



# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Kupwara LoC remains hot on infiltration front: 28 terrorists killed in 10 major bids in past eight months

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, NOV 2

A total of 28 terrorists have been killed along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district in at least ten infiltration attempts in the eight months this year.

The recent bid was on October 30 when an infiltrating terrorist was killed along the LoC in Jumagund area of Keran sector in a joint operation launched. As per details available with the news

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## Amit Shah terms Cong 'Cut, commission, corruption' party, slams INDIA bloc constituents

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KARNAL (HARYANA), NOV 2

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday targeted the Congress by describing it as a party of "cut, commission and corruption" and also slammed the opposition INDIA alliance, saying 27 parties have joined hands to serve their own interests.

The BJP, on the other hand, works for the welfare of the people, he said.

Addressing the "Antyodaya Sammelan" programme which was organized by the Haryana government here, Shah congratulated the Manohar Lal Khattar dispensation for carrying out overall development of the state.



He said the BJP Government in Haryana ended corruption, nepotism and improved the law-and-order situation in the last nine years.

Listing various initiatives and schemes of the Narendra Modi government, the Union Minister asked people to vote for

the BJP in the next general elections. At the event, Shah, in the presence of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and others, launched five schemes for the 'Antyodaya' families.

He slammed Haryana Congress leader Bhupinder Hooda, saying, "I want to ask (Bhupinder) Hooda

ji whether the development which took place in the last nine years (under BJP) is visible or if (your) eyes are still shut."

Shah alleged that the Congress can neither develop Haryana nor the country.

"The Congress is a party of cut, commission and corruption. The party's hand (election symbol) is not with the people of Haryana," the Union home minister alleged.

Terming the INDIA bloc a "ghamandiya (arrogant)" alliance, Shah alleged that all the 27 constituents of the opposition bloc are "parivarvadis' (dynasts)".

"All the 27 outfits are 'parivarvadis'. Some have to adjust their

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## 2 Al-Badr terrorist associates arrested in Srinagar: Police

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, NOV 2

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday said to have arrested two terrorist associates linked with Al-Badr from Shalteng area of Srinagar.

During late night checking at a security checkpoint along Shalteng Bridge by the joint parties of PS Parimpora and PC Mujgund, 02 terrorist associates linked with terror outfit Al-Badr were arrested, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

They have been identified as Yawar Rashid son of Abdul Rashid Dar and Basit Nabi son of Ghulam Nabi Bhat resident of SaderBala, Bandipora.

During search, incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 Pistol, 02 Pistol Magazines, 28 Pistol rounds and 01 Hand Grenade was recovered from their possession, police said.

Regarding the incident, police said that a case under FIR number 159/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in PS Parimpora and investigation has been initiated. KNO

## Gulmarg, other areas experience fresh snowfall, plains receive light rains



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, NOV 2

Several higher reaches of Kashmir Valley including the world famous ski-resort, Gulmarg expe-

rienced fresh snowfall, while plains received a rainfall on Thursday, bringing down the mercury in Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the news agency, Gulmarg,

the higher reaches of Sonamarg, Gurez and other parts of the Valley received fresh snowfall today.

The plains of Kashmir including the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar receive light rainfall today, which has resulted in the dip in mercury.

Director Meteorological department (MeT) Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain and snow over isolated higher reaches is expected tonight.

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## Chief Secretary lead Steering Committee approves additional APO for forest land demarcation & planting of 1.75 Cr saplings



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 2

In its 23rd Steering Committee meeting of J&K Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) headed

by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today gave its in principle nod to the additional Annual Plan of Operation (APO) for meeting the target of sowing 1.75 Cr saplings besides carrying out demarcation of the

boundaries of all the vulnerable forest areas.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Forests; Principal Secretary, Finance; PCCF, HoFF; Chief

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## Dr Jitendra Singh for initiating nationwide public outreach in technology, innovation, startups

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOV 2

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today called upon scientific organisations and research institutions across the country to chalk out a roadmap for initiating a nationwide public outreach campaign to create awareness in science, technology, innovation related enabling provisions introduced by the Modi government for StartUps and potential entrepreneurs

The Union Minister said, after the Chandrayaan-3 landing on the Moon, Dr Jitendra Singh



said, there is a massive public interest generated in India's Space exploration projects and the momentum needs to be sustained.

"This campaign will not only raise public awareness about our pioneering achievements by DST, CSIR, DBT, ISRO, DRDO & other scientific

Departments during the more than nine years of the Government led by PM Modi, but also inspire and motivate the youth to contribute and be a part

of this exciting journey," he said.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, was chairing a meeting of all Science Secretaries in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood; Secretary, DST, Prof. Abhay Karandikar; Secretary, CSIR, Dr (Mrs) N. Kalaiselvi; Secretary, DBT, Dr Rajesh S. Gokhale;

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## Prerna Puri felicitates winners of DIPR Logo redesigning



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2

Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, Prerna Puri, today felicitated winners of Logo redesigning of Directorate Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

The Commissioner Secretary presented the certificates and cash awards to the top five winners,

Rayees Ahmed Bhat from Srinagar (Rs 25000), Musaib Yousuf from Srinagar (Rs 15000), Suhaib Rasool from Srinagar (Rs 10000), Sheetal Verma from Jammu (Rs 5000) and Bhavini Sharma from Jammu (Rs 5000).

Meanwhile, the Commissioner Secretary also honored the departmental employees including District Information Officer

Kathua, Neeraj Bhargava and MTS, DIC Kishtwar, Subhash Chander for their participation in the logo redesigning competition despite being busy in their official work.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary said that such initiatives help in further cementing the bonding between the

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## Man arrested in Kishtwar after being on the run for 10 years

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOV 2

A man who had been evading arrest for the last 10 years in a criminal case was caught by police in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, officials said.

Shabir Ahmed Malik, a resident of Bun Astan area in Kishtwar, was wanted in connection with a case registered in 2013 under Section 436 of the Ranbir Penal Code for his alleged involvement in use of explosive material to destroy a house



besides assault and causing hurt, they said.

Kishtwar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khalil Poswal said a police team conducted raids based on the information regarding the absconder's whereabouts and finally nabbed him.

Poswal said Malik was presented before the court in Kishtwar following his arrest.

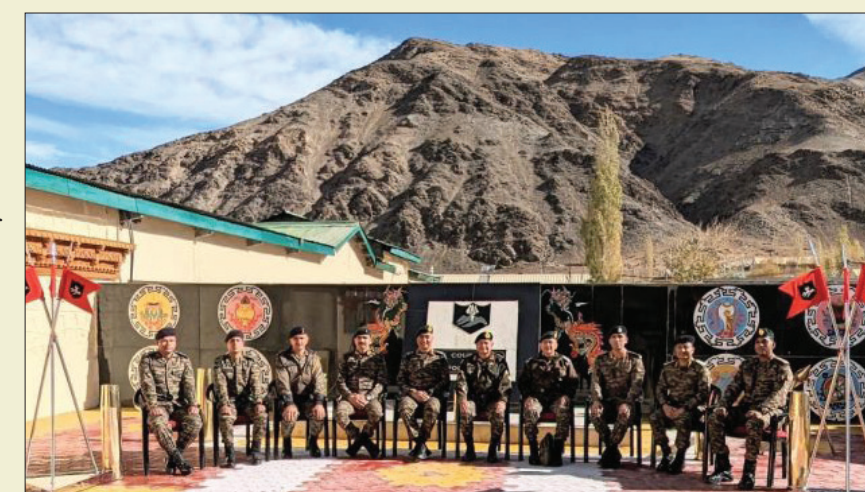
The SSP also warned all other absconders to surrender before the police or strong action shall be taken against them.

## Northern Army Commander reviews operational & security preparedness along the LAC

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
LEH/JAMMU, NOV 2

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday visited forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and lauded the tenacity and dedication of troops deployed there.

"Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Army commander northern command visited formation



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## Vigilance Awareness Week: Day-long Program Organised For Stakeholders in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 2

In the spirit of Vigilance Awareness Week, a comprehensive and impactful day-long awareness program was orchestrated by the Anti Corruption Bureau in Rajouri, exemplifying a united front against corruption.

The event was held in the Conference Hall of the PWD Dak Bungalow to bring together stakeholders from different walks of life and sow the seeds of integrity and emphasize its vital role in strengthening the society.

Under the overarching theme, "Say No to Corruption, Commit to the Nation," the event unfurled a tapestry of discussions and initiatives in the relentless pursuit of a corruption-free India. The event was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal.

Throughout the event, numerous government-

driven measures to combat corruption took center stage. These included the transition to e-Governance, the transparent disbursement of welfare benefits through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) initiative, the adoption of E-tendering in public procurement, and the simplification of procedures and systems. These measures collectively underscored the unwavering commitment of the Government to uproot corruption from its very core.

Amidst the enlightening discussions of the Vigilance Awareness Program, a culturally rich performance took center stage, delivering a powerful message against corruption. Through the seamless blend of dance and storytelling, this poignant presentation emphasized that corruption corrodes the soul of the nation and hinders progress. It served as a compelling call to action, uniting the audi-

ence in their commitment to integrity and a collective aspiration for a corruption-free society, showcasing the profound impact of culture in shaping our values and national character.

While addressing the event, SSP Amrit Pal Singh, highlighted the pivotal role of the Anti Corruption Bureau in curbing corruption. He fervently called upon the stakeholders to actively join hands in this noble endeavor. His words resonated with the essence that awareness and participation of stakeholders are the cornerstones of an effective anti-corruption campaign. He urged the stakeholders to collaborate with the government, emphasizing the zero-tolerance stance of the Government against corruption and its steadfast pursuit of transparent governance that reaches



every citizen, regardless of their position in society.

SSP ACB, Kulwant Singh Jasrotia, further illuminated the multifaceted approach of the Government to eradicating corruption. He stressed that

awareness and public engagement are vital components of this fight, and he passionately called for a united front against corruption. Corruption, he likened to a termite, silently eroding the foundations

of our nation. His resounding message was clear - the public and the government must join forces to purge the nation of this scourge.

Speaking during the event, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas

Kundal eloquently expressed that Vigilance Awareness Week serves as a platform to raise public consciousness about the dangers of corruption and to rally all stakeholders to actively participate in preventing bribery.

Corruption, he articulated, is a significant roadblock to development, and the need of the hour is collective action to eliminate it. He stressed the importance of strict adherence to the rules and regulations of the Vigilance Department and urged concerned officers to educate employees and the public about the dire consequences of corruption through workshops and mass campaigns.

In closing, the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal commended the Anti Corruption Bureau for its tireless efforts in preventing and investi-

gating corruption-related cases and bringing wrongdoers to justice. He fervently encouraged them to maintain their zeal and commitment to stamping out corruption from the very fabric of our society. This day-long awareness program, therefore, stands as a shining example of how collective determination and unwavering commitment can pave the way for a corruption-free, just, and transparent future for our beloved nation. The event was well managed and coordinated by the stage secretary, Inspector Jalal Din Fani.

Among the others present during the event were the ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; ASP, Vivek Shekhar; Chief Prosecuting Officer, Anshuman Dubey; ACD, Vijay Kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; CAO, Sohan Singh; XEN PMGSY Budhal; XEN REW, Zahir Khan; DTO, Mohd Bashir and concerned stakeholders.

## Swachhta Hi Sewa: DC Kathua felicitates winner students of painting competitions

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, NOVEMBER 2

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today felicitated winner students of Wall painting competition organized across the district under the banner of Swachhta Pakhwada (Swachhta Hi Sewa) from 25th Sept to 2nd Oct 2023 by the District Administration. The formal Felicitating ceremony was held in the office of the Deputy Commissioner.

While interacting with the winners, the DC appreciated the skills of the participating students who portrayed their ideas of cleanliness besides brushing their creative suggestions to upkeep the cleanliness making it a part of our social ethics. He said students have a great role in spreading the message of cleanliness as they are the key catalyst in bringing change in the mindsets of common people.

Pertinently, the Wall painting competition on Swachhta Hi Sewa was held under the supervision of Chief Education Officer Kathua in coordination with Tehsildar HQ Aana Jamwal wherein 30 schools from different parts of the district participated. The event was held under the overall supervision of DICC Kathua Monika Khosla along with the team member's comprising DNO Deepak Kumar and 15 ZNOs

The DC gave away Prize Cheques and certificates among the winners.

## 'Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023' District Admin organises series of awareness programs across Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 2

District Administration Ramban organized a series of events as part of ongoing 'Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023' across the district which was attended by the officers and officials from different departments. During the programme, the speakers highlighted the measures taken by the government to put an end to corruption, including promotion of e-Governance, disbursement of welfare benefits of different schemes of the Government in a transparent manner through the DBT mode, implementation of e-tendering in public procurement, simplification of procedure steps.

It was informed that the objective of the 'Vigilance Awareness Week' is to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of bribery and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by the corruption.

Resource persons from different departments deliberated on the anti-corruption laws and added that the main focus is to spread greater awareness among the general masses as well as local committees. The vigilance week programmes were also held at Sub division and Tehsil levels where the officers redressed the genuine complaints on the spot.

## Ahead of Diwali festival, Food Safety Department Srinagar intensifies market checking; sweets shops, Khoya selling units inspected

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 2

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the team of Food Safety Department Srinagar ahead of Diwali, conducted special drives in various markets of Srinagar City on the eve of to check the hygiene practices adopted and quality of food items by the Food Business Establishments.

The market checking drive was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety (Designated Officer under FSSA Srinagar), Yameen ul Nabi in various City markets and inspected various food business units including sweets shops, Khoya sellers and dairy products.

During the market checking, the Food Safety



teams took samples of various food items being sold in the market and also asked Food Business Operators to maintain hygiene, provide safe and quality food items to consumers.

Speaking in this regard, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar has asked the

Food Safety Department and other Market Checking teams to continue the drive in City markets to ensure that all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the Food Safety Standards and Quality.

## Awareness programme on Women centric schemes held at Reasi Village



JI NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, NOVEMBER 2

District Hub for Empowerment of Women Reasi under Mission Shakti organised an awareness programme on Women centric schemes at Panchayat Gran Brayotrian-A. The camp was attended by Sarpnach Raj Kumar, all the panches and women of JKRLM. District Mission Coor-

dinator Monika Sharma explained to participants the eligibility and the procedure to avail benefit of women centric schemes viz. ISSS, Marriage Assistance Scheme, Skill Development Courses offered by SBI RSETI, PMKVY, Women Entrepreneurship Programme like PMEGP, Tejaswini and those offered by Women Development Corporation.

To promote the BBBP scheme, detailed information regarding Sukanya Samridhi Yojana was imparted to the participants by DHEW Team. Apart from this, Lovely from DHEW Team explained about all the services being offered by One Stop Centre. At the end of the programme, grievances of the people were noted and they were assured early redressal.

## Arrangement for OMR-based Panchayat Secretary Exam reviewed at Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, NOVEMBER 2

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting here in the mini meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to discuss the arrangements for OMR-based examination of Panchayat Secretary.

During the meeting, different aspects of the examination process

were discussed, including the seating arrangements, provision of civic amenities at the centres, installation of CCTV cameras for transparency and deployment of security.

The meeting aimed to ensure smooth conduct of the examinations and address any concerns or challenges that may arise.

The DC stressed the importance of fair and transparent examinations

and emphasized the need for adequate arrangements to be made for the candidates.

DC Doda directed the concerned Officers and principals to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place to maintain the integrity of the exam.

The Meeting was attended by ADC, CEO, Heads of the Government and Private Schools.

## Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 Sadder Treasury Srinagar organizes Awareness programme

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 2

In connection with ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week being observed from October 30 to November 05, an awareness programme was today organized at Sadder Treasury Srinagar under the theme 'Say No to Corruption, Commit to the Nation'.

The programme was organized by Sadder Treasury Srinagar in collaboration with the Directorate General of Audit and Inspection under the supervision of Treasury Officer Sadder, Javaid Maqbool Khanday.

Syed Fida Hussain, Sr. Audit Officer and Gulzar Ahmad, Audit Officer were the special invitees from Directorate General of Audit and Inspection.

Addressing the gathering, speakers said that



corruption remains a significant impediment to the economic and social progress of the country.

On the occasion, measures being taken by the government to put an end to corruption, including switch over to e-Governance, disbursement of welfare benefits of various schemes of the Government in a transparent manner through the DBT initiative, implementation of e-tendering in public procurement, simplification of procedure and other measures were highlighted. It was informed

that the objective of the programme is to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of bribery and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by the corruption.

Among others, Treasury Officer Tankipora, Sayka Hassan; Treasury Officer Court, Owais Qadir; Treasury Officer Khanyar, Yasir Arafat and representative of Treasury Officer Lal Mandi besides staff attended the awareness programme.

## FSD Anantnag imposes heavy fines on 13 FBOs for violating FS&SA, 2006

JI NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 2

In a significant move to ensure public health and safety, the Additional Deputy Commissioner

(ADC) Anantnag, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, who is also the Adjudicating Officer today took strict action against 13 food business operators (FBOs) in the district for violating the provisions of Food

Safety and Standards Act (FS&SA), 2006. The Adjudicating Officer imposed a penalty of Rs. 3,17,500 on these operators in response to their contravention of the Food Safety and Standards

Act, 2006. During the trial, it was revealed that they had breached regulatory provisions, leading to their products being deemed of sub-standard and misbranded quality. ADC after care-

fully considering complaints from the Food Safety Department and submissions made by the accused's authorized counsels, concluded that the charges of contravention were well-founded.

He emphasized the importance of compliance with food safety regulations and standards and has urged all food business operators in Anantnag to strictly adhere to these guidelines to protect

the well-being of consumers. ADC also cautioned that regular inspections will continue in the district to maintain the highest standards of food safety and quality. Food business oper-

ators are encouraged to educate themselves about the Food Safety and Standards Act and to implement best practices in their establishments to avoid future fines and ensure public safety.



## DLSA organizes Legal Awareness programme on POCSO Act-2012



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 2

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Ganderbal today organised a legal awareness programme on POCSO Act-2012 at Government Boys High School Sherpathri.

Students and teachers of the said school besides students and teachers of Islamia Hanfia Model School also participated in the programme with great enthusiasm and commitment.

The event was held under the chairmanship of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal and under the active guidance of the Civil Judge (Sr. Division) /Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

During the programme, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized on the critical importance of creating a safe and secure environment for children.

Highlighting the provisions of the POCSO Act 2012, she also threw light on its objective of protecting children from sexual exploitation, abuse, and other forms of harm. Students gained valuable insights into recognizing and reporting incidents of child sexual abuse.

Bilal Ahmad, social activist also threw light on the significance of child protection and the need to address the growing

challenge of child sexual abuse. He also emphasized the importance of empowering communities to be vigilant and proactive in safeguarding children from exploitation, ensuring their well-being, and providing them a safe environment to flourish.

The legal awareness programme served as an eye-opening experience for the attending students, enabling them to understand the importance of their role as proactive bystanders and empowered individuals.

By equipping them with knowledge about their rights, responsibilities, and avenues for redressal, this initiative aimed to instill confidence and a sense of security among students.

The successful execution of the Legal Awareness Programme on the POCSO Act 2012 reinforces the commitment and dedication of the District DLSA towards safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. By reaching out to educational institutions and enlightening young minds, the district authority envisions a future where child safety is prioritized and diligently protected.

The programme witnessed the presence of Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Legal Assistant, staff members, para legal volunteers of DLSA Ganderbal, social activist, faculty members and enthusiastic students from the twin schools.

## DEO Reviews Progress of Special Summary Revision in Udhampur



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 2

District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a crucial meeting in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, to review the ongoing Special Summary Revision for the year 2023-24, with the qualifying date set as January 1, 2024. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Deputy District Election Officer, Gurdev Kumar, Sub Divisional Magistrate Shishir Gupta, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, and other officers.

During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion took place on the smooth execution of the SSR 2023-24 in the district

which included the draft publication of photo electoral rolls, strategies for addressing left-out voters, identification of PwD (Persons with Disabilities) voters and senior citizens, ensuring assured minimum facilities, engagement with political parties, meetings with BLOs (Booth Level Officers) and supervisors, management of newly created polling stations, and the distribution of electoral rolls to BLOs. Clear directives were issued to all stakeholders to ensure that the set goals are achieved, leaving no eligible voters behind.

The DEO directed the EROs (Electoral Registration Officers) and AEROs (Assistant Electoral Registration Officers) to complete the special summary revision, which involves adding new voters, rectifying omissions, and removing duplicate entries, before the stipulated due date. She emphasized the need for the officers to mobilize their teams and machinery to complete the SSR 2023-24 within the allocated time frame.

EROs and AEROs were instructed to verify the posting of electoral rolls in their respective polling stations and submit reports accordingly. All individuals involved in the SSR process were encouraged to work with dedication and enthusiasm, ensuring that the entire exercise is executed in a time-bound manner with a 100 percent enrollment of eligible voters.

## Kathua admin hosts auditors session to promote transparency in govt offices

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, NOVEMBER 2

In furtherance of its consistent resolve to fight against corrupt practices, District Administration Kathua, in collaboration with Director General, Audit & Inspections, J&K, on Thursday hosted a Session of Auditors here in conference hall of DC office complex as part of Vigilance Awareness Week.

The event aimed to create awareness about the importance of transparency, integrity, and accountability in public administration. The speakers from Director General, Audit & Inspections, J&K highlighted the detrimental effects of corruption on economic growth, social justice, and the overall well-being of the community.

A special focus was given for adopting fair mechanisms for executing all financial business including purchase through GEM Portal in government offices upholding high level of transparency at all levels.

On the occasion, ADC Kathua Ranjeet Singh impressed upon the participating officers



to adopt all the useful insight shared by the team members from DG A&I, J&K on maintaining corruption-free business in government establishments. Among others, the programme was attended by CPO Kathua, Accounts Officer, Audit and Inspection Department Jammu Devinder Parkash, AAO Derminder Pangotra besides officers and officials of different Government departments. Pertinently, the

district administration has rolled out a calendar of events under which various activities and programmes are being organized in the district to promote ethical practices and vigilant behavior among Government officials and the general public. These activities included workshops, seminars, debates, and poster competitions on topics related to anti-corruption and good governance.

## DC Kathua reviews progress achieved under District Capex Budget

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, NOVEMBER 2

District Development Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas, today chaired a meeting of the District officers to review the physical and financial progress achieved under District Capex Budget 2023-2024.

Chief Planning Officer, XEN PDD, XEN PHE, XEN Irrigation, XEN PMGSY besides other District officers attended the meeting.

At the very outset, ADDC, Ankur Mahajan apprised the DC about the physical and financial progress of different projects taken up under

the district capex budget. Terming the role of all the departments more important, the DC said that all development projects taken up under CAPEX need concerted efforts from the concerned departments and special attention to pay at ground level by way of timely completion of target works.

While reviewing the work-wise projects under DDC, BDC, and PRI Grant, the DC called upon field functionaries to take on board the local PRIs while facing any bottlenecks so as to achieve the target timelines.

While laying stress on

quality assets creation, the DC directed executing agencies to oversee the progress by visiting the sites regularly to ensure the quality of works shall not be compromised.

The DC directed XEN PWD Hiranagar to pace up the work earmarked for creating amenities in the under construction building of SDM Hiranagar, for which more funds have been sanctioned to create the identified assets.

The DC further directed all the district officers to adhere to the timelines so that no liabilities shall be carried forward to the next financial year.

## KVS Jammu region hosts 52nd KVS National Sports Meet 2023-24

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2

KVS Jammu Region is hosting the 52nd National Sports Meet 2023-24 from 2nd November to 6th November.

More than 1300 students and 200 escort teachers from 25 Regions of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have reached Jammu to participate in the National Sports Meet.

Boxing, Hockey, Chess and Kabaddi will be conducted by the region at five different venues: chess - Under 14, Under 17 & Under 19 girls at KV 1 Jammu, Boxing U-14 U-17 & U-19 girls at KV Miran Sahib, Hockey girls U-14, U-17 at KV Bantalab, Kabaddi Girls U-14 at KV 2 Jammu and Kabaddi I-17 girls at KV Sunjuwan.

The grand inaugural ceremony was held today at K K Hakku Stadium Jammu. Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour of the function was Anand Jain, IGP Jammu. The other guests included Nagnendra Goyal, Deputy Commissioner, KVS RO Jammu, Assistant Commissioners, Islam Khan, Anil Kumar and Hari Singh besides the Principals from differ-



ent Kendriya Vidyalayas and other institutions of Jammu region.

Divisional Commissioner inaugural ceremony were the spectacular march past and the splendid cultural extravaganza which left the audience spellbound. More than 300 participants displayed their talent in different Cultural Programmes. The students presented the welcome song, Ganesh Vandana, aerobics and Dogri folk dance all of which mesmerised everyone.

Divisional Commissioner in his address expressed his great delight in getting the chance to host the NSM in Jammu and said that such events develop a feeling of oneness and unity among children. He assured the whole hearted support of Jammu Region to the participants and the escorts. After the inaugu-

ral address he declared the National Sports Meet OPEN. Islam, Khan, Assistant Commissioner, KVS RO Jammu proposed the vote of thanks.

Sports has always been an integral part of KVS Curriculum. It not only provides students with an arena to display their sporting skills but also an ideal platform for exchanging India's diverse cultures. Students belonging to different states come together under the same roof to compete, share views, make memories and much more.

Jammu Region is all set to play the genial host to the sports stars of KVS. The next five days are going to be a truly exciting experience not only to the sports lovers but to all the spectators in equal measure when players vie with each other with mettle and grit.

## SKUAST-K, KVK Budgam holds EAP on Scientific Beverage Making at GDC Khan Sahib

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 2

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam organised an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) under Scientific Processing of Fruits through Beverage Making in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Khansahib.

The programme approved through the Directorate of Planning and Monitoring of SKUAST-K and funded by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), GOI was held under the patronage of Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K; Prof Haroon Naik, (P&M), Prof Dil Mohammad Maqdoomi, Director Extension and Dr. Bilal A. Lone, Senior Scientist and Head.

The main idea of the programme was to create an enabling environment for enterprises to emerge and flourish thereby generating a skilled workforce in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Nargis Bano, Principal, GDC Khansahib impressed that such training is aimed at orienting youth to a wide array of opportunities in the fruit



processing sector which is a promising venture for livelihood generation.

She encouraged the youth to come forward and seek more information and technical guidance in areas of interest for establishment of an enterprise in the agri-based sector. Since the area is in close proximity to Doodhpathri - an important tourist destination, she impressed upon students to explore opportunities in the area of fresh fruit juice processing along the route of Doodhpathri through innovative packaging therefore promoting agri-tourism also.

Dr. Bhinish Shakeel, Training Coordinator, presented a brief overview of processing of Horticultural produce like fruits and vegetables and role of KVK in imparting skill-based training to youth in the processing sector. She briefed the trainees about the importance of beverages, classification of beverages with reference to Fruit Beverages and Drinks.

A method demonstration for Orange Squash was also presented. The programme witnessed participation of 51 trainees who expressed keen interest in the programme.

## ARTO Bandipora tightens noose on Traffic Violators



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 2

In a stern move to ensure road safety and enforcing traffic regulations, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Bilal Ahmad Mir took decisive action against traffic violators by realising fine amounting to Rs.1 lac, and suspending 07 driving licenses.

While sharing the details, ARTO informed that, as many as 15 Registration Certificates besides 15 Driving licenses were also seized on the spot.

Ahmad said that, with the goal of promoting responsible driving and safeguarding lives, Motor Vehicle Department Bandipora has adopted a 'zero tolerance approach'

towards traffic regulation violators.

The ARTO said that the recent action comes as a strong message to those who flout traffic rules and endanger the lives themselves as well as the lives of others on the road.

The violations leading to license suspension included not wearing helmets while driving two wheelers, reckless driving, over speeding, and repeated offenses of not wearing seat belts while driving, among others.

He said that repeat offenders will face even stricter action and their licenses will be cancelled permanently. He said that driving two wheelers without wearing a helmet has been identified as the main cause of many deaths/accidents in Bandipora from the last many years.

## Implementation of e-Offices: IT Experts impart Training at Bandipora

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 2

To modernize administrative processes and to implement e-Offices, a training session was imparted on Thursday to master trainers at Bandipora.

On the occasion, IT experts imparted training to master trainers who will play a key role in disseminating this knowledge throughout various

government departments.

It was given out that the training was organised to equip master trainers with the knowledge and skills necessary to oversee the transition from traditional paperwork to electronic document management.

Implementation of e-Offices has the tendency to enhance transparency, reduce paperwork, and expedite decision-

making processes. The training session covered various aspects of e-Office implementation, including digital document management, data security, and best practices for the efficient use of IT resources.

The experts said that it is a comprehensive program that will prepare the master trainers to serve as the bridge between the government and modern technology.



## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

**Kupwara LoC remains...**

agency reveal that a total of ten major infiltration bids foiled in Jammu and Kashmir were majorly in Kupwara district alone resulting in the killing of 28 infiltrating terrorists in different operations in border areas close to the fence.

In a series of counter-infiltration operations launched jointly by Kupwara police and Army following specific inputs about nine infiltration attempts were foiled.

Figures available with the KNO reveal that on 30 October, 1 infiltrator was killed at Jumagund along the LoC in Keran sector and on 28 October 5, heavily armed and highly trained infiltrators were killed in Machil sector close to the fence.

On 01 October 2 terrorists were killed along the LoC in Machil sector. Two infiltrators were killed along the LoC in Machil sector on September 30. On 6 August, an infiltrating terrorist was killed in Amrohi of Karnah sector. Two terrorists were killed in an infiltration attempt in Machil sector on 19 July. Four terrorists were killed in the Kala Jungle area of Machil sector on June 23.

A major infiltration bid was foiled on 16 June in which 5 infiltrators were killed in a joint operation along the LoC at Jungund area of Keran sector. On June 24, a total of four terrorists were killed along the LoC in Machil sector.

On May 04 a total of two terrorists were killed along the LoC in Pichnad area of the Machil sector.

In a recent press conference, the GoC of the 28 Infantry Division based in Kupwara Girish Kalia said with the relentless efforts of security forces the security situation has improved paving way for development and tourism. "There are continuous infiltration attempts from the other side of the border. All such attempts have been foiled by security forces," he had said.

The GoC had also said that 10 attempts were made in the last 8 months which resulted in the killing of 28 terrorists.

On his recent visit aimed at security review, the former Jammu and Kashmir police Chief Dilbagh Singh said that the border areas on the other side of the LoC have a bad record for many reasons. "For a very long time, terrorist training camps and launching pads have been active. About 16 active launching pads are located on the other side of the border in this sector in PoK. Activities to infiltrate more infiltrators, push weapons and narco smuggling is a constant tool from another side of the border," he had said.

He also had maintained that infiltration attempts would continue from the other side of the border but active vigil and cooperation of joint security forces including intelligence agencies all were timely countered. "Infiltration attempts will happen in the future as well given the onset of snowfall. Infiltrators are pushed before snowfall given the accumulation and challenging conditions," the former J&K police chief had said. KNO

**Amit Shah terms Cong...**

son, some have to make their son Prime Minister, some have to save their son from agencies while some have to make their son chief minister. Some have to become Madam's loyalists. Can these people do any good for the people?" Shah said.

He also targeted the Congress over the Ram Temple issue. For decades after Independence, the Congress kept the Ram Temple issue hanging and hindered its construction, Shah alleged.

The Union Home Minister said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who laid the foundation of the temple. On January 22, the idol of Lord Ram Lalla will be consecrated in the huge temple, he added. (Agencies)

**Gulmarg, other areas...**

However, he said that the weather conditions will improve from tomorrow as there is no significant weather activity till 10th November.

Director MeT said that mainly dry weather is expected from November 03-November 06 while fairly to generally cloudy with light snow over isolated higher reaches are expected from November 07 and 08.

He added that on November 09 and 10, the weather would remain generally cloudy while light rain and snowfall would occur over a few higher reaches during the period.

Overall, there is no significant weather activity till 10th November, he said.

Asked about the dip in the temperature, he said there would be change in the temperature in coming days. KNO

**Chief Secretary lead...**

Wildlife Warden; PCCF (CEO), CAMPA; DG, Planning; Adtl CCFs besides other concerned officers of the Department.

Outstation based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to attain all the deliverables set for the department on time. He stressed on achieving the target of sowing 1.75 Cr saplings and distribution of 90 lakh seed balls as envisaged under the annual plan of the department.

Dr Mehta also impressed upon the officers to focus on revitalization of the degraded forest areas and ensure that the dense and moderate forest cover of the UT increases with time. He maintained that the peculiarity of this region is its unique ecology and environment, which distinguishes it from other States/UTs. He made out that the Department has the responsibility to maintain it sustainably.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the officers of the Department to complete the process of demarcation and geo-referencing of all the forest areas forthwith before the onset of winters. He called for setting up of new benchmarks in management of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wetlands and notified areas. He asked for complete digitization of official records and fixing of their boundaries to evade any chances of trespassing.

Dr Mehta called for making all the forest areas plastic-free. He observed that forests are the best places to de-stress the minds and the department should encourage people to visit these natural habitats and promote eco-

tourism. He advised installation of proper signages and other bill boards containing information in a manner so that people are informed about the utility and significance of such treasure troves.

On the occasion Dr Mehta also released a document capturing the restoration plan for Gharana Wetland of Suchetgarh, Jammu. He took note of all the measures taken for restoration of other waterbodies like Wular, Mansar, Surinsar and Shalabugh. He advised that the restoration measures for protection of these water bodies should be gauged separately as the Department has both the expertise and resources to do the same.

He also recalled the measures taken a year back to make Palli Panchayat of District Samba a carbon-neutral village. He maintained that in order to achieve the target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2047 as aspired by the Prime Minister it is essential to have Panchayat level carbon neutral plans to make this happen within the deadline.

On the occasion the Principal Secretary, Forest, Dheeraj Gupta informed the meeting that the Department is going to complete the demarcation of the vulnerable forest areas by 15th of December this year. He also said that process of digitisation and geo-referencing of all the forest areas will be achieved by the end of the current financial year.

The CEO, CAMPA in his presentation gave out that the Department had an original APO outlay of Rs 272 Cr for 2023-24. He further elucidated that in order to achieve the milestones of planting 1.75 Cr saplings, installation of nearly 1,16,266 boundary pillars and digitization and geo-referencing of forest lands it has become imperative to ask for the additional APO to the tune of 53.44 Cr. This is in addition to the amount invested through ploughing back of savings made on tendering and other interest amounts of the department taking the total additional requirement to 81.24 Cr for the financial year.

It was further appraised that department saved an amount of 16.28 Cr through e-tendering of its works. The additional works envisaged under the funding includes installation of additional 89,569 BPs, 8.5 lakh plants and digitization and demarcation of forest boundary lines and works related to protected areas in the UT.

**Dr Jitendra Singh for...**

Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO, Shri. S. Somanath; Director, BARC, took over the charge of Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, and Secretary Department of Atomic Energy, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, besides senior officers.

Lauding the 'One Week One Lab' student connect programme of CSIR-NISCP conducted between Jan.1, 2023-Sep 24, 2023 by 37 CSIR Laboratories/Institutions during which their doors were thrown open to the students and public, Dr. Jitendra Singh called for grooming innovation aptitude in school children.

"Innovative learning will contribute to make India a \$5 trillion economy goal and fulfil the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

The S&T Minister said the INSPIRE scheme is helping create a scientific temper as every year there is an increasing number of aspiring students competing for the awards. The first-ever Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators was launched in November 2021 to mark the 75th Year of India's Independence, he said.

The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK is a flagship programme of the Government of India and is jointly implemented by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India. INSPIRE Scheme caters to students in the age group 10-32 years with several components. So far, more than 1.3 lakh Higher secondary students have been offered INSPIRE scholarships to pursue a career in Natural and Basic Sciences.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the DST supports a variety of infrastructure related schemes like FIST, PURSE, SAIF, etc. towards augmenting/ facilitating the R&D equipment for research activities at various Universities/ Institutes and other Academic organizations as well as promote industry-academia linkages.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that PM Modi's vision is to step up the efforts in various fields to make the country 'the most advanced laboratory for modern science' in the 'Amrit Kaal' the next 25 years leading to a Viksit Bharat.

Working towards this vision, the Government has committed to invest heavily on building research infrastructure in the country. Under FIST Program, DST has supported 3,074 Departments and PG Colleges at a total budget of about Rs. 3130.82 crores for Scientific Infrastructure Building in various STEM Departments in Universities and academic institutions.

Dr. Singh pointed out that flexible infrastructure grants are being provided to universities nationwide to keep up the vigour of conducting highly challenging R&D activities with an investment of Rs 950 Crores till date.

The Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) with a nationwide reach supports the university's research ecosystem by making high-end research equipment available to our academicians/scientists, enabling our universities to compete with global standards. A new scheme, SUPREME, has also been launched to provide financial support for repair/upgradation/ maintenance/ retrofitting or acquiring additional attachments to increase functional capabilities of existing Analytical Instrumentation Facilities (AIFs).

Dr Jitendra Singh said that under PM Modi, the Government is taking a number of steps to promote scientific temper among the masses, particularly youngsters, by strengthening scientific research and innovation efforts in the country. He said, this is a pan-India Scheme that envisages Star College in every district of the country supported by the Department of Biotechnology.

A total of 278 undergraduate colleges across the country comprising more than 1.5 lakh students are supported under the DBT Star College Scheme. This includes 55 colleges from rural areas and 15 colleges in Aspirational districts.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is now steering the world in innovative technologies. We are on course to our target of reducing Greenhouse gases emission, and achieve Net Zero by 2070.

India is today one of the leading users of non-conventional energy including electric automobiles, wind & solar energy and the world's first Hydrogen powered bus has been made in India, said the Minister. "The world is looking up to us for leads," he said.

Sharing some of the key achievements of India in S & T like India's massive jump in its ranking of Global Innovation Index (GII) from 81st in the year 2015 to 40th in 2022 among 132 economies of the world, 3rd rank in terms of number of StartUps, Unicorns, scientific publications and PhDs awarded, the Minister said that India has in recent years made some unprecedented progress in S & T areas.

"During the Covid pandemic, India not only saved its own population but also helped the world by providing vaccines and we also delivered the world's first DNA vaccine," he said.

The Minister mentioned that in the recent past, the Government of India has launched several flagship initiatives such National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (ICPS); Quantum Computing and Communication; National Mission on Supercomputing, Electric Mobility, Green Hydrogen etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, our Chandrayaan Mission was the first to discover evidence of water on the Moon and the Aditya-L1 solar mission is led by a woman Director. PM Modi has provided an enabling milieu to India's endeavours in Space research, and S&T. PM Modi has emerged the tallest leader in the world after the G20 Summit.

"Today the world is ready to be led by India. The declaration of International Yoga Day and International Year of Millets by the UN is proof of our rising stature. Now is the time for all of us Indians to rise to the occasion and seize the opportunity," he said.

Referring to PM Modi's monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat', in May this Year, Dr Jitendra Singh said India's Startup ecosystem is not limited to just big cities, but about 50% of Startups hail from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

"Today there are over 3,000 Agritech Startups and are very successful in areas like Aroma Mission and Lavender cultivation, quite a few of them do not have high qualifications, but are very innovative. In 2014, there were just 4 Startups in the Space sector, now there are over 150 Space StartUps, some of the pioneering ones now worth hundreds of crore rupees," he said.

A lot of this has been possible because of ground-breaking reforms brought by Prime Minister Modi, including StartUp policy, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Space sector and Drone deregulations, new geospatial policy, National Research Foundation etc, he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Modi also brought in the new National Education Policy (NEP-2020) which supplements Start-Up ecosystem with the promise to open new career and entrepreneurship opportunities for students and youth in India.

Referring to 9 years of Modi rule, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that apart from formal jobs, lakhs of opportunities and avenues were created outside the government sector for the youth of the country, be it Start-ups, Mudra Scheme, PM SVANidhi.

During the meeting, the Union Minister reviewed preparations for the 9th India International Science Festival (IISF) - 2024 to be held at the NCR Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad from January 17-20, 2024.

**Perna Puri felicitates...**

public and the department. She added that DIPR has been appreciably organizing such events since the past few years which has hugely streamlined its functioning. In this regard, she mentioned the holding of mega exhibitions, cultural bonanzas and awareness programmes highlighting the achievements of the J&K Government since creation of the Union Territory.

Commending DIPR for receiving a good number of entries in all its events, Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon the concerned officers to give further push to social media activities which play an instrumental role in this regard. She also applauded all those who actively participated in the various initiatives organised by the department and appealed them to further raise their participation in such events.

Perna Puri emphasized upon the officers to give space to local designs in their photo galleries which will immensely help towards promoting and preserving our magnificent cultural and traditional legacy. She also ask them to step up efforts towards designing of departmental annual e-calendar.

Regarding the entries for Badlata Khilta Jammu and Kashmir, she asked the officers to enhance the number of these entries for encouragement of the participants.

Pertinently, Commissioner Secretary had thrown open the online competition for redesigning of Logo of DIPR to the public on February 2023. The competition was given extensive publicity through Print and Social Media platforms and the department received a total of 374 entries.

During felicitation program, Commissioner Secretary thanked all the participants for taking part in the logo redesigning competition and also had an exclusive interaction with them.

Joint Director Information, Jammu, Atul Gupta, briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the achievements of the department making special mention of exhibitions and competitions being held from time to time.

Among others, Deputy Director, (Central), Sunil Kumar, Deputy Director (AV), Dharam Pal, Deputy Director PR Jammu, Vikas Sharma besides other officials of the department were present on the occasion.

**Northern Army Commander...**

in Ladakh sector to review the operational and security preparedness along the LAC," Northern Command wrote on X.

The Army commander lauded the tenacity and dedication of troops deployed in the challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions, it said.

During his ongoing visit to various formations, projects and border areas in Ladakh, the Army commander on Tuesday hailed the troops of the Indian Army, Indo Tibetan Border Police and General Reserve Engineer Force for their relentless efforts in maintaining highest standards of operational effectiveness under challenging conditions.

**Missing since 2 days, B'pora woman found dead at SK Payeen**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SUMBAL, NOV 2

A 26-year-old woman, who was missing for the last two days, was found dead on Thursday at Saderkot Payeen area of Bandipora district.

An official informed the news agency that the deceased woman, identified as Waheed Bano, daughter of Abdul Ahad Dar from S K Payeen village in Bandipora, was found dead this evening near Wular Gate in the area. "Upon the recovery of the body, the police arrived at the scene and took the body into its possession," the official said, adding that after completing the legal medical formalities, the body was handed over to the family members for last rites.

The official said that concerned police station has initiated an investigation into the matter and has commenced inquest proceedings. KNO

**Bandipora-Gurez road closed after snowfall at Razdan Top**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, NOV 2

The administration on Thursday closed the Bandipora-Gurez road for traffic after fresh snowfall at Razdan top in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Officials told the news agency that the snow accumulation at the Razdan top, the only road link between the Gurez and the Kashmir Valley, prompted the closure due to slippery conditions. The officials also said that certain areas in the plains of Gurez valley experienced rainfall. According to officials, traffic restrictions will persist until there is an improvement in weather conditions. KNO

**Residential house attached in Awantipora for harbouring terrorists**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, NOV 2

Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday attached a residential house in Awantipora area south Kashmir's Pulwama district for harbouring terrorists, officials said.

An official told the news agency residential house of Azad Ahmad Teli of Beighpora Awantipora was attached under FIR No 58/2020 for providing voluntary harbouring to terrorists. He said that the property has been attached on the orders of NIA Court Pulwama under section 33 UAPA Act.

The official said that dreaded terrorists Reyaz Naikoo was holed up and killed in this house during an encounter. KNO

**2 drug peddlers arrested in Anantnag, Kulgam: Police**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, NOV 2

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday said to have arrested two drug peddlers in twin districts of South Kashmir's Anantnag & Kulgam and recovered contraband/psychotropic substances from their possession.

A police party of PS Bijbehara at a checkpoint established at Hassanpora Crossing, intercepted a vehicle (Alto) bearing registration number JK02AM-9204 driven by Sajad Ahmad Bhat son of Ab Khaliq Bhat resident of Mooman Danjipora. During search, officers were able to recover 20 bottles of Codeine Phosphate from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Meanwhile, police said in Kulgam, a specific information was received by Kulgam police regarding the presence of contraband substance in the house of Mubashir Ahmad Bhat son of Bashir Ahmad Bhat resident of Nillow. Subsequently, a special team led by SHO PS Kulgam under the supervision of SP Hqrs Kulgam Ghulam Muhammad Bhat along with concerned Magistrate raided the spot and recovered 12 Kgs of Poppy Straw, a grinder and a digital weighing machine from the said residential house. The owner of the house was arrested and shifted to police station, police added.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective locations and investigations have 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," police said. KNO

**NIT Sgr student bags 2nd position in Prajatantra 2023**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, NOV 2

A student from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has bagged 2nd Place in the 'Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance' competition part of Prajatantra 2023 held in New Delhi this week.

As per a statement issued to the news agency, Mehvish Wani, a student of Master of Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurial Management (MTIEM) from Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Management (HSS&M) has won 2nd Place in the 'Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance' competition. In the previous year's edition of Prajatantra, she also won 2nd prize for the same. The 'Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance' contest focuses on the critical task of formulating policies related to Municipal Finance, a vital aspect of contemporary governance.



## ACB, Dist Admin organize Awareness programme at Kulgam



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, NOVEMBER, 2

Under the ongoing vigilance Awareness Week, Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) in collaboration with District Administration Kulgam today organized an awareness programme with the theme, 'Say No to Corruption, Commit to the Nation', at conference hall of mini-secretariat, Kulgam.

The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; SSP-ACB, Rakesh Kumar, SSP Kulgam Sahil Sarangal also attended the programme.

ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; Chief Prosecuting Officer ACB South, ACR, ACD and other officers were also present in the programme along with PRI members, students and employees.

At the outset, the DC administered an integrity pledge to the participants. It was impressed upon the gathering to commit to fight against corruption and also maintain the highest standards of integrity, transparency and good governance in all aspects.

Addressing the occasion, the DC said that observance of Vigilance Awareness Week is to foster collective participation by all stakeholders in the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness about the existence, causes, gravity, and the looming threat of corruption.

He said that slew of measures have been taken with prioritizing accountability and transparent administration and zero tolerance against corruption. He said laws and agencies are there to deal

with the persons indulged in corrupt practices.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP-ACB said that such programmes are being conducted to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of bribery and to raise public awareness on the issue.

He also deliberated on the role of ACB in dealing with corruption and apprised the people about the rules and measures in place to combat the corruption and corrupt practices.

He added that corruption is hindering the process of development and everyone has to be vigilant to report any corrupt practice.

SSP Kulgam on the occasion said that in good governance, corruption has no space and to check it, objective agencies are there.

ACB, Chief Prosecuting Officer Farooq Ahmad and Resource persons from ACB deliberated on various Acts and added that the focus areas of the awareness day is to spread greater awareness to the general masses as well as local committees.

During the awareness programme, participants including students, PRI members exchanged ideas regarding the perils of corruption and measures to combat this menace.

Director Horticulture Kashmir, G.R. Mir, participated in a significant function at the Horticulture Complex, Lal Mandi. The event, organized by the Department of Horticulture, marked the distribution of Nursery Registration Certificates to 268 Private Nursery Growers who are now officially registered with the Department.

## DC Doda reviews progress on NH-244 project, Land Acquisition



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, NOVEMBER 2

In a significant administrative gathering, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh on Thursday convened a meeting today to address critical matters concerning the ongoing highway construction and the digitization of land records in the region.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners Doda and Bhaderwah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, and a representative from the National Highways

and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

The primary focus of the meeting was on assessing the progress of the highway project and the status of digitization of land records by NHIDCL and the revenue department.

The DC emphasised the need for swift resolution of pending issues related to land acquisition for the highway construction. He directed the General Manager (GM) of NHIDCL to address these grievances promptly and ensure that pending payments and allowances are disbursed to landowners affected by the project.

Furthermore, the DC urged the Tehsildar to expedite the digitisation of land records, a critical step in modernizing and streamlining land-related processes. Additionally, he urged the National Highways Authority to identify and report any potential bottlenecks that may be impeding the progress of the highway construction. This meeting underscored the commitment of the local administration to ensure the timely and efficient completion of the highway project and the modernization of land records, ultimately benefiting the community and the region at large.

## Educational Institutions host Vigilance Awareness Week activities across Jammu Division

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2

Educational Institutions across Jammu Division organised a variety of activities to educate the students about the value of clean transparent governance here as part of the observance of Vigilance awareness week.

An awareness programme was organized by the staff of HWC- Sub Centre Bijarni at Govt High School in Medical Block Ghat, District Doda.

The awareness programme was held on the theme, "Say No to Corruption: Commit to the Nation".

The staff of the school welcomed the health department and thanked BMO Ghat for organizing such an informative event for students.

Meanwhile, awareness on health and hygiene was also imparted to the students by Sapna Manhas (CHO/MLHP).

GDC Vijaypur: Cyber Jagrukta Committee of GDC Vijaypur in collaboration with IQAC and NSS unit organised slogan-writing competition on the theme "Say no to corruption; commit to Nation" to celebrate Vigilance Awareness Week 2023.



Students of the college participated in the event enthusiastically with great fervor and zeal.

The programme started with the welcome address by Prof. Poonam Kundan (Convener Cyber Jagrukta Committee) where she briefed the students regarding the slogan writing competition and emphasizing the importance of Vigilance Awareness Week.

The first position was achieved by Manvi Sharma of B.Sc. Sem III, Second position was attained by Mehak Sadotra of BA Sem III and third position was clinched by Rupaank Aryan of BA Sem III.

The competition was judged by Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD, Political Science), Prof. Ritu Bhagat

(HOD Education) and Naseem Choydhary (HOD English).

GDC Ramgarh: Government Degree College Ramgarh organized screening of short films to inculcate awareness about fallouts of corruption. The event was organized by the College Advisory Committee under the guidance Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

A large No. of students as well as the faculty members witnessed the event with great zeal. At the outset, Prof. Risha Kumari, briefed the students about the importance of the Vigilance awareness week 2023, the theme of which is "Say no to corruption; Commit to the Nation

## NCORD Meeting

## DM Jammu stress on information sharing for strategic clampdown on drug menace

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOV 2

District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, on Thursday chaired the district-level Committee meeting under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD). Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr. Vinod Kumar, was also present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed different measures to curb drug abuse and trafficking in the district. The DM emphasised the need for identification of drug abuse hotspots and individuals trapped in addiction. He directed the Chief Education Officer to identify and notify the authorities about related activities in and around educational institutions, and notify places that serve as hotspots for illegal exchange of drugs.

The DM said that education institutions have a special role in awareness generation about the drug



issue. He directed Principals of Colleges to identify and notify drug users to the authorities. The Educational Institutions were asked to appoint nodal officers for coordination with the district administration on this issue.

The DM further directed the Chief Medical Officer to provide services of counsellors to help those in need of rehabilitation. He also highlighted the vital role of the District Social Welfare department

in rehabilitation.

The DM stressed the need for strict enforcement of the Tobacco Control measures. He also laid strict emphasis on data sharing among different departments and organs of the district administration for a strategic clampdown on the drug menace.

The Youth Service & Sports Department was asked to increase sports activities and promote a healthy lifestyle among youngsters. The DM also

mandated surprise checks of drug stores and medical shops, and directed strict action against those found violating the rules.

The DM also highlighted the role of other departments and agencies, and said that united efforts are needed to have a multiplier effect in this war against drugs. He also emphasised the importance of public participation and trust in the administration.

Addressing the meeting, the SSP insisted on the role of nodal officers designated in educational institutions, and the role of rehabilitation, counseling and treatment. He also stressed the need for coordination for an effective stance against drugs. He informed the meeting that all drug-related information can be shared on helpline number 9086100100. He also said that the goal should be to set feasible and practical targets to achieve a drug-free society.

## Vishesh Mahajan takes over as Deputy Commissioner Reasi



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, NOV 2

In a remarkable administrative transition, Vishesh Mahajan assumed the office of Deputy Commissioner Reasi here today. The outgoing Deputy Commissioner, Babila Rakwal, graciously handed over the charge to Vishesh Mahajan, marking a pivotal moment in the district's administrative leadership.

Vishesh Mahajan's appointment as the new Deputy Commissioner of Reasi is indeed a significant development, considering his rich and diverse experience in public service. Prior to his

current role, he served as the Deputy Commissioner in Doda, demonstrating exceptional dedication and competence in the field of administration. His expertise and unwavering commitment to public welfare are indicative of a promising era of progress and development for the Reasi district.

Babila Rakwal, the outgoing Deputy Commissioner, expressed her best wishes and extended heartfelt support to Vishesh Mahajan as he embarks on his new journey in Reasi. This transition signifies the seamless continuity of dedicated service and administrative excellence in the district.

## 15 day Internship Skill Program on BSE-Mutual Fund begins in GDC Marh

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2

Government Degree College Marh today organised a 15 day internship skill programme on BSE - Mutual Fund for upgrading skills of youth in non-conventional economic sectors like Banking and financial services.

It is a significant move to enhance bilateral cooperation in the education and skill development sector. The initiative for the same was taken collectively by the Commerce and Economics departments of the college.

As many as 53 students from 1st, 3rd and 5th semester attended the program. The inaugural



ceremony was held under the guidance of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul. The program commenced with lighting of the traditional lamp.

The resource person for the 1st day session was Anmol K. Gupta, a certified financial planner from BSE. The event began with the welcome address by Prof. Ram Dayal. A keynote address was presented by the Principal of the College where he highlighted the impor-

tance of financial budgeting and mutual funds in the life of a common man.

On the 1st day programme, the resource person spoke on the investment landscape including the need and concept of mutual funds, how mutual funds work, advantages and disadvantages of mutual funds, history of mutual funds in India, mutual funds structure, why to invest, where to invest, cost of money lying idle and importance of investment.

## Director Horticulture distributes Nursery Registration Certificates among newly registered private nursery growers

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 2

The Director Horticulture Kashmir, G.R. Mir today distributed certificates among the newly registered private nursery growers, emphasizing the paramount importance of nursery registration and accreditation.

During his address at the event, he underscored the significance of providing high-quality planting material to support horticultural growth and encouraged nursery growers to uphold quality standards in their production.

Responding to the request from private nursery growers to extend the validity period of their registration from one year



to three years, the Director assured them that the matter will be taken up with the competent

authorities for consideration.

This development is expected to foster the

production of a substantial quantity of quality planting material, thereby benefiting the horticulture sector in the region.

Furthermore, he emphasized that the early registration would enable private nursery growers to provide planting material to other departments, which requires the mandatory registration certificate issued by the Horticulture Department.

In addition to the distribution of Nursery Registration Certificates, Director Horticulture also recognized the accomplishments of trainees who successfully completed Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Training at the Fruit and Vegetable Craft Centre Lal Mandi, Sri-

nagar. He highlighted the significance of post-harvest management and assured that the department would continue to conduct such training programmes to empower more unemployed youth and enable them to initiate their own entrepreneurial ventures.

The event witnessed the presence of Secretary of the J&K State Advisory Board for the Development of Kisans, Abdul Hamid Wani; Joint Director Horticulture, Kashmir, Chief Canning Instructor Srinagar, Chief Horticulture Officer Srinagar, Nursery Registration Officer Srinagar, and various other officers and officials from the Department of Horticulture.



## EDITORIAL

## New police chief faces major challenges

Senior IPS officer of 1991-batch Rashmi Ranjan Swain, presently posted as Special DG, CID, has finally taken over the new Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu & Kashmir in addition to his existing charge. With the assumption of charge, he has also countered with the challenge of targeted attacks in Kashmir Valley. Swain's predecessor Dilbag Singh, while relinquishing the charge presented his report card and claimed that his five-year tenure was marked with zero collateral damage, zero law and order incidents, and zero civilian causality. Singh was the longest-serving DGP of the Jammu and Kashmir Police who said that the graph of terrorism during this period was at a record low. 'During the last five years, there have been zero collateral damage, zero law and order incidents, and zero civilian causality, and the graph of terrorism is at record low', Singh had said, adding 'Jammu and Kashmir Police is the people's police, working for the safety of youth, people, and children who leave their homes for school for a better future. He urged people to continue to support the police for a better tomorrow'. There were reports that more than 1,000 terrorists were killed during the tenure of the former DGP in Jammu and Kashmir. The new Police chief has great challenges before him. First and foremost is to curtail the rising activities of terrorists in Kashmir Valley where they are on a targeted killings spree. It is to see whether there are nefarious attempts to revive terrorism in Kashmir. No doubt, there has been significant improvement in security, and law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir post-abrogation of Article 370. Stone pelting incidents have virtually come to an end, while the number of terror incidents too has gone down drastically. There has been a significant fall in the civilian killings in terror incidents while infiltration from across the border too witness record fall in graph. Swain, a distinguished IPS officer, has amassed a wealth of experience throughout his career, having served in various vital and strategic positions within the Jammu and Kashmir Police. His previous roles included SDPO Kothi Bagh, SP Ramban, SP Kargil, SP Poonch, SSP Kathua, SSP Jammu, SSP Srinagar, AIG (P/W) PHQ, and DIG Vigilance. In November 2006, Swain assumed prestigious roles during his deputation to the Government of India. In June 2020, he rejoined the Jammu and Kashmir Police as the head of the CID wing and has now officially assumed the position of DGP for the region. In his role as the head of the CID, Swain oversaw the resolution of many long-standing terrorism cases, including the investigation and apprehension of the remaining culprits involved in the assassination of Mirwaiz Moulvi Mohammad Farooq. On May 21, 1990, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militants assassinated Farooq at his residence in the Nageen area of Srinagar. Through the resolution of this case, Swain and his team sent a resolute message that, regardless of where terrorists seek refuge, they will be apprehended and brought to justice. Given the prevalent security scenario, it will be a big challenge for the new police chief to keep the law and order situation under control while ensuring minimum collateral damage in terror incidents, if they take place, in Jammu and Kashmir.

ER AAUSYF IBN FAROOQ

Saffron, the vivid crimson spice derived from the flower of *Crocus sativus*, holds a special place in the hearts and history of Kashmir, known as the "saffron crocus," its stigma and styles, aptly called threads, are meticulously collected and dried, serving as both a seasoning and a colouring agent in culinary delights. Beyond the kitchen, saffron boasts a treasure trove of plant compounds that act as antioxidants, protecting against oxidative stress. It has even been utilised in traditional medicine to address a spectrum of health issues. However, amidst its rich heritage, saffron in Kashmir faces a decline in production, a complex problem linked to climate change, irrigation, and market dynamics.

Tale of Decline: Saffron cultivation holds a significant place in the economy of Kashmir, with Pampore standing out as a major hub for saffron farming. Pampore is a historical town on the eastern side of the Jhelum River on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. More than 20,000 households in the Pampore area are involved in saffron farming. However, this valuable agricultural sector faces a multitude of challenges, notably inadequate irrigation and drought. The historical data paints a picture of the diminishing saffron industry in the region. In 1997, the saffron cultivation area encompassed 5707 hectares, yielding approximately 16 metric tonnes. Nevertheless, as time has passed, both the acreage under cultivation and the production of saffron have seen a substantial decline. According to data from the Department of Agriculture J&K, by 2015, the saffron cultivation area had dwindled to 3785 hectares, with a production of 9.6 metric tonnes, equivalent to a yield rate of 2.61 kg/ha. A medley of factors such as erratic rainfall, drought-like conditions, and the absence of irrigation has contributed to this decline.

The historical roots of saffron cultivation in Kashmir are deeply intertwined with the cultural heritage of the region. While the precise origins remain a subject of debate, it is believed that saffron found its way to Kashmir through Central Asian immigrants around the 1st Century



BCE. The ancient Sanskrit literature refers to saffron as 'bahukam,' and it is considered an integral part of traditional Kashmiri cuisine. Its cultivation in the region dates back to before the 8th Century CE, as evidenced by references in the writings of historians like Kalhana and Abul Fazl. Intriguingly, there are legends suggesting saffron's arrival in the 12th century when Sufi saints Khwaja Masood Wali and Sheikh Sharif-u-din graced the region with their presence. These saints are said to have offered a saffron bulb to a local chieftain in gratitude for healing them from an ailment.

Nonetheless, historical accounts present an alternative narrative. It is plausible that saffron was introduced to Kashmir around 500 B.C. by Persians, known for their saffron trade and commercial ventures. This introduction of saffron to the region could have been a part of their broader efforts to establish trade routes and expand their influence. Saffron thrives in the areas, and highlands created by the accumulation of lacustrine sediments, which provide the ideal loamy soil for saffron growth. The districts of Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, and Ganderbal serve as the primary saffron-growing areas, with Pampore gaining renown as the 'saffron town' of Kashmir.

Harvesting saffron is an arduous and labour-intensive process that requires skilled hands. The saffron crocus flowers bloom in the fall for three weeks, marking the commencement of the harvest. Growers often work grueling to meticulously gather the blooms and painstakingly

extract the few precious stigmas. These delicate threads are subsequently dried and carefully packaged for sale.

Challenges and Revival Efforts:- Saffron production in Kashmir, has witnessed a substantial decline due to a variety of reasons, including climate change, outdated farming practices, poor irrigation, and stiff competition from cheaper saffron imports from Iran. The statistics speak for themselves:

○ In 1996, saffron cultivation in Pampore spanned 5,707 hectares.

○ By 2017, this area had shrunk to approximately 3785 hectares, signifying a decline of about 38% in just 21 years.

○ In 1998, Kashmir produced 16 metric tonnes of saffron.

○ In 2009-10, the saffron production in Kashmir was 9.46 metric tonnes.

○ The production increased, and by 2015-16, it reached 15 metric tonnes.

○ In 2019, the Department of Agriculture recorded a total saffron production of 12.495 metric tonnes with a production rate of 4.07 kilograms per hectare.

○ In 2020, Kashmir achieved a significant milestone by producing 13.2 metric tonnes of saffron, marking the highest yield in a decade, with a 30% increase in production.

○ In 2021, Kashmir continued to set records by producing 15.04 metric tonnes of saffron, marking the highest yield in 25 years. The previous highest production was in 1996 when the yield was 15 metric tonnes.

○ In 2022, Kashmir reached a remarkable production rate of 16.3 metric

tonnes, the highest in 27 years, with a 30% increase attributed to adequate pre-flowering season rainfall. The average yield in 2022 was 4.4 kg per hectare.

○ The area under saffron cultivation remained consistent at 3,785 hectares, with a total rejuvenated area of 3,200 hectares producing 16,000 kg of saffron annually. Non-rejuvenated areas contributed 1,500 kg annually.

○ The price of Kashmiri saffron reached an all-time high at Rs 3.25 lakh per kg. The flowers were procured at Rs4,000 per kg. The rate of the finished product (saffron stigma) increased from Rs2 lakh a kg the previous year to 2.4 lakh per kg in 2022.

○ Jammu and Kashmir retained its status as the largest saffron producer in India and India stood as the 3rd highest producer of saffron in the world in 2022.

The NSM, launched in 2010, aimed to rejuvenate saffron cultivation by providing much-needed support to farmers, including irrigation facilities, mechanisation, quality planting material, and market connections. Nevertheless, some farmers have expressed dissatisfaction with the implementation of the scheme and its impact on their livelihoods.

Saffron: A Cultural Emblem of Kashmir-Saffron is not merely a spice; it symbolises the culture and identity of Kashmir. This cherished spice has found applications in medicine, perfume, dye, cosmetics, and religious rituals. It has also inspired countless artists, writers, poets, and musicians who celebrate its beauty and fragrance. Saffron is known for its distinc-

ity in Kashmir, the IIKSTC offers a range of services, including stigma separation, packaging, testing, and marketing. With a drying capacity of 40 kg per 30 minutes, this facility plays a pivotal role in maintaining the quality of saffron. Furthermore, the IIKSTC aids saffron growers in obtaining the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for their produce, granting legal protection and recognition as a unique product from Kashmir. The GI tag ensures higher prices and greater demand for Kashmiri saffron in national and international markets.

The decline in saffron production has left many with a sense of nostalgia for the days when the saffron fields were bustling with vendors, families, and flowers during the harvest season. In stark contrast, the present situation witnesses diminished interest, with only one or two family members often engaged in flower collection.

The legacy of Nund Reshi, Alamdar-e-Kashmir, also known as Sheikh ul Alam (RA), a Kashmiri Sufi Saint, mystic, poet and Islamic preacher, is deeply ingrained in the lore of Ladhoo, Pampore. It is said that He has spent a significant portion of His life, specifically 12 years, in seclusion within a cave in Ladhoo, a place that still exists today. This cave holds historical and spiritual significance, associated with the saint's life and journey.

To commemorate His legacy, Annually, the Urs of Sheikh ul Alam takes place in Ladhoo Pampore on the 26th of Rabi-ul-Thani. Interestingly, this celebration aligns with the conclusion of the saffron season, adding a unique cultural and seasonal connection to the occasion.

In conclusion, saffron, the "Red Gold" of Kashmir, encapsulates the essence of the region's culture and history. Its cultivation has faced numerous challenges, leading to a decline in production. Nonetheless, the NSM and IIKSTC offer hope for the revival of this extraordinary spice, ensuring it remains a vibrant part of Kashmir's heritage and a source of economic nourishment for its people.

**The writer is an engineer, educator and volunteer. He can be reached at aasiffussaint4@gmail.com**

## Lessons from 2005 Kashmir earthquake

NASIR BHAT

Kashmir, nestled amidst the breathtaking beauty of the Himalayas, has been a region with an inherent vulnerability to seismic activity. Over the years, it has witnessed several tremors, but one particular earthquake stands out in its history, a seismic event that forever changed the lives of people on both sides of the Line of Control. The earthquake, which had its epicentre near Muzafarabad, occurred on October 8, 2005, at 9:20 am, with a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale, wreaking havoc across the region.

The Kashmir Earthquake of 2005

in its wake. Its epicentre near Muzafarabad made the earthquake even more impactful, as it unleashed its fury on the North-western part of the Himalayas. Massive Devastation

The scale of destruction caused by this earthquake was unprecedented. An estimated 40,000 square kilometres of land, encompassing both Jammu and Kashmir, as well as northern Pakistan, was devastated. Homes, buildings, and infrastructure crumbled, shattering the idyllic landscapes that had once defined this region.

Human Tragedy

The most heart-wrenching aspect of the 2005 earthquake was the immense loss of life. More than 80,000 people lost their lives, and nearly one lakh individuals were injured. Families were torn apart, and entire communities were left reeling from the trauma. The loss of life was both profound and immeasurable.



Economic Impact

Apart from the catastrophic loss of life and infrastructure, the earthquake also left a substantial economic impact. Property losses were estimated at around 4 bil-

lion US dollars, including damage to homes, businesses, and vital infrastructure. The financial implications of this disaster were felt for years to come, and the affected regions faced an uphill

battle towards recovery. Lessons for Preparedness

The 2005 Kashmir earthquake serves as a stark reminder of the importance of disaster preparedness in earthquake-prone regions. While the region's natural beauty remains unparalleled, it is crucial that local and national governments prioritize disaster risk reduction and invest in resilient infrastructure to withstand seismic shocks.

International Response

In the face of this calamity, the international community rallied to provide support and assistance to the affected regions. Relief and aid organizations, along with neighbouring countries, extended their hands to help those in need. This collaboration showcased the strength of human solidarity during times of adversity.

Remembering and Rebuilding

As we commemorate

the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, we must honour the memory of those who lost their lives and those who endured immense suffering. It is essential to ensure that the lessons learned from this tragedy are not forgotten. Disaster preparedness and resilience building should remain a top priority for the region, with an emphasis on infrastructure that can withstand seismic shocks.

In conclusion, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake left an indelible mark on the region and its people. As we look back, let us not just remember the tragedy but also commit ourselves to a future where the people of Kashmir are better equipped to face the seismic challenges that lie ahead. Through collective efforts, we can ensure a safer and more prepared future for this earthquake-prone region.

**The writer can be reached at bhatnassir@gmail.com**



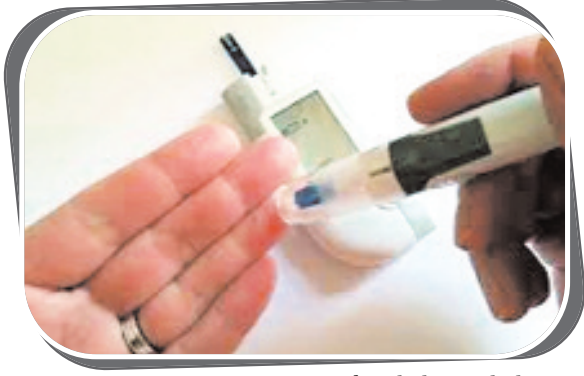
## Changing eating pattern could help manage diabetes better than insulin injections

**P**EOPLE diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes take insulin injections to regulate the movement of sugar into the liver, muscles and fat cells, but this way they are increasing the risk of weight gain and the loss of control of blood sugar levels. So, is there another way to treat diabetes? Yes.

Consuming a starch-rich breakfast early in the day coupled with light dinner can work as a great insulin injection replacement. The injections not only contribute to weight but trigger a vicious cycle of higher insulin doses, a higher incidence of cardiovascular disease and other complications, a study published in the journal *Diabetes Care* stated.

"The traditional diabetic diet specifies six small meals spread throughout the day. But our research proposes shifting the starch-rich calories to the early hours of the day. This produces a glucose balance and improved glycemic control among type 2 diabetics," explained lead author Prof. Daniela Jakubowicz of

TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine & Wolfson Medical Center's Diabetes Unit. "We believe through this it will be possible for diabetics to significantly



reduce or even stop the injections of insulin, and most of anti-diabetic medications, to achieve excellent control of glucose levels," Jakubowicz added.

According to the new research, our metabolism and biological clock are optimized for eating in the morning and for fasting during the evening and night, when we are supposed to be asleep. "But the

usual diet recommended for type 2 diabetes consists of several small meals evenly distributed throughout the day for example, three meals and three

snacks daily, including a snack before going to sleep to prevent a drop in sugar levels during the night. But the '6M-diet,' as this is called, has not been effective for sugar control, so diabetics require additional medication & insulin," Prof. Jakubowicz noted.

Researchers studied 29 type 2 diabetes participants and compared a new "3M-diet," more in alignment with our biological

clock, with a control group on the traditional 6M-diet. The experimental 3M-diet comprises a meal of bread, fruits and sweets in the early hours of the morning; a substantial lunch; and a small dinner specifically lacking starches, sweets and fruits.

The group on the traditional 6M-diet did not lose weight and did not experience any improvement of sugar levels, requiring an increase in medication and insulin doses. But the group on the 3M-diet not only lost weight but also experienced substantially improved sugar levels.

"Their need for diabetic medication, especially for insulin doses, dipped substantially. Some were even able to stop using insulin altogether," added Prof. Jakubowicz.

"This suggests that the 3M-diet is not only more effective in controlling diabetes. It may also prevent many other complications such as cardiovascular disease, aging and cancer, which are all regulated by the biological clock genes," the lead author opined.

## Research finds dramatic health benefits following air pollution reduction

**A** recent study states that reduction in air pollution yields a fast and dramatic impact on health outcomes and also decreases the causes of morbidity.

The study 'Health Benefits of Air Pollution Reduction' published in the American Thoracic Society's journal *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*, by the Environmental Committee of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) has reviewed interventions that have reduced air pollution at its source. The lead author of the study Dr Dean Schraufnagel, MD, ATSF, said: "We knew there were benefits from pollution control, but the magnitude and relatively short time duration to accomplish them was impressive. Our findings indicate almost immediate and substantial effects on health outcomes followed by reduced exposure to air pollution."

It's critical that governments adopt and enforce WHO guidelines for air pollution immediately." In addition to the city-wide policies, reducing air pollution within the home also led to health benefits. In Nigeria, families who had

clean cookstoves that reduced indoor air pollution during a nine-month pregnancy term saw higher birthweights, greater gestational age at delivery, and less perinatal mortality. Emissions of the major pollutants particulate matter



(PM), sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and lead were reduced by 73 per cent between 1990 and 2015 while the US gross domestic product grew by more than 250 per cent.

Given these findings, Dr Schraufnagel has hope. "Air pollution is largely an avoid-

able health risk that affects everyone. Urban growth, expanding industrialization, global warming, and new knowledge of the harm of air pollution raises the degree of urgency for pollution control and stress the conse-

quences of inaction," Schraufnagel said. "Fortunately, reducing air pollution can result in prompt and substantial health gains. Sweeping policies affecting a whole country can reduce all-cause mortality within weeks. Local programs, such as reducing traffic, have also promptly improved many health measures."

## Obesity a chronic disease, maintaining lost weight more important

**A** professor having expertise in medicine has said that countries should admit that obesity is a chronic disease and stressed the need of maintaining the weight a person has lost rather than focusing on shedding kilos.

"A lot of communities have recognised obesity as a chronic disease. This is because even if patients lose weight, if you wait long enough, everyone puts their weight back on, with only a handful of exceptions," said Professor Arya Sharma of the University of Alberta at a symposium during the International Diabetes Federation Conference 2019 here. He also said that all people, including patients and physicians, believe that controlling obesity is a simple task and is about energy balance on controlling calories, Korea Biomedical Review reported.

"We can control calorie intake by eating less and outtake by doing more exercise. So we believe that it will be easy to achieve a certain balance for weight loss. Therefore, in theory, this is not so difficult," Sharma was quoted as saying.

"However, the problem is there is a black box between controlling the intake and outtake of calories that people neglect," he

## Exercising key to increase oxygen in the brain: Study

**R**ESearchers have come up with a study focusing on the only way to get more oxygen to the brain which is to get more blood to the brain by increasing blood flow. The researchers were interested in seeing how brain oxygen levels were affected by natural behaviours, specifically exercise.

Researchers have revealed a truth applicable to all mammals that states: On contrary to accepted knowledge, blood can bring more oxygen to mice brains when they exercise because of the increased respiration packs more oxygen into the haemoglobin. According to Patrick J. Drew, Huck Disting-uished Associate Professor of Neural Engineering & Neurosurgery and associate director of the Penn State Neuroscience Institute, "Standard thought was that mammalian blood is always completely saturated with oxygen." The researchers reported the study in the *Journal of*

Nature Communications. "We know that people change breathing patterns when doing cognitive

tasks," said Drew. "In fact, the respiration phase locks to the task at hand. In the brain, increases in neural activity usually are accompanied by increases in blood flow."



tasks," said Drew. "In fact, the respiration phase locks to the task at hand. In the brain, increases in neural activity usually are accompanied by increases in blood flow."

However, exactly what is happening in the body is unknown, so the researchers used mice who could choose to walk or run on a treadmill and moni-

tored their respiration, neural activity, blood flow and brain oxygenation. "We predicted that

oxygenation would depend on neural activity and blood flow," said Qing Guang Zhang, a postdoctoral fellow in engineering science and mechanics. "We expected the oxygenation would drop in the brain's frontal cortex if blood flow decreased. "That was what we thought would happen, but then we realized it

was the respiration that was keeping the oxygenation up."

The only way that could happen would be if exercise was causing the blood to carry more oxygen, he explained, which would mean that the blood was not normally completely saturated with oxygen. They used a variety of methods to monitor respiration, blood flow and oxygenation. They also tested oxygenation levels while suppressing neural activity and blood vessel dilation. As per the researchers, "The oxygenation persisted when neural activity and functional hyperemia (blood flow increases) were blocked, occurred both in the tissue and in arteries feeding the brain, and were tightly correlated with respiration rate and the phase of the respiration cycle." They conclude that "respiration provides a dynamic pathway for modulating cerebral oxygenation."

## Structural differences in brains of children whose parents have depression: Study

**A** study conducted in the United States revealed that there are structural differences in the brains of those children whose parents have depression. The condition of depression typically arises during adolescence. While the causes of depression are complex, having a parent with depression, adds as one of the biggest known risk factors. Studies have consistently shown that adolescent children of parents with depression are two to three times more likely to develop such condition than those with no parental history of depression.

The study was published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. A team led by NIH analyzed brain images from over 7,000 children participating in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD). The study showed that about one-third of the children were in the high-risk group because they had a parent with depression. In the high-risk children, the right putamen - a brain structure linked to reward, motivation, and the experience of pleasure - was smaller than in children with no parental history of depression.

"These findings highlight a potential risk factor that may lead to the development of depressive disorders during a peak period of onset. However, in our prior research, smaller putamen volumes also has been linked to anhedonia - a reduced ability to experience pleasure - which is implicated in depression, substance use, psychosis, and suicidal behaviors. Thus, it may be that smaller putamen volume is a transdiagnostic risk factor that may confer vulnerability to broad-based mental disorders," noted Randy P. Auerbach, PhD, associate professor of medical psychology at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and senior author of the study.

Dr. Pagliaccio further added that "Understanding differences in the brains of children with familial risk factors for depression may help to improve early identification of those at greatest risk for developing depression themselves and lead to improved diagnosis and treatment. As children will be followed for a 10-year period during one of the greatest periods of risk, we have a unique opportunity to determine whether reduced putamen volumes are associated with depression specifically or mental disorders more generally."

## Diet synced with biological clock could replace problematic diabetes treatment: Study

**W**HILE the kind of food one eats and even the order in which it is consumed can affect the health of an individual. A new study finds that a starch-rich breakfast consumed early in the morning coupled with a small dinner could replace insulin injections and other diabetes medications for many diabetics.

Type 2 diabetics inject themselves with insulin, a hormone that regulates the movement of sugar into liver, muscle and fat cells, up to four times a day. But insulin injections are linked to weight gain and the loss of control of blood sugar levels. This triggers a vicious cycle of higher insulin doses, continuous weight gain, a higher incidence of cardiovascular disease and other complications. According to the new research, our metabolism and biological clock are optimized for eating in the morning and for fasting during the evening and night, when we are supposed to be asleep. Prof. Daniela Jakubowicz of TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine and Wolfson Medical Center's Diabetes Unit said, "But the usual diet recommended for type 2 diabetes consists of several small meals evenly distributed throughout the day, for example, three meals and three snacks daily, including a snack before going to sleep to prevent a drop in sugar

levels during the night."

The research was published in the journal *Diabetes Care*. According to Prof. Jakubowicz "The traditional diabetic diet specifies six small meals spread throughout the day. But our research proposes shifting the starch-rich calories to the early hours of the day. This produces a glucose balance and improved glycemic control among type 2 diabetics."



Thus explaining the reason behind this theory of diet as "We believe that through this regimen it will be possible for diabetics to significantly reduce or even stop the injections of insulin, and most of the anti-diabetic medications, to achieve excellent control of glucose levels."

Prof. Jakubowicz added "But the '6M-diet,' as this is called, has not been effective for sugar control, so diabetics require additional medication and insulin. And insulin injections lead to weight gain, which further increases blood sugar levels."

The researchers studied 29 type 2 diabetes participants and compared a

new "3M-diet," more in alignment with our biological clock, with a control group on the traditional 6M-diet. The experimental 3M-diet comprises a meal of bread, fruits, and sweets in the early hours of the morning; a substantial lunch; and a small dinner specifically lacking starches, sweets, and fruits.

The group on the traditional 6M-diet did not lose weight and did not experience any improvement of sugar levels, requiring an increase in medication and insulin doses. But the group on the 3M-diet not only lost weight but also experienced substantially improved sugar levels.

Prof. Jakubowicz is of the view, "In addition, the 3M-diet improved the expression of biological clock genes. This suggests that 3M-diet is not only more effective in controlling diabetes. It may also prevent many other complications such as cardiovascular disease, aging, and cancer, which are all regulated by the biological clock genes."

The upregulation of the biological clock gene expression in the 3M-diet might be the mechanism behind its success, as it enhances insulin secretion and improves sugar delivery into the muscles, creating a balanced daytime and nocturnal glucose metabolism. The researchers are now investigating the role certain proteins play in breakfast foods consumed by diabetics.

### CANCELLATION/DIVERSION & PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

In order to undertake the Pre-Non Interlocking/Non-Interlocking work at Pathankot Yard of Jalandhar City-Jammu Tawi Section, Northern Railway will take suitable Traffic & Power Blocks upto 07.11.2023. During this period following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)
04611/04612 Amritsar-Pathankot-Amritsar Special	07.11.2023
14633/14634 Amritsar-Pathankot-Amritsar Express	07.11.2023

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Date (from the Originating Station)
19223 Ahmedabad Jn.-Jammu Tawi Express	Pathankot Cantt.-Bharoli Jn.-Jammu Tawi	Upto 06.11.2023
19224 Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Jn. Express	Bharoli Jn.-Pathankot Cantt.-Jalandhar City	03.11.2023 to 07.11.2023
18309 Sambalpur Jn.-Jammu Tawi Express	Bharoli Jn.-Pathankot Cantt.-Jammu Tawi	04.11.2023
18101 Tatanagar Jn.-Jammu Tawi Express	Bharoli Jn.-Pathankot Cantt.-Jammu Tawi	05.11.2023
19415 Ahmedabad Jn.-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	Bharoli Jn.-Pathankot Cantt.-Jammu Tawi	05.11.2023
19416 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Ahmedabad Jn. Express	Bharoli Jn.-Pathankot Cantt.-Amritsar	07.11.2023

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Short Terminate at/ Originate from	Date (s) (from originating station)
04397/04398 Amritsar-Pathankot-Amritsar Special	at/from Bharoli Jn.	03.11 to 07.11.2023
06951/06952 Pathankot-MCTM-Pathankot Special	at/from Bharoli Jn.	03.11 to 07.11.2023
06933 Amritsar-Pathankot Special	at Bharoli Jn.	03.11 to 07.11.2023
06949/06950 Jalandhar City-Pathankot-Jalandhar City Special	at/from Pathankot Cantt.	03.11 to 07.11.2023
06935 Verka Jn.-Pathankot Special	at Bharoli Jn.	03.11 to 06.11.2023
06936 Pathankot-Verka Jn. Special	from Bharoli Jn.	03.11 to 07.11.2023
06938 Pathankot-Amritsar Special	from Bharoli Jn.	03.11 to 06.11.2023

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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NEW DELHI, NOV 2

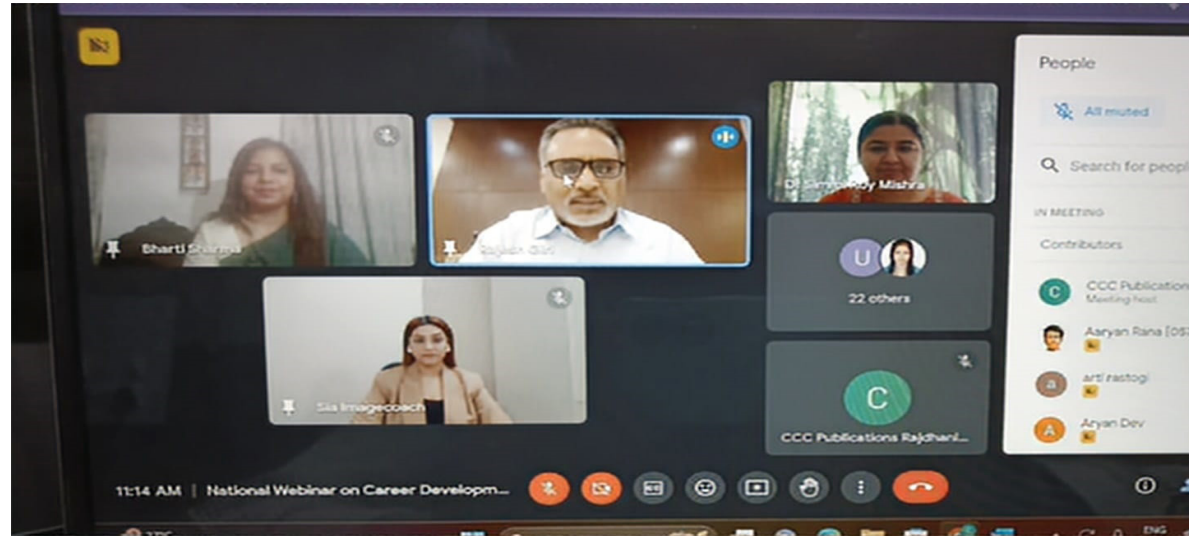
The Career Counseling Cell (CCC) of Rajdhani College, University of Delhi organized a 'National Webinar on Career Development' on 2nd November 2023. The keynote speakers in this webinar were Ms. Sia Anand Sehgal, an eminent image coach and renowned physician and Mindset coach Dr. Simmi Roy Mishra. The webinar started with an address by the Principal of Rajdhani College, Prof. Rajesh Giri in which he expressed his concern about today's young generation which is deviated by mobile and social media handles. He emphasized that today's youth must listen to such fascinating and informative talks in Career Development.

The convenor of Career Counseling Cell, Prof. Urvashi Arora extended her gratitude to the keynote speakers for accept-

ing the invitation and introduced the audience to the flow of the event.

The guest speaker for the first session was Ms. Sia Anand Sehgal who is an image coach, Personality Development Expert, Fashion Consultant and body language, Communication and Etiquette expert. The topic of her talk was 'Crafting Image: How First Impressions Shape Personal Branding'. According to her there are three people in a person, namely, Firstly, the one person you really are, secondly the one that you want the world to see you as and lastly the one that the world sees you as.

She defined Personal branding as "Personal branding is all about the ways you establish your personal image in the eyes of people." Moreover, she quoted Robert Kiyosaki's quote "If you are not a brand, you are a commodity" in order to distinguish between a Personal



brand and a commodity. How you look? How you speak? How you act is your personal brand. She told about the benefits of having a strong personal brand, such as increased credibility, increased perceived value and trust, stronger relationships and network etc. She enlightened the audience by letting them know about the "Easy Ingredients For

Crafting Image", which included Appearance, Body Language, Communication, Digital Presence, Etiquette, Facial Expressions, etc. She gave Appearance tips such as: Dressing better than the guy sitting next to you. But with that she also said that dress for success, but do not go overboard. She advised to wear Neutral colour palette for

professional/ interview attire other than blue or black. After Appearance she threw light on Body posture during any interview which included Back Straight, not too much nodding. She also insisted on taking care of body posture and being an inquisitive interviewee in an interview. With regard to Communication, she stressed on being a good

listener rather than a good speaker (75% Speaking and 25% listening). She also insisted on body gestures like giving signs of acceptance and listening by nodding our heads, right facial expressions etc. With regard to, Digital presence Ms Sia said that one needs to build digital footprint, deliver relevant content, and be very mindful while uploading

anything on a social platform. She gave a proper guidance on personality development. She insisted that Personal branding helps us to grab a lot of opportunities.

The second guest speaker Dr. Simmi Roy Mishra interacted with the students on the topic "Ikigai - A powerful tool for Career Development". Dr. Simmi Roy Mishra is a certified mindset coach, a physician and founder of 'Speakosimmi.com'. She started the talk with "The journey begins there when you realise 'who you are'. She introduced the audience to The Ikigai, a Japanese concept, meaning 'a reason for being': What you love, what you are good at, what you can be paid for and what the world needs, all combined together, as a tool for career development. She said one should 'know oneself' before choosing a career, 'know one's interests', skills values, assets,

personality resources etc., explore possibilities, have more choices and then make it happen. She highlighted some factors that go into choosing a career. These include: Skills: such as Communicating, Problem Solving, Teamwork, Organizing, Computing etc.; Interests: in fields such as Creative, Social, scientific etc.; Values and motivation: Money, helping others, work life balance etc.; One's personality, One's location, One's qualifications and One's contacts. She told the audience about DePS Skill set which includes Learning skill, Life skill and Community skill. She also introduced four 'P's of life: Purpose, Passion, Possibilities and Power. She stressed in her session that, while making the career choice, Ikigai transforms our life. If a person starts practicing Ikigai early on then that person will be able to choose career wisely.

## Thursday Mind Meet held in CUJ

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

The Central University of Jammu's Department of Mass Communication and New Media, in collaboration with the Thursday Mind Meet Forum, organized a thought-provoking event titled "Thursday Mind Meet: Media - Connecting Science and Society" at the university campus. This event aimed to bridge the gap between the scientific community, media professionals, and society at large.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dean School of Languages, and Convener of the Thursday Mind Meet Forum. She emphasized on the visionary approach of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain behind this initiative and warmly welcomed the esteemed panelist, Prof. Yashpal Sharma from University of Jammu.

Dr. Abhay Rajput, Head



of the Department of Mass Communication and New Media, CUJ coordinating the event. He highlighted the significance of effective science communication and the pivotal role that media plays in connecting scientific advancements with society.

Prof. Yashpal Sharma during the event shared his valuable insights. He delivered a lecture focused on Communication of Sciences in Traditional Living of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Sharma shed light on the historical and cultural context of Jammu and Kashmir and highlighted how traditional practices are deeply intertwined

with scientific principles. He also discussed various research papers that explore the connection between everyday life and scientific principles, fostering a better appreciation for science in society. Prof. Sharma later addressed student's queries and enthusiastically answered a wide range of questions from the students, encouraging a deeper understanding of the subject.

The event, Thursday Mind Meet, was a testament to the Central University of Jammu's commitment to fostering meaningful dialogues and bringing together diverse

perspectives. It served as a platform to encourage collaborative efforts between the worlds of media, science, and society.

The panel discussion featured a diverse group of individuals, including scholars Pragya (Department of Mass Communication and New Media), Anish Gupta (Department of Chemistry), and students of MCNM, Gyanendra, and Deepti. They engaged in an insightful discourse that explored how media can bridge the gap between the scientific community and society, facilitating a better understanding of scientific advancements.

## GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur organizes 3 day Crafts Demonstration Awareness Program

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur organized three days Crafts Demonstration Awareness Programme under District Level Gandhi Crafts and weaves Mahaotsav in collaboration with Handicraft Service Centre, Udhampur. The programme was organized under the able guidance of Prof. Hans Raj, principal of the College. The programme started with keynote addressed by Mr. Surinder Pal, Sr. Assistant Director, HSC Udhampur. In his address, he briefed about the importance of awareness programme. Further, Prof. Hans Raj, Principal, in his welcome address emphasizes that Handicraft goods help to create more job opportunities in the society. Handicrafts are hugely important to societies especially to those situated in rural areas. Handicraft business



provides employment opportunities even with low capital investment. There is a huge demand for handicraft items both locally and internationally. On the first day, Ms. Deepa Soni, Sh. S.S. Baloria, Ms. Ramneek Kour, Ms. Shepali Sharma aware the students about artistic Designing, Basholi Painting, Handlooms and Chamba Embroidery respectively. On day 2, practical demonstration was given on the same. In the demonstration of various arts- basholi painting, clay art, chamba embroidery etc. students of the college participated with great enthusiasm. On the

third day, programme was concluded with competition to evaluate the students how much they learnt through this workshop. In the basholi painting competition, Manik secured 1st position, Mahida Mir secured 2nd position and Priti Bharti secured third position. In the clay art competition, Shrutu Dogra and Rushi Dogra secured first position, Parul Verma and Sheriya Sharma secured second position and Varun and Rashu Devi secured third position. The winners were also awarded with prizes. All the staff members were also present in this program.

## JKCCU extends support to JKEJAF protest on Nov 4

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

JKCCU fully supports the Pro-Test action call given by the joint platform of employees organizations namely J&K Employees Joint Action Front on 4th, November on both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir UT. Md Magbool and Gurmeet Singh President and Gen. Secretary JKCCU while expressing serious concern over the utter failure of UT administration in releasing the salary of Govt. Employees in time and delaying in disbursement of GP Fund Gratuity and other pensioner benefits to the retiree employees which has been never practice in the past. This shows the utter negligence of administration which is the causing tremendous hardships to the employees and pensioners. JKCCU demands the timely disbursement of monthly salary and immediate releasing of pensioner benefits. JKCCU also demands the revival of old pension scheme and regularization of all temporary workers and ensuring of democratic and trade union rights of employees and workers. JKCCU urges all.

## BJP not ready to face ULB, Panchayat elections: Congress Hits out at recovery of waived off irrigation arrears

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Hitting out at the UT administration for the delay in the ULB and Panchayat elections besides raising the issue of the recovery of arrears of waived off/abolished irrigation tax (Abiyana) from the farmers, JKPC has said that BJP can't face people and deferring all polls except Lok Sabha in J&K for fear of defeat.

Addressing a joint press conference JKPC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla and Sr Vice President JKPC Shri Ravinder Sharma said that it was congress party which raised the issue of reservation to OBCs in the ULB and Panchayats as per 73rd and 74th amendment, in a letter cum objections to the J&K Chief Electoral Officer on 13th Sept. 2023, demanding reservations to

OBCs besides holding of ULB elections under State Election Commission (SEC) as per constitution. It was the result of the Congress party's letter that the Govt. has woken up to consider reservation to the OBCs and the setting up of SEC for ULBs. But the delay in the matter is deliberate out of fear of defeat by the ruling party.

They said that as per law and constitution, the elections to these bodies were required to be conducted one month prior to the expiry of their 5 years term. While all municipal bodies including Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations will complete their term by No. 14, the elections should have been conducted and completed by Oct. 15th but it has been delayed and deferred.

The Senior Congress leaders said the ruling BJP



is afraid of facing all elections be it ULB/Panchayats and especially assembly elections, for fear of losing, as LAHC Kargil elections were a trailer for BJP, the real picture will unfold after Assembly elections and the BJP shall be wiped out in Jammu region too.

The non holding of Assembly elections and the deferment of the ULB/Panchayat elections is a silent murder of democracy and the people are suffering a lot due to the autocratic style of the bureaucratic regime who are passing

arbitrary orders every other day at their whims and fancies. Citing a case of bureaucratic arbitrariness and anti farmer decisions of BJP Govt. controlled UT administration, JKPC leaders questioned the recovery of the arrears of waived off/abolished Irrigation tax from the farmers, whereas it was PDP-BJP Govt. which itself had abolished this tax (Abiyana) in the budget in 2015-2016. What right the Govt. has to recover the waived off/abolished tax and even charge future tax

when an elected Govt. had abolished the same.

Bhalla and Shri Sharma lashed out the anti-farmers approach and mind set of the BJP Govt. and its proxy bureaucratic regime and demanded immediate withdrawal of these arbitrary orders of recovery of tax and instead grant adequate compensation to paddy farmers recently affected by untimely rains.

The Congress party demanded immediate and expeditious exercise for the reservations in all tiers of ULBs and Panchayats to the OBCs besides constitution/ extension of the jurisdiction of SEC for the conduct of early elections to the basic institutions of democracy as per constitution 73rd and 74th. PCC general secretaries Narinder Gupta & Narinder Sharma besides Media Coordinator Neeraj Gupta were also present.

## CSIR-IIIM, Jammu organizes one day Joint Hindi Workshop

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu organized on day Joint Hindi Workshop (Rajbhasha Karyashala) for all the members of TOLIC, Jammu here today. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM and Chairman, TOLIC, Jammu in presence of Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, President, Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, Jammu; Dr. Sanjay K. Singh, Deputy Director, Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu and Sanjay Sharma, Secretary, TOLIC, Jammu. A total of 48 participants drawn from various members institutes of TOLIC-014 attended this workshop.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed while speaking on the occasion, informed the delegates of workshop about this endeavor of TOLIC, Jammu which is first of its kind and there are many steps which need to be taken by each and every partner of TOLIC in order to protect and promote our rich linguistic heritage while sustaining our lingual harmony. He further said that nothing is possible in silos



and we have to put our joint efforts to held high the dignity of rich cultural and linguistic legacy our nation is bestowed with. Appreciating the incredible role played by the TOLIC members in conducting this event, Dr. Ahmed opined that in near future regional conference for promotion of Hindi language would also organized.

In the First Session, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Rajbhasha Prachar Samiti, Jammu, delivered the lecture entitled, "Importance of Rajbhasha Hind. Dr. Rajeev Kumar Rawat, Sr. Hindi Officer, IIT-Kharagpur, who shared the technical and operational knowhow of the unique Memory Based Translation Tool "Kanthasth 2.0" which is recently released by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs in creative collaboration with C-DAC, Pune.

Dr. Sharat Sharma, Ex Principal, Central San-

skrit University, Jammu commenced the second half of the workshop with his lecture on the 'Translation Activities in Govt. Offices' which highlighted the various statutory and constitutional compliances which are to be followed in both letter and spirit in every government office. A more pragmatic approach regarding Hindi implementation in government bodies was shared by Nagender Kumar Mishra, Deputy General Manager, Engineers India Limited, Delhi, who delivered a much valuable lecture on the facts which are to be kept in mind while filling the Questionnaire of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language during a parliamentary inspection. Lastly, Dr. Priyanjan Sharma, Hindi Officer, Central University, Samba (Jammu) delivered the last lecture of the day on the 'Use of Official Language Hindi in Govt. Offices'.

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## Unprecedented rush at rallies sign of BJP's record breaking victory in Rajasthan: Kavinder

JINNEWS SERVICE  
DAUSA (RAJASTHAN), NOV 2

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Thursday said that the unprecedented rush of people at the public rallies in the State is the clear cut indication of party ensuring record breaking victory in the Assembly polls as people have fed up of corrupt Congress government led by Ashok Gehlot.

The senior BJP functionary was addressing an impressive gathering of supporters after accompanying party candidate Bhag Chand Saini to file the nomination papers for Bandikui Assembly Constituency in Dausa District of Rajasthan State.

The senior BJP leader said that after interacting with number of people in Rajasthan state it has become clear that they are waiting for the moment to



uproot the corruption-infested Congress government from the state.

The BJP stalwart from J&K also highlighted the misdemeanor committed by the Gehlot government as it remained deaf and dumb against the number of rapes and cases of leakage of papers in different recruitment drives in the State. He also raised the issue of demolition of temples in Rajasthan under the Congress dispensation. He said on one

hand, the BJP government is doing everything possible to construct temples and also protect the existing ones but on the other, the Rajasthan government allowed demolitions of temples, which is unacceptable.

The senior BJP leader reiterated that the BJP stands as a beacon of hope for the citizens of Rajasthan. The party's vision is to liberate the people of the state from what is perceived as "Jungle Raj,"

characterized by concerns over law and order, governance, and the safety and security of the people. Therefore the people should teach a lesson to the party allowing such a felony brazenly.

Others who accompanied Bhag Chand Saini include Jaskor Meena MP, Dr Anil Jain Member Rajya Sabha, Ram Kumar former MP, Prabhu Dyal Sharma District President Dausa and Satyanarayan former President.

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## KC IT Innoviz 23 begins on school campus

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

The 2nd edition of KC Innoviz-23 commenced today at the multi-sports hall of KC Sports Club. It is based on information technology and is being attended by delegates from various schools from Jammu.

The opening ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Chief Guest Mr. Munish Sharma, Vice President of BJP, Jammu. It was followed by Shiv Tandav -- a dance performed by senior students in tribute to Lord Shiva. It was followed by a robotic dance graciously performed by younger students and inspired by the 'Wednesday' dance.

In his address to the gathering, the chief guest expressed his views on how important technology is and congratulated the school for its effort in organising such a mass



event. He appreciated the organizing committee for bringing various schools of Jammu together on a relevant and contemporary matter.

Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra welcomed the guests and delegates and expressed his appreciation for their participation in the 3 days event from November 2 to 4.

The delegates will take part in various events based on IT such as

debugging, video editing, logo making and so on.

The organising committee of KC Innoviz'23 consists of about 50 members, led by the IT Head, Aabhas Upadhyay, Vice IT Head, Avni Datta, and Creative Heads Nitika Bhat and Krishna Gandotra. IT Faculty members Neha Badyal, Shuchi Singh, Suniya and Narinder Kour are providing support as teacher mentors.

## Shrine Board gives a rousing welcome to Para Archers on return from Hangzhou Asian Games

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KATRA, NOV 2

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Para archers Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar were received and traditionally welcomed by higher officials of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on behalf of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) with garlands and tilak amidst chanting of Vedic mantras at Jammu Airport for their outstanding performance at the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The Para-archers were seen wearing the medals secured in Hangzhou that made everyone proud. The SMVDSB Para-archers secured five medals out of seven medals won by Team India in archery events which included two gold and three silver in various archery events at the Para games.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board while congratulating all the Para-archers added that they have done extremely well and exuded confidence that given the excellent facilities, expert coaching, hard work and dedication, the Para-archers being trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex will be creating new records in the days to come as they will now be preparing hard for the 2024 Paralympics.

The Para-archers were overwhelmed by the gesture and affection of the recipients adding that it has been an unprecedented campaign, thanked and appreciated everyone for their love and support. Noteworthy that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met all the Para-archers on their return from the event and gave his blessings including to Sheetal Devi, the only Para athlete to shoot with her feet in the world and made a hat-trick of medals at the Hangzhou Para Asian Games.

## CS discusses modalities for establishment of CoE in production of temperate flower bulbs



JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 2

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today impressed upon the experts in the field to explore the possibility of developing floriculture on commercial lines by optimal utilization of the resources and favourable climatic conditions.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Kashmir; Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture; Director Floriculture, Kashmir; Field experts, HoDs/Professors from SKUAST besides other concerned officers of the Department.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the officers

to avail all the opportunities of providing avenues to the people in J&K for adopting floriculture on commercial lines since it had potential to provide much better returns than other options. He maintained that the climatic conditions of the UT are most suitable for this activity and it has a great potential to provide economic support to thousands of people.

Dr Mehta enjoined upon the officers of the floriculture department to demonstrate to public the significantly higher benefits this could yield to them. He maintained that commercial scale activity could bring returns worth millions. He asked the Department to formu-

late a massive floriculture programme on lines of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Department to make endeavors for plantation of flowers along newly developed cycle tracks, Riverfronts and other public spaces of the smart city areas so increase their appeal to public.

He advised them to go for massive flowering of all the gardens and parks with long-lasting domestic flower varieties like those of Orchids, Daffodils, Dahalias, Jasmines, Marigolds etc. He observed that it takes little planning to spruce up the public spaces if we are watchful towards our surround-

ings.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary also held deliberations with the University experts about the establishment of Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Temperate flower bud production. He expressed that such flowers have a great commercial value and can be successfully implemented in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in the UT. He asked for inculcating this proposal in the upcoming budget by the Department so that the same is established during next few years.

The experts including the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir informed the meeting that this CoE is envisaged to

make UT the hub of temperate bulb production for meeting the national requirements.

It was further revealed that India imports about 10-15 Cr temperate bulbs annually which includes 20 lakh Tulip bulbs, 10 Cr Lilium and 4-5 Cr other bulbs from European countries.

It was added that the value in terms of foreign exchange amounts to nearly Rs 400-500 Cr and can be tapped by the UT by establishment of this centre here. The further course includes capacity building and transfer of requisite technology from Holland to develop this sector on commercial lines in PPP mode in the UT.

## Rahul starts development of Park at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Councillor Ward No. 20 Rahul Kumar on Wednesday started the development work of Park No. 26 at Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The development work includes wall painting, open gym, hut-shaped canopy, and other amenities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Councillor highlighted the key initiatives taken by the BJP government at the centre for the development of Jammu city. He confirmed that the work on other parks in the ward will also start soon.

He said that the development of parks is a priority for the BJP government, as it is important to provide the people of Jammu with green spaces where they can relax and enjoy their time. He said

that the development of Park No. 26 will be a boon for the residents of Gandhi Nagar, and he is confident that it will become a popular spot for people of all ages.

He said that the government has allocated a significant budget for the development of parks, and he is confident that all parks in the ward will be developed in the near future.

Kumar also urged the residents of Gandhi Nagar to take care of the park and to keep it clean. He said that the park is a public property, and it is the responsibility of everyone to keep it in good condition.

Among those who were present on the occasion include Rikki Gupta, State Executive Member, Rajan Gupta, Rajesh Chib, Aman Chib, Surjeet Chib, and others.

## Purnima emphasizes preservation of rich heritage temples

### Kick-start devp works at ancient Mata Chintpurni Temple

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor, today laid stress upon the preservation of rich heritage temples of the Union Territory.

The senior BJP leader was speaking after kick-starting the renovation work at the ancient Mata Chintpurni Temple at Circular Road in Jammu, with an estimated cost of Rs 16 lakhs. She lauded the efforts of J&K Dharmarth Trust which is playing a vital role in maintaining and preserving the heritage temples of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv Purnima Sharma asserted that religious tourism is going to touch new heights in the coming times in the Jammu region.



She asserted that the government at the Centre is committed to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. She said that the renovation of the Chintpurni Temple is a step in that direction.

Purnima Sharma said that while funds are no constraint for the Centre whenever it is a question of developmental activities in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, at the same time it must be ensured that every penny granted by the Centre is used specifi-

cally for the purpose sans any pilferage.

The senior BJP leader said that the tourism sector of J&K is also a vital component of J&Ks developmental journey in which religious tourism in the form of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine pilgrims has already been playing a vital role. She said, "It is our collective responsibility to contribute to the task of socio-economic growth through various projects including those pertaining to religious tourism and to ensure desired results."

Purnima said that the Chintpurni Temple is one of the oldest and most revered temples in the Jammu region. She said that the temple is a place of worship for people of all faiths, and it is important to preserve it for future generations. She also said that the renovation of the temple will boost religious tourism in the Jammu region. She said that the temple will attract more pilgrims and tourists from across the country.

The former Deputy Mayor asserted that the government is strongly determined to expand the religious tourism corridor of Jammu thus paving the way for Jammu to become the top religious tourism destination in India. She urged the people of Jammu to support the government in its efforts to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of the region.

## SLCA J&K organizes "3-days capacity building program on Drug De-addiction" for functionaries of GIA Institutions

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

SLCAJ&K (State Level Coordinating Agency J&K) organized "3-days Capacity building program on Drug De-addiction for functionaries of GIA Institutions" from Oct 31st to Nov 1st, 2023 in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India. 25 number of functionaries of GIA institutions from all over the Jammu & Kashmir including Srinagar, Kupwara, Kulgam, Bandipora, Rajauri, Jammu etc. participated in the program.

Program started with the inaugural speech by Ms. Kimi Padhiar, SLCA official and program was inaugurated by Medical Superintendent, GMH, Gandhi Nagar, Dr. Arun Sharma. Resource persons for capacity building program were from



psychiatric department, GMC, Jammu; IRCA Jammu and JKSPYM. Topics covered in three-days program were components of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, Overview of drugs, drug addiction prevention and treatment, Science of Addiction & Reward

Pathway, Substance use related specific issues in children and adolescents, Basic Counselling Skills, Group Counselling Skills, Introduction & how to use to ASSIST Screening Tool, How to Score and introduction to ASSIST toolkit" etc. Capacity building

program concluded with the feedback session from participants and certificate distribution function and program ended with the vote of thanks to all the participants by Mr. Deepak Bhati, SLCA official.



## Order banning use of crackers near border 'draconian', siege on people's faith: Tony

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SUCHETGARH, NOV 2

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC member Suchetgarh, on Thursday castigated Jammu Administration for arbitrarily ordering ban on use of crackers along the border belt (Five Kilometers) during functions and festivals citing that loud sound could confuse security forces and villagers.

He was speaking after starting the PHE Pipe laying works at village Beaspur in Suchetgarh constituency. On the occasion, Sarpanch Beaspur Shashi Bhagat, Senior SC leader Shamlal Bagat, Sarpanch Tilak Raj Bagat and youth leader Mandep Choudhary were also present.

The senior Congress leader termed the aforesaid direction issued by DC Jammu as draconian claiming that the same happened to siege the faith of the people to celebrate festivals like Diwali which is fast approaching besides family functions like marriages, anniversaries and birthdays. He said that the incumbent government is going too



far as this is sheer interference with the people's lives and traditions.

The senior Congress leader asserted that the so called championed of people are depriving the people to celebrate their much-awaited festival as per the religious tradition.

Tony said that under earlier dispensations even during the ceasefire violations (CFVs) people were never forced to stop living their normal lives as the present case, where the

government is crossing the limit. He demanded that the aforesaid arbitrary order should be rescinded as soon as possible, allowing people to live their lives in a free and fair manner as the government cannot dictate terms in the aforesaid manner.

Addressing the gathering, Tony said that giving fillip to development was his top priority and he will work tirelessly to ensure all the amenities and facilities to the people. Tony assured the inhabitants of the area that he will take up all their issues and will not stop until each and every problem is mitigated to the satisfaction of concerned people.

He assured that public service and welfare of society will be his benchmark approach. "Come what may, I will not take rest until the ultimate goal of making Suchetgarh a model area is not achieved", he vowed.

In his opening remarks, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana highlighted the remarkable socio-economic transformation that has taken place in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir following the historic abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A. The discussion primarily centered around the significant improvements in socio-political and economic conditions, with a particular focus on the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Back-

## Two-day seminar on "Socio-economic Transformation, Inclusive and Sustainable Development" commences

### PM Modi introduced historic changes for welfare of J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOV 2

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajya Sabha (Nominated) Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today presented the keynote address at the two-day long national seminar on "Socio-economic Transformation, Inclusive and Sustainable Development." The event was organized by the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

MP Khatana underscored the far-reaching changes that have been implemented to promote inclusive development and uplift the marginalized communities. Notable measures mentioned in his speech include political reservations for Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in local bodies, panchayats, and the assembly, ensuring their active participation in the democratic process. Additionally, citizenship rights have been granted to West Pakistan Refugees, Gorkhas, Valmikis, and



ward Classes (OBCs), and those residing along the International border.

He commended the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government for their commitment to the development of the region. Under their stewardship, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in developmental activities. The introduction of geotagging for local produce, such as Saffron, Pashmina, Basohli paintings, and Basmati rice, has been a pivotal step towards enhancing the visibility and accessibility of these unique

products, both within India and on the international stage.

Khatana shed light on the positive transformations that have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir, fostering socio-economic development, inclusivity, and sustainable progress in the region. The seminar, organized by the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, has brought together experts, scholars, and policymakers to deliberate on these crucial issues, providing a platform for meaningful discussions and insights that can drive progress in the socio-economic landscape of the Union Territory.

## J&K construction of Ramban Viaduct, a remarkable feat spanning length of 1.08 km with 4 lanes has been successfully completed: Nitin Gadkari

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOV 2

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari in a series of posts said in Jammu and Kashmir, we have successfully completed the construction of the Ramban Viaduct, a remarkable feat spanning a length of 1.08 kilometer with 4 lanes. He said the project, built at a cost of Rs 328 crore, is situated on the Udhampur-Ramban section of National Highway-44. Gadkari said this extraordinary viaduct is composed of



26 spans and employs a combination of concrete and steel girders in its structural design. Its completion significantly alleviates traffic congestion in Ramban Bazar, facilitating the smooth flow of vehicles, he added.

The Union Minister said embracing the

visionary leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, we stand dedicated to providing Jammu and Kashmir with a superlative highway infrastructure. He said this monumental achievement not only propels regional economic prosperity but also augments its allure as a top-tier tourist haven.

## BJP holds weekly public darbar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held its weekly public darbar at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP secretary Vikas Choudhary and Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Incharge Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, listened to the grievances of people in the Public Darbar.

Deputations and individuals from RS Pura, Nanak Nagar, Udhampur, Kud, Patnitop, Vikram Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Channi Himmat, Gandhi Nagar, Bajalta, Bhalwal, Rajinder Bazar presented issues related to lanes, drains, restoration of water supply, new pipeline, sweepers, construction of exit gate by Govt Hospital, Sarwal etc.

Vikas Choudhary said that the BJP leaders took up every issue of the vis-

iting deputations with the concerned department officials for early disposals. While many of their issues were resolved on the spot, for others, written and telephonic communications were made with the concerned.

Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal said that BJP leaders sincerely try to provide the solution to every issue presented by the visiting persons and deputations. He said that on every day, excluding Sunday, there is a great rush of people in daily public darbars, which shows that the general masses had developed trust in the party and its leaders.

Co-convenors Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan TK Sharma & Rajinder Bali, BJP Mahila Morcha Spokesperson Pooja Grover, Ramesh Katoch and others were also present on the occasion.

## Will do justice with minorities if voted to power: Altaf Bukhari



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari said that his Party will do justice with the minorities if voted to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

Altaf Bukhari assured the delegation led by District President Minority Cell, Dalbir Singh that he would do justice with the minorities in Jammu and Kashmir for their social, political, and educational upliftment.

On this occasion, the Apni Party Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir, and Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh were also present in the meeting with the delegation of Apni Party's minority

cell.

In this meeting, the delegation held threadbare discussion regarding the Sikh community and protection of cultural heritage of the minorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

They informed that the Punjabi language is being spoken by a large section of people in Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of regional or religious identity.

"The language is a binding force for the communities and therefore, it must be promoted and recognized as one of the official languages in Jammu and Kashmir," the deputation informed the Apni Party President, during their meeting.

They also demanded

reservation of two Legislative Assembly seats i.e., one each in Jammu Region and Kashmir Region.

After hearing them, Altaf Bukhari assured his Party's commitment towards the upliftment of minorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

As far as the demand of Punjabi language is concerned, he assured the delegation that the Punjabi language would be considered, and it is in the agenda of the Apni Party.

Extending his support, he said that the demand of two Legislative Assembly seats should be accepted by granting two Legislative Assembly seats each in Jammu and Kashmir Regions to the Sikh Community.

## BJP dedicates library to Parihar brothers



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary Sunil Sharma, and party's Nanaji Deshmukh Library and e-library Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, inaugurated newly established library in Kishtwar district office in presence of district office bearers, senior leaders and prominent citizens.

Sunil Sharma on this occasion, said that the district library has been dedicated to BJP senior leader Anil Parihar and his brother Ajit Parihar, the great nationalists, who were gunned down by militants in 2018 as they had been uniting the people of the district to defeat the nefarious designs of anti-India forces. He said that such brave persons who attain martyrdom for the cause

of nation always remain in the heart of the people and this library will prove to a source of reminding the people of the supreme sacrifices of the Parihar brothers.

Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra said that the BJP has already established a library in its headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, which has been dedicated to a great nationalist and inspiring ideologue Nanaji Deshmukh. Today, this library is serving a large population, particularly the students, scholars and book lovers. In this library, the visitors find books on varied subjects and similar facility will be added to the Kishtwar district library.

District President Chuni Lal Shan expressed gratitude to the party for dedicating the library to Parihar brothers, terming it as a tribute to them.

## National integration tour at Jak Li Regimental Centre

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, 2 NOV

A group of 25 students including 16 boys and 09 girls alongwith 02 teachers from Hanu Aryan Valley of the Ladakh region visited The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre on 01-02 Nov 2023 for a National Integration Tour under the aegis of Fire & Fury Corps. These students are visiting outside Ladakh region to the rest of India for the first time. The aim of the tour is to broaden their horizons by showcasing them various facets of India to gain first hand experience of varied culture, traditions, development, technological & economical advancements across the Nation. This will motivate them to achieve better jobs and career through education and contribute towards nation building.

During their stay at JAK Li Regimental Centre, the children visited Maqbool Sherwani Museum showcasing the history of Jammu and Kashmir and Hall of Fame, which houses the memoirs and brave stories of the fallen heroes from the Regiment. A motivational and educational movie on the history and background of the Regiment was also screened in the auditorium. They later visited an operational unit where display of equipments and interaction with frontline troops was organised.

## EOW-CB, Jammu charge-sheets couple for issuing fake Diplomas in different trades

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu produced 301 page preliminary charge-sheet in case FIR No. 11/2017 U/S 420,465,468,471,120-B RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu against accused Husband-wife duo - 1) Gurbaksh Singh @ G.B Singh (MD-Kissan Institute of Technology, R.S Pura) S/o Late S. Sewa Singh R/o H.No. 64 W.No. 08 R.S.Pura Jammu A/P H.No.177 near Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar Jammu and 2) Bharti Bhat (Principal KIT, R.S Pura) W/o Gurbaksh Singh D/o Jia Lal Bhat R/O H.No.177 near Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar Jammu for

cheating students by providing them fake diploma certificates of Plumber, Electrician etc. posing as Managing Director and Principal of Kissan Institute of Technology R.S. Pura, Jammu, knowingly that they were not authorized to conduct such examinations and issue diplomas for various NCVT and SCVT trades, which were further used by students for job in PHE Department as skilled workers.

Brief facts of the case are that a complainant titled Harpreet Singh & others V/S Executive Engineer PHE Department, Division Poonch, was received in Crime Branch Jammu from



the Vigilance Commission J&K to the effect that some candidates having Plumber/Electrician certificates from Kissan Institute of Technology R.S. Pura, Jammu were engaged by the Executive Engineer, PHE Poonch, as need based casual labourers but on verification of their diploma certificates through Directorate of Technical Education, it was found that these diploma certificates were fake. It was also revealed that permission/affiliation granted by the Directorate to the Kissan Institute of Technology, R.S. Pura, Jammu an Industrial Training Institute

(IT) for running the courses under NCVT and SCVT was also kept in abeyance till further orders and the institute was not allowed to make any admissions in any of the trades from August, 2016. However, the institute in violation of the norms and the standing orders and in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy admitted the students and issued them fake diploma certificates, which were used by these candidates in order to secure Govt. job through fraudulent means.

On receipt of the complaint alongwith the verification report instant case was registered by Crime Branch Jammu under the relevant sections of law for indepth

investigation. During the course of investigation, material evidence in the form of documentary record, FSL report was collected from concerned quarters besides statements of complainant/witnesses u/s 161 Cr.PC was recorded and also keeping in view the circumstantial evidence enumerated above, it has been found that the accused cheated the students by providing them fake Plumber/Electrician diploma certificates /diplomas for NCVT trade and SCVT trades, knowingly that they were not authorized to conduct such exams and issue such diplomas. Offences U/S 420,465,468,471,120-B RPC has been proved against accused persons.



## Retired Officers Forum conducts Awareness Programme on Cyber Crime



**J NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Training Branch of Cyber Crime of J&K Police, in collaboration with Retired Officers Forum, conducted a Programme on Cyber Crime Awareness, in J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides Gandhi Nagar Jammu. Purpose of the Programme was to acquaint General Public, Senior Citizens in particular, about the cyber crime. Generally Senior citizens are not well acquainted with the latest techniques of Information technology, with the result many of our colleagues are being duped by virtue of ignorance, as such Retired Officers Forum felt necessity to arrange one such Programme on the very important subject.

Programme was organized under the chairmanship of Sh ID Soni, Forum President and was conducted by Sh SC Rekhi, General Secretary. Mr Sohail Kazmi, A Social Activist and Chairman

Taskeen Group of Publications and Sh K B Jandial IAS Officer were Special invitees.

Nearly 100 Senior Citizens Participated, including IAS Officers, IGPs, Directors, Chief Engineer, CAO & many more Retired from respectable posts.

Mr KS Samyal, President Confederation of Voluntary, Social & Charitable Organisation & S Harbhan Singh, ROF Financial Advisor approached the Members to make the Programme a great Success.

S/Sh Gagandeep Singh and Rakesh Sharma from Crime Branch awared the participants about what to do & what not to do and advised about the precautions needs to be adopted, while using Electronics equipments. Participants/Members cleared their doubts in interaction session with the officers of Crime Branch. Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain State yoga Commissioner & ROF Vice President Felicitated the dignitaries and presented Vote of Thanks.

## ASCOMS & Hospital organizes CME on Palliative Care



**J NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital organized a CME on various aspects of palliative care under the guidance of Nandita Mehta, Prof & HOD, Anaesthesia, ASCOMS and support of Mr. D.K. Batra, Secretary ASCOMS in which national and international speakers were invited to deliver their talk and share their experiences.

DrAshutosh Gupta Principal and Dean Govt. Medical College Jammu & Director, State Cancer Institute, Jammu was the Chief Guest and Dr. LotikaKhajuria, State Drug Controller, Drugs & Food Control Organization, J&K, Jammu was the Guest of Honor graced the occasion. Ms. Gilly Burn,

a Palliative Care Practitioner, United Kingdom and Founder Director, Cancer Relief India and an expert on Palliative Care was a special invitee who deliberated the importance of palliative care in medical practice and also spoke about good communication and compassion for the suffering patient and their families.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, while speaking on the occasion, lauded the efforts made by Dr. Nandita Mehta, Prof. & HOD Deptt. of Anaesthesia ASCOMS and her team for organizing this type of event. He also deliberated on basics and scope of palliative care in Jammu. DrLotikaKhajuria the guest of honour also appreciated the efforts being made by Dr. Nandita & her team for organiz-

ing this scientific activity and spoke on opioids and their availability. DrNandita Mehta in her address thanked Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Dr. LotikaKhajuria and Ms. Gilly Burn for sparing their valuable time to attend this scientific event and share their views. Dr. Nanditaspoke on management of pain in palliative care. The event was well attended by specialists and students from various institutions of the city.

Dr. Nandita Mehta also thanked the ASCOMS Management and one and all for their support and guidance.

## Div Com Jammu accords warm reception to Champion para Athlete Sheetal Devi & Rakesh Kumar at Jammu



**J NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today received and welcomed 16-year-old Para Athletes Sheetal Devi and Para Athlete Rakesh Kumar at Jammu. The Para Athletes have returned after winning Medals at recently concluded Para Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China. Sheetal Devi, who was born without arms, has defied all odds to become the World's First Arm-

less Female Champion Archer. The Div Comm saluted her grit, determination and invincible spirit of Sheetal Devi that made her worlds first para Archer without arms. He also lauded the hardwork and achievements of Rakesh Kumar.

The UT of J&K and while nation is proud of the achievements of the para Athletes, he said.

The Div Comm further added that the UT of J&K under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is making

all efforts to promote sports and promote the sportspersons.

He also appreciated the role of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for nurturing and provide facilities to the athletes.

ADDC Kishtwar, Sham Lal, member J&K Sports Council Ranjit Kalra; DSO Sports Council, Baljinder Singh; Arjuna Awadee, Krupali Singh; Coach Abhilasha Choudhary, Escort Romika Sharma and other prominent sportspersons were present on the occasion.

## General Zorawar Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust honours Riders Of Dhakkan

**J NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, NOV 2

Today General Zorawar Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust welcome the Riders of Dhakkan to Jammu



traveling on India's largest National Highway NH44, which encompasses 7 other National Highways, including NH1A, NH1, NH2, NH3, NH75, NH27, NH7.

On this Occasion, Trustees of General Zorawar Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust ® and President of Yuva Rajput Sabha Welcomed by garlanding.

Trustee Diksha Kaluria, Riya Kaluria, President Vikram Chib, President Iron Hawk Riders, Bhanu Jamwal, Mandeep Chib Sr. Vice President, Pawan Singh, Bhanu Bhalwal, Sarpanch Rakesh Koul others are present.

plan to install a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Hindavi Swarajya, near India-Pakistan Border To offer Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to humanity, this campaign has been launched. In this campaign, Gajanan Sarkale, Bharat Jadhav Sir, Santosh Honkarpe Sir, Kanoj Kusalkar and Atharva Kokil will ride together, covering a distance of 6500 km in 18

days. The journey of this campaign will start from Trivandrum (Kerala) on October 25th, and it will cover Trivandrum (Kerala) - Kanyakumari - Madurai - Salem - Bangalore - Anantapur - Hyderabad - Nagpur - Jhansi - Gwalior - Agra - Delhi - Jalandhar - Pathankot - Jammu - Kashmir - Kupwada - Pune, spanning 18 days across 13 states of India. You will be



**Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer,**  
**Mechanical & Hospital Division, Doda.**

Email: [medkhellani@gmail.com](mailto:medkhellani@gmail.com)

**GIST OF e-TENDER NOTICE No. - MHDD/TS/2023-24/36 & 37 dated: 01.11.2023 Due on: - 11.11.2023**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, e-tenders in two cover system, Cover-I : CDR / FDR & Pre-Qualifications, Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II Price Bid, are invited from the registered firms / workshops having their own workshops, for the following works :-

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Document	Due Date	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Estimate d Cost(in lacs)	Time of Completion	Tender Receiving Authority
1.	MHDD/TS/2023-24/36 of Repairs to DRR No. 2004410 WILSON	200/-	11-11-2023	1900/-	0.91	10 days	Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division, Doda
2.	MHDD/TS/2023-24/37 of Repair to the Departmental DG Set 25KVA	200/-	11-11-2023	700/-	0.31	10 days	Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division, Doda

For details of work, terms and conditions and any other clarifications, kindly contact the Office of the undersigned on any working day up to 11.11.2023.

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Mechanical & Hospital Division**  
**Doda.**

**DIP/J-10500/23**  
**Date: 3-11-23**



**Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**PWD (R&B) UDHAMPUR- RAMBAN CIRCLE UDHAMPUR**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> call E-NIT No. 44 of 2023-24 Dated 30/10/2023 (e-tendering)**

**1<sup>st</sup> call E-NIT No. 37 of 2023-24 Dated 14/10/2023 (e-tendering)**

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

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.₹)	Earnest Money (in Rs.₹)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	Improvement of road from Dibber to Salmay Bridge	47.78	600	2% of advertised cost)	02 Months	(1400 Hrs) on or after 09/11/2023	"A"/"B" Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded by the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Udhampur-Ramban Circle vide Order No. SEU/Drg./2023-24/263 of 2023 Dt.25/10/2023

Position of T.S :- Accorded by the Chief Engineer, PW (R&B) Department, Jammu Vide Order No. 611 of October 2023 Dated 27/10/2023.

Major Head of Account :- Under ARD Programme.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30/10/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30/10/2023 to 08/11/2023 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	02/11/2023 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Udhampur-Ramban, Circle Udhampur.
4	Bid submission Start Date	30/10/2023 from 1700 Hrs.
5	Bid Submission End Date	08/11/2023 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09/11/2023 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Udhampur-Ramban, Circle Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

No:- SEU/2023-24/2976-94  
Dated:30/10/2023

**Sd/**  
**(Er. KISHORE KUMAR)**  
**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**PWD(R&B) UDHAMPUR- RAMBAN CIRCLE**  
**UDHAMPUR**

**DIP/J-10495/23**  
**Date: 3-11-23**



## Union Secretary inaugurates "One Nation One Ration Card" awareness programme in Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2

Union Secretary, Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Sanjeev Chopra, inaugurated an awareness programme on "One Nation One Ration Card" here at Udhog Bhawan today.

Union Secretary Department of Food public distribution, while addressing on the occasion, highlighted the importance of the scheme for ensuring food security for vulnerable sections across the country. He emphasized that Government of India has been making all out efforts to ensure success of the flagship programme, for the larger interest of the beneficiaries. He also elaborated to beneficiaries the highlights of the scheme and need for availing and promoting benefits under the scheme.

To symbolize the program's success and government's commitment towards food security, Sanjeev Chopra personally distributed fortified rice packets among the beneficiaries present at the event. This gesture marked a significant step toward realizing "One Nation One Ration Card" initiative's goals.

"The program's launch and the positive responses from beneficiaries in Jammu demonstrates the program's effectiveness in



facilitating access to essential food items and ensuring that no eligible citizen goes without basic necessities, regardless of their location within India", maintained the Union Secretary.

During the event, Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Zubair Ahmed, made a detailed presentation on coverage under the Public Distribution System in J&K. He revealed that the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs is currently providing free and subsidized food grains to 25 lakh households, benefiting 98 lakh beneficiaries. Of these, 66,56,907 beneficiaries, covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), receive free food grains, while 31,55,292 beneficiaries receive food grains at highly subsidized rate in the NPHH group.

Commissioner Secretary said the department has been actively working

on reforms and technology interventions to make the Public Distribution System more transparent and convenient for beneficiaries. Additionally, J&K has been providing additional top-up of up to 10 kilograms per month to Priority Households under the Prime Minister's Food Supplementation for Priority Households Scheme. Statutory mechanisms have been established and strengthened to ensure efficient operations of the Public Distribution System for the greater public good, he added.

He said distribution of 100% fortified rice across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, which commenced in October 2023, under NFSA is one of the noteworthy developments. Moreover, more than one million deletions were made during the De-duplication exercise, while 89,427 genuine households were also added to the Public Distribution System.

"One Nation One Ration Card" initiative, aimed at facilitating inter-state portability, was rolled out in August 2020 in J&K and is now available in all districts at 6,413 Point of Sale (PoS) devices, he informed. He also apprised that Jammu and Kashmir is ranked 9th in the country for implementation of this scheme, with 79,530 ONORC and 21,08,150 portability transactions executed thus far.

Zubair Ahmed said the department has made substantial progress in PDS reforms by leveraging technology. Digitization of Ration Cards and Beneficiaries has reached 100%, and Aadhaar seeding status of Ration Cards and Beneficiaries at all levels is also 100%. Additionally, the automation of Fair Price Shops, including the installation of ePOS devices, is 100%. The tracking of the supply chain management of food grains stands at 97%, and Aadhaar/OTP authenticated transactions are at 94%.

A PowerPoint presentation also made by Union Deputy Secretary, DFPD, L.P Sharma, during the event explained "One Nation One Ration Card" program's objectives, emphasizing its role in streamlining the distribution of food essentials and enabling beneficiaries to access their entitled rations seamlessly, regardless of their location within the country.

One of the most heartening aspects of the event was the testimonials from beneficiaries, particularly migrant laborers, who shared their experiences and expressed their joy at receiving food grains in Jammu, despite hailing from outside Jammu & Kashmir. This underscores the tangible impact the program is having on the ground, particularly for those with mobile lifestyles who otherwise face challenges in accessing essential food supplies.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Labour Commissioner J&K, Abdul Rashid War, Director FCS&CA Jammu, Rifat Kohli, General Manager, FCI, Kaushik Das, and Consultant DFPD, GoI, Khushboo Kumari were present on the occasion.

About 120 beneficiaries and FPS dealers attended the awareness programme. The event was broadcast live over DFPD's official YouTube page.

## ADC reviews Implementation of District Environment Plan in Udhampur district



JINNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 2

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, on Thursday convened a meeting in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress achieved under the District Environment Plan.

During the meeting, different aspects were discussed, including Solid Waste Management, Bio-medical Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, Construction and Demolition waste management, Control of Identified Polluted River Stretches, Industrial Wastewater Management,

Domestic Sewerage Management, Mining Activity Management, Hazardous Waste, E-Waste Management, Water Quality Management, and Restoration of Water Bodies.

While reviewing the status of the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan, the ADC directed the CEO MC and EOs to ensure the scientific and regulated disposal of solid waste.

The District Officer PCC Udhampur was also directed to constitute anti-polythene squads to enforce ban on the banned material. The EOs were instructed to enhance door-to-door garbage collection, waste seg-

regation, and immediate improvement of garbage dumping sites.

Regarding the disposal of Biomedical Waste, the ADC directed the Health Department to strictly implement the guidelines.

The ADC emphasized the need for comprehensive environmental conservation measures in the district, including extensive plantation initiatives, reduction of plastic and polythene usage, and improved waste disposal practices. CEO MC Udhampur, EOs Chenani, and Ramnagar reported the establishment of collection points in compliance with NGT directives in their respective areas.

## Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary assumes office as DC Ramban

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, NOV 2

Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today assumed the office as Deputy Commissioner



Ramban. Senior officers from the District Administration led by the ADC welcomed the Deputy Commissioner on his arrival at the District Administrative Complex, Ramban.

## BIS conducts sensitization program for Gram Panchayats in Dali Udyanpur Block

JINNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, NOVEMBER 2

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office, today conducted the first of its kind sensitisation programme for Sarpanches and Panchayat secretaries of Dali-Udyanpur block of district Doda.

The programme was conducted by Standard Promotion Officer (SPO) Ashish Kumar Dwivedi and BIS Resource Person Raja Amir Karim was also present on the occasion.

During the programme Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries from the block became part of this programme which was attended by several local people as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashish Dwivedi gave the overview of the working of BIS and the purpose of holding the sensitisation programme at block level. He explained the need of looking for ISI marked products for the betterment of the people on the whole. "There are mandatory and non-mandatory ISI marked products being produced by factories and BIS provides license to these factories who adopt standards of BIS. It is in the best interest of the people in general and country in particular to opt for ISI marked products which helps the country to grow," he added.

The SPO provided information about hallmark-



ing of gold and how one can differentiate between hallmarked and non-hallmarked gold. He also demonstrated the BIS Care App to the members and asked them to download the same from the google play store.

BIS Resource Person Raja Amir Karim emphasised upon reaching out to the people at panchayat levels and making them aware about standardisation. He asked panchayat secretaries and block development officers to opt for ISI marked prod-

ucts in tenders of works being floated by the rural development department.

BDO Dali-Udyanpur Yasir Hussain Wani appreciated the BIS team for choosing his block to start the sensitisation campaign in the district and hoped that in future also the relationship between the department and BIS will grow heaps and bounds. "There were many things which we were not aware about but are required in the daily life of a man. This information will certainly help us in our offi-

cial and personal lives," Wani added.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarpanch Bharath-A panchayat Muhammad Abdullah Bandy said that they have attended various programmes of different departments but the information shared with them today was unique which is important for their daily life as well as works initiated by PRIs. "We hope that such programmes are conducted at grassroot level as well and people will be benefitted," Bandy added.

## Power shutdown

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2

Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua

has informed that the power supply to CTM Factory, Govindsor, GMC, Chackludan Police Line, Shiv Puri Chack Luden, Chack Sajjan and Industries under SIDCO-IV will remain affected on November 03 from 8.30 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to CTM Factory, Govindsor, GMC, Chackludan Police Line, Shiv Puri Chack Luden and Chack Sajjan will remain affected on November 03 and 04 from 7 am to 12 noon.

## Remote Shandri Panchayat of Kuntwara area gets first Health Center

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 2

The people of the remotest Shandri Panchayat in the Kuntwara area of Kishtwar district have reason to rejoice as Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav has issued a landmark order for the establishment of a health center at Bhatkoot, Shandri Panchayat.

Following a visit to the village on November 1st, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav took immediate action to address the healthcare needs of this far-off habitation that also lacks road connectivity. This decision is set to bring about a transformative change in the lives of

the people of the region.

The establishment of this health center will ensure essential medical services, including vaccination and institutional deliveries. It will put an end to the arduous 8 to 10 kilometer journey on foot that women and children had to undertake for basic medical needs.

The order specifies the creation of a temporary health center at Bhatkoot, Shandri Panchayat, under the aegis of the Red Cross Society Kishtwar. Additionally, the Sarpanch of Shandri Panchayat has generously offered two rooms with water and electricity facilities, free of cost, for one year to support the initiative.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar will furnish the health center with essential equipment, including a labor table, radiant warmer, labor equipment, weighing machine, IIR, and vaccination setup, on a loan basis, as detailed in the order.

Furthermore, Red Cross Kishtwar will provide Jan Aushadhi medicines procured through CMO, adding value to the healthcare services.

As part of the infrastructure setup, ACP Kishtwar will supply a 1 KW solar backup system with a battery and inverter under the 14th Finance Commission. Recruitment for one nurse and one phar-

macist will be conducted from the local inhabitants of Shandri Panchayat by the Chief Medical Officer Kishtwar, in consonance to the established norms.

This order aligns with the directive dated October 17, 2023, in letter no: RC/SB/485/541-62, by the General Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing the need for dispensaries in remote areas, staffed by locally available doctors, nurses, and pharmacists.

This initiative stands as a testament to the administration's commitment to provide basic healthcare services to even the most remote and underserved areas.

## DDC reviews progress of Key RDD Sector Schemes in Udhampur

JINNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 2

District Development Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today led a comprehensive review of implementation of flagship Rural development schemes, including MPLADs, ABDP, APDP, PMAY-G, Amrit Sarovar, and SBM, currently in progress in the District.

The meeting took place in the Mini Conference Hall in the DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, Chief Planning Officer, Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar, Assistant Commissioner Develop-



ment, Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal, DPO, Dr. Manmeet Kumar, along with various other officers and all Block Development Officers (BDOs).

During the review, a detailed analysis of scheme progress at the block level was conducted. The DDC underscored the critical importance of timely implementation,

quality, and transparency in executing these schemes.

The BDOs were instructed to ensure the completion of ongoing projects within specified timeframes and expedite work to meet government-set targets. The District Development Commissioner emphasized on maintaining transparency

and accountability as central principles in RDD sector projects across the district. She called upon the officers to work diligently and with unwavering dedication to achieve the set targets for the current financial year, stressing the need for rigorous monitoring to uphold work quality and adherence to timelines.