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J&K 2023 | SC nod to Article 370 abrogation, key G20 meet in Valley

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

It was a momentous year for Jammu and Kashmir as the Supreme Court gave its stamp of approval to the revocation of its special status and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories, and the Narendra Modi-led government scored a diplomatic victory by holding a key G20 meeting in Kashmir Valley.

However, another year has passed by without elections being held for the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly while urban local body and panchayat polls, which were due this winter, have been put off for the time being.



The BJP-ruled Centre got a massive shot in arm when a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court upheld the government's decision taken in August 2019 on Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article

370 of the Constitution. Regional parties like the National Conference, which was one of the petitioners against the Article 370 abrogation before the Supreme Court, and the PDP have vowed to carry

on the struggle for the restoration of special status.

"We don't have to lose heart. We will continue our struggle. The Supreme Court is not God. The same Supreme Court had earlier said that Article 370 cannot be amended without recommendation of (Jammu and Kashmir) constituent assembly. They were also learned judges. Today some other judges passed the ruling. We cannot treat it as God's verdict," PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said after the December 11 verdict of the apex court.

"An unconstitutional and illegal act that took place in Parliament was declared legal.

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Security forces launch search operation in Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Security forces on Friday launched a search operation in a forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district following information about the movement of suspicious elements, officials said.

Acting on the information from

the Muradpur area of Kalakote, security forces launched the operation in the Afla, Muradpur, Bothni and Swani areas, they said.

Nothing came up so far, the officials said, adding the operation is still underway.

Last year, a similar suspicious sighting was reported in the same area, they said.

Mobile internet restored in Rajouri-Poonch after week-long suspension

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Mobile Internet services were restored in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts a week after being suspended following a terror attack on two army vehicles, officials said.

The curbs were effected last Friday as a precautionary measure to check rumour-mongering and prevent any law and order situation from arising.

"The services have been restored in the Rajouri-Poonch belt. The situation is normal," Jammu region Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar said.

Pistols, Hand Grenades recovered during search ops in Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Security forces on Friday seized arms and ammunition, including three

pistols and four hand grenades, during a search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, police sources said.

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Year Ender-Politics

In 2023, Parliament passes key laws on political reservation in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

In 2023, the Parliament passed key bills to grant political reservation to different groups in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory.

Details available with news agency reveal that the three J&K-specific laws were passed by the Parliament during the winter session to grant reservations to different groups in the Union Territory.

In a significant move, the Parliament passed The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amend-

ment) Bill-2023 to reserve three seats for Kashmiri migrants and refugees from Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK). While the Union Government claimed that the bill is aimed at preserving the political rights of these communities as well as for their overall social and economic development, the political groups in Kashmir questioned the method of nominations, saying it can be used to subvert public mandate in the UT. The bill empowers the Lieutenant Governor of the UT to nominate

these MLAs.

Another key bill- The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (second amendment) Bill-2023- was also passed by the Parliament to reserve 33 percent seats in J&K Assembly for womenfolk. The bill was passed as "The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill-2023 is not applicable to the Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) provides reservation for

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Dense fog prevails, MeT predicts improvement in visibility today

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

A couple of places including the Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district recorded the season's coldest night while the dense fog continued to blanket Kashmir, causing inconvenience to the commuters across the valley on Friday.

For the first straight day, the dense fog engulfed Kashmir including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir. The experts have stated the dense fog is an outcome of the persistent dry spell as well as the air pollution



here. Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told the news agency that the fog would likely continue till January 04 due to the absence of any major wet

spell here. Moreover, Ganderbal, Budgam in Central Kashmir and Bandipora in north Kashmir recorded the coldest night of the season at minus 6.7

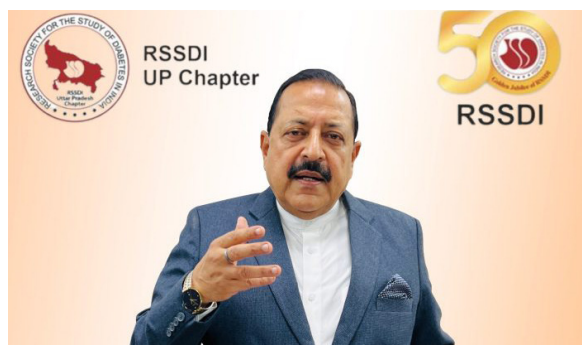
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Dr Jitendra launches 'rural diabetes control campaign' in Varanasi village

AGENCIES
VARANASI, DEC 29

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a renowned Diabetologist and Professor of Diabetes, today launched Rural Diabetes Control & Prevention Campaign" in village Purana Ramnagar of district Varanasi, as a part of Village Adoption Program under the aegis of "Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India" (RSSDI) - Uttar Pradesh Chapter.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest Dr Jitendra Singh said, the fast spread of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in the villages is a



matter of grave concern. This has prompted a mass campaign for prevention of the disease in rural areas, he said.

"It was found most appropriate to make a beginning from the auspicious city of ancient and holy place of Varanasi,"

he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the spread of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is assuming epidemic proportions in India. Earlier this disease was confined to the affluent and in cities, but now its prevalence in

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Jammu reports fresh Covid-19 case

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

After a long hiatus, a fresh case of Covid-19 has been reported in Jammu and Kashmir even as officials said that there is no need to panic but advised people to take precautions.

An official from GMC Jammu told the news agency that a patient who had come in contact with the person who had returned from abroad has been tested positive for Covid.

He said that this was the first case of now endemic Covid-19, however, his sample has been sent to the genome sequencing laboratory to find the sub-

variant behind the case. He added that the patient who is recovering now had mild symptoms and has been kept under observation at home.

He added that there is no need to panic but people need to take precautions like they were taking earlier.

An official said that normal precautions are enough to combat Covid-19 and its strains and there is no need to panic.

They said that young people going outside need to take more precautions as they may contract a virus and then it may spread to elderly ones and people having underlying problems.

They added that people

having underlying problems need to take more precautions and contracting any virus for these people may prove fatal. Officials from the Kashmir division said that no fresh Covid-19 has been reported in the Kashmir division.

Spokesperson DHSK Dr Mir Mushtaq told KNO that people shouldn't think about variants rather they need to focus on precautions so as to keep the disease away.

"They need to understand whether Covid-19 or its variant is a one disease and the same precautions are required to keep Covid-19 and its strains or variants away," he said.

Lt Governor visits family members SSF personnel



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the family members of Special Security Force (SSF) Personnel, SGCT Ravi Kumar who lost his life in an unfortunate road accident.

The Lt Governor paid homage to SGCT Ravi Kumar for his selfless service to the nation.

He extended his condolences to the family and assured all assistance and support from the government. KNO

MD & CEO unveils J&K Bank Wall Calendar - 2024

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash Friday unveiled the J&K Bank's Wall Calendar for the year 2024 in presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta amid rounds of applause from General Managers and other senior officers here at the corporate headquarters.

With a theme of "Timeless Treasures", the Bank has showcased the fast-emerging scenic spots on the tourist-maps of J&K and Ladakh UTs in its Wall Calendar -2024. As per a statement issued to the news agency, he



also launched the Bank's e-Calendar - 2024 on the occasion.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "J&K Bank Calendar continues to be the most sought-after thing in J&K and Ladakh during this time of the year, for, people consider it as a prized souvenir

worth round the year presence in their homes and offices across the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. Besides a great tool of brand promotion for the Bank during the last many decades, our calendars have showcased Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh along with their diversity to exhibit the

nature's charming beauty weaving different cultures and varied geographies together into a uniquely beautiful tapestry."

While acknowledging the overwhelming public sentiment as validation of the love and trust for the Bank in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh,

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Health Year Ender: Amid reforms, successes in 2023, J&K health sector faces challenges ahead

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a major overhaul and new developments in the health sector this year with uptick in works of twin AIIMS coming up in both regions.

The AIIMS Jammu is nearing completion while AIIMS coming up at Kashmir's Awantipora is expected to be completed next year.

In the Parliament, Minister of State for

Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar confirmed that 92 percent of the construction work for AIIMS Jammu has been completed.

Though the situation is less promising for AIIMS Awantipora, with 56 percent of the work still pending as per the latest estimates, but the health facility which can result in access to quality healthcare is set to be complete by 2024.

Amid this, the government has increased 2000

medical seats in Jammu and Kashmir to address the shortage of doctors and has upgraded health facilities. Primary health centres were upgraded to the level of Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) to meet Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms.

According to a health department's Vision Document 2047, available with the news agency, the objective is to ensure the availability of quality and affordable healthcare services at the doorstep

by rationalizing existing facilities and establishing new ones.

It plans to upgrade non-Traditional Public Health Centers (NTPHCs) to PHCs and establishment of new Sub Centers in remote and underserved areas. The upgradation will occur depending on population growth.

Besides, 250 Diplomat of National Board (DNB) seats have been approved in SKIMS Soura/Government

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Govt mulling slew of measures to facilitate public service delivery through digital interventions: Purna Puri

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 29

The Government is mulling slew of measures to facilitate public service delivery through digital interventions like rolling out of Toll Free Helpline-14471 for accessing government services from the comfort of home besides setting up CSC kiosks at district headquarters to grease the wheels of public visiting DC office.

Commissioner Secretary, Information and IT, Purna Puri, today informed this while addressing a mammoth public darbar held at DC office complex. She took stock of issues and concerns of public importance besides assessing progress on various vital development and welfare schemes being implemented in the district.

Deputy Commission-

er, Rakesh Minhas, SSP, Shivdeep Singh Jammwal, ADDC, Ankur Mahajan, BDC Chairperson Kathua, BDC Chairperson Marheeh, BDC Chairperson Barnoti, DDC member Nagri, DDC member Dhar Mahanpur, among representatives of various delegations were present on the occasion.

The public darbar witnessed overwhelming public response who apprised the Commissioner 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 vacant post of sports teacher in Dhar-Mahanpur besides development of a Digital Model Village in Hiranagar.

Similarly, issues raised by the BDC members con-



cerning their respective areas included allotment of suitable land for CFC in BDC Kathua constituency, development of tourist circuit in border blocks, road connectivity, mobile connectivity in Marheeh, land erosion in Ujh catchment area, approval for utilization of Own Resources

Funds, repair of hand pumps, restoration of RTIC head at Pipli, exemption of stamp duty for area outside industrial estates, early approval of RDSS works, enhanced allocation under City and Town programme etc.

A delegation of Ex-Servicemen also pre-

sented their issues and demands including renaming of Kathua Railway Station after Kirti Chakra Awardee, Captain Sunil Chaudhary besides highlighting the issue of setting up of a War Memorial in Kathua and construction of compound wall, lanes in Zila Sainik Welfare Office. Likewise, a delegation of senior citizens from Housing Colony Kathua apprised the Commissioner Secretary regarding various issue like installation of street lights and utilization of civic amenities.

Other issues highlighted in the public darbar included monkey menace, construction of check dams in marheeh, easy mechanism for updation of ration cards etc.

Purna Puri, while interacting with line departments, called for adopt-

ing a time bound redressal mechanism in resolving the issues of public importance by making optimum utilization of available resources.

Commissioner Secretary, while addressing the gathering, said that their grievances and demands shall be brought into the notice of concerned departments for timely redressal. She 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. The Commissioner Secretary further directed DC Kathua to work out the scope of enhancing the city beautification as Kathua serves as the gateway to Jammu & Kashmir and gives an eclectic impression about the UT.

DC Rajouri approves 500 cases under Holistic Agriculture Development Program

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 29

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal today approved five hundred cases under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) here at a meeting. The meeting focused on evaluating the progress made in achieving the objectives of the program and spreading awareness about the innovative interventions among the farmers.

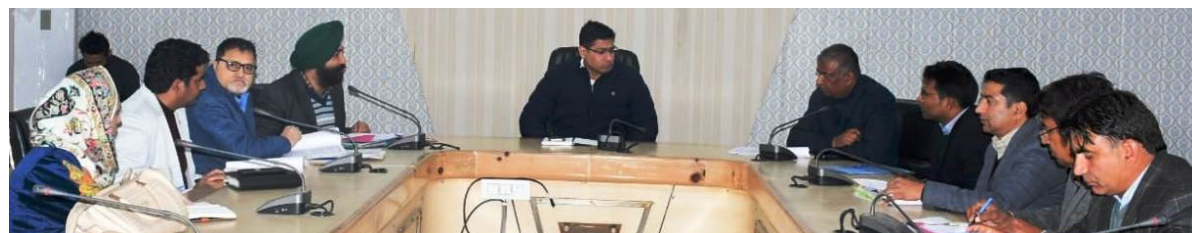
The HADP is an ambitious initiative aimed at establishing a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the overarching goal of the program which is to empower local farmers by equipping them with knowledge and tools that can significantly enhance their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

of the agricultural sector.

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

With the approval of 500 cases, the HADP is progressing towards its objective of transforming the agricultural landscape in Rajouri. The meeting was a testament to the resolve and commitment of the district administration to drive sustainable agricultural development and uplift the farming community in Rajouri.

DC Rajouri discusses execution plan for proposed projects



JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 29

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal chaired a pivotal meeting today with the members of the District Level Committee. The primary agenda of the meeting was to address and resolve issues pertaining to forest clearances, crucial for the seamless execution of different developmental projects in the region.

During the meeting, each member of the District Level Committee shared insights and updates on the status of the projects requiring forest clearances. After a threadbare discussion, the District Level Commit-

tee successfully cleared five cases related to forest clearances.

The committee members thoroughly examined each case, considering the environmental impact, feasibility, and community benefits associated with these projects. The clearance of these cases signifies a significant milestone in the development of the region, as it paves the way for the timely implementation of these projects, bringing tangible progress and prosperity to the people of Rajouri.

Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of timely and efficient resolution of issues related to forest

clearances. Recognizing the pivotal role of these clearances in the successful implementation of developmental projects, he directed the officers present to actively follow up on pending cases and expedite the resolution process.

In his directives to the officers, the DC underscored the need for a proactive approach and directed the officers to maintain a close coordination with all concerned departments and work towards a swift resolution of pending cases.

The commitment of the district administration to expeditious resolution and streamlined processes reflects its dedication

to promoting sustainable development in the region.

The district administration remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that developmental bottlenecks are addressed promptly, facilitating an environment conducive to the efficient implementation of developmental initiatives that directly contribute to the welfare of the residents.

The meeting was attended by the DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; DFO Nowshera, Satyendra Maurya; CPO Mohammad Khurshid; ACD, Vijay Kumar; EXEN REW, Zahir Khan; EXEN PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan and other concerned officers.

JIT headed by Director Horticulture visits Pulwama; inspect post-harvest infrastructure

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 29

In a significant move towards enhancing post-harvest infrastructure in the valley, Director Horticulture Kashmir, G R Mir Friday spearheaded a Joint Inspection Team (JIT) during visit to Pulwama and inspected two Controlled Atmosphere (CA) Stores, two grading and packing lines at IGC Lassipora, and an Integrated Pack House at Pachhar, Pulwama.

Accompanying Director G R Mir were members of the JIT, including the Joint Director Horticulture Kashmir, Chief Canning Instructor from Srinagar, and the Chief Horticulture Officer, Pulwama besides other members of the team.

On the occasion, the Director emphasized the critical role of post-har-



vest infrastructure, shedding light on the need for entrepreneurs to step forward and establish essential facilities like CA Stores. He underscored the current deficiency in optimum CA Storage facilities and urged the business community to contribute towards filling this gap.

Highlighting the department's commitment to strengthening

post-harvest infrastructure across the valley, the Director stated that they are exploring every possible opportunity to develop essential infrastructures such as CA Stores and Processing Units. "Our aim is to provide the best services to orchardists and create a robust ecosystem that ensures optimal returns for farmers," he added.

Director further elab-

orated on the positive impact of improved post-harvest infrastructure, stating that facilities like CA Stores play a pivotal role in keeping Kashmiri apples available in the market throughout the year. This not only benefits the farmers by ensuring better returns for their produce but also contributes to the overall growth and sustainability of the horticulture sector in the region.

The visit concluded with a strong call to action for stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and the local community to collaborate with the Department of Horticulture in its mission to establish state-of-the-art post-harvest infrastructure, ultimately boosting the economic prospects of the valley's agricultural sector.

Comm Secy SDD reviews implementation of PM Vishwakarma Yojana in J&K



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

Commissioner Secretary, Skill Development Department, Saurabh Bhagat, today chaired a meeting to review implementation of PM Vishwakarma Yojana in J&K.

He had a detailed assessment of progress on implementation of this ambitious government initiative in the UT. He emphasized on providing enhanced skilling access to traditional artisans and craftspeople, including carpenters, blacksmiths, laundry workers and barbers being covered under the scheme. The artists shall be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, skill upgradation involving basic and advanced training, toolkit incentive of Rs 15,000, collateral-free credit sup-

port up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5 per cent besides incentive for digital transactions and marketing support, he added.

Saurabh Bhagat stressed upon greater coordination among all stakeholder departments and assured full support from Skill Development Department in skilling of identified Vishwakarmas.

During the meeting Industries and Commerce Department shared updated list of applicants registered online on PM Vishwakarma portal among the stakeholders which is being updated on daily basis. The department further briefed that around 68476 applications of interested applicants have been received on PM Vishwakarma portal, so far.

The meeting was informed that around 2334 candidates have been cleared in level 3 verification under 5 trades including Tailor (Darzi), Carpenter (Suthar), Masons (Mistri), Barbers (Naai) and Basket Maker. The districts viz Jammu, Anantnag, Kulgam, Udhampur, Pulwama and Shopian have maximum level 3 verified registrations.

The meeting was also informed that account details of 53 Government ITIs have been shared with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by Department of Skill Development (DSD). The NSDC is in process of dispatching tool kits to these ITIs. Besides, 22 Government Polytechnics have also been roped in for skilling under the scheme for trades which are not covered in

the ITIs. It was told that handholding workshop shall also be organized for registration of Training Institutions on PM Vishwakarma Portal. The trainers are being identified for mandatory Training of Trainer (ToT) Certification program.

Under the guidance of Director, Skill Development Department and MD JKSDM, a core group of Skill Development Department has been constituted comprising Narayan Dutt, Additional Secretary SDD, Ravi Gupta, Assistant Director DSD, Syed Tabasum Geelani HoD/OSD JKSDM, Khalid Sheikh, OSD JKSDM and Kahkeshan Anjum SEO NSDC J&K which shall work in coordination to get the scheme implemented on ground. The meeting was attended by Mission Director, J&K Skill Development Mission, Director, Additional Secretary, Skill Development Department, Industries & Commerce Department, Regional Director, RDSDE, Joint Director, RDSDE, Project Head, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, NSDC New Delhi, State Engagement Officer, NSDC and consultant, MSDE, Government of India.

DC launches 3 day VBSKY in MC Ganderbal

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 29

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today launched 3-days Viksit Bharat Sankalp Programme in Municipal Council Ganderbal (MCG).

On day one, VBSKY was launched in 6 wards of Municipal Council during an impressive event presided over by the DC as chief guest, held here in the lawns of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The event featured screening of PM's message on Viksit Bharat, awareness programmes along with cultural folk dances by female students of government schools remained the highlights of the first day of the programme, where stalls were set up by various departments including Health, Handicrafts, District Industries Centre, Horticulture and others.

Representatives of the line departments 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.

Addressing an impressive gathering dominated by the female participants, the DC appreciated overwhelming public partici-



pation in different public welfare schemes. He shed light on the importance of Viksit Bharat and the pivotal role citizens can play in achieving its ambitious goals by 2047.

He said that on the same path Ganderbal is also developing and projects which were languishing since decades are taken up by the administration for their completion at the

earliest. The DC added Viksit Bharat Sankalp has seen tremendous success in Ganderbal, attaining saturation in all the blocks and Panchayats and now Municipal Council is following the same, adding yet another feather in the developmental cap of the district.

Meanwhile, 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.

Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri, Chief Executive Officer MCG, Mirza Asif, BMO Ganderbal Dr. Andleeb and other district officers and officials were present on the occasion.

Gateway of Kashmir Qazigund accords grand welcome to Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 29

Inspector General Registration, Sheikh Arshad Ayub, enthusiastically joined the monumental Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Qazigund, Anantnag. The historic town served as the backdrop for this journey, showcasing the government's commitment to citizen welfare and transformative developmental initiatives.

Engaging with local residents during the ongoing yatra, Sheikh Arshad Ayub assessed the impact of Central Government Schemes, with thousands of participants praising the direct delivery of flagship benefits. Through various events, the tangible success of initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Samman Nidhi, and more was spotlighted. "Meri Kahani Meri Zabani" sessions brought forth, illustrating the

real impact of these initiatives on people's lives.

Sheikh Arshad Ayub presented certificates and appreciation letters for achievements under various government initiatives and schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (G) and PM Awas Yojana (U).

Addressing the gathering, Sheikh Arshad Ayub emphasized Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision, which focuses on awareness, reaching the unreached, facilitating scheme utilization, and achieving saturation of schemes. The yatra played a pivotal role in fostering development, engaging with government schemes, and achieving saturation under citizen-centric programs. The "Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat" pledge was also administered, accompanied by cultural programs and quizzes to raise awareness about the yatra's objectives.

The Viksit Bharat Rath's

arrival in Qazigund exemplifies the government's commitment to continuous public welfare. Participants attentively listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recorded message, sharing success stories that highlighted the tangible benefits of government welfare schemes.

The said Yatra Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi exceeded expectations, uniting over 2.30 lakh participants in District Anantnag. This extraordinary journey brought citizens together across 335 Gram Panchayats and 10 Urban local bodies, showcasing a collective vision for national development. Traversing 16 blocks and 10 municipalities, including tribal areas, the Yatra fosters empowerment and community engagement, creating a shared narrative of progress in Anantnag.

The Yatra camps in District Anantnag have transformed into vibrant hubs, offering

on-the-spot services. Health camps played a crucial role, screening 93,000 individuals for prevalent health concerns. The Yatra stands as a testament to India's commitment to development, with over 1700 My Bharat volunteers and 2.20 lakh individuals pledging the transformative "Sankalp Pledge." Recognitions were bestowed upon notable contributors, celebrating diversity and inclusivity.

Beyond agriculture, the Yatra involved farmers through drone and Soil Health Card demonstrations. Achievements in government schemes underscored the Yatra's commitment to holistic development. More than 10,000 beneficiaries have shared heartfelt narratives, illustrating the transformative impact of government schemes. These stories echoed resilience and spirit, creating a symphony of shared experiences.

Governing Body meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti held at Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 29

To review the functioning and patient care facilities available in the Government Medical College & Associated Hospitals Kathua and measures taken with respect to the facility up-gradation of the hospital, a meeting of Governing Body of "Rogi Kalyan Samiti" (RKS) was held under the chairmanship of the District Development Council Chairman Kathua Col (Retd) Mahan Singh in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex, here today.

On the occasion, the DDC Chairman, who is also the Chairman "Rogi Kalyan Samiti" was apprised about the progress and performance registered by the Institution under different indicators. He was also informed about various issues and demands meant for the infrastructure upgradation and



overall advancement of the healthcare system in the Hospital. On the issue of repair of washroom/lavatories in different wards of the hospital, the meeting decided to work out the expenditure to be incurred on the repair and maintenance, besides connecting sewerage of the emergency block with the main block.

It was given out in the meeting that the governing body of RKS shall meet quarterly to discuss the matters related to healthcare and medi-

cal services. The DDC directed the concerned as envisaged in RKS guidelines and stressed for resource generation and strengthening transparent mechanism in utilization of funds. The DDC asked the officers to work with added zeal and dedication to ensure efficient and prompt health and patient care facilities to the people. He directed the concerned authorities to work on various necessities that are vital for upgrading basic infra-

structure in the hospital. Earlier, the Principal GMC Kathua informed the meeting about the status of healthcare facilities being given to the people.

The meeting among others was attended by DC Kathua Rakesh Minhas, DDC Vice Chairman Kathua Raghunandan Singh, DDC Member Nagri Sandeep Majotra, CMO Kathua Dr Vijay Raina, Medical Superintendent Associated Hospitals GMC Kathua Dr. Sangeeta Ajrawat and other members of the samiti.

Principal Secretary Finance concludes 2 day tour to Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 29

Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D Vaidya, concluded his exhaustive two day visit to Kishtwar with detailed assessment of development initiatives and redressal of local concerns.

The day before, Principal Secretary along with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and other concerned officers inspected and reviewed the crucial development projects and upgradation of infrastructure in the district. He affirmed administration's commitment towards assessing and advancing developmental initiatives in the region.

Additionally, Santosh D Vaidya inspected and assessed the pace and progress on ongoing Hydroelectric Power projects. He also engaged in review meetings with concerned HEP authorities and stakeholders, and discussed crucial issues, seeking immediate resolutions through collaborative measures, emphasizing timely completion of these HEP projects.

Principal Secretary also presided over a mega Public Darbar at Dool A panchayat of Nagseni besides participating in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

During the Public Darbar, a substantial gathering of 700 participants, including community members, dignitaries, district officers, and field functionaries, warmly welcomed Santosh D Vaidya, underscoring the event's significance.

District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav along with several key officials



such as ADC Kishtwar Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ACR Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACP Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Wani, and other departmental heads also graced the occasion with their presence.

During the Public Darbar, delegations comprising local PRIs and influential figures highlighted area-specific grievances and demands, seeking immediate resolutions through consultation with relevant authorities.

During his address, Principal Secretary passionately assured attendees of the administration's commitment to addressing genuine grievances while commending District Administration for his proactive approach in resolving community issues.

Amidst these engagements, Santosh D Vaidya also actively participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra proceedings, inspecting stalls showcasing citizen-centric beneficiary schemes and administering the VBSY pledge to participants. He emphasized collective efforts of people, youth, officers, and PRIs to materialize

the vision of a Developed India by 2047, highlighting the pivotal role of youth in this pursuit.

The event also featured a screening of PM's message on Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, musical and cultural performances by local artists and Nagseni Cultural group, and distribution of IEC material.

On this occasion, Principal Secretary also handed over sanction letters under HADP to eligible farmers and prosthetic aids, including wheelchairs and sticks, provided by the Social Welfare Department for the elderly and PwDs.

Furthermore, a free medical camp organized by the Health Department Kishtwar provided medical screenings, consultations, and free medicines to numerous citizens, enhancing the community's access to healthcare services.

The visit exemplified a concerted effort towards advancing developmental goals and addressing local needs, underscoring the commitment of administration and stakeholders towards betterment of Kishtwar district.

DC Bandipora reviews works under JJM

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 29

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad who is also Chairman District Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Friday convened a meeting here to take stock of the works being executed under JJM.

The meeting also considered and approved Wapora-Qazipora-Laharwalpora Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs. 660 lac as a part of revised DAP for the district.

The meeting was informed that under the JJM program, 121 WS Schemes have been taken up for execution on mission mode in the district. It was further informed that the infrastructure consists of 38 Rapid Sand Filtration Plants, 22 Over Head Tanks, 18 Bore wells and 149 pipe network, Service Reservoirs and allied works.

It was further given that out of total 47358 FHTCs, 38495 households stand connected till date comprising 81.22 percent of the total target.

The chair was apprised that out of total 127555 total rural households,



70606 households shall be connected to supply tap water under various WSSs under JJM.

Moreover, 16 WS schemes have so far been completed and are under different stages of testing and commissioning. Besides, other schemes are at various stages of completion and are expected to be completed before the closure of the current financial year 2023-24 subject to fair weather conditions. Presently 220 civil works and 84 Mechanical works are apace besides 13 borewells have been drilled and are being developed.

The DC also took the detailed review of estimations, rate revisions, re-

tendering, allotments for construction of filtration, plants OHTs reservoirs and laying of pipelines and other related works.

He emphasized that all JJM works be executed on a fast track basis and instructed the concerned to conduct IEC activities through sign boards, hoardings, public announcements and public interactions programmes in all areas.

The meeting among others was attended by Vice Chairperson District Development Council Kowsar Shafeeq, ADCC Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department, AEEs and other concerned.

Palaash Mahore Children experience exclusive dialogue with PM Modi



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 29

A group of youth from Palaash Mahore had a unique encounter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their Watan Ko Jano tour as part of the Youth Exchange Programme.

This significant initiative, organized in Delhi, is designed to expose youth to the rich social and cultural diversity of India, fostering integration, especially for those affected by militancy, children from Bal Ashrams, Nari Niketas run by the Social Welfare Department, and other orphanages.

The group of 33 youth, representing the diversity of the region, embarked on a journey to Jaipur and New Delhi on 14th December this year. This expedition is bound to forge emotional, cultural, and social connections with the broader fabric of our country.

During their interac-

tion, Prime Minister Modi engaged with the youth, sharing insights and discussing various aspects of India's diversity. Notably, he highlighted the significance of the highest railway bridge in the world located in District Reasi, showcasing India's engineering marvels.

The Prime Minister also took a keen interest in the places that resonated with the youth during their journey and talked about their shared interests in sports. Encouraging the youth to participate in sports, he cited the inspiring example of Sheetal Devi, an award-winning para archer from Jammu and Kashmir, urging them to follow her path and excel in their chosen fields.

This meeting serves as a testament to the government's commitment to empowering and integrating youth from different backgrounds, fostering a sense of unity and pride in our diverse nation.

Environment Building Program for Inclusive Education held at GHSS Vijaypur

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 29

A one day Environment Building Programme (Parental Counselling) under Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha was today organized for Zone Vijaypur, Ramgarh and Purmandal here at Government Higher Secondary School Vijaypur.

The parents of Children with Special Needs (CWSN)

children, Teachers, VECs and PRI Members of the surrounding area participated.

District Samagra Shiksha Team, District Coordinator IED and Zonal Coordinators IED and Special Education Teachers played a pivotal role in making this programme successful.

The objective of organizing the programme was to educate the parents of the CWSN children regard-

ing various facilities being provided by the Samagra Shiksha in particular and Government in general for the benefit of these children and the facilities being provided for giving education to these children through inclusive mode with other children.

Participating parents also discussed various issues being faced by them and gave valuable suggestions for betterment of the Specially Abled Children.

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

Director Information, Minga Sherpa, today felicitated Gagan Singh Jamwal, departments' employee, for clinching gold medal in the 61st National Roller Skating Championship held at, Chandigarh.

Minga Sherpa termed the victory of Gagan and his team phenomenal and applauded them for winning gold medal consecutively for the fifth time. He appreciated the unique talent of Gagan while being optimistic about his success in all the upcom-

ing national and international tournaments. He encouraged the promising player to continue his stint and make DIPR proud in days to come. He complimented and wished him a great future ahead with many more medals.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Vivaik Puri, Joint Director Information, Jammu, Atul Gupta Deputy Director Information (PR), Dr. Vikas Sharma and other senior officers and officials also congratulated Gagan Jamwal and his team members for bringing laurels to the UT.



Fulkari Season 2 on Dec 30: Tourism Deptt

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

As per communiqué issued by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, refer to news item "press conference by Directorate of Tourism, Jammu" published on 29.12.2023 in various newspapers, it is hereby clarified that the Fulkari Season 2 at Aquaplex Crown, Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu shall take place on 30th December 2023 from 5 pm onwards instead of 31st December, 2023.

The inconvenience caused to people and error occurred is deeply regretted.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Panjtirthi, Kachi Chawni, Tange Wali Gali, PHE and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 10 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Akhnoor Town, Ambaran, Gurhappattan, Kanachak, 1 No. Sua and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 8 am to 1 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Dhar Mahanpur, Mahanpur, Raipur and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Basohli, Bani, Bhoond, Marthi-Nagrota, Duggan and adjoining areas will remain affected

on December 30 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Billawar, Bhaddu, Dewal, Tandi, Macheedi, Baggan, Lohai Malhar, Lahri, Kudetar, Mandli and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bantalab, Keran, Thather and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 8 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Sidhra, Janipur, Jhajarkotli and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Thudi, Kheora, Thanamandi, Manjakote, Koteranka and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 30 from 9 am to 2 pm.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

J&K 2023 | SC nod to Article 370...

It is nothing less than a death sentence not only for Jammu and Kashmir but for the idea of India," Mufti said.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said his party is prepared for the long haul.

"I am disappointed but not disheartened. The struggle will continue. We are also prepared for the long haul," Abdullah said on the Supreme Court decision.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former chief minister and the chairperson of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), termed the Supreme Court verdict "sad and unfortunate" but said everyone has to accept it "with a heavy heart".

"We did not expect this decision. We were thinking that the Supreme Court will consider the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and also the historical background under which Article 370 was incorporated into the Constitution. That was our hope but unfortunately that has not happened," Azad said.

Surprisingly, there was no response to the Supreme Court decision from the general public who went on with their lives as usual after the verdict was declared.

While the BJP understandably celebrated the verdict, the party had earned some brownie points by holding a key G20 meeting on tourism in Srinagar as most member states had some form of representation at the event.

The hosting of the G20 event also proved to be a major tailwind for development works in Kashmir as Srinagar was transformed with several new landmarks added to the city.

The historic Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower) at Lal Chowk got a major facelift as the town square has become a popular tourist attraction.

The Jhelum Bund walkway has added options for the city dwellers for an evening outing while electric buses and e-rickshaws have been introduced with the aim of combating pollution and providing ease of transportation.

While there were a lot of positives including vast improvement in the general security situation in Kashmir, delay in holding elections to various bodies has drawn criticism from opposition parties.

Assembly elections were last held in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014 and are long overdue as four years have passed since the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act was passed by Parliament. The panchayat and local body polls were last held in 2018 and were due in November-December this year. However, these elections have also been deferred without any explanation being offered by the administration.

Although the security situation in the valley improved during the year, terrorists carried out targeted attacks on minority community members and security forces, both off-duty and on-duty.

The year began with terrorists killing four civilians in Dhangri area of Rajouri on January 1 while two more civilians died in the same area in an IED explosion on the same day.

The border districts of Poonch and Rajouri saw some major terrorist attacks this year, in which more than 15 soldiers and six civilians were killed. The attacks took place at Bhatta Durain (April 20), Kesari Hills (May 5) and Dera Ki Gali (December 21).

There were terrorist attacks in Kashmir valley as well. A Colonel, a Major and a Deputy Superintendent of Police were killed in an encounter with terrorists in Kokernag area of Anantnag district. Police Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani died after being attacked by a terrorist when he was playing cricket at Eidgah ground in Srinagar.

A retired senior superintendent of police was shot dead by terrorists when he was reciting 'azaan' inside a mosque in Baramulla district this month. (Agencies)

Pistols, Hand Grenades...

The search was conducted by a team comprising personnel of the police and the Army in the Kasblari area of the district, they said.

Three pistols, six magazines, four hand grenades and 64 rounds were seized from a house, the sources said.

Following the recovery, an investigation has been launched to track down people involved in the cross-border smuggling of weapons, they added.

In 2023, Parliament...

womenfolk in Parliament and state assemblies.

The Bill wouldn't come into effect at least before 2029 as it would require a delimitation exercise, which can be taken after the census report is published.

Apart from 33% reservation for womenfolk, J&K LG is also empowered to nominate two women as MLAs if he feels that they are not adequately represented in the House.

The Parliament also passed The Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (amendment) bill-2023 to rechristen "weak and under privileged classes (social castes)" to "other backward classes".

The amendment was made on recommendations of the Jammu and Kashmir Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBCC). KNO

Dense fog prevails, MeT...

degree Celsius.

Pahalgam in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.4 degree Celsius. Srinagar, however, shivered at minus 3.3 degree Celsius while Qazigund in South Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 4.2 degree Celsius.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a low of minus 2.5 degree Celsius. Kupwara in north Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 4.0 degree Celsius while Kokernag recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.6 degree Celsius.

Moreover, the MeT Director said that the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with dry conditions. He added that there is a possibility of slight improvement in visibility during December 30th & 31st due to approaching feeble Western Disturbance.

On January 3 & 4, the weather is expected to remain cloudy with possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches. "Overall there is no forecast of any significant weather activity till 4th January," he said. KNO

Dr Jitendra launches...

rural areas is alarming, he said.

The disease, hitherto identified as afflicting mostly the rich and elite due to their sedentary lifestyle and a phenomenon prevalent largely in cities, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the probable causes of its upsurge in rural India is a result of commonality of eating habits such as rising penchant for fast foods, more automation in agriculture and a resultant lack of physical activity.

Lauding the efforts of RSSDI for taking this initiative towards diabetes prevention and management in rural India, he applauded the efforts quoting ICMR-INDIAB Study which says UP has 18% of its population in pre-diabetes stage.

"Such a large population, on the verge of being diabetic, can only be prevented if we start working for prevention in villages in the vicinity of big cities & progressing fast to urbanization. The idea of choosing Ramnagar for this initiative seems appropriate," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh also appreciated the efforts done by RSSDI UP Chapter by adopting four villages in Barabanki in 2019 where people's lives are better and diabetes control is improved.

"This encourages us to continue efforts in the same direction, in fact in a more intensive manner," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, over the last two decades, India has seen a surge in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, which has now acquired pan-Indian proportions. He said, Type 2 Diabetes, which was till two decades ago prevalent mostly in South India, is today equally rampant in North India and at the same time, it has also moved from metros, cities and urban areas to rural hinterland.

Quoting from the Indian Council of Medical Research Guidelines, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the past three decades witnessed a 150 per cent increase in the number of people with diabetes in the country. He said, the main concern is the progressive lowering of the age at which Type 2 Diabetes is being diagnosed, with the disease prevalence becoming apparent in the age group of 25-34 years in both urban and rural areas.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, lifestyle management plays an essential role in managing Type 2 Diabetes, and understanding the effect of diet and physical activity on glycaemia is essential for optimal management of the disease.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is also important because the Indian phenotype is different from the Westerners and the genetic preponderance is also quite different. As a result, the pathogenesis and progress of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and other related metabolic disorders is not the same as in the western population.

Referring to PM Narendra Modi's support to indigenously medical research, Dr Jitendra Singh said that even during the pre-COVID era, it had been proven with evidence that in the treatment of non-communicable diseases, like for example, Diabetes-Mellitus, the dose of insulin or oral anti-diabetic drugs could be brought down with the adjuvant practice of certain Yoga Asana and lifestyle modifications available in Naturopathy.

Lauding PM Modi for the high priority given to healthcare, the Minister said that it was because of the personal interest and intervention of Prime Minister Modi that within two years, India not only managed the Covid pandemic successfully better than much smaller countries, but also succeeded in coming out with a DNA vaccine and providing it to the other countries as well.

"The roadmap for the next 25 years of Amrit Kal will witness the ascent of India as a front-ranking nation in the world in terms of best healthcare system," he said.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated Padamshri Prof Kamalakar Tripathi and Shri Ritesh Pal, Gram Pradhan (Village Head) of Purana Ramnagar on this occasion.

MD & CEO unveils...

he said, "With annual tourist arrival numbers burgeoning to over 2 crore, the theme of 'Timeless Treasure' for Calendar 2024 is also an attempt to further showcase and popularise some of the fast-emerging tourist destinations in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh."

"Being significant stakeholders in the development of tourism and its allied industry, the idea also is to leverage the brand appeal of the Bank to engage the larger public attention towards these fast emerging destinations so that these places also get important spots in the itinerary of major tour and travel companies across the country and abroad", he said, adding further that e-Calendar has also been continued to mark our presence on every digital platform and ensure that the people have access to our calendar on the go.

Wishing the people of J&K and Ladakh well for the upcoming year in general and Bank's customers across the country in particular, MD & CEO asserted, "On this occasion, I also extend my best New Year wishes to the people and pray that the year 2024 finds them happy and healthy with peace and prosperity."

Earlier, the Bank's General Manager Syed Shafat Hussain Rufai briefed the MD about the process that resulted in the making of Calendar -2024. He said, "Wall calendar has an iconic place in J&K and Ladakh and people crave for it at the onset of a new year. It has served as a great tool of brand promotion for the Bank as well as J&K and Ladakh. Its presence in peoples' homes also acts as an effective medium of brand recall."

Notably, the fast-emerging tourist spots on the scenic-map of J&K and Ladakh covered in the Calendar are Tulip Garden in Sanasar Jammu, Hanle Village in Ladakh, Bangus Valley in Kupwara Kashmir, Botapathri in Gulmarg Kashmir, Tso Moriri Lake in Ladakh and Jai Valley in Baderwah Jammu. KNO

Health Year Ender: Amid...

Medical Colleges/District Hospitals/Sub-District Hospitals along with 590 B.Sc paramedical seats in seven Medical Colleges and 440 B.Sc. Nursing seats.

Moreover, 60 seats for Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) have been introduced in Government Unani Medical College, Kashmir and 63 seats for Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) have been added in Ayurvedic Medical College, Akhnoor, Jammu.

Shahrukh Bhatti raises concerns over sudden hike in Chenani-Nashri toll charges with DC Ramban



J I NEWS SERVICE
BATOTE, DEC 29

Shahrukh Bhatti, DPAP Zonal General Secretary (Chenab Valley) & Councillor MC Batote, met with Worthy Deputy Commissioner Ramban Ias Baseer Ul Haq Ji today and presented a memorandum expressing concerns regarding the recent hike in toll charges at the Chenani-Nashri tunnel by NHA-I.

Bhatti highlighted the existing hardships faced by the general public of Nashri-Batote and surrounding areas due to limited employment opportunities in the district. He emphasized that a majority of the residents are daily wage earners who rely on the Chenani-Nashri tunnel for their daily commute to work.

"The sudden increase

in toll charges has placed a significant burden on these already struggling individuals," Bhatti stated. "Many simply cannot afford this additional expense, putting their livelihoods at risk."

Bhatti urged Deputy Commissioner Haq to intervene and advocate for the cancellation of the toll hike order. He emphasized the need for a sensitive approach considering the economic constraints of the region.

Deputy Commissioner Haq assured Bhatti that he would personally look into the matter and explore avenues to bring relief to the affected communities. He acknowledged the concerns raised and expressed his commitment to finding a solution that balances infrastructure development with the well-being of the local population.

An additional 200 MBBS seats have also been introduced, raising the total intake capacity to 1300 seats. This has been achieved by operationalizing Government Medical Colleges in Udhampur and Handwara in 2023-24.

With focus on infrastructure, the population of Jammu and Kashmir is facing multiple health issues with new communicable diseases as well as the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, according to officials. To top it all, the rise in drug abuse among the young population is putting a burden on the health sector.

The communicable diseases include such as EBOLA, Bird flu, Swine Flu, Zika and Coronavirus besides the increased prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as anaemia, hypertension, diabetes and cancer. Cancer, heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, diabetes, obesity, hypertension are on rise in J&K.

Doctors attribute the surge in such cases to lifestyle changes and adoption of a Western and urban lifestyle.

They stress on the need for individual changes such as adopting a healthy lifestyle, maintaining good food habits, physical exercise and quitting smoking. At a collective level, measures include preventing environmental pollution and ensuring access to clean water.

Additionally, anaemia remains a major health problem in the region, especially among women and children. Doctors attribute this to nutritional deficiencies and a lack of awareness about menstrual health.

There are 8.7 percent of women and 8 percent of men aged above 15 whose blood sugar level is above 140 mg/dl.

Drug abuse is on the rise in J&K especially intravenous injection while doctors also said that persons who inject drugs (PWIDs) are at risk of having unwanted health problems that affect their body as well as their overall health, however, addiction treatment facilities are emerging as a boon for drug addicts who have made their mind of getting rid of this menace.

Around 13.5 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir consume drugs, with over 5 lakh addicts using opioids, a parliament panel report has revealed.

Besides drug abuse, mental health issues are on the rise J&K as over 29,000 calls were received on tele manhas in the last one year while over 200 youngsters were counselled through chatbot so far.

Virtual autism is emerging as a new challenge among children in J&K as most of the children in J&K spend most of their time on mobile phones and other screens.

Meanwhile, scan and share along digital payment facilities have been started in hospitals in J&K this year and so far around 26 lakhs tokens have been generated through scan and share facilities while the government is working to ensure paperless hospital registrations.

A hundred percent saturation under the AB PM-JAY SEHAT scheme was achieved this year and hundreds of critical procedures were conducted free of cost through Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

The much awaited Cancer institute at Jammu was made functional this year and some procedures were carried out for the first time in J&K hospitals this year.

The 300-bedded high-tech Bone and Joint Hospital Jammu was made functional this year while the much awaited new building at B&J hospital Srinagar is expected to be completed in the next 2-3 months while chemotherapy units have been started in almost all district hospitals.

TB Testing facilities have been ramped in Kashmir by at least three times and very soon Kashmir is expected to get TB free status.

An official said that there are thousands of posts lying vacant in the department since years and filling them can ensure healthcare facilities to all. KNO

Rahul Sahai hails LG, AC for granting amnesty for settlement of tax arrears

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Rahul Sahai Chairman of PHDCCI Jammu Chapter has hailed the decision of the Administrative Council (AC) which met under the chairmanship of Sh Manoj Sinha Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K in presence to Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Advisor to Hon'ble LG, Sh Atal Dulloo Chief Secretary J&K, Sh Mandeep Bhandari Principal Secretary to Hon'ble LG for approving the proposal of the Finance Department for granting amnesty for settlement of Tax arrears pertaining to pre GST regime.

Sahai said this step is going to provide relief to the tax payers in the form of waiver of interest and penalty besides recovery of the blocked revenue to the Government.

Sahai also urged beneficiaries to avail the amnesty scheme this time as this could be the last chance of getting this amnesty. Sahai also suggested Banks to fund for the requirement.

Sahai said earlier all dealers could not take benefit of previous amnesty schemes issued by Govt. due to various reasons including Covid-19 pandemic but this would help them also as the new amnesty scheme provides relief to dealers on the following terms: 100% waiver of penalty and interest under J&K General Sales Tax Act, 1962, and Central Sales Tax Act,



1956, for assessment/ re-assessment up to 2017-18 for liquor dealers. 100% waiver of penalty and interest under J&K Value Added Tax Act, 2005, and Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, for assessments up to 2017-18. Waiver of interest and penalty in both is subjected to 100% payment of principal Tax in the manner and within the prescribed time as per the scheme to be notified by the Government.

Settlement of demands for Industrial Units under repealed J&K Value Added Tax Act, 2005 J&K and Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, in respect of assessed/ re-assessed demands including yet to be assessed cases with certain conditions to be notified in the scheme.

Sahai said this decision on the part of government will result into minimizing of tax dispute cases and winding up of pre-GST cases etc. The time limit for receiving the applications for this amnesty will not be more than six months from the date an order is issued in this regard.

Naib sarpanch, property dealers charge-sheeted in land fraud case

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu presented 544 page charge-sheet against accused - 1) Karanjeet Singh S/o Sain Dass R/o Badyal Qazian, Suchetgarh, R.S. Pura District Jammu and 2) Rajinder Singh @ Rinku (Naib Sarpanch) S/o Sh. Parshotam Singh R/o Sidher, Suchetgarh, R.S Pura, Jammu in case FIR No. 85/2023 P/S EOW, Crime Branch, Jammu in the Hon'ble Court of law for judicial determination after their involvement in hatching criminal conspiracy, cheating and duping the complainant - Sh. Maqsood Ahmed S/o Mohd. Latief R/o Drawtay Tehsil R.S Pura Jammu was established in the case investigated by Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu.

The case owes its origin to a written complaint lodged in Crime Branch Jammu by complainant - Maqsood Ahmed S/o Mohd Latief R/o Drawtay Tehsil R.S. Pura, Jammu, wherein he had alleged that on 25-12-2020 he purchased a plot of land, measuring (15) Marlas at Drawtay Tehsil R.S Pura, Jammu from the accused persons (1) Karanjeet Singh - a property dealer and (2) Rajinder Singh - Naib Sarpanch and property dealer for a monetary consideration of Rs.27 lakhs for which he had paid an amount of Rs.15 Lakhs as advance payment. Later an amount of Rs. 10 Lacs was deposited in the account of accused Rajinder Singh by cheque and an amount of Rs. 5 lakh was paid by cash to accused Karanjeet Singh. Accordingly, an agreement deed was signed (agree-

ment Biana) by the Executants and witnesses on 26.12.2020. The complainant approached the accused Karanjeet Singh for balance payment and execution of sale deed but to his utter dismay accused refused to do so. He again approached him with the request to refund his payment in case he is not able to handover him possession of the said plot. While pressing them to refund the payment accused also threatened him to kill his entire family in case he demanded his money. The accused issued cheques in his favour which were dishonoured by Bank due to insufficient amount in the account, thus duping the complainant on the pretext of sale of a piece of land. On receipt of complaint a Preliminary Verification was conducted and during the course of enquiry the allegations made were prima-facie substantiated, leading to the registration of a formal case under the relevant sections of law for in-depth probe. During the course of investigation all material evidence in the form of documentary record was collected from concerned quarters besides statements of complainants & witnesses were recorded and the offences established against both the accused for cheating and duping the complainant of Rs. 20 Lakhs on the pretext of selling a piece of land, market value of which has more than 50 Lakhs as of now. Both the accused did not cooperate in the investigation process and were arrested by Crime Branch Jammu on 06-12-2023 and 07-12-2023 and charge sheet has been produced against them in the Court of law.

DC Rajouri discusses District Export Action Plan

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 29

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today presided over a significant meeting of the District Level Export Promotion Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the district export action plan (DEAP) for Rajouri district, which had been prepared by the Jammu and Kashmir trade promotion Organization J&K (JKTPO).

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from the General Manager DIC Rajouri, who served as the Convener of the District Level Export Promotion Committee. He cordially greeted all the committee members and provided an overview of the agenda of the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri directed the concerned officers to thoroughly review the draft export action plan and promptly submit the



relevant data concerning their respective departments. This information was crucial for the inclusion of accurate and comprehensive details in the draft action plan.

The discussions during the meeting were focused on formulating a comprehensive and effective district export action plan. Various strategies, initiatives, and measures were deliberated upon to enhance and streamline the export processes and activities in Rajouri district. The committee members shared their valuable insights, expertise, and recommendations to ensure that the

action plan aligns with the district's objectives and requirements.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal emphasized the importance of cooperative efforts and coordination among all stakeholders involved in the export sector. He highlighted the need for synergy between government departments, financial institutions, trade organizations, and exporters to create a conducive environment for promoting exports. The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the significance of harnessing the unique resources, capabilities, and potential

of the district to maximize export opportunities and generate economic growth.

In conclusion, the meeting served as a platform for fruitful discussions and collaborations aimed at revamping and approving the district export action plan. The collective efforts of the committee members, along with the support and guidance of concerned authorities, are poised to bolster the export potential of Rajouri district, contributing to its economic progress and prosperity.

Among the others who attended the meeting were the Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Khurshid, Chief Agriculture Officer Sohan Singh, Chief Horticulture Officer Madan Lal; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr Khalid Hussain; Lead District Manager Sanjeev Bhasin, Project Officer DIC Abid Hussain and other concerned officers.

IEC Van Traverses through panchayats of block Darhal, Thanamandi, Manjakote, Plangarh & Budhal Old

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DECEMBER 29

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is gaining momentum in Rajouri, driving the implementation of various government schemes and bringing about comprehensive development in the district. This initiative aims to transform Rajouri by reaching underserved areas and ensuring the effective execution of government programs, thereby improving the lives of its residents. To effectively communicate and create awareness about these initiatives, an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van has been deployed as an essential part of the Yatra. This mobile communication platform has played a crucial role in engaging with local communities and equipping them with the necessary knowledge to benefit from government



schemes. The VBSY has achieved remarkable success in implementing various government schemes in Rajouri District. These schemes, designed to enhance the quality of life and provide essential services, have been executed with exceptional efficiency on the ground. As a result, the community has experienced tangible benefits and witnessed positive changes in their daily lives.

Today, the VBSY IEC van traveled through the panchayats of Chowkian-C, Thanamang-C, Mangota-B, Alal, Dhoke, Azmatnabad, Dreari, Deri Ralyote-Lower, Deri Ralyote Upper, Galhuti Lower, Dodasan Lower, Dodasan Ramote, Jaglanoo, Mohra-A, Draj-B and Draj-A of Darhal, Thanamandi, Manjakote, Plangarh and Budhal Old block of Rajouri district. The impact of the Yatra

can be seen in improved access to healthcare, education, and basic amenities, as well as the overall progress of Rajouri District. This initiative has been meticulously planned and executed to align with the core objective of holistic development, leaving a lasting and positive impact on the community.

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

Distt Admin Pulwama fosters Open Dialogue & Development at Public Darbar in Tral

JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, DECEMBER 29

In a significant initiative aimed at community engagement, a public darbar was convened today at Bajwani Tral, led by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Abdul Aziz.

Accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tral, Sajid Yehaya Naqash, and DDC member, Avtar Singh, the event served as a platform for open communication, addressing community needs and fostering development.

ADDC actively engaged with residents and diverse delegations, eliciting perspectives on civic infrastructure, education, healthcare, and public amenities. Attendees expressed their concerns, and ADDC responded promptly, issuing on-the-spot directives to address the presented matters and expedite solutions through appropriate channels. The ADDC reassured the public, emphasizing the Government's commitment to providing



opportunities for youth development and ensuring sincere efforts toward fulfilling aspirations.

Highlighting the evolving dynamics of Citizen-Government interaction, the ADDC underscored the availability of Government services and information through mobile platforms, reducing the necessity for physical visits to offices. He stressed the accountability of Government officials in responding promptly to online applications.

During the Public Darbar, several impactful initiatives were undertaken, including the distribution of Ujjwala Gas connections, provision of

scholarship cheques, felicitation of Mumkin Scheme beneficiaries, and the sanctioning of loans for selected individuals.

In addition to addressing individual perspectives, the ADDC emphasized Government schemes promoting employment and skill development, encouraging residents to leverage these opportunities.

This public darbar which witnessed the presence of a large number of people and District and Sectoral officers exemplified the Government's inclusive and responsive administration, emphasizing its dedication to citizen welfare.

GDC Marh organises plethora of activities under vision Viksit Bharat@2047: Voice of Youth

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

Government Degree College Marh joined hands with the launch of Government's biggest Initiative by conducting a series of activities under the Vision Viksit Bharat@2047. The special series of activities is being held under the guidance of Principal of the college Prof (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul.

Addressing the faculty and students, the Principal of the college emphasized the importance of college students in achieving this goal. He exhorted the students to contribute by giving innovative ideas and suggestions and register themselves on MyGov Portal. He urged the faculty to guide and encourage students to come up with recent and inventive ideas to fulfill the dream of our Prime Minister.

To promote, organize, disseminate information, and mobilize the students for the whole event, ensuring the feedback from students on MyGov Portal, the Viksit Bharat Committee was constituted, while



an event itinerary was prepared for activities to be conducted under theme "Viksit Bharat @2047"

On December 11, 2023 a whatsapp group Viksit Bharat GDC Marh was made, in which all the faculty and students of the college are added to provide the updates regarding the campaign by the convener of Viksit Bharat committee.

Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with BDO Office, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and Government Middle School, Dhateryal, organized the reception of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on Dec 13, 2023.

The participants received the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Van, which

started its journey from Jharkhand, travelling across different parts of the country and reaching Govt. Degree College Marh.

The campaign showcased a significant commitment to rural development and community empowerment. The collaborative effort aimed to promote the Prime Minister's vision to actively involve the youth of the country in formulation of national plans, priorities and goals of the country. Principal of the College Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, welcomed all the dignitaries, local public and officials controlling stalls put up by different government departments and expressed gratitude for this collaborative effort to disseminate the infor-

mation quickly and for convenient communication among the students "Notice on Notice Boards" activity was conducted ON Dec 13. Small size posters or print outs with QR Code and web link were displayed on all the notice boards of the colleges by the department of Physical Education.

A poster making competition was organized on Dec 15 under the theme "Goals for Viksit Bharat", while on Dec 18, 2023 a debate competition on the theme Ideas for Developed India @ 2047 was organized by the Department of Sociology

Similarly, a Faculty talk on the ideas for Viksit Bharat with students was also organized by all the faculty members of the college on Dec 19, 2023. In the faculty talk members guided and encouraged the students to give their ideas for nation building.

Likewise a movie was screened for students by NSS PO Sachin Kumar Bhagat On Dec 21, 2023. The movie gave a detailed view of various challenges such as poverty, GDP, Sus-

tainable Economy, Human Development Index, Poverty; Unemployment India has to face in order to become a developed nation.

A Marathon was also organized in the college by department of Physical Education and Sports on Dec 23, 2023. The Principal flagged off the marathon run witnessing participation of 53 students of the college.

As per the directions of Higher Education Department, a selfie booth point was purchased in the college campus on Dec 26/12/2023 with slogan "I have shared my idea for ViksitBharat@2047. Have You?"

A large number of students participated in the event. The Selfie booth point was highly appreciated by the students. The initiative aims to promote the vision of a developed India by the year 2047. The activities were organized by Imitaz Shahid (HOD Zoology), Anjana Chib (HOD EVS), Ravi Kumar (PTI) and Dr. Shakun Sharma (HOD Sociology)

Srinagar Municipal Corporation covers 02 more locations under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 29

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) continued its commitment to community engagement and development by extending the reach of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) camp to two more locations within the SMC jurisdiction.

The camps, which took place at Natipora and Budshah Nagar vicinities, marked an important expansion of the initiative's outreach.

The gatherings provided a vital platform for officers and officials from various departments to interact closely with the local community, fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Through these interactions, representatives from diverse departments were able to elucidate the fundamental goals and procedural details of their respective schemes. This



initiative aimed to bridge the information gap and ensure that citizens are fully aware of the myriad benefits and assistance available to them through various government programs and initiatives.

Furthermore, these efforts underscored the SMC's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive development and

ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives reach every segment of society.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation remains steadfast in its resolve to continue expanding the reach of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, with the aim of creating a more informed, engaged, and empowered citizenry.

Vibrant Baderwah Festival: Guldanda witnesses Snowy Extravaganza

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 29

The third day of the Vibrant Baderwah Festival unfolded at Guldanda, draped in a pristine snow blanket, attracting crowds from across the country. Locals and tourists alike revelled in the festivities. The vibrant Baderwah festival is hosted by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration Doda, Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, and the Baderwah Development Authority (BDA). Guldanda turned into an entertainment hub with various adventure activities such as Skiing, ATV rides, rappelling, snowman making competitions, sledging, tug of war, and diverse food stalls offering local cuisines. The vibrant atmosphere left a lasting impression, captivating visitors from different states, with food stalls, music, and engaging activities enhancing the festival's charm. Tourists, speaking with the media,



lauded the efforts of the Directorate of Tourism Jammu and District Administration Doda for organizing the event. They commended the seamless organization and lauded the unexplored destination, Guldanda, for its scenic beauty and unique offerings.

During an interaction with the media, Sh. Bal Krishan, JKAS Chief Executive Officer, Baderwah Development Authority, expressed his delight at the significant influx of tourists, highlighting Baderwah's status as the favored destination.

Deputy Director Tourism, Abdul Jabbar emphasized that Baderwah has gained country-wide recognition as one of the best tourist places, attributing this success to the region's unique charm

and concerted efforts of the Directorate of Tourism Jammu for promoting the picturesque destinations of Jammu division.

The following day 30th December at Guldanda will feature a range of winter sports, including skiing, snowman-making competition, sledging, snow games, and cultural performances by local artists. The event will culminate on the 31st with performances by artists of art, culture, and languages, along with the renowned celebrity singer "KAKA." Promotion for the event has also been undertaken by the first local female auto driver Smt. Meenakshi and others who were recently commended by Lt Governor Sh Manoj Sinha during his last Awaam ki Awaz.

Rarri Panchayat in Samba District witnesses massive turnout at VBSY

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 29

The Panchayat Rarri, Block Ramgarh of Samba District hosted a grand Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra today, with the participation of locals and PRIs.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is a nationwide outreach initiative launched by the Government to inform and empower citizens about the flagship schemes and programmes. The goal of the Yatra is to achieve 100% saturation of welfare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, and many more.

The people of Rarri welcomed the IEC van with enthusiasm and participated in various activities organized by them. They listened to Hon'ble PM Modi's message with keen interest and took part in the Sankalp pledge, committing themselves to the vision of a developed and prosperous India. The



beneficiaries also shared their success stories of how they benefited from the government's schemes under the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" initiative.

The cultural programmes by students of schools added to the festive mood of the event. The stalls for on-spot services provided health camps, blood donation camps, eye check-ups, and other facilities to the people. The event was a huge success and received positive feedback from all sections of society.

The event was graced by the presence of ACD Samba Siddharth Dhiman, BDO Ramgarh Mukesh Sharma, Sarpanch Nirmala Devi, and Naib Sarpanch Daler Singh.

EDITORIAL

PRIs lack infra, enhance their planning capabilities

The Centre and the UT administration have been making tall claims about the strengthening and empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir by extending various provisions of 73rd Amendment of Indian Constitution and providing liberal funding for the development of Panchayats. The lack of infrastructure in Panchayats, which are rural local self-government bodies, can mainly be attributed to several factors. Infrastructure refers to the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society, such as transportation, communication, water supply, sanitation, and education. The recent data shows that over 1,500 Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir are functioning either in rented accommodations or under open sky as they don't have their own buildings. Moreover, only 300 Panchayats in the Union Territory don't have computers—a claim strongly contested by Panchayat representatives. Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 4,291 Gram Panchayats out of which over 1500 Panchayats don't have Panchayat Bhawans, notwithstanding the fact that the Central government had been providing liberal funding for raising infrastructure in Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir. What is quite interesting is that a total of 19 National Panchayat Awards (NPA) have been conferred on Jammu and Kashmir from 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 despite the fact that Panchayats in the Union Territory still face the major problem of infrastructure shortage. It is the duty of the state or UT administration to mobilise funds for construction of Panchayat Buildings from various sources. However, under the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme approved for implementation from 2022-23 to 2025-2026, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj supplements the efforts of States and UTs towards supporting the functioning of GPs by providing Panchayat Bhawan as proposed by States and UTs in their Annual Action Plan and approved by Central Empowered Committee on a limited scale. Panchayats often have limited financial resources. They heavily depend on funds allocated by higher levels of government, and these funds may not be sufficient to meet the diverse infrastructure needs of the local community. Panchayats in geographically challenging areas, such as hilly or remote regions, may face additional hurdles in providing infrastructure. Construction and maintenance can be more difficult and costly in such areas. In contrast to all these factors, the UT has been provided an amount of over Rs 180 crore under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan from the year 2018-19 to the current financial year 2023-24 for the development of Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir. The funds have been provided with the primary objective of strengthening PRIs by way of capacity building and training of the elected representatives and the functionaries of the PRIs, providing infrastructural support. The Government of India has provided a whopping amount of Rs 1,858 crore to Jammu and Kashmir from 2015-16 to 2018-19 for the welfare of Panchayats including improvement of infrastructure under 14th Finance Commission. "After 2019 when the erstwhile state was converted into UT, Jammu and Kashmir has not received any grant under 14th and 15th Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26). Addressing the lack of infrastructure in Panchayats requires a multifaceted approach, including improved governance, increased funding, community engagement, and capacity building at the local level. Efforts should be made to empower Panchayats, enhance their planning capabilities, and ensure that resources are allocated and utilized efficiently for sustainable development.

Alliance INDIA – The Structure and the Processes

DR. D.K. GIRI

India - Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance - held its third conclave on the 19th December in Delhi. The deliberations in the meeting as they came out in the press were good and not-so-good. Overall, INDIA, as it is today dismays even its supporters. It is a truism that democracy runs healthily if power alternates between political parties or there are strong Oppositions. India suffers from absence of a strong opposition party or an alliance. INDIA is yet to prove its mettle as a group in any election so far. At best, it appears to be promising. As of now, it lacks structures and processes both of which are indispensable to effectively challenge the ruling BJP.

Let us elaborate the assessment of INDIA. To begin with, the name itself of the alliance is confusing. I have said it before that the name is too long and wordy to remember by the common people. Even many of us, the commentators struggle to recall it. Hence, people use the acronym, INDIA. In order to differentiate it from the country's name, it has to be written in caps. Of course, most acronyms are in capital letters. But this acronym has to perforce be used because of the complexity of using the full name. What is its Hindi version? Difficult to say.

Does it not confuse with the name of our country? Should political parties or other non-governmental agencies use the national names, symbols, or slogans?

Talking of the Hindi version of the name, it is now obvious that the think-tank of the Alliance was unmindful of the difficulty that Hindi-speaking masses will experience in using the name. This slip of strategy in coining the name for the alliance has cast its shadow in the said conclave. As per the media reports, an avoidable row erupted over the use of Hindi language. Apparently, as was the practice, T.R. Baalu of DMK requested a translation of Hindi speeches made in the meeting, in this case, that of Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar. To the request made by Baalu to Manoj Jha, the MP from RJD, who used to translate the Hindi speakers, mainly from Bihar, Nitish Kumar reacted sharply saying that Hindi is the national language and therefore everyone should be speaking or able to understand Hindi.

The forgoing incident may sound trivial but it reflects the contradiction underlying the name and the lack of sub-consciousness of the leaders on the language policy of the country. Nitish Kumar should have certainly objected to INDIA not having a Hindi version. At the same time, he should

be conscious of not imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speaking states especially Tamil Nadu which boasts of having the oldest language of the country. Further, are Nitish Kumar and his ilk not falling into the trap of BJP narrative of Hindi, Hindu and Hindustan. This takes us further into absence of original or fresh narratives in INDIA. The constituents of INDIA have been largely reactive in terms of setting a discourse, not pro-active. This is the case on many contested ideas and policies of the country - nationalism, secularism, federalism, foreign policy, Jammu and Kashmir, farmers and so on.

It may be that INDIA comes up with a joint manifesto based on a Common Minimum Programme. But if the voters want to know what are the three major issues or ideas INDIA will campaign on, it is hard to decipher them. Since the Alliance has no defined spokespersons yet, it is again difficult to make out from various statements by its leaders the narrative that INDIA is laying out. For instance, the Bengal Chief Minister prematurely proposed the name of Mallikarjun Kharge as the PM candidate of the Alliance, promptly seconded by the Delhi CM. On 27 December, the Maharashtra leader Sharad Pawar contradicted the choice of PM before the election results are out. Speaking in

a public meeting in Maharashtra, he cited the practice in 1977 when Morarji Desai was elected Prime Minister after the elections. Interestingly, he also quoted the examples of the three states that went into election and were captured by BJP - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. This brings me to talk about the structure and processes or to be more precise, lack of them in INDIA.

When I referred to absence of structure in INDIA in a TV debate, my fellow-commentator complacently argued, the Alliance is shaping up, they will find a way by the time elections are announced. I could not expect them to act as per my wishes. I gently retorted that I was not asking for 'my way', I was simply wanting to see some structure around INDIA.

Let me illustrate. Alliance politics in India seriously began in 1989 with the formation of National Front with NT Rama Rao as its President and VP Singh as the Convenor. The National Front later became United Front. On the BJP led alliance, NDA was constituted in 1998 under the leadership of Vajpayee who had roped in over 20 political parties with George Fernandes as its Convenor. At that time, George led the Samata Party comparatively much smaller than BJP. As the United Front

dissipated gradually, UPA was created in 2003 under the Chairmanship of Sonia Gandhi. All these alliances had convenors, chairs, offices, and designated spokespersons. Then why is INDIA run on an ad hoc basis? There is no office, no secretariat, no spokesperson, no headship. In fact, one of the leaders of a constituent of INDIA commented in derision, "you cannot run INDIA from Mr. Kharge's house". So a lack of structure is grudged by the constituents of INDIA itself.

With regard to the process, there are two issues which bedevil any alliance; one is the leadership and the other, seat-sharing. On the leadership, in this case, the future PM, should the Alliance secure majority in the House, it is usually the leader or the nominee of the party with maximum number of MPs. Again in INDIA, it is tricky because the de facto leader of the Congress Party, Rahul Gandhi, is said to be 'not acceptable' to the masses nor to the other parties in the Alliance. The general elections since 2014 have proved it in a sense by sending a decreasing number of Congress MPs under Rahul Gandhi's leadership. That is why perhaps Mamata Banerji proposed Kharge's name as the PM candidate. As said before, it was abrupt without a process of consultation, selection or election.

As a matter of fact, one could use a simple formula to elect the PM. I have written about it few times before. The newly elected MPs from across the constituent parties could elect their leader with a secret ballot. The Council of Ministers could be nominated in proportion to the strength of the party in the Parliament, and with other variables like calibre and popularity etc. On seat-sharing, again organising principles could be worked out to nominate members. Mamata Banerji has thrown up a suggestion, which is, that Congress can have an upper hand in the States where it is in direct contest against BJP. In other States ruled or helmed by non-BJP and non-Congress parties, those non-Congress leaders should have the predominant say. It is one principle, there could be others to better accommodate sister parties and select winning candidates.

However, to sum up, INDIA cannot pose a formidable challenge to BJP, an organised party, without structures, processes (organising principles), and a fresh narrative that reflects the signs of the times, mood of the electorate, and the needs and aspirations of the people. Sooner they adopt them, better will be their prospects in 2024.

Mastering Winter Wellness in the Heart of Kashmir

MIR MOHSIN

Embracing the winter chill in Kashmir can be invigorating, but it's essential to prioritise your health during the colder months. From traditional practices to modern wellness tips, here's a comprehensive guide on healthy ways to beat the Kashmir chill and thrive in the winter wonderland. The age-old wisdom of layering clothing proves invaluable in Kashmir's winter. Opt for thermal wear, cozy sweaters and a good quality winter jacket to insulate yourself from the biting cold. A well layered outfit not only keeps you warm but also protects against temperature fluctuations throughout the day. Head-

gear is a must.

Tap into the wisdom of traditional Kashmiri practices to stay warm. Invest in Pherans, the traditional Kashmiri cloak, to keep yourself snug. Consider using Kangris, traditional earthen fire pots encased in wicker basked to provide warmth during outdoor activities. These age-old practices are not just cultural but also effective in battling the winter chill. All warming equipment must be used with adequate caution to avoid any untoward fire accident. Don't let the cold weather deter you from staying active. Engage in indoor exercises or take advantage of the crisp winter air for invigorating outdoor activities. Whether it's a brisk walk are a

short run/gym session, set achievable goals on daily basis as per your physical condition. Staying active is key to maintaining both physical and mental well-being.

Despite the cold, don't shy away from soaking in the winter sun. Vitamin D is crucial for maintaining overall health and a little sunshine can go a long way. Take a stroll in a sunlit garden or simply bask in the sun on your balcony. Just a few minutes of sun exposure can lift your spirits and contribute to your daily vitamin D intake. The cold weather can be deceptive when it comes to staying hydrated. Ensure you drink ample amount of water throughout the day. Herbal teas, warm soups

and broths are excellent options to keep yourself hydrated while also enjoying the soothing benefits of hot beverages. Pamper yourself with spa-like self-care routines to combat the winter dryness. Use hydrating skincare products, indulge in warm baths infused with natural oils and moisturize regularly. This not only protects your skin from the harsh winter elements but also adds a touch of luxury to your daily routine.

Explore the rich and hearty Kashmiri cuisine, known for its warming and nutritious qualities. Indulge in classics like Rogan Josh, Yakhni and Harisa, which not only tantalize your taste buds but also provide the necessary energy to combat the cold.

Incorporate local winter vegetables into your meals for an added health boost. Kickstart your day with a warm cup of Kashmiri Kahwa. Packed with spices like cinnamon cardamom and saffron, this traditional beverage not only warms you up but also offers a myriad of health benefits. Rich in antioxidants, Kahwa aids digestion and boosts immunity, making it a perfect ally against the winter. Ensure you get adequate and quality sleep during the winter months. Create a cozy and comfortable sleep environment, invest in warm bedding and maintain a consistent sleep schedule. Quality sleep is essential for immune function, mood regulation and overall health.

Winter is an ideal time to cultivate mindfulness and mental well-being. Explore meditation techniques that resonate with you, practice deep breathing exercises or engage in activities that bring you joy and peace. A calm and centered mind can enhance your overall resilience against the winter cold. Beating the Kashmir chill is not just about enduring the cold but thriving in it. By embracing a holistic approach that includes traditional practices, healthy habits, and a positive mindset, you can turn the winter season into a time of rejuvenation and well-being. Stay warm, stay healthy and make the most of Kashmir's enchanting winter charm.

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen II: A revolution in making

ARUMUGAM KALIMUTHU

India's sanitation landscape is undergoing a transformative change, with the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Grameen Phase II marking a remarkable achievement: 5 lakh+ villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus. This milestone symbolizes the nation's commitment to creating a clean and healthy rural environment and highlights the power of community-driven initiatives. As of date, 16 States and Union Territories have achieved 100% ODF Plus Status, of which 4 have achieved ODF Plus Model Status.

Launched on October 2, 2014, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, SBM aimed to eliminate open defecation across India by 2019. The first phase of this ambitious mission was a success, resulting in the construction of over 100 million Individual Household Toilets (IHHs) and the transformation of 6 lakh villages into ODF villages. This accomplish-

ment was a collective effort, with contributions from various sectors of society, including bureaucracy, public representatives, corporations, NGOs, and citizens.

The key to the success of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Grameen Phase I was an effective communication strategy that included mass awareness campaigns, behaviour change communication, and the formation of local committees to accelerate the adoption of healthy hygiene practices, ensuring clean and healthy villages. The messaging from the Prime Minister, coupled with support from State and District administrations and endorsements from celebrities, significantly boosted the mission's reach and impact. Studies by UNICEF, WHO, and other organizations have highlighted the positive impact of SBM. Improvements in women's safety, convenience, and dignity, underscore the mission's success.

SBM Grameen Phase II extended beyond toilet



construction, focusing on transforming villages into clean, healthy spaces. This phase emphasized the importance of maintaining toilets, managing waste, and responsibly disposing of greywater. The changed attitudes and behaviours of rural communities, adopting new sanitation practices and collaborating with various stakeholders for waste management, marked a significant cultural shift.

Complementing the sanitation efforts, the Jal Jeevan Mission played a

crucial role in ensuring sustained toilet usage by providing water supply to all households. The formation of Village Water Sanitation Committees institutionalized community participation, managing sanitation services and assets effectively. These committees, including self-help groups, have been instrumental in operationalizing and maintaining sanitation facilities.

The SBM Grameen Phase II campaigns, like the Sujalam Campaign, focused on specific aspects

of sanitation, such as grey-water management. These initiatives led to the construction of 5.1 million soak pits, showcasing the commitment to comprehensive sanitation solutions. The participation of rural communities was a driving force behind the success of SBM Grameen Phase II. Recognizing them as key stakeholders, the mission employed community-driven approaches, empowering individuals to take ownership of their sanitation facilities. The involvement of government agencies, PSUs, and rural WASH partners was crucial in realizing the mission's goals.

The achievement of over 5 lakh ODF Plus villages has led to improved quality of life, reduced disease risks, and enhanced dignity and well-being in rural communities. This milestone in India's sanitation journey is more than a statistic; it represents a deep-rooted change impacting millions. It's a testament to the collective determination and resilience of rural communi-

ties in achieving a 'Sampoorna Swachh Bharat' or a Completely Clean India. The mission's meticulous planning and concerted efforts have been pivotal in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Swachh Bharat'.

As SBM Grameen moves forward, the focus on community ownership and management of sanitation infrastructure remains key to sustaining these practices. The mission's role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and contributing to India's economic growth is significant, highlighting its comprehensive and transformative impact. By addressing water body pollution and improving water security, SBM Grameen is not only making India's villages cleaner and healthier but also positioning them as potential economic centres, contributing to the broader goal of India becoming a USD 5 trillion economy.

(The writer is Executive Director, of WASH Institute, and a Member of NFSSM Alliance, views are personal)

Comm Secy IT participates in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Sahar, Kathua

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 29

Commissioner Secretary, IT and Information, Prerna Puri, today participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at panchayat Sahar of block Kathua.

Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Minhas, SSP, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal, Vice Chairman DDC, Raghunandan Singh, ACD, Kishore Singh Katoch, and other departmental heads besides officials were present on the occasion.

During the Yatra, the beneficiaries shared suc-

cess stories concerning various prevailing Central Sector Schemes during the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" session, attended by the Commissioner Secretary and other district officials.

Amidst these engagements, the Commissioner Secretary participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra proceedings, inspecting departmental stalls showcasing citizen centric beneficiary schemes. She administered the VBSY pledge to the participants.

While taking overview of the ongoing Viksit



Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the district, the Commissioner Secretary said VBSY has successfully touched over 200 panchayats in Kathua with the intent to saturate all the schemes on mission mode. She said

the beneficiaries who have availed the benefits of government schemes act as ambassadors for carrying forward the message of the Prime Minister to pave the way for Developed India. During the address,

Commissioner 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 all stakeholders in this pursuit. She stressed the critical need to focus on infrastructure revamping, human resource development and social unity as the cornerstone of national development.

The event also featured screening of PM's message on Viksit Bharat, besides distribution of IEC mate-

rial. Commissioner Secretary also handed over financial assistance to KCC, PMEGP, NRLM, and MSME beneficiaries besides giving away Abhinandan Patra to the PRIs for achieving ODF plus status.

Earlier, the Vice Chairman DDC Kathua Raghunandan Singh said the mission of making India a developed nation by 2047 can only be realized by the collective efforts of all stakeholders especially youth who are the architects for the developed and empowered India.

RSETI (SBI) organises 30-Day Women's Tailor Programme at Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 29

A transformative 30-day Training Programme on Cutting & Tailoring Programme for women commenced today at the State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI RSETI) Kishtwar.

The initiative drew participation from 28 enthusiastic individuals representing diverse areas of the district. The batch of women is slated to undergo a comprehensive 240-hour training session.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of Vikash Sindhu, Director of SBI RSETI Kishtwar. He extended a warm welcome to the guests including Nikhil Sharma, DDM NABARD Kishtwar, Pankaj Bha-

dani, LDM Kishtwar and the enthusiastic participants eager to embark on this enriching training program. Nikhil Sharma, DDM NABARD Kishtwar, engaged with the participants, sharing words of motivation and encouragement for establishing their entrepreneurial ventures. He pledged unwavering support and guidance, emphasizing NABARD's commitment to assisting the participants whenever needed throughout their entrepreneurial journey. The 30-day Women's Tailor Programme aims to equip participants with vital skills and knowledge, fostering their entrepreneurial spirit and enabling them to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the local economy.

DC Reasi inspects progress of work on Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 29

Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Vishesh Paul Mahajan today conducted an extensive tour-cum-inspection of the works being executed on the Domail-Katra section of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra (DAK) Expressway.

The Project Director, NHAI Udhampur, Anuj Kumar Singh, gave a detailed overview of the works in execution in all the chainages of the project in the jurisdiction of the District Reasi. The Deputy Commissioner, Reasi was informed that the project is being executed strictly in accordance with the Code of the specifications and standards of Expressway. Other senior officers of the NHAI & M/S APCO the concessioner also accompanied the Deputy Commissioner, during the inspections.

The Deputy Commissioner passed instructions to NHAI authorities to speed-up the execution of work by way of enhancing the manpower and pressing in advanced and high-tech machinery. He further instructed the NHAI to start operating the third shift to cover-up the time and the progress

lost during the earlier stages of execution.

During the inspection and interaction with various stakeholders, the DC instructed the executing agency to ensure that the flow of traffic on the existing road is not hampered in any way. On spot instructions were also issued for installation of road crash barriers at vulnerable and black spots for the safety and security of the road users.

Highlighting the importance of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the Deputy Commissioner called upon the executing authorities to ensure that no unnecessary inconvenience is caused either to the pilgrims visiting Holy shrine or to the daily local commuters.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Katra, Deepak Dubey, who also accompanied the Deputy Commissioner, during the tour, was advised to keep a close watch on the execution of this vital part of the Expressway and sort out the issues, if any and as and when they arise. Later in the day, after the inspection was over, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the physical and financial progress of the project.

Managing Director J&K Industries Ltd inaugurates showroom at Nowshesha, Srinagar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 29

As part of its expansion policy, in a significant development, the Managing Director (MD) Jammu and Kashmir Industries Ltd (JKI), Dr. Vikas Gupta unveiled its latest outlet with the grand inauguration of a new showroom at Nowshesha, Srinagar.

The event, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, witnessed the presence of prominent figures from the local community. The new showroom showcases a diverse range of products related to Silk, Wool and Joinery being manufactured by Jammu and Kashmir Industries Ltd, highlighting the region's rich craftsmanship and heritage. From traditional textiles goods to modern

industrial offerings, the showroom aims to cater to a wide spectrum of consumer needs.

The key executives of Jammu and Kashmir Industries Ltd, who were present on the occasion, expressed their commitment to fostering economic growth in the region and enhancing employment opportunities, thereby contributing to the economic development of UT of J&K.

This new venture reflects Jammu and Kashmir Industries Ltd's dedication to expanding its footprint and promoting indigenous products. The showroom is poised to become a focal point for both residents and tourists, showcasing the vibrant economic potential of the region.

Abdul Majeed Cultivates Success through Innovative Farming

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 29

In the heart of Gandhri Block, Ramban District, emerges a tale of agricultural brilliance as Abdul Majeed, a progressive farmer, redefines success through pioneering innovation.

Over the last five years, Majeed's commitment to cutting-edge farming techniques has not only doubled his annual income but has set a precedent for sustainable agriculture in the region.

Majeed's approach includes the establishment of a state-of-the-art poly house for protected cultivation, ensuring a consistent yield, and shielding crops from adverse weather conditions. His implementation of advanced practices has doubled his income from Rs. 2.70 lakh to an impressive Rs. 5.60 lakh.

Committed to sustainability, Abdul Majeed has established a vermicompost unit for the proper decomposition of Farm Yard Manure (FYM), championing organic farming and enriching the soil with essential nutrients.

This success story not only underscores the tangible benefits of embracing innovation in agriculture but also stands as an inspiration for fellow farmers in the district.

Abdul Majeed credits his success to the support from the Agricultural



Department, working under the overall guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary. The department's initiatives, coupled with Majeed's commitment, have contributed to fostering sustainable farming practices and boosting the agricultural landscape.

Majeed actively participates in training programs organized by the Agricultural Department, staying abreast of the latest advancements and contributing to the success of

his farming operations.

Expressing gratitude, Abdul Majeed highlights the pivotal role played by the Agricultural Department in empowering farmers and creating an environment conducive to agricultural innovation.

The Agricultural Department in Ramban remains dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and supporting farmers like Abdul Majeed. Through various initiatives, the department aims to enhance productivity and economic well-

being in the district.

Abdul Majeed's story serves as a symbol of prosperity, showcasing excellence in agricultural practices on his 0.7-hectare land. His commitment to quality and diversification, including Maize, Oats, Oilseeds, Vegetables, Walnut, Mushroom, Milching Cows, Vermicompost, Anardana, Bee Colonies, Pear, Apple, Backyard Poultry, and Flower Cultivation, is a testament to the transformative power of innovative and sustainable farming.

Mission Director Dairy Development presides over VBSY programme at TRC Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 29

Mission Director Dairy Development, Er. Narinder Singh Bali today presided over an impactful Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra here at TRC Kishtwar.

The event garnered participation from local PRIs, the general populace, and District Officers, including ACD Manoj Kumar, GM DIC Mohamad Ashraf, BDO Kishtwar Sumit Singh and DIO, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ajaz Hussain besides others.

The Yatra commenced with the welcoming of the IEC Van by the Mission Director, alongside other esteemed participants. ACD Kishtwar Manoj Kumar set the tone with a warm welcome address, shedding light on the program's outline and its district-specific profile.



With a primary focus on the comprehensive dissemination of CSS and its tangible on-ground impacts, the Mission Director led inspections of stalls set up by various departments. He provided

directives to ensure extensive publicity of these schemes for maximum outreach. The highlight of the event included beneficiaries sharing their insightful experiences during the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" segment on stage and IEC Van screening the recorded message on impact of citizen centric schemes in the UT.

Furthermore, the program encompassed the distribution of wheelchairs, prosthetic aids, the Abhinandan Patara, felicitations of achievers, and the issuance of KCC and soil cards.

Addressing the gath-

ing, Narinder Singh Bali, Mission Director Dairy Development J&K, emphasized the evident developmental trajectory of the UT. He underscored the pivotal roles played by both the general populace and government machinery in fostering this progress.

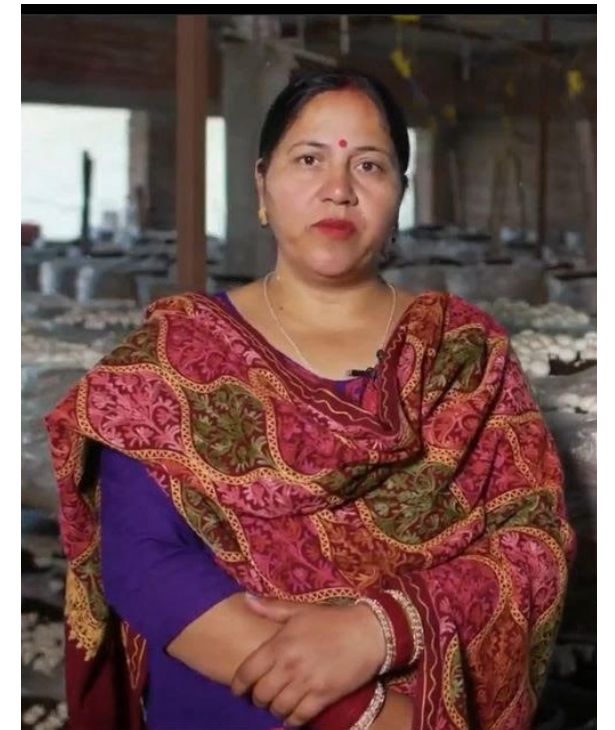
Bali urged all stakeholders to actively embrace their responsibilities, emphasizing the realization of the vision for a Developed India by 2047. He shed light on the HADP programs, aimed at revitalizing agriculture and allied sectors, elaborating on the dairy sector's fundamental role in family

development. Additionally, he reassured the establishment of Milk Collection Centers/BMCs across the district, further demonstrating the commitment to bolstering the dairy industry.

The programme culminated with the commitment for realizing the vision of Developed India. The vote of thanks was presented by GM DIC Mohamad Ashraf and the proceedings of the programme were magnificently carried out by Zorawar Singh PET.

The event at TRC Kishtwar was orchestrated to extensively disseminate awareness about CSS aligning with the spirit of VBSY under the management of the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Kishtwar. Spearheaded by BDO Kishtwar Sumit Singh and in collaboration with various departments, the program operated under the astute guidance and overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav ensured comprehensive and effective execution.

From Despair to Success: VBSY uncovers SHG's Odyssey through UMEED initiative



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 29

Amidst the vibrant energy of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Kathua, one story shone brightly, echoing the essence of resilience and progress. It is the tale of Shakti Sharma, a beacon of inspiration within the self-help group under the UMEED initiative.

Shakti's journey into entrepreneurship alongside her self-help group was sparked by the vision and support offered by the UMEED scheme of JKRLM. With the aid of soft loans provided through this initiative, their venture in mushroom-rearing commenced with a humble investment of Rs 10,000. Fuelled by determination and fortified by the assistance from UMEED, Shakti and her group (Bua Rani) poured their hearts into nurturing their mushroom enterprise.

What followed was a story of incredible growth and achievement. Against all odds, their venture thrived, surpassing expectations and turning the initial Rs 10,000 investment into an astonishing Rs 3 lakh. The success not only transformed their financial standing but also kindled a newfound confidence and empowerment within Shakti and her fellow entrepreneurs. In the midst of celebra-

tion and acknowledgment, Shakti attributed much of this remarkable journey to the visionary policies of PM Modi. She praised the policies for their profound impact in empowering women and fostering the spirit of self-reliance. The initiatives and support provided through UMEED and similar programs have been instrumental in breaking barriers and creating opportunities for women like Shakti across the nation.

As the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra unfolded in Kathua, Shakti's story became a beacon of hope and determination. Her journey exemplified the fusion of individual perseverance and government support, painting a vivid picture of how determination, coupled with initiatives like UMEED and the broader vision of Aatmanirbharata, can ignite remarkable transformations.

Shakti's success story, emerging amid the fervor of the yatra, resonated as a testament to resilience, progress, and the transformative power of inclusive policies. Her narrative encapsulated the essence of empowerment, underscoring the possibilities that arise when determination meets support, carving a path towards a brighter, self-reliant future for countless others.

Mission Swachhta Aur Paani by Harpic and News18 Network launches new cause awareness film to inspire collective responsibility towards clean toilets

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

If you leave a toilet dirty, you may get one! In an endeavour to encourage appropriate toilet behavior, Harpic and News18 Network under their flagship initiative, Mission Swachhta Aur Paani, unveiled a new cause awareness film to encourage collective responsibility towards toilets. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of cleanliness, the film aims to instil a behavioral change - of leaving our toilets clean - and more importantly, spark mass conversations around the importance of clean and hygienic toilets.

Aligned with the Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission, Mission Swachhta Aur Paani has been a trailblazer in championing inclusive sanitation practices and advocating for appropriate toilet behavior throughout the nation. This campaign underscores a critical link between maintaining clean toilets, good

hygiene, and health. Its central theme, 'Healthy Hum Jab Saaf Rakhen Toilet Hardam,' aims to spur a cultural shift towards sustained cleanliness.

Saurabh Jain, Regional Marketing Director-Hygiene, South Asia at Reckitt said, "Toilet habits are still evolving in our country, and brand Harpic has strived for access to clean and hygienic toilets, is taking up the challenging task of starting this conversation among Indians. Together with our partners, we are helping people adopt better sanitation and practice good hygiene habits. Aligned with Hon PM Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Swachh Bharat Swasth Bharat Samridh Bharat', this cause-driven awareness film will inspire people to embrace appropriate toilet behavior that is critical to the growth of our nation."

The special film advocates for collective responsibility to prevent unhygienic toilets from becoming breeding grounds for diseases that can impact



communities. The mission urges individuals to always leave the toilet clean for the next person, emphasizing that access to clean sanitation is not a privilege but a shared responsibility.

Sidharth Saini, SVP & Head of Marketing Content & Operations, News18 Studios, emphasized the film's pivotal role, stating, "As India achieves significant strides in universal sanitation coverage, News18 Network is dedicated to driving on-ground action through Mission Swachhta Aur Paani to promote the

adoption of appropriate toilet behavior. This film, symbolizing Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, serves as a powerful call for collective responsibility in championing cleanliness. It marks a transformative moment where the film becomes a beacon, propelling conversations on cleanliness, sanitation, and hygiene to the forefront of our public discourse."

He emphasized that News18 Network's commitment is fuelled by the understanding that the lack of such practices significantly contributes to

the burden of diseases, impacting national health and impeding productivity. "The film is a call for collective responsibility to champion cleanliness. News18 Network remains dedicated to its role in nation-building, acknowledging that behavioral change is fundamental to the nation's well-being."

"To us, this film marks a watershed moment in India's tryst with a new norm where cleanliness, sanitation, and hygiene take centre stage in our public discourse and collective consciousness,"

Saini added.

In its third season, the Mission Swachhta Aur Paani initiative by Harpic and News18 Network aims to engage billions of Indians in driving behavioral change related to toilet use and maintenance across the country through on-ground partnerships. The initiative is committed to working towards raising awareness and mobilising action that ensures 'Leaving No One Behind' and has ignited widespread engagement and discussions nationwide about responsible toilet habits, health, hygiene, and water conservation. It has united various stakeholders, promoting a culture of maintaining clean toilets. The film represents a progressive stride, sustaining the ongoing dialogue and encouraging further action. Committed to sustainable sanitation practices and ensuring universal access to clean water, the Mission has worked on galvanizing the nation towards a future where clean and safe toilets are universally provided.

Mirwaiz again barred from attending congregational prayers at Jamia Masjid in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

Hurriyat Chairman and Valley's Chief Cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday said that he was again disallowed to attend the congregational prayers at the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar and was put under house detention.

In a statement, Mirwaiz strongly denounced his repeated house detention, especially on Fridays, to prevent him from delivering sermon in central Jamia Masjid here and offering obligatory Friday prayers. He mentioned that after his release from four years of continued house detention since August 2019, he was allowed to go to Jamia Masjid only on three Fridays.

"Since then, every Friday, he is put under house arrest without being provided any reason for it by the authorities," the Hurriyat Chairman said. "Since October 13, Jamia Masjid was locked to people for ten consecutive Fridays, and it was only since last week

that people are allowed to offer Friday prayers there.

However, one doesn't know till when, while the ban on me continues. At their will and whims, the authorities close down or open the central Jamia Masjid to Muslims for prayers, and no one can ask why," Mirwaiz said.

"This arbitrariness, disregard for religious rights and sentiments of Muslims, and strong-arm tactics of the authorities, even on the basic human principle to allow the practice of religion uninterfered, is a telling sign of the time and situation we are living in. It's also a mockery of the authorities' own statements that things are great in Jammu & Kashmir, and I am a free man who can go anywhere," he said.

The Valley Chief's Cleric reiterated his belief that repression of every kind, including on religious rights, cannot bring or maintain "peace."

He said those in charge of decision-making should revisit this policy and think long in the light of historical precedents.

Billawaria organizes Janata Darbar at ward-43, Nanak Nagar, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Giving impetus to his public service campaign, former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria organised Janata Darbar at Ward 43 Nanak Nagar in Bahu constituency, where he listened the demands of the public. During this, a large number of area residents participated in which many of their problems were solved.

Some issues were resolved on the spot, while others were reported to the concerned department officials. Speaking on the occasion, former Deputy Mayor and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria highlighted the major development works done by Jammu Municipal Corporation in the last five years in Ward 43 Nanak Nagar.

Billawaria said that people put forward many problems before him,



most of which were related to water logging and the sanitation system. He said that along with solving the minor problems of the common people at the initial level for other problems also accountability of the concerned officers is being fixed and necessary guidelines are being given for their redressal. Billawaria solved most of the problems on the spot, while setting a time limit for solving some problems instructions were given to the concerned officials to

solve them. He said that basic problems like water, electricity, good roads and cleanliness will be eliminated in the ward. He assured the people that many other projects in the area would start soon and would be completed in a time bound manner. Billawaria said that all government schemes will reach every person and he is working for this. He told people about the recently launched PM Vishwakarma Yojana. He said that 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana' aims to revive the

rich heritage of traditional crafts of India by empowering artisans across the country. He said the Modi government has initiated policies and schemes to uplift the socio-economic status of those communities and classes which were continuously neglected by the previous governments.

Billawaria said that the BJP government at the Center, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi is making tireless efforts for the development of the country. He said that

BJP follows the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas and is committed to solving the problems of the people at all levels. He said that solving the problems of the people of Jammu city is his priority. In such a situation, if any citizen wants to come with his problem on other days, then he listens to the public problems in his office of Ramliya Ground Gangyal. Billawaria said that Janata Darbar will be organised once again in Ward 43 Nanak Nagar in which along with the listen of new problems, the problems heard earlier in the Janata Darbar and the progress report of their redressal will also be reviewed. The people of the area thanked BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria for the development work done by him in the past. BJP leaders Pammi Choudhary, Kamal Singh, Diwaker Singh, Ram Pal, Sanjay Bhau and others were present.

Ravinder Raina reaches Buffliaz, meets victim families, assured justice

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH

BJP President J&K Ravinder Raina visited the Topi Peer area of Buffliaz and met the victim families there. BJP District President Rajesh Raina, DDC Surankote Advocate Sohail Malik, DDC Thanamandi Qayoom Mir, BJP Leader Azhar Manhas, Mehtab Bukhari also accompanied Ravinder Raina.

Later Ravinder Raina alongwith will BJP Leaders visited Surankote Hospital and Army Hospital Potha and met the injured.

Raina also met the senior Army Commander, discussed the security issues, and requested for adequate compensation for the victim families.

Speaking on the occasion that the harm done cannot be repaid at any cost. He said that the whole episode is heart wrenching and we fully stand with the



people. He said that the whole nation is in support of the residents of Topi Peer and the Union Defense Minister has himself visited the area and has conveyed that no body that has done the wrong would be spared. He said that we have full trust on the law of land and said that nobody is above all. Raina added that the

action has already been taken and no guilty would be served. The killings of humanity will not be tolerated. He said that anybody who will be found guilty will not be spared by the court of law. He said that this is a hard time for the people and we fully stand with the people till justice is served.

NDS felicitates Prof B S Bali Classical Maestro

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) celebrated its 26th Foundation Day in a simple but impressive function. Prof. B.S.Bali Renowned Classical Maestro and Former Principal Institute Of Music And Fine Arts Jammu was Honoured and Conferred with Sanstha Samaan "Sangeet Kalashree Nipun" who is disciple and associate of famous Classical Singer Bhim Sen Joshi Ji and after 66 Years of Association with Music he is still pursuing the art with full devotion at the age of 83 Years.

Prof.K.L.Bhatia Ex-HOD Law Department Jammu University was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Padamshri Jatinder Udhampuri Sahitya Academy Awardee and Ex-Director All India Radio Presided over the function. A.Q.Manhas Ex-Inspector General of Police was Special Guest and Prof.Nirmal Vinod Renowned Hindi and Dogri Writer and Sahitya Academy Awardee participated as Guest of Honour.



Rakesh Sharma HOD Fine Arts Jammu was Special Invitee.

Prof.Anupama Sharma Patron NDS and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS Capt. Lalit Sharma Conventor NDS shared the dias. The disciples of Bali Sahib attended the Programme.

At the very outset guests were welcomed with flower bouquets and sweets were distributed to mark the 26th Foundation Day of NDS.

Son of the soil Shri Prof. B.S Bali Ex-Principal Institute of Music & Fine

Arts, Renowned Classical Mastaero and Celebrated Teacher was conferred with Sanstha Award "Sangeet Kalashri Nipun" and Presented with Momento, Shawl and Citation for his long outstanding contributions in the field of Music.

Capt.Lalit Sharma Conventor NDS read a Crisp Paper on the life and works of Prof. B.S.Bali and said that NDS has emerged as a movement to propagate Dogri Language and Duggar Culture which has strived all along its Journey of 26 Years to inculcate pride in Dogras towards

Dogri Language and Duggar Culture and made efforts to unite the Dogras through the medium of Art and Culture.

Prof.K.L.Bhatia lauded the role of NDS and for continuous efforts of NDS for the cause of Dogri. He said that the unity of our country lies in her diversity and therefore, there is need to strengthen our diverse cultures and observed that NDS is playing its positive role in this direction.

Jatinder Udhampuri said that the Duggar History is old and rich in all its dimensions viz Social, Cultural, Military or spiritual and as such Dogras have reasons to be proud of their rich heritage. A.Q.Manhas said that secular credentials of Duggar have stood test of the time and the societies have lot to learn from this. He appreciated the literary endeavours of NDS.

Prof Nirmal Vinod while lauding NDS said that NDS should focus on connecting our youth and children towards Dogri and rich Duggar Culture to infuse a sense of pride in them.

Deptt of FP&G organizes District level event, kissan mela, conference at Sartingal Bhaaderwah

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

The Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens organized District Level Event/Kissan Mela/Conference under Centrally Sponsored Scheme MIDH at Sartingal Bhaaderwah, District Doda on 28.12.2023. The event, held in Sartingal Bhaaderwah, saw enthusiastic participation from the farming community and was inaugurated by the District Development Council Chairman Sh. Dhananther Singh Kotwal and Vice Chairperson District Development Council Madam Sangeeta Bhagat. S. Jatinder Singh, JKAS Director General Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu was the special guest on the occasion.

The conference aimed to promote Commercial Floriculture activities and enhance the welfare of farmers. The gathering witnessed a large turn-



out of farmers, reflecting their keen interest in the proceedings. The conference served as a platform for farmers to interact with key stakeholders, exchange ideas, and stay updated on the latest developments in Floriculture. Pawan Kumar, Assistant Floriculture Officer, Doda briefed about the Centrally Sponsored Schemes

implemented in the District Doda. He informed that besides providing technical knowhow and latest technology, Department of Floriculture also providing financial assistance in shape of incentives under CSS. Sh. Vikrant Sharma, Joint Director, Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu assured the farmers for every possible support

from the Department and also briefed about Departmental activities.

Notable dignitaries attended the function, including the DDC Chairman, DDC Vice Chairperson, Director General Floriculture and several other officers/officials of Agriculture and allied sectors, Self-help groups, Sarpanches and other PRI members also graced the occasion.

District Development Council Chairman, while speaking on the occasion has urged the Floriculture Department to create mass awareness of the welfare initiatives taken up by the Government, besides the handholding for the betterment of farming community. He stressed farmers to use the latest technology, high yielding varieties, introduction of flower crops other than Marigold and Lavender and scientific management to improve their earning.

Manjit Singh seeks action against JPDCL officials in Jammu City

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Seeking personal intervention of Lt Governor J&K, Manoj Sinha against the Govt officials, Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today criticized Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) for abruptly disconnecting the electricity connection of the power consumers in Jammu City.

"The JPDCL has been working in a wayward manner by disconnecting the electricity connection of its consumers in Jammu City's many areas without serving any show cause notices or prior information to the consumers," said Manjit Singh in a meeting that was organized here at Apni Party Office in Jammu. The meeting was organized to



discuss various issues of Bahu constituency. The meeting was attended by Provincial General Secretary, Legal Wing, Kuldeep Sudan, Provincial Vice President Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Provincial Vice President Transport Union, Devinder Gill, Provincial Vice President Youth Wing, Joginder Singh, Provincial Secretary Women Wing, Seethal Sharma, District General Secretary, Deepak Bradoo, District Youth President, Jammu, Shivam Choudhary, District President

Minority Wing, Jammu, Dalbir Singh, Surdesh Kumar, Anil Singh, K.R. Kapahi, and others. The meeting had threadbare discussion regarding emerging power crises in Jammu City due to which residential colonies have been compelled to forced power cuts for long hours. "These residential areas face electricity cuts without justification, and the unilateral action from the JPDCL without providing an opportunity to the consumers to explain their side," he said.

RMMC holds health camp for students at Springdales School

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

Ramkrishna Mission Medical Centre (RMMC), Udheywala, Jammu, organized a free health camp for students at Springdales School, Muthi, Jammu. The camp aimed to provide basic health checkups and consultations to students, promoting preventive healthcare and early detection of any potential health issues. A team of five doctors, including Dr. B.D. Sharma, Dr. Neera Singh, Dr. Aneesh Uppal, Dr. Umesh Padha, and Dr.



Komal Raina, examined over 320 students throughout the day. Swami Vijayeshananda, the Medical Centre in-charge, along with B.K. Raina, Archana Manhas, Principal of Springdales School, and Upasana Sharma, Office Administrator, were present at the camp and ensured its smooth operation. Swami Yajnadhara, Secretary of the Ramkrishna Mission, praised the initiative and emphasized the importance of regular health checkups, especially for young people. He stated,

"Organizing such health camps in schools is crucial for timely detection of health issues among students and ensuring their well-being. We encourage taking this initiative to other schools as well." The Ramkrishna Mission Medical Centre's efforts in organizing this health camp were met with appreciation from both the school administration and the students. Such initiatives play a vital role in promoting health awareness and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

CUJ Researcher gets Best Paper Award in International Conference

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Pooja Dhayal, Research Scholar, School of Business, Central University of Jammu, has recently been honored with the best paper award at an international conference on "Digital Organizations," hosted by the Centre for Digital Transformation at IIM Ahmedabad. Her acclaimed paper, titled 'Influence of Experiential and Material Product Framing on Consumers' Information Sharing Behavior,' delves into the



intricate aspects of product display, branding, and information dissemination on e-commerce platforms. The paper is grounded in experimental studies and is a part of Ms. Dhayal's ongoing Ph.D. research, which she is conducting under the mentorship of Dr. Gowhar Rasool. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor Central university of jammu and Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean School of Business Studies extended their wishes to the scholar for her achievement.

Reservation granted to OBCs in PRIs will empower whole community: Sunil Prajapati

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Reservation granted to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions will empower the whole community, stated Sunil Prajapati, President, OBC Morcha, J&K BJP, while addressing a Press Conference at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. OBC Morcha, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir welcomed the decision to provide reservation to OBCs in Panchayati Raj Institutions as J&K Government has approved the amendment to J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989 extending reservation to OBCs in the elections of Halqa Panchayats. The BJP OBC Morcha, J&K UT celebrated this moment with joy and happiness and distributed sweets amongst OBC mem-



bers present on the occasion. Sunil Prajapati, President OBC Morcha, Rashpal Verma, National Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha, Brahmajot Satti, Parbhari BJP OBC Morcha, J&K and other Senior OBC leaders participated in the celebration and the Press Conference. Sunil Prajapati, President BJP OBC Morcha extended gratitude to the Union government and the LG for considering the long

pending demands of OBCs of J&K who were neglected by the previous governments for three decades. Prajapati said that this could be possible after the Union government introduced OBC reservation in J&K UT replacing Weak and under Privileged Classes (Social Caste)/OSC through J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill 2023. For this, the Union government fixed the date as 26 Decem-

ber 2023 for the implementation of OBC reservation in J&K UT, for which notification is expected very soon. Thereafter all the future vacancies in J&K government Departments are expected to be advertised in accordance with the OBC reservation instead of Social Caste/OSC. With notification of Implementation of OBC reservation replacing OSC, the percentage of reservation is also expected to be increased which may not be less than two digits. All OBC Members expressed great pleasure and celebrated the reservation in the elections of Panches, Sarpaches and BDC Chairmen with dancing on the beat of drums joyfully and raised slogans in favour of BJP's Union government, as Modi, Modi, Modi "Modi Sarkar Zindabad", "Modi hai to Mumkin hai".

BJP felicitates World Championship medalists of Strength Lifting at Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 29

BJP felicitated world championship Medalists of 10th Strength Lifting and inclined bench press world Championship and their coaches at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. CM, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President BJP along with Braham Jyot Satti, Parbhari BJP OBC Morcha and Dr Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media in-charge felicitated the medalists on the occasion. The Strength Lifting world championship was held at Hyderabad recently in which Anil Kumar (95+ weight category) and Manpreet Singh (107+ weight category) bronze medal and brought laurels to the state. Anil Kumar, Manpreet Singh, Choudhary Sunil Singh (President strength lifting Federation), Ajay Sharma (General Secretary), Umesh Sharma (Joint Secretary) other senior players of Power/strength lifting championship were felicitated on the occasion. Both medal winner athletes are serving in



J&K and brought laurels to our nation by clinching medals at international event. Ashok Koul, speaking on the occasion, congratulated Anil Kumar, Manpreet Singh and their coaches for this big achievement and wished them all for a bright and better future ahead. He said in past ten years under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi the sports scenario in India has been totally transformed and sports culture has achieved new heights. He said today India has a maximum number of medals in Olympics, Asian games etc and our parathletes are also shining in their respective sports disciplines and making us proud. Koul said also in Jammu Kashmir, the government has launched various schemes like Khelo India, PMDP etc for search of

talented athletes and providing job opportunities to senior players and past champions. He appreciated whole sports fraternity and DGP, ADGP, Sports Officer (JKP) for this achievement and said that this proud moment for all Jammuites that our athletes are representing at India at international levels and clinching medals. Kavinder Gupta said our PM Narendra Modi is also sports lover person. Modi ji is also organizing felicitation ceremonies for meritorious sports. He is providing sports facilities in urban as well as remote areas across nation and as a result India is shining in the field of sports and even talent of Jammu Kashmir is excelling at International/National events. He congratulated all medalists and said when an athlete shines

and becomes successful, it is the result of hardwork of that athlete, JK strength lifting Federation members (Ajay Sharma, Umesh Sharma) and coaches. Yudhvir Sethi appreciated all sports achievers and said they are our pride because they highlighted the name of Jammu Kashmir globally because of their commendable performances at international and national events. He said our dynamic PM Narendra Modi is working alot in the field of sports and construction work of many sports Stadiums is going on and very soon these stadiums will be handed over to coaches and their trainees very soon. Braham Jyot, who organized and conducted the proceedings of the program, thanked all the dignitaries for their valuable wishes and said that the BJP always stands with our sports pillars and if any sportsperson needs any kind of help he/she can contact us any time. Dr. Pardeep urged all the students and youth to join sports and make carrier in sports it will make physical and mentally strong and he wished all medal winners for a bright and better future ahead.

On eve of Safre-Shahadat, a Grand Programme organized by Surinder Singh Dutt

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

On the eve of Safre-Shahadat a Grand Programme organised by Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Parbandak Committee Gurudwara Mata Gujjar Kour Ji K. C. Colony Trikuta Nagar Extn.-I, Jammu. The programme proceeded under the supervision of Shriman Mahant Manjeet Singh Ji of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch. In the programme the Ragi Jathas of Bhai Harmeet Singh Chauhalvi, Bhai Ranjit Singh Ji of Digiana Ashram, Bhai Amarjit Singh of KC Colony Gurudwara Trikuta Nagar recited the Shabad Gurbani and Sarwan Singh Sevak of Gurdaspur Punjab a renowned Parcharak memorized the sacrifices of four sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Gujjar Kour Ji Sahibzada Ajit Singh Ji and Sahibzada Jujjar Singh Ji and thirty four Sikhs sacrificed their lives in the battle field of Chamkor while fighting with the ten lakh Mugalia soldiers and Sahibzada Jorawar Singh Ji and sahibzada Fatey Singh Ji who were merely of nine years and seven years respectively bricked alive by the Wazir Khan at



Fatey Garh Sahib while Mata Gujjar Kour Ji on hearing about Sahibzadas left for heavenly abode. It is believed that Wazir Khan the then Faujdar of Sirhind refused to allow the cremation of bodies of two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Gujjar Kour Ji unless the land was purchased by laying gold coins on it. Then Dewan Todar Mal a merchant an ardent devotee of Guru Gobind Singh Ji purchased this land by offering gold coins. A total of 78000 gold coins were spread and four square meters of land was

bought. According to that time the cost of 78000 coins were 2 billion 50 crore rupees. This was the most expensive land till date. No one has bought such an amount of land in the world till date. The Gurudwara Parbandak Committee Mata Gujjar Kour KC Colony Trikuta Nagar thanks the Sangat and Shriman Mahant Manjeet Singh of Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch. Those who participated on the programme of various Sikh Organization J&K, Mohinder Singh Chief Organizer Bhai Kanahya Nishkam Sewa Society

J&K and Ex-Member DGPC Jammu, Rajinder Singh Shiromani Akalidial J&K, Tejinder Singh President Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee Mata Gujjar Kour Ji K. C. Colony Trikuta Nagar Jammu, Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, Surjeet Singh Kukoo Ex-President Sikh Naujwan Sabha Jammu, Kulwant Singh Joint Secretary Shiromani Akalidial J&K, Jaswinder Singh Lucky.

People protest against LG govt., PMGSY Deptt for using substandard material for road

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, DEC 29

Today the prominent people of middle Kangri Chokidar, Panch & Sarpach hold strong protest against lieutenant governor (LG) Jammu and Kashmir, PMGSY department for baseless material using of newly road length 05 kilometres & its sanction amount is 04 crore 47 lakh rupees. The protection walls are making by sandy stones are being filled with iron nets no any made concrete protection walls, no any made drains both side of road and no this road made in parallel some places road, s widnes is 10 feet and other places 35 feet people urge to road and transport minister Nitin Gadkari for give a directions to agencies CBI, ED, Vigilance for enquiry this road sacm and take legal action against con-



tractor and officers of PMGSY. This protest was under the chairmanship of sarpach panch Kashmir Singh and other hundreds of prominent persons for see baseless material using on the PMGSY road. Protesters said huge irregularities being committed by the contractor in the construction work of the road connecting Bajora via Punne Khater Powal area approx five kilometres road works and used baseless material. Now the blacktopping is

uprooted after one month completed this road. Dozens of villagers of the village reached the construction site today and staged a protest against the lieutenant governor contractor and the PMGSY department and demanded from the government that with immediate effect, the road construction being done by the contractor used substandard construction material and order for do work again. Protesters said if any heavy vehicle, dumper,

truck etc. moves on that road, it will break immediately. This kind of construction has taken place which is completely wrong. They said local villagers, was requested several times to contractor for using high quality construction material as per the standards set by the government. But no any impact on contractor he used substandard material now the result has come out. People urge to road and transport minister Nitin Gadkari for give directions to different agencies fortake legal action this scams and order for blacklist/ cancel the licence of this contractor who do this idle work. Meanwhile AEE of PMGSY Sourav Singh reached on this spot he said the pending work of drains and other road damaging work will do soon.

Ritika asks people to take advantage of Viksit Bharat Sankalp yatra programmes



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 26

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is reaching every nook and corner of J&K. In addition to spreading awareness on Central Government schemes, various "Jan Bhagidari" events are also being conducted as part of the programme. This was stated by Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan while interacting with people of Channi as a part of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Speaking on the occasion, Ritika said vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is that nobody should be left behind and Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra will be helpful in achieving this goal. In that context, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has been organised as a project for the saturation of all schemes because the Prime Minister believes that 100% of the beneficiaries should be covered. This is the largest ever endeavour to reach all the gram panchayats of the country. More than 2.5 lakh gram panchayats will be covered over two months with a van, IEC van, and several departments participating. Seventeen schemes have been identified for rural areas and 17 different schemes for urban areas, which will be the focus of this particular yatra, added Ritika.

Ritika said that the name of the yatra is Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, so, it is a pledge that we will move towards a developed country. We will become a developed country and the world which we are using, the line which we are using "Hamara Sank-

alp Viksit Bharat" which means that we are committed to make India a developed nation. She said that the Prime Minister has been focusing on doubling the income of the farmers. Women have been a very special area in the Nari Vandan Bill which was passed by the government last month. Then, children have also been a focus area of the Prime Minister, with his interactions during examinations and throughout the year also. A major focus of the yatra is on farmers, as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, they are actually spearheading this yatra apart from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Kisan Credit Card, how the kisan can avail credit, the use of fertilisers, natural farming, and best farming practices, how to improve farm yields, so, that will be a very special focus area, added Ritika.

Ritika further said all the schemes like PM Awas Yojana, the Har Ghar Jal which is targeted for the benefit of the women folk and children, they can participate in the My Bharat campaign, they will also be all part of this. We also planned to show some special videos for the children. We have created "Krish, Trish and Baltiboy" videos which are animated videos on the freedom fighters of this country. We expect that we will be showcasing those videos also through this yatra which will be a great attraction for the children and these videos are about freedom fighters who have fought for the independence of the country, added Ritika. Ritika also informed

BJP Govt ensured transparency, accountability: Khatana



JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DEC 29

BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er Gulam Ali Khatana said that BJP Govt is committed to ensure transparency and accountability in the governance and developmental works. He said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government has ensured that the each single penny reaches the last man in the row and should not be pocketed by the middlemen and corrupt.

Addressing a large gathering at here, MP Khatana said that previous PMs themselves admitted that 90 per cent of the funds were pilfered by the middlemen while only 10 per cent reached on ground. But with path breaking initiative of direct transfer introduced by PM Modi, the funds reach in the bank account of the beneficiary. He also underscored the significance of various welfare schemes including health card, DBTL, . 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, aims at fostering development across the nation, serves as a platform to enhance awareness and promote engagement with govern-

ment schemes.

He also highlighted the role of the mobile van in achieving saturation of all schemes and enhancing 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.

MP 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, he fervently emphasized the myriad initiatives spearheaded by the Central Government, designed to uplift the common masses.

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.

Notorious Drug Peddler Booked under PITNDPS By Police Station Akhnoor Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

An information was received at PS Akhnoor regarding one notorious criminal namely Abhinash Kumar @ Kanha S/o Vikram Singh R/o Jia Potta Akhnoor Tehsil Akhnoor District Jammu who was evading his arrest in multiple cases.

On this special police teams of PS Akhnoor led by SHO PS Akhnoor raided at the suspected place and arrested the notorious Drug Peddler.

It is pertinent to mention that a warrant under PITNDPS Act vide order No. 69 of 2023 dated 28/12/2023 under section 3 was also issued against the accused by Divisional commissioner Jammu. Moreover the said accused was habitual of indulging in criminal activities and there were various NDPS cases in which accused was involved. Details of the cases are as under :-

(1) Case FIR No. 66/2023 U/s 08/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act of P/S Akhnoor
(2) Case FIR No 266/2023 U/s 8/21/22/29/60 NDPS Act of P/S Akhnoor
(3) Preventive measure US 107/117 Crpc P/s Akhnoor.

Finally today the warrant was executed and the accused was sent to District Jail Kathua.

Familiarity with spiritual life is real knowledge: Saint Subhash Shastri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, DEC 29

On the seventh day of the ongoing Shri Amba Yagya and Shri Madh devi Bhagwat Katha in Naiwala village of Akhnoor area, hundreds of devotees listened to the sermon of the revered Saint Subhash Shastri Ji Maharaj and received the blessings of goddess Amba. This nine-day long Shri Amba Yagya and Shri Madh devi Bhagwat Katha is being organized by all the locals of village under the supervision of Bal Brahmachari Shri Pawan Swaroop Ji Maharaj. On this occasion, former minister Sat Sharma also visited the spot and received the blessings of goddess Amba and Saint Subhash Shastri ji.

While distributing the prasad of knowledge to the devotees through his sermons, revered Saint Shri Subhash Shastri Ji Maharaj explained to the congregation sitting in the satsang that peace can never be obtained from material comforts and the outside world, it must come from within oneself and from a contented attitude. Peace is not an external thing but an internal one.

Shastri ji said that a person who is jealous of others, hates, dissatis-



fied, angry, always suspicious and lives in the shelter of others, always remains unhappy where as a person with patience in times of sorrow, separation from relatives, in times of wealth-crash and difficulties acts according to his discretion and that is why he never becomes sad.

Shastri ji said that it is the rule of the world that you will get the results according to the seed you sow, hence we request you again and again to do good deeds and avoid sorrows. You should remember that we get back in life only what we give.

In the end, Shastri Ji Maharaj explained that doing good deeds leads to happiness and doing bad deeds leads to sorrow. Whatever one's work is done, it gives results everywhere. No fruit can

be enjoyed without doing any work. Therefore, a man should do only such deeds, whose fruits he can enjoy with a calm and happy mind.

On this occasion, former minister Sat Sharma said that in today's era, only saints like revered Sant Subhash Shastri Ji Maharaj Ji inspire the society to move forward towards the path of knowledge, devotion and attainment of salvation. Otherwise in this era man would most of the time he seems to be going towards wrongdoings. He said that it is only because of such saints that Sanatan Dharma is becoming famous all over the world. He said that today the society needs to stay away from drug addiction, dowry system and other evils and the only way to do this is through satsang of God.

NSS units GDC Kathua organizes pledge ceremony on Road Safety

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Today NSS Units Gdc Kathua organise pledge ceremony on Road Safety. More than hundred Nss volunteers and students Principal Gdc Kathua along with faculty of the college

participated in the event and took pledge on Road safety. The pledge was read out by Vishal Gupta NSS Volunteer of III semester. Before pledge read out ceremony Principal Gdc Kathua Prof Seema Mir addressed the august gathering. She apprised the

gathering with traffic rules. She also appealed the NSS volunteers to follow the traffic rules in their day to day life and also become the youth ambassador to carry forward this campaign in their respective localities. Principal Gdc Kathua also appreciated the efforts of

NSS unit in creating awareness campaign about Road Safety.

The event was organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by NSS Program officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Dr Kulbir Singh and Prof Shivani Sharma.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION J&K GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN CHENAB DIVISION KISHTWAR FOREST COMPLEX SARKOOT KISHTWAR-182204 E-mail: wildlife.protection.kishtwar@gmail.com

Sh. Vijay Singh
Jr. Assistant
R/O Tarah at present Near Main Market Dansal-181224

FINAL NOTICE REGISTERED

No: WLWKTR/2023-24/3274-78
Dated: 26-12-2023

Subject: Final Show Cause Notice.

Reference: This office Show Cause Notice No: WLWKtr/2023-24/3016-20 Dt: 04-11-2023 & No: WLWKtr/2023-24/3126-30 Dt: 29-11-2023.

- Whereas you were deputed for Junior Assistant Training Course at J&K IMPARD Jammu as per the orders of the Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu vide his letter No: RWLWJ/2023/3697-99 Dt: 25-09-2023 & copy of which forwarded to you vide this office letter No: WLWKtr/2023-24/1858-59 Dt: 25-09-2023. Accordingly, you submitted departure report on 25-09-2023 FN to join the said training at J&K IMPARD Jammu and copy of which was submitted to the Regional Office vide this office letter No: WLWKtr/2023-24/1894-95 Dt: 25-09-2023.
- It was informed by the Administrative Officer J&K IMPARD Jammu vide his letter No: IMPARD-TRGOA-TI/146/2022/2107-10 Dt: 30-10-2023 that you joined the said training on 27-09-2023 that has left the training since 13th October 2023 till date. You left the said training without any leave application & information to the concerned training institute/this office.
- Whereas an explanation/show cause notice was called against you vide this office letter No: WLWKtr/2023-24/3016-20 Dt: 04-11-2023 regarding your absence from training institute J&K IMPARD without any proper leave/permission from the said institution, which was received back showing addressee left to unknown address.
- Whereas after no response from you, 2nd show cause notice was served to you vide this office letter No: WLWKtr/2023-24/3126-30 Dt: 29-11-2023 at your home address through registered cover, as well as through your e-mail address (VIJAY1962@gmail.com), which too was received back by this office from post office with report that showing addressee left & unknown address.
- Whereas your reply of the explanation for remaining absent previously from 30-08-2023 to 18-09-2023 FN & the notices also served to you vide this office notices No: WLWKtr/2023-24/1711 Dt: 02-09-2023, WLWKtr/2023-24/1754 Dt: 08-09-2023, No: WLWKtr/2023-24/1768 Dt: 09-09-2023, WLWKtr/2023-24/1778-79 Dt: 11-09-2023, WLWKtr/2023-24/1898 Dt: 25-09-2023, No: WLWKtr/2023-24/2006 Dt: 13-10-2023 & No: WLWKtr/2023-24/3183 Dt: 07-12-2023 remains also awaited from you.
- Whereas you are also involved in Case FIR No: 271/2023 U/S 363/366/379 IPC of Police Station Kishtwar as per the summon notice issued by Police Station Kishtwar vide No: 2567/5-1/PSA Dt: 10-12-2023 for your appearance before the Police Station Kishtwar. Since your whereabouts is not known, lookout notice stands issued by the Sr. Superintendent of Police District Kishtwar vide No: DIP/J-13016 Dt: 23-12-2023 published in Daily Excelsior news & various newspapers.
- Whereas, before any action as per service rules is initiated against you under article CSR 128 Volume I for remaining absent from duty unauthorizedly without any leave application/proper permission, which read as under:

- 128. Absence without leave or after end of leave involves loss of appointment.
You are directed through this final notice to join back your duties immediately.

DIP/J-13185/23
Date: 29-12-23

Sd/-
Wildlife Warden
Chenab Division Kishtwar

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

NEAR MLA HOSTEL, INDIRA CHOWK, JAMMU J&K, Pin: 180001
E-mail dhsjammu@rediffmail.com, dhsjammu@gmail.com
Tel. No: 0191-3546338, 0191-2549632 Fax No: 0191-35494-32

Dr. Retash Shan

S/O Sh. Prethive Raj Shan,

R/O Nagrota, P.O. Nagrota, Tehsil and District Jammu

No:-DHS-J/Es-3/3293-96

Dated: 27/12/2023

Subject: -Unauthorized absence from duty..... Notice thereof.

Whereas, the Administrative Department, Health and Medical Education in compliance with the orders of Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu, dated 27-09-2023, passed in O.A./1295/2023 titled Dr. Ramesh Shan Vs U.T. of J&K & Ors has issued a speaking consideration order vide Govt. Order No:-917-JK(HME) of 2023, dated 14-11-2023, whereunder your claim for issuance of NOC to join the higher studies course at AIIMS Patna and to sanction study leave has been considered in light of leave rules, 1979 and found devoid of merit and has been rejected, and;

Whereas, the Administrative Department has further directed to initiate disciplinary proceedings against you for absconding from duties without approval of the competent authority, and;

Whereas, despite of the consideration order dated 14-11-2023 and rejection of your claim to issue NOC/sanction of study leave, you have failed to report/join at your place of duty as such you are on unauthorized absence from duties which amounts to misconduct under service rules, and;

Whereas, otherwise also under Article 128 of CSR Vol-I absence without leave or after end of leave involves loss of appointment.

Now, therefore, through the medium of this notice you are directed to resume your duties within seven days positively otherwise it shall be presumed that you are not interested to join and serve the department and thereafter disciplinary action will be initiated against you as warranted under rules which can be termination of your services as well.

Sd/-
(D Rajeev K. Sharma)
Director Health Services, Jammu
DIP/J-13218/23
Date: 29-12-23

NC only viable solution to people's miseries: Sadhotra Rattan Lal calls for immediate reversal of hiked rates, fees by JMC

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary JKNC and former minister today reaffirmed the commitment of National Conference to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing its role as the only viable solution to the region's challenges, particularly in empowering women.

The senior NC leader was speaking in a workers meeting of Women Wing District Jammu Urban at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. The meeting was presided by Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing.

The former minister said that the present government has failed to take any concrete steps towards reducing the suffering of women amid these challenging economic conditions. Despite the escalating costs of living and the clear impact on household

management, there has been a noticeable lack of effective policies or relief measures to address the hardships faced by women in managing their homes. This inaction speaks volumes about the government's commitment to the welfare of its citizens, particularly women who are struggling to balance their domestic budgets, he added.

Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province asserted National Conference has always been at the forefront in advocating and implementing policies and programmes that uplift and empower the women of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our party believes in the strength and potential of women, and we are committed to ensuring their voices are heard, their political rights are protected, and their contributions are recognized." He said that the lack of responsiveness to the



plight of women, who are key managers of household economies, raises serious concerns about the government's non serious approach in addressing the economic challenges faced by the women.

Rattan Lal Gupta also expressed serious concerns over the recent increase in rates or fees for various services and assets by the Jammu Municipal Corporation. He strongly suggested that any enhancement of rates or fees should be deferred until an elected government is in place. He emphasized that it is crucial for the elected

representatives to make such decisions, as they are more attuned to the needs and capabilities of the citizens they represent.

Furthermore, Gupta demanded an immediate rollback of the increased rates or fees for various services and assets. He argued that these hikes are burdensome for the residents and should be reconsidered in the context of the public's best interests and financial well-being.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC Jammu, asked the people in general and women in particular to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq

Abdullah and Omar Abdullah in view of ensuing elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He assured that the National Conference will leave no stone unturned in empowering the women with all their genuine rights.

Addressing the gathering, Bimla Luthra said that today there is a dire need to make the women fully aware about their rights and take appropriate and adequate steps to empower the women folk so that they come forward to demand their entitlement under such rights. She said that since majority of women are home makers, they are

the worst victims of the sky rocketing prices and unprecedented inflation during the BJP rule due to their wrong policies.

Satwant Dogra lamented that the women have been the worst sufferers under the ongoing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule at the Centre and proxy rule in Jammu and Kashmir. She alleged that during the so called 'Good Governance' as claimed by the BJP women folk have forgotten that even they have some rights in the society.

Among those who were present in the meeting include:- Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary Jammu, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Asha Mehra, Rita Gupta, Som Raj Taroch, Joginder Kour, Paramjeet Kour, Shallu Sharma, Priyanka, Savita Razdan, Devinder Singh, Ravinder Singh Mantoo, Indu Sharma, Sonia Dogra, Sanju Pandita, Seema, Sarita, Priyanka Dogra and others.



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Describing Pakistan as the epicentre of terrorism, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said that any sort of engagement with the terribly rogue and miserably failed state in the neighbourhood is meaningless.

Interacting with media persons, on the side-lines of the weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters Trikuta Nagar here, Nagar here along with Mrs Veena Khanna BJP State Secretary and Mr. Shalinder Vaid, BJP Additional Protocol Secretary, Mr Devender Rana said that the national leadership has made it amply clear umpteen times that those jumping the line should understand that until Pakistan aids and abets terrorism there cannot be any engagement across the table.

He said the advocacy of talk with Pak, coming in the backdrop of gruesome and unfortunate recent terrorist related incidents, is all the more worrisome. He said that there is a need to be extra vigilant against the terror ecosystem that instantaneously jumps to provide cover to acts of terror. A few people may try to condone or downplay the barbarism unleashed by terrorists in terms of death and devastation caused, and continuously being perpetrated, by the Pakistani lackeys but that doesn't change the ugly face of terrorism this part of the country has been witnessing. Also, he said, engagement with sovereign countries is a central subject and those poking noses were actually venturing out to forbidden domains and trying to carve out an unsolicited role for themselves.

Devender Rana said that terrorism emanating from Pakistan is on its last breath on the Indian soil of Jammu and Kashmir due to focused operations by the security forces, the police and more importantly the people of the

Valley in particular, who are realising the dividends of peace now ever than before as economically humming Valley is booming with multifarious activities in the wake of unprecedented arrival of tourists, adventurers and sports persons.

"This momentum in socio economic activities, which might be uncomfortable for those basing their politics on boiling Kashmir for lust of power, will have to be carried forward with active cooperation of the people as per the cherished agenda of the Prime Minister, who believes in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. For realising the vision of Naya Jammu and Kashmir, it is incumbent for all to strengthen hands of Yashasvi Narendra Modiji, he added.

Referring to initiatives taken during the past over four years, Mr Rana said that Jammu and Kashmir is on its transformative journey with development, infrastructural facilities, upgraded utility services getting priority attention. Fillip in the overall growth as a result of massive investments will change the destiny of people as some mega projects of international standards are coming up. This is a continuous process that has instilled a sense of confidence about Jammu and Kashmir becoming part of India's growth story to become the world leader under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the investments will manifest in industrialization on a mega scale thus opening vistas of opportunities for economic empowerment and generation of jobs for professionals, technicians, educated unemployed besides skilled and unskilled workforce.

Rana heard the problems and community issues, like power, drinking water, civic amenities, road maintenance, health and hygiene etc, during the public hearing and assured that these would be taken up at appropriate forums for redressal.

All J&K OBC members thank PM Modi for fulfilling commitments made in Sept-2014

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

A joint Press conference All J&K O.B.C. Mahasabha, All India Backward Classes Federation JK-UT unit and All J&K O.B.C Welfare forum and Presidents of different castes and communities under the banner of O.B.C. Adhikar Tringa Yatra highly thankful to Sh.Narinder Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for start of fulfilling their commitments made in Sept- 2014 in public rallies during Jammu & Kashmir Assembly election at Maulana Azad Stadium Jammu & at Hiranagar regarding OBC 27% reservation in JK-UT Govt.services, Educational Institutions and Urban Local Bodies and in Panchayati Raj System. The start up is Changing Nomenclature from JK-UT Weak & Under Privilege Classes (Social Castes) to Other Backward Classes (



OBC) and making amendments in the Panchayati Raj System regarding OBC reservation.

We are also highly thankful to Sh.Manoj Sinha L.G JK-UT for giving it a practical shape keeping in view the Indian constitution Article 243D-6 and 243T-6 and Supreme Court Judgement dt.10.05.2022 on writ petition No:-278 of 2022.

Now we are in hope that The Modi Govt. will soon make an amendment in Municipal Corporation/ Committees Act-2000 regarding OBC reservation as per OBC population in JK-UT and also 27% reservation in JK-UT Govt.services and in educational Institu-

tions.

The Modi Govt. & Sh.Manoj Singh L.G comes into action after all the OBC organisations of JK-UT decided to unite Under one umbrella O.B.C.ADHIKAR TRINGA YATRA during the year 2021 when these organisations started first four days OBC Adhikar Tiranga yatra on 25th Sept.2021 towards villages & Towns of District Jammu-Samba-Kathua to hold Protest rallies and after that the OBC Samaj continued their struggle in 2022 & 23 in other areas of Jammu & Kashmir regions. The organisations also submitted objections to the CHIEF ELECTION OFFI-

CER of JK-UT and Election commission of JK-UT on 8th Sept.2023 and also held protests on 8th & 12th Sept.2023 against the notification dt.4th sept.2023 for holding the elections of Municipal corporations/ Municipal committees/ Town Area committees & Panchayati Raj System and Govt.was compelled to suspend this election till OBC reservation till incorporate of OBC reservation in Municipal Act-2000 & Panchayati Raj Act.

We request to Sh. Narinder Modi Prime Minister of India and Sh. Manoj Sinha L.G JK-UT to implement all the OBC reservation issues at an earliest i.e before the parliament election-2024.

The JK-UT OBC organisations will carry on their struggle under the Banner of OBC ADHIKAR TRINGA YATRA for their fundamental constitutional rights by holding Adhikar Rallies in all the villages/towns/cities.

Centre committed to welfare, prosperity of J&K's people: Kavinder Kick-starts devp works in ward-47



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, has asserted that the Government at the Centre is paying focussed attention to Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to ensure welfare and prosperity of the people of this traumatized region, who had to bear the brunt of terrorism for the past about three decades.

He expressed this while addressing a gathering during a programme organized here today to kick-start development work at Ward No 47 in Jammu today with an estimated cost of Rs 44 lakhs. Corporator Sharda Kumari was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Kavinder said that the Union Government is paying focussed attention to Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and is determined to carry out developmental activities in every nook and corner of this sensitive region.

He said that Modi led Govt at the Centre has prioritized the overall development of all the areas without any rural-urban or other discrimination with main focus on roads which ensure the smooth supply of basic essentials as well as other commodities for the ease of living of the people. He said that the government stands fully committed to ensure the improvement of road infrastructure in all the areas.

Morchas have crucial role in strengthening party: Vibodh Gupta



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Chairing a meeting of all morchas of BJP at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, party's general secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta, said that the role of every morcha is crucial in strengthening the party.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Secretary Arvind Gupta, BJYM Prabhari Munish Sharma, and Jammu district President Parmodh Kapahi, accompanied the general secretary in the meeting.

Vibodh Gupta, in the meeting, said that Bharatiya Janata Party has different morchas representing SC, ST, OBC, women, farmer, youth and minority communities. The objective of constituting morchas is to provide a plat-

form to each of the said communities to highlight the issues related to them and extend best possible help to mitigate their sufferings. He said that the BJP through these morchas also gets an opportunity to have direct contact with their large population and also convince them to support the party.

Vibodh Gupta said that the BJP is always concerned for the well-being and progress of the members of different morchas and keep organizing their meetings from time to time.

'Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan' of BJYM, SC, ST, Minority, farmers, OBC and Mahila Morcha is scheduled to be held on January 04, next month and it will have participation of about 400 activists of the morchas holding responsibilities as morcha

presidents, morcha office bearers, morcha prabhari, seh-prabhari, district presidents. He said that this sammelan will discuss the future programmes to reach maximum population of different categories and share with them the Modi's good governance model with them and also inform about numerous welfare schemes for their benefits. He asked the morcha presidents to ensure participation of all the invitees in the January 04, sammelan.

Morcha Prabhari Anuradha Charak, Veenu Khanna, Brahmjot Satti, Jagdish Bhagat, Haroon Choudhary, Morcha Presidents Arun Prabhat Singh, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, Sanjita Dogra, Neelam Langeh, Roshan Choudhary, Seh-Prabhari Ajay Vaid attended this meeting.

Nitin Gadkari sanctions 29 road projects in Ladakh worth Rs 1170.16 crore

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DEC 29

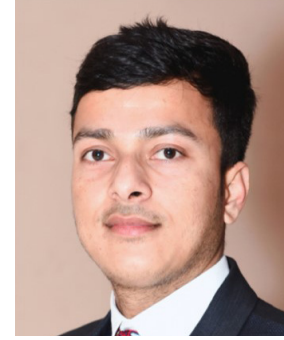
Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has sanctioned in the Union territory of Ladakh an allocation of 1170.16 crore for 29 roads projects, encompassing state Highway, major and other District roads. In a post Shri Gadkari said additionally, 181.71 crore has been allocated for 8 bridge under the CRIF Scheme for the fiscal year 2023 24.

The Union Minister said Ladakh, the largest Union Territory in terms of area and the second least populous in India, will witness improved connectivity to its remote villages through the approved initiatives. He said this enhancement is expected to stimulate economic activities, particularly in agriculture and tourism, contributing to the overall infrastructural development of Ladakh.

Arun Bali declared Qualified for Award of Ph. D. Degree

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 29

Arun Bali, S/o. Sh. Rakesh Kumar and Smt. Chanchal Sharma has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. The candidate has worked on the topic, "Study and Design of Adaptive Controllers for Nonstrict-Feedback Nonlinear Systems Using Neural Networks" under the supervision of Dr. Uday Pratap Singh (On EOL), Associate Professor, School of Mathematics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. Mr. Arun Bali has published research papers indexed in SCIE-ranked journals and also presented his research work in various international and national conferences. He expresses



sincere gratitude to his parents and supervisor for their guidance, and acknowledges the School of Mathematics, SMVDU, for providing the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, along with other committee members, congratulated Mr. Arun Bali on his achievement and wished him a bright future.

Three notorious drug smugglers booked under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla: J&K Police

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 29

Police on Friday booked three notorious drug smugglers under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The most wanted and notorious drug smugglers were identified as Suhail Ahmad Sofi, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat both residents of Solinda Khaipora Tangmarg and Waseem Ahmad Dar of Watalpora Tangmarg, police said.

Acting tough against drug smugglers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police booked

3 most wanted and notorious drug smugglers under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla and lodged them in Central Jail Kot-balwal Jammu after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against these drug smugglers and they were involved in promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth of Tangmarg areas & other areas of the district.

Despite their involvement in many FIR's they did not mend their activities and were again involved in promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth, police added.

Union Minister flags off vehicles from Srinagar, Gandhinagar under 'One Nation One Pass System'



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

Union Minister for Forest and Environment, Bhupinder Yadav, today virtually flagged off vehicles from Srinagar carrying forest produce, using National Transit Pass System (NTPS), for Pune, Maharashtra State and from Gandhinagar Gujrat for West Bengal under government's ambitious initiative 'One Nation One Transit Pass system'.

Pertinently, the innovative endeavor was part of e-governance initiatives being introduced for promoting Ease of Doing Business, transparency, accountability and efficiency in government systems. 'One Nation One Transit Pass system' aimed at to facilitate seamless

and smooth transportation of timber and other Forest produce within states as well as for inter-state movement.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister said that this new initiative will benefit the farmers, timber traders and common people. 'Now transporters can transport their products across India on single permit without stopping at inter-state borders and it will help vehicles in moving seamlessly and reach their destinations in shorter time. Government is taking many steps to promote development along with protecting and conserving environment for better quality of life of our citizens', he added.

Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ashwani Kumar Choubey and Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Government of India were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, J&K Government, Dheeraj Gupta, attended the event at Srinagar which was organized by J&K Forest Department under aegis of MOEFCC, Government of India. Besides, PCCF & HoFF J&K Government, Roshan Jaggi and senior officers, timber traders and other stakeholders from Kashmir valley were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Dheeraj Gupta said that new system is people

centric and would benefit large no of timber traders, owners of Wood industries, farmers and common people.

Roshan Jaggi informed that J&K is pioneer in the country to fully switch over to new online system which is part of department's commitment to promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in working of this old grand organization. He informed that the department is taking series of initiatives to promote livelihood avenues of local people like new NTFP policy, waste to wealth activities, Van se Jal, Jal se Jeevan initiatives. In last couple of months, the department has issued about 7000 transport permits / NoCs under new NTPS system.

Goyal advocates regular public outreach, time bound redressal of public issues

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 29

In a bid to address public grievances and ensure efficient service delivery, a special public grievances redressal camp was convened today by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Home, RK Goyal, at Ghaink panchayat of block Bhalwal.

DDC Chairman, Bharat Bhushan, BDC Chairman, Kuldeep Raj, DDC member, Joginder Singh besides Sarpanchs and other PRI representatives were present on the occasion. The camp saw participation from residents of Bhalwal and Mathwar blocks, who raised a multitude of issues spanning various sectors.

One among various issues of the public's concerns was contractor performance for which they sought strict enforcement of accountability measures. Additionally, concerns regarding the availability of medical staff in



healthcare facilities were also voiced. Individual grievances were also presented to the Additional Chief Secretary who instructed the concerned officers to address these matters promptly.

Public representatives highlighted the inconvenience faced by residents due to ongoing Akhnoor Road projects, particularly during the current season. They urged upon the administration to prioritise timely completion and minimise disruption.

Furthermore, demands related to development and maintenance of play-

fields were brought to the ACS's attention.

Issues pertaining to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and its implementation formed another significant segment of the public's concerns. Residents expressed concerns regarding execution of JJM works, situational impediments encountered and the issues pertaining to land use conversion and "khad mapping." Besides, grievances related to Jal Shakti overhead tanks and tube wells were prominent, highlighting the need for immediate intervention.

The public also offered suggestions for improvement in the functioning of the Public Works Department.

A major education-related demand voiced by the public was establishment of a degree college in the area and improved public transport facilities.

Goyal, while addressing the public, acknowledged the role of public outreach efforts and assured appropriate attention to people's grievances. He took note of Revenue related issues and called for immediate redressal. He emphasised the importance of delivering public services in a time-bound manner and assured regular interaction with the public to ensure follow-up and resolution of all matters raised.

Officers present at the occasion included ADC Sandeep Seointra, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, ACD Preeti Sharma besides district officers and other officials.

Saurabh Bhagat chairs valedictory ceremony of VBSY at Budgam

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, DECEMBER 29

Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology and Skill Development, Saurabh Bhagat, today presided over the valedictory ceremony of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) held at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary appreciated the district administration for successfully conducting the ambitious Yatra (VBSY) events across all 296 panchayats of the district. He also commended their efforts towards ensuring enthusiastic conduct of the programme in urban areas of the district.

Saurabh Bhagat said that the district administration has been carrying out swift infrastructure development under different sectors ensuring fast paced progress all across. He said that the district has various important and major facilities including state of the art NIFT Campus, Srinagar International Airport and Main Railway Station, Budgam. He said other ongoing projects including ESIC and New District Hospital Budgam shall also serve as important utilities to improve patient care in the district.

The Commissioner Secretary said that Budgam possesses high tourism potential attracting major chunk of tourist influx to Jammu and Kashmir especially in areas like Doodhpatri, Yousmarg and Tosamaidan.

The Commissioner Secretary, while complementing the people of Budgam town for completion of Phase-I of beautification of Budgam Town initiative, said that phase - II of the beautification plan shall serve the purpose of further upgradation of the town.

He stated that VBSY



aims to ensure saturation of all government schemes and flagship initiatives besides community welfare and inclusive growth. He said that the government functionaries reach public at their doorsteps and listen to their demands and suggestions besides raising awareness on their schemes.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary inspected special camps, installed by different departments to showcase their products and create awareness regarding different schemes and flagship initiatives.

The VBSY function witnessed impressive gathering from all local wards of Town Budgam.

After inspecting the VBSY Van, Commissioner Secretary also participated in Sankalp pledge on the occasion.

Saurabh Bhagat felicitated some achievers for their exemplary work in different fields and distributed sanction letters and keys among beneficiaries under PMAY (Urban) during the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo, deliberated on developmental activities and successful conduct of VBSY across the district.

DC informed that among other major projects, work on PRIs accommodation at Sheikhpura, Integrated lavatory, Wuzukhana complex along with two public Parks at Charar-i-Sharief have been completed while work on New Bus Terminal, Chadoora is in progress and likely to be completed by first half of the next year. Besides, work on State of the Art New District Hospital Budgam at Reshipora and installation of Mobile Network towers at various uncovered areas is a key focus area of the district administration, he added.

DC added that upgradation and renovation of sports Stadium Budgam, road development from Humhama to Mirgund, drain construction at Humhama, installation of 1000 street lights in Budgam Town are also other projects carried out in last 4-5 months in the district.

During the nationwide outreach initiative aimed at informing and empowering citizens about the Centre's flagship schemes, a series of activities including skits, cultural events, singing of Swacchta song and other related programmes were also held on the occasion.

Police arrests 2 drug peddlers in Baramulla

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DEC 29

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 02 drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party of Police Station Chandoosa headed by SHO PS Chandoosa at a checkpoint established at Kachwa Muqam Chandoosa, intercepted 02 suspicious persons. During search, 60 grams of Charas like contraband substance was recovered from their possession. They were identified as Sakib Rashid son of Abdul Rashid resident of Kanispura & Zeeshan Ali son of Ali Mohammad Malik resident of Delina Baramulla. They have been arrested and shifted to PS Chandoosa where they remained in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Chandoosa & investigations has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

To address the challenges confronting the smooth movement of pedestrians and vehicles in the city, Additional District Magistrate, Anusya Jamwal, presided over a meeting here today.

Discussions centred around enhancing the movement of pedestrians and traffic by engaging all stakeholders, including businesses and the district administration, with special attention to the issue of encroachment over public passages by traders.

Speaking at the meeting, Anusya reiterated the district administration's stance, prioritising sensitisation over punitive actions, emphasising that 'smooth movement of men and materials is pivotal for thriving busi-



nesses'. Special instructions were given out to ensure smooth traffic flow on roads leading to Jammu High Court.

Notably, representatives from prominent businesses and bazaar associations actively participated in the deliberations.

Anusya Jamwal underscored the imperative that organised business activities should not be impeded by unregulated practices, emphasising the detrimental impact of encroachments on public pathways on both the public and shopkeepers' revenues.

Drawing attention to

specific areas, the Additional DM emphasised the necessity of keeping notified zones free from unauthorised parking and rehri, particularly in bustling city centres. She stressed the importance of prior sensitisation to garner cooperation from all segments of society.

The meeting delved into comprehensive discussions on traffic management and parking solutions, recognising the associated challenges and benefits.

The ADM hinted at concerted efforts in the future towards the discussed efforts. Sanjay Badyal,

DC North from Jammu Municipal Corporation, was tasked with initiating awareness drives in city areas to promote respect for public spaces. The JMC received a directive to implement additional measures to support this mission.

To alleviate these concerns further, concerned officers were instructed to ensure that coaching institutes and educational institutions do not contribute to the city's traffic woes. Business representatives not only endorsed the proposed solutions but also provided feedback during the meeting.

The meeting was held in presence of officers, including SP North Jammu Kulbir Handa, SP South Jammu Shaheen Wahid, SDM South Atul Dutt Sharma, SDM North Nitish Rajora, among others.

VBSY concludes at Kupwara on high note

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, DECEMBER 29

Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Friday visited Kupwara and participated in the grand concluding ceremony of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a nationwide campaign aimed at spreading awareness and ensuring saturation of flagship government schemes.

Witnessing overwhelming public participation, the mega VBSY event was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, ADDC Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan, CEO LBDDA Zargar Geelani, DDC Member Drugmulla, Advocate Amina Majeed, district officers, representatives of local bodies, PRIs besides the general public of Kupwara town.

Dr. Abid Rasheed, while addressing the gathering, said that Kupwara is famous all over the world for its natural beauty and intellect of the people, who are the true assets for the district. He hoped that



Kupwara will be among the top districts of the country for its abundant scenic splendor.

Dr. Abid Rasheed congratulated the district administration for achieving all the four goals of VBSY with grand success. He urged upon people to co-operate with the district administration and play an active role in effective implementation of all schemes of the government.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, in her welcome address, said that VBSY aimed to ensure that every citizen benefits from government flagship schemes. She congratulated officers, field functionaries and PRIs for successfully organizing VBSY

in all 385 Panchayat and 39 Municipal wards of the district.

"We got new ideas and valuable inputs from the ground during the VBSY which will be implemented in future". DC maintained.

Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, expressed gratitude to the Secretary for promoting Lolab and getting it declared as the best offbeat tourist destination in the country. He demanded conduct of a winter tourism festival in Lolab which is famous for its natural beauty, rich culture and heritage. He emphasised Kupwara is unique in terms of its potential for border tour-

ism which needs to be tapped.

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

As part of the Viksit Bharat pledge, the participants reaffirmed their commitment towards the nation's development. The 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani' segment showcased beneficiaries sharing success stories of schemes like PMAY(U), PMEGP, schemes of Agriculture Department. The programme was followed by a beautiful cultural performance by the students of local schools and local artists.

On the occasion, different government departments had established stalls to showcase their products and services.

Secretary Tourism along with Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and Vice Chairman, District Development Council inspected the stalls, interacted with the officers besides getting feedback on government schemes and participating in a plantation drive.