



## DC Jammu inspects developmental activities in Panchayat Garkhal being developed as Model Village

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today visited Garkhal Panchayat in the Akhnoor block to assess the ongoing efforts to transform the village into a Model Village.

A meeting took place at the Panchayat Ghar, where the Deputy Commissioner met with PRI representatives, government functionaries and officers.

During the meeting, comprehensive discussions were held. The pace of work for the Jal Jeevan Mission was reviewed, focusing on ensuring clean water supply for the village's residents. Health infrastructure and facilities were addressed to enhance the well-being of Garkhal's inhabitants.

The RDSS and Capex works of the Power Development Department were scrutinised. Challenges



from Harijan Basti to Gujjar Basti, emphasising the necessity for its repair. Additionally, they sought improvement of Civic amenities in camps for nomads.

The Deputy Commissioner issued a clear directive to officers, emphasising the importance of adhering to deadlines for assigned tasks and projects. He assured that the most pressing issues would be prioritised, with the remaining matters addressed in due course.

Furthermore, special

instructions were given to the SDM, SHO and Tehsildar to maintain law and order and promptly address any hindrance to the village's development.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Government High School Garkhal and interacted with the students. He advised the teachers to give special attention to students with special needs. The school infrastructure was also inspected and feedback was taken from the school authorities. The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh; Chief Planning Officer, Yoginder Katoch, SDM, Tehsildar and BDO from Akhnoor, besides other officers.

from Harijan Basti to Gujjar Basti, emphasising the necessity for its repair. Additionally, they sought improvement of Civic amenities in camps for nomads.

Furthermore, special

## Forest Department Doda targets to plant 4 lakh saplings in Winter Season

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, OCTOBER 6

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Vishesh Mahajan and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Abdal Qayoom today participated in a mega plantation drive organized by the Forest Department. The significant event took place at the Sports Stadium near Vikas Bhawan, under the vigilant supervision of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ravinder Singh.

The focus of this plantation drive was to enhance the aesthetic appeal of Doda town while promoting an eco-friendly environment. Deputy Commissioner led the way by planting young Chinar tree saplings, a symbolic gesture of commitment to the cause. The event drew the participation of various officers and officials from the Forest Department, all of whom extended a warm welcome to the Deputy Commissioner.



The primary objective behind this initiative was to combat deforestation, driven by both human intervention and natural factors, and to bolster the greenery in Doda. DC lauded the Forest Department's proactive efforts to protect the environment, emphasizing the importance of continued plantation drives in preserving the region's ecosystem.

DFO Doda expressed heartfelt gratitude for Deputy Commissioner Mahajan's presence at this prestigious plantation drive, extending appreciation to all the officers and officials who contributed to the initiative.

DFO Doda informed that the winter plantation is carried out in Doda Forest Division, with active participa-

tion and support of District Administration and is planning to undertake plantation on large scale through 'Har Gaon Harayali' campaign & 'One Beat guard - One Village Programme' under the umbrella of J&K Green Drive in all 237 panchayats of the District.

More than 4 lakh plants of different species are being planted during the winter season starting from November onwards. This event serves as a crucial step towards fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly environment in Doda. The initiative underscores the critical role that trees play in mitigating climate change, improving air quality, and providing a habitat for wildlife.

## DC Samba discusses arrangements for approaching Festival Season

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, OCTOBER 6

District Development Commissioner Samba discussed arrangements for upcoming festivals, including Navratras, Mahanavami, Dussehra, and Diwali here at a meeting of line departments.

One of the key points discussed during the meeting was the importance of cleanliness and sanitation in Gram Panchayats and temples. It was decided that the Block Development Officer (BDO) and the Executive Officer (EO) of the Municipality would be responsible for ensuring cleanliness of the areas and to ensure that only decomposable materials are disposed of in water bodies.

The Jal Shakti Department was tasked with ensuring the availability of water during the festivals to meet the community's needs. Additionally, there was a discussion about providing uninterrupted power supply through the availability of generators to ensure the smooth flow of festivities.

Efficient traffic management during the festivals was emphasized, with the Traffic Police responsible for staff deployment. Security for Ramleelas was another concern, particularly for women, and provisions for toilet facilities and water were prioritized. Tehsildar Baribrahma was designated to oversee queue management at Purmandal and ensure cleanliness, including the installation of dustbins at essential locations. The aim was to make the event a "zero garbage event" by promoting responsible waste disposal. Legal metrology teams will conduct market checks to ensure compliance with regulations, including the availability of milk products during Navratras monitored by the Animal Husbandry Department. Furthermore, only green crackers, following Supreme Court guidelines, will be allowed, with Chinese crackers prohibited.

## DC Budgam reviews progress of schemes under Mission Youth



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 6

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting to review Mission Youth and Skill Development Programme at Conference Hall.

At the outset, the DC heading the District Committee gave approval to various beneficiary cases of Mumkin and Tejaswini schemes under Mission Youth programme.

He stressed on imparting skilled training to the youth of the district to

help them to get trained in various trades.

He directed that all the line departments shall prepare a comprehensive skill development training chart where in different course training will be comprehensively discussed.

He directed BDOs for identification of local youth in rural areas over and above other line departments and submit the same list with District Administration.

The DC said imparting potential and suitable trades for the train-

ing of the youth for their proper hand holding is important. He also said that skilled training shall provide ample opportunities to the youth in both manufacturing and service sectors.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak; JD Planning, Rafiq Ahmad; Principal ITI, DS&EO, DD Employment, CMO, ACP, DIO, District Head JKEDI, KVK, and RLM, all BDOs, officers and officials from Handicrafts Handloom besides others concerned.

## Bandipora Autumn Festival: Season-1 of 'Kashur Fankar' held at Wular Vantage Park

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 5

With the aim of promoting Bandipora as prominent tourist destination, a vibrant 'Kashur Fankar' event was today held as part of Bandipora Autumn Festival at the Wular Vantage Park in Bandipora.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad presided over the vibrant music festival, 'Kashur Fankar'.

The event organised by District Administration in collaboration with Ali Sports Academy, Bandipora, was attended by aspiring musicians, prominent singers, and artists from the valley to showcase their extraordinary talents. Besides the young music aspirants, the top singers and artists from the valley, including Gulzar Ahmad Ganaie, Noor Mohammad, Nazir Ganaie were also present on the occasion.

Kashur Fankar proved to be a remarkable platform for budding artists to display their musical prowess and artistic flair. The festival was organised to nurture and promote the rich cultural heritage



and artistic diversity of the Kashmir Valley.

During the event, a captivating lineup of musical performances, ranging from traditional Kashmiri folk music to contemporary genres, showcasing the versatility of the local artist, were performed. The rich cultural traditions of Kashmir mesmerized the audience in the occasion.

Apart from the musical performances, Kashur Fankar also hosted masterclasses conducted by renowned musicians and artists.

Attendees were treated to a feast for their ears in addition to the scenic beauty of natural wonders of the region.

Dr Owais, on the occasion, said that the gathering here serves as an inspi-

ration for the whole valley of Kashmir to preserve the cultural heritage of Kashmiri tradition. He said that youth is full of potential, which needs to be nurtured given proper platform. Talent should not be hidden, it must be expressed through such platforms, the DC added.

The DC extended his gratitude to all involved and expressed optimism for the continued growth of the local artistic community.

Shafat Ahmad, Mohamad Mudassir, Yawar Ayoub, Arshid Margo, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani were among the budding singers who made it to finals. However, after many singing rounds, the jury declared Yawar Ayoub as the Winner of 'Kashur Fankar'. People on the occasion congratulated the winner and other participants.

## ADDC reviews functioning of Revenue department at Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 6

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani today chaired a meeting of revenue department here to review the performance under various priority indicators.

Threadbare discussion was held regarding all revenue matters which include implementation of online services, attestation of pending mutations, digitization of land records, status of PM-KISAN and other services.

The ADDC reviewed the disposal of online services under PSGA and stressed upon the officials that no application should be served out of timeline.

The meeting also reviewed the status of PM-KISAN tehsil wise and directed CAO and Tehsildars to activate their field staff so that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under the scheme.

## Sankalp Saptah- Day 4: Krishi Mahotsav organised in Aspirational Block Marwah



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 6

In conjunction with the ongoing "Sankalp Saptah" in the aspirational blocks of Kishtwar District, the Department of Agriculture, Sub-Division Marwah, orchestrated a successful Krishi Mahotsav at the Block Headquarters, Marwah.

This event, held under the scheme "Alternate Agriculture System for Sustainability" as part of CAPEX-HADP, took center stage, captivating participating farmers, PRI's, BDC and DDC members, alongside representatives from agricul-

ture and allied departments.

The Krishi Mahotsav witnessed the presence of key figures, including Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Amjad Hussain Malik; District Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Sanjay Sharma; DDC Member, Mr. Zaffarullah; Tehsildar Marwah, Gandeep Singh; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Marwah, Manjoor Ahmed Zargar; Subject Matter Specialist, Rakesh Padha, as well as Sarpanches and PRI's from various panchayats in Block Marwah.

The primary objective of the program was

to sensitize farmers in this aspirational block to the merits of organic farming and various Key Performance Indicators (KPI), including the saturation of PM Kisan, KCC, and the strengthening of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs).

The event aimed to disseminate information about ongoing departmental schemes dedicated to uplifting the farming community.


Under the noble guidance of the District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, the program successfully engaged over 200 farmers. The participants exhibited

great enthusiasm, actively participating in the event.

During the occasion, Zaffarullah, the DDC member and the concerned Sarpanches of Block Marwah applauded the efforts and achievements of the department. They acknowledged the positive impact on the farming community in the sub-division as a whole and Block Marwah in particular.

The Department of Agriculture, Sub-Division Marwah, expresses gratitude to all participants and stakeholders for contributing to the success of Krishi Mahotsav.

ANTIM YATRA



*Sh. Haran Singh Chib*

WE ARE IMMENSELY GRIEVED TO ANNOUNCE  
THE SAD DEMISE OF THE ELDER OF OUR FAMILY  
We invite you to attend his Antim Yatra so as to pay your final tribute to the departed soul and pray for his peace and well being in heaven.

**Final Service (Antim Sanskar)**

OCTOBER 7, 2023 | AT 12:00 PM  
SHANTI GHAT, MUTHI

GRIEF STRIKEN:  
SOHAN SINGH CHIB & ASHA DEVI (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)  
SIKANDER SINGH CHIB & POOJA CHIB (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)  
RAKESH SINGH CHIB & LOVELY CHIB (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)  
PARVEEN SINGH CHIB & RENU CHIB (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)

Contact: 9086234755, 9906174336,  
8492918200, 8899228406





## Vertical Expansion of existing DH Ramban on anvil

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 6

District Development Commissioner, Ramban Mussarat Islam today chaired a meeting of district officers to discuss the modalities for Vertical Expansion of Critical Care Block of District Hospital Ramban.

After threadbare discussion, the meeting observed that due to non-availability of suitable State land near and within the vicinity of Ramban town, the infrastructure of additional 50-bedded Critical Care Block would be created in the form of G+3 +Pre-fab structure on the top floor of the existing building of the District Hospital Ramban which is presently G+1. It was informed that feasibility report for vertical expansion has been received from JKPCDC Doda.

The DH Ramban is the only Health Care institution equipped with sec-



ondary level healthcare facilities for the people of the District.

The meeting was informed that keeping in view the necessity for creation of additional health care infrastructure to meet the any exigency arising on the National Highway-44 between Nashri and Banihal stretch, the matter was taken up with the Department of Health and Medical Education, for sanctioning of 50-bedded new Critical Care Block for the hospital.

Executive Engi-

neer, PW(R&B) Department, Division Ramban informed the meeting that the DPR prepared earlier was for vertical expansion of existing District Hospital Ramban to augment it to 100-bedded Hospital. He informed that the DPRs prepared earlier need to be revised as the creation of new infrastructure related to Critical Care Block which may include facilities like high-tech diagnostic facilities, provision of lifts etc.

The chair directed the Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Department

Division Ramban to coordinate with Chief Medical Officer, Ramban and Medical Superintendent, DH Ramban, for preparation of revised DPRs as per guidelines for 50-bedded Critical Care Block.

Among other, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal Sharma, Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kasturi Lal, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamal Zadoo, Executive Engineer, PW (R&B) Division Ramban, Abhishek Gupta, Medical Superintendent, DH, Ramban attended the meeting.

## DC reviews functioning of PACS in District Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 6

Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai on Friday chaired the District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex to discuss and assess the operations of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) within the district.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held covering several key aspects, including the adoption status of model bye-laws by all 39 PACS, procurement of hardware, and the selection of a system integrator for computerization.

The meeting also



addressed district-wise targets for establishing new multipurpose PACS, the PMKSK initiative, the formulation of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS, identification of PACS for convergence with the PM-KUSUM scheme, utilizing PACS as Common Service Centers, and establishing Jan Aushadi Kendras to improve

access to generic medicines at the rural level.

The Deputy Commissioner issued essential directives to relevant departments emphasizing the need for close coordination to revitalize the PACS in the district. She urged these departments to expedite the development of an action plan & work in collaboration for

achieving all the targets within stipulated time.

Notable attendees at the meeting included Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral; Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Priyanka Sharma; Chief Agriculture Officer, Sanjay Anand and representatives from allied departments & NABARD.

## DDC Budgam reviews Arrangements for Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din at Chrar-e-Sharief



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 6

A meeting regarding arrangements for the annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA) was convened today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo here.

During the meeting, the DDC took the department-wise review of arrangements and directed the concerned to ensure that all the arrangements including installation of street lights, cleanliness of the Shrine premises and surroundings, installation of additional mobile toilet facilities and proper sanitation and dumping of waste well before the commencement of the week-long Urs. The DC directed PHE and PDD

departments to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supply to the town and vicinity areas during the Urs days.

The EO of Municipality Char-e-Sharief was directed to maintain proper sanitation and cleanliness and regular lifting of garbage from the Shrine area. He was directed to install dustbins for dumping of waste. He was also instructed for installation of street lights.

MC Chrar i Sharief in coordination with tourism department was directed for illumination of shrine and beautification of parks.

It was decided in the meeting that DySP Traffic and ARTO Budgam shall formulate a synergised Traffic Management Plan for hassle free commute of incoming devotees.

They were also instruct-

ed to arrange additional parking arrangements for vehicle to control traffic congestion. While as Health department was directed to ensure requisite medical facilities especially wheel chairs to specially abled devotees during the Urs days.

They were directed to install medical camps inside premises of shrine during Urs days.

The DC directed all the concerned officers for proper public facilitation during urs-sharief.

The meeting was attended by JD planning Rafiq Ahmad, SDM Charar i sharief, SDPO Charar i Sharief, DySP Traffic, ARTO Budgam, AD FCS&CA, Tehsildar Charar i Sharief, Auqaf Officer of JK Waqf Board, Representative of ziyat sharief and district heads of various line departments.

## GDC Kunjwani organises one day programme on "Brashtachar Mukht Campaign"

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

The NSS Unit Government Degree College Kunjwani, in collaboration with Career Counseling and placement cell, organized a one day programme on Bhrahtachar Mukht Campaign on the College campus today.

During the event Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma addressed the students. He emphasized that it is imperative to understand that small efforts at the level of an individual can bring the wide spread change in society. The motive behind the campaign was to bring a change in the mindset and to follow the path of righteousness and eradicate the root cause of corruption from the society.

The Principal of the college welcomed the Mayor Jammu. Later, all the participants took a pledge to commit to work towards a corruption-free society.

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 6

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Mission Youth, J&K among other initiatives is also at the forefront of addressing critical issues concerning mental health and drug abuse among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The unwavering support, dedication and personal involvement of Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth has played a pivotal role in implementing the psychosocial counselling programs at the grass roots level for combating the pervasive drug abuse issues and promoting mental health well being among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Continuing with its month-long awareness program, Mission Youth today conducted a one-day Mental

Health and Drug De-addiction awareness program at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

The program began with an enlightening address by Prof. Ulfat Jan, Head of the Psychology Department at Amar Singh College. Prof. Jan stressed the importance of raising awareness, promoting prevention, and empowering individuals to tackle these pressing societal challenges effectively.

A senior consultant from Mission Youth provided an overview of the organization's vision and mission, highlighting its significant impact on areas such as livelihood generation, education, and entrepreneurship for the youth.

Senior Consultant Mission Youth stated, "This program is designed to empower young individuals with the knowledge and resources needed to address

these pressing societal challenges. The future of Jammu and Kashmir's youth depends on their ability to thrive, and Mission Youth is committed to providing the necessary support."

The event witnessed an impressive turnout of participants and faculty members, underlining the unwavering support and enthusiasm of the community for Mission Youth's commendable mission.

Dr. Mehwish, an expert from IMHANS, delivered a compelling address during the program. Dr. Mehwish shed light on the substances commonly used by drug addicts, the vulnerable age groups affected, and the risk factors contributing to substance abuse. She also shared her day-to-day experiences, highlighting the critical role of awareness in safeguarding the mental health of our youth.

## GDC Ramban hosts awareness workshop on prevention of domestic violence

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 6

The Committee against sexual harassment, Government Degree College, Ramban today organized a one day workshop on "domestic violence awareness" on the college campus under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. Archana Kaul.

The workshop commenced with a warm welcome address delivered by Prof. Vijay Sharma, highlighting the significance of the event.

Advocate Kiran Thakur, a prominent legal expert in the field, took on the role of the resource person for the workshop. Advocate Kiran Thakur acquainted the students about legal enlightenment on domestic violence laws. The impactful event witnessed active participation of 90 students who eagerly gathered to enhance their understanding of this critical societal concern.

## Day 2 of IDPL Tournament witnesses conclusion of U-14 Boys Kabaddi tournament at Gulabgarh Paddar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 6

The spirit of athletic competition reverberated through Gulabgarh Paddar, District Kishtwar, as the Inter-District Provincial Level Tournament entered its second day, showcasing exceptional enthusiasm and sportsmanship among the ten participating districts of the Jammu province.

The focal point of the event, the Kabaddi U/14 Boys category, reached its thrilling conclusion today with the final match held at Gulabgarh Paddar. The gripping face-off between District Doda and District Kathua culminated in a

victory for District Doda, securing their position as the champions of the competition. District Kathua displayed commendable sportsmanship, earning the accolade of Runner's up. The tournament, a testament to the dedication of the youth in sports, was meticulously organized by the Department of Youth Service and Sports Kishtwar. Under the visionary direction of Mr. Subash Chander Chhibber, the Director of Youth Services & Sports J&K, and the vigilant supervision of Mr. Kharati Lal Sharma, the District Youth Services and Sports Officer in Kishtwar, the event achieved unparalleled success.

## DC Bandipora reviews progress of works on Ring Road Project



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 6

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed Friday convened a meeting of officers to review the progress of work on the ambitious ring road project. The meeting discussed in detail progress achieved and other issues of the ring road project.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC asked the concerned authorities to conduct demarcation of the land involved, keeping in consideration less damage to property. He directed the concerned

officials to clear all the bottlenecks so that the project is completed in a timely manner.

He assured all possible support from the District Administration in construction of the ring road project and asked the concerned to remove bottlenecks without delay.

The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer Coordination/ACD Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, Project Director NHA, ACR Bandipora, Tehsildar Sumbal and other concerned officers from line departments and NHA.

## Functioning of Bus Adda Ganderbal reviewed



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 6

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah today convened a meeting of committee constituted at District level to review the functioning of newly constructed bus adda in the district.

At the outset, the ADC enquired about the functioning of bus Adda, availability of public conveniences, safety, cleanliness, facilities for commuters and management of passenger vehicles.

The ADC directed committee members to ensure that the safe, efficient and customer-friendly operation of Bus Adda is ensured.

The committee members were further directed to ensure that no small stalls, food-stall, sumo, mini-buses or any other service provider are placed on the main road

creating hindrance outside bus adda.

Committee members were directed to ensure all required facilities are available inside bus adda besides installation of food-stalls shall be allowed at appropriate location inside the bus adda.

The committee was also entrusted to meet all transport operators, vendors and service providers regarding operationalization of Bus adda regularly so that any concern arises is resolved on time.

Municipality was directed to ensure cleanliness is maintained within the bus adda and sanitation drives shall be carried regularly involving other stake holders there.

The committee was also asked to provide regular reports to the ADC office regarding the operational status.

The meeting was attended by ARTO, DYSP HQ and other concerned.

## DC inspects traffic management, progress of work on Circular road, other civic facilities in Doda Town



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, OCTOBER 6

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today conducted a surprise inspection of the traffic management in the Doda Town. During the visit, the DC asked for a joint traffic decongestion drive by Traffic Police, MVD, Municipal Council and District Police in the town to enforce traffic management effectively for the convenience of the commuters. During the visit, he also issued necessary directions to the concerned for cleanliness, hygiene, and welfare of the residents and shopkeepers of the Town.

The DC, along with SE, PWD, other functionaries of PWD Department, inspected Circular (Parmaz) Road, which on its completion shall provide alternate road link to Associated Hospital GMC and to the Doda-Pul Doda-Highway route, escaping the interior town area.

The DC directed the MC and PWD to construct proper drainage on the road and take immediate measures to open the clogged culvert near Police Chowki Nagri on the Circular road. He further asked the stakeholders to formulate a drainage proposal/ plan for arrangement of funds. At the under construction point where two ends of the circular road meet to make it operational, the DC instructed the authorities to remove the encroachment so that the prestigious road was completed and dedicated to the public.

The DC also inspected under construction Culvert near Dakbunglow Doda and directed its early completion. He impressed upon the executing agencies to maintain the highest standards of quality and adhere to the timeline to complete the prestigious government project for their dedication to the public use.

## EDITORIAL

## Struggling healthcare infra in rural areas

The rural health institutions across the Union Territory are struggling to offer quality health services to the people. It is the shortage of manpower and non-availability of requisite infrastructure that has made situation more alarming. This is notwithstanding the fact that the health sector of Jammu and Kashmir has shown tremendous improvement in recent few years. The situation in rural areas still demands for certain immediate corrective measures and seeks government attention. There is no denying that the Central government has provided liberal funds to improve the health sector in Jammu and Kashmir during the last ten years. The recent statistics, tabled in the Parliament, revealed that only 21 percent of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are functioning on a 24x7 basis in rural areas of the Union Territory. It contradicted the claims of authorities that Jammu and Kashmir's health infrastructure has improved considerably. There are a total of 891 functional PHCs in Jammu and Kashmir, out of which only 185 PHCs remain operational round-the-clock, while the remaining PHCs work purely on official timing of 10 am to 4 pm and remain closed on Sundays. Over 700 PHCs don't function on a 24x7 basis, thereby forcing the poor and needy people of rural areas to shift their patients to cities and towns in case of emergency. The number of PHCs in rural areas has increased from 334 in 2005 to 891 in 2022 but no serious efforts have been made to ensure round-the-clock healthcare facilities in these institutions. As many as 179 PHCs are still functioning from rented buildings in J&K, while the remaining 648 PHCs have their own government buildings. Out of 179 PHCs in rented accommodations, the government does not pay rent for 64 buildings housing PHCs. If one looks at the funds provided by the Government of India to improve the health sector in Jammu and Kashmir, it has come to fore that over Rs 4,000 crore have been pumped in the Union Territory. Painting a grim picture of poor infrastructure in PHCs, nearly 39 percent PHCs have a labour room for pregnant women, while just five percent PHCs have the facility of Operation Theatre (OT) in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Around 46 percent have the facility of 4 beds and 102 PHCs don't have electric supply. Moreover, 78 PHCs are without regular water supply, forcing health staff to fetch water from nearby resources. The healthcare system involves a three-tier system with sub health centre (rural), PHC (urban and rural) and Community Health Centre (urban and rural). These are the three pillars of the primary health care system in J&K and the rest of the country. Furthermore, there are a total of 2,429 sub-centres functioning in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, out of which 1,557 centres don't have their own buildings and they are operating from rented accommodations. A total of 1,679 are required to be constructed in rural areas for sub-centres operating from rented accommodations. The moot question arises to why the health sector has failed to come up to the expectations of the people. The Central government should order a comprehensive audit of all funds provided to Jammu and Kashmir in the health sector and fix the responsibility in case of any official lapses. An enquiry should also be ordered to see whether the established norms of government like a Sub-Health Centre for a population of 5,000 (in plain) and 3000 (in hilly and tribal area) in rural areas, a PHC for a population of 30,000 (in plains) and 20,000 (in hilly and tribal areas) and Community Health Centre for a population of 1,20,000 (in plain) and 80,000 (in hilly and tribal area) have been adhered to.



NARENDRA MODI  
PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

A few days ago we lost Professor M.S. Swaminathan. Our nation lost a visionary who revolutionised agricultural science, a stalwart whose contribution to India will always be etched in golden letters. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan loved India and wanted our nation, and our farmers in particular, to lead a life of prosperity. Academically brilliant, he could have chosen any career but he was so impacted by the Bengal famine of 1943 that he was clear that if there is one thing he would do, it would be to study agriculture.

At a relatively young age, he came in contact with Dr. Norman Borlaug and followed his work in great detail. In the 1950's, he was offered a faculty position in the US but he rejected it because he wanted to work in India and for India.

I want you all to think about the challenging circumstances in which he stood as a colossus, guiding our nation towards the path of self-sufficiency and self-confidence. In the first two decades since Independence, we were deal-

ing with immense challenges and one of them was food shortages. In the early 1960s, India was grappling with the ominous shadows of famine and it is then that Prof. Swaminathan's unyielding commitment and foresight ushered a new era of agricultural prosperity. His pioneering work in agriculture and specific sectors like wheat breeding led to a significant increase in wheat production, thus turning India from a food-deficient country into a self-sufficient nation. This tremendous achievement earned him the well deserved title of, "Father of the Indian Green Revolution."

The Green Revolution offered a glimpse of India's "Can Do Spirit" - that if we have a billion challenges, we also have a billion minds with the flame of innovation to overcome those challenges. Five decades after the Green Revolution began, Indian agriculture has become far more modern and progressive. But, the very foundations laid by Prof. Swaminathan can never be forgotten.

Over the years, he undertook pioneering research in combatting parasites affecting potato crops. His research also enabled potato crops to withstand cold weather. Today, the world is talking about Millets or Shree Anna as super foods but Prof. Swaminathan had encouraged discourse around millets since the



1990's.

My personal interactions with Prof. Swaminathan were extensive. They began after I took over as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001. During those days, Gujarat was not known for its agricultural prowess. Successive droughts and a super cyclone and an Earthquake had impacted the growth trajectory of the state. Among the many initiatives we launched, was the Soil Health Card, which enabled us to understand the soil better and address problems if they arose. It was in the

context of this scheme that I met Prof. Swaminathan. He appreciated the scheme and also shared his valuable inputs for the same. His endorsement was enough to convince those who were sceptical about the scheme which would eventually set the stage for Gujarat's agricultural success.

Our interactions continued during my Chief Ministerial tenure and also when I took over as Prime Minister. I met him at the International Agro-Biodiversity Congress in 2016 and the next year in 2017,

I launched a two-part book series written by him.

The Kural describes farmers as the pin that holds the world together because it is the farmers who sustain everyone. Prof. Swaminathan understood this principle very well. A lot of people call him a "Krishi Vaigyanik" - an Agricultural Scientist. But, I have always believed that he was even more. He was a true "Kisan Vaigyanik" - a Farmers' Scientist. In his heart there was a farmer. The success of his works is not re-stricted to their academic excellence; it lies in the impact they have had outside the laboratories, in the farms and the fields. His work narrowed the gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application. He consistently advocated for sustainable agriculture, emphasising the delicate balance between human advancement and ecological sustainability. Here, I must also note Prof. Swaminathan's special emphasis on improving the lives of the small farmers and ensuring they also enjoy the fruits of innovation. He was particularly passionate about improving the lives of women farmers.

There is another aspect about Prof. M.S. Swaminathan which is remarkable - he stands tall as a paragon of innovation and mentorship. When he won the World Food Prize in 1987, the first recipient of this prestigious honour, he used the prize money to establish a not-for-profit research foundation. Till

date, it undertakes extensive work across various sectors. He has nurtured countless minds, instilling in them a passion for learning and innovation. In a rapidly changing world, his life reminds us of the en-during power of knowledge, mentorship, and innovation. He was an institution builder as well, having to his credit many centres where vibrant research takes place. One of his stints was as Director, International Rice Research Institute, Manila. The South Asia Regional Centre of International Rice Research Institute was opened in Varanasi in 2018.

I will again cite The Kural to pay tributes to Dr. Swaminathan. It is written there, "If those who have planned have firmness, they will attain what they have desired." Here was a stalwart who decided early on in his life that he wants to strengthen agriculture and serve farmers. And, he did it exceptionally innovatively and passionately. Dr. Swaminathan's contributions continue to inspire and guide us as we navigate the path of agricultural innovation and sustainability. We must also keep reaffirming our commitment to the principles he held dear, championing the cause of farmers and ensuring the fruits of scientific innovation reach the roots of our agricultural expanse, fostering growth, sustainability, and prosperity for generations to come.

## Silent revolution: Ending open defecation in Rajasthan

KHUSHI YADAV

It is indeed a matter of concern that even 75 years after gaining independence, a significant section of India's population still finds itself compelled to practice open defecation. As per the 2011 census, a staggering 53.1% of households in the country did not have access to proper toilet facilities. This unfortunate reality has far-reaching consequences, especially for women and girls, who not only endure psychological distress but also suffer adverse health effects due to the necessity of venturing outdoors. Open defecation not only subjects women and girls to psychological trauma but also has a detrimental impact on their overall health. The absence of household toilets often forces them to travel considerable distances before sunrise, putting their safety in jeopardy. This daily ordeal exposes them to various health risks.

Although the government of Rajasthan, on April 3, 2018, declared 43,344 villages, along with 295 panchayat samitis and 9,894-gram panchayats, as open defecation-free, signifying that toilets had been constructed in every household within these regions, the on-ground situation often deviates from official declarations. Despite this official declaration, numerous households in Binjarwadi village, situated in Rajasthan's Bikaner district, still lack proper toilet facilities. This incongruity highlights the challenges of translating government initiatives into tangible benefits for all citizens. Jashoda, a resident of the village, has shared that following the construction of household toilets, women no longer need to venture into the open, particularly during their menstrual cycles. This substantial improvement in health conditions and the reduction in the prevalence of diseases is noteworthy. However,



she shares that there are houses that do not have toilets to date. She remains uncertain about whether her village has been officially declared open-defecation-free and is unaware of the reasons behind the absence of toilets in some households. Jashoda acknowledges that a lack of awareness has led many villagers to miss out on various government schemes.

Mani Ram, a dedicated social worker from the same village, recounts that when a majority of households lacked toilets, women and girls faced significant hardships. In

2014-15, nearly 90% of households in Binjarwadi did not have access to toilets. To address this issue, he tirelessly encouraged villagers to construct toilets within their homes, elucidating not only the health advantages but also facilitating loans for construction. Although initial resistance and adherence to traditional beliefs were obstacles, sustained awareness campaigns eventually led to the recognition of the significance of in-house toilets. Nevertheless, challenges persist, including bureaucratic inefficiencies in disbursing funds for toilet construc-

tion. Despite these difficulties, individuals like Mani Ram remain unwavering in their commitment to eradicating open defecation. Another dedicated social worker, Neelam, underscores that while India has initiated the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, numerous places, families, and villages still lack adequate sanitation facilities. Access to clean and safe toilets is of paramount importance, particularly for women and girls, as it is an essential requirement during menstruation.

Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that no household is left behind

in this monumental government initiative. To achieve this, a keen focus on the grassroots level at the panchayat level becomes imperative. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, operating under the Central Ministry of Jal Shakti, recently reported that over 4,31,350 villages across the nation have self-proclaimed themselves as "ODF Plus." While this news brings a sense of optimism, it is essential to scrutinise how effectively this campaign has been translated into real-world impact. These issues are intricately connected to the self-esteem and dignity of women and girls. Addressing them with utmost diligence is necessary to ensure that this initiative moves beyond paperwork and yields tangible results at the community level.

(The writer is a student from Bikaner, Rajasthan. Views expressed are personal. Charkha Features)

## Alcoholism is a disease, but curable

RAVIVALLURI

Alcoholism is a disease and I was afflicted by it for several years. The affliction impacted me immensely. In those trying moments, my wife and parents stood by me apart from a couple of other good Samaritans. My wife enrolled me on the Part 1 Course of the Art of Living while I was posted in Jaipur. Winter had arrived and the weather was chilly.

Yet my wife faithfully dropped me to the centre and picked me up from there for the seven days when I had undertaken the course. Addicts need to detoxify their minds and bodies to rediscover their mojo. It is paramount that they discard emotions of futility, guilt, and

self-rejection. Such craftsmanship and techniques are encompassed in the Pragna programme of the Art of Living and are providing succour to addicts.

How does one conduct the course for hardened alcoholics and drug addicts, who are perpetually in a state of self-denial? They look at the teacher in the most disgusted manner possible, with disbelief writ large on their faces. The breathing technique begins to slowly unfold, which has a positive impact on the mind. Slowly an addict can upend the pyramid.

One recalls the gloomy but riveting movie, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest; how the inmates lodged in a mental asylum had reached a state where they were determined to



break the bondage and run away. Similarly, an addict becomes determined to break the four walls of the rehab centre. After the initial treatment at the rehabilitation centre and subsequent exposure to the

unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya, they began to believe in the efficacy of living in the present moment.

The concepts of the Power of Now or the Pres-

ent Moment have been postulated by several masters of the past, in the Oriental and Occidental world. In India, Maharishi Patanjali, Gautama Buddha and the Advaita saint Adi Shankara have written and spoken about it extensively. In present times the rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya transmogrifies the human mind to the present. Every day is a new day, a harbinger of hope and the addicts realise their self-worth and begin giving themselves positive strokes.

Authors like Eckhart Tolle, Deepak Chopra and Louise Hay have emphasised reengineering the human mind to remain in the present moment to combat various challenging situations in life. In Gorakhpur, there is

a rehab centre run by a doughty lady whose husband was an alcoholic.

As a goodwill gesture, the couple inaugurated the centre and have made it their mission to provide shelter and comfort to those suffering from alcoholism.

The inmates of the centre could remain for half an hour without alcohol, could you? This is the question that resonates in my mind, the question I pose to any addict. The answer is simple; it is possible only through surrender to the supreme intelligence of the Universe.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. and is faculty at Art of Living; views are personal)



## War against drugs needs combative efforts: Shakti Pathak

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Shiv Sena Hindustan Youth Wing leaders led by J&K President Ganesh Choudhary today called on DIG Jammu, Shakti Pathak over growing drug menace in the district. Jammu District President Raj Kumar Gupta, Samba District President Nek Ram, Bishnah Block Vice President Shankar Singh, Badi Brahmana Block President Sanjeev Kumar also accompanied Ganesh Choudhary.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG Jammu, Shakti Pathak said "we are deeply concerned about the growing drug menace in the district. The rising trend of drug abuse among youth is alarming." He appealed the teaching community and NGOs to sensitize youth and parents so that they take up a pioneering role in creating an atmosphere where drug abusers and peddlers will

have no place in society. He also urged the intellectuals to come forward sharing their experiences and professional expertise in the field to help the police department to draw a blueprint for addressing the issue in an effective manner.

Pathak asserted that use of drugs or substances may lead to addiction or dependence, serious physical injury such as damage to kidneys, liver, heart or psychological harm like hallucinations, memory loss or death. In addition to causing death, substance abuse is also responsible for significant morbidity and the treatment of drug addiction creates a tremendous burden on society. "Drug abuse leads to many kinds of criminal activities. The need of money to buy illegal drugs has driven many youths to earn money easily and they get involved in criminal activities. It is a serious prob-



lem and controlling it is a major challenge" Pathak said. He dealt with different aspects of the drug menace affecting the district and stressed that adequate awareness and preventive measures would be enforced for optimum results. Pathak said Police department alone cannot address overnight and therefore his good office has been organizing mass awareness campaign on the issue.

Pathak stated, "War against drugs needs com-

bativ efforts. Just like we fought militancy, we will wipe out this drug from J&K, hopefully, but we need the active support of people, civil society, and youngsters at large." He highlighted the devastating effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society as a whole. While the Jammu Kashmir police is making all out efforts to root out this menace from the region, collaborative efforts are required from the society at large to achieve this," he

said. He emphasized the importance of collective efforts in curbing this menace and urged citizens to play an active role in identifying and reporting drug-related activities.

Earlier, Ganesh informed that Youth Wing of Shiv Sena Hindustan has been organizing massive anti-drug awareness program involving civil society in the district intending to bring mass awareness about ill effects of drugs and peddling and selling of drugs, educating the people to lead a healthy life and further highlighted various achievements. He dealt with different aspects of the drug menace affecting the society and stressed that adequate awareness and preventive measures should be enforced at the district level for opti-

mum results. He exhorted the police and other law enforcing agencies to be more vigilant and take strong action against drug marketers indulged in this nuisance. Ganesh voicing his concern over the challenge of drug trade said that after decades of militancy, Pakistan has now shifted its strategy towards a "Drug War."

Ganesh expressed his party's commitment to a drug-free Jammu and stressed the need for a holistic approach involving law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and concerned citizens to tackle this issue effectively. Appreciating J&K Police for various thought-provoking initiative, he pledged their complete support to Jammu Kashmir Police in its fight against the drug menace. He also pledged their support and willingness to collaborate in future initiatives aimed at eradicating drugs from their neighborhoods.

## 8 grams of heroin recovered by PS Akhnoor Jammu, 1 peddler arrested

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Jammu Police achieved major success by recovering 08 grams of heroin from one accused person in the jurisdiction of PS Akhnoor.

A police team of PS Akhnoor led by SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Sharma assisted by SHO PS Akhnoor Insp. Zaheer Mushtaq while on naka duty at Daskal near fruit mandi Akhnoor rounded up one suspect. On search, 08 grams of heroin was recovered from them. In this regard a case FIR No 272/2023 U/S 8/21/22 of NDPS Act got registered in PS Akhnoor and accused was arrested. The accused arrested was identified as :- Sharief Din @Shariefu S/o Wali Mohd R/o Beli Charana District Jammu.

Further investigation of the case is going on. Jammu police is working intensively to uproot the chains of drug supply in the region and thorough questioning of the accused is going on to know the origin of the drugs supply chain.

Jammu Police is striving hard and taking every possible step to make people especially youth aware to eradicate drug menace. We request people of the area to come forward and share information about drug peddling or consumption on 9086100100 or 100 with Police for the cause. Your identity will be kept confidential.

## J&K Dharmarth Trust extends warm welcome to 'Ved Sandesh Yatra' in commemoration of Regional Vedic Conference

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

The J&K Dharmarth Trust today warmly received the 'Ved Sandesh Yatra', organized by the Ved Mandir Committee Jammu, as part of the three-day Regional Vedic Conference, at the historic Raghunath Ji Temple in Jammu. This auspicious occasion was marked by the gracious presence of officials from the J&K Dharmarth Trust at the revered Raghunath Ji Temple.

Pertinent to mention here that the Regional Vedic Conference, taking place from October 6th to 8th, 2023, in Jammu, is a collaborative effort between Maharaja Partap Singh Ved Vidyalaya, Ved Mandir Committee Jammu, and Maharshi Sandeepani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan in Ujjain. This event is proudly sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The conference has drawn participation from eminent traditional Vedic scholars from all corners of the country and features



a vibrant array of Vedic processions, recitations, enlightening lectures, and culturally enriching programs.

On the first day of three-day long Regional Vedic Conference, a grand Shobha Yatra titled 'Ved Sandesh Yatra,' embarked from Ved Mandir, passing through Panjitrthi, Jain Bazar, Kanak Mandi and Raghunath Bazar, culminated at the famous Raghunath Ji Temple.

The divine occasion saw the presence of luminaries such as Swami Hridayanand Giri ji, Akhileshwar Mishra ji from Ujjain,

Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina ji, Vipin Sharma, Dipendra Gautam, Raman Suri, Rajesh Sharma, Mahant Raj Kumar, and other revered scholars. Together, they performed the Aarti, invoking blessings at the sanctum sanctorum of Shri Raghunath Ji Temple.

The 'Ved Sandesh Yatra' witnessed spirited participation from over 200 students representing five Sanskrit schools, including Maharaja Partap Singh Ved Vidyalaya, Shri Mata Devika Ved Vidyalaya Purmandal, Shri Narsingh Ved Vidyalaya Khoon Akhnoor, Shri Choodamani Sanskrit

Mahavidhyala Basohli, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul Katra. Accompanied by distinguished Vedic scholars, this Yatra added an aura of reverence and devotion to the regional conference.

The renowned Vedic scholars also chanted Vedic Mantras in the premises of Raghunath ji temple followed by the Parikrama of the whole temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Swami Hridayanand Giri ji informed that nearly 200 vedic scholars from across the country will perform the Ved Path which will purify

the whole atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir. He said it's an honour for us to organise such pious three-day long Sammelan. He appealed to the people of Jammu to participate in this holy Sammelan.

Welcoming the 'Ved Sandesh Yatra', Brig R.S Langeh, President of J&K Dharmarth Trust, in his message, expressed profound gratitude for the divine presence of scholars, dignitaries, and participants in this sacred journey. He emphasized the significance of preserving and promoting our Vedic heritage and extended his best wishes for the success of the Regional Vedic Conference.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, former IPS Officer and Trust's Secretary has made adequate arrangements for the 'Ved Sandesh Yatra'. He asserted that the three-day long Vedic Conference will illuminate our hearts and minds with the timeless wisdom of the Vedas and strengthen the bonds of spirituality and knowledge in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Kathua's Health Mela witnesses overwhelming response



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, OCTOBER 6

A significant Health Mela under the Ayushman Bhava Campaign was organized today in CHC Bani, Kathua, with the unwavering support and guidance of the esteemed Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rakesh Mangotra. The event, which aimed to provide essential healthcare services to the community, was coordinated by Dr. Surinder Attri, Principal GMC Kathua, and attended by Dr. Dev Raj Mishra, Block Medical Officer, Bani. The Health Mela witnessed a grand inauguration (Ribbon Ceremony)

led by the esteemed District Development Council Member, Smt. Reeta Thakur, at 10:30 AM. The event drew an impressive turnout, with a total of 636 patients seeking medical attention across various specialities.

Among the specialities, the Ortho OPD recorded the highest number of patient visits, with 120 individuals seeking orthopedic care. The Gynecology OPD saw 102 patients, the Eye department attended to 48 individuals, while the Surgery department catered to 87 patients. Furthermore, the ENT department provided care to 82 patients, Der-

matology (Skin) received 51 patients, Medicine attended to 73 individuals, and Pediatrics saw 73 patients as well.

Dr. Dev Raj Mishra, Block Medical Officer, Bani, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the District Health Administration and all the dedicated doctors for their commitment to providing medical treatment to the underprivileged residents in the remote areas of District Kathua. The overwhelming response to the Health Mela reaffirms the commitment of the healthcare community to ensure the well-being of the people in the region.

## Amazon India creates more than 100,000 seasonal job opportunities ahead of its Great Indian Festival

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Amazon India announced that it has created more than 100,000 seasonal job opportunities across its operations network, for the Indian festive season.

These opportunities include direct and indirect jobs across India in cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Chennai, among others. Ahead of Amazon's 'Great Indian Festival' starting on October 8, 2023, with early access to Prime customers starting on October 7, Amazon India has already onboarded the majority of these new hires into its existing network, where they will pick, pack, ship, and deliver customer orders safely and efficiently. New hires also include customer service associates, some of whom are part of the virtual customer service model, aimed at providing an elevated customer experience as they strengthen their footprint across the country.

"The festive season is always a special time at



Amazon. Recent research conducted by Nielsen Media suggests that 75% of consumers indicated that online shopping serves as a convenient one-stop shop, with 81% of customers indicating their intent to shop online. We are welcoming an additional workforce of over 100K to strengthen our fulfilment, delivery, and customer service capabilities and ensure a great shopping experience for millions of customers who are look-

ing forward to shopping with us. Beyond elevating customer satisfaction, seasonal hiring plays a vital role in empowering individuals with work opportunities and financial independence, and more importantly, boosting the festive economy. We are looking forward to creating a joyous festive season for our customers, sellers, associates, partners, and employees across India," says Akhil Saxena, Vice President Operations,

APAC/MENA/LATAM, and WW Customer Service Head, Amazon.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Amazon's commitment to delivering exceptional service to customers. The work environment and facilities, with a particular focus on everyone's health & safety, are truly commendable. I am delighted that I can support my family while also advancing professionally," said Selim. S K, a recent

seasonal hire at Amazon India.

Amazon India has built a strong fulfilment and delivery network and established significant partnerships. The company has fulfilment centres spread across 15 states, offering 43 million cubic feet of storage space for seller inventory. This benefits over 1.3 million sellers in the country. Amazon India has sortation centres in 19 states, along with a network of close to 2000 Amazon-operated and partner delivery stations. Also, it has 28,000 'I Have Space' partners and thousands of Amazon Flex partners, who are ready to deliver smiles to customers across the country. This is further strengthened by Amazon's symbiotic public and private partnerships.

Amazon India recently marked a decade of transforming the Indian shopping landscape, reshaping how people connect and embrace online retail. In a series of strategic moves, Amazon India signed an MoU with India Post and collaborated with Indian Railways to enhance delivery efficiency.

## Billawaria kick starts black topping work at Chinar Enclave

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Providing best infrastructure facilities to the residents of Jammu, Deputy Mayor, Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria today visited Chinar Enclave in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency and kick-started the blacktopping work of road there, which was a long pending demand of the people of the area. This development work will be executed under the supervision of the Public works department (PWD). Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor, Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria said a few months ago that a deputation from the area had approached him. The deputation apprised him that the condition of roads in the area is pathetic and it should be resolved soon. Responding to people's demands he immediately directed the concerned department to prepare the estimate of the road of the area and today with his efforts the development work was started.



He said that the BJP under the strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi will change the entire spectrum of development in J&K as it is only a matter of days now when facilities and opportunities will knock the doors of each and every resident of the UT. He further said that the incumbent Union Administration led by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha deserves full credit for initiating revolutionary measures in every sector including the economic front. The Deputy Mayor appealed to the people to maintain cleanliness and hygiene in their area to keep the environment clean and green. He also urged the people to follow

all necessary safety and health guidelines while the construction work is in progress. He said that for the better development of the city, development works are being done in various areas and appropriate steps will be taken wherever development work is required. Locals of the area have expressed satisfaction that they have heaved a sigh of relief ensured by the developmental works accomplished by the Deputy Mayor. Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Harbans Chaudhary, Satpal Chaudhary, Surjit Kumar, Sunil Sharma, Davinder Sharma, Rinku Kumar and others were present.





## All Transport Unions urge Karan Singh Wazir to lead AJKTWA

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Representative of different Transport union and individual transporters today interacted with Karan Singh Wazir S/O late Tarlochan Singh Wazir at his residence and discussed issues and difficulties being faced by transporters. On this occasion many union leaders spoke to media and said that after the death of Tarlochan Singh Wazir nobody has seriously addressed our issues and problems and today we have been compelled to approach Karan Singh Wazir S/O late Tarlochan Singh Wazir as today we are miserably missing our great chairman who had contributed tremendously for the transporters and always strived for resolving the burning issues of transporters.



Karan Singh Wazir while addressing the gathered transporters at his residence assured them that I will continue to work for the issues of transporters with the blessings of late Tarlochan Singh Wazir who had created strong transport union system and always boldly and

honestly pursued the cause of transporters. Karan Singh Wazir said that at this crucial juncture all transport unions and transporters need to come together with one voice to resolve the issues and assured that he will always ready to serve their interests.

## Institute of Dental Sciences celebrates World Smile Day



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

The Institute of Dental Sciences at Sehora, Jammu, organized a remarkable event to celebrate World Smile Day. The event was orchestrated by the diligent efforts of the Sports and Cultural Committee, led by esteemed staff members including Dr Bela Mahajan, HOD Oral Pathology; Dr Esha Bali, HOD Public Health Dentistry; Dr Syed Raheela,

Dr Sania, Dr Sunil Dogra, Dr Deeksha, Dr Gurdeep Singh, Dr Kamaljeet Singh, Akshata Gupta, Vidhushi, and Fiza. The World Smile Day observance took place on October 5th, aiming to spread joy and happiness throughout the community. With a diverse range of activities planned, the event successfully united individuals in celebration and displayed the institute's commitment to dental wellness and overall wellbeing.

## Two-Day Wildlife Week celebrations ended in CUJ



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

The final day of the two-day Wildlife Week Celebrations (5th and 6th October) 2023 was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Department of Zoology, Central University of Jammu under the patronage of Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The faculty along with the students went for a

'natural trail walk' in the campus to explore the local flora and fauna. Competitions such as sketching of wildlife, on spot panel discussions and oral presentations were held in the department. These events were followed by the valedictory function where the winners were announced by Dr. Ashok Kumar Yadav, Head, Department of Zoology.

The winners in various categories were Nahila

Tabassum in 'Mimic like an animal', Shalini Khajuria in 'Wildlife dress up', Manvi and Asma in "Greeting Card/Bookmark Making". Neha and Diksha, (from department of Botany) in "Face/Body Painting competition". Apurva Bhati (Wildlife Sketching), Shalini Gupta and Ananya Mahajan (Quiz competition), Vikas Kumar (Oral Presentation). Akanksha Sharma and Samya (Panel discussion).

## Surya Roshni redefines essence of celebration this festive season



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Surya Roshni in its 50th year of operation is one of India's most respected and trusted brands for Lighting, Fans, Home Appliances, Steel Pipes, and PVC pipes.

As the largest branded manufacturer of lighting products in India, Surya Roshni continues to set the industry standard. It is perhaps the only company in India that invested significantly in the last century in conventional lighting manufacturing excellence and now in this century in the new technology which is energy saving and modern LED Lighting manufacturing excellence. In the past 7 years, Surya Roshni LED lighting has successfully saved an impressive amount of energy for the country.

Surya has yet again invested in R&D to bring out a slew of products specially designed for the upcoming festive season. An epitome is the Platina LED Bulb, which not only illuminates every corner of a room with its wider spread of light but also conserves energy with a product life of 25,000 hours (under rated conditions). In addition to the all-new energy-efficient Platina, Surya takes pride in launching the bouquet of indoor and outdoor Lighting products including Profile Strip light, Slim Trim & Shine Next Downlighter, for beautiful indoor decorations; Jag Mag String light and Sparkle Rope light, for levelling up the outdoor decorations, this festive season.

The company con-

tinues to innovate and has launched BEE Star labelled fans which not only save Rs.1000 to Rs.1800 per year per fan (16hrs of daily usage and metro energy tariffs) but also add to the home décor.

Some of the new offerings include Rice Cooker (Indicook), Juicer Mixer Grinders (Aspire, Galaxy[1]), Heavyweight Dry Irons (Shakti Plus, Bolt), InfraRed and Induction Cooktops, and a range of Storage and Instant Water heaters (Speedy, Insta Hot - 5.5lt). Speaking on the occasion Mr. Jitendra Agrawal, CEO - Lighting and Consumer Durables, Surya Roshni, said "With immense pride, I applaud Surya's exceptional team, whose concerted efforts, dedication, and innovation have brought to life, a range of lighting and appliances, that will make the upcoming festival a joyous celebration."

Understanding the relevance of festivities, the company has adopted a comprehensive 360-degree marketing strategy. This approach involves a series of promotional initiatives across diverse social media platforms, retail outlets, and on-ground activations. These endeavours are aimed at engaging both customers and channel partners, in a meaningful way. Aligned with the Government's PLI scheme, the company is making a substantial investment of 25 crores in its technology labs and manufacturing facilities. This strategic move contributes to import substitution, furthering its pursuit of self-sufficiency / atmanirbharta.

## Trishla Kundal, Yashpal Kundal pay obsequance at Tirupati temple, participated in abhishek ceremony

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Special Secretary Culture Jammu kashmir Trishla Kundal Kas And Yashpal Kundal today paid obsequance at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. They prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed. Trishla kundal Kas expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With



this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. She appealed people to visit the temple and pay obsequance here.

She said the department is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees. Yashpal Kundal also expressed happiness to be part of abhishek ceremony.

. He said the temple is beautifully made in the Majeen area.

He said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

## Kavinder slams Mehbooba for irrelevant, divisive statement



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister today slammed People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief, Mehbooba Mufti for her divisive and irrelevant remarks against the BJP.

In a statement issued here today, the former Deputy Chief Minister said "By issuing such statements Mehbooba Mufti is giving vent to her utter frustration due to staying away from power after enjoying power in J&K for two generations."

Pertinent to mention here that the PDP President today levelled serious allegations that BJP has involved against lynching of Muslims in India. Kavinder said, "It is regrettable that the PDP leader has chosen to make such baseless and inflammatory statements. These remarks are indicative of a larger agenda, and it is evident that this is a part of the 'I.N.D.I. Alliance' - an alliance that seeks to divide our society and polarize the nation for

political gains." The former Dy Chief Minister said that Mehbooba is amongst such leaders who have lost their political ground among the masses across J&K Union Territory and even in their home constituencies, right up to the grass roots level. Seeing their future quite bleak in the coming time with no hope of coming back to power, she feels that she would be able to get support of some people in her constituency least realizing that people understand her game-plan and can't be fooled any more now, he added.

Categorically refuting the allegations, Kavinder reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to the principles of Sanatan Dharma and the party's unwavering dedication to working for the betterment of all citizens, irrespective of their religious backgrounds.

"The BJP's ideology is deeply rooted in the values of Sanatan Dharma, which promote inclusivity, respect for all faiths, and unity among our diverse population," he emphasized, adding "We are committed to the welfare of every citizen and to the progress of our great nation."

The former deputy chief minister asserted that the people is a better judge and will give a befitting reply to such people who are running divisive agenda in Jammu and Kashmir. "We trust in the wisdom of the voters to recognize and reject such divisive politics in the upcoming polls in the Union Territory," he added.

## Vibodh welcomes LG's decision to waive electricity bills for underprivileged



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 6

Commending the leadership and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, BJP J&K General Secretary and in charge Jan Sampark Abhiyan Vibodh Gupta, praised the LG administration for their remarkable achievements, including the historic creation of the highest number of jobs in a single year since independence, a substantial boost to tourism, the proactive promotion of entrepreneurship in the UT, establishing a transparent selection process in government exams, focus on equitable growth, and a commitment to social justice. Gupta made these remarks while addressing a party meeting in Akhnour, where the discussion centred around a massive outreach campaign by the party under the Jan Sampark Abhiyan, to commence from October 24th to January 17th. Speaking on the Jan Sampark Abhiyan, Vibodh Gupta stated that the program aimed to highlight the unprecedented growth that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed since the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. He said that over 3000 public meetings will

be held in J&K to reach out to people promoting service, good governance and the welfare of the poor in the UT. Gupta also emphasised the importance of effectively communicating the government's people-friendly decisions and their benefits to dispel misinformation spread by the opposition. Vibodh further welcomed Hon'ble LG Manoj Sinha's decision to waive electricity bills for the underprivileged people. LG administration is dedicated to every necessary step to enhance the well-being of the ordinary citizens," he added. Addressing the gathering, BJP District President and former MLA Rajiv Sharma emphasised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to establish a vibrant, inclusive, and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. He conveyed that the Modi government has placed the welfare of the common people as its utmost priority and is tirelessly dedicated to fostering peace, prosperity, and development within the Union Territory. This commitment reflects the shared aspiration for a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, aligning with the government's unwavering efforts to achieve these objectives.

## MSME sponsored awareness programme for Agri-startups held at KVK Kupwara



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, OCT 6

Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir organized one day awareness programme on strengthening entrepreneurship & management of startups in agriculture and allied sectors at KVK Kupwara. The purpose of this awareness programme was to know the gaps in startup ecosystem and develop strategies for creating an enabling environment for scaling up the successful agri-startups.

The programme was held under the banner of SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (SKIIE) Centre sponsored by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) with an ultimate objective to promote new enterprises and inculcate entrepreneurial culture in UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

In addition to participating farmers, the pro-

gramme was attended by Prof. Raihana H. Kanth, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Kaiser Malik Programme Coordinator KVK Kupwara and faculty members of Division of Agri. Extension & Communication FoA Wadura. At the outset, Dr. Quadri Javed Ah. Peer, formally welcomed the guests & participants and briefed about the important role of innovation and entrepreneurship in the elevation of the agricultural sector and its various stakeholders. Prof. Raihana, enlightened the farmers about the importance of the skill based training programmes to build entrepreneurial mindset among the youth and develop their skills so they can launch their own innovation-led startups and business ventures.

She stated that startups are not only creating new jobs which means more employment but are also leaving a ripple effect on the socio-economic fabric of the demograph

## Srinagar District Congress holds protest, demands apology from BJP

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR OCT 6

The Srinagar District Congress Committee on Friday held a strong protest against circulating highly objectionable poster of Rahul Gandhi and demanded an apology from the BJP.

Congress Leaders and workers including Mahila Congress activists of Srinagar assembled at Party Office and protested against circulating highly objectionable and hateful poster of Rahul Gandhi. They demanded an apology from the BJP for such irresponsible and shameful behaviour while terming it a failed attempt to divert people's attention from its (BJP's) utter failure on all fronts.

The Party leaders and workers marched towards

MA Road from Congress office, but they were pushed back by the heavy contingent of police while raising slogans against ruling BJP for indulging in character assassination of opposition after realizing that it (BJP) will be wiped out in 2024. The diversionary tactics won't help BJP any more, they said

The malicious propaganda won't deter Rahul Gandhi from raising his voice against the discrimination, loot of public money and many other misadventure BJP is indulging for the lust of power, they added and asserted that Congress won't be cowed down rather the BJP's propaganda since 2014 has further strengthened Party's resolve to fight against anti people policies adopted by BJP.



