Jamwal, ADC Basohli Ajeet Singh, Tehsildar Sagar Anand, Sarpanch Poli Devi, and a multitude of enthusiastic local residents, Col Mahan Singh celebrated the realization of this much-anticipated tourism development initiative. The implementation of the project falls under the purview of PWD (R&B) Division Basohli.

Expressing his grati-



tude, DDC Chairman acknowledged the unwavering support of the Narinder Modi Government and the proactive efforts of the Manoj Sinha Administration in boosting the tourism sector in the hilly region of Kathua District.

Following the inauguration, Col Mahan Singh also kickstarted the

Basohli Cricket League Tournament, Late Ravi Soni Memorial Cup 2024, where he distributed trophies to players and honored distinguished personalities in attendance.

This project marks a significant addition to the scenic beauty of Purthu and is poised to elevate its status as a prime tourist destination.

Ex-CPFWA deputation meets DPAP chairman Azad, presents memorandum of demands

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

A deputation of Ex Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association (CPFWA) Jammu and Kashmir UT under the chairmanship of Harvinder Mahajan, Chief Advisor of Ex. CPMF, on Sunday called on Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman and former Chief Minister of J&K, Ghulam Nabi Azad in Jammu.

Interacting with Azad, Harvinder Mahajan apprised him of the long pending issues of the Association. He also presented a memorandum to Ghulam Nabi Azad regarding various problems faced by the Ex Central Paramilitary Force employees.



He said our demands are medical facilities must be enhanced from Rs. 1000 to Rs 5000, One Rank-One Pension similar to Defense Forces, CSD Canteen facilities instead of Central Police Canteen (CIC) at State / District level, Paramilitary Service Pay (PMSP) to Serving CPMF Personnel similar to MSP (Pension-

able), 7th Pay Commission recommendation from 2.57 to 3.68, issuance of Pending 18th Months DA arrears, regularization of Old Pension from 2004 onwards and extension all past retirement benefits on declaration of EX-CAPF status similar to Defense force Ex-serviceman/widows and dependents. While addressing the

deputation, Azad assured them that all their issues will be taken up at an appropriate level for the resolution. However, Azad said that once his party comes to power, no one will have any grievances since he is fully aware if public issues.

Other present in the deputation include Ashok Kumar Verma Chairman (CRPF), S.K Sharma President (CPMF), Harbans Lal Sharma Vice-President (CPMF), D.K Chauhan General Secretary (CPMF), Charan Singh Chaal President (GSP), Noor Mummad General Secretray Dist Samba, Harvinder Kour, Gulam Nabi Shah Member (CPMF), Sajawal Shah President and Kiran Singh Chairman.

Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu organises Christmas fest with great enthusiasm and joy

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Christmas magic is silent. We don't hear it, we feel it, we know it, we believe it.

Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate love of God and to create memories that last forever. Honouring the birth of Lord Jesus, the Christmas Fest was celebrated with great exuberance by the students of Pry(3 to 5) wing of Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu. A special event showcasing nativity was put up by the students of grade 3rd and 4th.

The grand event commenced with a warm and gracious welcome extended to our special guests, participants, and parents. Rev.Father Paul S.Rajan(Vicar General) was the chief guest.

Ranju Malhotra (Principal DBN Amarvilla School and secretary media and Info Jammu school's Sahodaya Complex) and Ashu Peter Mattoo (President All J&K Christian Sabha) were the guests of honour to grace the occasion.

As our commitment to environment sustainability, Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu presented the saplings to the guests.

A welcome address was presented by Varuna Mangotra (superintendent of Curriculum and instruc-



amazing. A heartfelt vote of thanks was presented by Ms. Pooja Wazir (Assistant coordinator) expressing gratitude to esteemed guests, Rohini Aima (Principal cum Vice-Chairperson), Sonakshi Anand(Director Operations JSS, Jammu), Harleen Anand(Director

Operations JSS, Kathua), Avneet Kour Budhraj(Vice-Principal) and Prabhjot Kaur Bhalla (Head mistress) for their valuable presence. Special thanks was extended to esteemed parents for their valuable time and cooperation in making the program a success. The celebration concluded with the cake cutting ceremony by our esteemed guests along with our students dressed as Santas and fairies.

The welcome song was presented by the students of class 4th. The grand event commenced with a warm and gracious welcome extended to our special guests, participants, and parents. Rev.Father Paul S.Rajan(Vicar General) was the chief guest.

The prize distribution ceremony added to the jubilation, as the deserving students were honoured for their outstanding performance in different categories and all-rounders also.

The dazzling Santa Dance added to the joy and excitement.

Every child is special! May the innocence they hold in their pure heart stay forever inside them and bring the best results. It was amazing to see the stars of the school, special students. The grand finale performance by students and teachers was really

respect for all religions. He explained that Christmas means loving, sharing and giving. Ashu Peter Mattoo (President All J&K Christian Sabha) shared the story of Christmas tree. The prize distribution ceremony added to the jubilation, as the deserving students were honoured for their outstanding performance in different categories and all-rounders also.

The boundless joy of celebrating the festival was visible on faces of all the children. It was a joyous and amusing program for everyone. The whole campus was adorned with Christmas decorations - the Christmas tree, Santas and the folk dressed in red added to the merry spirit of Christmas.

Renowned Youth Icon Sahaj Sabharwal Honored at The Great Indian Youth Festival

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

The Great Indian Youth Festival, organized by the GFEIS Foundation, witnessed a spectacular showcase of talent on the 23rd and 24th of December 2023 at the Dhyan Chand National Stadium, opposite India Gate, New Delhi. The event, aimed at discovering and celebrating the diverse talents of India's youth, featured an array of activities including a Fashion Show, Music & Dance performances, Junior Masterchef, STEM & Robotics demonstra-



tional. His presence added immense value to the event, inspiring the youth to pursue their passions and talents.

Reflecting on the experience, Sahaj Sabharwal expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be part of such a grand celebration of youth talent. "The Great Indian Youth Festival provides a platform for the young generation to showcase their skills and creativity. It was a pleasure to be among such talented individuals, and I am truly honored to have received this recognition," said Sahaj Sabharwal.

tions, Art & Craft exhibitions, and a festive Xmas Carnival.

One of the highlights of the festival was the presence of Sahaj Sabharwal, a multifaceted personality known for his roles as a Singer, Rapper, Motivational Speaker, and Author. Sahaj Sabharwal, who served as an advisory

board member, captivated the audience with a mesmerizing concert where he performed rap songs and delivered a motivational session for young minds.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions, Sahaj Sabharwal was honored and felicitated with a prestigious trophy and memento during the fes-

Govt should take strict action against terrorists: Bharat

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Senior Kisan Congress leader Bharat Priye has said that the attack on the army convoy in Poonch district and the target killing of retired SSP in Baramulla have made it clear that the government needs to make more efforts to eliminate terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the government is making claims that everything is normal in Jammu and Kashmir and the back of terrorism has been broken, whereas the reality is that terrorism has not ended in Jammu and Kashmir yet. In the past terrorists have targeted security forces and also killed civilians in Rajouri and Poonch districts. Due to this, the people living there are living under the shadow of fear. Many soldiers have been martyred in terrorist attacks in both these districts. The government should identify the people involved in spreading terrorism here and take strict action against those who provide shelter to them. The government needs to work seriously on the routes through which terrorists are entering Rajouri and Poonch districts, who is providing them help and from where they are getting modern weapons. Here terrorists target military vehicles and then disappear. This is not possible without local network. The government should bring the terrorists and their safe havens to justice.

Kisan Diwas Celebrations: Jai Shiromani Baba Kaliveer Ji Trust organises Langer Sewa, emphasizing brotherhood and unity"

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

On the occasion of Kisan Diwas Jai Shiromani Baba Kaliveer Ji Trust members Organized Langer Sewa (Bhandara). Additional Deputy Commissioner (LO) Jammu Smt. Anusuya Jamwal, Superintendent of Super Speciality hospital Sh. Manoj Chalotra , SDPO Sh. Vikram Singh Bhau Distributing Prasad to the devotees. The reaction of the devotees too was quite impressive . Trust had organize such bhandara on each possible entry and



exit roads that the devotees were using in all the directions. While Addressing media persons Shakti uppal Chairman of Trust said that our trust start langer sewa on the day of kisan diwas this type of function also helps brotherhood, prosperity, integri-

ty and unity of our society. On the Occasion Shiv Uppal president, Rohit Kumar Gen. Secretary , Senior Member of Trust Anil Dhar, Ravi Bharti, Sumit uppal, Anil Gupta, Karan Singh Manhas, Jai Bhardwaj, Bunty Singh, akash etc were also present.

J&K's Ace Sport Climber Shivani Charak Clinches Silver in Bouldering at 27th IMF Sport Climbing Championship

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Shivani Charak, an ace sport climber of J&K, added another medal to her kitty by winning a Silver medal in Bouldering in women's category on the second day of the 27th IMF Sport Climbing Championship being organized by General Thimmayya National Academy of Adventure at Yavanika, Bengaluru. Sivani had bagged a Silver medal in Lead climbing on the first day of the competition. Though Shivani had secured only the third place in the semi final but she came back very strongly in the final round. In fact, in the final round




Sheikh, another international climber from Maharashtra, secured the third place

In speed competition also Shivani has entered the semi final in the Women's category which shall be played in the evening.

Much was expected of Kafeel Ul Haq and Ankit Singh in the Sub Junior Boys category who were participating in their maiden National Competition. But because of inexperience and in the face of stiff competition among the national and international climbers they could not perform to their full potential. However, it was a good exposure and learning experience for the budding climbers.

both Shivani and Anisha topped three boulders and all the four bonus points and the result had to be determined on the basis of attempts made to achieve the result. . Accordingly, Anisha Verma who had made less attempts was declared the winner and Shivani Charak had to be content with the Second place. Saniya Farooque



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD
(R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST
E-MAIL: eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 42 of 2023-2024/Jammu East Dated 22-12-2023

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of retaining wall in place of damaged / worn-out walls on the Circular road from Panjthirithi to DC Office Jammu (Construction of retaining wall at Circular road near house of Sh. Ananad, Jammu)	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	10.83	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Month	(1300 Hrs) on or after 28-11-2023	A, B, C & D

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-12-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-12-2023 to 27-12-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	22-12-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	27-12-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-12-2023 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt**, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of **CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East**. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No :-
Dated :-

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Jammu East

DIP/J-13032/23
Date: 24-12-23

CISC Lt Gen JP Mathew flags off JSW-NDA Car Rally at National War Memorial marking 75 glorious years of NDA

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

The Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Lt Gen JP Mathew flagged off the JSW-NDA Car Rally from National War Memorial in New Delhi on Dec 24, 2023, as part of the celebrations marking the 75 glorious years of the National Defence Academy.

This rally, initiated as a heartfelt tribute to Operation 'Badli', traces its roots to 1954 under the stewardship of Maj Gen Enayat Habibullah. Beginning its journey from Dehradun, the rally will navigate



through significant armed forces stations such as Gwalior, MHOW, Nashik, Mumbai, culminating its 1800 km odyssey at the National Defence Academy in Pune within six days.

Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Vice Chief of Navy

Staff Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, the officiating Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich, Commandant NDA Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, and other senior officers from the three Armed Forces were present on the occasion.

Mahindra Auto's sup-

port for the rally was recognized in facilitating vehicle replacements from Mumbai. Furthermore, HQ IDS and INS India received acknowledgment for their crucial administrative and logistical support.

As the rally embarks on its challenging journey, it stands as a testament to the valour, bravery, and sacrifices that define the NDA's legacy. The event concluded with heartfelt gratitude extended to the senior officers present, Mahindra Auto, organizers, participants, and all contributors, echoing a collective call for sustained dedication to excellence, integrity, and nation-building.

Vishesh Gurmat Samagam to pay the tributes & homage to the martyrdom of Four Sahibzadas

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Under the aegis of sikh coordination Committee Jammu-Kashmir, a Press Conference is held today at Jammu under the Chairmanship of S. Ajit Singh ji Chairman Sikh Coordination Committee Jammu-Kashmir & Chairman All J&K Transport Welfare Association, attended by all the members of the Committee.

Addressing the Media persons, S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, briefed about the celebration of the Vishesh Gurmat Samagam being held at Bhagwati Nagar Chowk Jammu on December 26, 2023, to pay the tributes & homage to the martyrdom of Four Sahibzadas (Four Sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji) who had sacrificed their lives for the whole of the mankind. The elder two sons Baba Ajit Singh Ji & Baba Jujhar Singh Ji attained martyrdom while fighting with the Mughal forces in the battlefield at Chamkour Sahib. The younger two sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji & Baba Fateh Singh Ji, who were of the meagre age of Seven and Nine years respectively, were martyred by



the Subedar Wazir Khan of Sarhind by walling up them alive in the bricks and then sacrilege them. Both of the SAHIBZADAS preferred death to the religion conversion as the Subedar Wazir Khan of Sarhind tried every trick to pressurize them, firstly luring them of everything to lead the luxurious life and then torturing them mercilessly for three days, but they outrightly declined any luxurious offer & didn't succumb to the pressure exhorted on them to convert their religion to Islam. Sahibzada BABA Zorawar Singh ji & BABA Fateh Singh ji set an example of unparalleled & unmatched courage and Supreme Sacrifices in the world history and became the youngest martyrs of the world.

Then in order to take revenge of the cruelty of Subedar Wazir Khan of

Sarhind and to teach him a lesson, Baba Gurbaksh Singh Ji (Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji), who was a native of Rajouri (J&K) and baptized by Guru Gobind Singh ji, conquered Sarhind in 1710 A.D. and established the First Sikh Empire by defeating & uprooting the Mughal empire. He was the First Sikh Ruler who framed the laws of justice and became the first Ruler in History who introduced the law of Land to Tiller.

The Govt of India celebrates this day as the Veer Bal Diwas on 26th. In December every year.

To commemorate this day, Sikh Coordination Committee Jammu-Kashmir is going to hold a Vishesh Gurmat Samagam on December 26, 2023, at Bhagwati Nagar Chowk Jammu, under the patronage of Shriman Mahant Manjit Singh ji

Chief of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib ji in which Manoj Sinha Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT is going to participate along with the senior Officers of J&K UT administration.

The Statue of Baba Gurbaksh Singh Ji (Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji) shall be unveiled and dedicated to the whole of the general masses of J&K UT by Sh. Manoj Sinha ji HON'BLE Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT on the occasion of December 26, 2023.

S. Ajit Singh ji Chairman appealed to the general masses of J&K UT from all walks of life irrespective of the caste, creed, colour & religion to come enmass to participate in this Historical day as it will be marked as an unforgettable event in the history of J&K UT and shall strengthen the secular fabric for the betterment & welfare of whole of the mankind in the world.

Others who were the part of this Press Conference included S. Ajit Singh, Balwinder Singh DGPC Jammu, Avtar Singh Khalsa, Gurjit Singh Kingi Srinagar, Kulwant Singh Pulwama, Bikramdeep Singh Advocate, Surinder Singh Channi, Avtar Singh DGPC Jammu, Surat Singh Toofani.

Chaar Sahibzade gold cup masters hockey tournament commenced at KK Hakku Stadium



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

To commemorate the martyrdom of Chaar Sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Hockey Association under the Chairmanship Mahant Rajesh Bittu organised men and women masters hockey tournament in which 3 women and 3 men hockey teams from different states are participating. Today BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta along with VHP working president Rajesh Gupta and Jasvin-

der Singh Kuku presided over the match which was played between Punjab and Delhi Punjab won the match 5/2

Speaking on the occasion Vibodh Gupta said that December 26 is marked as 'Veer Baal Diwas' as a tribute to the courage of Sahibzades (Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj's sons) and their quest for justice. He further said that our nation is indebted to the valour of Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj and his four sons who preferred to attain martyrdom instead of deviating from the noble principles of Dharma. There

is no parallel to such martyrdom in the annals of human history, he added.

VHP Working President Rajesh Gupta also remembered the martyrdom of the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj. While recalling the sacrifice of the sahibzades, he mentioned that they gave their lives to protect Dharma and the nation against tyrants and invaders. The supreme sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj's entire family for the country and nation is unparalleled in the history of the world, he added.

Four matches will be played tomorrow, Ist

match will be played between Punjab A (women) and Punjab B at 10.30am, in second match Himachal will face Punjab A, 3rd match will be played between Himachal Men Eleven and Delhi Veterans and last match of the day will be played between Himachal women and Punjab at

Other Present Sr Vice President S. Rajinder Singh Sudan, Vice President S. Janak Singh, Treasurer S. Iqbal Singh, Res Sec S. Angat Singh and tournament Director Manjit Singh Reen, Abdul husan dist morch BJP Jammu.

Surjit kick-start development work at Flora Panchayat



JI NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, DEC 24

Surjit Chaudhary, Conve- nor of BJP's Panchayati Raj Cell, J&K, along with Sarpanch of Flora Panchayat initiated the construction of roads in the village of Flora on Sunday.

On the occasion, Naib Sarpanch Ashok Kumar, Panch Chaudhary Sohan Lal along with other representatives of the Panchayat and prominent people of the area were present. During this event, Sarpanch Surjit Chaudhary mentioned that demands from Panchayat representatives and the local people had been made for the construction of proper roads in the village and the laying of tar. Responding to these demands, he has now initiated this important work today, which will not only benefit the residents of the village but

also other passersby.

He stated that the Modi government at the Centre has been consistently providing funds for the development of panchayats, resulting in rapid development work being carried out at the Panchayat level, offering better basic amenities to the people.

Assuring the people of the Panchayat, he mentioned that development work in the panchayat would continue in the coming days, and better basic facilities would be provided to the residents.

He also highlighted that during the tenure of the Modi government at the center, the work of constructing roads in border areas is progressing rapidly. Other panchayat representatives and local residents were present at the event, all of whom expressed their gratitude to the Sarpanch.

Training on Entrepreneurship development through Hi-Tech Mushroom Cultivation and Spawn Production



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Under the aegis of NAHEP-IDP, SKUAST-J, a week long vocational training programme on Entrepreneurship development through Hi-Tech Mushroom Cultivation and Spawn Production was held for the students of SKUAST-Jammu. The main objective of training programme was to motivate and impart skill training to students in the field of mushroom cultivation and spawn production. The students were given hands on training on various aspects including substrate preparation, spawning, care of crop, harvesting and value addition of mushrooms. Besides mushroom cultivation, the participants also learned about quality spawn production. Experts from ICAR-IIHR Bengaluru, CSKHPKV Palampur, SKUAST-K, SKUAST-J and University of Jammu

delivered lectures and conducted practical sessions for the participants. The training programme was conducted under the supervision of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma, PI and Coordinator, NAHEP-IDP and Dr. Amrisha Vaid, Prof. & Head, Div. of Plant Pathology. Dr. Sachin Gupta Professor, Division of Plant Pathology was the course coordinator for the training programme. The participants showed keen interest in learning the skills associated with mushroom cultivation and spawn production as these could become a source of potent employment generation for them. The organizers hoped that the participants will take up mushroom cultivation and spawn production as an enterprise and shall become future job providers rather than job seekers as envisaged in the New Education Policy.

Healthcare Outreach: Bhagawan Gopinathji Ashram Hosts Successful Free Medical Camp in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Free Medical Camp organised at Bhagawan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu on December 24, 2023, under the Supervision of coordinator Sh. Tej Krishen Raina

Dr. Najmus Saqib, Interventional Cardiologist, Conducts Medical Check-up for Around 50 Ailing People; Free ECG and Sugar Tests, Along with Medicines, Provided on Spot. Dr. M.K. Saproo Plays Active Role in Organizing the Camp in Line with Bhagawanji's Message of 'Service to Man is Service to God.'

Shri Ram School Jammu organises W20 summit



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Taking a leaf from the initiatives made by the present government for the betterment of the women folk, the school organised W20 summit - a leading global platform advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment. The women of unconventional grit representing different cross sections of the society shared the dais along with the eminent panelists from different fields. The guests included Ms Shilpa Dubey (DDC Member Vijaypur), Ms Swati Basotra (Motivational Speaker) Ms Sunaina Mehta Sharma (Joint Director Tourism) Ms Mamta Singh (President Nari Shakti) Ms Sandeepa Sambyal (Advocate High Court) Ms Sanjita Dogra (President Mahila Morcha) Ms Juhi Mohan (RJ) and Ms Rajni Gupta (Director, TSUSJ) as specialist panelists and Ms Isha Mahajan, Ms Jyoti Mahajan, Ms Archana Dubey, Ms Shivani Raina, Ms Tejinder Kour, Ms Pallavi Sambyal, Ms Balvir Kour and Ms Neemisha Rajput shared their transformational stories.

The event commenced with traditional lamp lighting followed by a formal welcome note by Col VK Sharma (Retd), Principal of the school.

Addressing the audience, he emphasized that the aim of the summit was to foster dialogue and collaboration on critical topics such as economic empowerment, healthcare, education, leadership, etc and explore innovative solutions to challenges faced by women striving for inclusive growth and equality.

Living up to the promises and policies of the school and promoting 'Go Green Drive', Mr Sanjeev Gupta, Chairman and Mrs Rajni Gupta, Director presented all guests a potted plant.

Sunaina Mehta Sharma, Joint Director Tourism appreciated and acknowledged the efforts of the school in taking the initiative to organize such an event in the school. She further stressed that 'Empowering Women for a Sustainable Future' at such a crucial juncture is the call of the day and every effort must be put in to promote gender equality and acknowledge the contribution of women in societal and economic progress of our country.

In her closing remarks, Ms Shivani Vaid Sharma, Headmistress of the school expressed her gratitude to all the guests for their words of wisdom. The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu organizes panel discussion under Vikshit Bharat@2047



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 22

The Government of India envisions Viksit Bharat @2047 marking 100 years of India's independence, as a developed nation. As a part of different programmes being organized under Vikshit Bharat@2047 (Voice of Youth) campaign a panel discussion on "Innovation Science and Technology" was organized by the Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu. In this discussion, eight students presented their views and others participated in the panel discussion. Earlier, Prof. S.E.H. Rizvi, Dean Faculty of Basic Sciences apprised the students and faculty members about the Vikshit Bharat@2047 initiative of the Govt. of India called upon the students for their active participation in panel discussion.

Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Head, Division of Biochemistry dwelled upon

the theme "Innovation Science and Technology" and moderated the panel discussion. There was active participation from students and faculty members in a panel discussion and students presented their views and ideas about making India a developed nation in 2047. The panel discussion ended with the distribution of certificates of participation to students. In addition, certificates of award were also given to the winners of the essay competition held on "Empowered Indians" under Viksitbharat@2047 (Voice of Youth). Prof. Manish K. Sharma, Head Division of Statistics and Computer Science and Prof. Gurdev Chand, Head Division of Plant Physiology were also present on the occasion. Dr. Bhav Kumar Sinha conducted the proceedings of the programme and Dr. Brajeshwar Singh presented the vote of thanks.

Lt Governor attends Vedic Mahotsav organised by Arya Samaj Ghazipur

JNEWS SERVICE
GHAZIPUR, DECEMBER 24

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the Vedic Mahotsav organized by Arya Samaj Ghazipur today. The Vedic Mahotsav was organized to commemorate 200th Birth Anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, the renowned philosopher, social reformer and leader who played a significant role in India's freedom movement and shaped the young minds.

The Lt Governor paid tributes to Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati. He said, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati revived the great knowledge traditions of Vedas, tirelessly worked to eradicate social evils,



stereotypes and promoted women empowerment.

Addressing a public gathering, the Lt Governor observed that Arya Samaj, established by Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati has

ensured that wisdom and values of great civilization of India enriches the society.

Appreciating the students and Acharayas for organising the Vedic

Mahotsav, the Lt Governor said it is matter of great pride that today our society, inspired by the glorious past and rich culture is scripting a new saga of development.

The Lt Governor said, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati united the people and awakened its collective consciousness.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, as the pioneer of Swarajya, pledged to free the society from slave mentality. He gave the slogan of moving back to the Vedas and worked to restore the glory of Indian culture. Hon'ble PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji is realizing the dreams of Maharishi Dayanand and building a prosperous and developed India, he added.

Sh Santlal Arya, Sh Harinath, Dr. Satyabhan Shastri, office bearers of Arya Samaj Ghazipur, Acharayas, students and large number of people were present.

Uplifting Spirits, DGP R.R Swain Sends Heartfelt Christmas Wishes for Peace and Prosperity to J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

"Amidst the radiant festive aura, DGP Shri R.R Swain extends heartfelt Christmas greetings to the vibrant people of Jammu and Kashmir, our resilient Police/Security personnel, and the esteemed families of our martyrs.

This special season calls for the joyous celebration of peace and prosperity. Let us whole-



heartedly embrace the core essence of Christmas—cultivating a spirit of

goodwill, kindness, unity, and extending a compassionate helping hand to those in need within our community.

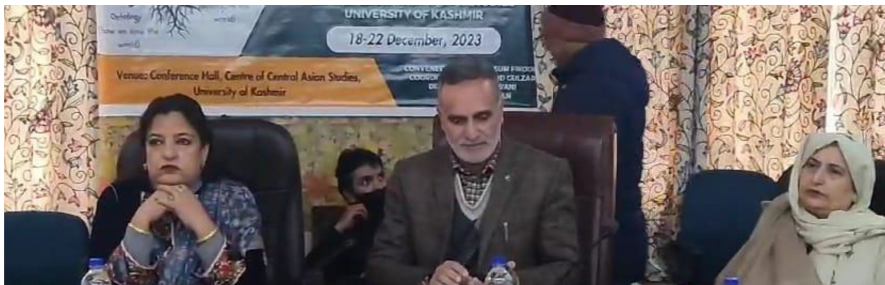
As we gather to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, let the virtues of love and forgiveness radiate, guiding us towards a year filled with harmony and abundance. Wishing bountiful blessings of peace and prosperity to the resilient and spirited people of J&K!"

Research methodology empowers meaningful contribution to respective fields: Experts

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

The Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), Kashmir University (KU) Friday concluded a comprehensive weeklong research methodology workshop in Social Sciences here. Students, scholars and experts representing diverse academic disciplines participated in the workshop.

Highlighting the significance of research methodology, Dean Research, KU, Prof Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo, underscored its pivotal role in fostering academic growth and



innovation.

"Research methodology forms the bedrock of scholarly pursuits, empowering individuals to navigate and contribute meaningfully to their respective fields," Prof Nawchoo said.

Director and workshop convener, Prof Tabasum Firdous, emphasised the

critical importance of research methodology in shaping the academic landscape. "Understanding research methodology is imperative for conducting robust, insightful research that contributes to the broader knowledge domain," Prof Firdous said. The weeklong

sessions encompassed a spectrum of topics, spanning from fundamental concepts to the pragmatic application of research methods.

The interactions among participants and faculty members showcased the workshop's widespread resonance and its role

in enhancing research acumen. The workshop culminated with a comprehensive review of the week's activities.

Acknowledging their commendable engagement and achievements throughout the workshop, the participants were presented with certificates.

Workshop Coordinator, Dr Abid Gulzar thanked both the experts and students for their commitment and fervor in making the workshop a fruitful experience.

Faculty at CCAS, KU, Dr Aejez Ahmad Wani, conducted the proceedings of the workshop.

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with a delegation of students of Jammu & Kashmir at his residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg earlier today. About 250 students hailing from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir participated in the freewheeling and informal interaction.

These students are visiting Jaipur, Ajmer and New Delhi under 'Watan Ko Jano - Youth Exchange Programme 2023' of Government of India. In the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, the visit is aimed at showcasing the cultural and social diversity of the country to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, Prime Minister asked the students about their travel

experience and the iconic places they visited. Prime Minister discussed the rich sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir and enquired the students about their participation in sports like cricket, Football etc.

Prime Minister gave the example of Sheetal Devi, the young archer from Jammu and Kashmir, who won three medals at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou. Prime Minister also appreciated the talent of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and added that they have potential to excel in any field.

Prime Minister advised the students to work and contribute towards the development of the country and help realise the dream of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Talking about the construction of the world's

highest railway bridge in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister said that it will improve connectivity in the region.

Prime Minister discussed the success of Chandrayaan-3 and the Aditya-L1 mission, adding that these scientific achievements have made every Indian proud.

Talking about the record number of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir this year, Prime Minister said that there is immense opportunity in the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister also talked about the benefits of Yoga and exhorted the students to practise it daily. He also discussed the successful organisation of the G20 summit in Kashmir and the efforts for making the country swachh.

9.74 grams of heroin recovered by Police station Miran Sahib Jammu. Two peddlers arrested

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Jammu Police achieved major success by recovering 9.74 grams of heroin from two accused persons in the area under the jurisdiction of PS Miran Sahib. A police team of PS Miran Sahib led by SHO PS Miran Sahib while on patrolling duty at Marallian Miran Sahib rounded up two suspects. On search, 9.74 grams of heroin, cash Rs 1970/-, a gas lighter, Aluminium foil, apart from a purse was recovered from their possession. In this regard a case FIR No. 172/2023 U/S 8/21/22/29/62 of NDPS Act got registered in PS Miran Sahib and accused were arrested. The accused arrested were later identified as :- Razia Begum W/o Altaf Husain and Khalida Begum W/o Mohammad Sadiq both residing at present in Marallian. Further investigation of the case is going on. Jammu police is working intensively to uproot the chains of drug supply in the region and thorough questioning of the accused is going on to know the origin of the drugs supply chain. Jammu Police is striving hard and taking every possible step to make people especially youth aware to eradicate drug menace. We request people of the area to come forward and share information about drug peddling or consumption on 9086100100 or 100 with Police for the cause. Your identity will be kept confidential.

05 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized by Jammu Police.

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

In a quest to stem the menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police teams of PS Miran Sahib, PP Pounichak and PP Sidhra acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at a location in their respective area and seized 05 vehicles involved in illegal mining. Details of the vehicle seized are as under One tractor trolley bearing Chasis No. MBN-GAALLU2PPD02315, by PS Miran Sahib 03 tractor trollies Le 02 tractor trollies bearing Chasis number MBNGAALDB-PRL04945 and Chasis No.IVY5050DAMA041211 and one tractor trolley without Registration No, by Pounichak One Tractor trolley bearing chasis no.MBNAK49AHPGTG09293 by PP Sidhra. The recoveries were made by SHO PS Miran Sahib, I/C PP Pounichak and I/C PP Sidhra in their respective jurisdiction. DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same. The mining was done in violation of order of Hon'ble High Court of J&K. In order to strictly implement the drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators of the law Jammu Police has initiated strict action.

NSS SMVDU organized walkathon for Vikshit Bharat@2047

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24



NSS unit of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra organized a walkathon under the aegis of Vikshit Bharat@2047 with the motto "Swasth Bharat Vikshit Bharat".

The walkathon was flagged off by Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh and Registrar Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma. The walk was

organized in the University premises. More than 200 students and staff members participated in the walk enthusiastically and marched chanting slogan "Swasth Bharat Vikshit Bharat". The main objective behind the walk was to involve staff and students in healthy lifestyle that will pave the way for Vikshit Bharat@2047. Refreshments were also served

to all participants after the event. Dr. B.K. Bhatia, Training & Placement Officer, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep, NSS coordinators organized the event with the support of NSS volunteers and higher authorities. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the initiative of NSS team and congratulated them for successfully organizing the event.

PM to release 'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya' on 25 December

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

On the occasion of the 162nd birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will release first series of 11 volumes of 'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya', on 25th December, 2023 at around 4:30 PM in a programme organised at Vigyan Bhawan. Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion. In Amrit Kaal, it has been the Prime Minister's vision to bestow fitting recognition to freedom fighters who have contributed immensely to the service of the Nation. The

'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya' is an endeavour in this direction. The bilingual (English and Hindi) work in 11 volumes, spread across about 4,000 pages, is a collection of the writings and speeches of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, collected from every nook and corner of the country. These volumes comprise of his unpublished letters, articles and speeches, including memorandums; the editorial content of Hindi weekly 'Abhyudaya' started by him in 1907; articles, pamphlets and booklets written by him from time to time; all speeches given in the Legislative Council of the United Provinces of Agra

and Awadh between 1903 and 1910; statements given before the Royal Commission; speeches given during the presentation of bills in the Imperial Legislative Council between 1910 and 1920; letters, articles and speeches written before and after the establishment of Banaras Hindu University; and a diary written by him between 1923 and 1925.

The work of researching and compiling the documents written and spoken by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was undertaken by the Mahamana Malaviya Mission, an institution devoted to propagating the ideals and values of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya.

National Consumer Helpline 2.0 with new techlogies will address consumer grievance in a better way: Piyush Goyal on National Consumer Day

PIB
NEW DELHI, DEC 24

The Department of Consumer Affairs celebrated the National Consumer Day 2023 today in New Delhi with focus on leveraging technology for consumer protection and grievance redressal. The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, in his inaugural address highlighted the fact that customer satisfaction is way towards development of the country. Affirming the stance articulated by the Honorable Prime Minister

during the B20 summit, which underscored the importance of consumer care in discussions about consumer rights, he emphasized that the progress of the country hinges on ensuring consumer satisfaction.

Applauding the new initiatives of the Department, he stated that the launch of the e-Jagriti portal, VC facility for NCDRC, drone testing in NTH, National Consumer Helpline 2.0 in 17 languages, and a 13-fold increase in calls exemplify the Indian government's efforts to build consumer trust. New Quality Control Orders (QCOs) reflect positively on the quality of

goods in the market.

In conjunction with the promotion of widespread technology adoption, the Consumer Affairs Minister emphasized that along with this technological expansion comes an increase in associated risks. The ongoing conversation regarding subjects such as AI and consumer protection, including the mitigation of dark patterns, highlights the imperative for a comprehensive stakeholder discussion. The Minister commended the recent release of the "Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023" by the Department of Consumer

Affairs. These guidelines, outlining 13 specific dark patterns, aim to prevent and regulate manipulative practices, fostering a fair and transparent marketplace for consumers.

Goyal also commended the endeavors of Honorable Justice Shri Amreshwar Pratap Sahi, the recently appointed President of the National Commission, for his substantial contributions in driving positive changes in case disposal. The Minister urged the Department of Consumer Affairs to collaboratively strategize with consumer commissions, leveraging technology to eliminate old pending

cases entirely and address new cases more swiftly and in real-time.

Speaking on the issues related to prices of essential goods, Shri Goyal emphasized that India, by implementing proactive measures and monetary and fiscal policies in collaboration with the Department of Consumer Affairs, successfully managed to keep food inflation in check. The Minister appreciated the department's proactive initiatives which includes establishment of 140 new Price Monitoring centres making it a total of 550 price monitoring centres that monitors and ana-

lyzes indicative price and thereby shield consumers from food inflation. He noted the department's intervention in making available of tomato and onion along with Bharat Dal and Bharat Atta in subsidized price to all consumers, saying that it demonstrates the present Government's commitment to protecting consumers from inflation.

For better consumer future, the Minister urged the Department to focus on making jagriti a jan andolan by spreading awareness, providing choices, efficient grievance redressal, and continuous feedback.