



# DC flags in Shanti Yatra at BHSS Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, on Monday officially received the Shanti Yatra here at BHSS Rajouri. The momentous occasion marked the commencement of commemorations of the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi Ji.

The Shanti Yatra, which was flagged off on September 9th from Poonch district, aims to celebrate the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi in all schools of the Jammu division, spanning from September 9th to October 2nd. Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated on October 2nd, will be highlighted by the Shanti Yatra, a symbolic journey promoting Gandhi Ji's message of love, peace, non-violence, and cleanliness.



This symbolic journey of peace will traverse through all ten districts of the Jammu division. The Shanti Yatra has garnered participation from a multitude of individuals, including CEO Rajouri, along with hundreds of enthusiastic attendees, who gathered at BHSS Rajouri to be part of this inspirational event. Following its reception at BHSS Rajouri, the Shanti Yatra proceeded on its route, visiting various significant locations, including MS Muradpur, HS Dalogra, HS Dhanwan

HSS chingus. Along the way, it was warmly welcomed by CEO Rajouri Sultana Kouser, dedicated staff members of Zone Rajouri, and an impressive assembly of students.

BHSS Rajouri witnessed an extraordinary turnout, with approximately a hundred staff members and more than six hundred students coming together to extend a heartfelt welcome to the Shanti Yatra.

This journey of peace is set to traverse different routes, ultimately reach-

ing Jammu on October 2nd.

Addressing the gathering, DC Rajouri Vikas Kundal emphasized the significance of the Shanti Yatra, calling upon all students and attendees to embrace the teachings and principles of Mahatma Gandhi. He stressed the importance of leading lives guided by the spirit of non-violence, echoing Gandhi Ji's philosophy. The staff and students present eagerly awaited this momentous occasion, organized to propagate the messages of peace, love, cleanliness, and Gandhian philosophy.

The Shanti Yatra stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, spreading his timeless ideals and inspiring future generations towards a path of peace and harmony.

# 2nd round of Intensified Mission Inderdhanush 5.0 launched in Ramban District

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, SEPT 11: Like in other parts of J&K UT, the 2nd round of Intensified Mission Inderdhanush(IMI) 5.0 was launched today in Ramban District.

A team of ASHAs, ANMs and Health Facility Managers was flagged off by the Deputy CMO, Ramban, BMO Batote Dr. Gurmeet Kour here from Community Health Centre (CHC) Batote. Starting from

today, the designated teams from all hospitals across the district will go house to house in their areas till September 16 to administer the 2nd dose of vaccination against 12 dreaded communicable diseases to children up to 5years of age.

They will also administer the Anti Tetanus vaccine to pregnant women. According to Dr.Gurmeet, in Ramban district considered as Red Flag Zone or High Risk Zone, as many as 1200 children upto 5year age and 220 Pregnant

Women will be vaccinated during this week long campaign by about 700 staffers of different hospitals of all the four Blocks.

Dr Kour fervently appealed to people to come forward and get their children below five year, fully vaccinated specially where elimination of measles and rubella is targeted by December 2023.

The 1st round of IMI was launched from August 7 to 12 and the third round will be launched from October 9 to 14.

# DC Rajouri reviews preparations for 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' Phase-2



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, on Monday chaired a meeting to evaluate the preparations for the much anticipated second phase of the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign, featuring the Amrit Kalash Yatras. This four-tiered approach, spanning from villages to the national capital, is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, aims to instill a sense of national pride and unity among citizens. Scheduled to commence from October 1st and end on October 13th, the campaign is geared to reach every corner of the district. During the meeting,

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the significance of collecting soil from diverse villages to be placed in a communal Amrit Kalash at the block level. In an impassioned address, he called upon all government departments to collaborate closely to ensure the campaign's resounding success and encouraged their active involvement in various events, setting a benchmark for others to follow.

A pivotal aspect highlighted during the meeting was the creation of a festive atmosphere at the block-level program, where soil from various villages will be ceremonially combined in a single Amrit Kalash. Furthermore, Deputy

Commissioner Vikas Kundal underscored the need to pay homage to martyrs at the block level and directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats to facilitate this process.

The meeting also delved into the organization of cultural programs at the block level, designed to honor the bravehearts. These programs will involve the enthusiastic participation of volunteers from esteemed organizations such as NSS, NYKS, and NCC. Similar programs will also be conducted in municipal corporations, municipalities, and city councils in urban areas. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal urged officers to work diligently, with a

special focus on encouraging women's participation and involving Anganwadi workers and youth volunteers.

With the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign, the people of Rajouri are presented with a unique opportunity to reignite the spirit of freedom and reaffirm their dedication to building a stronger, united, and prosperous nation.

The campaign promises to deliver an unforgettable and impactful experience for every citizen of Rajouri, uniting them in celebrating the rich cultural heritage and diversity of the region. The meeting witnessed the active participation of several officers, including Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Khurshid, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Sheraz Chowhan, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, all Executive Officers, Municipal Council representatives, and committee members.

# GDC Kathua launches "Green ribbon" campaign to mark World Suicide Prevention Day

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, SEPT 11: To prevent the suicidal ideations among college students, Department of Psychology Government Degree College Kathua, in collaboration with 2 JK Girls Bn NCC wing, launched "Green ribbon" campaign to mark "World Suicide Prevention Day".

The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness about suicide and how to support those who may be struggling, honor survivors and remember those who have died. Wearing or displaying a suicide awareness ribbon is just one way to show how important the issue of suicide prevention is to you.

The whole program was conducted under the guidance and Supervision of Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir. Faculty members Prof. Raj Kiran, Dr. Kamaldeep Singh and Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan were also

present on the occasion.

The program was organized by Dr. Rachna Devi (ANO and coordinator Psychological counseling cell GDC Kathua) with the support of Dr. Sumi Saidullah (Lecturer, department of Psychology GDC Kathua).

More than 300 students from various semesters of undergraduate programs of GDC Kathua participated in the campaign.

Volunteer students Miss Saivi, Neha Sharma, Ananya, Yogesh Sharma, Riya Sharma, lakshay Anand, Yashvee gotra, Shivali Jasrotia and Deepak Jyoti Distributed green ribbons to all participating classes and encouraged students to wear green ribbon throughout the day. By encouraging students to wear the green ribbon, students can show their support for the campaign and their commitment to influencing positive change in society through creating safe spaces for talking

about mental health.

Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir said that it's fantastic that GDC Kathua is getting involved in green ribbon campaign to help tackle suicide cases among youth. Many young people still believe that mental health problems must remain hidden. "We want to change this perception and encourage people to have open and honest conversations about mental health/ suicide" she added.

The Principal further said that simply by wearing a green ribbon, you are letting students know its ok to have a conversation about mental health/suicidal ideation with you. This small act can help start a conversation about suicide prevention and let others know that you are there for them if they need someone to talk to. She also appreciated the efforts taken by organizers and participants of the event.

# ITI Rajouri hosts Mobile Repair Technician Course

DC takes appraisal, interacts with trainees

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, SEPT 11: In a significant stride towards uplifting underprivileged youth, Vikas Kundal, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, graced the premises of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Rajouri today. The purpose of the visit was to gauge the progress and impact of the Mobile Repair Technician course, a tailored initiative sponsored under the SANKALP program that aims to empower the region's disadvantaged youth.

The Mobile Repair Technician course, devised with the vision of transforming the lives of 25 underprivileged youngsters, has demonstrated remarkable progress since its inception. A hallmark of this program is its commitment to ensure placement opportunities for all trainees upon successful completion, thereby paving the way for sustainable livelihoods in Rajouri.

During his visit, Vikas Kundal engaged with both the dedicated trainees and instructors to gain valuable insights into the curriculum and practical training compo-



nents. He expressed his profound satisfaction with the quality of education imparted and the unwavering dedication exhibited by the students and instructors alike. This course will equip the participants with the practical skills essential in today's digital age, not only fostering self-reliance but also contributing significantly to the socio-economic growth of the region.

In a laudable move to bolster the trainees' journey, it was announced that upon the successful conclusion of the course, each

participant will receive a stipend of Rs 1000, providing them with the much-needed financial support during their transition into the workforce.

Vikas Kundal commended ITI Rajouri for its unwavering commitment to community betterment and reiterated his steadfast support for such initiatives. He underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in empowering youth and enhancing their employability, which ultimately plays a pivotal role in the holistic development of Rajouri district.

# Govt notifies transport arrangements for migratory tribal families

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: The Tribal Affairs Department in collaboration with J&K Road Transport Corporation and the respective District Administration has notified arrangements for migration of pastoral tribal families from Kashmir region to Jammu, with the onset of winter.

The migration of families will commence from mid-September from higher reaches and will continue till November 2023.

The administrative council headed by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has approved the transport service for tribal population during migration as one of the key deliverables, which is being monitored by the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta regularly. Finance department has also earmarked required budget for this annual facility provided during summer and winter migration.

Every year the government deploys a fleet of trucks to ease the long-range migration through National Highway-44 and Mughal road.

This year 150 trucks are being deployed to districts. The Deputy Commissioners have notified nodal officers for facilitating migration and making associated arrangements.

Earlier, Secretary, Tribal Affairs,



Dr Shahid Choudhary reviewed the arrangement with Secretary Transport, G Prasanna Ramaswamy, DCs, RTC management and other allied departments.

The meeting was also attended by MD J&K RTC, Director, Tribal Affairs, Director, Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Secretary, Advisory Board and other officers.

Secretary, Transport Department, informed that JK RTC has conveyed its readiness to deputy commissioners and will provide the trucks as per the demand raised by the districts administration. DCs have also been authorised to hire trucks and light commercial vehicles at local level for hassle free and timely service.

Deputy Commissioners of

District Pulwama, Anantnag, Ramban, Udhampur, Kulgam, Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri will monitor the migration and put in place required arrangements in coordination with J&K RTC, Animal/Sheep Husbandry Deptt and local authorities.

Meanwhile, TRI J&K has been asked to notify and publicise helpline numbers on radio and all media for wider circulation, to be made available for real time grievance redress.

Pertinent to mention, as per the 1st survey of Transhumance conducted by the Department of Tribal Affairs under supervision of Secretary, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, the department documented world's largest Transhumant population in Jammu and Kashmir.

# Forest Deptt observes National Forest Martyr's Day across J&K

Dheeraj Gupta participates in commemoration ceremony at Shankaracharya Forests

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: Principal Secretary Forest, Environment & Ecology, Dheeraj Gupta along with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Roshan Jaggi today participated in National Forest Martyr's day to commemorate the sacrifices forest officers and frontline staff here at Forest Memorial located at Shankaracharya forests Srinagar.

The event witnesses the participation other officers from various wings of the Forest Department and frontline staff were present and they paid floral tributes to commemorate the sacrifices of forest officers/officials.

Similar events were also organized in different parts of J&K to mark the occasion.

On 11th September every year, Forest Martyrs Day is observed to commemorate the sacrifices of forest officers and frontline staff work-



ing for protection and conservation of Forests, Wildlife and for other related environmental issues.

This Day is observed at the National level also to highlight the need to protect and conserve Forests, Wildlife and Biodiversity for maintaining the ecological balance.

To accomplish this difficult and challenging task, the forest officers and frontline staff who perform their duties under difficult working conditions in far flung and difficult forest areas, there is need to equip them with modern technology, latest equipments and infrastructural facilities.

In Jammu & Kashmir,

so far 85 number of forest officers and forest officials have laid down their lives while performing their duties in different capacities and capabilities of frontline forest staff to deal with the emerging challenges.

The Forest Department has in last few years taken various initiatives to improve the infrastructure and enhancing the working capabilities of frontline staff.

In this regard focus has been laid on providing residential accommodation to frontline staff working in far flung areas and also for improving the mobility and training and capacity building.

The ICT applications have been increasingly

used to modernize the working and enhance the capacity of the field staff.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & CC, Government of India had declared the 11th of September as National Forestry Martyrs Day in the year 2013 in recognition of the infamous Khejrl Massacre of 1730.

It is pertinent to mention here that frontline staff of Forest Department faces various challenges while performing their duties which include the attacks from forest offenders/timber smugglers, attacks from the wild animals and other difficult working conditions due to inhospitable terrain and harsh weather conditions.

## CEO, IWMP inspects SBM Works in 04 Districts

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: The Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), J&K, Dr. Bharat Bhushan undertook an extensive five days visit to Samba, Kathua, Bandipora and Baramulla and inspected Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) works in these districts.

This exercise is part of the innovative mechanism introduced by the Commissioner/Secretary, Department Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, wherein all the Heads of the Department of Rural Development have been tasked to visit the Blocks of allotted districts and inspect the works executed under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

The Chief Executive Officer, IWMP visited Chak Salarian and Abtal Panchayats falling near Indo-Pak Border in Ramgarh Block and Palli and Patli Panchayats of Block Bari Brahmana of Samba district. He also paid obeisance at the famous shrine of Baba Chambyal near Border.

Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Development Samba, BDO Ramgarh, BDO Bari Brahmana, he inspected various Rural Sanitation works.

In Kathua district, the CEO visited Panchayat Airwan and Taraf Bala of Block Nagri-Parole and Panchayat Katli and Dhalli of



Dinga Amb Block to inspect works. BDO Dinga Amb and BDO Nagri Parole showed various SBM works to the visiting Officer.

Continuing his tour, Dr. Bhushan visited Baktoor and Gurez Blocks of district Bandipora and Block Wagora and Tangmarg of Baramulla district. Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Baramulla concerned BDOs, PRIs and RDD officials accompanied the Officer during the visit.

The SBM (G) works inspected include Segregation Sheds, Community Sanitary Complexes, Community Soakage Pits, Individual Soakage Pits and Vermi-Compost Units.

The local inhabitants and PRIs

of the visited areas appreciated the pace and quality of works. The DDC member of Gurez, Tasleem Begum and BDC Chairman Mukhtyar Ahmad Lone of Baktoor Block of Gurez valley welcomed the visiting Officer and put forth various demands pertaining to Rural Sanitation and Integrated Watershed Management Programme. The visiting Officer assured to favourably consider the genuine demands.

CEO, IWMP, directed accompanying BDO Headquarter, IWMP and GIS expert Dr. Mithas Ahmad Dar to follow closely the execution of IWMP works in project areas of Gurez valley of Bandipora as this area remains snowbound for almost six months and the resultant working season is limited.

## 5G Health Use Cases for Adoption in Aspirational Districts of Kashmir Division

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: AMTRON, a PSU of Assam Govt has proposed the roll out of 5G Health use applications in the two aspirational districts of Kashmir division viz. Baramulla and Kupwara. In this regard, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting to deliberate over the different aspects of the project which shall be beneficial to the patients in these districts.

The project shall focus on 5G Training Labs with CDN (Content Delivery Network) Solutions and use cases in healthcare in Kashmir. All the applications will be based on 4.0 Industry whereby Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IOT), cloud, internet and normal smartphone will be employed. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Director Health Services Kashmir, and other officers.

Besides, representatives of PSU who attended virtually included Director (S&T), North Eastern Council, DIC, UIET, Punjab University, Chandigarh, HoD, Community Medicine Dept, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi and CEO, Inca Synergies.

At the outset, a presentation was given which focused on intervention of 5G and allied technologies of

**Div Com reviews the proposal; says the idea shall bring progressive change in health sector**



IoT (Internet of Things), Artificial Intelligence, Big Data in Health Sector to improve the quality of healthcare screening nearest to home and reduce out of pocket expenses as per the vision of NITI Aayog.

The Interventions included Mobile/ Cloud based ECG Solution; Locomotor Challenge IoT/AI Based Assessment/ Imaging for Prosthetics/ Orthotics; Imaging Device combining AI (Artificial Intelligence) to detect and classify bacteria on wounds; Diabetic Retinopathy; Senior Citizen IoT Healthcare services; AR/ VR based Anatomy Learning Models; AI based Cataract Analysis using Smart Phones; AI Technology For Respiratory Health Through Audiometric Analysis of Cough Sounds; AI based Medical Image

Analysis Over Cloud for better clinical decision making; AI based Drip Monitoring For IPD Patients by Attending Nurses and IoT based diagnostic kiosks/kit.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com maintained that the success of such IT based Interventions shall address multiple issues in health sector including reducing of crowd in hospitals, enhance ease of living, timely treatment of patients and early detection of disease of heart, chest, ophthalmology, orthopaedics besides shall save time and money of people as they shall get tests and counseling on their mobile from health experts at real time. For the implementation of this initiative, the Divisional Commissioner's office shall submit the DPR to NITI AAYOG so the project will be implemented very soon.

## R&RO concludes Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K Week campaign on positive note

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 11: Digital literacy cum Grievance Redressal Cell which was established on 6th of September 2023 in the head office of Relief and Rehabilitation Organization (M) Jammu and at the migrant camps/Zones and non-camp areas for celebration of "Brashtachar Mukh J&K Week" came to a conclusion on a high note.

The event mainly focused on awareness regarding various initiatives of the department viz online services, e-office etc. which have largely contributed towards a

transparent and corruption free system. During the 5 - day programme, around 130 grievances were brought to the notice of the team deputed by the department at various migrant camps/non-camp areas, out of which 50 pertains to the department itself for which directions were issued on spot and others were communicated to line departments for early redressal.

Moreover, all Zonal offices and Camp Offices have been notified as grievance redressal cells for the convenience of Kashmiri migrants.

On the culmination of the event, Bhrashtachar Mukh pledge taking

ceremony was organized in the head office which was attended by all officers and officials of the Relief Organization. Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, K.K. Sidha impressed upon the officers to abide by the rules and legally correct procedure to avoid grievances/complaints and to keep corruption at bay.

He further emphasized that such efforts to address all genuine grievances and to make people aware about the online services, activities to help people learn and adapt to using these services shall be continued in the department in a sustained manner.

## Deputy Commissioner Pulwama chairs Block level review meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, SEPT 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a block level review of development works / schemes at Town Hall Pampore.

At the outset, Block Development Officer apprised the chair of the various developmental schemes going on in the blocks and a department wise summary was projected.

The DC while taking department

wise review focused on completion of works within the stipulated timeline. Further, the DC emphasised on completion of allocated works immediately and for booking of expenditure simultaneously.

Creation of assets is an important factor while allocation of works and it should be ensured that focus is on public assets, DC added.

Dr Basharat said that the main motive of such block wise review meetings is to focus on inter departmental coordination and if

any issue pertaining to any department is at block level the same can be resolved. All the departments should work in tandem and cohesion so that public service is enhanced.

DC also emphasised on creation of sports infrastructure to enhance sports activities among youth.

A schedule has been issued where in reviews shall be taken up in each block to speed up developmental works and resolve issues of availability of land or right of way there and then.

## Mega Awareness programme held at Town Hall Anantnag to empower Sheep Breeders

JI NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, SEPT 11: A mega Awareness cum distribution programme was today held by the Sheep Husbandry department for sheep breeders of Anantnag district.

Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Anantnag, Mohammad Yousuf Gorsi was the chief guest while Additional District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Wani was the guest of honour besides CEO Municipality Committee Anantnag, Dr Showket Ahmad and Chairman District Level Purchase Committee Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah (DSHO Anantnag) were also present on the occasion.

Eminent experts in the field of sheep breeding and animal husbandry delivered insightful lectures and presentations. They shared best practices on sheep rearing, disease management, nutrition, and breeding techniques.

During the programme, attendees had the opportunity to engage with experts and clarify their doubts regarding sheep farming. The use of modern technology in sheep farming was a focal point. Attendees were introduced to the latest advancements in sheep farming equipment and tools that can enhance productivity and efficiency.

Participants were informed about market linkages and opportunities for the sale of their sheep

and wool products. This aimed to empower breeders with knowledge on market trends and prices.

Information was also given about various government schemes and subsidies available for sheep breeders and farmers. Attendees were encouraged to take advantage of these initiatives to improve their livelihoods.

The programme emphasized sustainable and eco-friendly practices in sheep farming to ensure the long-term health and viability of the sector.

During the programme, distribution of Shearing Machines, Tents, Solar Lanterns besides Selection letters to Beneficiaries' under different schemes viz: ISDS, RKVY, TSP etc was also handed-over to them.

## Mayor of Srinagar lays Foundation Stone for 02 Community Centers at Chattabal & Rakh Colony Noor Bagh, Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: The Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu accompanied by concerned Corporators and Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Haris Ahmad Handoo along with senior officials from SDA,

inaugural functions of the community centers, the Mayor reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the masses.

He expressed his delight in meeting the popular demand of the Chattabal and Noor Bagh inhabitants by providing them with these much-needed facilities.

The community centers will serve as essential hubs for various social and recreational activities. The local population of Chattabal and Noor Bagh wholeheartedly welcomed this development and expressed their gratitude to the Mayor and Vice Chairman SDA for their dedication and efforts in making these community centers a reality. The inhabitants believe that these centers will not only cater to their immediate needs but also contribute to the overall progress and prosperity of the local area.

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: The Government of India has earmarked whopping Rs 5000 crores for the year 2023-24 for upgrading infrastructure in Public Libraries and extending Library facilities to the Gram Panchayat level across the country. This was announced by Prof Ajay Pratap Singh, Director General, National Library of India (NLI) and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) in his opening remarks at the two-day meeting of J&K UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee (UTLLACPC) which began at SPS Library Complex here on Sunday.

Prof Singh said, it is for the first time, that such a huge amount has been earmarked, in one go, by the Government of India for upgrading library infrastructure in the States & UTs. He said extension of library facilities and taking the library movement to the grassroots level is aimed at facilitating improved access of the children and adolescents in the rural and semi-urban areas to the latest books and e-connecting them to the vast learning resources available through National Digital Library of India (NDLI).

He said the Union Ministry of Finance has already sought proposals from all the States and Union Territories under the scheme as the funding for upgrading infrastructure in Public Libraries and providing Library facilities at the Gram Panchayat level would be available on "First-Come-First-Serve" basis. "A communication in this regard has been sent by the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance to the Chief Secretaries of all the States & UTs in May 2023," he said. Enumerating the broader contours of the scheme, Prof Singh said that funding under the scheme would be available to the states and UTs for construction of new library buildings; renovation of existing libraries; purchase of library furniture; purchase of IT equipment including computers, printers, networking etc and purchase of books. He said financial assistance under the scheme would be limited to one Library in each Municipal Ward

and one Library in each Gram Panchayat.

Prof Singh said J&K's Libraries Department should also explore the possibility of establishing decent reading spaces, in convergence with related departments, at the Public Parks, Gardens, along Jhelum River bank and around Dal Lake for tourists and morning walkers.

Earlier, welcoming the participants at the meeting, the Director, Libraries & Research, Mr Mohammad Rafi gave an overview of the initiatives taken by the Department to upgrade the infrastructure in Public Libraries and provide best possible facilities to the library users. He said the huge increase in footfall in the Public Libraries has put immense pressure on library resources and there is a pressing need for upgrading the infrastructure especially the library furniture.

The Director Libraries sought the intervention of Director General RRRLF to facilitate early release of funds under National Mission on Libraries (NML) from RRRLF for construction of buildings for Gani Memorial UT Central Library at Rajouri Kadal Srinagar and District Library Samba. He also pressed for release of RRRLF financial assistance under Matching Grant Scheme for upgrading furniture in Public Libraries.

UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee discussed and approved various proposals put forth by the Director, Libraries and Research for upgradation and expansion of Public Library facilities in J&K. These include, Digitization of Libraries; establishment of theme-based Libraries-cum-Reading Centres at tourist resorts, setting up of dedicated Reading Areas for travellers at Srinagar & Jammu Airports, collaboration with School Education Department to organize free coaching of students for various competitive exams, organizing Book Fair at Srinagar and Jammu in collaboration with National Book Trust (NBT), setting up of "Book Village" at Aragam in District Bandipora as a joint initiative of the Department of Libraries & Research; District Administration Bandipora and

Pune-based NGO "Sarhad", setting up of Public Library-cum-Reading Room at Gandtal, Harwan under Aspirational Blocks Development Program (ABDP) in convergence with the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, extension of Internet facility to the Public Libraries at Tehsil & Block levels, weeding out of obsolete books & reference material for Competitive Examinations, write off the damaged/lost books, conservation of books & manuscripts, procurement of e-Books and making available more Online Services to the Library Users.

UTLLACPC approved the list of books under various categories to be purchased by the Department of Libraries & Research for its Libraries during the year 2023-24. The meeting was informed that J&K has the distinction of having the oldest libraries in the country including SRS Library Jammu established in 1879 and SPS Library Srinagar established in 1898.

UTLLACPC members who attended the 4th meeting of the forum included Dr Arif, Dy Director, J&K Board of School Education; Mr Saleem Pandit, Journalist; Mr Satish Vimal, expert Hindi language; Mr Liaquat Jafri, expert Urdu language; Mr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, expert Kashmiri Language; Ms Surinder Neer, expert Punjabi Language; Prof Parvez Majed, Media Studies and Mr Kulbushan Malhotra. Besides UTLLACPC members, the meeting was attended by Deputy Director, Libraries Jammu/ Kashmir; Assistant Director, Libraries & Research Kashmir; Chief Librarians of Oriental Research Library Srinagar & SPS Library Srinagar and other officials.

Pertinently, 16-member J&K UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee (UTLLACPC) was constituted by J&K Government in February 2021 to recommend measures for development of the library services and upgradation of library facilities in the UT. The Committee also makes selection of books to be purchased by the Libraries Department for its libraries.



## DLSA Srinagar and Art of Living Foundation collaborate for Meditation Training



**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in partnership with the Art of Living Foundation, hosted one-hour introductory training program on Meditation for Relaxation and Peace.

This transformative event was designed exclusively for judicial officers, staff members of DLSA, members of the Legal Aid and Defense Counsel (LADC), penal lawyers, and Para Legal Volunteers.

The special occasion witnessed

the presence of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman of DLSA Srinagar, who graced the event as the chief guest. This one-hour program aimed to introduce the attendees to the transformative power of meditation.

The program commenced on a melodious note with the uplifting strains of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Theme Song, resonating with the audience and setting the tone for the event. The session began with a warm welcome and introductory remarks by Jawad Ahmed Chairman, DLSA, Srinagar, who

highlighted the significance of the collaboration between DLSA Srinagar and the Art of Living Foundation in promoting the well-being of judicial officers and legal professionals.

Vandana Daftari, Regional Director of the Art of Living Foundation, conducted the session and shared valuable insights about meditation techniques and their profound impact on personal and professional lives. She encouraged the attendees to incorporate meditation practices into their daily routines for enhanced well-being. She offered a glimpse into the organization's global impact and dedication to inner peace.

Participants delved into the historical roots and scientific benefits of meditation as an invaluable tool for physical and mental well-being and had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a guided meditation, allowing them to explore their inner reservoirs of tranquility.

The one-hour program concluded with vote of thanks by Secretary DLSA, Srinagar expressing his gratitude to the Art of Living Foundation, Judicial Officers and other participants, and the dedicated team that made the event possible.

## Floriculture Directorate winds up special series of activities under Bhrashtachar Mukta J&K Week Campaign

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, SEPT 11: Different activities were organized during "Bhrashtachar Mukta J&K Week" which was organized in the Directorate of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu, Har-Ki-Poudi, Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu.

The activities were organised under the supervision of Director General Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu, S.Jatinder Singh. On this occasion a pledge was taken to safeguard integrity frameworks and code of ethics to ensure that we are not part of any corrupt practice and can tackle instances of corruption with

utmost strictness and maintain integrity, transparency, accountability, and fairness in every work. It was stressed to promote good governance and ethical business practices as per laid down norms of the Government. Awareness programmes were also organized in all the offices of the Directorate as part of weeklong celebrations.

Interacting with the employees of the Department, he stressed upon them to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the vigilance department. He also directed the concerned officers to sensitize the employees and the public about the ill effects of corruption through the dissemination of

information on the ground level. Deputy Director, Jammu, Deputy Director (P&S), Landscape Officer, Accounts Officer & Floriculture Officer (HQ) were present in the ceremony along with all the officials of the Directorate. The Departmental Vigilance Officer sanitized all the employees about Prevention of Corruption Act along with the ways & means to avoid corruption in any form.

Accordingly, the observance of "BhrashtacharMukt, awareness Week" Pledge Ceremonies were also organised in all the Districts of the Division under the guidance of District Officers of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Department.

**Devigol Festival attracts more than 10,000 tourists at Bunnjwah**

## Kishtwar Administration, Tourism Directorate Jammu, KDA & others hosted Gala event



**JI NEWS SERVICE**

KISHTWAR, SEPT 11: The District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with Kishtwar Development Authority (KDA), Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) hosted the Devigol Festival in the picturesque Bunnjwah area of this mountainous district amid huge public participation.

The event, held on Sunday, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 10,000 visitors who enjoyed a blend of traditional sports (Dangal), cultural performances, and recreational activities amidst the breathtaking natural beauty.

Several government agencies and organizations, including the Indian Army, Ratle Hydro Electric Power Project, District Youth Services and Sports Department, RDD, Revenue, Forest Department, and the All Sports Association Bunnjwah besides the locals played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the festival.

The event was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav in the presence of DDC member Aemina Banno, BDCs, SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmed Poswal; Additional Secretary JKAACL, Sanjeev Rana; ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; ASP, Rajinder Singh; CEO, KDA Dr. Rishi Sharma; SDM Paddar, Arun Kumar Badyal; Tehsildar Bunnjwah, Tejinder Sharma; BDO Bunnjwah, Sonia Parihar; DIO, Kuldeep Kumar; DYSSO, Kharati Lal Sharma besides Gulab Saifi of JKAACL and PRIs.

The Devigol Festival attracted people from all walks of life hailing from Erstwhile Chenab Valley including Kishtwar, Doda, Thatri, Drabshalla, Bhallesa etc and provided them with an opportunity to immerse themselves in the serenity

of the season amidst the pine and Cedar trees and sprawling meadows of the area. The grand festival represented the collective efforts of the Administration, PRIs, KDA, Ratle HEP, Indian Army, Cultural Academy and Local Citizens to unlock the tourism potential of the lesser-explored tourist destinations in Kishtwar district.

Earlier this year, the district administration, in collaboration with the Tourism Department and KDA, successfully organized the Sinthan Festival, which drew over 16,000 visitors. The Devigol Festival now stands as the second most appreciated extravaganza for this year in view of Kishtwar's growing appeal as a tourist destination following Sinthan.

The Devigol Festival featured an array of attractions, including Dangal, Sports, trekking adventures, dance performances, musical showcases, local cuisine, and more.

The major attraction of the festival was the Dangal (Traditional Wrestling), which steals the show, witnessed an exhilarating display of traditional wrestling.

Wrestlers hailing from Punjab, various parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Kathua, showcased their incredible skills.

The Dangal competition, featuring a generous prize of 1 Lakh. The success of the Dangal competition was a testament to the dedicated efforts of the Dangal Organizing Committee, the active participation of local Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and the support of public leaders. Their unwavering commitment played a pivotal role in making this traditional wrestling spectacle a resounding success.

The Dangal event not only entertained the audience but also celebrated the rich cultural heritage and sporting traditions of the region. It brought together wrestlers from different backgrounds, promoting unity through the shared

love of the sport and a deep appreciation for cultural diversity.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed his appreciation for the Dangal competitors and organizers, recognizing their dedication to preserving and promoting the traditional sports that are an integral part of Kishtwar's identity.

Besides this, other sports activities like Volley Ball and Tug of War were also organised by Sports Department Kishtwar on the occasion for the amusement and recreation of Participants and Tourists.

Other attractions of the event were renowned artists like Farooq Khokar, Bashir Mastana, and Chaman Lehri and their parties along with local singers, who also performed Kashmiri, Gojri, and local folk songs, captivated the audience with their mesmerizing melodies.

Notably, the Kud/Sungali Dance performance of Bhabherwah by dedicated artists and the dance performance by young talents like Tavishi Anand and Simran Kumari alongside other local performers and school students, added an extra layer of excitement to the festival with their captivating dance performances.

In addition to the festivities, a Devigol to Pagga trekking expedition was organized, attracting 25 trekkers who explored the picturesque landscapes under the guidance and support of Tehsildar Bounjwah, BDO Bounjwah and Forest Department, Bounjwah.

The people of Bounjwah extended their heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration and others organisers for organizing this remarkable event, which promises to boost tourism and livelihood opportunities in the region. Addressing the gathering, DC commended the collective effort of the community and various departments including Tourism Department, KDA, JKAACL and for locals support.

He congratulated the people of Bounjwah for the resounding success of the festival. He emphasized that such events not only attract tourists but also contribute significantly to the economic prosperity of this beautiful area.

The DC also announced an exciting lineup of upcoming festivals to further boost tourism in the region. These festivals, including the eagerly anticipated Warwan Festival to be scheduled soon are poised to become annual highlights on Kishtwar's cultural and tourism calendar.

## Municipal Elections 2023: DEO Bandipora conducts 2nd Training Session for ROs, AROs

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

BANDIPORA, SEPT 11: The District Election Office (DEO) Bandipora Monday organized the second training session for Returning Officers (ROs), Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and Nodal Officers in the run up for the upcoming Municipal Elections.

The one-day training session held in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Bandipora was led by Nodal Officer Election Monitoring Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak while Deputy District Election Officer, Noor din Bhat was also present on the occasion.

District-Level Master Trainers

(DLMT) Mohammad Rafiq Paray and Mohammad Iqbal were present to impart training on the occasion. The District Level Master Trainers gave detailed information regarding the preparation and conduct of the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) election (2023). The Nodal Officer Election Monitoring urged ROs and AROs to adhere to the rules and regulations and go through the ROs handbook.

During the training programme, a question-and-answer session to address the doubts about the election procedures and rules were held, ensuring that the Municipal Elections in the district are con-

ducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. The participants raised several queries to which the Master Trainers gave satisfactory answers, clearing all the doubts regarding the EVM and other necessary procedures. During the training programme, the ROs and AROs were explained their role and responsibilities including the election management, the nomination process, scrutiny of nomination papers, procedure for withdrawal of candidature, EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) management, polling and counting votes, declaring results, and adhering to the provisions of the model code of conduct.

## Digital Week Celebrations: DC Bandipora felicitates DIO, Officials of Information & PR Dept Bandipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

BANDIPORA, SEPT 11: During valedictory ceremony of the Digital Week Celebrations 2023, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad bestowed honors upon the dedicated officials of the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department of Bandipora. The felicitation event included the presentation of certificates of appreciation and mementos to the hardworking officials of the I&PR Department led by District Information Officer, Bilal Ahmad Mir who played a pivotal role in making Digital Week Celebrations



2023 a grand success. During the closing ceremony, the DC praised the efforts of the Information and PR Department Bandipora in effectively disseminating vital information to

the public and enhancing government transparency besides ensuring that the people have access to essential information during these challenging times.

## Director Agriculture inaugurates 07 days DLTP on Scientific Beekeeping under (NBHM)

**Aim of such programmes is to promote agripreneurial culture among educated youth: Chowdhury Iqbal**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated seven days divisional level training programme (DLTP) on scientific beekeeping under (NBHM) at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The inaugural session of the week-long training programme was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Assistant Entomologist, students and large number of beekeepers.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Director highlighted the importance of small scale Agri-Cottage industries including beekeeping, mushroom cultivation and other allied activities in



the overall development of agriculture sector. He said the main aim of organising such training programmes is to promote entrepreneurial culture among the farmers and educated youth of the region.

Chowdhury Iqbal said the agriculture diversification is the key to reduce, risk in farming activities and hence beekeeping has emerged as one of the important tools which not only enhances

tial part of integrated farming and could play an important role in increasing the farmers income.

Director said that beekeeping as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation due to wide agro-climatic diversity enabling round the year bee flora availability.

The DLTP that began today is scheduled to culminate on 18th of September, 2023.

It is important to mention that the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) aims at promoting bee-keeping and providing self-sustaining employment opportunities among the farmers and unemployed youth in rural India.

Earlier, the Director kick-started seventh phase of vegetable seedlings distribution at kitchen garden Lalmandi Srinagar.

## Power shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, SEPT 11: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCJ Jammu has informed that the power supply to Chakroi, Satraiyn, Pindi, Dablehar, Chowalla, Badyal, Flora, Tanda, Kirpind, BoP, RS Pura and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 12 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Sunder, Railway and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 12 and 13 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer O&M Circle, Jammu, JPDCJ has informed that the power supply to Arnia and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 13 and 15 from 6 am to 10 am. Similarly, the power supply

near Baspur and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 12 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply near Satwari Chowk and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 16 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Sainik Colony Sec-A, B, G will remain affected on September 13 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Sainik Colony Sec-C will remain affected on September 12 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Sainik Colony Sec- E and F will remain affected on September 12 and 14 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Bear Bhoir Sub-Station Bohri will remain affected on September 13 and 16 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Lower Muthi, Lale Da Bagh, Udhaywala and their adjoining areas will remain affected on September 12 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply near Thather Sub-Station and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 16 and 19 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Barnai and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 14 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Upper Roop Nagar Sector-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will remain affected on September 15 from 6 am to 10 am. Similarly, the power supply to Roop Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 12, 14 and 16 from 6 am to 10 am.

“ THOUGHT OF THE DAY ”

“An eye for and eye will only make the whole world blind.” - Mahatma Gandhi

JINDRAH IMAGES

UNENDING WAIT FOR A SMOOTH RIDE

Wait of highway travelers seems to be stretching as the National Highway Authority of India has set a fresh deadline of August 2025 for completion of widening of Jammu-Srinagar national highway. The project has already witnessed jumping of several deadlines. Work on Jammu-Srinagar highway widening was started in 2011 and it was targeted to be completed within five years from its commencement but it is likely to be completed 10 years after its original deadline. Now the NHAI has decided to construct 10 additional bridges and nine additional tunnels to bypass nine major vulnerable slide-prone and shooting stone prone stretches on the 36-km-long most treacherous Ramban-Banihal section. There are several vulnerable locations on the stretch comprising Dhalwas, Mehar-Cafeteria, Sitaram Passi, Marog-Digdole, Digdole to Panthyal, Panthyal, Mom Passi (Ramsoo), Sherbibi and Sherbibi-Chamalwas. Nearly 10,000 vehicles move between Jammu and Srinagar on a daily basis. Ramban-Banihal widening project is under construction. Earlier, it was scheduled to be completed on June 28, 2019 and the revised scheduled completion date is August 2025. The project has also taken a heavy toll in green cover as over 3,100 trees in Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44 have been proposed to be axed for paving way for widening of existing highway to four-lane road. The NHAI had planned four flyovers, five bypasses and nine tunnels Ramban-Banihal section to bypass all major “killer spots” to make Jammu-Srinagar highway an “all-weather and safe road” for highway travelers. A total of 14 tunnels are being constructed on the 79-km-long Udhampur-Banihal stretch out of which nine along Ramban-Banihal stretch to ensure all-weather road connectivity to Kashmir Valley. These tunnels are being constructed at Kelamorh, Marog, Khuni Nallah, Panthyal, Marog, Chamalwas, Marog to Digdol and Digdol to Khuni which are highly vulnerable to major landslides and shooting of stones. The NHAI claims that the detailed geological and geotechnical investigations have been conducted at the time of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for tunnels being constructed on National Highway (NH)-44. Ramban-Banihal stretch has been divided into five packages. Work on three packages was undertaken but it was being executed at snail’s pace due to difficult terrain and less working space. Work on two tunnels—one is between Maroog and Digdol (under package one), and another between Digdol and Panthyal (under package two)—gets delayed. The total revised cost of the 43-km-long Udhampur-Ramban section was pegged at Rs 2233.65 crore while it was Rs 2885.35 crore for the most difficult Ramban-Banihal section. The initial estimated cost of the project for Udhampur-Ramban section was Rs 1238.68 crore, while the project cost for Ramban-Banihal section was Rs 1331.66 crore. The government of India should ensure that the NHAI must complete the project within the stipulated time frame of August 2025 as this highway is the lifeline of Kashmir Valley and Ladakh. It also holds great strategic importance. The contractors should be held accountable for any further delay.

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The unending cycle of war and peace

ANDREW SHENG

Are we moving into an escalating phase towards war? With war returning to Europe with armed conflict in Ukraine, coups in Niger, Central Africa, amidst the hottest July in recorded history, the heating of climate and war is becoming—a toxic mix. The US Director of National Intelligence’s 2021 report on Global Trends 2040 gloomily assessed the prospects as follows: “In coming years and decades, the world will face more intense and cascading global challenges ranging from disease to climate change to the disruptions from new technologies and financial crises. These challenges will repeatedly test the resilience and adaptability of communities, states, and the international system, often exceeding the capacity of existing systems and models. This looming disequilibrium between existing and future challenges and the ability of institutions and systems to respond is likely to grow and produce greater contestation at every level.” In short, we have not figured out how to deal with these intermingled poly-crises and reconcile them peacefully. Each trend causes fragmentation as resources and effects are unevenly distributed, requiring hard choices and trade-offs which are not easy to resolve. Ukraine is a moral tragedy, whereby no one wants to take tough decisions for peace, preferring to wage war in which hundreds of thousands have died, millions have migrated and the unspoken

outcome is nuclear. At the heart of global tensions is the refusal of the West to accommodate the interests of the Rest, preferring a policy of containment. The recent BRICS summit only accentuated the growing divide between a rich West that is mostly white (except Japan) and the Rest. Both sides are enlarging themselves – NATO moving eastwards to the Pacific, whilst BRICS added six new members, Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and UAE. Together, BRICS will account for 29 per cent of world GDP and 46.1 per cent of world population, versus 51.2 per cent of world GDP for NATO plus Japan, which accounts for 13.6 per cent of world population. BRICS today also accounts for 40.8 per cent of the world’s oil and gas reserves, compared with 13.4/12.8 per cent for NATO/G7. BRICS is also more inclusive, as Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt and UAE are not members of G20. BRICS is defined by its political and cultural diversity, and more important is not a military alliance. The group represents poorer but nonwhite states, many former colonies, who will not accept a NATO/G7 bunch of aging rich whites still trying to preach democracy and their rulesbased order. They know that the Rest has to accept that the West is number one, and any challenger will be considered an existential threat, whether it is China, India, Russia or Islam. If G7 truly believes in democracy (one person or state one vote), then the present voting rights in the IMF or World Bank would be dominated by the Rest. No, we can’t have

that, can we? The really interesting point is that BRICS members are almost all excolonies or countries that historically experienced invasions from NATO members, including Japan. The peace-loving Japan is discharging its Fukushima radio-active water into the Pacific in a gesture of goodwill towards neighbours. If the water is non-radioactive and safe, why don’t they simply pump the waters into Japanese soil instead? No one knows what the long-term implications are on marine life in the Pacific. Small incidents like the Fukushima nuclear waste water hurting a crowded world describes what Austrian Professor Friedrich Glasl considered in his nine-stage Conflict Escalation model. Glasl observed that conflicts arise in all organizations that evolve in three stages with three levels – win-win; win-lose; and lose-lose. In the win-win stage, level one is tension and hardening of views. Level two is debates and disagreements; but level three moves to actions and not just words. In stage two of win-lose for both parties, level four sees each party trying to get into coalitions, seeking allies to bolster their arguments and bargaining positioning. Level five involves action that causes the other side to lose face. Level six then goes into actual strategies and threats, where the other side is seen as opponent, rival or enemy. Level seven deteriorates into the lose-lose phase, because one side thinks that its limited action will cause the other side to lose more. But this only invites tit-for-tat retaliation. Level eight attacks each

other’s vital functions until the other fragments, surrenders or collapses. Level nine is nuclear Mutually Assured Destruction, where everyone loses. Glasl recognizes that the Ukraine war is fought at three entangled levels – US versus Russia (global); Russia versus Ukraine (regional); and within Ukraine, Russian-speaking versus non-Russian Ukrainian (local) conflicts. All proxy wars end up with the proxies being totally devastated or crippled. This is not about the pride of Great Powers, but the survival of all. The Glasl model suggests that escalation can be reversed, provided both sides can find windows of opportunity to de-escalate, moving away from military action to diplomacy. The Ukraine war teaches the fundamental lesson that we must always look at the current situation from the other side’s perspective. Ukraine supporters see a violation of sovereignty as the absolute principle that they must defend to the death (many Ukrainians so far). The Russians argue that they are fighting for the existence of Russia as a sovereign state. Westward NATO movement reminds them that Russia was invaded twice in history by Western Europe – Napoleon and then Nazi Germany. As the last two World Wars demonstrated, wars have an entangled logic of rationality and emotion, with small incidents like the assassination of Austrian Duke Ferdinand leading to rapid mobilization and war. The Second World War was about Nazi Germany seeking revenge from the last defeat.

Mental health promotion needed to reduce suicides

VIJAYKUMAR HARBHISHETAR

The World Health Organisation estimates 800,000 suicides occur every year worldwide. The data in India as per the National Crime Records Bureau from 2021 finds around 164,000 deaths by suicide which makes up about 20 per cent of the world’s figure. This number could be more because there may be several unreported or ‘unsure’ verdicts. The states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu consistently recorded the highest number for three years. For every suicide, there are 25 attempts in young and four attempts among elderly people. Every suicide or attempt brings distress to the family members in addition to facing societal stigma. Suicides are common across all age groups. They occur in rich or poor, in high or low-income countries. The majority of likely causes are family related problems, illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol, marital problems, and love affairs. Stressful events directly hamper mental health. Difficulties in childhood due to marital problems in parents, bad experiences in school such as being bullied, being unable to attain academic standards or meet expectations of the family, or repeated humiliation due to poor academic performance can all contribute to mental health problems. Many children may be without siblings and both parents may work, which may mean they miss out on sharing their worries, and feelings. This can continue to build up. There is a need to provide life-skills training, and resilience building in all

secondary school students. Stress, mental health, coping, meditation, and concepts of mindfulness may also be taught as part of the school curriculum. Adolescents have unique sets of issues. This is also the age where long term chronic mental illness could begin. They strive for novelty and action and many want to do something to make them stand out from their peers. They swing between being a child and an adult. There is a fear of missing the teenage period. They may do risk-taking activities and experiment with new things including smoking, alcohol, or drug use, especially in groups. Though many have some control, a few may become dependent on these. Relationship breakdowns can lead to feelings of low self confidence or loneliness and have led to pessimistic thoughts, suicide attempts, and suicides. Parents must develop trust to make them come to them for any problems and open up to them to make them feel listened to or reassured. There is another set of adolescents who are busy preparing to crack IIT, NEET, or State Entrance tests. There is no doubt that some professional courses can be the gateway to lucrative employment. How to choose a professional course is not structured or in other words would not undergo the right evaluation. Many do not know their strengths or weaknesses, their skills or lack of particular skills, for them to choose the right career path. Competitive exam preparation not only requires subject preparation, but also preparing the mind to be calm, and

confident throughout. Avoid comparison with peers, be realistic, and understand that competition is only against your previous best. If there are any negative thoughts or thoughts of death, dying, or suicide, immediately seek professional help. There could be unidentified anxiety or depression which is treatable. This if not treated, can hamper the concentration and consequently the exam performance. Many of these mental health issues build up slowly, therefore with anyone coming with mental distress, or severe anxiety closer to exams, the best thing is damage limitation. Students must realise there is so much competition and always have plan B and plan C. Some students decide to drop another year in a rush, and this decision-making may also be done in discussion with mentors, parents, and teachers. Practicing mindfulness-based meditation may help some to keep their emotions and thoughts under control, thereby improving their concentration levels. Coaching Centres must be mindful of the stress on their students and have emergency helpline numbers and access to local psychiatry clinics. Relationship difficulties, separation, waiting for a legal hearing for divorce, and subsequent divorce can make the person feel lonely. An unemployed, separated man who is drinking alcohol excessively is at higher risk of suicide. Workplace stress is common, as superior authorities could also be under stress, expectations to compete with the market, and striving to improve. Initially, it is only you who has to identify if the workload is exces-

sive, the work environment is inspiring, and this job is something you are passionate about. There are only two ways forward if you don’t like your job, either adapt soon, start to say you like the job, make peace with it, or find a new job. Ambivalence and procrastination lead to severe stress and can lead to not only mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, addiction to alcohol, changes to personality, loneliness, and sleeplessness but also contribute to diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and frequent infections due to low immunity. There can be ripple effects on relationships around you too. There is a need to spend time with friends and family, on hobbies, going on tours, exercise, walking, yoga, meditation, diet, and practice good sleeping habits. If work is stressful, discuss it with your partner or friend, seek counselling, or see a nearby psychiatrist at the earliest. Depression and anxiety are also common in older people in addition to chronic physical ailments, needing regular health care. These need to be identified early and treated. Expressing the desire to go far away should also be considered a suicidal gesture. Sometimes, without families noticing, they could be skipping their regular pills to make their physical illness worse, thus wanting to die. Women during adolescent age, around pregnancy, and menopause are at higher risk of developing mental health issues. Social support could help reduce this. There are reports of a mother having killed her new-born baby and then herself.

Just Populism?

P S M RAO

Coinciding with Vishwakarma Jayanthi on 17 September this year, the government of India is launching its PM Vishwakarma scheme as if to satiate this divine architect and craftsman deity. The boon, the quid pro quo, the government seeks from this God, looks to be the bountiful votes to the ruling party from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), who constitute about 52 per cent of the population, in the coming elections to five state assemblies – Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana – toward this year-end and to the Lok Sabha later. The realization of the desire will depend on to what extent the target groups will receive or at least perceive to receive the benefits; the second is always more important to the politicians because it is this perception that they think generates the votes for them. More so, since the scheme is slated to be implemented over five years 2023-24 to 2027- 28 and the list of categories of

eligible trades is stated to be expanded, the hopes and expectations, but not the actual benefits, will be tangible before the elections. The people’s trust in the scheme is important to the party in power for the time being. A closer look at the so far available details of the scheme suggests that it is unlikely to yield much benefit neither in quantitative nor in qualitative terms; not significant enough to woo voters from the target groups despite the hype being created to raise hopes of the entire OBC Community. Before going into the micro details of the scheme, let us first look at the macro factors to see how big or small is the scheme. The five-year outlay for the scheme is only Rs.13,000 crore which means Rs.2,600 crore per year in the entire country both in rural and urban areas. So, it is too small a sum compared to the size of the OBC class. The scheme covers eighteen trades: 1. Carpenter (Suthar); 2. Boat Maker; 3. Armourer; 4. Blacksmith (Lohar); 5. Hammer and Tool Kit Maker; 6. Locksmith; 7. Goldsmith (Sonar); 8. Potter (Kumhaar); 9. Sculptor

(Moortikar, stone carver), Stone breaker; 10. Cobbler (Charmkar) / Shoemsmith/ Footwear artisan; 11. Mason (Rajmistr); 12. Basket/ Mat/ Broom Maker/Coir Weaver; 13. Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional); 14. Barber (Naai); 15. Garland maker (Malakaar); 16. Washerman (Dhobi); 17.Tailor (Darzi); and 18. Fishing Net Maker. These are the initially identified trades and more traditional ones are supposed to be included later. The Prime Minister said in his Independence Day speech a couple of days before the cabinet’s approval of the scheme that, “In the days to come, we will launch a scheme on Vishwakarma Jayanti, benefiting individuals skilled in traditional craftsmanship, particularly from the OBC community. Weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, barbers, and such families will be empowered through the Vishwakarma Yojana, which will begin with an allocation of around Rs 13-15 thousand crore.” But we do not see weavers in the initial trades list. Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says that the scheme is going to benefit 30 lakh

families in all and five lakh families in the first year. This itself shows that the outlay is thinly spread. After all, poor spending cannot generate incommensurably high results leading to providing succor to the beleaguered OBCs in the country. Furthermore, the proposed number of people to be covered is less than half of the official estimate of 70 lac artisan families in the country. If the unofficial figure of 20 crore is taken, the coverage would be a mere 3.5 per cent of artisans. That means only 3.5 per cent, if at all, will be happy with the scheme while the left out 96.5 per cent will be unhappy. Now, the micro details: the identified will get skill development training for 4-5 days with a stipend of Rs 500 per day. They will get another Rs 15,000 for the purchase of contemporary tools. Then, they will be given a PM Vishwakarma certificate and an ID card. They get a total subsidized loan of Rs 2 lakhs on cheap interest of 5 per cent; we do not yet know if any principal subsidy will be given in addition to the interest subsidy.

# My name is not Khan: When Aishwarya Rai floored everyone with her Koffee With Karan With Karan rapid fire answers

Actor Aishwarya Rai has been an excellent orator since her modeling days. She is best known for her witty answers and is often regarded as beauty with brains. Proving the same, she once appeared on Karan Johar's chat show Koffee With Karan and left everyone including the director in splits with her savage replies. A video of the same has resurfaced on Reddit.

Aishwarya Rai at Koffee With Karan happened so during the rapid-fire segment of the show. When Karan asked Aishwarya, "If you were pinned down and had to market yourself, what would be your best advertising line?"

The actor said, "I'm totally worth it." Karan also asked her, "Can you pass a mirror without looking into it?"

Aishwarya told him sarcastically, "Yeah, why upset the mirror?" "If you had a party who would not make it to the list?" further probed Karan. She chuckled, "I'd meet them at your party."

Aishwarya was also asked to pick between Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Mani Ratnam, the two directors with whom she has delivered hits. She was also asked about Filmfare and the Cannes Film Festival, to which the actor said, "I do make it to both. I get majorly applauded at one."



Aishwarya on Kareena Kapoor vs Priyanka Chopra  
Aishwarya was also asked to name who was the better actress between Kareena Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra. Calling both 'good', Aishwarya mentioned that Kareena was more versatile in her opinion. In the end, Karan questioned her, "Shah Rukh, Saif, Aamir, Salman, the Khan of all seasons? We are Bachchans for all seasons and my name is not Khan," she ended.

## AR Rahman reacts to mismanagement of concert, organisers issue apology



Music maestro A.R. Rahman responded to the chaos and confusion during his highly anticipated concert 'Marakkumma Nenjam' on Sunday night. The organisers of the show, ACTC Events issued a statement thanking Rahman for his show and apologised to the fans who could not attend their concert due to the confusion over entry.

ACTC events posted their comment in X (formerly Twitter) and said: "Grateful to Chennai and the legendary @arrahman Sir! The incredible response, overwhelming crowd made our show a massive success. Those who couldn't attend on overcrowding, our sincere apologies. We take full responsibility. We are with you #MarakkummaNenjam" Rahman shared the post without any comment and also reposted a message of a fan thanking him for the memorable event. It may be noted that many fans turned furious after they could not make an entry to the programme venue and had complained that the show was oversold and that it was a major failure on the part of the organisers.

The concert happened at Adityaram palace, Chennai. Many fans were disappointed and furious at not being able to attend the concert due to overcrowding.



## Chris Evans, Alba Baptista tie the knot in intimate Massachusetts ceremony

Hollywood star Chris Evans is married. The actor, 42, wed Alba Baptista during a ceremony at a private estate in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Many of the couple's famous

friends were spotted in nearby Boston for the wedding, including Evans' Marvel costars Robert Downey Jr and his wife Susan Downey, Chris Hemsworth and his wife Elsa Pataky, Jeremy Renner, John

Krasinski and Emily Blunt. Page Six was first to report the news.

Hemsworth, Downey, their wives and Renner were photographed dining and chatting at the Contessa restaurant in the five-star Newbury Boston hotel.

As per People, Krasinski and Blunt were seen returning from the festivities soon after midnight. A source said: "They were very happy, joking and smiling."

Evans and the Portuguese

actress, 26, had been dating "for over a year and it's serious", People earlier reported.

A source added at the time: "They are in love and Chris has never been happier."

His family and friends all adore her." Baptista — who speaks five languages and is the daughter of an engineer and a translator — starred in 2022's 'Mrs.

Harris Goes to Paris' and is also known for her role on Netflix's 'Warrior Nun'. In 2018, she did an extensive

amount of humanitarian work at an orphanage in Cambodia, focusing on education. She also won the Shooting Star award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2021.

Earlier this year, on Valentine's Day, Evans shared a photo montage of himself and his then-girlfriend in honour of the annual holiday. The 'Captain America' star included shots of the couple hiking and travelling together and hanging out with his dog Dodger.

## Sanjeeta Bhattacharya on Shah Rukh Khan's fatherly side on Jawan sets: He greeted us with bear hugs and forehead kisses



Singer Sanjeeta Bhattacharya made her big Bollywood debut with Shah Rukh Khan in Jawan. She was a part of Azad's gang of six girls who help him on his missions. In a chat with Hindustan Times, Sanjeeta revealed she wasn't aware of the film title or even the film lead while auditioning for her first film. Directed by Atlee, Jawan stars Shah Rukh Khan alongside Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi. Besides them, Shah Rukh's girl team consisted of six— Sanjeeta, Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Lehar Khan, Girija Oak and Aaliyah Qureshi. Deepika Padukone also appeared in a special role as Azad's mother and Vikram Rathore's wife.

Sanjeeta Bhattacharya on Jawan audition  
Sanjeeta first auditioned for Jawan in August 2021 and had no expectations. She said, "I had no idea that it was for Jawan. I just knew it was for a film but didn't know the cast. Not only did I act but also sang, it's more than a dream come true. It's a massive film." Sanjeeta was always sure about the film.

Jawan is smashing records at the box office. So far, the film has crossed the ₹531 crores at the gross worldwide box office on its fourth day since release. In India, the film minted around ₹81 crore nett in India on Sunday, as per film trade reports. Looking at the numbers, Sanjeeta said, "There's no room for it to go wrong. I know the film has an important message for the society."

The actors are genuinely good people. I am nervous for myself but other than I am overwhelmed. Everything I see on the news is quite historic."

## Logan Paul shares AI-generated video mocking rival Dillon Danis, promotes energy drink Prime

On Sunday (IST), Logan Paul shared an AI-generated video of Dillon Danis in which the latter is seen apologising to the boxer. In the video, Danis makes a mockery of himself, to the joy of Logan.

The two stars have been involved in a heated feud in recent times, often throwing insults at each other.

As the video progresses, AI-generated form of Danis says, "Logan I apologize, I'm a b\*\*ch, I'm not a real fighter, um, I got choked out by a bouncer, and I target innocent women online (referring to Nina Agdal) to support my insecurities honestly. My mom slept with my coach, and that's how I got my black belt. When Conor came over, I admit I let him hit, and we saw what happened. I sat watching, crying, and drinking Prime. I love Prime, honestly. I drink it every day. My favorite flavor is tropical punch. It reminds me of the punch Anthony Taylor landed on me, which almost knocked me out."

Anyway, drink prime."  
Danis replied to the tweet in a rather hysterical way by saying, "I can't even lie, this is hilarious. Fair play."

Meanwhile, Paul's fiancée Nina Agdal has reportedly sued Danis and has requested a restraining order because of the constant harassment on social media by Danis.

Notably, Danis had recently shared a sexually explicit video, claiming that the woman in the video was Nina. However, many reports said otherwise, claiming it's not her.

## Kriti Vij: It's difficult to break the ice with the inner circle

Actor Kriti Vij feels finding friends and getting work can be a task for any newcomer. "It's next to impossible for outsiders to break the ice with the inner circle of our industry. But then, such is the case in other industries as well. You have to fight your battle and that's the greatest learning. Earlier, I used to think over it a lot but slowly I met many more newcomers who too were trying to find their way up and we became thick friends. Also, having friends who have got your back is a blessing in disguise," says the Folks Love Travel Repeat and Illegal actor.

She adds, "Coming from a theatre background did give me an extra edge. Else, reaching a level up in auditions is next to impossible. I feel just one right



project does change much for an actor and can improve your position."

Vij asserts that her entry in the industry happened right on time. "I was there when web space was growing leaps and bounds. A good

number of projects were happening, thoda mushkil tha samajhna but at that point it was more about finding good work than understanding the medium. It's not always that you get all what you are selected for, saamne aane ke

baad bhi you lose work to others, kya bol sakte hai yeh toh chalta rahega. My first project Baked did help me get a bit of recognition but that was just a beginning."  
For now, Vij is glad that her last show got her closer to the kind of projects she wants to be part of. "When Aakhri Sach was offered, I was a bit thoughtful as playing a character that was real but was no more in this world, was a bit challenging. We all have heard about this case that send shock waves around the globe way back in 2018. Being a thriller it gave me umpteen space to perform. Also, more work is in store as Illegal 3 will see me in a much-evolved character than previous season. I have good work on my plate so rest of the things in life can wait."

## Amber Heard rejoins Aquaman franchise as Mera amidst controversy and skepticism

DC is set to release the sequel to their billion-dollar hit, Aquaman, bringing back Amber Heard as Mera, a figure who has stirred controversy in Hollywood after her divorce from American actor Johnny Depp. The journey to bring director James Wan's Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom to the big screen has been massive. Despite the challenges faced, the film is on the verge of its highly-anticipated premiere in December, with some con-

cerning factors. Early test screenings left audiences underwhelmed, with some even calling it "unwatchable". The film also underwent a demanding post-production process, including three rounds of expensive reshoots.

Another major issue is the Aquaman franchise's association with Amber Heard. The actress, known for her roles in The Rum Diary and 3 Days to Kill, publicly accused her former husband, Johnny Depp, of physical abuse in 2016 during their relation-

ship, alleging he was under the influence of drugs and alcohol. This led to Disney and other studios cutting ties with Depp, causing him substantial financial losses in potential movie roles. In response, Depp sued Heard for defamation in 2022, resulting in a high-profile trial where Depp emerged victorious and was awarded over \$10 million in damages.

During the Depp vs. Heard legal battle, fans rallied behind Depp, resulting in online harassment directed at

Heard. A petition circulated calling for her dismissal from the sequel, with some fans suggesting Emilia Clarke as a replacement.

While DC didn't entirely remove Heard from the film, reports suggest her role as Mera has been shifted to avoid backlash. However, conflicting sources claim that Heard's role remains, similar to her presence in the 2018 Aquaman film.

In any case, Mera will appear in the sequel, with the storyline possibly revealing

that she and Arthur have had a child since the events of the first film. As Warner Bros gears up to promote Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom, a teaser trailer offers a glimpse of Heard's return to the superhero franchise.

Eagle-eyed fans noted a scene in the teaser featuring a burning house, possibly the new home of Tom Curry. In this brief shot, Mera can be seen rushing toward the structure, attempting a rescue mission.



## Tributes paid to martyr Bishamber Dass under Meri Maati Mera Desh programme

PM Modi paving way to make country first in world: Jasrotia



JI NEWS SERVICE

**KATHUA, SEPT 11:** Former Minister Rajeev Jasrotia today visited native village of martyr Bishamber Dass Nannan and paid tributes to him under Meri Maati Mera Desh programme. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Sarpanch Bandhana Devi, Naib Sarpanch Kamal Singh, Jagish Poonia, Deepak Singh besides other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia said now we are living in independent India, and for this, millions have made sacrifices. He added that from 1857 to 1947, for 90 years, a long struggle for freedom was fought, and countless known and unknown freedom fighters sacrificed their life to the cause. He said that only a person like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is full of patriotism in his heart, could have imagined ini-

ating this journey of "Sankalp se Siddhi", by taking a pledge with 'Mitti' in his hand and paying homage to those who have made the sacrifices.

Jasrotia said that the idea behind this programme is that every individual, family, citizen, and child should connect emotionally with the idea of creation of great India. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will put soil from these Amrit Kalash in the Amrit Vatika created at Delhi in honour of our great veers, which will keep on reminding every citizen that we must make India great during the period of Amritkal. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has integrated several programmes into this initiative, and has provided every Indian with an opportunity to become part of the initiative. Under these programmes inscription have been installed in every village of

the country, crores of citizens of the country have taken the pledge of 'Panch Pran' which will pave the way to make India great, 75 trees have been planted in the celebration of Amrit Mahotsav under the Vasudha Vandan programme and honouring the heroes and hoisting the national flag has been done.

Jasrotia said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, organisation of over 2 lakh programmes during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav have once again awakened the spirit of patriotism in the entire nation and these programmes will conclude with Meri Maati-Mera Desh programme. He said that 23 crore houses, offices and buildings across the country were beautified with the Tricolour after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan'. He said that the whole country joined the Har Ghar

Tiranga Abhiyan by respecting the call of PM Modi and the result of this patriotic feeling was that recently our Chandrayaan reached the Shivshakti point on the Moon, which is a very proud moment for all the countrymen. He said that the feeling of pride in the mind of every person of the country has arisen with the tricolor campaign in every house.

Jasrotia said that the whole country is fortunate that after a long time, we have got such a leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is paving the way to make the country first in the world during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He said that today our economy has moved from 11th to 5th position in the world and soon we will become the 3rd largest economy. He said that the self-confidence that has been awakened in the mind of every citizen of India has happened through such programmes.

He said that the confidence instilled in the minds of every Indian citizen through such programmes serves as inspiration for our courageous soldiers to carry out surgical strikes, empowers our scientists to develop the Covid-19 vaccine, and provides the courage for ISRO scientists to reach the Moon and the orbit of Sun, added Jasrotia.

## Scam of Rs 1.63 Cr Unearthed in Jammu PHE Department; Calls for accountability Grow

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** In a shocking revelation, a scam amounting to Rs 1,63,60,143 that took place in 2019 has come to light, involving the collection of water usage bills in the city division that were never deposited into the accounts of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department. This alarming incident has been exposed by the President of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena.

In response to the scandal, the workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena, led by President Mr. Ashok Gupta, organized a massive protest march in the old city of Jammu, condemning the corruption and demanding accountability.

Expressing his concerns, the party president emphasized that while the administration of Jammu and Kashmir recently observed a 'Corruption-Free Week', the reality on the ground seems to be quite the opposite.

It has been revealed



that the entire sum was misappropriated by certain department employees, without any proper General Receipt (GR) being issued. The involvement of senior officers is suspected, as such a large-scale embezzlement cannot occur without their complicity. Manchanda, who currently holds the position of Chief Engineer, was also in charge of the city division of the PHE when the embezzlement occurred. The president further asserted that the Chief Engineer against whom FIR number 23/2016 is

registered is still in office and should be promptly removed from the highest position in the PHE.

Additionally, pipes worth Rs. 620 crores have been procured and have been sitting unused at the Narwal Jal Shakti office for over a month.

These pipes were intended to connect the water source to the overhead water tank, but so far, no source has been identified.

The purchase of these pipes seems to have involved hefty commissions, marking a significant expense without a

clear purpose.

In conclusion, the president called for the immediate removal and prosecution of all individuals implicated in corruption. The protest saw the participation of party members Rajkumari, Raju, Prem, Naresh, Kalu, Ashish, Arun, Tarun, Abhishek, along with various others. This revelation serves as a stark reminder of the pressing need for transparency and accountability in government departments to ensure public funds are utilized for their intended purposes.

## Minority Commission to be established if DPAP comes to power: Chib



JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Former minister and General Secretary Democratic Progressive Azad Party RS Chib has said if DPAP is elected to power it will ensure establishment of Minority Commission in J&K.

This assurance was given by Chib while addressing a meeting of the Minority Cell of the party here, a statement said on Monday.

"Rest assured minority communities will be given special attention as people are aware about the period

when DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad was chief minister. All regions, religions, caste and creed were equally treated during his tenure," Chib said.

The meeting was organised by Convenor of DPAP Minority Cell Sardar Keertan Singh who conveyed the message of chairman to all members. The chairman has nominated Sardar Jagjit Singh as President Jammu South District.

On the occasion, scores of activists and members of the minority community joined DPAP and

extended full support to the party.

Prominent among those who joined the party, included Sardar Jagjit Singh, Jasmeet Singh, Jodh Singh, Jaspal Singh, Ashish Gill, Rocky Gill, Dalip Kumar, Ravinder Singh, Iqbal Singh and others.

Former minister and Zonal President Chaudhary Gharu Ram, Provincial General Secretary Maheshwar Singh, Provincial General Secretary Gurmeet Kaur and S Keertan Singh also spoke on the occasion.

Flaying the UT administration for installation of smart meters, property tax, poor power supply and delay in holding elections to assembly, Gharu Ram said anti-people measures are taking toll on people of Jammu who have hardly any resources to suffice their livelihood in the wake of economic slump.

The meeting was also addressed by District President Jammu (South) Balbir Singh and President Sharnarathi Action Committee S Gurdev Singh.

## Deputy Mayor inaugurates road leading to Shri Gurudwara Sahib Ekta Vihar

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** In a significant development, Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, recently inaugurated a newly constructed road leading to Shri Gurudwara Sahib Ekta Vihar in the RS Pura-Jammu South constituency. This development project, which included the construction of lanes and drains, was successfully completed under the vigilant supervision of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). The inauguration was met with heartfelt appreciation from local residents who had long awaited this crucial infrastructure improvement.

Local residents expressed their gratitude for the fulfillment of their longstanding demands, noting that previous assurances from the Congress Party regarding development works in the area had not materialized. They acknowledged that thanks to the efforts of Deputy Mayor Baldev



Singh Billawaria, significant improvements were finally underway in their locality.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Mayor Billawaria emphasized that the construction of this road had been a long-standing demand of the local residents, as the condition of the lanes and drains in the area had deteriorated over time, causing inconvenience to those visiting Shri Gurudwara Sahib via this pathway.

He further stated that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is tirelessly dedicated to providing enhanced development opportunities for the people, contributing to the city's transformation into

a cleaner and smarter urban center. Deputy Mayor Billawaria also underscored the development priorities set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reaffirmed the administration's commitment, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, to ensuring comprehensive progress in every sector. He stressed that the ultimate goal is to benefit every citizen, regardless of their place in the community.

In a plea to the public, Deputy Mayor Billawaria urged the residents to take ownership of the newly constructed lane and drain, emphasizing that it is now their collective responsibility to maintain

and preserve this government property. He called upon the local community to ensure that the infrastructure remains undamaged and in excellent condition.

Subsequently, Deputy Mayor Billawaria engaged with local residents to listen to their concerns, which ranged from issues related to cleanliness to the installation and improvement of LED street lights in certain areas. He assured the residents that their legitimate concerns would be prioritized and addressed promptly.

The people of the area reciprocated by pledging their full support to the BJP in the upcoming elections, underlining their faith in the party's commitment to development and progress. The event witnessed the presence of Divisional President Ranjit Singh, along with other prominent leaders and community members who joined in the celebration of this noteworthy infrastructure development initiative.

## Bhandara for people at Ward No. 61 at Udheywala



JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Today Bhandara was organized in Ward No. 61 at

Udheywala by National Conference leader Amit Mahajan. Provincial Joint Secretary Ankush Abrol and Zonal Secretary and

Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) JKNC, Dr. Vikas Sharma inaugurated the function Ankush

Abrol, Dr. Vikas Sharma, and others were honoured by presenting "Bhole Nath Ki Chunri". A large number of people received the Prasad and took Bhandara besides getting blessings of Bhole Nath Ji.

On this occasion appreciating the role of Amit Mahajan, Ankush Abrol said that he always remains in the forefront for organizing religious programs and has always kept the flag of National Conference high in his ward. Those who attended the function included Sunny Mahajan, Ajay Suri, Neeraj Suri and others.

JI NEWS SERVICE

**BHADERWAH, SEPT 11:** The picturesque town of Bhadarwah, often referred to as "Mini Kashmir," has been unjustly neglected on the tourism front by the present dispensation, causing dismay among locals and stakeholders. The government has miserably failed to harness the immense potential of Bhadarwah, which could have otherwise contributed significantly to the economic prosperity of the region.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu while addressing a party workers meeting in Bhadarwah town of district Doda.

The senior NC leader said Bhadarwah which is known for its serene landscapes, enchanting valleys and rich cultural heritage, has long been a potential tourist hotspot in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the LG-led administration's lack of vision and commitment in harnessing the tourism potential of Bhadarwah has dealt a severe blow to the aspirations of people and hampered the growth of the region.

"The failure of government to prioritize Bhadarwah as a key tourism destination has resulted in inadequate infrastructure and a lack of necessary amenities for tourists," he said, adding that even the Dak Bungalow of Bhadarwah which is being run by government is in dismal condition and offering inadequate services to the visitors. He also raised serious concern over the



continued neglect of picturesque Jai Valley, which is considered one of the most beautiful tourist spots but lacks adequate tourism facilities.

The meeting was chaired by Qayoom Baghwan District President Doda Rural (Bhaderwah).

Earlier, at the outset of meeting, Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal Incharge of Bhaderwah Constituency threw light on the hardships being faced by common masses. He underscored the pressing issues of inadequate medical facilities, insufficient ration supplies, and unreliable power supply that have gripped the region. These issues not only pose immense hardships to the local residents but also showcase the government's neglect towards addressing their basic needs and ensuring their well-being. Mehboob further expressed his firm belief that the political party capable of fulfilling the aspirations of the people in Bhadarwah town. He reaffirmed the Party's commitment in addressing the concerns of Bhadarwah residents and working towards their upliftment on various fronts including tourism, healthcare, infrastructure, and overall socio-economic development.

Acknowledging the prevailing sit-

uation, the Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta exhorted upon party cadre to prepare themselves diligently for the upcoming polls. He asked them to stand united, work tirelessly, and connect with the people to address their concerns effectively. He stressed the importance of reaffirming the party's commitment to serving the interests and aspirations of the people, promising to fight for their rights and uplift the neglected areas of whole district Doda including Bhadarwah.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC Jammu said that the National Conference remains committed to fight for the rights and well-being of the people of Bhadarwah and will continue to press for the development and upliftment of this beautiful region.

Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu asserted to the workers to strengthen the secularism, socialism and democratic values in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present include Dr. Sahid Mughal, Khan Mohd Khan, Hafizullah Bhat, Ayaz Khan, Arshad Khan, Variender Kumar, Shakoor Ahmed, Raj Mohd, Irshad Ahmed Athkar, Farooq and all other functionaries of District Blocks, Panches and Sarpanches.



# Digital Week 2023: DC Bandipora presides over Valedictory Function

Emphasizes on carrying forward the Bhrashtachar Mukta campaign by popularizing online services in every nook & corner



J I NEWS SERVICE

**BANDIPORA, SEPT 11:** The celebrations of Digital Week 2023 culminated on Monday with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Ovais Ahmad presiding over the valedictory function held at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Bandipora. The valedictory function was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan; Nodal Officer Coordination, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; ADC, Umar Shafi; ACR, JD Planning besides government officials, educators and a galaxy of students from different institutions of Bandipora. It was given out that during the observation of Digital Week 2023, people across the district were made aware of online services through panel discussions,

town hall meetings, and open forums. This allowed people to voice their concerns and suggestions regarding the digital transformation of Bandipora. During the function, achievements, and programs held during the week, were displayed on a big screen, including initiatives such as e-governance services and digital identity programs. It was further informed that throughout the week workshops on improving digital literacy, array of tech exhibitions, demonstrations of virtual reality, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies including workshops on e-offices were also held. Various youth-centric programs, hackathons, and coding competitions were also organized. The DC delivered an inspiring address stressing the importance of new era technology to improve the

quality of life for all residents of Bandipora. The DC said that the world has now become a digital village where a person can access all the services and information available while sitting at home by simply accessing the internet. He said that the applicants/people need not visit government offices physically as most services are available online, thereby reducing chances of corruption to a zero percent. He said that online services helped in fostering a corruption free atmosphere with administrative setups. Dr Ovais informed that the district administration has launched a single platform application 'PAR-WAAZ' to access the services and schemes available in the district so that people can access all these services online at their homes and workplaces. While addressing the student fraternity, the DC said that earlier, a student/aspirant had to move physically for study material. However, now study material stands available on various platforms across the internet, and they can access it on a single click. He urged students to ensure responsible usage of online services while taking care of time management. The event concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing individuals, officials, media persons, and other organizations that have made significant contributions to the digital ecosystem in Bandipora. This included awards for innovation, digital education, and community engagement.

# Distt Admin Ganderbal holds interaction with Lumbardars, Chowkidars



J I NEWS SERVICE

**GANDERBAL, SEPT 11:** The District Administration Ganderbal today held interaction session with the newly appointed Lumbardars and Chowkidars of the district at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal. The meeting was held with the purpose to discuss the roles and responsibilities of Lumbardars and Chowkidars in their concerned villages and to emphasize their crucial

role in maintaining law and order in their respective areas. The program was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir, ADC, Mehraj-u-din Shah, ACR, Tehsildars, NTs, Girdawars and Pathwaris of the district. The DC highlighted the crucial role of the Lumbardars and Chowkidars in ensuring the safety and security of the villagers. He asked them to work in tandem with the district administration and

emphasized the need for transparency and fairness in carrying out their duties. He also urged them to carry out watch and ward of the villages and reporting of occurrence of any crime or law and order situation to law enforcement agencies. During the program Lumbardars and Chowkidars were urged to aware the general public about various govt. services in their jurisdiction like digitization of Jamabandies and availability of revenue records on online revenue portals, awareness about providing of different services by the Government through online mode, how to apply for online services, information about Public Service Guarantee Act. They were also urged to work with dedication and sincerity towards maintaining law and order in their areas, and to ensure the safety and security of locals, preventing encroachment, reporting cases of accidents, fires and drug abuse. The newly appointed Lumbardars and Chowkidars expressed their gratitude to the DC for taking the time to interact with them and provide them with valuable guidance.

# 3rd training session held for ROs, AROs in Doda District

J I NEWS SERVICE

**DODA, SEPT 11:** To gear-up for ULB polls, the District Election Office Doda organized third training session for Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs). The training session, organized on the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, aimed to equip election officials with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure the smooth and transparent conduct of Municipal Elections in Doda, Bhaderwah, and Thathri Towns. The day-long training session held in the Conference Hall of the

DC office complex, was led by Tariq Qazi, State Level Master Trainer, District Level Master Trainer, Dr. Akhtar Hussain, and Election Naib Teshildar, Angrez Singh Jasrotia. During the training, ROs and AROs were educated about their role and responsibilities, election management, nomination procedures, scrutiny of nomination papers, withdrawal of candidatures, Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) management, poll conduct, result counting, and compliance with the model code of conduct for the upcoming Municipal Elections. The trainers provided a compre-

hensive overview of the RO Handbook for Municipal Elections 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Elections Act 2000, and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal (Elections) Rules 2003. The session also featured an interactive question-and-answer segment to address any queries and ensure clarity on election procedures. At the conclusion of the training, Election Naib Teshildar Angrez Singh Jasrotia encouraged AROs to maintain open communication and coordination with their respective ROs to ensure the smooth and hassle-free execution of election activities.

# Agri deptt organizes two-day Seminar/ Awareness programme on Transformation of Beekeeping at Kulgam



J I NEWS SERVICE

**KULGAM, SEPT 11:** The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Kulgam today organized a Seminar cum Awareness programme on 'Transformation of Bee Keeping', under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) at new conference hall of mini-secretariat Kulgam. This programme was inaugurat-

ed by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Showkat Ahmad Rather; Joint Director Agriculture Extension Kashmir, G M Dobi, Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir Tabsum Naz, Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam and other officers besides farmers, beekeepers and unemployed youth. Addressing the occasion, the DC

stressed upon the concerned authorities to extend their range of operation and involve more farmers especially the unemployed youth under various welfare programmes sponsored by the department so that they can avail benefits for their sustainable livelihood. He emphasized to disseminate awareness among the people about various new and scientific beekeeping cultivation methods so that production and productivity is leveraged. He also urged the concerned to ensure handholding of farmers not only in increasing the production but to work on marketing aspect to fetch best prices of their products. Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC asked the farmers to take maximum benefit under the programme by getting training and awareness of different Government schemes to establish their income generating units under the Apiculture sector. During the Seminar, the Resource Persons provided awareness to the beekeepers regarding the potential of bee keeping in Kulgam district, besides they also highlighted different Government schemes for handholding of the aspiring beekeepers.

# One-Day Training Programme for ROs & AROs Held in Udhampur District

J I NEWS SERVICE

**UDHAMPUR, SEPT 11:** To ensure the seamless execution of the Municipal Election 2023 in Udhampur District, the District Election Authority organized a comprehensive one-day training programme for Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur. During the training programme, Deputy District Election Officer Gurdev Kumar provided essential guidance to all ROs and AROs, emphasizing the critical need for conducting the upcoming Municipal Election in a transparent, free, and fair manner. He underscored the importance of close coordination among all officers to guarantee the successful execution of the election process. Furthermore, he encouraged trainees to actively engage in the training sessions and adhere to the guidelines outlined in the RO's handbook to ensure the smooth conduct of the Municipal Election.

# Training programme for sheep breeders held at Banihal

J I NEWS SERVICE

**RAMBAN, SEPT 11:** The Department of Sheep Husbandry Ramban, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Wool Development and Marketing Association, conducted a two-day training and capacity-building program for breeders at Banihal. The Training was held under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme(HADP) here. The training programme was attended by a large number of progressive sheep and goat breeders, PRIs and locals. This program focused on enhancing the knowledge and skills of Farmers' Producer Organizations and sheep breeders in the areas of wool and pelt processing as well as marketing strategies. During the program, sheep and goat breeders were encouraged to harness technology to maximize the value addition of their sheep and goat products. This included the development of diversified value-added woolen and meat products.

# DC reviews progress of PMGSY Projects in Bandipora

J I NEWS SERVICE

**BANDIPORA, SEPT 11:** To ensure timely completion of the Pradhana Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Ovais Ahmad Monday convened a meeting to assess the progress of the execution of works. During the meeting, the DC assessed the progress of the works being executed under PMGSY in different regions of the district. He stressed the importance of their

timely completion. He also took stock the challenges faced by the executing agencies, including adverse weather conditions and terrain difficulties. The DC directed the concerned authorities to identify and resolve bottle necks that act as hindrances in the execution of the projects. He also directed the concerned for the resolution of Kehnusa-Tangwari and Athwato-Chamdaji road related issues. The DC was informed that the

department has already made a remarkable achievement in connecting the people via roads and bridges. He was further assured by the concerned authorities that all the pendencies and issues shall be redressed timely. The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi; ACR Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad; JD Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmed; Superintending Engineer, PMGSY, Tehsildars of Bandipora and Aloosa, besides Officers of PMGSY including Executive Engineer PMGSY Bandipora.

# DC Kulgam reviews Mineral Mining scenario in DLTFC meeting

J I NEWS SERVICE

**KULGAM, SEPT 11:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of the Multi Departmental District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) for Geology and Mining to discuss and review the status of mineral mining in the district. Giving details, DMO informed that a total of 19 mineral blocks are operational in the district and revenue of Rs. 16.35 lac has been realised during the ongoing year. The DC while speaking on the occasion called for the need to streamline the extraction of minerals in the district. He added that scientific mechanisms in place should be adhered to deal with the issue of mining. Outlining the importance of the District level Committee constituted for the purpose, he impressed upon the concerned to prescribe SOPs and take all the necessary steps needed for enforcement of the same.



He also instructed the concerned to take stern action against those involved in illegal mining in the district. The DC asked the members of the DLTFC to work in close coordination and liaison in the best interest of checking illegal mining in the district to control this menace of illegal mining from the district forever. He also assured DMO that all possible support will be extended to ensure a blanket ban on the

instances of illegal mining. DMO was also directed to keep a strict and close vigil on illegal transportation and storage of minerals at the Nakkas. He also impressed that machinery used in the MMB should have GPS tracing devices. The meeting was attended by JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACR Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz, DMO Kashmir and DMO Kulgam besides AEE from Irrigation and Flood Control and other concerned officers.

# Chairperson DDC lays foundation stone for drainage work in Sui

J I NEWS SERVICE

**UDHAMPUR, SEPT 11:** Lal Chand, Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) in Udhampur, paid a visit to Ward Number 04 in Panchayat Sui Sambal today. He laid the foundation stone for the construction of a robust drainage system under the District Plan, which extends from opposite Chuni Lal House to the newly developed teacher colony. This significant event took place in the presence of BDC Chairman,

Balwan Singh, Sarpanch Panchayat Sambal Sui, Veena Kumari, and Sarpanch, Chakhar, Krishan Dutt. During his interaction with the locals, Lal Chand engaged with the local community, listening to their developmental concerns. He extended his congratulations to the residents for the realization of their long-standing demand. The people of the area expressed their gratitude to Chairperson DDC for his active involvement in the welfare and development of their region. Lal Chand also expressed

his satisfaction, stating that the much-needed drainage system in Ward Number 4 would now be upgraded through this construction work. He urged residents to refrain from using single-use plastics and polythene in their daily activities and to avoid disposing of garbage or waste in the drains. He emphasized the importance of locals taking advantage of the various flagship welfare schemes and programs launched by the Union Territory and central governments.

## Centre paying focused attention to J&K: Kavinder

Initiates development works worth Rs 24 lakhs at Ward 54



JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has asserted that the Government at the Centre is paying focussed attention towards Jammu and Kashmir to ensure equitable development besides welfare and prosperity of the people of this traumatised region.

He was speaking after starting a development work worth Rs 24 lakhs at

Ward No 54, Trikuta Nagar falling in Gandhi Nagar Constituency here today. The development work was initiated in presence of Corporator Neeraj Lucky Puri, Vinay Gupta, Narinder Gupta, Prerna Nanda, Indu Puri, Divya Jain and Vishal Gupta.

Kavinder said that BJP stands fully committed to equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. "The Union Government is paying focussed attention to

Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and is determined to carry out developmental activities in every nook and corner of this sensitive region," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader said that Modi led Government at the Centre has prioritised the overall development of all the areas without any rural-urban or other discrimination with main focus on roads and sanitation as roads ensure the smooth supply of basic essentials

as well as other commodities for the ease of living of the people while good sanitation ensures good health. He said that the government stands fully committed to ensure the improvement of roads, lanes and drains infrastructure in all the areas.

Later, the former Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the people of the area and took stock of their problems and issues on the occasion. After giving them a patient hearing, he assured to get their grievances addressed at the earliest by taking up the same with the concerned authorities. He appealed to the people to further strengthen the hands of PM Narendra Modi for equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Prominent among those who were present include Ashok Arora, Tilak Raj Puri, Rakesh Gupta, Kamal Bhakhri, Arun Gupta, Sham Gupta, Mehta Ji and Ravi Arora.

## Apni Party holds protest in Samba against Sarore toll plaza, smart meters installation, old age pension



JI NEWS SERVICE

**SAMBA, SEPT 11:** Apni Party today took out a protest rally in Samba against the illegal collection of toll tax at Sarore, installation of smart meters in Jammu region and stoppage of old age pension.

The protest was led by Apni Party, Provincial President, Jammu and Former Minister S Manjit Singh. He was accompanied by Apni Party leaders, workers and locals during the protest march in Samba. The protest was organized by senior leader, Lovely Mangol.

In this protest, the Apni Party District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti among others were also present.

The protesters were

shouting slogans against the NHAI for illegally collecting the toll tax at Sarore despite the shabby condition of Jammu - Pathankot highway in both Samba and Kathua Districts.

The protesters demanded that the collection of tax at the Sarore toll plaza must be stopped because it is illegal and unconstitutional.

Speaking on the occasion, Manjit Singh demanded legal action against NHAI authorities for continuing the practice of toll collection even after strong resentment.

"The Govt had assured that it would give a decision regarding Sarore toll plaza after the visit of NHAI's central team. However, many days have passed, yet there is no word from the Govt or NHAI," he reminded.

He appealed to the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for his intervention because he had stated that the toll plazas within 60 kms limits are illegal.

"The Apni Party raised the issue time and again in support of the people. Whereas, some political parties seem to be hands in glove with the NHAI as such parties did not raise their voice apparently due to certain reasons. However, we will continue our right against the illegal toll collection," said Manjit Singh while targeting BJP for its silence over the issue.

He said that it was unfortunate the people of Jammu voted them to power with 25 erstwhile Legislative Assembly seats. However, the same political party has turned blind eyes towards the

suffering of the people, he added.

He further stated that the BJP J&K unit has been exposed before the people for its silent support to the anti-people policies.

"We are not going to remain silent over burning issues of Jammu that include smart meters, inflated electricity bills, toll plaza, underdevelopment, growing unemployment, liquor and mining mafia etc," he stated.

He further said that, "The people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing difficulties because of BJP's anti-people policies. They have compromised the sentiments of the people. But the Apni Party will continue its fight for the rights of the people.

He further said that "The J&K produces electricity and supplies the same to different states. However, the same electricity is costlier for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

He also strongly opposed the installation of the smart meters against the wishes of the people.

"The old age pensioners have been compelled to move from pillar to post because of difficult formalities and therefore, these pensioners are deprived of their rights," he added.

## Indian Army organises Medical Camp

JI NEWS SERVICE

**RAJOURI, SEPT 11:** The Indian Army, in a humanitarian endeavor, organized a highly successful medical camp in the border villages of Bhimber Gali near the Line of Control (LoC) and remote areas of Rajouri District, Jammu and Kashmir. This medical camp, provided vital healthcare services to residents of all age groups, bringing much-needed relief to these communities.

The medical camp, a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of local populations, offered a comprehensive range of healthcare services, including:

General Health Check-ups: Residents had the



opportunity to consult with healthcare professionals who conducted thorough medical examinations, addressing their health concerns and providing valuable medical advice.

Vaccination Services: Vaccination plays a crucial role in preventing diseases, and the medical camp ensured that residents received essential vaccinations, promoting

public health and well-being. Medicine Distribution: Essential medicines were distributed to individuals based on their specific health requirements, ensuring access to necessary treatments.

This initiative was aimed at extending critical healthcare services to those living in challenging and remote locations. By offering medical care to

communities in border villages, the Indian Army demonstrated its dedication to the welfare of the inhabitants and its commitment to fostering positive relations with the civilian communities residing in these areas.

The successful execution of this medical camp is a testament to the Indian Army's unwavering resolve to improve the quality of life for residents in the border regions of Bhimber Gali near the Line of Control and remote areas of Rajouri District. The Indian Army continues to be at the forefront of not only safeguarding the nation's borders but also extending a caring hand to the communities living in these regions.

## Hindustan Shiv Sena opened a front against smart meter and property tax



JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** On the instructions of Hindustan Shiv Sena State President Vikrant Kapoor, Shiv Sena workers have opened a front against the government for huge electricity bills after installation of smart meters. In this series, on behalf of the Jammu city unit of Hindustan Shiv Sena, a vigorous demonstration was held against the electricity department in Gurha Morh Bakshi nagar Jammu today. The protest was led by City President Appurav Gupta and Vice President Rohan Malwal, while Women's Wing President Diksha Malwal and Vice President Vishali Gupta also participated in the protest along with their supporters in large numbers.

During this, while addressing the protesters, these leaders said that the people were assured by the

Electricity Department that there would be no difference in the electricity bills after the installation of smart meters. But the way huge electricity bills are being handed over to the people, there is a lot of resentment among the people. They said that on the instructions of its State President Vikrant Kapoor, Hindustan Shiv Sena has decided to open a front against the government by coming on the streets to solve this problem of the people.

That's why protests are being held today so that the eyes of the government can be opened. They expressed anger by raising slogans against the Electricity Department, BJP's central government and the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor's administration. They also asked the BJP leaders why they are keeping silence in this matter. They alleged that the BJP government is completely against the peo-

ple of Jammu and Kashmir.

They said that ever since the BJP government came to power at the Centre, the common people of Jammu and Kashmir are in a bad condition. People are also deprived of Basic facilities like electricity and water. They said that such a government has no right to remain in power. People want them to oust the BJP from power in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

They said that ever since the BJP government came to power at the Centre, the BJP has made Jammu and Kashmir a laboratory. Before starting any scheme in the country, it is trialled in Jammu and Kashmir. They said that today people are worried about the electricity bills coming from smart meters. They alleged that no state in the country has such smart meters, but the BJP government at the Centre has started its trial from Jammu and Kashmir. They said that due to the wrong decision of the government, now the electricity bills have troubled the poor people.

The one who used to get a bill of five hundred rupees earlier, is now getting a bill of five thousand rupees. They warned that if this problem of the people is not resolved at the earliest, a big agitation will be organized in the coming days.

## G20 success is a watershed in India's diplomacy: Ritika Trehan

Says this also shows that PM Modi's leadership is accepted

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan Monday congratulated PM Modi Govt over successful G-20 in India terming it watershed in India's diplomacy and has ushered in a sense of pride in the hearts of every Indian. In a press note issued here, Ritika said that under PM Modi leadership, India has emerged as a voice for the Global South and has shown that even in times of major geopolitical divide, nations can cooperate for a better future for the planet and its people. "The adoption of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration at the summit



has been particularly pathbreaking as it brought major world powers to a consensus on pertinent issues of geopolitics and climate, added Ritika. Ritika claimed that it is undoubtedly a huge win for the government led by PM Modi. Getting world leaders to congregate at a platform and form consensus even on issues that are polarising such

as the Russia-Ukraine war is not an easy feat. This also shows that PM Modi's leadership is accepted. The opposition has been running campaigns against him, while he was working towards the growth and development of our country, added Ritika. She said on earlier occasions when the government and the party spoke about India's growing influence and left and how it was emerging as a powerful voice, the opposition "ran down" the PM's efforts on the global platform to "discredit" him. "When Indian students and citizens of other countries were evacuated from Ukraine as part of Operation Ganga, they said it was done with the

elections in UP in mind. A campaign has been run to show the government as intolerant but this summit has exposed their designs," Ritika said. Referring to the opposition's response to the summit, Ritika said the "chinks in the opposition's armour" were exposed as some chief ministers rose above party lines to attend the reception hosted by President Droupadi Murmu for the visiting dignitaries. Some of them have realized that the PM's efforts in bringing the country onto the centre-stage have succeeded and world leaders who earlier did not think much of India are now acknowledging our might," Ritika said.

## BJP is a mission to serve people: Munish

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Stating that the BJP is a mission to serve the nation and its people, Munish Sharma, former General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir unit of the party, said that every activist of this organisation is it strength. He said that BJP is the only political party in the country having the most dedicated activists and each one of us feel proud to be associated with it.

Munish Sharma was talking to a large number of local party activists during his visit to Resham Ghar colony and adjoining areas of Jammu West Assembly constituency.

Munish Sharma said



that the BJP has achieved the distinction of being the largest political party of the world and the credit for the same goes to the dedicated activists as well. He said that on the one hand, Narendra Modi government has done a lot in development and social welfare sectors, the BJP activists have reached at the doorsteps of the people in their respective

areas and made them aware of the pro-people, nation and development-centric programmes and policies of the Union government.

Munish Sharma said that the BJP activists have been always in the public, educating the people about record number of welfare schemes launched during the past nine years by Narendra

Modi government for the socio-economic upliftment of the poor, the needy, the marginalised sections and extending them every possible help in availing the benefits of the same. The Modi government has also initiated and completed a large number of mega projects of connectivity, healthcare, education and the people have, themselves seen a change on the ground.

The BJP senior leader asked the party activists to continue with the social service and serve as a bridge between the Modi government and the people and keep them updated about what is being done new for bringing progress and prosperity in the lives of the masses.

## CUK's Health Centre, DSW organise expert lecture

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Health Centre in collaboration with the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), Central University of Kashmir (CUK), and with the support of Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IMHANS) Srinagar organised a special lecture on World Suicide Prevention Day on the theme "Creating Hope through Action," by the Senior Registrar, IMHANS, Dr. Mariya Zahoor.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Dean School of

Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Dean Students Welfare and Finance Officer, Dr. Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah, Medical Officer, Admin, Dr. Sheeba Nazir, faculty members, scholars and students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, said, every suicide is a tragedy and trauma, which not only consumes the human life, but also completely devastates and destroys the families and friends. "Life is very precious and committing suicide has never resolved the burning

issues, problems, hardships and challenges faced by the individuals from time to time.

The only way to counter the difficulties is to face and overcome them in a positive manner," Prof. Shahid Rasool, said.

He said that unfortunately there has been manifold increase in the number of suicides by the students due to peer pressure, academic competitions, financial matters and failures on account of emotional bonding and the same has to be addressed immediately by the health experts.

## Literacy Day Celebrated at MIER College

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** In commemoration of Literacy Day, the Extension Unit of MIER College of Education (Autonomous) held an enlightening guest lecture at its premises, specifically aimed at its dedicated 4th-class employees. The event featured Mr. Rahil Gupta, Bank Manager at Punjab National Bank, MIER Branch, as the esteemed resource person.

During the lecture, Mr. Rahil Gupta provided valuable insights into various modes of digital transactions and the utilization of popular mobile applications such as Google Pay, PAYTM, UPI, E-Wallet, and E-Banking. He emphasized the significant progress made in India's digital payments landscape with the introduction of UPI transactions. However, he also cautioned attendees



about the evolving strategies employed by scammers to deceive customers. Rahil highlighted the creation of forged virtual payment addresses for supposed refunds and disaster support, as well as the promotion of false cashback offers and QR codes to trick individuals into making fraudulent transactions. He stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and adopting security measures to protect against these threats.

Adding to the informative session, Ms. Alish

Vaid, a student in her 2nd semester, shared valuable insights into the use of generic medicines. She emphasized the importance of checking manufacturing and expiry dates before purchasing medicines, underlining the significance of ensuring medication safety.

Dr. Adit Gupta, the Principal of MIER College, commended the efforts of the Extension Unit in spreading awareness among the 4th-class employees on topics related to digital transactions, online security, and generic medicines. He highlighted the impor-

tance of education and awareness in navigating the modern digital landscape safely.

To conclude the event, Ms. Niharika, a student in her 2nd semester, extended a formal vote of thanks to all attendees and the guest speaker.

The successful event was organized under the supervision of Mrs. Suman Devi, who heads the Extension Unit, and demonstrated MIER College of Education's commitment to empowering its employees with essential knowledge and skills in today's digital age.

## Mayor JMC inaugurates sulabh toilet complex

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Under Jammu Smart City Shri Rajinder Sharma Hon'ble Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation has inaugurated the Sulabh Toilet Complex at Hari Market Jammu on 11-09-2023. The project cost of the toilet complex having 4 W.C's & 4 Urinals is Rs. 17.85 lacs. (Rupees Seventeen lakhs Eighty Five thousand only).

On this Occasion Shri Gopal Gupta, Chairman Swachh Bharat Committee Jammu Municipal Corporation, Smt. Sandhya Gupta Hon'ble Councillor JMC in W.No. 15 were also present there.

This Toilet Complex has been constructed under Jammu Smart City Ltd. & handed over to Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). The Toilet Complex will be maintained by Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, J&K Branch on pay & use basis for 10 years. On this occasion Sanjay Kumar Thakur Hony. Additional Controller Sulabh International Social Service Organisation J&K welcome Hon'ble



Mayor Sh. Rajinder Sharma & also addressed regarding Sanitation activities being done by Sulabh International all over India.

Rajinder Sharma Hon'ble Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation, the chief guest of the function appreciated the workdone by Sulabh International Social Service Organisation throughout India regarding sanitation services. He said that the long pending demand of the local people because there were no facilities of toilets and the

people were forced to defecate in the open. On this Occasion Shri Saroj Kumar Jha Hony. Deputy Controller SISO J&K Branch, Executive Engineer JMC, Technical Officer JMC, AEE JMC, Executive Engineer Jammu Smart City, JE JSC, President Market Association Hari Market, Shopkeepers, Senior Leaders, Media Persons, Police Administration & Sulabh Volunteers were present there. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

## J&K Tankers Union, Sikh Community felicitates Ch Manmohan Singh for receiving prestigious 'Town of Oyster Bay' Award

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** Members of All J&K Tankers Union and Sikh community today felicitated Choudhary Manmohan Singh, President of the All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS) and former Mayor of Jammu, for being awarded the highest commen-

datation by the Town of Oyster Bay, New York.

In a programme held here today, S. Ranjeet Singh, President of the J&K Tankers Union, and Narinder Singh Khalsa, President of Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) J&K, honored Ch Manmohan Singh for his unwavering commitment to

the welfare of society in Jammu & Kashmir. Harasis Singh, Manjit Singh Rocky, Surinder Singh, and Surjit Singh, were also present.

Members of the Sikh community and the Tankers Union expressed their pride in seeing the services of an Indian being recognized on foreign soil.

## Medical camp held at GCW Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**UDHAMPUR SEPT 11:** A one-day Medical Camp was today organised in the Government College for Women Udhampur.

The camp was arranged by Shri Mal Mata Sukrala Devi Dharmik Trust, in collaboration with IQAC and Department of Sanskrit, Government College for Women Udhampur and SMVD Narayana Hospital.

The Medical camp was inaugurated by Garib Das, Director Sher-E-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur in presence of the

College Principal Prof. Anjali Mahajan, (SSP Udhampur) Vinod Kumar and Raghubir Choudhary, (SHO).

Dr. Nidhi Raina, Gynecologist at SMVDNH, Katra was the visiting Doctor who conducted female health check-ups of around 150 staff and students of the college. She also made students aware about the importance and objectives of getting health care at the right time and seeing the doctor early enough before a small health problem became serious.

The chief guest appreciated the

initiatives taken by Trust and the college for conducting Medical camp by health professionals to carry out limited health interventions for the underprivileged students. He further added that by educating students about hygiene, healthy habits such health camps can aid in the prevention of a variety of health problems.

The Principal of the college welcomed the step and congratulated the team for holding the Free Medical Camp with the sacred aim to bring awareness amongst the students.

## Omar exposed NC's biased approach towards Jammu: Dr. Manyal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** It seems that the National Conference Vice President & former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has realized that his party's lies cannot befool the people of Jammu any more and that he must accept that NC was biased in its approach towards this region.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary and former Minister Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal has said that at last good sense has prevailed on Mr. Omar Abdullah to speak out the truth, that the people of Jammu region had been discriminated in all matters and given step motherly treatment to Jammu for decades under NC rule, a fact that now stands endorsed by the Vice President of this party itself.

Dr. Manyal said that Omar Abdullah deserves all the appreciation for coming forward to accept the ground realities prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir. It is indeed a



good sign that Omar has publicly admitted that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the incidences of violence, stone pelting and hartaals etc have become extinct and there is now sustainable peace in the Kashmir valley and in such change in scenario, there is an increase in tourist flow.

The BJP leader said that it is the same NC, whose leaders had been repeatedly raising questions when the union government and the UT administration were claiming that peace has returned in Jammu and Kashmir to a great extent and

record number of tourists, even from across the world are visiting Kashmir.

He was referring to an interview with a YouTube channel, where Omar Abdullah talked that NC is only willing to work for Kashmir region, Dr. Manyal said that such a statement shows that NC has lost ground in Jammu and soon it is going to be pushed to the wall in the valley as well.

Dr. Manyal said that the NC has traditionally been a party full of lies and deceit and the people of Jammu were always misled on false promises to seek their votes and the assertion of Omar Abdullah has cleared all the doubts.

Anyway, it is appreciable that for the first time, Omar Abdullah has gathered courage to speak the truth openly. It is expected that the NC and its leaders would seek an apology from the people of Jammu for its wrong doings and biased approach.

## Former Mayor meets with District Commissioner to address key social issues

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, SEPT 11:** In a significant step towards addressing the pressing social concerns of Jammu residents, former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta recently held a constructive meeting with District Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya. The meeting, which took place at the District Commissioner's office, was aimed at finding viable solutions to a range of issues affecting the community.

During the meeting, Gupta expressed deep concern over several social issues that have been affecting the residents of Jammu. These issues included, but were not limited to, education, beautification and infrastructure development. Former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta emphasized the need for collaborative



efforts between local authorities and community leaders to address these issues effectively. He praised the commitment of the District Commissioner and his team to improve the living conditions of the people of Jammu.

District Commissioner Vaishya welcomed the input from the former Mayor and assured him of the administration's dedication to making Jammu a better place to live. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the community and outlined plans for various initiatives to tackle these issues head-on.

Both Chander Mohan Gupta and Sachin Kumar Vaishya agreed that public-private partnerships, community involvement, and efficient resource allocation would be key com-

ponents in the successful resolution of these challenges. They also discussed the importance of open communication and regular meetings to track progress and ensure transparency in governance. The former Mayor expressed his readiness to extend his support and cooperation to the district administration in any way possible. He pledged to work closely with local organizations, community leaders, and concerned citizens to create a better future for Jammu.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties committed to working together to address the pressing social concerns of Jammu residents. This collaborative effort signifies a crucial step towards a brighter and more prosperous future for the city and its people.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA

#### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT No. 85 of 2023-24 Dated 09-09-2023

(SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Repair and Construction of drain and boundary wall on back side of police station Katra. (2nd time)	1.376	600	2752	30 days	D Class	Own Sources of Municipality Katra
2	Construction of Drain from H/o Themu to the H/o Deepu in ward no.09 Katra. (2nd time)	4.80	600	9600	45 days	D Class	Own Sources of Municipality Katra
3	Construction of Lane and Drain from the H/o Madan Lal to the H/o Mohinder Kumar ward no. 11 Katra. (2nd time)	11.83	600	23660	60 days	B, C & D Class	Own Sources of Municipality Katra

Position of AAA:-  
Position of T.S :-  
Position of funds :-

Accorded.  
Accorded  
Available

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	09-09-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-09-2023 to 18-09-2023, 1700 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	09-09-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	18-09-2023 up to 1700 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19-09-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra as mentioned in the bid documents.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Katra.
- The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:-4098-4103  
Dated:- 09-09-2023

DIP/J-8057/23

SD/-  
(ER. ASHWANI KUMAR)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
PWD (R&B) DIVISION  
KATRA

# Advisor for CIPS concludes 3 day visit to Ganderbal

Appreciates Dist Admin for Mashal-e-Gaash literacy campaign

J I NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, SEPT 11: Advisor for Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS) and professor NCERT, Dr. N. Upender Reddy today concluded his three day visit to District Ganderbal.

The purpose of this visit was to assess the progress and effectiveness of the Mashal-e-Gaash campaign in promoting literacy among illiterates of the district.

Mashal-e-Gaash, a campaign has ignited the flame of knowledge and literacy in the district. It has not only provided education but also inculcated confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of empowerment among those who have taken their first steps towards literacy. On final day,



the Advisor visited Mammer accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Shyambir, SDM Kangan, Program Officer ICDS, CEO and other officials, where he interacted with the beneficiaries of the campaign and other stakeholders including PRIs, SHG, teachers, Anganwadi Workers and students. During three day visit, the Advisor evaluated various aspects of the campaign, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

applied, people engagement, the availability of educational resources, methodology applied and the engagement of illiterate people. The advisor also interacted with the beneficiaries, PRIs, teachers and students to gather feedback and understand the impact of the campaign on the ground. On the occasion, Shyambir highlighted the purpose of taking initiative of Mashaal-e-Gaash Campaign which has been a very successful

program in terms of improving literacy rate in the district.

He complemented all the stakeholders for their collective efforts due to which the campaign got success. Speaking on the occasion, the Advisor said that it gives immense pleasure to listen the incredible journey of Mashal-e-Gaash, a movement born out of collective determination to eradicate illiteracy from the midst. He also expressed deepest appreciation to the District Administration for taking such unique initiative that has witnessed unprecedented progress. Overall, the visit by the advisor for CIPS aimed to ensure that the Mashal-e-Gaash Literacy Campaign is effectively implemented and making a positive impact on the literacy levels of uneducated.

# Beat challenges to ensure timely completion of PMGSY projects: DM Jammu



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 11: District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today convened a meeting to review the progress of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road projects in the district.

During the meeting, the District Magistrate set project-specific deadlines for the construction of the roads, emphasising the need to adhere to predetermined schedules. Additionally, he entrusted the responsibility for the comprehensive supervision of these road projects to the Sub Divisional

Magistrates. The SDMs were directed to adopt a resolute approach and expedite project finalisation, while abiding by all applicable rules and regulations.

The DM asserted the necessity of overcoming any obstacles that may arise within the confines of these rules and regulations. He emphasised the prompt resolution of legitimate concerns and ensuring that the general public does not endure unnecessary hardships throughout these endeavours.

The District Magistrate underscored that, barring unforeseen and natural challenges, the

roads must be completed within the stipulated time frames. He accentuated the indispensable role of the administration in dispensing governance while actively engaging all stakeholders.

The meeting also featured a discussion regarding forest clearances, with the DFO. The gathering extensively examined technical issues that pose hindrances to the timely finalisation of certain projects.

The DFO was urged to collaborate closely with PMGSY officers to facilitate the timely completion of the projects.

# B'la District emerges Victorious in U-14 Boys Inter District Provincial Handball Championship

J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, SEPT 11: In an exhilarating display of skill, teamwork, and youthful vigor, the Under 14 Baramulla has emerged as the champions, clinching the title with a commanding score of 20 to 03.

The competition came to an

electrifying conclusion with an enthralling final showdown between District Baramulla and Bandipora where Baramulla emerged victorious.

This stellar performance has earned them the privilege of representing their district at the divisional level competition.

This remarkable event was

organized under the able directions of the Waseem Raja, Joint Director Youth Services & Sports, Kashmir, and proudly hosted by the District Youth Services and Sports Department Baramulla.

The final ceremony was an affair filled with pride and jubilation, graced by the Jatinder

Singh DYSSO Baramulla, along with all Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs) of the department.

The momentous occasion saw the deserving winners and gallant runners-up being honored with trophies and certificates, symbolizing their dedication and sportsmanship.

# DC reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget, ADP 2023-24 at Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPT 11: A meeting was convened today at the DC Office Complex in Udhampur, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, to assess the progress of projects approved under Area Development Plan of District Capex Budget 2023-24.

The meeting also examined the status of tendering processes, work allotment, project commencement and completion, as well as the expenses incurred by the Rural Development Department and other sectors. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Shyam Singh; Chief Planning Officer, Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar; District Programme Officer for Poshan, Subash Dogra; ACD, Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal, and other departmental officers.

The meeting included a comprehensive review of projects, categorized by sector and block, with respective district officers. The Officials were urged to expedite the tendering and allotment of pending projects within their departments to ensure timely execution. DC Saloni Rai stressed the importance of mobilizing resources and closely monitoring the performance of field personnel to ensure swift and quality completion of projects on the ground.

# 3-Day Annual Kailash Yatra 2023 Commences in Bhandarwah

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, SEPT 11: The revered Kailash Kund Yatra, an annual pilgrimage steeped in tradition, began today in the charming town of Bhandarwah, Jammu and Kashmir. This sacred journey originates from the ancient Vasuki Nag temple nestled amidst the picturesque, Bhandarwah's Gatha. Thousands of pilgrims embark on a challenging and laborious 21-kilometer trek to reach the sacred Kailash Kund, located at an altitude of 14,700 feet in the rugged Kailash Mountains Range of Doda district. This spiritual expedition is a testament to the enduring Nag Culture. The Yatra commenced with the departure of the "Charri Mubarak" (holy mace) from the centuries-old Vasuki Nag temple at Gatha (Bhandarwah) Doda. Pilgrims traverse a path that winds



through coniferous forests adorned with pine, fir, and cedar trees. Along the journey, they navigate rolling meadows, steep ascents, and rocky terrain before reaching the plains at the base of Mount Kablas. The Seoz Dhar meadows, known for their lush green grass, offer respite amidst dense forests and babbling brooks came across the long distance yatra to give peaceful and stunning view, to yatries to lessen their tiredness. The district administration Doda, under the vigilant leadership of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh

Mahajan, has meticulously arranged for the smooth conduction and proper coordination of the Yatra. Security, accommodations, water, electricity, lighting, and firewood have all been diligently provided. This annual pilgrimage not only exemplifies devotion but also showcases the breathtaking natural beauty of the region. DC Doda Vishesh Mahajan and SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom also actively participated in the holy Yatra, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring its success. Their presence added a sense of security during the

journey. Moreover, they played a pivotal role in organizing the 'Langer' arrangements, providing nourishing meals to the pilgrims, fostering a sense of camaraderie among all participants. Kailash Kund Yatra 2023 is scheduled from September 11th to 13th September, following the traditional calendar in North India. This holy journey, with its serene landscapes and sacred rituals, holds profound significance for devotees seeking blessings from the 'Serpent God' Vasuki Nag associated with Lord Shiva.

# DC reviews working of Revenue Department in Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of Revenue officers to assess and streamline the operations of the revenue department.

The meeting took place at the Mini Conference Hall in the DC Office Complex. In attendance were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral; SDM Ramnagar, Shishir Gupta, besides SDMs of Chenani, Dudu, and Basantgarh.

The Tehsildars participated virtually. The meeting covered a range of topics, including the digitization of records, quality checks of updated Jamabandies and digitized Mussavies, restoration of damaged Mussavies, data entry for backlog mutations, progress on revenue court cases, the implementation of the Public Service Guarantee Act, redressal of complaints and grievances and building permissions, all of which were discussed in detail.

# District Magistrate reviews Defense related issues in Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPT 11: District Magistrate Udhampur, Saloni Rai presided over a crucial meeting in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex and addressed vital defense-related concerns.

The meeting brought together officials from the Revenue Department and Defense to discuss a range of significant issues. Key topics discussed included land acquisition, the de-requisition of land used as a firing range,

the construction of a road from Sansoo to Chopra Shop and Thomas Bridge to Village Kotli Pain for the benefit of local residents around army establishments, rent payments, and the mutation of defense land. Present at the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, besides Army officers Col. Vinod Perugu (Adm Commandant); Col. Q. Parveen Singh, and Col. HS Gill, along with representatives from the Defense Estates Office.

# Govt Polytechnic Jammu organises CIIT certificate distribution program

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 11: Government Polytechnic Jammu organised a certificate distribution and felicitation programme at its Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training Jammu (CIIT Jammu), here today.

The programme was organized under the guidance and supervision of the Principal, Er. Arun Bangotra.

During the felicitation programme, Interactive sessions were conducted and certificates were handed over to the students

after successful completion of 03 Months CIIT courses (CIIT Jammu).

A total 115 students received their CIIT Certificates on the successful completion of training in courses of Mechatronics and IoT, Finite Element Analysis, CAD Engineering, Digital Manufacturing and Industrial Robotics, Machine Tool/CNC Operator etc.

Others present on the occasion were Er. Inderjeet Singh, Workshop Superintendent; Er. Sukhdeep Singh, HOD Civil Engineering; Er Rani Devi, HOD Computer Engg; Er Manjeet

Singh, HOD Electrical Engg; Er. Raj Kumar, H.O.D Mechanical Engg; Sandeep Nimbalkar, Incharge CIIT Jammu and SMEs of TATA Technologies.

The Principal congratulated the students for the successful completion of CIIT Courses.

He further informed that J&K Government, in collaboration with TATA Technologies Ltd, has established State of the Art Technology Center - Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training [CIIT] at Government Polytechnic College Jammu for imparting training to

students of Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics and ITIs, Engineering Graduates, Industry Professionals and Faculties of Technical Institutes of the UT of J&K in modern Engineering Tools necessary for Product Design, Development, Manufacturing and providing training to latest technology to the students, unemployed youth and Industry people so as to make them Industry ready people and as such providing them access to gain insights into Industry 4.0 and other Disruptive Technologies and for creating entrepreneurship.

# NTS'23 Commences at IIT Jammu's Breathtaking Jagti Campus

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPT 11: The picturesque campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu (IIT Jammu) has sprung to life with the commencement of the North Tech Symposium (NTS'23), a three-day extravaganza that promises to illuminate the path of innovation. Nestled amidst the serene surroundings of Jagti, NTS '23 is set to unveil the technological prowess of the Indian Army while nurturing a dynamic synergy among the Army, Industry, and Academia.

The inaugural ceremony of NTS'23 bore witness to the august presence of luminar-

ies from the Army, the world of Academia, and the expanse of Industry, accentuating the grand confluence of knowledge and innovation.

Lt Gen MV Suchindera Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff, graced the occasion as the chief guest, radiating an aura of profound pride and optimism. He remarked, "More than an honour, it's a moment of immense pride for me to witness the harmonious blend of the Army, Academia, and Industry. In an era where technology knows no boundaries, it is imperative that we recognize the essence of cooperation and collaboration."

"The symposium stands as a luminous example of the



synergy that can be harnessed," emphasised Lt Gen Kumar. "This platform will serve as a launchpad for numerous startups and industries to illuminate their products and ideas. The primary objective of the symposium is to enrich the participants' technological knowledge, with a collective endeavour to seek solutions that not only bolster national

security but also address environmental concerns."

Prof Anurag Misra, Dean of IIT Jammu, echoed the sentiments of unity and progress, setting the symposium's tone with his pride in hosting this monumental event on the IIT Jammu campus. He declared, "It is indeed an honour to have NTS'23 organised at the hallowed grounds of IIT Jammu. In a brief span, IIT

Jammu has emerged as a beacon of knowledge. We aspire to be renowned for our translational research, research that is not confined but can be translated into practical applications for users and industries alike. Our commitment extends to research in defence technology, aiming to enhance the lives of our valiant soldiers. The establishment of the

Centre for Strategy and Sustainable Infrastructure exemplifies our dedication to interdisciplinary research. Collaboration is our ethos, and together, we shall forge innovative solutions. NTS'23 is an opportunity to strengthen our ties with the Army and Industry, contributing to our nation's welfare. It signifies a milestone in the collaboration between industry, the Army, and academia." SP Shukla, President of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), added to the fervour, expressing his honour at being part of this historic occasion. He underlined the transformative journey of India's Defense Sector, proudly asserting that 75% of

Army products now bear the 'Make in India' emblem. Shukla called upon the academic institutions, urging them to champion the 'Make in India' spirit.

He applauded the 150 companies and 50 startups participating in the exhibition, showcasing the very zenith of technological innovation. Shukla noted, "Structured one-on-one discussions and technical sessions at the symposium will serve as crucibles for the exchange of visionary ideas."

"The North Tech Symposium" is a grand three-day event that holds the promise of being a guiding light in the realms of innovation and collaboration.