

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 10 | ISSUE NO: 236 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

President of India graces the 20th Convocation of University of Kashmir



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 11

Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu addressed the 20th Convocation of University of Kashmir, today.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the country is proud of the responsible youth of Kashmir. She urged students of University of Kashmir to actively participate in social service along with their studies. She said that by doing this, they could bring social change and set an example. She was happy to note that alumni have brought glory to this university by serving the country.

Referring to the motto

of the University of Kashmir which means 'let us move from darkness to light', the President said that the more our youth move towards the light of education and towards the light of peace, the more our country will progress. She added that the society and country whose youth follow the path of development and discipline, move forward on the path of progress and prosperity.

The President was happy to note that 55 percent of students at Kashmir University are girls. She said that they present the picture of our country and its destiny. The women and girls are ready to play a bigger role in the leadership of the

country. She expressed confidence that the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act' 2023 would prove to be a revolutionary step towards women-led development in our country.

Speaking about sustainable development, the President said that the lessons of sustainable development are part of Kashmir's heritage. She cited a saying which means 'there will be food only as long as there are forests' and said that it is the responsibility of all of us to preserve this paradise on earth. She urged Kashmir University to be alert in preserving the Himalayan ecosystem. She was happy to note that work related to

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Prez Murmu to pay obeisance, unveil skywalk at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine today

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

President Droupadi Murmu, who is on a two-day median visit to Jammu and Kashmir, will pay obeisance at Vaishno Devi shrine at Katra-Reasi tomorrow (Thursday) and inaugurate a newly constructed skywalk and 1500 lockers built in Parvati Bhawan.

Officials told news agency, that on her second day of J&K sojourn, the president accompanied by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will visit Vaishno Devi shrine, situated at Trikuta Hills, in Reasi district to offer prayers besides inauguration first of its kind skywalk.

The skywalk, costing Rs 15 crore, serves as a security measure to segregate devotees traveling to and from

the shrine.

The Vaishno Devi shrine will have a skywalk near the bhawan (temple) area that would provide separate paths for incoming and outgoing pilgrims. It will be 20-feet above the track level. While the present route will be used to exit from the temple, the skywalk, an elevated route, will provide entry towards the temple area or vice-versa. The length of the skywalk will be nearly 300 metres and its width will be 2.5 metres.

Conceptualised with an emphasis on safety and facility, the skywalk will have seating arrangements for senior citizens and women. In addition, two waiting halls with washroom facilities are being constructed along the skywalk to ensure

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Learning fosters critical and analytical thinking in professional careers: LG Sinha

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said learning should be lifelong as it fosters critical and analytical thinking in professional careers.

Addressing the 20th convocation of the University of Kashmir here, the Lt Governor said "learning fosters critical & analytical thinking in professional careers, enabling steady contributions to ongoing social transformation in our fast-growing economy".

He said learning should be lifelong and in the coming decades, knowledge will be the main driver of economic growth.

President Droupadi Murmu, who arrived here on a two-day visit to J&K, was the chief guest at the Convocation presenting degrees and medals to the students and scholars.

"I am grateful to Murmu for gracing University of Kashmir's Convocation Ceremony with her august presence", Sinha said, adding "It was heartening for me to know that out of total stu-



dents conferred with gold medals today, more than 66% are our daughters".

Accomplishment of our daughters, their self-confidence, courage and the ability to create new records in education and various other fields is a matter of great pride for the entire Union Territory, the Lt Governor said.

He said it is a reflection of a brighter future for the nation and a step towards women-led development.

Sinha said that higher educational institutions must strive to create a strong ecosystem for advanced research, inno-

vention, new invention & suitably respond to society & industries needs.

"We need to have a robust mechanism to serve local communities & bring change in the life of the last man in queue", he added.

The Lt Governor said convocation is a very important day in the academic calendar as well as in student's lives. It is a stepping stone on the path of progress, both academic and professional with infinite opportunities to contribute to build a strong and 'Viksit Bharat'.

Navratri festival in Katra to showcase 'Yakshagana' theatre presentation

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district will for the first time feature Karnataka's renowned 'Yakshagana' theatre presentation centred around Mata Vaishno Devi, a senior official said on Tuesday.

All preparations for a smooth pilgrimage to the cave shrine have been made by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, its CEO Anshul Garg said here.

"Karnataka's famous 'Yakshagana' theatre presentation on the theme of Mata Vaishno Devi will be showcased on the inaugu-



ral day," he told reporters here.

Garg added that the chairman of the board had issued directions to incorporate various forms of art and theatre from various parts of the country in the festival.

Yakshagana is a form of dance-drama originat-

ing from south India and is closely associated with the state of Karnataka. Elaborate and colourful costumes, makeup and masks are among the most distinctive features of this art form.

Garg said this year's Navratri festival will see the strengthening of registration and the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) setup.

"We have increased the number of counters to 37 for registration. The registration process will commence at 4 am instead of 5 am, ensuring pilgrims won't have to endure long queues.

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Call centre at Mata Vaishno Devi base camp gets nearly 2,500 calls from pilgrims daily



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, OCT 11

A state-of-the-art call centre at the Mata Vaishnodevi base camp in Katra in Jammu and Kashmir is operating round the clock, managing nearly 2,500 daily calls from pilgrims from across the world seeking information about the pilgrimage to the Himalayan cave shrine, an official said on Wednesday. The senior official said the

facility plays a crucial role in aiding pilgrims to plan their visit to the revered shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

It provides updates on prevailing weather conditions, yatra status, availability of helicopter services, battery-operated vehicles, accommodation, and other amenities at any given time, enhancing the overall experience of pilgrims.

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Tele-MANAS mental helpline in J&K receives average 80 calls daily

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

The UT-level Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) cell, at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, is receiving an average of 80

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Terrorist hideout busted in Bhaderwah, Doda: Police



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said to have busted a terrorist hideout in upper reaches

of Bhaderwah in Doda district.

In a statement issued by Doda Police to the news agency, police said that acting on a

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TRF associate arrested in Baramulla

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Security forces arrested a militant associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba's shadow group "The Resistance Front" in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said on Wednesday.

They said on October 10, on a specific input of militant movement in the Ushkara area, a joint Naka was established by Baramulla Police, Army's 46 Rashtriya Rifles, MI and 53 Bn CRPF.

"During naka checking, suspicious movement of one person coming towards naka point by foot was observed. While seeing police party and security forces, the suspect person tried to flee from the spot but alert naka party

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7 students suffer injuries after school bus skids off road, falls into ditch in Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Seven schoolchildren were injured on Wednesday when the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a ditch in Jammu and Kash-

mir's Udhampur district, police said.

The accident took place in the Omara area, they said.

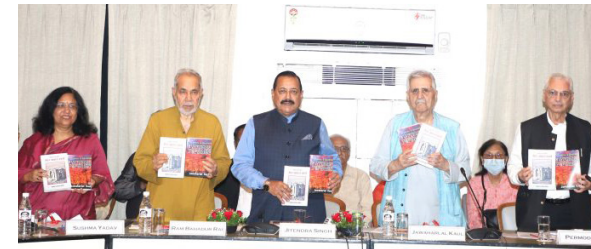
The injured were hospitalised, police said, adding that a case has been registered.

Votaries of Art 370 were its biggest abusers: Dr Jitendra Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has said, votaries of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir were its biggest abusers.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, by using the alibi of Article 370 and 35A, both Congress and National Conference had for decades together denied the common man the benefit of Central Laws like property rights for women, voting rights to refugees from Pakistan, the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 in order to appease certain sections of society for vote bank. The same votaries however never felt shy of extending the term of State Assembly to 6 years and refusing to



revert back even after the constitution amendment was brought in by the Morarji govt, which they refused to extend to J&K citing Art 370 because it ensured their continuance in power, he said.

Releasing the book "Jammu & Kashmir - a Wounded Paradise" by veteran journalist Padamshri Jawaharlal Koul, Dr Jitendra Singh described the book as a non-political narrative putting the record straight for posterity so as to dissuade biased accounts about the recent

history of J&K from creating confusion in the minds of the new generation.

"Jammu & Kashmir suffered a long nightmare of blunder, blackmail and deceit propagated by vested interests,... You hold the powers that be in Delhi to ransom, and the powers, at different times, were also ready to appease. And this appeasement went on and on till they arrived at a situation where you could not, (since) you were riding a tiger

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Govt tells departments to create separate category for transgenders in recruitment

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

The Jammu & Kashmir government on Wednesday directed its departments to include "transgender" as a separate category of gender for recruitment in government jobs.

The government today directed all the administrative departments to modify the relevant examination/service rules for inclusion of a separate category of 'third gender/any other category' in the application forms in recruitment to various posts in the UT of J&K.

With this directive, the departments will now have to amend rules for keeping the option of 'transgender' in the application forms for government jobs along with male and female. The

move is aimed to ensure that the relevant rules are in conformity with the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019, the General Administration Department said, in an order, a copy of which is in possession of news agency.

In 2020, the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, had issued a similar directive to the Central government departments.

On February 5, 2020, the DOPT also notified civil services examination rules- 2020 for inclusion of transgender as a separate category of gender for the category of exam.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019, prohibits the discrimination, denial or unfair treatment of

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Buy goods from local shops instead of online: Shuvam Singh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR

When big festivals like Diwali, Navratri, Dussehra come, many types of goods are purchased. However, now the trend of online shopping is increasing. In such a situation, District President of Aam Aadmi Party Shuvam Singh says that online shopping is causing injustice to local shopkeepers. Apart from this, the relationship between the consumer and the merchant is not considered in online shopping. Shuvam Singh told that there are many merchant families in Vijaypur town. Their business continues from generation to generation. Their present generation is aware of customer service and modern technology and changes. He has cited the relationship between the businessman and the consumer. The purchase of goods increases during big festivals like Diwali. In view of this, Shuvam Singh has requested all the customers to do Diwali shopping from local shops and local traders only. During the Corona period, businessmen had helped the society a lot, especially during the Corona period, businessmen have helped the society a lot. When common consumers had to



stay at home, traders risked their lives to provide services. Shuvam Singh says that the Corona period has taught a lot to the entire creation. All transactions were halted. But, the traders in the market yard did not stay at home. Traders were risking their lives to supply grain to the city. Helped business constituents like Hamal brothers, small traders, brokers. Vaccination, health checkup was done. These traders maintained humanity. Consumers should keep these things in mind. Shuvam said that the biggest crisis we have seen in our lives was the time of Corona epidemic. During this period the traders did not abandon the Grahak Devo Bhava mantra. Sometimes retailers also lend their goods so that customers can celebrate their festivals well, even if they are in difficult times. But even during festivals in malls or online transactions, goods can be purchased only after cash payment. All consumers should keep this in mind and not forget their local merchants. Consumers should come out of their homes and shop at wholesale and retail shops only.

Baldev Singh Billawaria dedicates development works at Ekta Vihar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Continuing to provide better development as well as basic amenities to the people of Jammu, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria dedicated the development works at Ekta Vihar in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency. This development work was done under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). The local residents also expressed their gratitude to Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria for fulfilling their long-pending demand. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the residents of Ekta Vihar will continue to do development work for the betterment. The Deputy Mayor said that this development work was completed ahead of schedule and it was a long pending demand of the local people and now this demand has been fulfilled. He said that this lane and drain is adjacent to other lanes of the ward, now



with the construction of this lane there will be relief from the problem of water logging in the rainy season. Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the government is continuously working under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to provide basic facilities to the common man and to improve the standard of living. He said that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is working on the policy of Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi's motto "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas". The Deputy Mayor said that development is the priority of the Government so that the last man in the last queue is benefitted.

He said that development works are continuing in Jammu city and continuous steps are being taken by the government in the interest of the public. The Deputy Mayor said that the Municipal Corporation is committed to provide better infrastructure and other basic amenities to the people of Jammu city. He assured the people of the ward that whatever other problems remained, they will also be completed with priority. Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Sunil Sharma, Pawan Chib, Jugal Kishore, Ajay Pratap Singh, Nikhil Bhasin, Rakesh Sangral, Surjit Kumar, Captain Sarup Singh, Gurvinder Singh, Rinku Singh and others were present.

Modi govt empowered neglected, oppressed: Sat Sharma

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

The Narendra Modi government has empowered the most neglected and the oppressed sections of the society. Policies of the government are specifically tailored to meet the needs and the aspirations of the classes, which bore the burnt of the policy paralysis of the earlier Congress led governments, said Sat Sharma (CA), former Minister, and former President, J&K BJP.

Sat Sharma said that entire BJP cadre believes in the 'Sewa Dharma' and the day he/she joins the BJP takes the oath to keep the nation and the society on priority keeping the personal interests in abeyance. He hailed the Modi government for decisive and pragmatic approach to the issues faced by the general masses especially in the regions of Jammu & Kashmir, wherein the development in the form of 2 AIIMS, IITs, IIMs, Medical Colleges, higher education institutions, express highways, bridges, tunnels, improved road infrastructure, decreased terrorism, improved tourism, digital official platforms,



improved public response, investments have opened gateway for new Jammu & Kashmir.

Sharma said that the entire region of Jammu & Kashmir is presently undergoing a phase of transition and soon with the untiring efforts of Modi government, the youth of Jammu & Kashmir would be prosperous and ambitious forgetting the previous black days of unemployment, bloodshed, disengagement under Congress, NC and PDP.

Sat Sharma was also accompanied by J&K BJP Secretary Anju Dogra and Maha Jana Sampark Abhiyaan Department Incharge Ankush Gupta while listening to the grievances of a number of people, individually and in the form of deputations at BJP Headquarter, Trikuta Nagar,

Jammu. Various deputations and individuals from Bhagiyal Dharab, Poonch, Fatehpur Rajouri, Vikram Chowk, Khoo Wali Gali Trikuta Nagar, Talab Tillo, Ward 40, Greater Kailash, Sarwal, Gole Gujaral, and other places, shared their grievances with the BJP leaders, which were related to ration supply, compensation of shop, street light, drain work, building permission, inadequate teachers in school, upgradation of cremation ground, garbage collection, electricity bills, pension cases, etc. All the grievances were taken up with the senior officials of the concerned departments for early disposal.

Anju Dogra and Ankush Gupta managed the proceedings of the public darbar and diarized the issues presented by the visitors.

MA Dar offers condolences to families of deceased

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Prominent Socio Political Activist And Trade Union leader Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) in a statement issued to press here said saddened by the loss of an Ayurvedic doctor and seven others persons were injured, two of them critically due to an road mishap in South Kashmir Anantnag district in which Tata Suno bearing registration number JK03B 1989 while on way from Dessu to Vailool, skidded off the road and fell down a bridge.

My thoughts are with the bereaved families. Praying for injured for their speedy recovery.

"The entire Community stands shoulder to shoulder with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. My sincerest condolences to them. May the injured recover at the earliest,"

Muslims were exploited by Cong for 70 yrs: Khatana



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Bharatiya Janata Party MP(Nominated) Er. Gulam Ali Khatana said that Muslims have understood that so-called main stream parties including Congress have used and misused them for only political gains. He said that large number of Muslims are coming to join BJP and expressing their love for Har Dil Aziz PM Narendra Modi.

Sultan Mohd, Azam Khan, Basharat Hussain, Kalim Ullah, Dev Raj, Shahbaz Rather, Sunny, Sanjeev, Dinesh and others.

"BJP does not believe in political expediency but wants to serve common masses without any distinction of caste, colour, creed, religion or race," said MP Khatana adding "We have delivered on any front everywhere and no one can accuse PM Modi led government of any wrongdoing, while others govts. Were kneed deep in corruption, nepotism and favouritism."

Mohd Rafiq said that he had been deeply impressed by the policies and programmes of the BJP govt. and especially its special focus to educate Muslim community. He said that party would expand its mass base among untouched, unheard, discriminated against communities too with its outreach programmes.

Orientation Programme organized at SMVDU for UG, PG Students

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

SMVDU organized an orientation program for the students of Masters and Integrated Programmes. The Orientation program is envisaged to help students transition into their new academic environment and role and align expectations to the values that SMVDU upholds as a university and community together. The program began with the recital of the National Anthem followed by a lamp-lighting ceremony at Matrika Auditorium. The chief guest of the function, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, SMVDU graced the occasion and gave the inaugural address. He welcomed the incoming batch in the SMVDU family and



urged each one of them to take responsibility and contribute to the university. He advised the students to make the best out of the course, and the faculty provided to them. He urged the students to enjoy their studies and their sports while on the ground. Further, he encouraged the incoming students to remain inquisitive and to enjoy their life and study by consistently working with a purpose in life. He also advised them to decide on their future course of the journey as

to whether they would like to become, job creators or job seekers, and work towards achieving their dream. It was followed by brief orientation remarks by Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs. He addressed the students for making the best of every opportunity and to stay optimistic. He wished them good luck for embarking on their new journey. The event was attended by the Deans and heads of the schools of various faculties of the university.

Only Modi govt sincere for safe, dignified return of Kashmiri migrants: Dr. Devinder Manyal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Only Narendra Modi government is sincere for the safe and dignified return of Kashmiri migrants to their homeland, stated Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary J&K BJP & former Minister.

Dr. Manyal was addressing a meeting of BJP Kashmir Displaced District (KDD) regarding "Booth Jan Samvad Mahaabhiyan". This outreach programme shall begin on the eve of Dusshara on 24th October 2023, and culminate on Uttarayan, 24th January 2024. The motive of this campaign is to strengthen the grass root level cadre of party and to reach each and every household at the booth level. The cadre in general shall aware the public regarding the policies, programmes and welfare scheme of Modi government. Dr. Manyal also took the review of Meri Matti Mera Desh campaign and Mandal Verification Abhiyan at BJP office, Kachi Chawni Jammu.

KDD President Chand Ji Bhat presided over the meeting, while Ajay Bharti, former MLC and Prabhari KDD, along with Hira Lal Bhat Seh-Prabhari KDD, Moti Lal Bhat General Secretary KDD also spoke on the occasion.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, while addressing the meeting, spoke in



detail on the massive outreach program initiated by the BJP on the national level and urged the party workers to make this campaign a grand success.

Dr. Manyal said that the Kashmiri Displaced community has seen the heinous crimes on large scale leading their ouster from the valley. Subsequently, the community overcoming numerous difficulties struggled for their existence in various corners of the world and hence the outreach program in the community requires dedicated effort on behalf of BJP cadre.

"Bharatiya Janata Party has always stood with the Kashmiri community and the Modi government has taken all possible measures for the safe and the dignified return of Kashmiri migrants to their homeland" said Dr. Manyal.

Dr. Manyal sought the details of the programmes like 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' and the planning for

the 'Amrit Kalash Yatra'. He stressed that during the ongoing outreach programmes of the organization, the BJP cadre must also allot active roles to their booth level activists strengthening the booths.

Ajay Bharti, while speaking on the occasion, spoke on the issues faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community and said that the Jammu & Kashmir BJP is raising these issues before the LG administration and the Union Home Ministry for their disposal, expressing the hope for the safe return of the community.

Chand ji Bhat said that the Kashmiri community has full faith on the Modi government and assured the BJP leadership that every KDD activist would leave no stone unturned to strengthen the party at the grass root level.

All District office bearers, Mandal presidents, Mandal general secretaries and Booth presidents, attended the meeting.

DDC Suresh Sharma kickstarts devp works with 1.75 cr under JJM

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR OCT 11

BJP senior leader and DDC member Pandit Suresh Sharma initiated the work for laying of water supply pipe in Maira Mandrian panchayat of Chhamb assembly constituency, which will be completed at the cost of rupees one crore seventy five lakh under Jal Jeevan Mission. This pipeline will be laid in Maira Mohalla, Thanger, Mohalla Puran Singh, maira Sathar, mandrain mohalla Nargada, Centre Mohalla Rehani, Mund mohalla thanger and SC these areas had acute shortage of water due to over loading of pipes and this project will provide relief to the people through regular supply.

Pandit Suresh Sharma, also addressed the public on this occasion and shared with them that soon a tubewell will also be set up in Maira Mandri-an having fifty thousand gallon capacity reservoir in Maira and thirty thou-



sand gallan capacity reservoir in Mandrian. On completion of the work of this tubewell the panchayat will get big relief from scarcity of water.

Pandit Suresh Sharma said that the Narendra Modi government has launched Jal Jeevan Mission with a motive of providing drinking water through tap to every household across the country. The people are getting regular supply of water under this mission.

All the people of the panchayat expressed their

gratitude to Pandit Suresh Sharma for taking keen interest in mitigating their problems.

BDC Sushma Devi, BJP Mandal president Dr. Ram Lal Sharma, Mandal vice president Ashok Purohit, Mandal general secretary Master Chanchal Singh, panch Shakti Bhagat, Jyoti Devi, Sudesh Bhagat, Vijay Bhagat, Sikander Dev, Balwant Singh, departmental officials and a large number of prominent persons of the panchayat were present on the occasion.

JJM project should be completed in time: Arvind

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Secretary Arvind Gupta has expressed his grave concern over the media report that Jammu & Udhampur districts of the Union Territory are lagging behind in completing the water projects under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He said that it is a Central Government's project with fixed deadline that by 2024 every household has to be provided tap water supply. It is most unfortunate to learn from the report that both, Jammu and Udhampur, are among the worst performing districts under the mission

and that the performance of both these districts is not up to the mark as nearly half of the households are still waiting to get fresh tap water connections.

Arvind Gupta said that till now, as reported, in Udhampur district, only 54.45 per cent households have got fresh water connections and in Jammu just 54 per cent have been able to get this facility.

The BJP leader said that Narendra Modi government is committed to provide all the basic amenities to the people at their doorsteps. Jal Jeevan Mission is one such flagship programme of the Modi-led government

launched on August 15, 2019, which is a great initiative to benefit large population and need to be completed in time bound manner.

Arvind Gupta further said that while it is appreciable that in Jammu and Kashmir UT, some districts are amongst the best performers in the entire country having 100 per cent tap water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission, responsibility should be fixed on the officials supervising such works of water schemes in the worst performing districts and immediate and effective steps should be taken to speed up the works to ensure that no areas is left uncovered by 2024, he said.

Surjit Choudhary meets Union Secretary of Panchayati Raj in Delhi, submits memorandum

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Surjit Choudhary, Convener of Panchayati Raj Cell Jammu & Kashmir, today met with the Union Secretary of Panchayati Raj, Sunil Kumar, at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi today. During the meeting, he formally submitted a memorandum outlining key demands and pressing issues related to the Panchayati Raj system.

During this meeting, he advocated for electoral delimitation in the Panchayati Raj system in Jammu and Kashmir. Arun Sharma, BDC Chairman Sunderbani and Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini, President of Rashtriya Sarpanch Sangh, North Zone were also present.

The memorandum addressed the need for electoral delimitation at various levels of the Panchayati Raj system. It highlighted the irregularities present in the existing electoral structures and stressed the importance of bringing these systems in line with the principles of fairness and representation.

One of the key points



raised in the memorandum is the demand for an open tender process for Panchayat Ghar construction projects at the Panchayati Raj level. He said this move aims to promote transparency and efficiency in the allocation of contracts for these essential community facilities.

Moreover, the memorandum discussed the disparities in the number of votes, Panchayats, and Blocks across different regions of Jammu and Kashmir. These variations have led to imbalances in representation, making it imperative to conduct delimitation exercises that reflect the current demographic and geographic realities.

The Panchayati Raj

system in Jammu and Kashmir was established following the abrogation of Article 370, and it consists of a three-tier structure, including Panchayats, Block Development Councils (BDCs), and District Development Councils (DDCs). The first-tier Panchayat elections were held in 2018, followed by BDC elections in 2019 and DDC elections in 2020. With the completion of these three-tier elections, Halqa Panchayat elections are scheduled for December 2023.

The memorandum highlights irregularities observed at different levels of the Panchayati Raj system included variations in the number of votes within Panchayats, ranging from 600 to 6,500 votes; disparities in number of BDCs across districts, varying from 4 to 261 varied numbers of Panchayats within Blocks, with some having only 6 while others have 24 Panchayats and significant variations in the number of DDC members within districts.

Surjit Choudhary emphasized the importance of addressing these irregularities through the delimitation of wards for Halqa Panchayats, BDCs, and DDCs. By ensuring equitable representation and standardized voting patterns, this measure would streamline the Panchayati Raj system in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Surjit Choudhary emphasized the importance of addressing these irregularities through the delimitation of wards for Halqa Panchayats, BDCs, and DDCs. By ensuring equitable representation and standardized voting patterns, this measure would streamline the Panchayati Raj system in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

In light of these concerns, Surjit Choudhary called upon the Union Secretary of Panchayati Raj to initiate the delimitation process promptly, ahead of the upcoming elections for all three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system. He stressed the importance of conducting delimitation of wards and rectifying these issues to streamline the Panchayati Raj system and ensure that it functions as intended.

Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini, President of Rashtriya Sarpanch Sangh, North Zone, has raised a significant demand for the creation of a dedicated Panchayat Commission. He emphasized that Panchayats play a crucial role in rural governance, ensuring effective service delivery, local development, and grassroots representation.

By advocating for a dedicated Panchayat Commission, Sarpanch Gurdeep Saini aimed to strengthen the institution of Panchayats and provide them with a formal platform for addressing their concerns and advocating for their rights.

Use 'Power of the Pen': Prof. Sanjeev Jain VC CUJ

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu proudly commemorated the International Day of the Girl Child which brought together all the students, scholars, and faculty members. The Celebration embraced the importance of education to each girl embodying a spirit of undying commitment in the direction of female education.

On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, felicitated every female student in the Department by gifting a pen and said that the girls need to understand and use the 'Power of the Pen'. He further said that the time has come to encourage the girls in leadership roles which is increasing day by day. He encouraged



the girls and highlighted their role in shaping the future of Bharat.

Before that, Prof. Asit Mantry Head of the Department addressed the gathering and shared insightful thoughts on the revered position of women in Bharatiya culture and also paid a remarkable tribute to the potential, strength, and achievements of girls around the world. He said that the celebration was a testa-

ment to the Department's commitment to gender equality by empowering girl students.

The event was attended by the Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, faculty members - Prof. J. N. Baliya, Dr. Kran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ram, Dr. Arvind, Dr. Aarushi, Dr. Anil dn Dr. Shivali. The entire event was well planned by the Co-curricular activities committee.

Altaf Bukhari inaugurates Apni Party Office at Sumbal

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 11

Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday inaugurated the Apni Party Office at Sumbal.

The Apni Party Office was inaugurated in presence of the Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir; Vice President Usman Majid; Vice President, Zaffar Manhas; Spokesperson EX-MLA Yawar Dilwar Mir; District President Srinagar, Noor Mohammed Sheikh; District President Bandipora, Qazmi; Party leader, Imtiyaz Parry and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Altaf Bukhari appreciated the Party leaders and workers for strengthening the party and intensifying the public outreach programmes that is aimed to educate people about the policy and developmental agenda of Apni Party.

"The Apni Party is committed for the social, economic and political upliftment of the people in all the regions," he



said. On the sideline of the function, he raised a question on the absence of National Conference and PDP leadership from a joint protest of opposition political parties in Jammu and Kashmir. To another question, he responded that "The BJP has no presence in Kashmir. Similarly, they are nowhere in Kargil that is why in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil they faced defeat. The Council was re-elected because they had done good work."

"However, the Congress Party, PDP and NC are responsible for spreading fear among the masses on the name of BJP which has no ground in Kashmir yet they play divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir for vote bank politics," he said.

He said that the Apni Party has forcefully raised the demand for the restoration of statehood and holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and accordingly, held a series of protests in support of our demands.

He said that "Whenever assembly elections are announced, the Apni Party is confident that we will win the assembly elections with a majority in Jammu and Kashmir because the people have pinned their hope with the party and its developmental agenda."

Yudhvir, Priya, Dr. Akshay inaugurate medical camp at ward-8

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K BJP, along with Priya Sethi, National Executive Member of BJP and former minister, and Dr. Akshay Sharma, Councillor of Ward No. 8, today inaugurated a medical camp at 19-B New Rehari, near VHP Shakti Ashram, Jammu.

This medical camp, organized by Dr. Akshay Sharma in collaboration with Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Arogya Jeevan Sansthan Hanumangarh, Rajasthan, is a noteworthy effort to provide crucial medical services to the local community. District President Parmod Kapahi, Corporator Suneet Raina, Mandal President Raman Sharma were also present.

Yudhvir Sethi, while addressing the gathering, stressed the paramount



importance of maintaining good health. He emphasized that initiatives like medical camps play a pivotal role in ensuring the well-being of the community. He highlighted that regular health check-ups are essential for early detection and prevention of diseases. He encouraged individuals to take full advantage of this medical camp, stating that good health is the founda-

tion for a prosperous and fulfilling life.

Sethi reiterated the importance of the medical camp, which offers a wide range of healthcare services to address the various health concerns of the local population. He said such medical camp stands as a testament to the commitment of individuals and organizations to the betterment of the community's health and

quality of life, ensuring that accessible healthcare is available to all.

Priya Sethi, in her address, emphasized that health should be a top priority for every individual. She underlined the significance of community-driven healthcare initiatives in promoting a healthier society. She pointed out that preventive healthcare measures, such as regular check-ups and consulta-

tions, can significantly contribute to a higher quality of life. She lauded Dr. Akshay Sharma's initiative and encouraged community members to participate in the camp, ensuring their health remains a priority.

Dr. Akshay Sharma extended his gratitude to Yudhvir Sethi and Priya Sethi for sparing their valuable time for this medical camp. He informed the attendees that the camp will continue its services until October 15, urging residents to take full advantage of this opportunity to maintain their health and well-being.

Among those who were present include Suresh Salgotra, Navin Sharma, Ashok Salgotra, Rohit Gupta, Sharda Devi, Puneet Chawla, Romesh Kumar, Vipin Verma, Raman Dhiman, Swati Bakshi and Ashok Naidu.

GangaDhar Ji Maharaj Hari Nam Sankirtan going on in village Pasgal of Bishnah tehsil



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

Today In the Hari Nam Sankirtan going on in village Pasgal of Bishnah tehsil, thousands of people took the valuable benefit of life by listening the great scientific knowledge propagated by ancient Rishis of India. Religious preacher Shri GangaDhar Ji Shastri, while throwing light on the need and importance of Shradha in the ongoing Pitru fortnight, said that Our ancestors are as important to us as the roots to a tree, hence worshipping our ancestors is

capable of giving happiness, peace and benefits to man.

This process of doing Shradha is a wonderful and scientific discovery of the ancient Indian sages. Lord Ram also performed Shradha in Gaya Tirtha during his exile. By this, he pleased his father King Dashrath and also saw him in person. To organize human life in well manner, Respected Shri GangaDhar ji guided the listeners through many sources of Sanatan culture and theology to make them happy and prosperous. Keeping oneself and others happy, increas-

ing mutual love, social harmony, service to the country and keeping the young generation away from vices. Respected Shri GangaDhar Ji Maharaj inspired us with his wise sermons to improve our health.

In this five-day long Hari Nam Sankirtan programme, the devotees experienced great joy by consuming the nectar of knowledge and also by taking food offerings from the Bhandara.

In fact, organizing such knowledge sessions frequently in society is very important to promote human and moral values.

Restore Statehood, hold elections in J&K: Tony

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 11

Congress Leader and District Development Council (DDC) Member, Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, reaffirmed his call for the restoration of statehood and the prompt organization of elections in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today lamented the reluctance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to hold elections, asserting that the party appears ill-prepared and uncertain about facing the democratic process. He emphasized that democratic elections are a fundamental pillar of India's vibrant democracy and should not be postponed or avoided.

Drawing attention to the statements made by the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, all affirming the prevailing peace in the region, Tony questioned why the Election Commission is delay-



ing the announcement of elections. He called upon the Election Commission to carefully consider these statements and act in accordance with the democratic principles that India upholds.

Tony implored the Election Commission to act swiftly and decisively by announcing the schedule for elections in Jammu and Kashmir without any further delay. He believed that this would not only restore the democratic rights of the people in the region but also strengthen the democratic fabric of the nation.

Dr. Ritu Singh, Pt Subhash Shastri, Sahil Ji Maharaj to lead 41st Shiv Sena Holy Pilgrimage with Green Flags

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 11

On October 14, the 41st sacred pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi's abode, commencing from Jammu, will be led by Maharaja Hari Singh's daughter-in-law, Dr. Ritu Singh, along with Pandit Subhash Shastri and Sahil Ji Maharaj, all proudly bearing green flags. Additionally, devotees can avail of complimentary bus services from Maharaja Hari Singh Park in Jammu for the auspicious occasion.

This was stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir today after meeting with Dr. Ritu Singh, Pandit Subhash Shastri, and Sahil Ji.

Sahni detailed the plans for the 41st pilgrimage, which will start from the historic Raghunath Temple in Jammu. Dr. Ritu Singh will extend a warm welcome to the sacred procession, while Pandit Subhash Shastri and Sahil Ji will lead the majestic



journey with green flags in hand. In attendance, we will also have the distinguished presence of National Organizers Ashok Tiwari and Vinod Kumar as chief guests.

Sahni clarified that this pilgrimage will have a profound mythological significance. He explained that arrangements for free bus services from Hari Singh Park have been made for the convenience of devotees. These buses will depart from Hari Singh

Park at 12:30 PM on the specified date. Interested participants can reserve their seats by contacting the party office at 9419182952.

Moreover, arrangements for the Pehla Darshan at the Kool Kandoli Temple in Nagrota have also been organized. Sahni appealed to the devotees to become an integral part of this pilgrimage in large numbers, seeking the blessings of the Maa Vaishno Devi.

