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MHA orders promotion of Anand Jain, Nitish Kumar

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 28

The Union Home Ministry has approved promotion of Anand Jain (IG Jammu) and Nitish Kumar (IG, CID) as additional director generals of police (ADGPs).

In an order, a copy of which is in possession of news agency, the Ministry of Home Affairs said that Anand Jain and Nitish Kumar, IPS officers of 1999 batch, are promoted as ADGPs from 01.01.2024 or from the date from which they will assume charge, whichever is later.

The MHA order comes after the screening committee cleared their promotion proposal on Dec 20. KNO

Lt Governor, Union Minister inaugurate 'Purple Festival'



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated J&K's first festival of Inclusion, Purple Fest, which aims to showcase hidden inside disabilities and celebrating resilience of Divyangjan.

The Purple Festival is also a call for action to the people and exhort the society to take proactive steps in creating a more inclusive environment. Union Minister has joined the function virtually. Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament was

also present.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that in many areas of life, be it music, films, sports, art, or literature, persons with disabilities have achieved success and greater goals and today they are inspiring the entire society. He said many such great personalities have proved that they have no less capability than anyone else but they have special abilities to contribute in nation building.

Around 5000 people are participating in this unique event which is of, by, and for Divyangjan. A fully accessible event, it is an effort to showcase the minds full of courage, strength and determina-

tion of persons with special abilities.

This Festival of Inclusion will be a milestone in the journey of empowerment of Divyangjan in J&K UT. It will inspire every citizen to work unitedly for empowerment and rehabilitation of Divyangjan and to build an inclusive society, he added.

The Lt Governor said, J&K Administration is committed to create an environment that provides equal opportunities and protects the rights of Divyangjan.

"We have achieved saturation in distribution of motorized scooters. The administration has taken over Abhinandan

PM to visit Ayodhya on Dec 30

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 28

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 30th December, 2023.

At around 11:15 AM, Prime Minister will inaugurate the redeveloped Ayodhya Railway Station and flag off new Amrit Bharat trains and Vande Bharat trains. He will also dedicate several other railway projects to the nation. At around 12:15 PM, Prime Minister will inaugurate the newly built Ayodhya Airport. At around 1 PM, Prime Minister will participate in a public programme where he will inaugurate, delicate to nation and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 15,700 crore in the state. These include projects worth about Rs 11,100 crore for development of Ayodhya and its surrounding areas and projects worth about Rs 4600 crore related to other projects across Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister's vision is

Year Ender: 2023 remained a year of agreements, challenges for J&K's power sector

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 28

As the fiscal year 2023 concludes, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have inked multiple Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) totalling 3250 Megawatts. However, despite this significant development, the Power Development Department (PDD) clings to its obsolete 40-year-old

infrastructure.

Throughout 2023, the news agency comprehensively covered various facets of the power sector, highlighting the department's progress, loopholes within the JKPDD and the diverse ongoing concerns and issues faced by both citizens and the department.

Speaking with KNO, Principal Secretary, PDD,

H Rajesh Prasad said, "In 2023, we finalised Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for 3250 Megawatts under NHPC, NTPC and Solar Electric Power Corporation, including 1600 MW of solar energy, surpassing the cumulative achievements of the past 70 years."

This agreement is in addition to the

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AC amends J&K Panchayati Raj Act to incorporate reservation for OBCs

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved carrying out amendments of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to incorporate definition of OBCs in the Act for ensuring their reservation in this grassroots democratic institution.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Manddeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

Earlier the draft J&K Panchayati Raj Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 was submitted to MHA, GoI and observations raised by MHA were examined and necessary amendments have

been incorporated in the revised draft J&K Panchayati Raj Act (Amendment) Bill.

The Amendment bill proposes incorporation of definition of OBCs for providing reservation for the Other Backward Classes, explaining method of disqualification from membership of Halqa Panchayat, suspension and removal of Sarpanch, Naib-Sarpanch and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Anish Dayal Singh appointed CRPF chief, Nina Singh to head CISF

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 28

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief Anish Dayal Singh was appointed as the Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Thursday, a Personnel Ministry order said.

Singh, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Manipur cadre, was holding the additional

charge of the CRPF following the retirement of incumbent S L Thaoson on November 30.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Singh's appointment as DG, CRPF up to December 31, 2024, i.e. the date of his superannuation, it said.

Rahul Rasgotra, at present a special director in the Intelligence

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Dry spell reason behind dense fog in Kashmir: Experts

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 28

The dense fog continued to envelop Kashmir for the fourth straight day while the weatherman here has stated that the smoggy mornings is the outcome of persistent dry spell in the Valley.

The dense fog persisted in Kashmir parts, resulting in severe hard-

ships to the commuters across the region.

Talking to the news agency, Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the ongoing dry spell in the valley, especially less rainfall in the past few months, has caused foggy weather conditions in Kashmir.

"It is always being witnessed in winters when-

ever the less precipitation is recorded," he said, adding that the dry spell, pollution as well as the dust in the air, are among the main reasons behind the smoggy mornings.

Independent weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng also spoke KNO in this regard and said, "a weak Western Disturbance around Christmas might not have brought

significant precipitation with it, however, it likely did carry higher than usual moisture content in the form of water vapor. This additional moisture could have condensed into tiny water droplets close to the ground, creating fog."

Normally, he said, wind helps to disperse fog by mixing and

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J&K parties to file review petition against SC verdict on Article 370

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 28

The Awami National Conference (ANC) and CPI(M) leaders on Thursday said that they are mulling to file a review plea in the Supreme Court against its

Judgement on Article 370. The ANC, which was one of the petitioners who had challenged the abrogation of Article 370, said the Supreme Court judgement on December 11 was "full of flaws" as per the legal and constitutional experts.

"The laws and constitution of India have permitted me that if I don't agree with a judgment there are other doors open. Whether it will be a review petition or an appeal or some other route, we will discuss that," ANC's senior vice-president Muzaffar Shah told a press conference here.

Shah said they will prepare a petition and it may

take one week or more and legal teams of all the 23 petitioners who had challenged Article 370 in the Apex Court would be consulted and they will jointly decide the next step.

On December 11, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah said after the SC verdict, Article 370 has not died.

"The legal battle has just started. Article 370 has not died. You have given a judgment and we understand that it is constitutionally flawed. We hope that Article 370 will be restored," he said.

The ANC senior vice president said the issue would also be discussed at the next meeting

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG inaugurates temporary CRC for skill development of Divyangjan at Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the temporary Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for skill development, rehabilitation and empowerment of Divyangjan at Jammu.

The facility will cater to rehabilitation services for different categories of Divyangjan besides skill

development training for their empowerment.

The Lt Governor said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has brought significant change in attitude of society towards Divyangjan and paved the way for their empowerment for quality and independent living.

He said, the Prime Minister has changed the thinking of the society



towards the Divyangjan who were earlier used to be considered as dependent but now they are full of self-confidence, empowered and scripting new success in their life's journey.

Jammu Kashmir Administration is committed to empowerment of Divyangjan. Several steps have been taken in J&K

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Year Ender: J&K's education system grappled with progress & pitfalls in 2023

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 28

In fiscal 2023, the school and higher education departments in Jammu and Kashmir underwent a comprehensive evaluation, revealing both positive strides and critical challenges.

While the School and Higher Education Department logged over 220 academic days, several educational institutes, both at lower and higher levels, grappled with infrastructural shortcomings.

Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar informed the news agency that more than 220 academic days were recorded in the 2023 academic calen-

dar. "Except for scheduled summer and winter vacations, no educational institute was closed," he said, adding that winter vacations were communicated in advance.

Highlighting adherence to academic standards, Kumar said, "We surpassed the mandated number of academic days outlined by NCERT and other authorities, which shows our commitment to uninterrupted education. Even in higher education departments, we refrained from unnecessary closures."

Acknowledging the significance of NEP-2020, the Principal Secretary HED said the department took significant steps in alignment with the

National Education Policy 2020.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND LOOPHOLES

60% colleges lack NAAC accreditation

In 2023, nearly 60% of Jammu and Kashmir colleges lacked NAAC accreditation, raising questions about the adequacy of curriculum coverage and teaching-learning processes. Out of 147 colleges, only 59 secured NAAC accreditation.

University rankings and concerns

During the fiscal year, the University of Kashmir secured the 48th rank, and Jammu University secured the 66th rank

among the top 100 universities in the country, according to India Rankings 2021 (University), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Challenges in school education

Authorities in fiscal 2023 identified 'untrained' teachers, Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers and Regularised Rehbar-e-Taleem (RReTs) tutors as threats in the School Education Department. Monitoring the objectives of private educational institutes was also considered a potential threat. The issue was reported by KNO on November 04, 2023.

Infrastructural gaps in nearly 5000 remote schools

KNO reported that nearly 5000 government schools in remote and hilly terrains faced infrastructural gaps. The 'JK Vision document 2047' disclosed the existing challenges and highlighted the need for skilled human resources in teaching. As per the document, over 36,000 ReTs or RReTs lacked the desired level of qualification.

"A considerable chunk of human resources is not skilled in the art of teaching. Over 36000 ReTs or RReTs, not possessing the desired level of qualification, have been regularised," reveals the Planning and Monitoring Department in the proposed

vision.

Retention rates

Official figures revealed that retention rates at primary and elementary levels in Jammu and Kashmir were below the national average in 2023. The retention rate at the primary level up to grade V was 84%, and at the elementary level up to grade VII, it stood at 66%. However, there was a 7% increase in retention rates at the secondary level.

"The UT has to take initiatives for 100 percent retention of the children in the education system," the official document states.

61 pc govt schools without electricity

Until October 02, 2023, at least 61% of government-run

schools in Jammu and Kashmir lacked electricity, raising questions about the department's promises of infrastructural facilities. Additionally, 45% of private schools lacked electricity facilities.

The official figures revealed that out of the total number of government schools, at least 14,240 institutions were lacking electricity facilities, adding that only 39 percent of educational institutions that amount to 8933 government schools were availing the electricity facility.

Departmental exams for employee promotion

On September 27, 2023, the School Education

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Talat Parvez holds Public Darbar at Bandipora

J I NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 28

Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol, Talat Parvez Rohella, on Thursday presided over a public darbar cum grievance redressal camp here and reviewed progress on Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and implementation of beneficiary oriented schemes.

Chairman District Development Council Bandipora, Abdul Gani Bhat; Deputy Commissioner, Dr Owais Ahmad, DDC members, ADDC, ADC, ACR and other senior officers of all line departments besides representatives of various delegations were present on the occasion.

The DC briefed regarding the overall developmental scenario of the district.

While presenting status of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) in the district, the DC informed that during the ongoing VBSY all 151 panchayats besides

43 Urban Local Bodies have already been covered by the Information Education and Communication (IEC) Van comprising cent percent coverage of the district.

DC informed that over 1 lakh beneficiaries have already been covered and the yatra still continues across different areas of the district.

Secretary said that VBSY, launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is a proactive initiative to bridge the developmental gaps and ensure that every corner of the nation flourishes through various centrally sponsored welfare schemes.

The Public Darbar witnessed overwhelming response from all sections of the society where people apprised the secretary of issues being faced by them, seeking intervention in redressing the



same.

The DDC delegation, on the occasion, submitted a memorandum of demands concerning power supply, healthcare and education. Other demands put forth by the delegation included mobile connectivity at Chorwan and Krishay

villages of Gurez/Tulail, ATM at Aragam Chit-hibanday besides bringing some areas of Bandipora, Sumbal and Hajin on tourism map.

The BDC members also put forth the issues concerning their respective areas like road con-

nectivity, devising a robust mechanism for flood prone and affected areas near water bodies, land for landless families, filling of vacant posts, demands of blood bank in CHC Sumbal, early completion of College building in Hajin. Delegation of Sarpanchs also presented their issues and demands during the Public Darbar. Youth delegation led by Mehran Sofi and Yasir Peerzada demanded upgradation of Srinagar-Bandipora as National Highway, establishment of Women College besides a Medical College in the district. Talat Parvez, while interacting with line departments, called for adopting a time bound redressal mechanism in resolving the issues of public importance by making optimum utilization of available resources.

Secretary, while

addressing the gathering, said that their demands shall be brought into the notice of concerned departments and assured them of proper action and timely redressal of their grievances.

While emphasizing the crucial role of PRIs in development process, the Secretary said that they serve as ambassadors of development and other initiatives of the government.

The Secretary reiterated the commitment of the UT government for ensuring holistic development in villages, underscoring the administration's focus on infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other key sectors.

Earlier, the Secretary inspected various stalls installed by different departments. He also handed over authority and sanction letters to various beneficiaries pertaining to welfare and income generation schemes.

Commissioner Secretary attends Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, public darbar at Ramnagar

J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 28

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, today participated in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) program besides chairing a public darbar held at Town Hall, Ramnagar. DDC Chairman Udhampur, Lal Chand, SSP Joginder Singh, ADDC, Ghan Sham Singh, BDC Chairman Ramnagar, Des Raj, DDC member Ramnagar-1, Mool Raj, SDM Ramnagar, Shishir Gupta, Sarpanchs, Panchs and locals attended the event.

During the program, PRIs and the general public raised various issues and demands including pending payment of Capex budget, DPR of landslide area in Kaghote on Udhampur-Ramnagar road,

road repair from Roun Domail to Ramnagar and upgradation of educational institutions. Other demands included construction projects, vocational/ITI college for Ramnagar, and creation of posts for coaches and teachers.

Commissioner Secretary assured the public that their concerns would be promptly brought to the attention of relevant authorities for resolution. He emphasized the government's commitment towards implementing centrally sponsored schemes and flagship programs for benefit of society.

He asked the officers to coordinate efforts at the grassroots level, engage with the public, and organize awareness camps to maximize the benefits of various government schemes.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Van enlightens GDC Chatroo students about Govt Schemes

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 28

Government Degree College Chatroo was abuzz with activities as the institution proudly welcomed the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" under the guidance of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar and in the collaboration with Indian Army.

The event saw active participation of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar, faculty members, and enthusiastic students. The event started with lighting of the ceremonial Lamp by the Principal followed by the National Anthem.

The event also featured informative videos displayed on the LED screen of the Viksit Bharat Van, showcasing government policies aimed at transforming Bharat into a developed nation.



The "Viksit Bharat" initiative, aimed at transforming India by 2047, aligns with the vision of comprehensive growth across sectors, fostering inclusivity, and positioning India as a global leader.

The event witnessed a captivating extension lecture by Kalash Nath in which he discussed how Viksit Bharat can be achieved by 2047. In

another Extension lecture, Dr. Haqnawaz Ahmad, Political Science Lecturer shed light on the importance of Viksit Bharat and the pivotal role citizens play in achieving its ambitious goals by 2047.

Emphasizing India's path towards developed nation status, Dr. Haqnawaz highlighted key areas such as per capita income, education, infrastructure,

healthcare, and more, urging attendees to conscientiously contribute to the nation's advancement.

The initiative by Government Degree College Chatroo exemplifies the institution's dedication towards fostering social awareness and empowering its academic community beyond conventional academics.

Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar reiterated the significance of Viksit Bharat, underscoring its multidimensional approach encompassing policy reforms and progressive policies for economic growth and social development.

Expressing satisfaction over the event's turnout, Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar acknowledged the contribution of Dr. Haqnawaz in highlighting the importance of such awareness programs in nurturing responsible citizens.

DC Kupwara receives team of girl students from Cricket Capacity Building Tour in Pune

J I NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 28

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today organized a ceremony to receive a group of 16 students at DC Office Lawn, who returned from Cricket Capacity Building tour in Pune.

The ceremony was attended by Col Harpreet Singh, Commanding Officer 160 TA Inf Bn and Lt Colonel Charudatta Ranade of the same unit, besides various other district officers.

Organized by 160 TA Inf Bn in collaboration with ASEEM FOUNDATION Pune, under Op Sadbhavana, the tour aimed to provide players from diverse backgrounds with a platform to showcase their cricketing talents.

The tour which was flagged-off by Maj Gen Girish Kalia, GOC, 28 Inf



Div on 16th December from Hiri, immersed students in an intensive cricket training program, featuring coaching sessions from seasoned professionals, besides practice matches.

In an interactive session with DC, the participants expressing gratitude to the Indian Army and ASEEM FOUNDATION said that

they not only had a chance to refine their batting, bowling and fielding skills but also gained insights into strategic aspects of the game. The team played 3 friendly matches with Pune 11, besides visiting Alibaug, Marine Drive, Gateway of India and many other historic places in Pune and Mumbai.

On the occasion, the

DC said that engaging in sports offers numerous benefits, including improved physical health, enhanced mental well-being, increased social interaction and the development of valuable life skills such as team work, discipline, and perseverance.

DC congratulated students for winning cricket matches in Pune and bringing laurels to district Kupwara.

The DC encouraged students to take part in extracurricular activities, besides academic excellence to achieve their future goals. She urged them to also motivate other girl students to take part in sports. Students during the capacity building tour to Pune, were accompanied by one woman officer and subordinate staff of the IA as well as a lady caretaker.

SPMR College organizes brainstorming session on 'Mindfulness Therapy'



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 28

Manodarpan Psychological and Career Counselling Cell of Government SPMR College of Commerce Jammu today organised a session on 'Mindfulness Therapy'.

The College Principal Dr. Surinder Kumar, the chief guest of the occasion, shared his experience and put forth that many of us, teachers and students, are struggling to manage personal as well as professional demands. So this interactive session will help all of us to nourish our wellbeing and provide us with strategies and approaches to cope

up with stress effectively.

Prof. Ashu Manhas, Convener Manodarpan Career Counselling Cell of the College, formally welcomed the gathering and encouraged the students to take maximum benefit from the session. Ms Ambica, Clinical Psychologist-Wellbeing Counselling Centre was the resource person of the session. She motivated the students to be mentally healthy as good mental health is a key to countless positive benefits to human life. She introduced various types of therapies to reduce anxiety, stress or depression among the students. In this interactive session, Ms Ambica delved

deep into the concept of Mindfulness to deal with stress and the issues related thereof. She discussed therapies such as deep breathing, thought observation, body scan, etc. Prominent among those present were Prof. Pawan Kumar Gupta, HOD Commerce, Dr. Chetna, Prof Binny and Dr. Isha. About 54 students attended the programme. The whole event was organised and managed by Prof. Ashu Manhas, Convener, Manodarpan Psychological and Career Counselling Cell. The proceeding of the event was conducted by Dr. Fayza and vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Jagmeet Kaur.

Secy Tourism convenes public darbar at Chijhama; assures prompt redressal of public issues

J I NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 28

Secretary Tourism and Culture, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today convened a public darbar at Chijhama, Baramulla to assess public issues and concerns besides taking stock of development works being executed in the area.

The event was among others attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina, Block Development Council member, Shabir Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, district officers, PRIs, social activists and locals.

The PRIs and the general public voiced a range of demands and grievances specific to the region encompassing various developmental and administrative issues that require attention.

The main demands and grievances included harnessing tourism potential in Rafiabad area, establishment of drug de-addiction center and a mini-secretariat in Rohama tehsil, completion of CHC at Dangiwa, setting up of ATM at Hadipora, sanitation facilities and bathroom facili-



ties and signage on Ladoo Ladoora trek route, water filtration issues in Hadipora, setting up of children's Park in kandi belt of Rafiabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abid Rasheed highlighted the primary goal of Public Darbar to bring the administration at the people's doorsteps, ensuring easier access to government welfare and development programmes.

Secretary, while assessing keenly listening to the grievances and demands raised by the public, ensured prompt

redressal of multitude of issues through the officers present in the darbar. He directed the officers to address and expedite the resolution of all remaining issues highlighted by the public representatives on priority basis.

Earlier, Secretary inspected stalls set up by various departments, including Education, Agriculture, Health, ICDS, Food Supplies among others. These stalls showcased a wide range of government schemes, services, and facilities aimed at benefiting the general public.

VBSY Van spreads PM's message among residents of Panchayat Panjtoot of Block Samwan

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 28

As part of the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a special van reached Panchayat Panjtoot of Block Samwan, today amid a warm welcome by the members of the Swagat Committee, PRI Members of panchayats in presence of Ex MLA, Krishan Lal, Sarpanch Samwan Jagdish Raj ji, Block Development Officer Ajay Kumar Pandita along with officials of line departments and local public.

The VBSY Van aims to spread the message of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.

The van displayed a video message of the PM, in which he has urged the people to take a pledge to work for the progress and prosperity of the country. The people present at the event took the Sankalp, and expressed their commitment to the cause.

The event began with the National Anthem and was followed by the cultural performances by the students of GMS Panjtoot, who showcased their talent and enthusiasm through songs, dances and skits. The audience appreciated the talent of the young artists and encouraged them with applause.

Representatives of the line departments also presented their stalls and explained the various schemes and programmes run by the government for the public welfare. They also distributed pamphlets and brochures to the people and answered their queries.

At the event, the public availed free health care services under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Certificates to Progressive Farmers were also distributed to recognize their contribution to the agriculture sector. Sanction letters of old age and widow pensions were also handed over to the deserving applicants on the Spot.

VBSY achieves new milestones in community outreach in Kathua District

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 28

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues to make substantial strides in its mission to bring about positive change in the lives of citizens across various regions. As part of the outreach schedule, a series of impactful events and awareness campaigns are being conducted in different blocks, underscoring the Yatra's commitment to reach every corner of the nation and uplift those who have been distanced from governmental schemes.

In Block Kathua, the events, held at Panchayats Kathera, Kharote, Logate, and Mehtabpur, saw enthusiastic participation and engagement from the local community. Similarly, in Block Nagrota Gujroo, the Information, Education, and Communi-



cation (IEC) vans effectively reached out to Panchayats Sialna, Tharakalwal B, Tharakalwal, and Agldihar, fostering awareness and interaction on critical

issues. The impact of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is palpable, positively transforming the lives of individuals who have, for

various reasons, remained isolated from the benefits of government initiatives. Its overarching goal to bridge the gap and bring inclusivity to the forefront is steadily becoming a reality. Government officials are actively urging citizens to make the most of tailor-made governmental schemes and programs, emphasizing the importance of staying informed and aligned with the nation's evolving aspirations. This aligns perfectly with the Prime Minister's vision to propel India towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The ongoing activities, relentless efforts, and community-centric approach of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra exemplify a collective commitment to ensuring holistic development and inclusive growth, leaving no one behind.

7-Day Ratkhada Mela commences at historic Shree Narsingh Dhaam Temple

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 28

The 7-day Ratkhada Mela commenced today at the historic Shree Narsingh Dhaam Temple Ghagwal, a revered pilgrimage site that attracts thousands of devotees each year.

DDC Chairman Samba, Keshav Dutt Sharma, Vice Chairman Balwan Singh, SSP Samba Benam Tosh, ADC Samba Suresh Chander and Addl. SP Samba Surinder Chaudhary joined the inaugural ceremonies along with SDM Ghagwal Sunaina Saini, offering their prayers on this auspicious occasion.

The inauguration witnessed a significant gathering of devotees who came to pay obeisance on the first day of the Mela.

The event featured a Bhakti-based cultural program organized by the Jammu and Kashmir



Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), adding a vibrant cultural touch to the festivities.

The community langar organized within the temple premises provided a communal dining experi-

ence to the devotees, fostering a sense of unity and shared spirituality.

To further enhance the overall experience for the devotees, local stalls were set up by community members, offering a variety of goods and services catering to the needs of the visitors.

These local initiatives not only contribute to the vibrant atmosphere of the Mela but also showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The 7-day Ratkhada Mela promises to be a spiritually enriching and culturally vibrant event, bringing together communities and fostering a sense of shared devotion. As devotees continue to gather at the Shree Narsingh Dhaam Temple over the next week, an atmosphere of spiritual harmony and cultural celebration encompasses Tehsil Ghagwal.

Tourist paradise Pahalgam hosts Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra with grandeur

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 28

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra made a resounding entry into the picturesque tourist destination of Pahalgam, Anantnag, showcasing a robust commitment to national progress. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, actively engaged with local residents, evaluating the progress of various central government schemes. Thousands of participants commended the effective implementation of flagship schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Samman Nidhi, vividly showcasing through impactful events such as 'Meri Kahani Meri Zabani' sessions.

He interacted with beneficiaries, presenting certificates for schemes



like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (G) and PM Awas Yojana (U). Appreciation letters were conferred for notable achievements under Jal Jeevan Mission, PMeGP, and Swachh Bharat Mission.

The arrival of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Pahalgam symbolizes the government's steadfast commitment to continuous public welfare. Participants attentively listened to the Prime Minister's recorded message, while beneficiaries shared suc-

cess stories, emphasizing tangible benefits derived from government welfare schemes.

Addressing the gathering, ADC highlighted Prime Minister's visionary goals for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra that emphasize widespread awareness, reaching the unreached, facilitating the utilization of government welfare schemes, and achieving saturation under citizen-centric programs. The Yatra has played a pivotal role in fostering develop-

ment, promoting engagement with government schemes, and achieving saturation under citizen-centric programs.

ADC administered the 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge to officials, PRI members, students, and citizens. Local school students presented cultural programs and quizzes, sensitizing the population about the objectives of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

The event culminated with ADC inspecting stalls set up by various government departments, interacting with officers, and reviewing progress under different schemes on the ground.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues to resonate as a driving force for inclusive development and citizen welfare, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of progress.

Two Days UT level Seminar on scientific Beekeeping Commences at Kashmir Haat Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 28

A two days UT level seminar on scientific Beekeeping organized by Agriculture Department Kashmir and sponsored by National Bee Board (NBB) under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) commenced today at Kashmir Haat, Srinagar.

The seminar was inaugurated by Vice chairperson Khadi and village industries development board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat. In her inaugural address, the VC KVIB highlighted the role of modern technology in present day Beekeeping. She asked the young educated farmers to come forward and take benefit from the government schemes in the field of Beekeeping. She informed the participants that (KVIB) is providing training to young entrepreneurs in small scale agri-

culture Cottage industries like Beekeeping. She said that by adopting Beekeeping in addition to general farming compliments to the overall income of the farm operating families.

Dr. Hina also underscored the importance of Beekeeping bi-products. She impressed upon the stakeholders, concerned officers to organise awareness programmes for the farmers at village level so that more and more farmers could be attracted towards this venture. She said that Kashmir Honey is world famous for its quality and the need of modern technology in the necessary steps are taken to crease the production.

Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Mrs Tabasum Naz, Joint Director Agriculture Extension G.M Dhoobi, Assistant Entomology and a number of beekeepers also expressed their views regarding the subject.

Principal Secretary Finance participates in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Dool A panchayat, Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 28

Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D Vaidya, who is on two day visit to Kishtwar today participated in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Dool A panchayat of Nagseni block.

District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACP, Zakir Hussain Wani and other departmental heads besides officials were present on the occasion.

Dr Devansh Yadav presented an overview of the ongoing viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the district besides highlighting the role of district administration in making this mega reaching out programme a grand success. During the Yatra, the beneficiaries shared success stories concerning various prevailing Central Sector Schemes during the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" session, attended by Principal Secretary Vaidya and other district officials.

Amidst these engagements, Principal Secretary participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra proceedings, inspected departmental stalls showcasing citizen centric beneficiary schemes. He administered

the VBSY pledge to the participants.

During the address, Principal Secretary emphasised the collective efforts of people, youth, officers and PRIs to materialize the vision of transformed developed India by 2047, emphasizing the crucial role of youth in this pursuit. He stressed the critical need to focus on infrastructure revamping, human resource development and social unity as the cornerstone of national development.

Discussing the transformative impact post Article 370 reform and successful navigation through the COVID era, Vaidya pointed out the substantial advancements in road infrastructure, water supply, health, water, hydro electric power, women's empowerment, and mobile networks over the past five years in Jammu and Kashmir. Notably, the Union Territory's GDP surged significantly from Rs 1.7 lakh crore to Rs 2.5 lakh crore, he informed on the occasion. Moreover, Principal Secretary termed the cultural and national integration imperative for nation's development. He urged upon the citizens to work collectively towards women empowerment which significantly contributes in raising a developed India.

Day 2 of Vibrant Baderwah Festival: a triumph of culture, adventure illuminates Jai Valley

JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, DECEMBER 28

A substantial surge in tourist influx was witnessed on the second day of the Vibrant Baderwah Festival as they converged at the picturesque Jai Valley, (Baderwah, Doda).

Aligned with the vision of the Lieutenant Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha and propelled by the dedicated efforts of Secretary Tourism Abid Rashid, Jammu & Kashmir Tourism in the UT has reached new heights, gaining global recognition.

The five-day-long Vibrant Baderwah Festival is orchestrated by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration of Doda, Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages and Baderwah Development Authority (BDA).

The unwavering commitment of the Directorate of Tourism Jammu and District Administration Doda transformed the Baderwah into a vibrant and colorful hub, celebrating the unique winter festival.

Set against the backdrop of lush green meadows and breathtaking landscapes, the Jai Valley provided a perfect setting



for this winter celebration. The festival featured an array of traditional celebrations, including cultural performances, showcasing local cuisine and various outdoor sports activities highlighting the region's winter charm. The day-long festivities included adventure activities like ATV rides, zip-lining, zorbing, paragliding, a musical chair competition and cultural performances by local artists.

These activities not only enhanced the tourists' experience but also played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the rich heritage and natural beauty of the region. Visitors praised the organizers for creating a meaningful event for the promotion and enjoy-

ment of tourists.

Bal Krishan, CEO BDA, along with ADC Dalmir Ch, Deputy Director Tourism, Abdul Jabbar, actively engaged with tourists, encouraging them to appreciate the pristine beauty while embracing sustainable tourism practices. Also present were Addl SP Baderwah, Vinod Shama, and Assistant Director Tourism NHW Batote, Mohd. Arif Lone. Abdul Jabbar, while interacting with the media, highlighted that under the leadership of Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai and Joint Director Tourism Ms. Suniana Mehta, Jammu Tourism has achieved new heights. All officers and officials are dedicatedly promoting the best tourism practices.

Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, expressed satisfaction over the successful organization of the event. The Department of Youth Services and Sports organized various games, including Kabaddi, football, volleyball, and cricket. Dignitaries later felicitated the winning and runner-up teams. The highlight of the event was the captivating stick-fighting performance, which received applause from all attendees. Additionally, the inclusion of hot air balloon rides and movie screenings thrilled the large audience. The upcoming event on the 29th in Guldanda promises to continue the adventure and cultural activities, providing ongoing enjoyment for tourists.

Farmers' Awareness camp held at Kankote

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, DECEMBER 28

Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing organised an Awareness camp at AGMO Office Kankote Poonch. The awareness camp was attended by farmers from adjoining areas. The Farmers were made aware of the Departmental activities including all the Schemes related to HADP and CAPEX Departmental schemes. AGMO advised farmers to adopt the multiple cropping system and avail schemes launched by UT of JK for the benefits of Farmers community to double their income.

The Farmers Producer Organisation is an effective approach for mar-

ginal farmers who can collectively perform well rather than being individuals. The need to develop local Mandi was also discussed in the camp. The Officer informed that the Mandi will be made functional after the 2nd phase of construction is completed and meanwhile farmers can send their Produce to adjoining mandies of Rajouri and Kashmir division and also to markets of Jammu. The farmers welcomed the steps taken by different departments for imparting awareness to the farmers regarding the efforts and schemes of the Government by medium of awareness camps.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Open Tender through E-Procurement system

Assist. Material Manager, N. Railway, ETD/Store Depot/Ludhiana for and on behalf of President of India, Invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the given below item.

S.N.	Open Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender opening date
01.	70235280	Supply of material required for Trap Chamber modification, As per Annexure -A' Trap Chamber consist of 09 items as mentioned in the Annexure - A' & All these items should be as per CLW Spec. No. CLW/TS/99/CF/5 All-8 or latest.	87 Set	25.01.2024

NOTE- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class-III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act-2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No.: 002/2023-24 Date: 28.12.2023 4073/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

J&K Offset Printers' Association (Regd.)

ELECTION NOTICE

Elections of the office bearers of the Association viz (President) (ii) Sr. Vice-President (iii) Vice-President (iv) General Secretary (v) Secretary (vi) Finance Secretary and (vii) Joint Secretary shall be held on 21st January 2024 at 12:30 pm after AGM at Hotel Park By Zone Jammu as per Election Bye-Laws enumerated in the constitution of the Association under Article-13.

Nomination papers from eligible contestants as defined in the constitution along with election fee in the form of cash receipt of Rs. 2500/- (in cash only non refundable) issued by the returning officer of the Association and proof of the eligibility conditions prescribed for holding an office of the Association as mentioned under Article 11 sub-section (b) of the constitution must be delivered in a sealed cover at the address as mentioned hereunder on or before 29th December 2023 by 6:00 pm positively against proper receipt from the undersigned.

Scrutiny of the papers shall take place on 31st December 2023 before 11:00 pm. Those candidates who do not want to contest elections for any reason shall be allowed to withdraw their papers on 4th January, 2024 upto 5:00 pm

Sd/-
(Satish Jandiyal)
Returning Officer
Tel. 0191-2570190, 9419187055

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor, Union...

Home for specially-abled students,” the Lt Governor said.

In last financial year, 384 Divyangjan were provided government jobs. Reservation has increased from 3 percent to 4 percent. The posts whether under PSC or JKSSB will be filled within 6 months. We will prepare a legal framework to ensure employment opportunities to divyangjan in private sector, he said.

He said, there is a need for all the stakeholders, society, NGOs to adopt a multi-dimensional approach and collaborative efforts to enable persons with disabilities to realize their full individual potential.

“Private companies and individual innovators have made impressive strides in new technology in the last few years. I urge them to develop user friendly instruments for Divyangjan which will help in their rehabilitation process and empowerment,” the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor felicitated the Divyangjan Ambassadors including Para Athletes and Sportspersons for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields. He also handed over wheelchairs and assistive devices to the beneficiaries.

The two-day event will witness distribution of assistive devices, sports competitions in various disciplines, cultural events, fashion show, talent hunt and exhibition.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department; senior officials, members of social organizations and people in large number were present. KNO

Year Ender: 2023 remained...

existing power availability that Jammu & Kashmir currently has, he said, adding that this PPA is a supplement for the Union Territory because of the usual power shortage, especially during winter.

“2023 marks a historic period for power availability and procurement. This year, we have also outlined power demand and procurement strategies - of short-term, medium-term and long-term - for the next 15 years,” Prasad said.

However, despite these advancements, the PDD continued to grapple with its outdated infrastructure, which is a major impediment to ensuring uninterrupted power supply.

An official document revealed, “The replacement of existing old and outdated elements of the distribution network has not been adequately addressed, with many components continuing for over 40 years after repeated repairs.”

It reveals that the electricity demand in J&K is primarily met through hydel power, which, however, varies with seasons, thereby causing a power deficit mainly during winter when power demand surges high.

The document further mentions that the replacement of existing old and outdated elements of the distribution network has never been given due consideration, many of which therefore continue in the system for more than 40 years after repeated repairs.

Jammu & Kashmir harnesses only 3504.90 MW of power, significantly below its potential of 20,000 Megawatts in hydel power generation, leaving as much as 16500 MW of the identified potential yet to be tapped, as outlined in the ‘JK Vision Document 2047’.

Prasad assured, “In 2023, we implemented significant measures for a complete turnaround in the power sector, focusing on making it robust, reliable, and affordable. We acknowledge power curtailment issues, reliability concerns, and substantial losses in the sector, prompting us to upgrade the infrastructure.”

The issue of metering also surfaced, with more than half of electricity consumers in the Kashmir valley lacking meters in 2023, which contributes to high Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.

The Principal Secretary PDD informed, “This year, we successfully installed four lakh smart consumer meters, a substantial leap from the previous year’s one lakh. Our goal is to install over 22 lakh smart meters by 2024-25 for accurate billing based on consumption.”

Highlighting ongoing efforts, he said, “To replace old distribution transformers, under the Centrally-sponsored scheme RDSS, projects worth Rs 5650 crore have been awarded, with most nearing completion within two years.”

Despite these strides, as reported by KNO earlier, the AT&C losses in Jammu & Kashmir remain a concern, which stands at 50 percent—above the national average of 19.73 percent. This is one of the highest in India, causing a gap between power purchase costs.

As per the official document, the AT&C losses of J&K Power Development Department are one of the highest in the country. KNO

AC amends J&K...

Panch by the Government. It also defines process for removal and conditions of service of State Election Commissioner (SEC) here.

The proposed amendments aims to make J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 more effective by ensuring transparency in functioning of PRIs, constitutional alignment & consistency with practices in other states where reservation has been provided to the OBCs apart from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. KNO

PM to visit Ayodhya...

to develop modern world class infrastructure in Ayodhya, improve connectivity and revamp its civic facilities while also conforming to the rich history and heritage of the city. In realisation of this vision, a new airport, new redeveloped railway station, newly redeveloped, widened and beautified roads and other civic infrastructure is being inaugurated in the city. Further, foundation stones of a number of new projects will be laid that will contribute to beautification and revamp of civic facilities in and around Ayodhya.

Ayodhya Airport

Phase I of the state-of-the-art airport is developed at a cost of more than Rs 1450 crore. The airport’s terminal building will have an area of 6500 sqm, equipped to serve about 10 lakh passengers annually. The facade of the Terminal Building depicts the temple architecture

of the upcoming Shri Ram Mandir of Ayodhya. The interiors of the terminal Building are decorated with local art, paintings & murals depicting the life of Bhagwan Shri Ram. The terminal building of Ayodhya airport is also equipped with various sustainability features like insulated roofing system, LED lighting, rain water harvesting, landscaping with fountains, water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, solar power plant and many other such features have been provided to meet GRIHA - 5 star ratings. The airport will improve connectivity in the region, leading to a boost in tourism, business activities and employment opportunities.

Ayodhya Dham Railway Station

Phase I of redeveloped Ayodhya Railway Station - known as Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station - is developed at a cost of more than Rs 240 crore. The three-storey modern railway station building is equipped with all modern features like lifts, escalators, food plazas, shops for puja needs, cloak rooms, child care rooms, waiting halls. The station building will be ‘accessible for all’ and ‘IGBC certified green station building’.

Amrit Bharat trains, Vande Bharat trains and other rail projects

The programme at Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station will witness the Prime Minister flagging off a new category of superfast passenger trains in the country - the Amrit Bharat Express. The Amrit Bharat train is an LHB push pull train with non air-conditioned coaches. This train has locos at both ends for better acceleration. It provides improved facilities for rail passengers like beautiful and attractive designed seats, better luggage rack, mobile charging point with suitable mobile holder, LED lights, CCTV, public information system, among others. Prime Minister will also flag off six new Vande Bharat Trains.

Prime Minister will flag off two new Amrit Bharat trains viz Darbhanga-Ayodhya-Anand Vihar Terminal Amrit Bharat Express and Malda Town-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminus (Bengaluru) Amrit Bharat Express.

Prime Minister will also flag off six new Vande Bharat Trains. These include Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express; Amritsar-Delhi Vande Bharat Express; Coimbatore-Bangalore Cantt Vande Bharat Express; Mangalore-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express; Jalna-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express and Ayodhya-Anand Vihar Terminal Vande Bharat Express.

Prime Minister will also dedicate to the nation three railway projects worth Rs 2300 crore to strengthen rail infrastructure in the region. The projects include the Rooma Chakeri-Chanderi third line project; Jaunpur-Tulsi Nagar, Akbarpur-Ayodhya, Sohawal-Patanga and Safdarganj-Rasauli sections of the Jaunpur-Ayodhya-Barabanki doubling project; and doubling and electrification project of the Malhaur-Daliganj railway section.

Improved civic infrastructure in Ayodhya

To enhance accessibility to the upcoming Shri Ram Mandir, Prime Minister will inaugurate four newly redeveloped, widened and beautified roads in Ayodhya - Rampath, Bhaktipath, Dharampath, and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Path.

Prime Minister will also inaugurate and dedicate to the nation a number of projects that will strengthen the civic infrastructure and beautify the public places in and around Ayodhya. These inaugurated projects include Rajarshi Dashrath Autonomous State Medical College; four-lane road connecting Ayodhya-Sultanpur Road-Airport; four-lane road till Tedhi Bazaar Shri Ram Janmabhoomi via NH-27 bypass Mahobra Bazaar; several beautified roads across the city and the Ayodhya bypass; Jagdishpur-Faizabad section of NH-330A; widening and strengthening of Maholi-Baragaon-Deodhi road and Jasarpur-Bhaupur-Gangaraman-Sureshnagar road; ROB at Badi Bua Railway Crossing on Panchkosi Parikrama Marg; solid waste treatment Plant in village Pikhrauli; and new buildings and classrooms in Dr. Brajkishore Homoeopathic College and Hospital, among others. Prime Minister will also inaugurate works related to Mukhyamantri Nagar Srijan Yojana work and five parking and commercial facilities.

Foundation stone of new projects in Ayodhya

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of new projects which will further help in the revamp of civic facilities in Ayodhya while also strengthening the rich cultural heritage of the city. These include conservation and beautification of four historical entrance gates in Ayodhya; new concrete ghats between Guptar Ghat and Rajghat and rehabilitation of pre-built ghats; development and beautification of tourist facilities from Naya Ghat to Laxman Ghat; construction of a visitor gallery for Deepotsav and other fairs at Ram Ki Paidi; strengthening and renovation of pilgrim path from Ram Ki Paidi to Raj Ghat and Raj Ghat to Ram Temple.

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of a greenfield township in Ayodhya being developed at a cost of more than Rs 2180 crore and Vashishtha Kunj Residential Scheme to be developed at a cost of about Rs 300 crore.

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of a NH-28 (new NH-27) Lucknow-Ayodhya section; strengthening and modification of NH-28 (new NH-27) existing Ayodhya bypass; establishment of the CIPET center in Ayodhya, and construction work of Municipal Corporation Ayodhya and Ayodhya Development Authority office.

Other projects across Uttar Pradesh

During the public programme, Prime Minister will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation other significant projects across Uttar Pradesh. These include the four-lane widening of Gosain Ki Bazar Bypass-Varanasi (Ghaghra Bridge-Varanasi) (NH-233); strengthening and upgradation of Khutar to Lakhimpur section of NH-730; capacity increase of LPG plant in Trishundi of Amethi district; Sewage Treatment Plant of 30 MLD in Pankha and 130 MLD in Jajmau, Kanpur; interception and diversion of drains and sewage treatment work in Unnao district; and CETP for Tannery Cluster at Jajmau in Kanpur.

Anish Dayal Singh...

Bureau (IB), will be the new ITBP chief in place of Singh.

Rasgotra, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Manipur cadre, has been appointed to the post till September 30, 2025, i.e. the date of his superannuation, the order said.

Nina Singh has been appointed as the DG, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Nina Singh, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is currently working as Special DG, CISF.

She has been appointed to the post till her superannuation on July 31, 2024, the order said.

Vivek Srivastava, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, will be Director General, Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards.

He has been appointed to the post till June 30, 2025, i.e. the date of his superannuation, the order said. Srivastava is at present a special director in IB.

Dry spell reason behind...

moving the warm air above with the cool, moist air near the ground. “However, due to the absence of strong winds of Western Disturbance, the foggy layer remained trapped close to the ground, leading to prolonged foggy conditions,” he said.

After the disturbance passed, clear skies allowed for effective radiational cooling. Rapid cooling at night further condensed water vapor and intensified the fog, especially in the mornings, he added.

During clear nights, heat radiates from the Earth’s surface, causing temperatures to drop rapidly. This rapid cooling near the ground condenses water vapor present in the air, leading to fog formation, he added.

Moreover, the night temperature continues to settle below the freezing point in Kashmir while Pahalgam was the coldest place at minus 5.4 degree Celsius.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir shivered at minus 3.3 degree Celsius while Qazigund in South Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 3.8 degree Celsius.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a low of minus 2.6 degree Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 4.3 degree Celsius while Kokernag recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.0 degree Celsius.

Moreover, the weatherman has predicted dry weather conditions across Kashmir till December 31st, saying that there is a possibility of light snowfall over higher reaches on Dec 31 evening or night.

Besides, the light snowfall is also expected at isolated to scattered places on January 03 and 04. KNO

J&K parties to file...

of the People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). The alliance headed by Farooq Abdullah was formed in 2019 to fight for the restoration of J&K’s special status.

Shah said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have neither accepted the decision of August 5, 2019- when Narendra Modi government abrogated the provisions of Article 370- and the December 11, 2023 verdict of the Apex Court.

“People of Jammu and Kashmir will give a befitting reply to you when polls are held here and tell you that these decisions are not accepted,” he said.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader and PAGD spokesperson M Y Tarigami said that they would file a review petition in the Supreme Court against its judgement to uphold the abrogation of Article 370.

He said they will file a review petition in the Top Court before January 11 next year.

LG inaugurates temporary...

post August 2019 to ensure empowerment and comprehensive rights of Divyangjan. District Level Committee has been formed, grievance redressal officer and nodal education officer has been appointed in all 20 districts, he said.

The Lt Governor observed that after the abrogation of Article 370, the Administration has streamlined facilitation of disability certificate issuance for accessing benefits and services. He noted that so far, 176,355 UDID certificates have been issued and 182,338 UDID cards have been generated. As per CCPD data J&K is ranked 6th in the country.

“Efforts are being made through self-employment schemes to provide Divyangjan with facilities, options and opportunities to live their lives with dignity,” the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said that special electronic equipment is being provided to Divyangjan to ensure ease of communication and accessibility for persons with visual and hearing disabilities.

“Divyangjan are equal partners in the economic growth of J&K. The administration will ensure Divyangjan lead a life of dignity and self-respect,” the Lt Governor further added.

Later, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar laid the foundation stone of Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Samba through virtual mode. Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament and Keshav Dutt Sharma, Chairman, District Development Council Samba were also present.

The CRC at Samba will be constructed by NBCC in 38 kanals 18 marlas of land. The estimated cost of construction is Rs 29 crores and the MoU has been signed with NBCC to initiate the construction work and finish the work within a span of one year. KNO

Year Ender: J&K’s...

Department proposed conducting departmental examinations through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) for employee promotions. The Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Trainings (JKSCERT) was proposed to set the syllabus for the examinations.

“For promotion purposes, in addition to B.Ed, a limited departmental examination is proposed to be conducted by JKPSC and JKSCERT shall prepare the syllabus,” the department has said in a communiqué.

Active involvement of principals and headmasters in September 2023, principals and headmasters were directed to actively teach at least two classes a day, besides managing the administration of their respec-

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Convocation**Lt Governor calls upon youth to build ‘Viksit Bharat’****J1 NEWS SERVICE**

KATRA, DEC 28

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today called upon the graduating students to set clear goals in professional career, identify problems and face them courageously to build Viksit Bharat@2047. The Lieutenant Governor was addressing the 9th convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, in Katra today. Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan was the chief guest on the occasion. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister congratulated the students for starting their new journey. “Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has emphasized on giving priority to competency over degree. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University is a research and design-centric university. I have full confidence that the students of the prestigious institution will lead this technology-based era, and become a major contributor to the progress of the society, nation and the world in the times to come,” the Union Minister said.

tive schools. The move was aimed at “enhancing the teaching-learning process”.

Lecturers teaching lower classes

In the same month, lecturers in the School Education Department were directed to teach 9th and 10th standard students “to elevate academic standards”. This was in addition to the routine responsibilities of these lecturers.

“It is impressed upon lecturers of School Education Department to exuberantly involve themselves in teaching at 9th and 10th level besides at the plus-2 level,” the Deputy Secretary to Government had said in a communiqué.

Nearly one lakh dropout students brought back to schools

Former Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta had said that the government has brought nearly one lakh Out of School Children (OoSC) back to educational institutions.

He said Jammu & Kashmir has secured the first position in India under NIPUN Bharat.

Reforms in board examinations

In 2023, the National Curriculum Framework 2023 for School Education recommended substantial reforms in board examinations for Grades 10 and 12 “to make it more easier” for the students.

It said the focus would shift towards assessing understanding and competencies rather than relying on months of coaching and memorisation.

The framework proposed allowing students to take board examinations on at least two occasions during any given school year, with only the best score to be retained.

Stating the pedagogy of the framework, the document reads, “In the long-term, being able to take a subject Board examination immediately after the ‘school term’ that is ‘semester-wise’ or ‘on-demand’ Board examinations) will be made available.”

Rationalizing teacher distribution

To balance teacher postings and maintain the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department initiated the rationalisation of teachers. Extra teachers from over-served schools were redistributed to deprived ones to ensure a balanced urban-rural distribution.

The department informed this to the union education ministry in response to the queries of last academic year regarding surplus teachers wherein the Centre had informed that 22 percent of schools at primary level and 6 percent of schools at upper primary level had adverse PTR.

Kindergartens operating without governance

In 2023, private preparatory schools, specifically Kindergartens in the Kashmir division, operated without regulatory oversight, raising questions about the effectiveness of authorities in governance.

“Besides having no regulatory authority, the department has no idea as to whether there was any framework or mechanism devised for the functioning of these Kindergartens,” officials at the School Education Department had informed, adding that they also have no data regarding the number of such schools functioning in the Kashmir Valley.

Meanwhile, the parents of some of the students in private crèches had said that the “lackadaisical” approach of the government is giving a free hand to the owners to mint a “hefty” amount from them.

Ban on motorbike usage during school hours

On June 26, 2023, authorities imposed a blanket ban on motorbike usage by students below 18 years during school hours in central and north Kashmir.

Joint Director, Central and North for School Education Department in a communiqué to Chief Education Officers of Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora, had said, “A large number of complaints are making rounds in media and social circles about the rash driving and stunt biking and reckless movement of two-wheelers by school boys studying in different classes of government and private schools.”

Tagging schools without playgrounds with nearby institutes having such facilities

In 2023, the Ministry of Education (MoE) urged the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department to tag schools lacking playgrounds with nearby institutions possessing such facilities to foster sports and recreational opportunities.

The MoE said this in a Project Approval Board (PAB) for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under Samagra Shiksha Scheme for the financial year 2023-24. KNO

NOTICE

I, Babu Ram, S/o Gian Chand R/o Kachrial Tehsil Khour District Jammu have lost RC and Permit of mini bus no JK02BD 5241. Now I am applying for duplicate of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days.

Secretary Health reviews activities under 'Eat Right School' initiative of FSSAI across J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 28

Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, today reviewed implementation of MoU-Working plan 2023-24 under Eat Right School (ERS) Initiative being implemented through Food and Drug Administration, J&K, in collaboration with School

Education Department. Secretary had an elaborate discussion on different aspects of the initiative while demonstrating all necessary steps to attain Eat Right certification by all the schools in 25 identified clusters (125 schools).

Bhupinder Kumar asked the Directors School Education Jammu and Kashmir to fast track

the notification/nomination of two Health and Wellness Ambassadors/coordinators in each School and their subsequent registration, training and certification on Eat Right School (ERS) initiative on the designated portal within weeks time. Subsequently, activities under the applicable ER Matrix shall be conducted in the registered

schools, which will be properly uploaded on the portal.

Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration J&K was directed to take a fortnightly review with the directorates involving Divisional level Nodal Officer from Food side as well as from Education side forming a core team of proactive and dedicated human resource.

Secretary further directed all the stakeholders to work in close co-ordination and co-operation to attain the desired targets.

Bhupinder Kumar laid emphasis that being responsible stakeholder we need to inculcate sustainable dietary habits in children who are agents of change in society. This can be attained through curricular and extracurricular activities on Eat Right theme in schools on regular basis, he added. Among others the meeting was attended by Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, J&K, Director School Education Jammu, Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education, Jammu and Joint Director, School Education Department.

DM bans transportation of bovine animals from Jammu District

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 28

District Magistrate Jammu, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 144 Cr. P.C., has ordered that no Bovine animals such as Cow, Buffalo, Oxen, Bulls, Calves etc be transported from District Jammu to other Districts, except with written permission from District Magistrate or Addl. District Magistrate, Jammu under certain conditions imposed by this office, from time to time.

This order shall come into force with an immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from date of its issue or till the order is rescinded whichever be earlier.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

Vikramjit holds public darbar at Assar; Vows for saturation of welfare, development schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 28

Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, today held a public outreach programme under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, at Assar.

The visit was aimed to address public grievances and demands besides educating people about numerous government welfare schemes as part of ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra campaign.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Secretary urged upon the people to take advantage of government schemes tailored for their socio-economic empowerment. He asked the officials to optimally utilize VBSY platform ensuring saturation of all central government schemes.

During the programme, various public representatives highlighted their issues which inter alia included upgradation of PHC Assar to Trauma



Hospital, water sports in Trugul area, re-opening of Gypsum Mining in Assar, restoration of old National Highway in Assar, construction of Sub Divisional Secretariat in Assar, augmentation of roads, schools and other infrastructure.

Commissioner Secretary asked the ADDC Doda to compile and submit the demands along with their technical feasibility reports to his office, so that the same could be taken up with the concerned authorities for early redressal.

Representatives from various government departments provided detailed information, fostering enthusiasm and active public participation

in these initiatives. The events drew large crowds, indicating active engagement and participation of the community.

Later, Commissioner Secretary distributed sanctioned letters of KCC and PMEGP among the beneficiaries besides presenting Soil Health Cards to the farmers. He also administered Viksit Bharat Pledge to the audience during the programme.

Among others SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, ADDC, Pran Singh, GM DIC, SE Jal Shakti, ACD, DTO, other officers of district administration, health officials, officials from Rural Development Department and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions were present on the occasion.

GDC Vijaypur hosts students' visit to Water Body



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 28

Department of Environmental Sciences of Government Degree College Vijaypur, under the flagship banner of 'Viksit Bharat@2047', organized students' visit to a nearby pond (Rahya Suchani) with special focus on cleaning and rejuvenating water bodies with involvement Eco-Club volunteers.

The visit was undertaken as a part of one of the practical of Educational visits of Environmental Sciences students of semester-I.

The students, along with faculty members Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental

Sciences, Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HOD English) visited the pond and carried out a cleanliness drive along with the practical. Students of semester - I of Environmental Sciences attended the visit and studied various physico-chemical and biological characteristics of the pond. At the outset, Prof. Poonam Kundan briefed about the main objective of the visit to safeguard the environment like rainwater harvesting structures, working on restoration of ponds and recycling of PET bottles. Eco Club volunteers of the college raised public awareness about water conservation as it is

the need of the hour to increase peoples' knowledge of water resources, water use, and the need to conserve water. Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta congratulated the Environmental Sciences department for such initiatives. She further added that it provides the students an opportunity to learn practically through visiting the water body. The one day tour was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences) and co-coordinated by Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HOD English). Refreshments were also distributed during the visit.

GDC Marh hosts Alumni Meet 'Sangam II'2023



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 28

IQAC, Govt. Degree College Marh today organised Alumni Meet 'Sangam II 2023' under the leadership and supervision of the Principal Prof. Rakesh Kumar Koul. The programme commenced with lighting of the lamp by Surinder Kumar (BDC Marh), Manu Hansa (SDM Marh), Dr. Jyoti Bhau (BMO Marh), Kasturi Lal Kaith (ZEO Marh), Prof. (Dr.) Jasbir Singh (SKUAST), Amit Raina (Advocate J&K High Court), Atul Narayan Singh (President Alumni Assoc.) and staff members of the college.

All the guests were felicitated by Mementos and Planters. Principal of the college, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul in his keynote address welcomed the guests and wished the alumni all the success for their future endeavours and explained to them about the importance of reunification.

Prof. Madhvi Parasher presented the brief report on profile of the college and highlighted the curricular and co-curricular activities organised in the college and the prog-

ress made in last one year including registration of Alumni in the Registrar Cooperatives, opening of bank account GDCMAA, UGC 2(f), Maiden Diksha aramb, Nipun (Scouts & Guide), maiden SSRB exam.

A powerpoint presentation highlighting achievements of different cells and departments of the college was also showcased to the audience. A Cultural programme featuring patriotic songs, folk dance and singing was also presented by the 1st, and 3rd semester students of the College on this occasion. The Alumni shared their past experiences at the College and were felicitated by Mementos. The alumni meet ended with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Ramdayal. Plantation drive was also carried out by the NSS unit in the college campus.

The whole programme was organised and coordinated by the members of IQAC and Cultural Committee, GDC Marh.

Principal of the college appreciated and lauded the efforts of faculty and students. Lunch was served to the dignitaries, alumni, participants and students of the college.

Secretary Transport holds public darbar at Tangmarg; Assures timely redressal of public issues



JI NEWS SERVICE
TANGMARG, DECEMBER 28

As a sequel towards taking the governance at people's doorsteps, Secretary, Transport, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, today convened a public darbar at Tangmarg here.

The event witnessed overwhelming response from all sections of the society where people apprised the Secretary of issues being faced by them seeking his intervention in

redressing the same.

The PRIs and general public put forth various demands and grievances revolving around R&B, Education, PDD, Health, Social Welfare and various related departments pertaining to sub-division Tangmarg.

Secretary, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the core purpose of holding these Public Darbars to facilitate direct interaction between the administration and the

Education, Agriculture, Health, ICDS, Food Supplies and other departments. He also distributed Ayush Cards, sanction letters, land passbooks and other certificates among the eligible beneficiaries.

The event was attended by Sub District Magistrate Gulmarg, Syed Altaf, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla, Muzzam Ali, district officers, PRIs, social activists and local public from adjoining areas of the sub division.

Mission Director inaugurates "Dairy Darbar" at Badroon Arnora Village, Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 28

In a pioneering move, Mission Director Dairy Development, N S Bali, inaugurated the "Dairy Darbar" program at Badroon Arnora village.

Being organized by Animal Husbandry department, Doda, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 100 progressive dairy farmers from the region.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Mayan Ud Din Gures, presented an insightful overview of work done and raised awareness about various government schemes related to dairy sector.

Addressing the gathering, N S Bali acknowledged the challenges faced by milk producers, emphasizing

ing the need for a proper market with remunerative prices, a concern being actively addressed by Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producers' Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL).

N S Bali assured the farmers that the J&K government is committed towards close monitoring and advancing dairy development in the Union Territory, operating under a mission mode. He highlighted that JKMPCL provides the best rates among all state cooperatives, rendering dairy farming financially rewarding for both youth and rural farmers.

"The progress of milk producers is priority of LG administration which is earnestly implementing various schemes and policies in this regard. Jammu

and Kashmir Milk Producers' Cooperative Limited leads the way in launching cutting-edge technology for high-quality processed milk and milk products," Bali asserted.

During the program, N S Bali distributed free-of-cost medicines, including mineral mixtures and dosing, among all participating farmers. The "Dairy Darbar" also facilitated an interactive session where progressive dairy farmers shared their success stories showcasing the positive impact of government initiatives on their livelihoods. It not only symbolizes a leap forward in dairy development but also reflects the government's hands-on approach in creating a thriving environment for dairy farmers in the region.

SMC expands reach to 02 more locations in Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 28

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) continues to remain committed to fostering community development, as demonstrated by the successful extension of the Viksit Bharat Sank-

alp Yatra (VBSY) to two more locations within the Srinagar city.

The Yatra now encompasses Ikhraj Pora and Mehjoor Nagar vicinities, to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes.

EDITORIAL

Conserving apex predator in Kishtwar

Recently, there has been good news from the remote Kishtwar district which is famous for its saffron fields, sapphire mines and spellbound natural beauty. The district is expected to be placed on the world's tourism map as the first-ever census of snow leopards in the district reveals that over 20 individual big cats of the threatened species have been captured in camera trap sightings at high-altitude Kishtwar National Park. It is now expected that the district could have more than 100 snow leopards. It has been confirmed by the deputy commissioner Kishtwar Devansh Yadav who took it to the 'X', saying 'Kishtwar National Park: 20+ snow leopards captured in camera traps. As per estimates: 100+ could be there in this region of Kishtwar... Another reason to cheer for Kishtwar Tourism!! Remotest & largest district of Jammu & Kashmir can't be ignored anymore...'. With this announcement, the administration has also spelled out its plans to attract tourists to the remotest district of the region. A dedicated webpage for tourists is being made available by January and it will contain all the details with regard to the facilities for the visitors. Accommodation-Mainly home stays, few guest houses and luxury tents-details will be shared with the people. The first-ever census, conducted by a team of J&K Wildlife Protection Department, conservationists and researchers, has captured 20 snow leopards in camera traps in the Kishtwar National Park and also in the South-Eastern Padder in the district. More than two years back (in November 2021), the wildlife department officials launched a first-of-its-kind snow leopard population assessment expedition under the snow leopard project of the Union Ministry of Environment, focusing on identifying the landscapes housing the species and the challenges for their proper conservation. It has produced significant results with over 20 big cats have been captured in camera trap sightings. The camera traps were installed in the 2,195.50 square kilometres of the national park before snowfall and recorded multiple images of snow leopards. The camera trap sightings were reported at about 30 locations where an adult with two cubs were also captured in the camera which confirmed the breeding status of snow leopards in Kishtwar. The camera trap images reveal the remarkable adaptability of this elusive species, well-suited to thrive in the challenging high altitude environment of Kishtwar national park. On the basis of the potential range of the species, a massive exercise was carried out in the two areas of Kishtwar. As many as 278 cameras were installed at about 135 locations. Ladakh Himalayas are also considered as home to the elusive snow leopards, and all work on them, including research, used to be done there before the bifurcation of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs. The survey being conducted to assess the population of snow leopards through camera trap evidence would help in species' conservation efforts. By conserving this apex predator, Kishtwar High Altitude National Park safeguards the diverse range of wildlife that co-exists within its boundaries, including the Himalayan Ibex, Musk Deer, and numerous avian species. The Snow Leopard holds immense ecological significance, acting as a keystone species in maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem. Being the remotest district of the region, the UT administration needs to take exhaustive and detailed measures to attract tourists to Kishtwar. Hassle-free and safe journey is the first and foremost criterion that authorities need to be looked upon.

OMKAR DATTATRAY

Jammu and Kashmir is beset and facing the terrorism and militancy from the last over three decades and there seems no end to it in the near future. The government should take consistent measures to combat terrorism so that people of the UT will feel sigh of relief and there will be economic, political and socio-cultural development. Few days ago there was an ugly incident of terrorism in twin districts of Poonch/Rajouri in which unfortunately four Jawans including officers of the Indian army were martyred and it shook the entire nation in gloom, grief and anguish. The terror incident was rightly condemned by one and all and the Indian army took a very serious note of the act of terrorism and vowed to wipe out terror from Jammu and Kashmir. In this connection defense minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh visited the site of the militancy in Poonch and took a detailed

review of the militant happening and his visit is aimed to boost the morale of the army so that they will continue to tackle militancy. In this connection, defense minister emphasized two pronged strategy to combat and counter terrorism so that terrorism is wiped out from Jammu and Kashmir. DM of India suggested that the anti-terror operations should be continued with redoubled zeal but at the same time the army should win the hearts and minds of the people in J&K so that the terrorism is shown the door and is given a goodbye.

He also suggested and directed the army to carry on anti-terror operations with great professionalism and see that there is no human rights violations during the anti-terror operations as this creates a big gulf between Jammu and Kashmir and India and our objective to frustrate terrorism gets derailed. Rajnath Singh declared that confident army will wipe out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir. The defense min-

ister said that he has full faith in the army and it will wipe out terrorism from the UT. But he cautioned and advised the army not to do mistake which hurt the citizens of the country.

He said it is the responsibility of the troops to win the hearts of the civilian population while doing and performing their duty of fighting terrorism and therefore the army should work with discipline and professional conduct so that the civilians are not hurt either physically as well as emotionally. The DM's statement came after and in response to the outrage over the three civilian killings reportedly due to the picking up questioning of the civilians in connection of the ambush of the two army vehicles which led to the killing of four army men. The defense minister lauded the troops for their bravery. "I believe in your bravery and steadfastness."

Terrorism should be finished from Jammu and Kashmir and you need to move forward with com-

mitment. I have full faith that you will achieve victory. "Defense minister asked the troops to avoid mistakes that hurt the civilians." He further said that Indian army is not considered as an ordinary force in the world. The people understand that Indian army is much more powerful than before and also well equipped. The army is the guardian of the nation but along with protecting the unity and integrity as well as the sovereignty of the country, it should be ensured that nothing should be done to hurt the ordinary citizens while performing the anti-terror operations and therefore a great responsibility rests on the shoulders of the army and so they should carry on the operations against the terrorists with utmost professionalism so that no human rights violations are committed and also to ensure that the citizens are not hurt.

Thus it is the responsibility and duty of the troops that they should win the

hearts and minds of the people. The army should also see that its image is also not tarnished and for this the army is required to conduct anti-terror operations with great professionalism. There is need to perform their duty with proper seriousness and it can be achieved by meeting people, listening their problems and putting the problems to the appropriate authority for redress. He said that I want to assure you that in the face of the seriousness of this terror incident, appropriate and required steps will be taken to tackle the terrorism. The DM said that for the government, every soldier is valuable and they are the part of our family and no amount of money will completely indemnify the loss of the precious lives of our soldiers.

Terrorism and terrorists are a threat to the nation and to the people and so all the people should fully cooperate with the government and security forces in combating terrorism so that

people are freed from the demon of militancy which is threatening our lives and economy. The government has given full power to army and other security forces to counter and combat terrorism and the security forces should use its powers with great restraint and make it sure that anti-terror operations are carried with utmost professionalism and no citizen is hurt and so while performing their duty no human right violations are committed and instead the hearts and minds of the citizens are won and this can be done by meeting people and involving them in the welfare activities. In short the army should perform its duty with utmost professionalism and the nation and the government believes that the army will protect the country from internal and external threats and while combating terrorism, it should be ensured that no citizen is hurt and there is no human rights violation.

On the Sino-Pak "All Weather" Friendship

NILESH KUNWAR

While almost all of Plato's erudite observations have withstood the test of time, "iron clad brothers"-opulent China and impoverished Islamabad, appear to disprove the ancient Greek philosopher's view that "true friendship can exist only between equals."

In March this year, when debt-ridden Pakistan was staring at a possible default in the face, Saudi Arabia, with whom Islamabad boasts of enjoying long standing fraternal ties rooted in common religion, shared values and culture, refused to extend an interest free loan. However, Beijing promptly came to Islamabad's rescue and not only rolled over a \$2 billion but also agreed to lend it another \$700 million to facilitate a cash bailout from the International Monetary Fund [IMF].

However, AidData, a renowned US based research institute has in its detailed report covering the period from 2000 to 2021 revealed that while only two percent of the loans provided by Beijing to Pakistan came in the form of grants and the balance 98 percent funding was on "less than generous loans." [Emphasis

added]. And Islamabad's inexplicable refusal to disclose the interest rates being charged by Beijing on these loans adds further credibility to the AidData finding.

So, while Pakistan may cite this extraordinarily liberal loan regime as proof of its "higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea" friendship with Beijing, the lack of transparency in financial agreement clearly indicates that there's obviously much more than what meets the eye. So, the natural question that arises is- what explains the extraordinary benevolence that Beijing is showering on Islamabad?

While former Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has eulogised Sino-Pak friendship as "a sacred tale of abiding trust and love," Chinese President Xi Jinping maintains that Beijing's mission is to "pursue the cooperation of higher standards, broader scope and greater depth, and take the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights." Such grandiloquent explanation of Sino-Pak relationship is indeed impressive.

However, these proclamations fail to conceal the fact that Beijing doesn't consider Islamabad as an

equal. While every country endeavours to have an array of allies and makes adjustments in order to preserve cordial relationships, yet no nation lets such diplomatic manoeuvres overshadow its own national interests. That is why Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar reportedly telling Xi that "We will always stand with China and trust you blindly," [Emphasis added] is very significant as it clearly exposes the reality of Islamabad's pathetic servitude.

Just four months ago, Pakistan's ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque reiterated that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor [CPEC] project was a "game changer" that had brought "peace, prosperity and development opportunities not only to Pakistan but also to the entire region," adding that it is an "excellent example of an open, coordinated, and inclusive development paradigm that benefits all parts of the country and all segments of society."

Unfortunately, Haque's claims aren't supported by ground realities.

Within a year of the CPEC agreement being signed, the World Bank in its Global Economic Prospects 2016 report had cautioned that "Sovereign guarantees asso-

ciated with CPEC could pose substantial fiscal risks over the medium term." [Emphasis added]. However, both Beijing and Islamabad rubbished this warning as a result of this, rather than proving to be a "game changer," CPEC has today turned into a "debt generator" for Pakistan.

A classic example of how Beijing has exploited Pakistan's 'blind trust' to further its own commercial interests at Pakistan's cost is the development of Gwadar port. Islamabad continues to claim that this project will usher unprecedented economic growth and has even been projecting Gwadar as the future Dubai of Pakistan. However, the fact is that it's actually Beijing that benefits from the development of Gwadar port as this facility provides a much shorter export/import route as well as an access to the Arabian Sea.

Conversely, Gwadar port project has created a lot of ill will amongst locals. Security check posts have mushroomed overnight and commuters are being subjected to frequent security checks, illegal fishing by Chinese fishermen using sophisticated fishing equipment has deprived local fishermen of their traditional livelihood while curbs on

Iran-Pak border trade have adversely impacted local trade. The degree of public alienation can be gauged from the "Gwadar ko haq do" [Give Gwadar its rights] movement that saw tens of thousands of men, women and even young children participating in a more than a month-long protest.

In his well researched article ["Pakistan's debt from China becomes burden as CPEC does not generate enough growth", carried by Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt [CADTM], Abdul Khaliq notes that "The government of Pakistan and ruling elite view CPEC as a game changer for the country and region; however, experts and local economists have different insights. They view CPEC as having much less to offer Pakistan in terms of trade. The Chinese approach of not partnering with local companies is not going to help create new job opportunities for millions of Pakistani youth." [Emphasis added].

Khaliq goes on to state that "Since Chinese companies are tax-exempt, they bring everything from China, including labour, and hence they will have no reliance on Pakistani businesses to fulfil their demands. This has shattered the dreams

of many local companies that planned to expand their production facilities in anticipation of receiving orders from these Chinese companies. The Chinese companies play smart and get excellent returns on their investments. Many experts see it as a threat for local businesses and fear that it won't be a win-win situation for Pakistan." [Emphasis added].

Islamabad's 'blind trust' in Beijing is most certainly not a matter of choice but an inescapable compulsion for Pakistan as it needs a regular supply of financial aid to stay afloat but has no means to repay its burgeoning debt. Only China is willing to bail out Islamabad on an ongoing basis by rolling over existing loans as well as advancing new ones and is expectedly extracting its pound of flesh for putting its money into a financial 'sink-hole' by demanding that Islamabad should blindly trust Beijing in deciding what's good for Pakistan.

The "all weather friendship" charade cannot hide the ugly truth of Pakistan's financial exploitation by China and this proves that Plato's view that true friendship can only exist amongst equals isn't wrong after all!

Beginning of a new welfare state

ASHWANI MAHAJAN

In the counting of votes held on December 3, 2023, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is going to form government in three of the four big states, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and Congress has won in only one state, Telangana. BJP has often been raising issues of vote bank politics, corruption, dynasty politics etc. in the elections. Issues like the construction of the Ram temple, the abrogation of Article 370, and communal violence, were widely discussed. But history is witness to the fact that even though these issues are important if a party or the government does not

work for the welfare of the people, then they will be summarily rejected.

In 2014, India's economy was among the five most fragile economies, facing the tragedy of declining investment and a continuously declining growth rate. But in less than 10 years, India has moved from the tenth to the fifth largest economy of the world.

Today India has also become the fastest growing economy in the world. In such a situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given new wings to the aspirations of the common people of the country by pledging to become a developed nation before the completion of the first 100 years of independence.

A New Welfare State

Till now, the distribution of money through employment schemes, free or cheap electricity and water, subsidy on petrol, diesel and gas, cheap ration, government expenditure on education and health etc. were considered to be the essence of a welfare state. But over the last 9 years, the definition of the welfare state itself has changed and seems to be improving, which has also received public support.

Firstly, there has been an attempt to ensure the genuineness of expenditure on the housing scheme, by using technology, in a unique housing scheme.

In just a few years, about 3 crore houses have been

constructed, for which Rs 5 lakh crore was given by the Central Government and Rs 15 lakh crore was spent by the beneficiaries themselves, who built better houses for themselves in rural and urban areas; and started enjoying a respectable life. Under the Ujjwala scheme, 10 crore poor women were given free LPG connections and later those poor women got cylinders refilled, at their own expense.

Today, on average, Ujjwala beneficiaries get more than three cylinders filled in a year. By providing electricity to almost all the villages in the country, not only has the standard of living improved but the government has also been

successful in taking the communication and internet revolution across the country.

The target of providing tap water to all the houses is almost achieved, due to which women do not have to go far to fetch water, which saves their time. Construction of toilets in every house has freed us from the curse of open defecation, pictures of which foreigners often used, to show India as a backward nation. Improvement in primary care and most importantly free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh under Ayushman Yojana is proving to be a boon for the less resourceful people.

If seen, all these schemes are for the targeted ben-

eficiaries. Beneficiaries have got relief with the help of the government. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in just five years from 2015-16 to 2019-21, the index of multidimensional poverty has decreased from 0.122 to just 0.69. Today, the changing circumstances are giving birth to new dimensions to politics in the country, and the country is moving towards becoming a developed country by 2047, free from poverty, unemployment and deprivation.

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi; views are personal)

Webinar Series: Convergence 360 inaugurated at GDC Baramulla

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 28

The inaugural session of the webinar series 'Convergence 360: Exploring Advances in Science, Humanities, and Technology - 2023,' titled 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Navigating the Future with Strategic Administration and Progressive Policy Making,' was held today at Government Degree College (GDC) Baramulla.

The event was organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of GDC Baramulla under the patronage and guidance of Principal Secretary J&K Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar. The event marked a significant milestone in fostering academic exploration under the umbrella of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

The inaugural day of the webinar featured Prof. Vikram Singh (IPS), Former Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, and Hon'ble Chancellor of Noida International University, Prof. Neerja Mattoo, an eminent writer and educationist,

and Abhay Kumar, Deputy Director-General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi.

Dr. Syed Mutahar Aaqib, Coordinator IQAC, moderated the first session of the webinar and introduced the theme and objective of the webinar series.

Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division College formally e-inaugurated the webinar series. He emphasized the role of a forty-trillion-dollar economy in leading Viksit Bharat 2047 to success and underscored the significance of education in colleges and schools for the future of the country. He also congratulated the organizers for such an initiative. The guest speaker for the first session was Prof. Vikram Singh (IPS), Hon'ble Chancellor of Noida International University and Former DGP, Uttar Pradesh.

In his lecture, Prof. (Dr.) Vikram Singh outlined the keys to a futuristic Viksit Bharat, emphasizing justice, transparency, professionalism, good govern-

ance, and social sensitivity. He highlighted notable steps, including abolishing black colonial laws, modernizing the police infrastructure, and implementing a ninety-day maximum for judgment pronouncement.

Prof. Singh praised achievements in friendly policing, e-governance, and literacy rates, urging a collective effort to improve the quality of education. He endorsed NEP 2020, 'Make in India,' and the manufacturing of indigenous weapons as crucial steps.

Earlier, Prof. Mohammad Farooq Rather, principal of the college, welcomed guests and participants from across the country. He spoke about India's diversity and its notable ascent in global education rankings, moving from 30th to the top 10. Prof. Rather focused on the imperative of imparting quality skill education as a forward trajectory for the country.

The inaugural function concluded with Prof. Tariq Ahmed Chalkoo, Dean of

Skill Development and Staff Secretary, proposing a formal vote of thanks.

The second session of the day, 'On Translation: The Dynamics of Interpretation Across Cultures,' featured distinguished speakers Prof. Neerja Mattoo, an eminent writer and educationist, and Ambassador Abhay Kumar, Deputy Director-General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi. The session included an interactive discussion and Q&A segment focusing on the nuances of translation across cultures.

Both speakers shared insights from their experience in translating texts and maintaining cultural integrity. The discourse prominently featured an exploration of ecological sensibilities in poetry, exemplified through a detailed analysis of Kalidasa's works, such as 'Meghdoota' and 'Ritusamhara.'

The discussion highlighted Kalidasa's skill in articulating the emotions of flora and fauna, underscoring the relevance of his wisdom in addressing con-

temporary environmental challenges.

Professor Neerja Mattoo, in her capacity as the editor of 'Miraas,' elaborated on the journal's significant role in fostering communal harmony. She emphasized that 'Miraas' the journal's objective is to bridge this gap by providing a space where diverse voices can engage in meaningful discourse.

Professor Mattoo also spoke about her inspiration from Kashmiri culture and the challenges in translating poetry, emphasizing the preservation of the poets' unique voices.

Ambassador Kumar discussed his vision behind the "Earth Anthem" and his contributions to blending poetry with universal themes. Dr. Naveed Ahmad of the Department of English proposed a vote of thanks in the second session of the webinar.

The webinar series, Convergence 360, exemplifies a commitment to broadening discussions and bringing together diverse voices in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

Rs.75k fine imposed for violations under FS&SA in Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 28

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir who is also Adjudicating officer today imposed a fine of Rs.75000 on various shopkeepers.

The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for miss branded and sub standard food) during the proceeding of cases of various blocks of Kupwara division related to the Food safety and standards Act-2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer.

The Adjudicating officer warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food safety and standards Act 2006 and rules there under by the food business operators will be dealt with more strictly in coming time.

Teach lesson to BJP & Modi for not supporting democracy: Congress chief

AGENCIES
NAGPUR, DEC. 28

Coming down heavily on the BJP-led central government, Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Thursday that currently, democracy and the Constitution are under threat in the country and hence, time has come to teach a lesson to both BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not supporting democracy.

Addressing a rally on occasion of the party's 139th foundation day at Bharat Jodo Maidan here, he said that during the BJP rule, inflation and unemployment have risen tremendously.

Even though there are 32 lakh posts vacant in the central government, the Modi government does not want to fill these posts so that the backward classes will get a chance, he said.

Targeting Modi, the Congress chief alleged that the Prime Minister has time to travel around the world but he had no time to attend parliament while in session.

"It is a mockery of democracy to pass laws by suspending 146 MPs of Opposition parties, who asked questions in parlia-



ment," he noted. The Modi government has saddled the country with a debt of Rs 200 lakh crore, but the funds for welfare schemes are cut and no scholarships are given to students from backward communities, he charged.

Also, atrocities against Dalits have increased during the Modi government, he continued.

If BJP is not stopped, the country will be ruined and the Constitution will be destroyed, he added.

Kharge made an appeal to people to teach a lesson to both Modi and BJP, who do not support democracy.

VBSY: Er Khatana interacts with residents of Panchayat Saranoo



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 28

With the objective of ensuring the seamless reach of Central Government schemes to the farthest corners of the district, Rajya Sabha Member Er Ghulam Ali Khatana today attended a mega event organised as the part of the ongoing "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra here at Panchayat Saranoo of block Dhangri.

Under this initiative, the Mobile Vans are traversing through the district according to a pre-defined schedule.

Laden with information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, the van aims to create public awareness about a myriad of central government schemes.

With a sound system and digital LED screen on board, the van showcases videos of Prime Minister's addresses, testimonials from beneficiaries and informative clips to further enhance understanding.

The Yatra focuses on both urban and rural areas, spotlighting key schemes such as PM Svanidhi, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Start up India/stand up India, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana (Urban), SBM(Urban), PM eBus Sewa, AMRUT, PM Bhartiya Jan Aushidi Pariyojana, Ujjala Yojana, Subhagya Yojana, Digital Payment infrastructure, Khelo India, RCS:UDAN, Vande Bharat Trains and Amrit Bharat Station scheme and rural areas schemes like Ayushman Bharat PMJAY, PMGKAY, DAY-NRLM, PM Awas Yojana Rural, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM KISAN Saman, PM Vishwakarma, KCC, PM Poshan Abhiyan, JJM and SVAMITVA.

Public representatives, during the event, played a crucial role in elucidating the array of government

schemes designed for the public welfare. They meticulously detailed the diverse initiatives aimed at addressing the multifaceted needs of the community.

Various government departments contributed to the vibrancy of the event by setting up stalls at the venue, meticulously presenting a visual narrative of the myriad schemes and programs actively being implemented in the district.

Each stall became a microcosm of progress, offering a detailed insight into the transformative initiatives undertaken by different departments.

Addressing the event, Rajya Sabha Member Er Ghulam Ali Khatana passionately emphasized the significance of the Viksit Bharat Yatra, elucidating its role as a transformative nationwide journey aimed at promoting government schemes. His eloquent articulation delved into the far-reaching impact of the yatra, underscoring its pivotal role in ensuring the effective implementation of diverse welfare initiatives across the nation.

Rajya Sabha Member Er Ghulam Ali Khatana also underscored the significance of various welfare schemes during his address. Emphasizing that awareness is pivotal for the successful implementation of government initiatives, he highlighted how informed citizenry plays a crucial role in the overall success of these programs.

Moreover, he specifically highlighted the instrumental role of the "Viksit Bharat Yatra" in this context. This journey, aimed at fostering development across the nation, serves as a platform to enhance awareness and promote engagement with government schemes.

He also highlighted the role of the mobile van in achieving saturation of all schemes and enhanc-

ing awareness among the populace. This proactive approach signifies the dedication of the administration to ensuring comprehensive awareness, leaving no eligible individual uninformed about transformative government schemes.

In the course of his address, Rajya Sabha Member Er Ghulam Ali Khatana passionately underscored a plethora of self-employment generation schemes, serving as beacons of opportunity for the burgeoning youth. With an unwavering commitment to societal welfare, Er Ghulam Ali Khatana fervently emphasized the myriad initiatives spearheaded by the Central Government, designed to uplift the common masses.

He also ardently implored the youth to seize the manifold benefits afforded by these government schemes, recognizing them as catalysts for personal and communal prosperity. He highlighted the pivotal role played by self-employment in fostering economic independence and underscored the transformative potential embedded within these initiatives.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra stands as a testament to the commitment of the Government to inclusive development, ensuring that the benefits of its schemes reach every individual, contributing to the overall socio-economic landscape of the district.

Among the others, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; Assistant Commissioner Development, Vijay Kumar; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Sheraz Chowhan; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Rajinder Sharma; BDO Dhangri, Heena Kouser and other officers, officials, PRIs and the public attended the event.

Deputy Commissioner listens to People's concerns at Dhangri Block-Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 28

In a proactive move to address the concerns of the public, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal undertook a visit to the Dhangri block where he listened to the grievances of the local populace. The grievances predominantly revolved around critical issues such as power supply, water availability, and other vital sectors that directly impact the daily lives of the community.

During the interaction, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal empathetically assured the public that their concerns would not go unnoticed and assured swift and timely redressal.

Recognizing the essential nature of the challenges faced by the residents, he underscored the commitment of the administration to prioritize and resolve the issues affecting the quality of life in the region.

As part of a comprehensive visit, Deputy Com-



missioner Vikas Kundal delved into the status of works under the District Capex Budget underway in the area. Noting the significance of these projects for the overall development of Dhangri Block, he emphasized the need for expeditious execution. In this regard, he directed the Block Development Officer Dhangri to ensure the timely and effective implementation of these crucial projects.

The visit of the Deputy Commissioner and subsequent directives underscore the dedication of the administration to responsive governance and its resolve to enhance the living standards of the citizens. The commitment to addressing public

grievances, coupled with a focus on expediting developmental projects, reflects the unwavering dedication of the administration to the welfare of the community.

The residents of Dhangri Block can rest assured that their concerns have been heard and steps are being taken to swiftly address the challenges faced by the community.

Among the others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; Assistant Commissioner Defence Saleem Quershi, Tehsildar Rajouri Varinder Sharma, Block Development Officer Dhangri Heena Kouser and various concerned officers and officials accompanied the DC during his visit.

Focused convergence with Deptts for JKRLM Vision 2024-30: Comm Secy RDD

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 28

Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur, today chaired a meeting with line departments to discuss and strengthen collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM).

The meeting aimed to explore opportunities for joint initiatives and convergence with JKRLM to foster sustainable growth, community empowerment, skill development, and strategic partnerships with various departments, showcasing a commitment to transforming rural livelihoods in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary stressed the importance of convergence between JKRLM and all line departments for efficient implementation and asset creation for livelihoods.

Mandeep Kaur emphasized the vital need for the convergence of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) with JKRLM, acknowledging the



pivotal role they play in the mission's success.

She added that the convergence of JKRLM with various line departments and PRI is imperative to ensure effective asset creation and sustainable livelihoods for the communities. She appreciated the significant efforts of JKRLM to foster collaboration for the betterment of rural livelihoods in Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary also said that the potential convergence with various departments, leveraging their expertise

and resources to catalyse positive change and create impactful opportunities for the Rural Women must be focussed upon. She commended the efforts of JKRLM, noting that it has maintained a remarkable NPA rate of less than 1%.

During the meeting, Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, discussed the Vision document threadbare with the participating departments. She informed them that JKRLM has successfully federated 725,000 women and formed 87,000 self-help groups (SHGs) across the Union Territory

of J&K. These SHGs are working in various areas such as livelihood, financial inclusion, gender and social inclusion, and other related fields.

She further informed that the mission aims to expand the presence of Model Cluster Level Federations (MCLFs) in each block, which would serve as proof of evidence and peer learning platforms on various thematic areas. Additionally, she stated that a knowledge management cell would be established to facilitate the active involvement of the cadre in creating thematic audio-visual modules. The mission also plans to undertake data capturing exercises and establish Village Poverty Reduction Plans (VPRPs) through SHGs and other vulnerable sections of the community.

Moreover, the mission plans to launch Umeed Swayein, which will provide elder care services and sign language assistance. Additionally, counseling services will be offered to address emotional and psychological needs.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held over the establishment of a common auditors group, where SHG members could work as auditors for other organizations. Transforming Block Training Centers (BTC) into Community Managed Training Centers (CMTC) was also emphasized as a way to enhance knowledge dissemination and skill development in rural areas.

The meeting emphasized the importance of value addition in the livestock and agriculture sectors, with the need for cluster-level interventions and support from respective departments. Efforts to make Community Health Centers (CHCs) more efficient were also discussed.

Various departments, including Skill Development, Industries, and JKTPO, were urged to support convergence initiatives similar to the Vishwakarma Scheme. The standardization of products and the creation of a JKRLM brand were also discussed, with a request for support from JKTPO.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 28

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Birpur, Data Talab, Ansal, Laxmi Puram, Rajinder Nagar, Swarn Vihar, Bharat Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Bantalab, Keran, Radio Station, BSNL, CRPF, Ayush Hospital, Janipur Police Station, Bhalwal, Kangarmorh, IRP, Hospital Bhalwal, Kopte, Thater, Nardani, Pooja Colony and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 29 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bishnah, Nandpur, Sajehar, Suhagpur, Seora, Ramgarh, Arnia, Miran Sahib, Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 29 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Phinter, Billawar, Mandli, Parnalla, Baddu, Kolpur, Bandral, VPI, VP2, VP3 and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 29 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Joghpur, Jakh Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Rajbagh, Chaani and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 29 from 9 am to 12 noon.

EOW-CB Jammu charge-sheets 6 for Rs. 60 Lakh fraud in Swarn Bhavya Gold Pvt. Ltd.

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu produced 1266 page charge-sheet against 6 accused affiliates of Swarn Bhavya Gold Pvt. Ltd. including its Managing Director - Balwinder Kumar S/o Deep Chand R/o H.No-230 near Patwar Khana Siwan District Kaithal Haryana in case FIR No.11/2020 U/S 420, 120-B IPC P/S EOW - Crime Branch, Jammu in the Hon'ble Court of law for judicial determination. The accused after hatching criminal conspiracy induced the complainant and other people to invest their money in the said Company with the promise of providing bonus income after every 15 days on their deposits and more bonus income on creating network of depositors and ultimately defrauded them

by duping their money. The other accused persons involved in the commission of crime are:

Sushil Kumar S/o Kashmeeri Lal R/o Near Old Water Tank Siwan Kaithal, Haryana. Sandeep Kumar S/o Abhey Ram R/o Village Pai, Kaithal Haryana. Deepak Singh S/o Sahib Singh R/o H.No214, Ward No.22 near GPS School, Kaithal Haryana, Saphali Singh D/o Hemant Kumar Singh R/o H.No-103, Janak Puri C-1, Pankha Road, New Delhi West and Manveer Singh S/o Baljeet Singh R/o Duplex No.205, Gulmohar City, Extension, Dera Bassi HaibatPur Road, SAS Nagar, Mohali Punjab.

The case stems its origin from a written complaint lodged in Crime Branch Jammu by complainants - 1) Mohd. Younis S/o Abdul Aziz R/o Namalab Pampore, 2) Asrar Ahmed S/o Gulam Mohd. R/o Nowgam

Srinagar, 3) Ayaz Ahmed S/o Mushtaq Ahmed R/o Poonch and 4) Mushtaq Dar S/o Mohd Bashir R/o Rajal Nowshera Rajouri, alleging that accused Balwinder Kumar -Director of Bhavya Gold Company along with Sandeep Kumar and Deepak came to J&K in the month of October-2017 and launched programmes by conducting seminars at different Hotels in J&K to motivate people to invest money with inducement and to get bonus income after every 15 days and for further bonus by creating network of investors. People were assured that the company is genuine and registered with RBI. The said company collected huge amount from J&K State within three months. Initially the Complainants and others got their bonus well in time but later their bonus was stopped and they were cheated.

On receipt of the complaint a Preliminary Verification was conducted and during the course of enquiry, the allegations made cheating and fraud were prima-facie substantiated, leading to the registration of formal case under the relevant sections of law for in-depth probe. During the course of investigation all material evidence was gathered besides statements of complainants & witnesses were recorded and the offences U/S 420, 120-B IPC are established against the accused persons for cheating the complainants and other innocent people. During the course of investigation well coordinated efforts were made by teams of Crime Branch Jammu to arrest the accused persons across various states of North India as they remained elusive for a long period of time.

BJP committed to welfare of needy people: Yudhvir Listens public grievances at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of BJP, Jammu & Kashmir, today reaffirmed the Party's unwavering dedication to the welfare of the needy while addressing public grievances at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan in Kacchi Chawni, Jammu.

During the session, Sethi emphasized the BJP's commitment to development and nationalistic values, stating that all policies formulated and implemented by the party are crafted with the objective of uplifting those who have been historically oppressed and overlooked by previous governments.

"Our focus is on creating a robust framework that not only propels development but also ensures that the benefits reach the most vulner-



able sections of society," Sethi said. He outlined the various initiatives and schemes launched by the BJP that aim to provide tangible support to the needy, including health-care, education, and economic upliftment programs. He further stated that the BJP's approach is holistic and inclusive, striving to create an environment where every citizen, irrespective of their social or economic background, has equal opportunities to thrive. Earlier, the senior BJP leader interacted with numer-

ous individuals and deputations across the East Constituency, attentively listening to their concerns and grievances. Various deputations including individual persons visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues.

On the occasion, Parveen Kerni, President East Mandal and Arun Sethi, General Secretary of East Mandal accompa-

nied the senior BJP leader. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the phone. He reiterated Party's unwavering dedication to the well-being of the common masses. "Only the BJP can fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Sethi he said, urging the people to place their trust in BJP and join Party's mission to build a prosperous and inclusive society.

Pakistan never respected efforts of India, dialogues; backstabbed every time: Sham Lal Sharma

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Pakistan has never respected the sincere efforts of India and the dialogues held in between the two nations. On the contrary, Pakistan has always backstabbed every time, any effort was made to build faith and ensure peace, stated Sham Lal Sharma, while responding to a statement of former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Farooq Abdullah. Sham Lal Sharma added that Pakistan now has to show willingness with concrete actions and not just the treacherous words by containing and eliminating the sheltered terrorists in its soil and immediately stopping all hostile activities.

Sham Sharma said that India has never attacked Pakistan and Pakistan has attacked India four times



Sham Lal Sharma, said that while believing and preaching the same principles of welfare of all, BJP has remained proactive in

directly and many times via proxy terrorists. He also reminded the former Chief Minister that every time India took liberty to initiate peace talks with Pakistan who has adopted 'Terrorism as State Policy', Pakistan has responded with Bomb Blasts, insurgencies. He added that the senior NC leader should rather try to stop betraying the people with misleading statements and instead work for the welfare of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sharma added that India has always advo-

cated peace in the sub-continent and believes in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family) and prays for 'Praniyo Me Sadhbhawnna Ho, Vishav Ka Kalyan Ho' (goodwill among living beings, welfare of whole world).

Former Minister & J&K BJP Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma, accompanied by party Incharge of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal were listening to the grievances put forth by visiting individuals and deputations at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

solving the issues of the masses and these camps have provided a medium to the people to get their issues resolved.

Individuals and deputations of people from Domana, Katli (Samba), Kishtwar, Udampur, Bhaderwah, Ramban, Damsal, Batote, Thathri, Poonch, Nanak Nagar, Gulmarg, Doda, Bishnah, Rehal, Maribel Market, Janipur, Rajouri, Subhash Nagar, Bhour Camp and other places had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances.

Issues related to the pending liabilities of PWD, lanes & drain repair, Gujjar-Bakerwal issues, Police issue, scarcity of drinking water, old age pension, installation of new transformer, hand pump repair, tube well repair, regarding PM Awas Yojana, electricity bill issue, release of retirement pension benefits, new link road at Poonch, operation permission cable car Gandola etc. were presented before the senior party leaders.

Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, while conducting the proceedings of the grievance camp said that BJP has adopted the principle of service to people and through this camp, the party leaders regularly listen to the issues of people on a daily basis and take immediate measures to provide them the relief in a time bound manner.

Govt adopted divisive tactics to sideline crucial issues: Sadhotra

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

The Government at the Centre is employing divisive tactics to distract the public from pressing issues that demand immediate attention and resolution. This strategy, aimed at creating rifts among different sections of our society, is not only detrimental to the nation's unity but also a clear indication of the government's inability to address core challenges.

This was stated by Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary JKNC and former Minister while addressing a meeting of NC party workers of Nagrota Constituency at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. Provincial President JKNC, Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta was also present. The meeting was presided over by Raghvir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A JKNC, who apprised the senior functionaries about the problems being faced by the people of Nagrota Constituency with regard to shortage of basic amenities like scarcity of power and water supply, lack of health-care facilities and civic amenities, etc.

The senior NC leader emphasized that such actions are a deliberate attempt to divert attention from critical issues like economic downturns, unemployment, health crises, and educational reforms. He asserted that these issues are of paramount importance and require immediate and focused attention from both the government and the public. By drawing attention away from these pivotal areas, he stated that the government is not only neglecting its duty to address these concerns but also using divisive methods to distract the people, thereby undermining the demo-



cratic process and the overall welfare of the society.

Sadhotra lamented that the development has come to a complete halt in Nagrota constituency under the incumbent proxy regime of Bharatiya Janata Party and the bureaucrat-centric administration is least bothered to address the issues of the common people in absence of a duly elected representative government in place in this Union Territory.

Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province JKNC expressed his concern over the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra being taken by the BJP government across the country and termed this Yatra as a BJP-sponsored event. He asserted that the Yatra's primary purpose is to mislead the public. "BJP is using this Yatra to draw attention away from their failures of Central Govts sponsored schemes for the welfare of the poorest of poor and downtrodden people of the country and unfulfilled promises made during previous election campaigns. This is a common political tactic where parties or leaders organize events or campaigns to shift public focus from less favorable topics or their shortcomings in governance," he added.

Expressing concern over the people's issues of Nagrota constituency, Rattan Lal stated that Nagrota constituency always received focussed attention during NC regimes, accused the incumbent administration of

subjecting it to utter neglect thus victimizing the people due to political vendetta. He lamented that development had come to a complete halt in the constituency.

Enumerating the achievements of National Conference, the Provincial President said that it was the National Conference which played a significant role in setting up Administrative Units, SDM office, Tehsils and Niabats for development of the area. People of this area are well aware of the fact that major colleges, primary schools, roads, bridges, health centres were established in the area during NC regime, he added.

He asserted that the National Conference reaffirms its commitment to work towards a united and progressive India, where the welfare of every citizen is prioritized over political gains. Among those who were present in the meeting include: Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Qazi Jalal Ud Din Ex-MLA, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary Jammu, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Shahmim Begum DDC Damsal, Ch. Rehmat Ali BDC Chairman, Kuldeep Sharma, Ghar Singh, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Thoru Ram, Ajit Singh Manhas, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Som Raj Taroch, Balwant Singh, Rajinder Singh Rtd AEE, Dawarka Nath Sharma, Pt. Madan Lal Sharma, Ramesh Chander Lal, Dharshan Lal, Parveen Kumar, Man Mohan, M.K Rana and others.

'Cybercrime against Women'

Collaboration among enforcement agencies, academia, civil society crucial as deterrent: Experts

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 28

To address the critical issue of cybercrimes affecting women and to foster awareness and dialogue on strategies to combat such offenses, the Law Society, School of Law, Kashmir University (KU) in collaboration with National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Directorate of Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare, J&K, Thursday organised a daylong national seminar on 'Cyber Crime Against Women here.

Dean Research, KU, Prof Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo; Registrar, KU, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir; officials from police and civil administration, deans and heads from various KU schools/departments, faculty, scholars and students attended the function.

On the occasion, chairperson, NCW, Government of India, Rekha Sharma, underlined the significance of the internet and social media, however, cautioned to be vigilant while using any platform and sharing personal information.

"Targeting women is very easy as the online predators often attack the young and the vulner-



able. They troll, abuse and bully but you have to be thick-skinned to counter that," she said. She further said that collaboration between law enforcement agencies, technology companies, academia and civil society is crucial to develop effective strategies for preventing and combating cybercrime against women. Sharing his observations and concerns pertaining to cybercrimes, Dean Academic Affairs, KU, Prof Farooq Ahmad Masoodi, stressed the need for awareness campaigns and digital literacy initiatives that are essential to educate women about online safety and reporting mechanisms.

"The anonymity afforded by the online environ-

ment emboldens offenders, making it challenging to track and prosecute them," he said, adding that as responsible members of the society, we need to draw meaningful and effective lines for the development of societies with zero tolerance for cybercrimes.

Founder, Cyber-Peace Foundation, Vineet Kuma, said that cybercrime against women is a specific aspect of this broad challenge, encompassing various forms of online harassment, abuse and exploitation targeting women.

"Addressing cybercrime against women requires a multi-faceted approach that combines legal, technological and societal efforts to create a safer

digital environment for all," he said, adding that under-reporting is the biggest challenge right now, as people do not come forward to register complaints. Outlining the aims and objectives of the seminar, Dean and Head, School of Law, KU, Prof Mohammad Hussain said that strict legal frameworks, coupled with swift and efficient law enforcement responses, can act as deterrents and provide recourse for victims.

"Empowering women through education, support networks and digital literacy programmes is also key to foster resilience and reduce the impact of cybercrime in the online spaces," Prof Hussain added.

Shiv Sena leader on two-day Kashmir tour



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni along with others party leaders will leave from Jammu on December 29 on a two-day tour to Kashmir. According to a press release issued from the party office Jammu, a team of party leaders led by party state president Manish Sahni will leave for a two-day tour of Kashmir on December 29, where

the promotion of the party and strategy for participating in the upcoming elections will be discussed by organizing a meeting with party workers. During this, hundreds of local people will join Shiv Sena and Kashmir district units will be announced. The press meet will be organized on Dec 30.

Congress observes 139th Foundation Day

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR DEC 28

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Thursday observed 139th Foundation Day of INC (Indian National Congress) at Srinagar Party Office and extended wishes to the party workers and supporters across the country.

In an extraordinary function held at Srinagar Party office, JKPCC Senior Vice President G.N.Monga hoist-

ed the Party flag to mark the 139th Foundation Day of Indian National Congress and saluted the selfless services and sacrifices of the party towards the Nation before and after the independence. Congress leaders and workers greeted each other on this occasion while pledging to carry forward Party's mission to strengthen unity, harmony and serve people, which is the core of INC.

After hoisting the Party flag, G.N.Monga said the

Foundation Day reflects the selfless services and sacrifices of Indian National Congress which has given its blood for the integrity and sovereignty of the country. Congress Party's great contributions to freedom struggle and inclusive development of the Nation shall continue to remain unmatched, the Party shall remain committed to continue to work vigorously to safeguard the Nation from all threats, Monga said.

Secretary YSS Chairs preliminary meeting of Khelo India Winter Games

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

The Secretary YSS, Sarmad Hafeez today chaired the preliminary meeting of the 4th Khelo India Winter Games scheduled to be held in Gulmarg earlier next year. While several meetings in both offline and online modes were conducted during the past few months in this regard, with today's meeting the formal preparations for the 4th edition of the games have begun, said Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull.

The meeting between the Officers from the J&K and Sports Authority of India team was held in Jammu. While the J&K team was led by Sarmad Hafeez; Ekta Vishnoi, Deputy Director General Sports Authority of India led the SAI team.

Sarmad Hafeez in his inaugural remarks highlighted the role of the Khelo India Winter Games

in recognizing the Gulmarg as one of the main winter sports destinations globally. Seconding him Nuzhat Gull also apprised the Sai team that J&K is ranked number one in the country for sports initiatives held under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and briefed about the role sports has played in channelizing the energy of the youth of J&K for the greater good.

Sarmad Hafeez said that the achievements of the J&K athletes speak volumes about the region's commitment to promoting and excelling in sports. He also directed all the concerned to complete the tasks adhering strictly to the timelines and to ensure that all the facilities put in place during the Khelo India Winter Games meet international standards. He also asked that the promotional campaign of the Winter Games be stepped up to generate enthusiasm among sports



lovers. Ekta Vishnoi, Deputy Director General SAI while speaking on the occasion said that it is an occasion to celebrate sporting excellence and the spirit of camaraderie among sportspersons and an opportunity to showcase J&K's culture and warm hospitality to the people from the other parts of the country.

Today's meeting came as a prelude to the comprehensive strategy for traffic management, sanitation, water supply, accommodation, transportation, etc of the participants during their stay in the Gulmarg where the event is being held.

The Deputy Directors,

Sibananda Mishra and Sachin from Sports Authority of India informed that this edition of Khelo India Winter Games is expected around 800 participations of players and officials, dignitaries, and media persons from across the country as the venue is being prepared to host the snow-related events only and the competitions in Nordic Ski, Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Snow Boarding are being held, while the Ice related events like Ice Hockey, Ice Skating etc are being held in Ladakh.

It was also informed that for the first time during the past few years, SAI of India has registered the athletes on their portal

and they will work in close coordination with the J&K Sports Council.

The deployment of experts and the assistance and support required from various coordinating departments and organizations to make the event a grand success were also discussed by the participants.

Among others present in the meeting included Kapil Sharma, Special Secretary YSS; Subash Chander Chibber, Director YSS; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Dr. Zafar Iqbal CAO; Mohamad Hanief, Chief Sports Officer; Muzaffar Hussain, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir; Baljinder Pal Singh Divisional Sports

officer Jammu; Sheikh Riyaz Ahmad, Administrative Officer, Mir Jehangir PRO, Sahil Gupta. Lalita Sharma, Executive Director, and GTCC Chairperson; Amar Jyoti, Director, Khelo India; Manoj Awati, Assistant Director, SAI, Akash Mishra, Consultant, SAI.

The number of officials from state administration including the Director of Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rafter; C.E.O Gulmarg Development Authority, Waseem Raja; SSP Security Faisal Qayoom; SSP Rural Traffic Kashmir, Ravinder Pal Singh; Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Joint Director YSS, Waseem Raja; Altaf Musavi, SDM Gulmarg and other officers and officials attended the meeting through online mode from Srinagar.

The 4th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games is slated for the first week of February, next year.

DPAP castigate govt for doubling toll plaza rates at Nashri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU DEC 28

DPAP on thursday castigated the move of government for increasing the toll at Nashri- Mada plaza for all vehicles and termed the move as anti people. In a Joint statement party senior leaders G.M.Saroori, R.S.Chib, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Arvinder Singh Micky, Salman Nizami, said that the move has come as a shock for all of us since the fee has been hiked to double. They said it is impossible for most of the people to afford this huge amount while traveling on this road. Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami,

said that the people of J&K need a healing touch and support from centre since the Union Territory has the highest number of unemployed youths. He said the local businesses also have little opportunities to grow and amid such situations levying such huge taxes from the common people is unjustified. DPAP leaders urged government to reconsider its decision and treat the people of Jammu and Kashmir at par with people from other states. "Our people too deserve concessions and support from government like BJP do in other states it rule. There can't be a different yardstick for the people of J&K," Nizami said.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur inaugurates Pre-Promotion Course of SDRF



JI NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, DEC 29

90 days Pre-Promotion Course of SDRF personnel commenced at PTTI Vijaypur for Police personnel of SDRF Battalions of Jammu and Kashmir Police. The objective of the course is to enhance the capabilities and tactics of participants and expose them to the latest tools and techniques. The course was formally inaugurated by Shri Shiv Kumar, IPS, Principal, PTTI Vijaypur who during Inaugural function Inspected Parade of participating trainees and witnessed their March Past.

While addressing, the Principal briefed the participating trainees about the basic concepts of the course. He said that during training, these trainees would be imparted Physical training, Drill with and without Arms, weapon handling and other routine Indoor/Outdoor activities as per

prescribed syllabus. He further told that SDRF is a force which has to remain prepared 24x7 to respond immediately for

launching rescue operations during Natural calamities and it is necessary for SDRF personnel to remain updated with sophisticated rescue machinery and equipments for which special live demonstrations of experts will be organized during training so that they may perform their field duties more effectively.

Among others, Shri Kuldeep Raj, DySP (Indoor/Tech), Shri Kushwant Singh, Dy.SP (Admn.), Surinder Singh Singh (CDI), Inspr. Ram Lal (CLD), Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Vivek Kalsotra, Inspr. Javed Hussain (RI), Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta, Inspr. Ashish Dharmat, Inspr. Kapil Raina were present during the inaugural function.

Repair dilapidated roads of Raipur Satwari, Jammu: ABS

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Aadarsh Bhartiya Samaj a Social Volunteer Organisation working to promote education, environment, health and nationhood among the general masses and students community in particular under the guidance of Col (Retd) R K Sharma-Chairman and S Daljeet Singh-President observed it with concerned that residents residing since last 50 years in Badali Mohala (Ward No 5), Raipur Satwari are still lacking basic amenities and infrastructure to spend a happy life and mentioned that this area was developed with the influx of population. Despite being the original state subject holder, the population of this area is still looking for basic amenities, the most important of which are dilapidated & shabby condition of roads in and around Raipur Satwari, poor drainage system and dumps of solid wastes scattered around the area posing a great threat to life and property of the residents and presenting ugly face and bad image of the area due to negligence attitude of the concerned government authorities. The damaged road passing in front of the children school (New Era Public School) posing a great threat for smooth transition and transportation to the residents in general and school going children in particular. Driving, even moving is very difficult due to huge number of potholes, wounds, patches on the



roads. A number of accidents occurred during the period.

During last 25-30 years, due to rampant development and increase in the population of area, the system has collapsed and resulted as deep pot holes in centre of the road, clogging of drains and dumps of garbage, which starts from Sh Des Raj Choudhary's house, goes parallel to New Era Public School and culminates at Government High School Raipur Satwari touching main road. It is pertinent to mention here that dustbin displayed for the purpose has been lifted by the officials / workers of the cantonment board on the pretext that the area of Raipur Satwari is under Jammu Municipal Corporation whereas JMC blames Cantonment Board for the said misery. It is not understood people of the area should approach to whom. Our request is therefore limited to the redressal of these genuine demands and grievances, through a thorough check and resolution of the same to end our misery which is

there since long. Residents of the area are paying regular property tax to the Cantonment Board. It is shameful on the part of Cantonment Board that they have no sufficient fund for the development work in our area whereas development work is in progress in every ward of the same Board except Ward No 5 i.e. Raipur Satwari. Residents of the area many times approached Cantonment Board office for the development of the area but till date no any kind of action taken in this regard.

ABS through the medium of your esteemed paper reiterated to draw the attention of concerned department and requested Hon'ble Lt Governor to pass the suitable directions to the concerned to resolve the issues of long pending demands including repairing / blacktopping of road, collapsed drainage system and displaying of dustbins at place before the conditions worsens and untoward incident happens and residents may ply to block the main road.

Indian youth 'Second to None' require right platform to shine: Kavinder

Asks youth to take benefit of PM Vishwakarma scheme

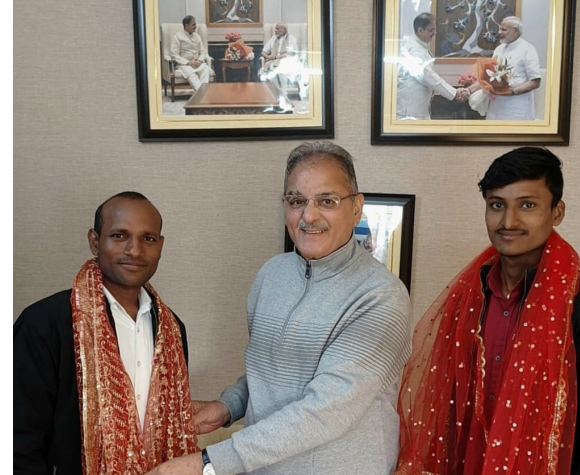
JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today extolled the talent and potential of Indian youth, declaring them "second to none" and only needing the right platform to shine.

He was speaking while honouring Ranjit Kumar, a skilled sculptor whose recent works depicting Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, and Swami Vivekananda have become prominent landmarks in Amphalla.

Kavinder lauded Ranjit Kumar's meticulous artistry, praising the statues installed at key intersections throughout the city.

Pertinent to mention here that the Atal Bihari Vajpayee's statue stands tall near the Radio Station Chowk, the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur statue graces Bhagwati Nagar Chowk, and soon, a majestic Swami Vive-



kananda statue will adorn Vivek Ananta Hospital in Amphalla.

"Our youth possess immense talent," Kavinder asserted, "but what they truly need is a platform to nurture and showcase their skills." He expressed his firm belief that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recently launched PM Vishwakarma Skill Development Scheme, aimed at empowering and upskilling India's workforce, aligns perfectly with this

vision. Sharing details about the PM Vishwakarma scheme, the senior BJP leader highlighted its focus on providing skill training across diverse sectors, financial assistance to support trainees, and entrepreneurship mentorship for aspiring young business owners. He envisioned the scheme as a catalyst for unlocking the immense potential of India's youth and shaping the nation's future.

Women, Charioteer in journey of golden India: Rekha Mahajan



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan today lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching several women-centric schemes and giving women priority in several other schemes.

Mahila Morcha BJP District Jammu South meeting was held where in large number of women folk joined the BJP party in the presence of Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta, District Vice President Narinder Koki, Gandhi Nagar Mandal President Bharat Bhusan, District Mahila Morcha President Divya Jain, Morcha Mandal President Ritika Dhiman,

Meetu Sharma, Bharati and others were present on the occasion.

While addressing the BJP Mahila Morcha Rekha Mahajan stated, that women are the Charioteers in the journey of golden India. Modi-led government does everything whether it is Article 370, Triple Talaq, or now the Women's Reservation Bill which will work to change the destiny of women of the country. When a woman takes up any responsibility, she tries with all her might to take the resolution to completion. The biggest benefit of this law will be that it will create great confidence in the women's power of the country. The passion to work for the country and the power to take India

forward will increase manifold. Making women millionaires is Prime Minister Modi's dream and we have to accelerate the party activities at the grassroots level amid the general public Rekha Mahajan highlights that Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra was launched by the Prime Minister on November 15. Nationwide outreach initiative aims at informing and empowering citizens about major schemes of the Central government.

Rekha Mahajan noted that since taking office in 2014, PM Modi has consistently emphasized the importance of gender equality and the need to empower women in all spheres of life. Making the lives of women easier, providing new employment opportunities to women, and women empowerment have been at the center of all the welfare schemes launched by the Central Government. This is such a transformative change of approach and mindset that PM Modi's vision has now been echoed in the G20 summit declaration as well.

Khatana thanks PM Modi for rescuing J&K from dynasts' clutches

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASL, DEC 28

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana accused Congress and National Conference, of being responsible for the prolonged issues in Jammu and Kashmir. He commended the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for undertaking bold steps to extricate the region from its longstanding challenges.

Addressing a public meeting at Deval in Tehsil Mahore of district Reasi, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana said that the Congress, in its pursuit of facilitating dynastic rule by the National Conference, ceded parts of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and China. This, he said resulted in a quagmire that persists, adversely affecting the residents of the erstwhile state.

"Under the Congress and National Conference's rule, certain seg-

ments of Jammu and Kashmir were sacrificed to uphold dynastic governance. It was a move that not only undermined the democratic principles but also perpetuated inequality and exploitation," said MP Khatana.

Highlighting the transformative measures taken by the BJP government, MP Khatana praised the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. This historic move, he argues, was instrumental in ending dynastic rule and ensuring equal rights for all, including marginalized communities such as Gujjars, Valmikis, Gurchas, West Pakistan refugees, POJK refugees, and Kashmiri migrants.

"By revoking Article 370 and 35A, the BJP government aimed to dismantle the structures that perpetuated inequality and discrimination. The objective was to establish a more inclusive and equitable system that empowers every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Vi signs a strategic partnership with Gameloft to bring world class hyper casual games for its subscribers

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Leading telecom operator Vi, has partnered with globally renowned mobile video game developer, Gameloft, to offer a wide range of hyper casual games across genres such as action, adventure, sports, racing, and many others to Vi users via Vi Games on Vi App. Through this partnership, Vi customers can access Gameloft originals and other popular game titles such as Danger

Dash, Block Breaker Unlimited, Ludi Bubbles, Asphalt Retro, and more at no additional cost.

Vi customers can easily explore this gaming bonanza by navigating through Vi Games section on the Vi App and diving into the Fun Games section. The Gameloft options on Vi Games have a fresh and easy to use look and feel and come with state-of-the-art anti-fraud detection and security solution.

Vi's partnership with Gameloft underscores

its dedication to deliver immersive games, reaffirming its commitment to provide the best in category gaming options and experience to mobile gamers. The collaboration is one more significant step towards delivering an unparalleled gaming experience for Vi customers.

The current offering to subscribers is at no cost. Vi plans to launch a subscription based service of Gameloft's tournament led service called Arena in the near future.

BJP Reasi district holds VDG meeting

JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DEC 28

Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party Village Defence Guard (VDG) Cell organized a meeting at Reasi District Office, which was attended by hundreds of party activists associated with the cell. In the meeting, newly constituted Mandal teams of VDG were welcomed and felicitated on being assigned task to work at Mandal level.

The meeting commenced with the traditional lighting of lamp by Arvind Gupta, Secretary J&K BJP and Prabhari Reasi District, along with Reasi District President Rohit Dubey, VDG Cell State Incharge Basant Raj Thakur and other local leaders.

Arvind Gupta, while addressing this meeting, said that Village Defence Committees (VDGs), earlier called Village defence Committees (VDCs) have a history of splendid work in hilly and far flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The VDCs established in 1994-95 with the active

role of BJP, had the task to protect the people in their areas from the terrorist attacks. They were well aware of the topography and terrain of their areas and proved of great help to the police and other security forces in tracking the terrorists and eliminate them. He said that these VDGs deserve real appreciation for their sacrifices for safeguarding the innocent people and restoring faith of the population.

Rohit Dubey, in his address, said that the VDGs in the entire Reasi district are continuing to discharge their duties in very effect manner. He also raised the issue of non-payment of the emoluments to some VDGs. Basant Raj Thakur, on this occasion, spoke in details about the long journey of VDGs and said that in almost 25 years, the VDGs played important role in inducing a sense of security among the minorities, who would have, otherwise migrated due to the terrorist threats. Mandal level VDG convenors were also nominated in the meeting.

Bali criticizes Farooq's praise for RaGa's unity efforts as 'Laughable'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former minister has sharply rebuked Dr. Farooq Abdullah's recent commendation of Rahul Gandhi's efforts to unite India. He described the notion as 'laughable,' given the historical context of the Congress party's role in the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan, which he asserts has been a persistent challenge for the nation since 1947.

In a statement issued here today, a senior BJP leader said, "It is ironic and laughable that Dr. Abdullah is praising the Congress, a party whose divisive politics have led to long-standing issues in our country. Let us not forget the years of NC and Congress rule and their questionable treatment of various communities in Jammu and Kashmir, including West Pakistani refugees, POJK refugees, Valmikis, and Gorkhas."

"Due to their religion and caste, West Pakistani refugees from 1947, as well as POJK refugees, Valmikis, and Gorkhas in Jammu, endured a miserable existence in their own country, facing discrimination and neglect largely because they were not Muslims," he said.

Highlighting the worsening condition of Congress due to its policies and appeasement strategies over the last 70 years, Bhagat drew attention to the plight of Kashmiri Hindus in the eighties and nineties. He provocatively suggested that the response might have been different if the Abdullah or Gandhi families had faced similar circumstances.

Responding to the issue of civilian casualties in Kashmir, Bali Bhagat directly questioned Farooq Abdullah about the actions taken during the tenure of his son as Chief Minister, suggesting that the people of Kashmir still remember and resent that period of governance.

Responding to the statement about the killing of civilians, the senior BJP leader questioned Farooq that more than hundred civilians, particularly youth, were killed under the directives of

his son during his tenure as Chief Minister. He asserted that the people of Kashmir, who have not forgotten the rule of Farooq's son leading to their ousting in 2014, are now faced with Farooq's statement 'Jammu Kashmir Jaye Jahannum Mein' (Let Jammu Kashmir go to hell). He challenged Farooq Abdullah on his ability to face the people after such remarks, questioning whether he feels any sense of shame.

Bhagat also dismissed Farooq's advice to the Modi government on dealing with external threats, confidently stating that the current government at centre is more capable of handling relations with China and Pakistan. He alluded to the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A as just the beginning, hinting at more significant policy actions in the future.

Expressing concern over the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra,' Bali Bhagat derided it as ineffective political theater, attributing Congress's recent electoral defeats in three major states to such endeavors.

"The adage saying 'The cat goes on a pilgrimage after eating 100 rats' aptly describes the current situation. Following the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', which was perceived as a mere spectacle, the Congress party suffered significant losses in three major states," he added.

The former minister boldly predicted an overwhelming victory for the BJP in the upcoming Parliamentary elections, citing increased voter awareness and skepticism towards political dramas and false promises.

"The voters of India are now informed and discerning. They understand the games and gimmicks of political parties and no longer fall for empty promises. The history of these parties is well-known to them," he added.

Amend recently bill passed in Parliament against drivers: Apni Party leader

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Apni Party Provincial President Transport Union, Jammu, Tirath Singh today demanded amendment in the central law that was recently introduced and passed in the Parliament of India.

"The bill passed by the Parliament holds drivers accountable for accidents and accordingly, it has proposed harsh imprisonment that is completely

unacceptable to the transporters/drivers," said Tirath Singh, addressing a press conference here at Apni Party Office, Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

He said that the transporters/drivers are upset with the Govt and demand an amendment in the bill because it is against the drivers and transporters.

"The drivers drive trucks/trallas carefully and they support thousands of families in the



transport business. The holding of drivers accountable is unacceptable, and therefore, the Govt should rethink and amend the bill keeping in

view the implication of the bill," he added.

He said that with the passing of the bill, the transporters are in distress.

"The Govt should rethink and accordingly amend the bill. Otherwise, the transporters will be compelled to come on the roads," he threatened.

He was accompanied by Devinder Singh Gill, Yash Choudhry, Inderpal Singh, Harvinder Singh, and others.

NIT Srinagar hosts brainstorming session under Viksit Bharat@2047

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 28

Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiative aimed at propelling the nation towards progress and development, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organized a stimulating brainstorming session on Thursday under the banner of Viksit Bharat@2047.

The session was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Sudhakar Yedla, and was attended by all Deans, Registrar, Heads of Departments and Centres, faculty members, administrative staff, and other employees of the institution. The session was moderated by Dr. Kurella Swamy (Asst. Prof. Deptt. of Chemical Engineering).

Throughout the session, participating staff members engaged in a series of inquiries, delving into crucial aspects such as envisioning the characteristics of a developed Bharat in 2047, strategizing the necessary steps to achieve this goal, and exploring the individual and institutional contributions required to actualize Viksit Bharat@2047.

In his response, Prof.

Sudhakar Yedla emphasized the focal point of the discussion, primarily addressing subjects spanning across the country, with a particular focus on women empowerment.

He underscored the significance of augmenting the women workforce, highlighting its current marginalization in comparison to their male counterparts.

"India has to evolve into a developed nation, a concerted effort towards women empowerment is essential. Secondly, the skilled workforce is a key factor in this transformation, advocating for strategic resource allocation towards this end. As we reach 2047, the Viskhit Bharat will have its workforce globally, participating in key components or projects worldwide," Prof. Yedla said.

The Director, emphasizing his role as an environmentalist, highlighted the need to envision per capita energy consumption, per capita emissions, and material consumption comparable to those of developed countries, including the USA and European nations.

He cautioned that adhering to the same guidelines would result in



a significantly increased global burden in terms of energy, materials, and emissions.

To mitigate this impact, Prof. Yedla stressed the imperative of transforming into a developed nation while concurrently adopting sustainable practices.

"The urgent need for the country's growth is imperative to address the gap between the poor and the rich. Many believe that India has entered a golden period where it can significantly deliver a boost to its rising economy," the Director added.

Taking it forward, Prof. Yedla said NIT Srinagar plans to have deeper deliberations involving students to identify various innovative pathways towards Viksit Bharat.

"Jammu and Kashmir aims to be the frontrunner in the journey of Viksit

Bharat and NIT Srinagar is striving hard to make meaningful contributions," he added.

In response to the suggestions, Dean of Planning & Development, Dr. J. A. Bhat said there is a necessity to invest in a skilled workforce, noting the existing deficiency in India. He advocated for the establishment of training programs within our institutions to address this gap.

Dean Academic Affairs, Dr. Mohammad Shafi Mir highlighted the imperative to narrow the gap between academia and industry. He stressed the importance of NIT Srinagar taking a proactive stance, putting forth specific proposals or presentations to propel us towards a visionary India in 2047.

Head CSE, Dr. Mohammad Ahsan

Chishti suggested that there is a need to focus on innovations, research, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Placing a significant emphasis on these aspects, NIT Srinagar can actively contribute to technological advancements and secure its vital contribution in Viksit Bharat 2047.

In-charge Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman proposed that each department within the institution should actively seek collaborations both domestically and internationally. This collaborative approach aims to create opportunities for students, Ph.D. scholars, and faculty to derive maximum benefit from such partnership, he added.

Dr. Yashwant Mehta emphasized the importance of incorporating local architecture and

innovations to showcase them to the outside world.

He expressed the intention to integrate local solutions into the campus environment. The inclusion of elements of ethnic architecture within the campus to preserve and promote cultural diversity, Dr. Mehta said.

Similarly, Assistant Registrar, Direction Office, Mohammad Hazik proposed that apart from research and innovation being of prime importance, he also sees the critical aspect of social responsibility.

He highlighted the duty of the educational institution to instill a sense of responsibility among its staff and students, who act as representatives beyond the campus. There is a need to actively work in this direction," Mr. Hazik said.

Dr. Ved Prakash Sharma emphasized the importance of collaboration with the local industry, aiming to benefit them with the institution's expertise. While Dr. Farida Khurshed recommended a focus on educating the local population beyond the campus, particularly advocating for women's empowerment and girl education.

MoE Dharmendra Pradhan's Visionary Discourse at IIM Jammu ignites young minds for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM) Jammu hosted Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India, for a momentous visit that included a comprehensive review of ongoing construction activities. This visit not only underscored the institute's steadfast commitment to academic excellence and innovation but also aligned seamlessly with the broader goals of national progress under the visionary initiative, "Viksit Bharat".

The event was presided by Padmashri Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, Cmdr Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu along with officials from the Ministry, faculty, officers, staff and students of the Institute. On the occasion, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan planted a Rudraksha sapling, symbolizing growth and prosperity, in the permanent campus during the visit, commencing the event with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony.

Speaking on the momentous occasion, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India gave

a detailed overview into the Ideas for the vision Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative. He mentioned about Hon'ble Prime Minister's Shri Narendra Modi's governance philosophy, approach of uplifting those at the bottom of pyramid, Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas model, and the need for promoting education in mother tongue and drawing pride, inspiration, and confidence from Bharatiyata.

He reiterated, "We are in an era of game-changing reforms under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. India has witnessed rapid transformation post 2014 and is on its way to become the third largest economy in the world. Hon'ble PM's welfarism model is a case study. On this occasion, I would like to encourage IIM Jammu family to examine it minutely and come up with long-term case studies on the unique propositions and possibilities for the U.T of Jammu & Kashmir. I would like to commend the active involvement of the Institute in Viksit Bharat Initiative and its commitment to nurturing future leaders, dedication in academics and skill development aligning seamlessly with our vision for a Viksit Bharat @2047. The next twenty-five years are crucial. I urge everyone out here that with Sabka Prayas, we must realise the goal of Viksit Bharat @2047.

During his address, Dr. Milind P. Kamble highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by IIM Jammu in a short span of time, further reinforcing its commitment to fostering a conducive and inclusive learning environment at the Institute. He mentioned, "We have established "Anandam," A Center for Happiness, which is aimed at addressing academic stress among students. Furthermore, the establishment of the Centre for Diversity and Inclusion is a testament to our commitment to providing an inclusive and diverse learning environment. These initiatives



align seamlessly with our vision for a developed India by 2047 as part of the Viksit Bharat initiative. The institute remains steadfast in its commitment to transformative initiatives and looks forward to further collaboration with the Hon'ble Minister towards achieving the shared vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

During his address, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu underscored IIM Jammu's unwavering dedication to academic excellence and active participation in transformative initiatives like Viksit Bharat @ 2047. He emphasized the institute's commitment to shaping the educational landscape in alignment with the vision for a developed and thriving India by 2047.

in our journey. I applaud the collective efforts of our stakeholders, including the diligent faculty and bright students, who have contributed significantly to making IIM Jammu an epitome of knowledge. IIM Jammu reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, unveiling pioneering programmes ranging from MBA HA & HM in collaboration with IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, AIIMS Jammu and B.Tech + MBA with IIT Jammu designed to align with the transformative vision outlined in the policy. Our commitment to academic excellence is unwavering, and initiatives like Viksit Bharat @ 2047 exemplify our active role in shaping the future of education in India."

During his visit, the Hon'ble Minister reviewed the progress of IIM Jammu's Jagti campus construction activities, acknowledging the institute's commitment to academic excellence, research, and fostering future leaders. He also visited and lauded the state-of-the-art library at the institute and its hi-tech facilities available there to provide a comprehensive learning ecosystem to the students.

One of the key highlights of the visit was the involvement of the student community with the Hon'ble Minister for in-depth discussion on the Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative, a

visionary program aimed at shaping the educational and skill development landscape in India by the year 2047. The discussion with students revolved around this long-term vision of the government and its several initiatives, aligning the educational landscape with the overall broad goals of the nation where he emphasized on the bottom of the pyramid approach of the government to prosper inclusive economic growth and the importance of imparting knowledge in the local language.

While answering questions of the students, Hon'ble Minister mentioned about the quality education initiatives that the Government is planning and implementing to ensure equal access to education as a part of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Further, during the interaction, Hon'ble Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan emphasized the importance of artificial intelligence in holistic development of the mankind.

This pivotal interaction at IIM Jammu served as a platform for collaboration, innovation, and the co-creation of educational pathways that resonate with the evolving needs of the nation, propelling it towards a brighter and more prosperous future. The event culminated with the national anthem with a sense of pride and patriotism.

Apni Party will address all pending issues of DPs if it comes to power: Manjit Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DEC 28

Seeking release of central package of Rs 25 lakhs for each Displaced Persons (DPs) family in J&K, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today all the pending issues of DPs will be addressed if the Apni Party forms next Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Former Minister raised this demand while addressing a public meeting at Nandpur Camp in Ramgarh in Samba District. The meeting was organized by District President, Samba, Legal Cell, Adv Sahil



Bharti.

During this meeting, Manjit Singh addressed the gathering and raised various issues faced by the Displaced Persons (DPs) for decades. He said that the traditional political parties exploited the DPs for their votes and did not fulfill the promises they did with them.

"For decades, these DPs remained ignored regarding their social, political, economic and educational upliftment by these parties who exploited them for votes and never worked for their welfare," he said.

He recalled that an amount of Rs 25 lakhs was sanctioned in favour of each family of DPs in Jammu and

Kashmir, but that amount was not released.

"The Central Govt had sanctioned an amount of Rs 25 lakhs for the DPs, but this package was fully not released in favour of the concerned families. The initial amount of Rs 5.5 lakhs was released, but this too did not reach all the DPs," he added. He demanded full and final release of the financial package in favour of DPs in Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, he said that the DPs of 1947, 1965 and 1971 were settled on custodian land by then Govts and for decades, they lived on these lands without any kind of property rights.

Delhi Public School, Kathua (Junior) celebrates Annual Sports Day 2023

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Delhi Public School Kathua (Junior) celebrated its Annual Sports Day with zeal and enthusiasm at the Main Campus, DPS Kathua (Rajbagh). The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Chief Guest Sh. Ajeet Lal Dogra SSP (Retd.), Guest of Honor Capt. Anchal Ram (Retd.), Chairperson Smt. Kanta Andotra, Former MLA, Mrs. Gauri Thakur administrator of DPS Kathua, Mrs. Tajinder Kaur Maughal

Senior Coordinator DPS Kathua and Mr. Rakesh Sharma, Principal RB College of Education.

Vikram Singh Slathia School Coordinator for CBSE, Ms. Ruchi Sharma Primary wing Coordinator and Ms. Rishu Sharma Pre-Primary wing Coordinator of DPS Kathua also attended the event.

Under the supervision of Mr. Amandeep Sharma HOD Sports, Mr. Jagmohan, Mrs. Aruna Jamwal and Mr. Sahil Janjua the sports extravaganza featured a diverse range of activities, adding vibrancy to the day.

All J&K Gaddi Sabha holds meeting at Nalloud



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

A meeting of All Jammu and Kashmir Gaddi Sabha is held at Nalloud a far flung area of tehsil Ramnagar under the chairmanship of Mr Kuldeep Kumar president Youth All J&K Gaddi Sabha participated by prominent members of sabha.

In the meeting Special lecture is given on the social norms of young generation in order to keep them away from malpractices.

The parents were stressed to give their children knowledge of good social attitudes and avoid their concentration

towards malpractices which is hardest social evil in our society, rather children should be diverted towards vocational as well as academic studies besides spiritual knowledge.

As the coming future is a time of highly competitive era which can be tackled only by hard working.

The meeting ends with vote of thanks by the concerned public with the hope of brighter future of young generation.

Prominent among the public are Sant Ram, Subash Chandra, Romesh chandr, Churu Ram, Mansa Ram, Krishan Lal, Hazru Ram, Kartar etc

Tony resents SMVDU authorities for undermining Convocation Ceremony, seeks UGC intervention

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

DDC Suchetgarh Taranjit Singh Tony today voiced strong criticism against the recent convocation program at Shree Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), labeling it as a mockery of the students' hard-earned achievements.

In a press statement issued here today, the DDC member expressed deep disappointment over the university's handling of the convocation today wherein the Union Education Minister was the Chief Guest, stating that it failed to appropriately honor the academic accomplishments of its graduates.

"Convocation is a significant milestone in a student's academic journey, a day eagerly awaited for the formal recognition of their hard work and achievements. However, the manner in which SMVDU conducted its convocation this year is deeply disappointing and undermines the essence of this important event," he said.

Tony criticized the University's decision to hand over the degrees en masse through a single student from each stream, tasking them with distributing the degrees among their peers. This approach, he argued,



a feeling of inferiority and disillusionment among the graduates."

He asserted that students from across the country, along with their parents, reached the University campus a day before the Convocation by spending hefty amounts on airfares and hotel accommodation, but the convocation ceremony was conducted in a manner that significantly undermined their efforts and expectations.

Tony, who remained President of Jammu University Students' Union for ten long years, emphasized that the University Grants Commission (UGC) should take serious note of this incident and issue stringent guidelines for conducting convocations. He emphasized that if the Chief Guest is unable to dedicate sufficient time to the ceremony, they should reconsider their participation to avoid compromising the dignity of the event.

"This incident is not just a failure on the part of SMVDU but reflects poorly on our education system as a whole," he said and urged the University authorities to reconsider its approach to such important academic events and to ensure that they uphold the morale and dignity of their students.

not only devalues the convocation ceremony but also robs students of the proud moment of being recognized individually for their accomplishments.

"The university's decision has not only tarnished the fundamental spirit of a convocation but also caused distress among the students, who have been eagerly anticipating this day," he said, adding "If the authorities are unable to conduct the ceremony in a manner that honors each student's achievements, it would be preferable not to hold the convocation at all, rather than create

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra PM's resolve ignites inclusive growth drive: Dr Varinder

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Dr Varinder Sharma, Co-convenor Professional Cell, BJP J&K has lauded the monumental success of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a transformative movement initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This nationwide yatra, he added flagged off on November 15, 2023, is a testament to the government's commitment to achieving hundred per cent saturation of flagship schemes.

The Yatra, covering 2.60 lakh Gram Panchayats and 4000 plus urban local bodies by January 25, 2024, has rapidly gained momentum, reaching over 2.50 Crore citizens in just one month. He said that Prime Minister Modi's direct interactions, both virtually and physically, with beneficiaries scattered across length and breadth of India exemplifies a unique feedback mechanism ensuring the effectiveness of central-sponsored schemes without any pilferage.

Dr Varinder Sharma said that notable achievements of this initiative are one hundred per cent



solace in the government's intervention, covering his treatment costs through the Ayushman card. This is called good governance where the benefits are directly reaching most deserving beneficiaries, he said. Similarly many commoners from other districts of Union Territory have also benefited from central schemes. Ever since Narendra Modi has taken over the reins of government such initiatives are proving beneficial for common people.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra goes beyond statistics, embodying the transformation evident in the laughter of children with clean water, the pride of a farmer holding his land deed, and the hope in the eyes of a mother securing healthcare for her family, Dr Varinder Sharma said adding that Viksit Bharat is not merely a promise; it is a journey marked by tangible improvements and countless lives transformed. The Yatra aims to create awareness, encourage citizen participation, and ensure the benefits of schemes reach all targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

ayushman coverage in numerous gram panchayats, Har Ghar Jal connections bringing water to every household, digitized land records for efficient land management and ODF Plus status, a significant stride towards sanitation. These were the spheres where Congress governments never paid any attention for the past 70 years and pushed the people towards miserable situations and complexities.

The BJP's professional cell co-convenor said that J&K is biggest beneficiary of this Yatra and the story of Ganesh Sharma's from Katra, Jammu & Kashmir, vividly illustrates the tangible impact of Ayushman Bharat. Suffering from a leg fracture, Ganesh found

NC stands nowhere politically today: Dr. Manyal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary and former minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, while reacting to the self claim of National Conference (NC) that only it can give fight to BJP in upcoming polls,

said that the leaders of this party are only surviving on day dreaming. He said that BJP has become PAN India party with largest membership in the world, governments in many states in the country and in power at the centre for the last ten years. On the other hand, NC is only a regional party, with

very thin public standing in the UT now and its leaders are projecting it as a big competitor of BJP.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that one cannot understand the logic behind making such claims by NC leaders in Jammu. May be they fears division in their party due

to the growing popularity of BJP even in the Valley. He said that there is no doubt that the NC was in power in Jammu and Kashmir for many years after independence, but with the passage of time, this party's political popularity and hold in the public has come down. Even in Kashmir Valley, it

lost its ground fast, due to the reason that NC promoted dynastic politics and adopted appeasement policy. Its love for Pakistan too exposed it and people realised that NC cannot be trusted anymore and should be shown the door.

"While NC has lost its ground in the UT, the BJP,

has strengthened itself in entire length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir," Dr. Manyal said and added that people cannot be misled by false claims as they are more aware of the policies of the political parties in the present era of better and easily accessible different means of communication.

CO IRP 11th Bn holds Darbar of Jawans, sanctions welfare loan to tune of Rs. 5 Lakhs to deserving officials

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, DEC 28

Sandeep Mehta, SSP and Commanding Officer of IRP 11TH Battalion conducted a grievance redressal camp of the A/F Coys. at the company headquarters near Police Station Anantnag

Attending to the genuine grievances voiced by the personnel, he directed the concerned officers to address their issues on priority. While deliberating on the issue the commandant stressed upon the participating officials and officers to work with zeal and dedication to achieve the common goal of J&K police i.e maintenance



of law & order and bringing peaceful atmosphere for the common masses. He said that measures are being taken for the overall welfare of the jawans and officers. The chairing officer reiterated that all the grievances will be duly looked into and necessary

steps will be taken for their timely redressal.

Later in the day, in order to meet the emergent expenses of officers/officials and as a welfare measure, CO IRP XI Bn Anantnag chaired the Battalion Welfare Committee meeting and sanctioned

Rs 5.00 lakh welfare loan in favour of the personnel of the Battalion. Out of the total 20 applications, welfare loans were sanctioned in favour of 12 eligible personnel. A loan of Rs. 40,000 each was sanctioned in favour of 07 personnel for the treatment

of 01 person for marriage of his son.

In addition to the above, an amount of Rs. 50,000 each was sanctioned in favour of two Class-IV employees for marriage / treatment of their dependents.

The CO expressed satisfaction on the timely disbursement of welfare loans as it helps in meeting certain expenses of Jawans without facing any financial difficulty. He also informed the participants about various welfare measures being taken by the Police Department for the welfare of NoK of cops and said that all Police units are committed to provide all possible assistance to police families.

IIT Jammu, ESF unite for J&K's Largest Climate Clock Assembly, Display Event



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 28

In a significant collaborative effort, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, in partnership with Energy Swaraj Foundation (ESF), has achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully assembling 40 Climate Clocks. This event marks the largest Climate Clock Assembly and Display in the region, held at the Open Air Theatre at IIT Jammu.

A gathering of approximately 200 students from 28 institutions, including local schools and colleges, participated in the assembly of the DIY Climate Clock. Functioning as a real-time reminder of the pressing need to address climate change, the clocks were meticulously assembled by students in teams at respective institutions. The aim is to encourage individuals to adopt behaviours that actively reduce their carbon footprint.

The event witnessed the esteemed presence of Shri Roshan Jaggi, IFS, who graced the occasion as the chief guest, accompanied by Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu, Prof Chetan Singh Solanki, Founder ESF, and Prof Anurag Misra, Dean IPM IIT Jammu. Shri Jaggi, in his address, urged students to recognize the dual responsibility - individual and collective - in mitigating the climate crisis. He emphasised the importance of each person's contribution towards environmental preservation. Drawing from his experiences,

Shri Jaggi shared inspiring anecdotes to motivate students to translate principles into action.

During the welcome address, Prof Manoj Singh Gaur expressed his gratitude to all participants, emphasising that events of this nature underscore the institution's commitment to a sustainable and environmentally conscious future. He conveyed IIT Jammu's pride in contributing to such initiatives and affirmed a commitment to exploring innovative ways to positively impact our planet.

Prof Chetan Singh Solanki, a Professor at the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay and the founder of ESF, commended the students for their efforts and provided a strategic action plan to fulfil the vision of Climate Responsiveness. Encouraging a sense of urgency, he stated, "The right time is right now!"

Associate Professor, Dr Arun Kumar Verma, from IIT Jammu, presented a sincere vote of thanks to all the participants, the staff and students from IIT Jammu for making the event a huge success.

As a tangible outcome of the event, each participating institute received the assembled Climate Clock, which will be prominently displayed at their premises to raise awareness about the critical importance of preserving our climate.

This collaborative effort reflects a shared commitment towards fostering environmental consciousness and sustainable practices for a healthier planet.

Nazim Zai visits Kupwara, participates in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Bramri Drugmulla

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 28

“Macadamization of inner roads of Bramri after a span of long 15 years and upgradation of Bramri Maidanpora receiving station is not less than a blessing for the locals who seems highly grateful to the J&K government” extolled DDC Member Drugmulla, Amina Majeed, while participating in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra event at Bramri Drugmulla here.

The event, chaired by Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief & Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, Nazim Zai Khan, during his extensive visit to Kupwara. He visited Bramri-B (Block Drugmulla) panchayat of Kupwara district, as part of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, ADDC, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ACD, Dr. Mudasar Ahmad, ACR, Irfan Bhahadur, Chairperson, BDC Drugmulla, Shaheena Begum, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and locals of the area were present on the occasion.



Secretary inspected the stalls set up by various departments to showcase their achievements and services. He also interacted with the beneficiaries and scheme implementing agencies and appreciated their efforts.

The event witnessed screening of Prime Minister's message played through the Information Education and Communication (IEC) van.

Nazim Zai along with the Deputy Commissioner, officers of district administration, PRIs and locals, actively took part in the Viksit Bharat pledge, reaffirming their commitment towards development of the nation.

The yatra also featured

a segment called 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani', where the beneficiaries of various schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), MGNREGA, SBMG, UMEED, Pradhan Mantri Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) shared their success stories and experiences.

The programme was followed by a scintillating cultural performance (Kashmiri Rouff) by the students of local government school.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary said that the yatra aimed to ensure saturation and awareness of the schemes among the people. He added that the Yatra's primary goal

is to ensure every citizen benefits from government flagship schemes. He highlighted the need and role of different line departments in providing on the spot services to the people so that people can avail the benefits of different schemes at their door steps.

Nazim Zai praised the beneficiaries for sharing their stories and locals of Bramri for taking part in VBSY despite shivering cold.

Secretary handed over the sanction letter of the sheep unit under ISDS to a local unemployed Youth namely Jamshaid Ahmad Lone.

VBSY at Nagri -B today proved a momentous day for Kupwara district as all 385 panchayats of the district were successfully covered under the campaign.

Meanwhile, Secretary also visited Transit accommodation Nutnoosa and transit accommodation Kulangam where he reviewed development works. DDC member Drugmulla demanded hot-line electricity service for Health centre Dugmulla which caters to a large population of the area.

Talat Parvez holds Public Darbar at Bandipora

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPIORA, DECEMBER 28

Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol, Talat Parvez Rohella, on Thursday presided over a public darbar cum grievance redressal camp here and reviewed progress on Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and implementation of beneficiary oriented schemes.

Chairman District Development Council Bandipora, Abdul Gani Bhat; Deputy Commissioner, Dr Owais Ahmad, DDC members, ADDC, ADC, ACR and other senior officers of all line departments besides representatives of various delegations were present on the occasion.

The DC briefed regarding the overall developmental scenario of the district.

While presenting status of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) in the district, the DC informed that during the ongoing VBSY all 151 panchayats besides 43 Urban Local Bodies have already been covered by the Information Education and Communication (IEC) Van comprising cent percent coverage of the district.

DC informed that over 1 lakh beneficiaries have already been covered and the yatra still continues across different areas of the district.

Secretary said that VBSY, launched by Prime



Minister, Narendra Modi, is a proactive initiative to bridge the developmental gaps and ensure that every corner of the nation flourishes through various centrally sponsored welfare schemes.

The Public Darbar witnessed overwhelming response from all sections of the society where people apprised the secretary of issues being faced by them, seeking intervention in redressing the same.

The DDC delegation, on the occasion, submitted a memorandum of demands concerning power supply, healthcare and education. Other demands put forth by the delegation included mobile connectivity at Chorwan and Krishay villages of Gurez/Tulail,

ATM at Aragam Chit-hibanday besides bringing some areas of Bandipora, Sumbal and Hajin on tourism map.

The BDC members also put forth the issues concerning their respective areas like road connectivity, devising a robust mechanism for flood prone and affected areas near water bodies, land for landless families, filling of vacant posts, demands of blood bank in CHC Sumbal, early completion of College building in Hajin.

Delegation of Sarpanchs also presented their issues and demands during the Public Darbar.

Youth delegation led by Mehran Sofi and Yasir Peerzada demanded upgradation of Srinagar-Bandipora as National

Highway, establishment of Women College besides a Medical College in the district.

Talat Parvez, while interacting with line departments, called for adopting a time bound redressal mechanism in resolving the issues of public importance by making optimum utilization of available resources.

Secretary, while addressing the gathering, said that their demands shall be brought into the notice of concerned departments and assured them of proper action and timely redressal of their grievances.

While emphasizing the crucial role of PRIs in development process, the Secretary said that they serve as ambassadors of development and other initiatives of the government.

The Secretary reiterated the commitment of the UT government for ensuring holistic development in villages, underscoring the administration's focus on infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other key sectors.

Earlier, the Secretary inspected various stalls installed by different departments. He also handed over authority and sanction letters to various beneficiaries pertaining to welfare and income generation schemes.

Saurabh Bhagat reviews skilling schemes of J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 28

Commissioner Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Saurabh Bhagat, today chaired a meeting to review skilling schemes of Central and UT governments besides assessing Skill Trainings of Youth identified under Back to Village Programme (B2V4) and MTMP across Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the meeting, Saurabh Bhagat emphasised upon the representatives from line departments to onboard the skilling schemes of Central and UT governments on the Skill India Portal/ Skill India Digital for convenience of the candidates. He said that map-



ping of skilling schemes will avoid duplicity and prevent malpractices. He emphasized on convergence between various departments on skilling initiatives to avoid redundancy and have holistic overview of skill ecosystem of the UT. He exhorted upon the State Educational/Technical Boards to approach NCVET for being recognized as Awarding Bodies for Skill Certification in Educational Institutions so that the trainees will not face

any problem with respect to certification issues. He also reviewed the status of Skill Trainings of Youth identified under Back to Village Programme (B2V4) and MTMP across JKUT. He enquired about the number of people trained annually in various skill courses from various departments. He directed for Aadhaar seeded training and placement data by the departments so that a realistic picture is put forward.

The representatives

from various departments informed that they have already covered the target set under B2V4.

Commissioner Secretary said that the SDD is in process of developing a robust Management Information System (MIS) to keep record and track the trained and placed skilled candidates. The MIS will have access by all the stakeholders and various departments that undertake different skilling initiatives in the UT, he added.

IAS probationers on Bharat Darshan engage in insightful interactive session with Deputy Commissioner Kupwara

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 28

A group of 26 young and dynamic IAS probationers currently on a Bharat Darshan tour had an interactive session with the Deputy Commissioner of Kupwara.

The session aimed to provide probationers with a firsthand understanding of the challenges, opportunities and administrative intricacies in a region as significant and diverse as Kupwara.

The Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan welcomed the IAS probationers and expressed her enthusiasm for engaging with the future administrators of the country. She highlighted the historical, cultural and strategic importance of Kupwara in the region and provided a comprehensive overview of the various development projects and initiatives undertaken by the district administration especially during the last 04 years.

The interactive session witnessed a vibrant exchange of ideas, where the IAS probationers had the opportunity to pose questions and seek insights into the unique administrative challenges faced by the district. Discussions ranged from issues related to security governance, healthcare,



education, infrastructure development, to the socio-economic dynamics of the region.

The Deputy Commissioner shared valuable experiences and anecdotes, offering practical insights into the art of administration and effective governance. She emphasized the importance of empathy, community engagement and innovation in addressing the complex issues that often characterize diverse regions such as Kupwara.

This interactive session not only served as a learning opportunity for the IAS probationers but also reinforced the significance of on-the-ground interactions in shaping effective and responsive administrative strategies.

Earlier the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat, presented a PPT on overview of the District, ranging from physiographic division, demography, administrative units, potential crops, economic activities and status and achievements under different initiatives of the administration.

The event concluded with presentation of mementos to all the probationers by the Deputy Commissioner and the IAS probationers expressed gratitude for the enriching interaction, acknowledging its role in broadening their perspectives and preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead in their administrative careers.

J&K Tourism Department's Ice Skating Coaching Course flourishes in Sonamarg

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 28

The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, in collaboration with the department of Youth Services & Sports Ganderbal, Sonamarg Development Authority and Department of Education continues its coaching course at the enchanting tourist destination of Sonamarg in Ganderbal.

The coaching program, focused on the discipline of Ice Skating, has entered its fourth day, witnessing significant progress among the participating students.

Each day contributes to enhancing the skills and expertise of the aspiring ice skaters, adding value to their proficiency in the sport.

Acknowledging the success of the program, the YSS Ganderbal is actively engaged, providing essential human resources and other facilities to ensure the smooth execution of the coaching initiative by the Tourism Department.

As Sonamarg transforms into a hub for ice skating enthusiasts, the collaborative efforts of these departments underline the commitment to promoting sports and tourism in the region. The picturesque backdrop of Sonamarg adds a unique charm to the learning experience, creating a memorable journey for the participants.

DEO Ganderbal reviews preparedness for forthcoming General Election 2024



JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 28

In order to review the preparedness for upcoming General Elections 2024, an important meeting was held today under the chairmanship of District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir here.

At the outset, the DEO took a detailed review and emphasized on a comprehensive SVEEP plan, Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) of polling stations, identification of village wise icons etc.

The Chief Education Officer, who is also the Nodal Officer SVEEP was directed for submission of a comprehensive SVEEP plan and was asked to start SVEEP activities in such polling areas where

less than 10% voter turnout was observed in the last concluded Lok Sabha Election held in 2019.

Furthermore, ACR Ganderbal and SDM Kangan who are the AROs/ EROs were asked to submit the status of polling stations including AMF details.

During the course of the meeting, necessary instructions were passed to ACD and Ex. Engineer REW Ganderbal for constructing Ramps etc. Furthermore, directions were passed for nomination/ identification of village wise icons as per the ECI directions so that their services are utilized in order to enhance the EP ratio in the district.

The chair expressed hope that the interventions made by the District Administration would

result in a significant increase in voter registration and turnout, increase the youth participation in the electoral process, involvement of weaker sections in the electoral process, rectification of discrepancies and upholding of highest standards of fairness during the entire election process.

The meeting was attended by Dy. District Election Officer, Abid Iqbal Malik; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Altaf Ahmad Bhat; Sub Divisional Magistrate Kangan, Javaid Ahmad Rather; Assistant Commissioner Development Ganderbal, Bashir Ahmad; Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, Ex. Engineer REW Ganderbal, and Dy. Chief Education officer, Ganderbal.

Vice Chairman presides over JAS meeting at Maidanpora Lolab

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 28

A meeting of Jan Arogya Samiti (JAS) was held under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir who is also Chairman of the JAS Committee at PHC Maidanpora, here.

On the occasion, the Vice Chairman said that Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is the largest health insurance scheme in the world which aims at providing a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year.

He urged the people to take benefits of different health related schemes.

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 28

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDR) Baramulla/ Bandipora today imposed a penalty of Rs. 30,000 on the Power Development Department (PDD) Baramulla for an

administrative oversight regarding an inflated electricity bill of a consumer.

A complaint was filed by a consumer at the court who had been charged a huge amount for their electricity bill due to an administrative oversight whereby the department had generated two con-

sumer IDs for a single connection, resulting in the inflated billing. Despite the complainant's prior attempts to rectify the error through official channels, the authorities failed to provide a resolution.

Upon receiving the complaint, the DCDRC

swiftly initiated cognizance under the leadership of Peerzada Qousar Hussain, serving as the President of the Commission.

A thorough proceeding found the concerned authorities culpable for the oversight. As a consequence, the Commission

held the officials negligent, accountable and levied a penalty of Rs. 30,000. This amount, signifying compensation for the distress and mental anguish caused to the complainant, is to be deducted from the officials' salaries and are directed to make the payment.