



# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## PM Modi praises MPs in Lok Sabha, says Women's quota Bill will provide "unprecedented power"

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed his gratitude over the passing of the Women's Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha, and said that the trust that will be formed in women after the passage of the bill in Rajya Sabha will emerge as an "unprecedented power that will take the country to new heights".

PM Modi, while addressing the Lok Sabha, credited MPs of all parties for supporting the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, and said, "Yesterday was a golden moment of India's Parliamentary journey. All the



पीठासीन : माननीय अध्यक्ष

members of this House deserve that golden moment."

"Yesterday's decision and today, when we cross the last mile after the Rajya Sabha passes the Bill, the transformation in the faces of the women

of the country and the trust that will be formed, will emerge as an unimaginable and unprecedented power that will take the country to new heights. I can feel this," PM Modi said. Meanwhile, Union Law Minis-

ter Arjun Ram Meghwal moved the Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

"Through the Constitutional Amendment Bill that I have brought today, a section will be inserted in Article 330, Article 332, and Article 334. Through these, 1/3rd of the seats will be reserved in the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies of the country. This is a major step," Meghwal said in the Rajya Sabha.

Earlier on Wednesday, Lok Sabha passed the Women's Reservation Bill which provides for 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies. The Constitution (One Hundred and

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## Former Legislator, Member BJP State Executive J&K, Delegation of Senior Citizens Support Service Club call on LG



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

Vikram Randhawa, former Legislator called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

Randhawa expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for the policy for recruitment of sports persons.

The Lt Governor assured that the recruitment process will be completed soon and vacant posts in the other departments will also be filled at the earliest. A delegation led by Sh Ashok Jasrotia, Member BJP State

Executive Jammu Kashmir met the Lt Governor and apprised various issues and developmental demands which include completion of pending work of Juthana Bridge Kathua, naming of a road and Village after Martyr Surinder Kumar Sharma of Upper Garnari, issue of mobile connectivity in village Sandhi of Samba, completion of pending works of Check Dam on Jakh Nallah among other.

A delegation of BJP from Poonch led by Sh Asif Azad, District Secretary also called on the Lt Governor

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## CS reviews measures being taken for prevention of Dengue and status of ongoing Smart City Projects in Jammu



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today took review of the preventive measures being taken by the Health Department and Municipal bodies against the spread of Dengue disease in Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Commissioner, JMC; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Director Health, Jammu;

Principal, GMC, Jammu; besides others concerned officers.

He was apprised about the current status of dengue cases in the division by Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, H&ME wherein the Secretary stated that till date around 1295 people had tested positive for dengue with 1 reported death and 428 patients undergoing treatment at various health facilities.

Also, it was apprised that even though the situation was not

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## Jammu's Sidhra belt to get multifaceted Water Theme Park

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEP 21

A mega water theme park will come up on 92 kanals of land along the banks of the River Tawi in the Sidhra area here in the city outskirts.

Official sources said that a water theme park will be constructed on 92 kanals of land in Sidhra village on the banks of the River Tawi, for which land has been identified.

"The water park will have attractions like a garden, jogging track, and tree houses," said an official.

He added that the park will have a water sky ride, wave pool, artificial water landscape, kids pool, swimming arena, sunbathing, diving arena, water

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## Former Minister, Public delegations call on Lt Governor

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

A delegation led by Sh Sukhmandan Choudhary, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

The delegation of newly appointed Junior Assistants, Junior Statistical Assistants, Stenographers led by Former Minister Sh Sukhmandan Choudhary expressed their

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## Justice G.D Sharma-led commission gets another extension of 6 months

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 21

The administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory has given another six-month extension to Justice (retd.) G D Sharma-led commission, which was constituted in March 2020 to review res-

ervation for different categories.

Authoritative sources told news agency that the J & K government has given another six-month extension to the panel. "The commission has been granted another extension after it made a request to the government," a senior official disclosed.

KNO had exclusively reported last month that the commission had sought another extension as its extended tenure was ending on September 18, 2023. The commission is currently examining the issue of Reserved Backward Area (RBA) reservation.

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## Team ISRO awaits Chandrayaan "wake up" call at dawn break: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Team ISRO is eagerly awaiting the Chandrayaan-3 "Wake Up" call a few hours from now when dawn breaks on the Moon after a gap of 14 days and the 2nd phase of the mission begins.

Replying to over 8 hour Debate in the Lok Sabha, on the subject of "Success of Chandrayaan-3 and other achievements of our Nation in the Space Sector", Dr Jitendra Singh said, ISRO is in the process of trying to reestablish communication with Chandrayaan-3's solar-powered lander Vikram and rover Pragyan, to revive them so that they can continue with scientific experiments.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphatically asserted that if we succeed, India will become the first country in the world to



start the 2nd phase of Lunar Mission after activation of the communication circuit.

It may be recalled that the Lander and the Rover were put into sleep mode earlier this month on September 4 and 2 respectively, ahead of the lunar night of 14 days' duration. He added that there is huge variation of temperature ranging from minus 150 degrees at night to 100 degrees during day time, and therefore, we all are hoping and praying that solar batteries and solar panels will help the beginning of the unprecedented 2nd Phase of Moon Mission.

Replying to concerns raised by some of the opposition members that the Modi Government has

cut the budget for ISRO, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the budget saw a jump of over 142 percent from Rs 5,168 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 12, 543 Crore in the current financial year.

Similarly, the Minister informed that the budget for all Science Ministries and Departments was increased from 21, 025 Crore in 2013-14 to Rs 57, 303 Crore in 2022-23, which is a jump of over 172 percent.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that a new Space Launch Station will soon be inaugurated in Thoothukkudi in Tamil Nadu. He said, 90 percent of the land acquisition work is over and appealed to the Tamil Nadu Government to complete the unfinished work.

Earlier, yesterday, in the debate in the Rajya Sabha Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi enabled the Chandrayaan-3 Mission with his foresight and increased allocation for Space Research.

The Minister said PM Modi hiked the Space budget manifold and opened up the Space sector in 2020 with the result that the number of Space StartUps have gone up from just 4 in 2014 to 150 now. He said, India's quantum leap in the Space sector has only been possible after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took the courageous decision to "unlock" this sector from the "veil of secrecy".

Jitendra Singh said, out of the 424 foreign satellites launched by ISRO since 1990s, more than 90%, that is 389, were launched in the last nine years.

"We have so far earned 174 Million US Dollars from the launching of the foreign satellites; out of these \$174 million,"

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## Army installs 70-foot-high national flag at Ajote War Memorial in Poonch

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

A 70-foot-high national flag has been hoisted at the Ajote War Memorial near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a defence spokesman said on Thursday.

The tricolour was installed by the Army in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India, the spokesman said.

He said the national flag was dedicated to the people by Commander of 93 Infantry Brigade Brigadier Rajesh Bisht in the presence of senior district officials, including Poonch Deputy Commissioner Yaseen M Chaudhary, District Development Council Chairperson Tazeem Akhter and Senior Superintendent of Police Vinay Kumar Sharma.

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## There is degree of prejudice: MEA on Trudeau's allegations against India on killing of Khalistani separatist

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 21

India on Thursday said there is a degree of prejudice in Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations against it on



the killing of a Khalistani separatist in Canada and termed these as "politically motivated".

The Ministry of External Affairs said Canada did not share any

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## Woman beaten to death with sticks by husband in Poonch, accused arrested

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, SEP 21

A man has beaten his wife to death with hammer and sticks in Mendhar area of Poonch district even as he has been arrested, police said here on Thursday.

An official told the news agency that the woman was repeatedly attacked by her husband with sticks and

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## India temporarily suspends visa services for Canadians

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEP 21

India on Thursday "suspended till further notice" its visa services in Canada. The move comes amid the escalating diplomatic row that erupted following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in

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## Div Com Kashmir reviews functioning of KPDCL, KPTCL, PHE, R&B Departments

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired separate meetings of several departments including KPDCL, KPTCL, PHE and R&B to review the status of different projects and targets achieved under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes and UT Schemes, here.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Engineers of the concerned departments who presented an overview of the functioning of their respective departments and the progress achieved under various developmental projects.

The Chief Engineer of PHE while presenting an overview of the department also gave a detailed powerpoint presentation regarding the various projects, schemes, Jal Jeevan Mission and physical & financial components of the various works.

He gave an outline of the present status of water supply in Kashmir including availability and demand aspects. He informed that total schemes are 2429 including Lift Schemes 755, Hand Pumps, 20107, Filtration Plants 562, DG sets 328, Essential Dedicated feeders 25 and Water Tankers 97.

Div Com also reviewed major developmental projects going on at present under various programmes and implementation of (UT/CSS Schemes) JJM, AMRUT 2.0, NABARD, SCADA and UT CAPEX.

Regarding the status of Household Tap Connections, CE PHE said that tap water connections includ-



ing the initial coverage at present stands at 655724.

He said that the quality control is ensured from source to end user and the water tests are conducted as per parameters approved by JK WARA and BIS standards. He added that the department has 10 District level laboratories with NABL Accreditation.

The MD KPDCL & Chief Engineer of KPDCL also shared the progress of the department through PPT wherein an overview was presented regarding major projects including PMDP Additional (Rural/Urban), Smart Metering under PMDP urban, RDSS (Loss Reduction works), RDSS (Smart Metering Works), UT-Capex Works, Languishing Projects and deliverables.

CE, KPTCL briefed the chair about the various assets of the department, deliverables pertaining to JKPTCL Kashmir besides impediments confronted for completion of projects.

The Chief Engineer of R&B highlighted ongoing

works on major projects including Bone & Joint Hospital, Transit Accommodation Towers, and works under CRIF, Deliverables and Snow Clearance Action Plan.

While reviewing the physical and financial progress of these concerned departments, Div Com directed officers to strictly adhere to the timelines for completion of projects so that the targets also shall be achieved within the stipulated time.

He stressed on connecting every hamlet through roads, electricity and tap water. He further stressed on safety audit of infrastructure and reduction in electricity pilferage and loss of revenue.

Regarding winter preparedness, he directed officers of all the departments to ensure the availability of resources and machinery to tackle the challenges and impediments created by Snowfall during winter besides asking them to chalk out the plan to ensure regular supply of services during the snow.

## DDC Doda reviews performance of financial institutions at DLRC meeting

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 21

To review the performance of the Banks and other Financial Institutions in the furtherance of different Government initiatives and sponsored schemes, District Level Review Committee-District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) meeting was held today here in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex. The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Vishesh Mahajan. He also distributed loan sanction letters under PMEGP and other Self-Employment schemes among unemployed youth to enable them to earn their livelihood with dignity and create employment opportunities for others also.

Banks submitted the list of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) before the chair and sought help from the District Administration for recovery. The DDC directed the banks to resubmit the list along with the details of pending amount/liability against each NPA and other details for initiating proceedings under the Land Revenue Act and other relevant rules.

The DDC urged the banks and the government agencies to focus on the Priority sectors, especially in the Agro and Allied activities, to utilise the natural resources in achieving sustainable livelihood for the district. He urged the banks to promote the schemes, especially loans



and subsidies, under the Renewable Energy sector. He asked to motivate the beneficiaries under Housing Loan to also take subsidised loans for Solar units/Renewable energy units.

The house also advocated for lowering the interest rate on educational loans for the benefit of the student community.

He stressed for motivating the unemployed youth for agro based ventures, start-ups, including processing of the local agro products.

The Committee Chairman (DDC) urged the banks and sponsoring agencies to coordinate and hold monthly meetings to encourage and extend hand holding to the applicants under self-employment schemes for creating maximum livelihood generation opportunities for them. He advocated for offering special handholding to the innovative entrepreneurs of the district. The DDC asked banks to promote the education loan schemes and proliferate the Vidya Lakshmi portal. The meeting was informed that under the directions

of previous DLRC, new JK Bank branches have been opened at Dali-Udhyapur and Chilli-Pain, while the new JK Bank branch at Chiralla, has been recommended. It was instructed that a mega disbursement mela for all the self-employment schemes shall be held on 7th of October in the district headquarters at DC office.

During the meeting DDC held threadbare discussion with regard to the lending in priority, non priority, agro sector, number of cases sponsored by the intending departments, the cases sanctioned, cases disbursed, and cases pending for disbursement.

Besides, the committee also reviewed the implementation of Mumkin, Tejaswani, PMEGP, MUDRA, NULM schemes and progress of ADHAAR linking and Mobile seeding.

The Deputy Commissioner took sector wise and branch wise performance reviews of the Banks in the implementation of different Government initiatives with respect to employment

generation, etc.

Disbursement of pending cases of loan in Agro, Handloom, and other allied sectors were also reviewed by the Chairman DLRC, and banks were asked to focus on lending in priority sectors including Education and Agro based sectors.

The Committee decided to launch a special campaign from 1st of October to 15th of October for the cent-percent saturation of PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, and other social security schemes.

Regarding the establishment of R-SETI, it was informed that suitable land has been allotted and work on the construction of R-SETI shall start soon. The R-SETI has been instructed to impart training to the unemployed people on cultivation of Lavender, Horticulture, Agriculture, Agriculture, Processing of Agriculture Products, etc.

The Director R-SETI informed that the institute shall hold special 10-day training for the agro sector industry in the coming days.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Doda Pran Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Suresh Kumar, Dy Director Employment Idrees Lone, LDM Parveen Kumar, DD NABARD, LDO RBI, CAHO, CAO, DSHO, Zonal Officer JK Bank, District Manager KVIB, representatives of Private Commercial Banks, and other officers/representatives of various departments.

## Food Safety, Shopian flags-off Millet Walkathon

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 21

Food Safety Shopian Office, in collaboration with Youth Services and Sports Shopian today organised an impactful Walkathon under the banner of 'Eat Right Millet Walkathon'.

The Walkathon was flagged-off by the Assistant Commissioner Shopian, Syed Nighat along with Food Safety Officer, Shopian, Firdous Ahmad Pandit from Govt Girls High School Shopian in which over hundreds of Students of the district enthusiastically participated.

The Walkathon culminated at Sports Stadium Batapora where a spectacular Yoga event was also held in which the participating students executed various Asana in a serene and calm atmosphere.

The event provided the students with a great opportunity for Physical and Mental wellbeing.

Speaking on the occasion, the AC, FS stressed the need for adopting healthier lifestyles and stated that the Millet Walkathon and Yoga Session were collective steps towards a healthier and happier society.

## DC reviews mining issues in the district

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 21

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Thursday directed the concerned law enforcing agencies to keep a close vigil on illegal mining in the district and strictly deal with such illegal activities.

He said this while chairing a meeting to discuss the issues with regard to the mining in the district.

During the meeting, officers informed the chair about various issues concerning the mining. On spot directions were passed with regard to the resolution of these issues.

Dr. Owais directed the officers of different departments to work in close coordination for better results and early completion of tasks and ensuring hassle-free availability of mining material to developmental works for their timely completion.

He stressed on a strict ban on illegal mining and urged the officers, especially Tehsildars and Mineral Officers, to keep a close watch on their respective areas.

During the meeting, DC directed the officers to identify sites for minor mining blocks for the extraction of mineral material needed for government works. He directed officers to ensure proper permissions and adherence to mineral and mining rules.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Umar Shafi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shabir Ahmad, JD Planning, Divisional Forest Officer, District Mineral Officer, Tehsildar Bandipora, Tehsildar Aaloosa and other concerned officers of PHE, IFC and Fisheries Department.

## Startup Knowledge Exchange Series: JKEDI organizes Expert Session

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 21

As part of its Startup Knowledge Exchange Series, the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today organized an inspiring Expert session at its Sempora campus.

The session featured Dr. Waseem Javed, an accomplished alumnus of the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, Founder and Director of ARBA Accelerator Mumbai and Head of Business Incubation at Anjuman Islam Kalsekar Incubation Centre and M. A. Shaikh, a distinguished representative of the National Education and Charitable Trust. They shared their invaluable insights and experiences with a captive audience of startups and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat presided over the event. In his address, he highlighted the steadfast commitment of the Government, led by Lt. Governor of J&K, in fostering a dynamic startup ecosystem within the Union Territory.

"Organizing such enlightening lectures is a step forward towards nurturing entrepreneurship in the UT. We believe that these interactions and sessions with eminent personalities are instrumental in providing



our budding entrepreneurs with valuable information and networking opportunities" he said.

"Through initiatives like the Startup Knowledge Exchange Series, JKEDI aims to empower our youth with the knowledge and inspiration they need to succeed in the dynamic world of startups. We are confident that these interactions will catalyze the growth of Jammu and Kashmir's startup ecosystem, ultimately leading to economic prosperity and innovation in the UT of J&K", he added.

The speakers shared their journey and experiences providing essential guidance on navigating the startup landscape of the country. They

brought a wealth of experience to the event. The speakers also emphasized the critical role that business incubators play in nurturing innovative ideas and fostering the growth of startups. The Startup Knowledge Exchange Series provided a unique platform for startups and aspiring entrepreneurs to gain valuable insights into entrepreneurship, incubation, and startup development. A large number of startups and aspiring entrepreneurs attended virtually. The participants had the opportunity to engage with the speakers, ask questions, and network with like-minded individuals.

## 2-Day workshop on "Protection of Women from sexual harassment at workplaces commences at GCW Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 21

To generate awareness among the students as well as general masses, a two day workshop on "protection of Sexual Harassment of Women at workplaces" commenced here in Government College For women Udhampur.

The workshop has been organized by Internal Complaint Committee against Sexual Harassment in collaboration with Swachhta Action Plan (SAP) Club under the convenorship of Dr. Seema Sharma and Dr. Kewal Kumar.

Azra Parveen and Priyanka Hansa from Special Cell for Women and Children, Udhampur were the resource persons on the first day.

Principal of the college Prof. Anjali Mahajan graced the event as Chief Guest and appreciated the efforts of organisers for hosting the awareness workshops in the educational institutions that will go a long way in sensitizing the students as well as masses regarding the sexual harassment of



women and the various measures to overcome their issues.

The morning session of the Workshop was started by lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

Speaking on the occasion, Resource Person Azra Parveen explained in detail different definitions of Harassment. She also acquainted the students about various acts and provisions related to Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of sexual harassment issues in the workplace, homes and any other places.

She also spoke about domestic violence against women and different laws related to it. The session was quite interactive with healthy discussion about the protection of women against sexual assault as well as women rights. She responded to the queries raised by the students in

a very effective manner.

After that Priyanka Hansa enlightened the audiences with the present scenario on sexual harassment at workplace. She informed that 52% of women experience sexual harassment at workplaces and mentioned various protective measures. She discussed in detail various sections including section 354, 354 A, 354B, 354 C, 354 D and 509 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 which provide for punishment for offences of outraging the modesty of woman, sexual harassment, disrobe, voyeurism, stalking and insulting the modesty of woman. The session was again very interactive.

The evening session was followed by counseling of the students with the resource persons from Special Cell for Women Udhampur.

## GCW hosts Nukkad Natak, conducts cleanliness drive

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 21

As part of fortnightly activities under Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations, NSS unit and Swachhta Action Plan (SAP) Club of GCW Udhampur in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Ministry of

Human Resource Development, Govt. of India organized a Nukkad Natak and a cleanliness drive at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park, Udhampur to raise awareness on Swachhta among general masses.

The objective of organizing the Nukkad Natak and cleanliness drive was to spread awareness on

the importance of cleanliness in the neighbourhood, streets and public spaces among the general masses/public.

About 50 volunteers participated enthusiastically in the cleanliness drive and Nukkad Natak. They collected and segregated biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste and disposed of the same

in prescribed manner.

Volunteers who presented the Nukkad Natak on the said theme received a lot of applause from the audience. As a result of motivation induced during the Nukkad Naatak, a number of small children and local visitors also participated actively in the cleanliness drive.

## GDC Ramgarh Organises cleanliness drive to mark Gandhi Jayanti



JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBHA, SEPTEMBER 21

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit-Prabha of Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a cleanliness drive in a nearby public park under the banner of 'Gandhi Jayanti'. The drive was conducted under the supervision and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

Dr. Shamsheer Lal, the programme officer of the

NSS unit 'Prabha' of the College, the NSS committee members and the NSS volunteers visited the nearby public park to carry out Shramdaan. He briefed the volunteers about the guidelines to carry out the cleanliness drive. He also explained the importance of cleanliness and said that the drive had been one of the social responsibilities that the College has towards the society at large.

The volunteers and the NSS Committee members

Dr. Ekta Rani, Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Dr. Paramjeet Kour, Priya Sharma, and Sunil Kumar wore the sanitary gloves throughout the drive. The collected waste was disposed of at a designated site.

A large number of volunteers were present, and they participated in the drive. The residents of the area applauded this role of the College. It is to be noted that from time to time the College performs such social responsibilities.

## RDD, SWD departments organise Awareness programmes on drug abuse

JNEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 21

The Rural Development Department and Panchayat Raj and Social Welfare Department (SWD) Kulgam today organized a day-long awareness program on drug abuse at Kulgam. The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

The event witnessed participation of PRIs, public, officials and resource persons from Social Welfare Department Kulgam, Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam, District Drug controller office Kulgam and Addiction Treatment Facility Kulgam.

Addressing the occasion, the DC showing concern over the increasing trend of Drug Abuse said that efforts of Administration alone will not be sufficient to control and arrest the menace of Drug Addiction.

He said that people's participation and pro-



active role in reporting cases of victims of abuse for rehabilitation as well as reporting cases of drug peddlers for police action, is pivotal to curb drug addiction.

The DC also added that for rehabilitation of the victims of drugs, the Drug De-Addiction centre and Addiction Treatment Facility is functioning for treatment and rehabilitation of these patients and urged people not to stigmatize drug victims.

The DC added that 04 villages have achieved drug free status in the district which includes Palnoo Pandithpora,

Lanker Pombay, Behibrada and Kadoora and efforts are on to make phase wise declaration of drug free villages through a concerted strategy.

During the programme, importance and need for collaborative efforts from different departments and segments of society was highlighted to effectively tackle this pressing issue.

Throughout the programme, engaging speakers and experts delved into various dimensions of the drug menace, providing valuable insights into the psychological and clinical aspects of drug abuse and other related issues.

## NMBA: Awareness programmes organized at different block Headquarters across Kupwara



JNEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 21

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, awareness programmes regarding eradication of drug menace under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) were organized at Block Headquarters, Handwara, Kupwara and Drugmulla today.

At Block Headquarters Handwara, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir was the chief guest at the event.

The ADC sought cooperation from the religious heads, families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which leads

to other social evils and crimes. He said, "Drug abuse is the biggest challenge which our young generation is facing and to eradicate this menace society as a whole needs to make concerted efforts".

On the occasion, Principal BHSS Handwara; BDO Handwara; Tehsildar Handwara; Nodal Officer District Hospital Handwara and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Handwara spoke about harmful effects of drug abuse.

Awareness programme was attended by PRIs, AWWs, ASHAs, Auqaf committee members and local residents.

Awareness programme under NMBA was also organized at Block Headquarters Kupwara where

BDO Kupwara spoke at length on drug abuse and said that it is tearing mentally and physically to its abuser and breaking the social fabric of society. He urged PRIs, and all other stakeholders to play their active role so that Kupwara district becomes drug free.

Awareness programme was attended by BDC Kupwara, PRIs, Prominent citizens, civil society members, ASHAs and AWWs.

At Block Headquarters Drugmulla, Awareness programme under NMBA was also organised which was presided over by Tehsildar Drugmulla.

A large gathering of people, PRIs, AWWs, ASHAs attended the awareness programme.

## Director of Employment inaugurates 3 months Skill Training Program at IoHM Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21

The District Employment and Counseling Centre, in a collaborative effort with the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Srinagar, started 3 months Front Office Associate Skill Training Program

The training programme was inaugurated by Director of Employment J&K, Nisar Ahmad Wani.

The initiative is set to equip aspiring candidates with essential skills and ensure a successful career in the hospitality sector.

The event witnessed the presence of Director Employment as chief guest, besides Qazi Shabir Ahmad, Principal of the Institute of Hotel Management Srinagar; Zeenat Ara,



Joint Director Employment Kashmir; and Dr. Sheeba Inayat, Deputy Director Employment Sri-

nagar. In his comprehensive address, Nisar Ahmad Wani, Director Employ-

ment provided valuable insights into the employment scenario of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the crucial role of such training programs in enhancing the employability of the youth and contributing to the economic development of the region.

Principal, Qazi Shabir Ahmad shed light on the Institute of Hotel Managements commitment to nurturing talent and fostering excellence within the hospitality sector.

The Front Office Associate Skill Training Program is a significant stride toward cultivating a skilled workforce in alignment with the evolving needs of the hospitality industry.

## Yasha Mudgal visits Samba

JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBHA, SEPTEMBER 21

Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal, today visited dairy processing plant and Fruits Agro and Vegetables Producers Cooperative Limited (FPO), Bari Brahmana, Samba. Mudgal inspected the working of dairy processing unit, which is affiliated with the Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation Limited (JKCDF), located in Bari Brahmana and the Vijaypur Fruits Agro and Vegetables Producers Cooperative Limited (FPO) in Vijaypur, Samba. Commissioner Secretary assessed the readiness of JKCDF processing unit and gave necessary instructions for early launch of milk and milk products in the market. She stressed upon the importance of establishing more cooperatives as members of the federation. She encouraged exploration of additional marketing avenues for dairy cooperatives in this milk surplus Union Territory.

## District Level NCORD Committee reviews anti-drug measures in Kathua District

JNEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 21

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss the measures to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting discussed in detail issues related to the incidence of drug addiction, besides measures taken by law enforcement agencies to curb the menace.

The DC called upon the Assistant Drug Controller to keep a close tab on footages in CCTVs installed in pharmaceutical stores and their sale data to prevent over the counter sale of psychotropic drugs.

While reviewing the enforcement scenario, the DC asked AC Drugs Kathua to constitute teams involving Stakeholder departments to keep a regular check on illegal sale of



drugs not meant for over the counter sale.

The ADCs and SDMs were asked to formulate a comprehensive plan to launch a special public outreach program to sensitize people of minimum 5 Panchayats about the drug menace in one month. He further called for staying vigilant against illegal trafficking of Drugs and other banned substances in their territorial jurisdictions.

The DC impressed upon CMO to submit the status of registered De-Addiction centres functioning in the District and ensure these are adhering to the laid down guidelines. He further directed CMO to submit monthly data of patients who have availed de-addiction treatments in

de-addiction centers. The DC enjoined upon the stakeholder departments to take up aggressive awareness drives, especially targeting vulnerable groups so as to bring them back to the mainstream.

Earlier, SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal informed the meeting that police authorities have been observing zero tolerance on illegal use of drugs and 102 FIRs have been registered and 132 persons have been arrested in the current calendar year. Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC, Ranjeet Singh; Dy Cmt. BSE, CMO, CEO, APO, Tehsildar Hiranagar, Tehsildar Marheen, and other officers from civil administration.

## SKUAST-K, KVK-Budgam roll-out 6-Week MSME Training for rural youth

JNEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 21

SKUAST-K, KVK Budgam today kick-started MSME training on 'Entrepreneurship Development through Mushroom Production Technology and its Processing & Value Addition (E-SDP)' at Gariend Khurd, Budgam for Rural Youth.

The programme scheduled for six weeks aims to train budding entrepreneurs in Mushroom production technologies and sharpen their generic skills in post harvest handling through value addition.

Training Coordinator, Dr. Vaseem Yousuf, briefed the participants about the aim and objectives of the training programme.

Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Direc-



tor Extension, SKUAST-K, said that training like these are gateways to success that enable youth to carve a niche for themselves besides being a decent livelihood option. He impressed upon trainees to be interactive and regular to grasp the skill for self-employment. Prof. Shaheen Kounsar, Head, Division of Plant Pathology, SKUAST-K, briefed the participants about the

relevance of Mushroom cultivation as a livelihood option, particularly women folk. Senior Scientist and Head, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone, shared that Gariend Khurd has been adopted for Zero-Technology Gap by KVK Budgam under which the Kendra shall undertake technology demonstration across various domains for optimal enrichment of the farming community.

## Yasha Mudgal visits Samba; inspects functioning of dairy processing plant, FPO

JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBHA, SEPTEMBER 21

Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal, today visited dairy processing plant and Fruits Agro and Vegetables Producers Cooperative Limited (FPO), Bari Brahmana, Samba. Mudgal inspected the working of dairy pro-

cessing unit, which is affiliated with the Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation Limited (JKCDF), located in Bari Brahmana and the Vijaypur Fruits Agro and Vegetables Producers Cooperative Limited (FPO) in Vijaypur, Samba. Commissioner Secretary assessed the readiness of JKCDF processing unit and

gave necessary instructions for early launch of milk and milk products in the market. She stressed upon the importance of establishing more cooperatives as members of the federation. She encouraged exploration of additional marketing avenues for dairy cooperatives in this milk surplus Union Territory.

## Director Agriculture visits Saffron Fields of Pampore



JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Saffron fields of Pampore to take stock of the present scenario and interventions by the department.

He impressed upon the field officers to work in close coordination with the saffron farmers and ensure that proper guidance is provided to them during the pre and post harvesting (flower picking) operations.

The Director said that the department is vigorously working to ensure proper, complete irrigation facilities to the saffron farmers. He said 72 bore-

wells have already been provided to the saffron farmers and efforts are on to ensure that remaining borewells are handed-over to the concerned saffron farmers so that the sufficient irrigation facilities are made possible.

He asked the concerned farmers to make sure that the bore wells and their pipes are properly used for the benefits of saffron crop. He also asked them to take care of pipes of the bore wells particularly because only then the purpose of these irrigation facilities could be served.

Joint Director Extension GM Dhobi and Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama were also present on the occasion.

## Several delegations of Lar call on DC Ganderbal



JNEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 21

Different delegations led by former MLA Ganderbal, Ishaq Jabbar today called on the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir and raised various local issues with him. The delegations from Barsoo apprised the DC about the rehabilitation of tenants whose shops come under the ring road project.

The delegation from Watalbagh, Gangerhama and other areas apprised the DC that they have been hit by the auction

of the nallah Sindh. They demanded that they should be allowed to do their labour work. They also demanded fixation of rates etc.

On the occasion, the former MLA demanded construction of the 2nd phase of the Gangerhama-Wahidpora road through NABARD.

The DC while interacting with the delegations assured them that the issues raised shall be taken up with the concerned authorities. He also assured them redressal of their grievances.



## Two days outreach programme by CBC concludes at Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 21

The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on Thursday concluded a two day long Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) at Shopian.

The ICOP organised at IM- Government Degree College, Shopian by CBC's Field Office, Anantnag was aimed at public awareness about various public welfare schemes of the government which was done through a photo exhibition, informative standees, expert lectures and printed awareness material.

The concluding day of the outreach program was dedicated for awareness about the menace of substance abuse and various schemes for health and wellness of the people.

Senior Superintendent



of Police (SSP) Shopian, Tanushree was the chief guest on the occasion.

In her presidential address, the SSP commended CBC for organising the outreach programme and choosing substance abuse as the theme for awareness. She said that police are work-

ing with a two pronged strategy in the war against drug and substance abuse, whereby efforts are being made to reduce the demand for drugs by counseling and rehabilitating the addicts on one hand and stopping the supply of narcotic substances on the other.

She said that most of the addicts start using drugs and psychotropic substances under peer pressure or as an adventurous experiment and as such parents should keep an eye on who their wards are venturing with.

She impressed upon the people, especially youth, to look out for the early signs of substance abuse among their peers and family to counsel them and report cases to the police.

Calling for police-public cooperation, she said the citizenry is the police sans uniform and it is vital that both work together to defeat the anti-social and anti-national forces responsible for illegal activities like drug supply and peddling.

Earlier, Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag in his welcome address briefed the audience about the functions and mandate of the CBC. He presented

an overview of various activities organised during the two day programme.

Rajeev Raina, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy.Sp) gave a detailed presentation on the alarming situation of substance abuse in Kashmir.

During the programme Dr. Mohammad Yousuf, Block Medical Officer Shopian presented a detailed overview of various health sector schemes. He also shared anecdotes regarding the reluctance of people to enroll themselves for the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY scheme during the initial stages.

Dr. Yousuf discussed the major aspects of programmes like Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), National Non-Communicable Diseases Screening and other health related schemes.

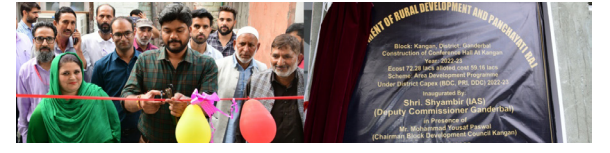
## DC Ganderbal inaugurates Block Conference Hall at Block Office Kangan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 21

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today inaugurated a newly constructed double storey block conference hall at Block Office Kangan.

The conference hall marks an important milestone in Kangan infrastructure development, and is a state-of-the-art facility which will be equipped with modern amenities to accommodate various conferences, seminars, workshops, and other events.

During the inauguration ceremony, the DC complimented all the PRI members including DDCs, BDCs and Sarpanchs of block Kangan who provided funds for the construction of such an asset which is first project since implementation of three-tier Panchayat Raj system



in J&K in which PRI members have contributed jointly for construction of such a state-of-art structure which is expected to serve as hub for decision-making processes among government officials, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

He also announced the setting up of a Video Conferencing facility in the hall. BDO Kangan in his welcome speech expressed gratitude to all those involved in the planning and construction of the building. He said that the conference hall will be equipped with comfortable seating arrangements, audio-visual equipment, and high-speed internet connectivity to facilitate seamless communication and presentations very soon.

Several PRI members also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of having a dedicated space for hosting various national and UT level flagships programmes and meetings. They emphasized that the conference hall will provide a conducive environment for productive discussions and will contribute to the overall development and progress of the Kangan area.

The function was attended by BDC Chairperson Kangan, DDC Member Kangan, Sarpanchs besides SDM Kangan, BDO Kangan and other officials of block Kangan.

## DC reviews preparations for Eid Milad Ul Nabi (SAW) in Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 21

In a pivotal meeting, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, meticulously reviewed the arrangements for the Eid Milad Ul Nabi (SAW), alongside officers and representatives of various religious organizations.

With unwavering focus, the meeting delved into essential facets such as seamless water and power supply, healthcare provisions, parking logistics, and efficient transport services.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the imperative duty of officers and officials to furnish the populace with indispensable amenities, encompassing potable water, sanitation, medical care, efficient transportation, uninterrupted power and water provisioning, and all other requisite essentials. The vigilant law enforcement agencies received firm directives to deploy ample police personnel on this holy occasion, safeguarding the security of the public. Traffic authorities, likewise, were tasked with crafting a meticulous traffic management and parking strategy to ensure the smooth flow of vehicles on the designated day.

The DC enjoined the concerned authorities from the Power Development Department and Jal Shakti Department to guarantee uninterrupted power and water supply for the community during

the festive period.

The concerned officer from the fire and emergency department received explicit instructions to maintain a state of readiness for fire tenders, both day and night. The Municipal Committee Executive Officer (EO) was mandated to ensure the cleanliness of the town throughout the festivities.

The Health Department was tasked with ensuring the availability of comprehensive medical facilities to address any potential emergencies. The Officer from the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department was instructed to intensify market inspections, curb overpricing, profiteering, and black-market activities.

Deputy Commissioner impressively underscored the urgency of completing all essential festival-related preparations well in advance to ensure that the public encounters no inconvenience during these auspicious occasions.

SSP, Amrit Pal Singh; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; DPO, Auqil Nuvaid; XEN PDD Rajouri; Rashid Chowdhury; XEN Jal Shakti EO MC Rajouri and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Among the others, Molvi Farooq, Tazeem Dar, Iftqar Dar; Shafiq Mir; Asief Bhatt and other religious leaders were present during the meeting.

## 3 Kishtwar Govt Schools get computer labs with 25 computers provided under CSR

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 21

In a major impetus, the Education department Kishtwar has received 25 computer systems under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for establishment of IT labs in three Government Schools.

The Upper Primary School Hasti (Kishtwar zone), Government Middle School Nagra and Government High School Cherji (Nagseni Zone) have been benefited with extensive efforts of District Administration under the leadership of Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner.

The demand was projected before Armstrong Pame, Director in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Government of India during his visit to the District around three months back.



These schools were identified for establishment of computer labs to be funded under CSR.

Keeping his word, Armstrong Pame took up the matter with the Mumbai based NGO Apni Pathshala, which in collaboration with Selligion Technologies Mumbai further coordinated with District Administration Kishtwar to fulfill the formalities required for sanctioning

of the computer systems in favour of the Education department Kishtwar.

District administration Kishtwar with constant follow up of the initiative ensured fulfilling of all formalities as required by the NGO Apnipathshala and Selligion Technologies in terms of provision of basic infrastructural facilities such as chairs, tables, electric sockets, internet connections etc for the

establishment of the lab in the said schools.

Finally, after completing all formalities required 25 computer systems shipment was received and handed over to the schools.

Establishment of computer labs in these schools will go a long way in promoting digital and computer literacy among the students. Continuous follow up of the usage of the computer systems will be taken by the providers that will ensure best utilization of the facility.

District Administration & people of Kishtwar have thanked for the kind efforts by Armstrong Pame, Director, in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (GoI), Apnipathshala, Mumbai and Selligion Technologies Pvt Ltd. Mumbai and looks forward to more collaborations in future.

## DC Doda discusses arrangements for Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)



DODA, SEPTEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan along with Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom on Thursday convened a meeting of the stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the auspicious occasion of Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) 2023.

The DC asked the concerned departments to take advance measures for uninterrupted water and electricity supply, Medicare Facilities, sanitation, parking facilities, and other logistics for the smooth celebration of the auspicious occasion in all parts of the district.

Directions were passed to deploy adequate duty Magistrates and police personnel on the holy day for the security of the public. The authorities have been asked to get information from the concerned religious bodies

about the routes and timing of the processions for making fool-proof security deployment along the route. The traffic authorities were directed to prepare well thought-out traffic management and parking plans in order to ensure hassle-free to-and-fro movement of vehicles and the procession on the scheduled day.

Concerned from the fire and emergency department, have been directed to keep the fire tenders on alert 24/7. All three Municipal Bodies were directed to ensure cleanliness in the towns on the day. The meeting was attended by the ADC Doda Dr RK Bharti, ADC Bhaderwah Choudhary Dilmir, ASP Bhaderwah, SE PWD, SDMs, SDPOs, CMO Doda, Dy SP Headquarters, Tehsildars, Ex En PWD, Ex En Jal Shakti, Ex En PDD, SHOs and other concerned.

## Awareness Workshop on "Nasha Mukht Bharat" held in GBHSS Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 21

An enlightening and impactful awareness workshop on the theme "Nasha Mukht Bharat" was conducted today in the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Rajouri. The significant event was orchestrated by the dedicated efforts of Civil Defence Rajouri.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal was the chief guest on the occasion. The Deputy Commissioner delivered an inspirational address to the attending school students and participants. He shared insights and strategies to combat substance abuse and promote a "Nasha Mukht Bharat" (Addiction-Free India). His words aimed to inspire positive change and instill a sense of responsibility among the youth.

In recognition of their invaluable contributions to the cause, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal also took a moment to



felicitate the key speakers who played an integral role in disseminating knowledge and raising awareness during the workshop. Among the others Dy. SP Shayeen was present on the occasion.

The workshop stands as a testament to the commitment of Civil Defence Rajouri and its collaborators in addressing the critical issue of substance abuse in our society. It also underscores the ded-

ication of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal in nurturing a healthier and addiction-free future for the youth of Rajouri.

The event concluded on a promising note, leaving the participants inspired and motivated to contribute to the vision of a "Nasha Mukht Bharat," where individuals and communities are empowered to lead healthy, fulfilling lives, free from the grip of addiction.

## DLMPAC approves 4 minor minerals mining plans in Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 21

District Development Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today chaired an important meeting of District Level Mining Plan Approval Committee (DLMPAC) which approved four mining plans in the district.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held regarding mining on scientific patterns.

Plans of mining minerals approved today included; Chenab River near village Jangalwar, Tehsil Phagsoo, District Doda, Minor Mineral Block Doda; Chenab River near Village - Kandoth, Tehsil Thathri, District Doda, Minor Mineral RBM Block Doda; Left bank of River Chenab Located at Tehsil Mohalla, District Doda and Minor Mineral Block Doda and Right bank of River Chenab located at Tehsil Mohalla and District Doda.

The mineral blocks were earlier e-auctioned by a designated committee under the chairmanship of DDC Doda. After approval, the Project Proponents shall seek environmental clearance (EC) and Consent to Operate (CTO) before generating lease in favour of Project Proponents. The legal extraction of Minor Minerals shall make available the mineral material to the executing agencies/ departments and the general public, besides restraining illegal mining activities.

## DC reviews performance of line departments; development scenario in Kathua district



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 21

District Development Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas on Thursday chaired a meeting of District and Sectoral officers, here in the conference hall of DC complex to review the performance of line departments.

At the outset, the DC enjoined upon heads of departments to complete the tendering process of all works approved under current year Capex by end of September to rule out any inordinate delay in completing works within the set timelines.

The DC impressed upon the officers to issue notice to those contractors who haven't started the work,

and if needed, penalize them. While discussing the road map for achieving 100% Capex targets, the DC exhorted the line departments to work with utmost dedication to achieve the target.

The meeting also discussed the way forward on inter-departmental issues causing hindrance in smooth execution of works.

While calling extra efforts, the DC asked the departments to complete all development projects taken up under CAPEX well before deadlines.

CPO, Uttam Singh, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, Irrigation, CMO, CEO and other concerned officers were also present at the meeting.

## YSS Ganderbal kicks-off Inter School Zonal Level Athletic meet in Zone Hariganiwan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 21

The Youth Services and Sports department (YSS) Ganderbal organized a spectacular inter school Zonal Level Athletic meet for Boys U/19 years at the picturesque ground of BHSS Hariganiwan.

The event saw an enthusiastic participation of various Higher Secondary schools of the Zone. The student players showcased their level of fitness and athleticism while participating in the different athletic events.

Senior officials of the department felicitated the meritorious students with their well-deserved medals after the culmination of the activity. Athletic meets like these provide a great platform for young athletes to showcase their talents and dedication towards sports.

## Jak Shakti Kathua appeals people to pay pending water tax, regularise connections in one month

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 21

Department of Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kathua has appealed to the General

Public to pay their pending water tax within one month.

The Department has also urged the general public to regularize their

illegal water connections. The authority has also warned that any further delay on the part of the consumers will be dealt strictly.

## EDITORIAL

## Infra projects shrink green cover

In Jammu and Kashmir, infrastructure development projects have badly affected the green cover of the Union Territory. The reason for it is the reckless felling of trees, young plants and shrubs. Though the measures have been taken to compensate for the loss to the greenery in the Union Territory, it was not enough to match the trees axed while paving way for construction of mega road projects. According to the reports, over two lakhs big trees and shrubs either have been axed or identified to be cut to pave way for the development of these roads during the last 15 years. Over 77,000 trees, shrubs and poles along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway project-started in 2011—have been removed or to be felled to ensure an all-weather road connectivity to Kashmir Valley. To compensate the loss to green cover of Jammu and Kashmir, the NHAI has either planted or planned to plant around 1.5 lakh saplings across the Union Territory, besides over 10,000 Khair trees (ten times of total 1041 Khair trees axed for highway widening) would also be planted against the felling of Khair trees along Jammu-Udhampur section. On the Srinagar Qazigund section of the highway, as many as 59,675 trees and small plants, including over 50,000 trees belonging to the government departments, were felled while over 3,300 trees have been axed and identified to be cut along the Nashri-Ramban-Banihal stretch. As many as 2,314 trees and poles on Jammu-Nandani stretch, 2,909 trees and poles for construction of tunnels and 4,281 trees along the Jammu-Udhampur stretch have been axed during the widening of the highway since 2011. For two Ring Road projects in Jammu and Srinagar cities, a total of 5,707 trees have been felled from Raya Morh to Jagti for paving way to the construction of Jammu Ring Road. Over 1 lakh saplings, shrubs and trees have been felled for the Srinagar Ring Road project for which compensation was also paid to the owners of these plants. Similarly, as many as 6,800 trees—eucalyptus and poplar—were identified and chopped for the widening of the 30-km stretch of the Jammu-Akhnour road. A total of 6,800 trees were identified and cut for the Rs 917 crore project. For the ongoing Delhi-Katra Expressway Corridor project, over 21,000 trees have been identified to be axed in Jammu and Reasi Forest and Wildlife divisions. A total of 21,483 trees are to be chopped down between Kunjwani to Sidhra and Sidhra to Ban Toll sections of the Jammu-Katra Expressway. As many as 11,946 trees will be axed under Jammu Forest Division for Kunjwani to Sidhra Section, 1781 trees for the Sidhra to Ban Toll Section out of which 746 fall under the Jammu Wildlife Division. Under the jurisdiction of forest division Reasi, 7,756 trees have been identified to be felled between Domel and Katra sections. Going by the details, the government needs to take immediate measures to ensure plantation of more and more saplings for enhancing green cover of Jammu and Kashmir. No development at the cost of damage to the environment can be described as balanced.

# WASH | Small towns in India need sustainable models for development

Addressing the pressing issues concerning water and sanitation services in small towns assumes paramount significance. By grasping the challenges, we can pave the way for healthier, more sustainable, and flourishing communities

TIKENDER SINGH PANWAR  
RWITWIK SINHA

India is home to around 17.76 per cent of the world's population, but has only 4 per cent of the world's fresh water resources. It is estimated that about 200,000 people die every year due to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene.

In 2016, per person disease burden due to unsafe water and sanitation was 40 times higher in India than in China and 12 times higher than in Sri Lanka. With the country generating huge amounts of wastewater annually, mismanagement of wastewater, lack of liquid and solid waste management, poor sanitation conditions, and poor hygiene habits have contributed to a significant portion of the population suffering from water-borne diseases.

Small towns are more vulnerable than others, marred with incapacities and poor onus. Most of the utilities pertaining to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are dealt with parastatals in small towns. Besides, the big-ticket programmes announced by the Union government, mostly cater to the needs of large cities.

Since the Census of India of 1981, the definitions of different settlement types have persisted largely unchanged, even though the emergence of census towns challenges current measures of urbanisation.

India has over 8,000 municipalities and cities with about 470 million residents. Only about 600 have a population above 80,000. The remaining 7,400-odd small municipalities (Census 2011) are already facing, or will face, water scarcity soon.

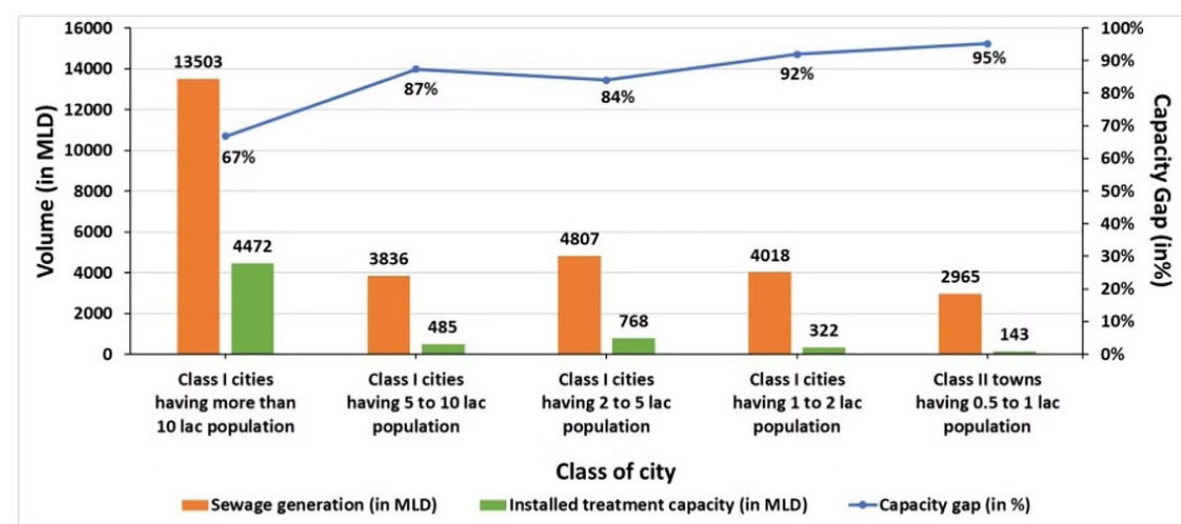


Figure 2.2.1: Wastewater generation and treatment capacity gap at city level in India (CPCB, 2022)

Despite possessing surface water resources, they are highly dependent on groundwater resources for day-to-day survival. Their challenge is to fulfil the demand through the existing but depleting resources, and the municipalities need affordable and robust systems and unconventional solutions involving recycling, recharge and reuse of water, etc.

As per a report from the Central Pollution Control Board of India (CPCB), sanitation services have largely been ignored and only 19 per cent of the sewage generated is treated. While wastewater infrastructure is gradually improving, it has essentially focussed on centralised approaches in large cities – leaving lots of small pockets unserved.

### Very low capacities

Institutionally the small municipalities are poorly equipped for the responsibilities of water supply and sanitation services as well as regulating institutional and financial matters. According to Niti Aayog, about 76 per cent of census towns and 52 per cent of statutory towns do

not have a master plan in place. These towns have rudimentary capacities – their personnel who are largely civil engineers lack relevant experience in institutional reform, water governance including decentralisation and service delivery options and a customer-facing orientation to services and delivery. The weak leadership and lack of harmonisation in the government's efforts lead to disordered and contract-related implementation.

The municipal financing for WASH falls into two broad categories: own-source revenues (for urban local bodies (ULBs) and intergovernmental fiscal transfers (for state and Centre). Municipalities generate own-source revenues mostly through property taxes. While municipalities in India assess the tax amount based on location, property size, and other factors, they do not have full control over the tax rates, as the power to determine property tax slabs rests with the state government. Other own-source revenue streams include market

fees or licensing fees.

The main mechanism for intergovernmental fiscal transfers (IGFTs) is the Finance Commission, which allocates funding from the Union government to the states based on population, and this funding is then distributed by state governments to municipalities. Finance Commission funds include both tied and untied transfers. Currently, of the total 15th Finance Commission (2021-26) funding recommended for municipalities with populations less than one million, 30 per cent is allocated for drinking water, 30 per cent for sanitation, and the remainder is flexible.

India has an IGFT of 0.45 per cent of GDP which is the lowest among developing nations: Mexico (1.6 per cent) or South Africa (2.6 per cent). This disparity puts undue pressure on smaller municipalities and municipal councils to generate their own revenue for which they often are miserably ill-prepared. The grants are divided into basic and performance-linked categories. The basic grant, which is

80 per cent of the total amount, provides unconditional support to municipalities for the provision of civic services including water and sanitation. Municipalities scoring well on performance criteria, including increases in own-source revenue and water and sanitation service benchmarks, can access additional performance-linked grants.

Unlike larger towns that might have a percentage of their population connected to centralised sewerage systems linked to treatment plants, most smaller towns in India lack sewer infrastructure or treatment facilities. Consequently, the absence of treatment or disposal options leads to the improper discharge of faecal sludge and wastewater into the environment. According to a 2022 report from the CPCB, there exists a substantial gap in treatment capacity within different city classes based on population size. In cities classified as Class I with a population exceeding 1 million, the treatment capacity gap stands at approximately 67 per cent.

Similarly, in Class II towns with a population range of 50,000 to 100,000, the treatment capacity gap is notably higher, at around 95 per cent, highlighting a significant disparity (see table below).

### Conclusion

Addressing the pressing issues concerning water and sanitation services in small towns assumes paramount significance. By grasping the challenges, they confront, recognising the criticality of accessible water, and exploring potential avenues for improvement, we can pave the way for healthier, more sustainable, and flourishing communities.

Equitable clean and safe water, with adequate sanitation facilities, transcends mere necessity – it constitutes a fundamental right. But the current situation paints a sorry picture when it comes to meeting the SDG6 targets. By investing in infrastructure, fostering community engagement, adopting cutting-edge technologies, and championing responsible water usage, small towns can surmount obstacles and revolutionise their water and sanitation services to cater adeptly to the needs of their burgeoning populations.

Small towns play a pivotal role in the holistic development of nations. By guaranteeing access to basic services such as water and sanitation, we empower these towns to contribute even more potently to economic progress, environmental sustainability, and social well-being.

(Tikender Singh Panwar is former Deputy Mayor of Shimla, and Rwitwik Sinha is a sanitation engineer working with BORDA.)

## Do not tamper with DRDO

It was in 1980 that then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi agreed to create a Department of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D) within the Ministry of Defence.

SAURAV JHA

On the very day that ISRO's Vikram lander made it to the south pole region of the moon, another event took place that got much less publicity. I am referring to the launch of an indigenous air-to-air missile (AAM) by an indigenously developed fighter aircraft, over the skies of Bengaluru.

Both the AAM, called Astra Mk1, and the fighter, Tejas, have been developed by DRDO and are currently in serial production, with enhanced versions on the anvil.

As such, the fact that more than Rs 4 lakh crore worth of equipment (not including nuclear delivery-related systems) from DRDO's wide-ranging product suite has, as on date, either been inducted or approved for induction ultimately stems from a pivotal decision taken in New Delhi decades ago. Alarmingly though, there are indications that this decision might be reversed.

It was in 1980 that then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi agreed to create a Department of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D) within the Ministry of Defence, at the insistence of the then head of DRDO (simply called Sci-

entific Adviser to Raksha Mantri at the time), Raja Ramanna, the pre-eminent nuclear physicist.

This decision, which basically turned DRDO into a departmental undertaking, brought the organisation out of the ambit of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), thereby cutting through layers of red tape. This, in turn, made mission-mode projects, which are defined and guided by the military, possible.

Having spent years as Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), before being tasked with heading DRDO as Scientific Adviser, Raja Ramanna understood better than anyone else why institutionalised access was so important for strategic S&T endeavours in India.

Of late, however, there are reports that the government is thinking of divesting the Chairman of DRDO (which is what the head is now called) from the post of Secretary, DDR&D, and even let the post be held by someone from a non-scientific cadre.

These reports must be taken seriously because just last month, the government set up yet another high-powered committee to review DRDO (a second in just three years) whose key terms of reference includes "restructuring and redefining the

role of DDR&D and DRDO, as well as their relationship with each other and with academia and industry".

Any move to separate the posts of DRDO Chairman and Secretary DDR&D will in no way "unburden" DRDO as some proponents are claiming, but would rather serve as a demotivation and demotivator for defence R&D pursuits in India as a whole.

And encumbering the DRDO chief by putting somebody over that individual's head would be tantamount to the kind of the mistake made in Pakistan, where generations of scientific cadre have been hemmed in by military overseers.

What is surprising is that such restructuring is being mulled at a time when DRDO has crossed the threshold in terms of delivery, in areas ranging from missiles, electronic warfare systems, radar, sonars, torpedoes and a host of sub-systems.

Indeed, DRDO's performance is pound-for-pound superior to either that of DAE or ISRO. For one, DRDO does not come directly under the PMO, as DAE and ISRO do. Indeed, during the recent Chandrayaan-3 success, the support that ISRO received from the highest office was palpable. More importantly, both ISRO and DAE essentially specify and

qualify their own systems.

Contrast this with DRDO's case: it has to compete with imports based on specifications from a demanding user community. In fact, the late Manohar Parrikar, when he was Defence Minister, described service requirements for indigenous weapons systems akin to something taken out of Marvel Comics!

Comparisons notwithstanding, DRDO has played a vital role in supporting some of DAE's and ISRO's high-visibility national security programmes. For instance, it is DRDO that developed the explosive lens and trigger explosives that were used in the fission device tested at Pokhran in 1974.

And for ISRO's Gaganyaan effort, various DRDO labs, from different clusters, are developing vital inputs ranging from space food, space crew health monitoring and emergency survival kit, radiation measurement and protection, as well as parachutes for the safe recovery of the crew module.

DRDO is able to make such contributions because it controls a gamut of labs that are made to work together to develop sub-systems. No defence company in India can boast of a comparable ecosystem. Now, the latest committee will also look at the "rationalisation

of laboratory structures and their performance evaluation process". It should be noted that some DRDO labs have already been shuttered, and it is doubtful whether further rationalisation is feasible. Generally speaking, there should be no aim to unbundle DRDO's clusters into different entities. Hopefully, lessons have been learnt from the recent unbundling of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) into seven different PSUs, only for New Delhi to seriously consider re-merging five of those into a single company that can compete in the export market!

Speaking of exports, India's defence export surge is being led by DRDO-developed systems, such as the Pinaka MLRS. Importantly, these exports are happening with private entities being the lead integrators. Contrary to conventional wisdom, DRDO works very closely with the private sector in India and has seeded the growth of over a thousand small and medium enterprises through various projects.

Foreign collaboration, too, has been leveraged much more effectively by DRDO than it has been either by the DPSUs or private companies. A clear example would be the Brahmos missile itself, where

indigenous content levels by value have risen from a mere 13% to 76% today. India is today also competitive in a range of solid-state radars, the technology for which was initially developed in collaboration with Israel. Back home, through initiatives such as 'Gas Turbine Enabling Technologies', DRDO has utilised domestic academia to solve critical problems in the realm of jet engines.

Finally, conventional wisdom aside, DRDO cannot be turned into an Indian DARPA. The DARPA is a contract R&D outsourcing outfit that leverages the highly pedigreed US military R&D ecosystem. No such ecosystem exists in India, with neither the DPSUs nor the private sector having credible design capabilities beyond a few areas. Given this milieu, the new committee should focus on IP-sharing structures and the ways in which DRDO can help industry pursue iterative development of systems for which knowhow has already been transferred to them by the organisation. This actually requires giving more resources and attention to DRDO. However, do not fix what is not broken in the name of reforms.

(The writer is Chief Editor, Delhi Defence Review)

## DHSJ organises 2nd Specialty Camp for Eye Check up and Cataract Surgeries in Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

In furtherance of its commitment to provide accessible and quality eye care services to the community and with the successful completion of the Eye Check up and cataract surgeries camp at District Hospital Poonch, another specialty camp was organized by Directorate of Health Services Jammu in the district's Mandi Community Health Centre (CHC). The Camp started on 18th Sept and concluded today.

A team of Consultant Ophthalmologists and Ophthalmic Technicians

was deputed for the camp by Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma. The Team comprised of Consultant Ophthalmologists. Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Govt. Hospital Sarwal Jammu; Dr. Rajeev Sharma, GMC & AH Rajouri and Dr. Rabia Saif, PG Ophthalmology, district POONCH along with Ophthalmic Technicians, Dharminder DH Rajouri and Mohd. Shafiq, District Hospital Rajouri.

The second session of eye check up and cataract



successful stitchless cataract surgeries with artificial intraocular lens implants were performed by the deputed team.

The event was managed by joint efforts of Chief Medical Officer Poonch Dr. Anis Altaf Nabi and Block Medical

Officer Mandi Dr. Nusratul-Nisa. The people from far flung areas of Poonch who were benefited by the two consecutive camps were overwhelmed by the efforts put in by Director Health Services Jammu in organizing these camps.

surgeries started with a tremendous response from remote areas of district Poonch. A large number of people turned up for a check up for detection of cataract. In the camp, 95 patients were screened for eye ailments and 60 suc-

## DC Udhampur inaugurates Dogra Haat- Rural market hub in Kaghote Ramnagar

JINNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 21

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, in a significant moment, inaugurated newly established Dogra Haat-Rural Market Hub at Kaghote Ramnagar, an initiative by women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under JKRLM (UMED).

The ceremony witnessed the presence of Block Development Council Chairman, Des Raj, BDO Ramnagar, Sarpanch Sunil Singh, and various officials from different departments.

Dogra Haat is a commendable endeavor by JKRLM to provide a platform to rural women to showcase and sell their products, fostering entrepreneurship among women and bolstering their economic empowerment. Approximately 25



Self Help Group members from JKRLM will operate and manage this hub. Visitors can relish authentic Dogra cuisine, including Makki ki Roti, Udhampur's renowned Kalari, Sarson da Saag, and other delectable dishes.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed her

admiration for the dedication and hard work of the women involved in Dogra Haat. She emphasized the vital role of such initiatives in promoting women's empowerment and strengthening the rural economy. Deputy Commissioner Rai stressed the significance of promoting

local cuisine and supporting women entrepreneurs for the holistic development of the region. This initiative aims to stimulate economic growth, empower local Self Help Groups through entrepreneurial opportunities and contribute to community development.

## DC inaugurates Book Fair at IDPS Bandipora



JINNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 21

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Thursday inaugurated a two day mega book fair organised by International Delhi Public School Bandipora in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora and Education department Bandipora.

The DC on the occasion formally inaugurated the event and inspected different stalls including book and stationery stalls. It was informed that the fair will continue over a period of two days during which a wide range of books will be kept available physically, in different stalls, to the participants.

Addressing students, the DC said that in addition to online book reading, offline book reading mode serves its own importance. He advised students to gain knowl-

edge as much as they can. He also urged them not to waste time in futile pursuits like excessive improper usage of the internet and other time wasting platforms.

The DC wished best of luck to the students for their future.

A series of cultural events, depicting the rich cultural heritage of Kashmiri tradition, were performed on the occasion.

Students while speaking on the occasion thanked district administration and IDPS Bandipora for organising such events which help them boost knowledge about the world.

JD Planning Intiyaz Ahmad, President Private Schools Association, Principal GDC Bandipora, Senior citizens of the district, youth of Bandipora, besides a galaxy of students from different educational institutions across the district attended the event.

## DC Bandipora convenes meeting on installation of smart meters



JINNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 21

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Thursday chaired a meeting regarding the installation of smart meters in district Bandipora. The officials of KPDCI informed the meeting that the installation of smart meters has been rolled out in the district, besides a detailed presentation was given on the status of Smart Metering Projects in Bandipora under phased manner.

The meeting discussed implementation status, feeders identified for smart metering in Bandipora, feeder wise meter installation, Field Activity Progress, funding and road map for the projects.

On the occasion, DC directed the concerned and police to tackle resistance by any person in the process of installation of smart meters amicably. He also said that if any person creates hindrance and damages public property, then strict action shall be taken against him.

He also directed con-

cerned officers to create awareness among the people regarding the utility and advantages of smart metering in ensuring a constant supply of electricity.

The DC further directed to involve opinion leaders, religious leaders, Mohallah Committees, Traders Federations and social activists to motivate people regarding installation of Smart meters.

He said the message should be loud and clear regarding execution of work besides social media and other channels should be utilized to familiarize and sensitize general people about the advantages of smart meters.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Ali Afsar Khan; ADC Umar Shafi; Executive Engineer, KPDCI Bandipora/Sumbal; DySP DAR and other concerned officers and representatives of Vendor Agency.

Meanwhile, ACR Bandipora, SDM Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal/ Hajin, and EO MC Hajin joined the meeting through virtual mode.

## DC reviews pace of progress on JJM Water Supply Schemes in Rajouri



JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 21

To ensure access to clean drinking water in rural areas, 293 Water Supply Schemes are being executed in Rajouri District under Flagship Jal Jeevan Mission.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to evaluate the progress of the on-going schemes.

With an unwavering commitment to the success of the mission, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of high-quality work, timely completion of projects, and effective supervision to ensure the mission's goals are met.

The meeting shed light on the remarkable progress made in Rajouri with the work well underway on 240 schemes against the total 293 approved projects. To expedite the completion of the schemes, the Deputy Commis-

sioner directed officers to adopt a result-driven approach and adhere to set timelines for completion of each project. With focused efforts and dedicated work, the mission is fast becoming a reality, promising to deliver a healthier and happier life for the region's populace.

Overall the meeting was a constructive platform for officers to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and find solutions to the challenges facing the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Deputy Commissioner directed them to continue working with dedication and commitment to achieve the mission's objectives.

CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; SE Hydraulics, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; XEN Jal Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma; XEN Jal Shakti Nowshera, Vipin Kumar and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## Mega Cleanliness drive launched in Reasi



JINNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, SEPTEMBER 21

A mega cleanliness drive was launched today by District Administration Reasi at multiple locations here under Swachhata Hi Seva- Swachh Bharat Mission.

The drive was conducted in the District Administration Complex, Bhingarh Fort, Sula Park, Aghar Jitto, Nau Devian, Katra Town, Ransoo Town, Pouni Market and Janana Park.

Under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Babila Rakwal, the district officers and officials collected waste in the form of plastic, polythene etc and disposed of it in the proper place.

The initiative aimed to promote cleanliness and to create and contribute

towards a cleaner and healthier environment in and around the society.

Officials from Revenue, Education, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, PWD, Animal Husbandry, Urban Development, Agriculture and Health participated in the cleanliness drive along with the District heads.

Residents of nearby houses and shopkeepers were also sensitized to maintain cleanliness and hygiene at individual levels to meet the objective of Swachhata Hi Seva- Swachh Bharat Mission.

PO Poshan Reasi, CEO Reasi, Social Welfare Officer Reasi, Chief Agriculture and Horticulture Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Xen PWD, Tehsildar Pouni, BMO Pouni, BDO Pouni and other district officers participated in the cleanliness drive.

## Facilitation Centre cum Sale Counter for value added products opened at Govt Fruit Plant Nursery Siot

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak, today inaugurated Facilitation Centre cum Sale Counter of value added products at Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Siot, Rajouri in presence of PRI members, officers of the Department and farmers of the adjoining areas.

The Director emphasized on the need for establishment of individual processing units for fruit processing/ fruit drying/ spices preparation etc. for which the Department of Horticulture is providing a 50 percent subsidy. He said that women farmers should form their Farmers Club/ FPO's / Self Help Group's so that they can establish processing units on community level and take this business as an entrepreneurship.

Later, the Director chaired a Farmers Awareness cum Interaction Programme at Govt. Fruit Plant Nursery, Siot where-



in more than 100 farmers of Sunderbani, Nowshera and Kalakote horticulture zones participated. While addressing the farmers, the Director laid stress on implementation of different schemes viz: New orchard establishment, Processing units, Creation of irrigation sources, Mechanization, Pack House, Vermicompost units etc. Director said that funds will not be a constraint in the implementation of schemes and assured them of timely payment of subsidies as funds stands released under CAPEX and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes. He also listened

patiently to the problems / grievances of farmers and assured them that all their legitimate grievances shall be resolved in a time bound manner.

On the occasion, Chief Horticulture Officer Rajouri, Madan Lal Tak also briefed farmers about the different schemes being implemented in district Rajouri.

Besides farmers, DLSMS, Jyoti Parkash, DHO, Shafiq Hussain, MCC Sunil Mahnoori, HDOs, Arun Kumar and Darvinder Kumar were also present in the programme.

## DC Kulgam reviews modalities for proper implementation of ABDP in Manzgam block

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 21

In order to review modalities and action plan for smooth implementation of Aspirational Block Development programme (ABDP) for Manzgam Block in Kulgam district based on 39 indicators, a meeting of officers was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at mini-secretariat, here.

During the meeting threadbare discussion was held and officers were apprised about their targets to be achieved under 39 indicators based on Health, Education, Agriculture, Water Resources, Power, Agriculture, social development, Irrigation and other indicators.

The DC took a comprehensive review of all the indicators, department-wise and emphasized



that initiatives need to be taken by all departments to reach 100% saturation under these 39 indicators in block Manzgam.

He also instructed the concerned officers to chalk out a proper and comprehensive strategy of ABDP for Manzgam Block after SWOT Analysis for properly identifying and analyzing strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of their sectors in conver-

gence and in collaboration among themselves.

The DC impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure that targets fixed could be achieved within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather, DPO Nisar Ahmad, JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACP Sharjeel Ali, DIO, CEO, Ex. Engineers of Jal Shakti, KPDCI and other district and Block officers.

## ARTO Bandipora seizes Overloaded Bus



JINNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 21

The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Bandipora Thursday seized a bus involved in overloading of passengers at Bandipora.

The ARTO informed that strict action will be taken against those who are found involved in the overloading of passengers in the buses across the district. He said that overloading poses a serious threat to the lives of people.

He further informed that the Motor Vehicle Department Bandipora has constituted teams for checking overloading of passengers throughout the district.

Meanwhile, the ARTO appealed to the general public of Bandipora, especially student folk, to avoid travelling via Overloaded buses. He also appealed to the general public of Bandipora to inform any instance of overloading directly to his office through WhatsApp number 9596051716.

He further said that in case of non availability of transport in any area across the district, the same number can be contacted to inform the office of ARTO Bandipora.

## DySP Sheikh Adil arrested in corruption case: Police

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPT 21

Srinagar police on Thursday arrested a deputy superintendent of police Sheikh Adil in a corruption case registered at police station Nowgam.

In a post on X, Srinagar police, as per the news agency informed that a 5-member special investigation team headed by SP south City is investigating the matter.

Police also said that they have obtained 6 days remand of the accused.

"One DySP of 17th IRP namely Adil Mush-taq arrested in FIR no 149/2023 u/s 7, 7A of Prevention of corruption Act & sections 167, 193, 201, 210, 218, 221 of IPC of Nowgam PS. A five member SIT headed by SP South city entrusted with investigation. 6 days police remand of accused obtained," police said.

## Constitute Municipality in Mendhar before Local Body Elections: Dr Shazad

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Jammu and Kashmir Border Areas Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of residents of border areas of J & K has once again reiterated its demand of setting up Municipal Committee in border town Mendhar of district Poonch for providing better sanitation, enhanced hygienic facilities and planned, controlled and managed construction of Lanes, drains and buildings in the border town.

Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JK-BADC and former Vice Chancellor has urged the government for establishment of Municipal Committee in border town Mendhar before announcement of panchayat and municipal elections because as presently due to uncontrolled and unplanned construction of infrastructure including private, government and commercial buildings in the Mendhar town the roads, lanes and drains are being encroached upon by rogue elements and there is no check on it.

BADC Chairman citing the poor hygiene facilities there in Mendhar town also highlighted the issue of choked drains and unplanned disposal of solid, liquid and other harmful wastes.

He said as the Mendhar is house to a huge population thus it is imperative that all the political parties should join hands and contribute their efforts in establishment of municipal body in the border town before elections to provide a sigh of relief to the residents. Dr Shazad has been demanding municipality for Mendhar and during last over a decade has submitted dozens of representations and memorandums to senior officers and government functionaries.

## Apni Party's commitment to truthfulness boosts its political standing, reputation: Bukhari

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPT 21

Dr. Noor-ud-Din Shah, a well-known medical doctor hailing from North Kashmir's Trehgam Kupwara joined Apni Party along with his scores of supporters during a vibrant event organised at the party headquarters in Srinagar on Thursday.

The party president, along with other senior leaders, gave a warm welcome to Shah and his accompanying supporters.

Pertinently, Dr. Noor-ud-Din Shah is not only a distinguished director but also holds a prominent standing as a respected social figure within his native district. He made the significant decision to leave his medical profession and enter politics, driven by a deep commitment to serve people better.

On this occasion, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed his satisfaction over the growing popularity and increasing public acceptance of the party.

He stated, "It gives me immense pleasure to witness that Apni Party is gaining public acceptance with each passing day across Jammu and Kashmir, and prominent people and experienced political leaders are join-



ing our hands in each and every corner of J&K. Apni Party holds the distinction of being the only party that achieved public acceptance in a short span of time after its inception in March 2020."

"The credit for this credibility goes to the party's unambiguous agenda and our politics of truthfulness, which empowers us," he remarked.

Welcoming Dr. Noor-ud-Din Shah in the party, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to you all into the Apni Party's fold. We pursued the joining of Dr.

Noor ud Din Shah and his supporters for quite a long time, and finally today, he became an integral part of the party."

Mr. Bukhari continued, "Today, I assure you that this party will provide a reliable platform for you to serve Jammu and Kashmir and its people. Our dedication lies in working towards peace, prosperity, and the development of J&K, as well as the economic and political empowerment of its people."

Besides the party president, the prominent party leaders who were present on the occasion includ-

ed Mohd Ashraf Mir, Muntazir Mohiuddin, Raja Manzoor Khan, Farooq Andrabi, Haji Parvez Ahmad, Muzaffar Rizwi, Dilshada Shaheen, Javid Mirchal, Khalid Badana, Javid Geelnai, Bilal Arif, and others. The prominent people who joined the party following Dr. Noor-ud-Din Shah included Mohammad Amin Peer, Haji Sonaulah Shah, Haji G.M. Hanger, Captain Bashir Ah. Khan, Er. Nazir Ah Malik, Ghulam Rasool Shah, Mohammad Sultan Malik, Ghulam Mohammad Akbar Shah, Haji Ghulam Mohiduini Shah, Manzoor Ahmad Zargar, Bilal Rizwan, Ghulam Hassan Khan, Hilal Ahmed Malik, Maulana Abdul Rashid, Mohammad Shafi Hajam, Pir Ali Mohammad, Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Abdul Aziz Shah, Ali Mohd Shah, Ishfaq Ah Shah, Jehangir Ahmed Najar, Namdar Sheikh, Asif Ali Khan, Ashiq Hussain Mir, Mohammad Gulzar Sheikh, Abdul Ganie Najar, Mushtaq Ahmad Ahanger, Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Amir Khaana, Haji Mohammed Akbar Lone, Jehangir Khatana, and others.

## PM Modi introduced historic legislation: BJP

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Highlighting the significance of the Women's Reservation Bill, aiming to fulfil a long-standing demand of increasing women's participation in politics, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir termed it as a historic legislation brought about by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi government has remained steadfast to strengthen and empower the women power of the nation. The schemes, brought up by the Modi government have ensured that the women empowerment is 360 degrees and on the ground level. This step would ensure the maximum participation of the women in the legislation process and the result would be awesome", said Sham Lal Sharma

Former Minister & J&K BJP Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma and former JMC Mayor & J&K BJP Vice-President Chander Mohan Gupta accompanied by Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan BJP Incharge Dil Bahadur Jamwal listened to



a number of grievances put forth by visiting individuals and deputations at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Individuals and Deputations of people from various areas of Jammu & Kashmir had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances. They narrated their woes and sought kind intervention of the party leaders to get their problems solved.

Issues related to the PHE, PDD, road macadamization, revenue, other issues related to the development and personal issues were presented before the senior party leaders.

Senior BJP leaders gave patient hearings to the

problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

Chander Mohan Gupta said that the BJP leaders make sincere efforts to sort out the issues presented by the people by taking them up at the appropriate platforms. He added that the public grievances camp is proving to be of major help in solving the day-to-day issues of people of the UT.

Dil Bahadur Jamwal conducted the camp proceedings and said that people in large numbers visit the BJP office to present their issues with a strong belief in the party.

## IT emerges as crucial player in upcoming Parliament elections 2024: Subash Barala

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

In a significant development, the BJP IT Department convened a meeting at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar to deliberate and strategize for the impending Parliament elections in 2024. The meeting was graced by the esteemed presence of Subash Barala, Former State President of BJP Haryana and the current Prabhari for the North Zone, responsible for overseeing the IT department.

Ravinder Raina BJP J&K President, Ashok Koul BJP State General Secretary (Org.), Dr. DK Manyal Former Minister and State General Secretary BJP J&K, Naresh Singh BJP J&K Prabhari IT Department, Advocate Ishant Gupta State Head IT Department bjp J&K were present on this occasion.

Subash Barala while speaking emphasize the imperative need to boost the party's outreach to



the masses. He pledged unwavering dedication towards achieving the party's goals in the upcoming Parliament elections 2024. He has called upon fellow BJP workers to embark on a concerted outreach campaign aimed at raising awareness among the masses about the pro-people policies implemented by the Modi government. He added that Information Technology Emerges as Crucial Player in Upcoming Parliament Elections 2024.

Ravinder Raina reiterated the IT department's

longstanding commitment and dedication. He assured that the department would wholeheartedly align itself with the plans and policies framed by the central leadership. Ashok Koul affirmed the party's commitment to reaching out to the masses, recognizing Information Technology as a pivotal element in strengthening the party's position.

Dr. DK Manyal effectively conducted the proceedings of the meeting, emphasizing the collective determination to achieve the party's

objectives. Advocate Ishant Gupta presented a comprehensive overview of the department's activities and initiatives. He expressed the department's enthusiasm and commitment to addressing any existing discrepancies. Arvind Gupta State Secretary BJP J&K, Ajay Anand, Gaurav Balgotra, Yudhveer Singh Sambyal, Mudasar Wani, Adv. Sheikh Salman from J&K were the prominent who were present on this occasion. Skarma Nurbo and Nilza Angmo from Ladakh also attended the meeting virtually.

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Suresh Kumar Khajuria Rtd XEN PWD District Ramban joined National Conference in presence of the former minister and Additional General Secretary and Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province at Sher-e- Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today.

Welcoming Suresh Kumar Khajuria into the party fold, Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Mr Rattan Lal Gupta described National Conference as a mass movement that has all along stood for the just cause of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and strived for development and progress of the state with a sense of commitment.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra expressed his disappointment with the tall claims of development made by the LG administration, considering the prevailing issues in Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon the people of Ramban district to support the National Conference for equitable development of the region in the ensuing elections in Jammu and



Kashmir. He also asked the party workers to gear up for upcoming ULB and Panchayat polls and ensure the victory of party in the general interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rattan Lal Gupta urged the people to support the National Conference, as they believe it is the only party that can fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for a brighter future. He said the National Conference strives to address the concerns and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and work towards equitable development and progress.

Suresh Kumar Khajuria pledged to carry forward the mission of National Conference in transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful and progressive state with devotion and

dedication.

Those who were present on this occasion: Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President, Qazi Jalal Ud Din Ex-MLA, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat Ex-MLA and Zonal Secretary Chenab valley, Dr. Shamshad Shan DDC Chairperson Ramban, Mohd Shafi Zargar DDC Rajgarh, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Arif Mir District Secretary Ramban, Harshvardan Singh President NCSU, Sandesh Shan, S. Nirmal Singh, Man Mohan Banmotra, Zeevan Lal working Block President Rajgarh, Aruna Thakur District President women wing Ramban, Pooja Jaggi District Vice President Women wing Ramban.

## KV Jammu Sangathan holds 34th youth parliament competition in Jammu on September 21st

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Jammu region organized the 34th Youth Parliament Competition, hosted by KV No.1, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Former Member Of Legislative Council (EX MLC) Ravinder Sharma Advocate graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Six KVs from Jammu & Kashmir including KV Srinagar, KV Jyotipuram, KV Miran Sahib, KV Kathua, KV CRPF Bantalab & KV No.2, Jammu Cantt. participated in this engaging event. The principal of the host school, Mr. Amit Walter, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest and the other principals - Bhushan Kumar (KV 1 Akhnoor) and Dr.



Gurdeep Singh (KV 2 Akhnoor) who served as judges for the competition.

The young participants showcased their talent by assuming various roles, embodying parliamentarians, ministers, speakers, & engaging in debates and deliberations, mirroring the functioning of youth parliament.

The Schools exhibiting exceptional performance were recognised and awarded, while six

outstanding performers from each school were also honoured.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Ravinder Sharma congratulated the KV Sangathan Jammu and the host school for organizing an exemplary competition that nurtures leadership qualities in the youth - the future leaders of our nation.

Sharma emphasized that education remains incomplete without instilling leadership quali-

ties and providing comprehensive knowledge about the functioning of democracy, especially in a country like ours, which boasts of being the largest democracy in the world.

He commended the participating students as finest and the most talented products of their respective schools destined to become enlightened citizens and excel in their chosen fields of endeavour.

## Women's Reservation Bill a significant empowerment move for Indian women under Modi Govt: Dr. Parneesh

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convener of the Department of Training for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir, today congratulated the women of Bharat for successfully passing the Women Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha. He asserted that this historic move will contribute to reinstating the esteemed status of women in Bharat, akin to the respect they held during the Vedic Era.

In a statement released to the media today, the senior BJP leader credited the BJP-led Central Government, under the leadership of the visionary Prime Minister, for the successful passage of this significant bill. He emphasized that while the BJP has been instrumental



in providing a substantial percentage of representation for women in various sectors, including governance positions, opposition parties, notably the Congress, obstructed the progression of this forward-looking measure during their rule. He criticized the Congress for its tokenism on this crucial issue and highlighted that the Congress party has historically lacked a genuine commitment to women's reservation in legislative bodies, which is vital for their empowerment.

Dr. Parneesh pointed

out that people have a keen memory and cannot forget that the Congress has consistently played a negative role, either allowing important legislations to lapse or obstructing bills from being tabled by leveraging friendly parties as proxies. He asserted that the public is now fully aware of the double standards exhibited by the Congress.

The senior BJP leader stated that once the Women's Reservation Bill passes the Rajya Sabha and receives approval from the President of India, it will mark another significant milestone in the nation's history during the twin tenures of BJP rule at the Centre. This step is expected to genuinely empower Indian women, restoring the stature they enjoyed during Vedic times, he added.



## Get ready for ULB, Municipal elections in J&K: Manjit Singh directs AP cadre

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today directed the party leaders heading different wings to prepare for the Urban Local Body and Municipal elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

A meeting was organized here at the Gandhi Nagar Office in Jammu under the leadership of Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh to review the working and preparedness of the party cadre.

The meeting was attended by Provincial office bearers, District Presidents, frontal heads and active members.

While taking review of the party's working and holding threadbare discussion over the organisational issues, the Former Minister expressed his satisfaction that the membership drives as well as door to

door campaign has gained momentum because hundreds of people have joined Apni Party extending their support to the policy and developmental agenda of the party.

In his address, he appreciated the party leaders for the work and directed them to highlight the concerns of the people in Jammu plains in particular in Jammu, Samba and Kathua Districts.

He expressed his concern over the continuous collection of illegal toll tax at Sarore Toll Plaza in Samba, and the worsening condition of Jammu-Srinagar highway that has forced commuters to face hardships.

He reminded that the NHA had sent a team to assess the ground situation in Samba and Kathua district so that a decision was taken regarding the Sarore Toll Plaza.

"That team came and returned back. However, no report has been made



public even after strong resentment against the authorities in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts," he said.

He said that the development in rural areas including the border belt has come to stand still whereas Udhampur district is among the worst hit where development, and road infrastructure is missing.

"The health and educational infrastructure

requires improvement because the present Govt is unable to do the work as the wishes of the people in all the districts of Jammu region," he said while asserting that the anger against the authorities is not only in Jammu, but the people in Kashmir are equally suffering.

He criticised the Smart City Project for its failure, and raised the issues of traders/businessmen/hoteliers etc.

He raised a question mark on the active role and influence of non-locals in Govt Departments in getting mining contracts and liquor trade.

"The people of Jammu have suffered badly at the hands of the non-locals, and they expect a change in the governance. Therefore, both the regions demanded early Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir with the restoration of statehood," he added.

He said that the people believe that the Assembly Elections will provide them an opportunity to elect a democratic Govt that would represent them and do work as per their aspirations.

"The bureaucracy has caused an uneasy calm and resentment against the administration because the public issues are not being given heed, and the authorities are working unilaterally without consulting the people," he

said.

He said that the lives of the people have been affected adversely in absence of an elected Govt. Hence, the democratic system must be restored, he added.

At the end of the meeting, he asked the party leaders to hold meetings with the people and interact with the people to educate them about the policy and programmes of Apni Party aimed to empower the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to end the discrimination with both the regions.

He also raised the issue of border villagers and increasing unemployment among the youth because of no fair selection process in various Govt departments.

"The Govt had assured that it would advertise the vacant posts for recruitment, but the people have lost their faith in the recruitment bodies following scams," he said.

## Nissan drives World Cup fever with ICC Trophy Tour 2023



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 21

As the Official Partner of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, Nissan is bringing the excitement of the tournament to cricket fans across India. The official tournament Trophy Tour began on 27 June '23, after a journey around the globe, the trophy is back in India visiting major shopping malls in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, where people can view the trophy and take amazing 360-degree photos with the coveted silverware.

This is a unique opportunity to celebrate Nissan's long-standing part-

nership with the ICC and engage with the greatest symbol of cricketing glory, the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Trophy.

Nissan has also introduced the all-new Nissan Magnite KURO Special Edition, to commemorate the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. The Big, Bold, Beautiful Nissan Magnite KURO Special Edition features an all-black exterior and interior, making a premium, imposing and stylish statement, blend of elegance and sophistication.

Pre-bookings are now live across Nissan dealerships, nationwide, and on Nissan's website <https://book.nissan.in/>.

## Dharana-Malakpur Road in shambles, craving for Govt's focus: Javed Rana

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
MENDHAR, SEPT 21

Enough is enough, the people of Pir Panjal Region especially those hailing from Mendhar are up against the present dispensation's phlegmatic attitude towards people's issues and problems, and they have decided not to accept such indifference in future. This was stated by Javed Ahmed Rana, President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Pir Panjal Zone and former legislator while criticizing the present dispensation for doing virtually nothing for providing the succor to the masses.

Addressing a meeting of locals in Mendhar, the NC stalwart leader said that Pir Panjal Region is the worst example of apathetic attitude of the helmsmen as on all fronts the area is longing for government attention whether it is road network, other civic infrastructure, healthcare or for that matter education sector. He said that the



roads here are dilapidated but those responsible for looking after them are unmoved as if they have no accountability for the dismal scenario leading to unbearable hardships to people.

Javed Rana refuted the remarks of LG Sinha that the government has carried out development works in Jammu and Kashmir that has not witnessed in last 20 years. He apprised the Lt Governor that the roads Dharana to Malakpur, Gursai Morh to Gursai Nahalla via Gorsi and Bhera to Qasab Ari are in dilapidated condition and no initiative has been taken by the government to address the same. He also raised serious con-

cern over embezzlement of funds under NABRAD and PHE Schemes. He said corruption is peak at the present regime as the government miserably failed to take necessary steps to eradicate the corrupt practices. The senior NC leader said that government has only expertise in rhetoric but on ground the performance is so poor that people are short of words to explain the miserable condition. He categorically mentioned the gloomy picture of Dharana Malakpur road claiming that the condition of this so-called facility reminds one and all of Stone Age because in the name of blacktopping there are many stretches

where only muddy strips have been left.

Javed Rana said that during his term as legislator, he sanctioned crores of rupees for this road but unfortunately things could not be completed and thereafter what has been built was deteriorating with each passing day but the helmsmen are not at all worried to look after this road. He specially demanded that the aforesaid road and few others need to be brought under some plan and should be repaired henceforth as people cannot be left on mercy of God for long.

He said that government has a responsibility to address the issues of the people of Pir Panjal also because on one side it is boasting of building smart cities and on the other, the people here are lurching for the very basic amenities, which is cruel joke and uncalled for because funds lying with the government should be distributed equally or at least reasonably between people living across the UT.

## BJP to conduct series of service programmes till 2nd October

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir led by its President Ravinder Raina held a meeting at the party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu to discuss forthcoming party programmes.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, Seh-Prabhari Ashish Sood, former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh and General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal addressed the meeting.

J&K BJP State Office Bearers, District Prabhari, District Presidents, Mandal Pravasis and others participated in the meeting.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the meeting, appreciated the party workers for carrying out their responsibilities dili-



gently in the 1st phase of 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' Abhiyan in which the Mitti (soil) was collected from the homes of the martyrs and others. He asked the party leaders to actively lead the Abhiyaan in its 2nd phase, in which the Mitti received from the whole of Jammu & Kashmir would be collected at about 150 Blocks in the region of Jammu & Kashmir by 7th-8th October. He said that Abhiyaan is aimed to create a feeling of oneness and belongingness among all Bharatiya. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for

the historic "women Reservation Bill" which will prove to be a milestone in the building of a strengthened social system in the nation.

Ashok Koul discussed in detail the forthcoming party programmes ensuring the participation of activists from every level. He shared that party activists are already carrying out the Blood Donation Camps, Medical Camps and distribution of Ayushman Bharat Cards from 18th September to 23rd August. He said that the party activists would celebrate the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh ji on

23rd of September. On 24th of September, party activists would listen to the Mann Ki Baat programme on their respective Booths. Birthday of Deen Dayal Upadhyay will be celebrated on 25th of September. From 26th September to 2nd October, the party activists would carry out Mandal Pravas Yojana and Booth Sampark Abhiyaan, Koul added.

Ashish Sood praised the activists of J&K BJP in carrying out the "Sewa Karya" dedicatedly during all these days. He said that BJP believes that service to humanity is next to Godliness. He asked the party activists to concentrate extensively on the Mandal Pravas Yojana which will enable them to prepare for the upcoming elections.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal conducted the meeting proceedings.

## Dr Karan Singh meets LG Sinha; pays obeisance at Kheer Bhawani Temple

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 21

Dr Karan Singh, former Sadr-I-Riyasat, today met the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan Srinagar and discussed the present day political and development scenario in J&K. The two prominent figures engaged in a comprehensive discussion on the current political and development landscape in the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, Dr Karan Singh also paid obeisance at the Kheer Bhawani Temple in Srinagar and prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Union Territory. During his visit, Dr Karan Singh performed Pooja and went through the temple complex to enquire about the facilities being provided to the devotees. He expressed satisfaction over the facilities and gave necessary instructions on the spot.

Notably, Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulla-Mulla in Ganderbal district of Srinagar is being managed by the J&K Dharmarth Trust and Dr Karan Singh is its Chairman Trustee.

## Hold Municipality, Panchayat elections after providing reservation to OBCs: Prajapati

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Sunil Prajapati, President BJP OBC Morcha J&K UT, today urged upon to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor J&K UT and the Union Govt to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in the forthcoming elections of Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats during October - November this year. The OBC community in J&K has been denied reservation of seats in the Municipality and Panchayat elections in the Article 370 time old discriminatory and controversial Laws eg. J&K Municipality Act 2000 and J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1996 respectively, which were enacted by the then National Conference Govt led by Dr Farooq Abdullah, wherein the provisions for reservation of seats to OBCs in Municipalities and Panchayats as provided in the Article 243D(6) and T(6) of the Constitution of India.



ed J&K Municipality Act 2000 and Panchayati Raj Act 1996, was functioning under the Special Status of Article 370 and the Constitution of J&K 1956, thus violated the Constitutional provisions of Reservation of seats to OBCs in Municipalities and Panchayats as provided in the Article 243D(6) and T(6) of the Constitution of India.

Now, when Article 370 removed and J&K UT is functioning under Constitution of India, all discriminatory and controversial Laws framed by the successive Govts under the influence of Article 370 and Constitution of J&K, which have denied reservation of seats to OBCs in Municipalities and Panchayats elections should be replaced or amended appropriately so that appropriate reservation is provided to OBCs in the forthcoming Municipality and Panchayat elections during October - November 2023. In the absence of th provisions for reservation of seats to OBCs in

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Former minister and General Secretary Democratic Progressive Azad Party R S Chib on Wednesday reiterated DPAP's stand against divisive and discriminatory politics in Jammu and Kashmir.

Urging DPAP workers here to be fully prepared for upcoming Urban Local Bodies' election, Chib said the party has a proven track record of its chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad who as chief minister always treated all regions equally and never discriminated on the basis of caste, creed or region.

"DPAP stands for equal opportunity for all and shuns divisive and discriminatory politics adopted by politicians with vested interest in Jammu and Kashmir," Chib said while addressing a meeting of office bearers and workers of district Ramban which was organised by Thakur Dharam Chand, district president Ramban.

Citing an example of Ramban, Chib reminded the gathering that it was Ghulam Nabi Azad who as chief minister granted district status to Ramban which helped residents to resolve their grievances easily at district



headquarters instead of going to Doda which was distant away. "DPAP will attempt to resolve the issue of unemployment and all other critical issues to Jammu and Kashmir if elected to power," Chib said. Former minister and Provincial President Jugal Kishore Sharma said DPAP has agenda of restoration of statehood, guarantee of jobs for local youth and policy of no outsider will be allowed to purchase land.

"All those evicted by this government will be given their land back," Sharma said.

Provincial General Secretary Vishal Chopra,

Prabha Salathia, President Mahila Wing Jammu province, Arun Singh Raju Secretary also urged DPAP workers to reach out to all in Ramban district and apprise them about party agenda and past achievements.

DPAP leaders who spoke on the occasion include, Farooq Ahmad Chaudhary, Shakeel Singh Bhagat (both provincial general secretary), Jai Ram Bhagat, Shahrukh Bhatti, Mohd Shafi, Ata Zargar, Shamima Akhter, Munshir Ram Manhas, Nusrat Bano, Surjit Lal Bhagat, Shabir Ahmad Sheikh and others.

On the occasion, large

number of prominent workers of BJP, Congress and National Conference joined DPAP and pledged their support to the party.

Those who joined DPAP include educationists, Shushma Sharma, Purshottam Singh Raju, Abhishek Sharma, Ashok Vaid, Farooq Ahmad Wani, Shamsudin Magrey, Parveen Akhter, Abdul Rashid Sawani, Sher Mohd Naik, Babli Devi Ishardass and Pyara Chand.

A DPAP district office was also inaugurated by RS Chib and Jugal Kishore Sharma in presence of all office bearers and party workers.

## People's life has become miserable due to high taxes, inflation by BJP led Modi Govt: Wani

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEP 21

Addressing a meeting of party leaders and workers, J&K PCC Chief Shri Vikar Rasool Wani along with Working President Raman Bhalla chaired a meeting here today at PCC HQ Jammu declared that Congress party will raise burning issues of the people and highlight the hardships being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, by organizing meetings, protests, press conferences etc.

Today's meeting was attended by Former Ministers, Legislators, PCC & DCC functionaries, Frontal organizations heads, Corporators, Block and Ward Presidents and large number of party workers.

PCC Chief said that there is large scale resentment amongst the people including youth, students employees working as daily wagers, casual, need based, contractual, adhoc, consolidated basis in various government and PSUs, besides installation of smart meters, property tax, water tax, toll plaza's and other taxes.

He said that there is great unrest amongst the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the reason of prolonged Governor rule, political unrests and uncertainties.



In this situation, the centre and UT government has imposed various kinds of additional taxes and fees, like road tax, numerous toll taxes in Jammu region, enhanced stamp duty as per state act despite extension of central act, recent revision of registration fees and now the property taxes, which has causing great resentment and anger amongst the people. Such a tax regime which has overburdened the already distressed people of Jammu and Kashmir, needs its end, soon.

The government had made several commitments to the SC/ST and OBC with regard to their rights, especially post abrogation of Article 370, but there is large scale resentment

that the claims of BJP for opening of floodgates of private investments and creation of large scale jobs in private sector, as nothing of this sort has been witnessed. The local traders, contractors, businessmen and transporters are losing business opportunities to outside residents, especially in Jammu region, so who has been benefitted by this decision, he questioned, while strongly criticizing the disbanding and downgrading of historical state into UT.

He said that the refusal to restore statehood, so far itself indicates that things have not normalized to the extent prior to 5th August, 2019 to restore state, which proves hollowness of the rhetoric's and claims of BJP & Centre Govt. on the ground.

Bhalla said that all claims and adjectives used to disband and downgrade the historical state into UTs, have proved to be a failed experiment and people yearn for statehood with protections for land and jobs to the residents.

He said that Congress party shall struggle for securing these aspirations of the people and would continue to struggle till achieving the statehood and other rights, claimed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

amongst due to non-fulfillment of those commitments. The government should fulfill the genuine commitments and ensure due rights to them.

Wani Questioned BJP and Centre Govt. as to what has changed to the betterment of people of J&K and nation, after August 5, 2019 decision, He said that the promise of large scale Govt. jobs and opening private sector for jobs, was a big bluff & joke with the educated youth of J&K. He said that on 5th, August 2019, J&K has lost its identity, rights and protections available to its residents which are available in various other states in the country too, in one or other form.

Shri Raman Bhalla said

## Tony denounces BJP's Women Reservation Bill as empty political rhetoric

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

Taranjit Singh Tony, a Congress leader and District Development Council (DDC) Member representing Suchetgarh, has criticized the recent passage of the Women Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha by the BJP government at the Centre, dismissing it as a mere political gimmick.

He was speaking to youth who the joined the Congress Party by leaving BJP, in a function held here today. Nearly hundred of youth joined the party fold in presence of Taranjit Singh Tony.

In a press release issued here today, Tony expressed his skepticism regarding the intentions behind the Women Reservation Bill, stating that it appears to be a calcu-



lated move by the government to gain support from women voters ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. However, he voiced his doubts about the Bill's actual implementation in the forthcoming polls. He asserted that the BJP government is not going to implement this Bill in 2024 polls, asking the Modi government about its move to introducing the Bill just before Lok Sabha polls.

Tony characterized the Women Reservation Bill

as a vague commitment, citing the government's conditional promise to implement it in the next delimitation process. He emphasized that the timeline for this implementation remains unclear, leading him to label it as nothing more than a political tactic designed to secure votes from women across India.

Tony accused the BJP Govt of trying to befool the people of the nation by creating false narra-

tives that all the schemes including those pertaining to social security are BJP's creation. He challenged the saffron party leaders to turn over the pages of history and see for themselves that every such scheme has been conceptualized and rolled out during the Congress regimes at the Centre.

The Congress leader said that BJP is habitual liar and thinks that it can always befool the people by taking credit of schemes and policies initiated during the Congress regime but it is living in a fool's paradise. He said the people across the nation are wise enough today and can see through the deceitful game plan of BJP which has done nothing for the people all these nine years except betraying them.

## Folk theatre workshop underway, Students create scene work

JINNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, SEPT 21

3rd day of the folk theatre workshop progressed at GZSM Degree college Reasi. The experts of the day Mr. Shadab Khan, JR Jackson, Rajesh Ajnabi, Raja Aamir Khan, Neha Chauhan, Akram Khan, create scene work of various folk short stories. The participants group wise performed scene work through improvisations and acting exercise and prepared their body and voice for traditional theatrical movements with the help of exercises. According to the Director Work Shop Raja Aamir Khan students are experiencing this detailed process for the first time in their life and he is expecting for some extraordinary talent out comes from this workshop and aware about our aged old cultural heritage, costumes, rituals, properties.

The workshop was organized by triple "A" Performing Arts Reasi in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi New Delhi. About 30 students were selected in



the workshop were Aural Kumar, Neeraj Kumar, Avinish thappa, Mohd M u n i r , A k s h a y K u m a r , S a j i d S a l e e m , M o h i n d e r Kumar, Pallvi thappa, Garima dogra, Priya Devi, Kajal Thappa, Isha Devi, Priya Devi, Samriti, Palak Atri, Nilakshi Devi, Priyanka Devi, Vasudha Rajput, Anjali Devi, Priya Kumari, Akashay Kumar, Vikrant Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Ambika Soni, Nidhi Singh Thakur, Shivani Nag, Anshu Parotra, Vishali Rajput and Khushi Devi.

Principal Degree college Reasi Prof. Kulvinder kour along with other staff members visit the workshop and appre-

ciated the efforts of the organizers and said that a unique and rarest opportunity has been provided by Triple "A" Performing Arts Reasi to the College Students where they will be exposed to the amazing world of creativity and innovation.

Kishor Atri was work shop Coordinator. On the same day participants were introduced to a improvisation, script reading and acting exercise this streams was introduced by Mr. Shadab Khan and J R Jackson, also improve their diction and expressions respectively, participants tried to pick up various traditional folk characters in the folk form.

## Those whose roots are from India don't consider women weak: Amit Shah



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU/SRINAGAR, SEPT 21

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, the 128th constitutional amendment related to women's reservation, known as the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Bill-2023,' was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. It was passed on Wednesday with 454 votes and a two-thirds majority.

Responding to the opposition's questions on this occasion, Shah clarified, "Those whose roots are from India do not consider women weak. Women are more powerful than men in every field."

In fact, opposition parties had raised concerns that providing reservations to women implied that women were weak. There were also allegations that the bill would be passed in this special session of Parliament, but why couldn't it be implemented before 2029?

Addressing these concerns Shah said, "In the name of women's reservation, the government has created an election ruckus because reservation cannot be implemented before the census and delimitation process."

In response to these allegations, senior BJP leader Amit Shah said, "Those whose roots are from India do not consider women weak. Women have been given a significant place in the Vedas. With this bill, a long-standing fight for women's rights has come to an end."

This bill, which will realize Modi's 'Women Led Development' vision, will advance women's participation in decision-making and policy formulation in the country. To ensure transparency in the 33 percent reservation for women, both the census and delimitation processes are crucial. Therefore, the new government formed after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will initiate the process of census and delimitation.'

## 135-kg obese female undergoes successful bariatric surgery at IVY



JINNEWS SERVICE  
AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 21

A 135-kg obese female patient with a BMI of 45.2kg/m<sup>2</sup> underwent a successful bariatric surgery at IVY Hospital Amritsar. Post-surgery the female weight has reduced to 120 kg presently after the two week of surgery that would ultimately reduce to 70 kg gradually.

Dr Arun K Sharma a minimal access, bariatric and general surgeon trained at AIIMS New Delhi along with an anesthesia team led by Dr. Gurpreet Gill performed the surgery, which was the first bariatric surgery performed at IVY Hospital Amritsar.

Talking to media here on Thursday, Dr Sharma said that due to being overweight the patient was also burdened with a host of comorbidities, including hypertension, obstructive sleep apnea, bronchial asthma and polycystic ovarian disease (PCOD). The

excessive weight had led to deranged lipid profiles, persistent high blood pressure, and deteriorating respiratory health, he informed.

Furthermore, the desire to start a family was hindered by her PCOD diagnosis, a common issue among obese females. To ensure a safe pregnancy in the near future, she was advised to shed approximately 60kg of excess weight, said Dr Sharma adding the patient had also struggled with bilateral knee pain due to her morbid obesity, requiring multiple medications to manage her condition.

Remarkably, she was up and walking on the same day of the procedure. Within just 48 hours, she was discharged from the hospital with her respiratory problems improving significantly.

Dr. Saumya Ahuja facility head Ivy Hospital Amritsar said that this successful bariatric surgery is a testament to the IVY's dedication to excellence in healthcare.

## Rekha inaugurates free medical, health camp in Jammu South

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

The centerpiece of the celebrations under "Seva Pakhwada", free medical, and health checkup Camps organized at Gadigadh Mandal of District Jammu South in the esteem presence of District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan accompanied by Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, Senior leader Pt Ashok Khajuria. The program was organized by Mandal

President Vijay Sharma along with team members who were present on the occasion. Rekha along with BJP leaders inaugurated a free medical and health checkup camp in collaboration with the Directorate of Indian System of Medicine and distributed free medicines to the general public. A fortnight-long initiative designed to extend outreach programs at the District level of Jammu South in all Mandals of Jammu South.

## Speed Ball game introduce in Panorama Public school Rajouri



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

J&K Sports Speedball Association In Collaboration with panorama public school Rajouri introduction of new speedball under the banner of J&K sports speedball Association. The Venue For The game was panorama public school Rajouri. The Number of Students Participated In The game were about 70 From Different Classes. While The Opening Ceremony of The Speedball game of The Chief Guest

was Rajesh sharma Principal of panorama public school Rajouri, and The School Faculty was also Present there. The game was start under The Guidance of Mr. Sunny Nanda General Secretary J&K Sports Speedball Association. The game Inaugurated with The Motivational Golden Words by Rajesh sharma. In His Respectful Speech he Said That He Enjoyed The Game and Would Encourage The School To Promote The Game As Fast Possible To Make Out The Best of Players this camp

## Prabhari Hindu Jagran Manch Rohit Sharma (Sethi) Awarded with Denushree Award 2023



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Rohit Sharma (Sethi), Prabhari Hindu Jagran Manch, Udhampur/Ramban was awarded with DENUSHREE AWARD 2023 during foundation day ceremony of Jammu Kashmir Shrikashi Vidyut Parishad (JKSVP), held at Jammu Club on 20th September 2023. The award was presented to him by Sh. Manoj Sinha, Honbl'le

LG Jammu and Kashmir UT. The award was conferred to Mr. Sharma for his outstanding contribution in the field of social work. Mr. Sharma was instrumental in saving more than one thousand cows and facilitating marriage of seventy poor girls. He has also contributed in a number of other social activities like blood donation, awareness programmes and food arrangement for poor.

## BJP Govt committed to provide best affordable healthcare facilities to people: Kavinder

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister has said that on his birthday the Prime Minister has bestowed the women of the nation with special gift of thirty three percent reservation to them in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

He expressed this in his address during health and medical camps organised at GB Pant Hospital Satwari and Trikuta Nagar here today as part of the Sewa Pakhwada in connection with birthday celebrations of PM Modi. He also reiterated the BJP Govt's strong commitment to provide the best and affordable healthcare to the people besides taking equitable development to unprecedented heights especially in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kavinder highlighted the benefits of AYUSH in day today life asserted that it holds a great importance for treatment coverage in health insurance sector. He said that while allopathic treatment has its own benefits, at the same time it



needs to be realized that traditional Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani, and Homeopathy hold great significance for Indians. He said that accordingly these have been provided due space and coverage under AYUSH launched to take care of the health of the people of Bharat. He said that people must avail full benefit of this scheme that provides coverage expenses for treatments in all these traditional systems apart from allopathic treatments. Since the traditional indigenous treatments have been accorded special focus, therefore it has become the most affordable and effective mode of healthcare even in J&K.

The former deputy chief minister said that funds are no constraint for developmental projects especially in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. He asserted that J&K

has been provided special focussed attention as it has just come out of over three decades of turmoil due to terrorism. However, during the past few years there has been unprecedented development on ground to ease the life of the people across this sensitive territory. He said that the completed and ongoing developmental projects bear testimony to the Govt's commitment to equitable development in J&K.

Among those who were present include Ankush Gupta, Neeraj Lucky Puri, Nayan Gupta, Indu puri, Divya Jain, Vishal Gupta, Bunty Bhaiya, Rajesh Gupta, Karuna Chhetri, Ajay Sharma, Sajjan Gupta, DP Arora, Pushpinder Charak, Surinder Gupta, RK Kakroo, Ajay Gupta, Rajesh Bhatia, Mohini Manhas, Trishala Gupta, Rohit Mahajan, Madhu Gupta, Vahi Uncle, Arora and Purshotam.

# Army Commander, Northern Command interacts with ExSM of Tangdhar

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 21

Indian Army's Efforts to extend its outreach to remotely located ExSM of Tangdhar was witnessed today when The Army Commander, Northern Command interacted with the ExSM at Youth Centre Tangdhar. The Event saw an active participation of 207 ExSM from the Region who were cheerful of the fruitful interaction. The event witnessed placement of various stalls which were established by Zilla Sainik Welfare Office, Kupwara, Office of the Records of The JakLi Regiment & The JakRif Regiment, a stall by ECHS Det ex Baramulla, State Bank of India and J & K Bank, Agriculture & Forest Department and the Civil Administration led by the SHO, Karnah. Besides the above stalls, a Medical Inspection Room



and a Dental Checkup Room with Dental Chair was established by the Indian Army. The ExSM were extremely glad to resolve their grievances and redressals from the Records' Stalls which was led by Colonel Veterans from Srinagar.

The Army Commander was welcomed

on the podium by President, ExSM Karnah, Sub Qayoom (Retd). He delivered the inaugural address and also welcomed GOC Chinar Corps & Vajr Division, which was followed by the address by the Army Commander. The General Officer spoke at length on plethora of important issues to

include SPARSH, OROP, Digital Life Certificate, felicitation of Veer Naris, Veerangna Portal and efforts of the DIAV Branch of the Indian Army and the establishment of an NCC Company at Tangdhar. He emphasised on Indian Army's efforts to facilitate the ExSM through a number of ini-

tiatives being undertaken right from the apex level. The Army Commander highlighted that the ExSM fraternity of Tangdhar is potent force and in the eventuality of testing times, he was certain that this force would positively contribute to nation building and maintenance of Internal Security situation in the region.

The Event was a perfect manifestation of how the Indian Army takes utmost care of its veterans and ExSM. The camaraderie of uniform was evidently witnessed when Retired Soldiers greeted the Army Commander as their own Commander. The event culminated with high slogans of Bharat Mata ki Jai which followed interaction over tea. Tangdhar as a remote locality is growing and developing in many fields and the contribution of ExSM has been noteworthy.

# Ahead of Gangbal-Harmukh yatra DGP J&K takes aerial view of the area

## Interacts with officers to review the security arrangements

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, SEPT 22

Ahead of annual Harmukh-Gangbal Yatra in Ganderbal district the Director General of Police J&K, Shri Dilbag Singh took an aerial view of Gangbal and its adjoining areas besides visiting Naranag.

The visit was aimed to review the security arrangements for the yatra which is commencing tomorrow. Accompanied by SSP Ganderbal Shri Nikhil Borkar, he also interacted with the jurisdictional officers at Naranag and discussed arrangements put in place for the yatra, besides interacting with the pilgrims. The DGP also paid obeisance at Naranag Temple and Naranag Spring.

During the interaction at Naranag, AIG Tech/Commn Shri Manoj



Kumar Pandith, Major 34RR Shri Lavesh Kumar, Addl. SP Ganderbal Shri Aijaz Ahmad Malik, SDPO Kangan Shri Muzaffar Jan, Assistant commandant Shri Gagan Singh of I18 BN CRPF were also present.

While interacting with the officers, the DGP at the very outset sought the detailed reports about the arrangement made. The officers present briefed

the DGP regarding the arrangement made for the successful conduct of the yatra. The DGP emphasized maintaining high level of coordination to conduct the Yatra smoothly and said that strict adherence to security protocols be ensured for the yatra in a desired manner. He directed that all possible assistance should be provided to the

yatris. The DGP instructed the officers to supervise the arrangements personally with proper briefing to the deployed personnel in their respective enroute and base camp.

The DGP also directed to strengthen communication network and real time coordination and dissemination of information. The DGP also reviewed the services provided for smooth

and hassle free pilgrimage of yatris.

The DGP also interacted with the pilgrims at Naranag base camp and enquired about the facilities and arrangements available.

Worth to mention that pilgrimage to the Harmukh-Gangbal situated at an elevation of 3570 meters starts annually from Naranag area of Kangan in Ganderbal district. After performing Puja at Naranag temple, devotees set on 15-km journey on foot to Gangbal lake, which is located around 14,500 feet above sea level in the Harmukh mountain range. The pilgrims track to Gangbal via Butchari and Trunkhal. On reaching, sacred puja is performed on the banks of Gangbal lake following which the pilgrims returns the next day.

# BIS conducted Training Programs of NGOs for Sensitizing Gram Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 21

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO) successfully organized a training program for NGOs to sensitize Gram Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries across the J&K, Ladakh and Punjab (6 Districts). The program was attended by senior members of 5 NGOs.

Highlighting the objectives of the program and explaining the BIS activities, Sh. Tilak Raj, Director and Head, Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office stated that BIS has taken an initiative to sensitize Gram panchayats for utilizing Indian Standards for Government program and schemes. The Gram Panchayats are already provided with booklet

of important and useful Indian Standards relevant to different sectors.

These NGOs has been trained to interact with Presidents and secretaries of Gram Panchayats for explaining the context regarding utilization of Indian Standard in the implementation of various government plans and Schemes as mentioned in detailed letter sent to Panchayats. With this vision, BIS JKBO conducted the training program in which technical Lectures were delivered by Sh. Hitesh Yadav and Sh. Niraj Mishra Scientist-B of BIS-JKBO on Overview of BIS activities, concepts of quality and standardization at national and international level, benefits of implementation of standards.

**BIS to Conduct Survey on the use of Hallmarked**

**jewellery Non-Mandatory Districts.**

With recent Notification by Government of India 343 districts across Country has been covered under Mandatory Hallmarking Order. To understand the Current Consumer awareness and preference for Hallmarked jewellery in Non-hallmarked districts a Survey has been planned. As per designed plan nearly 145 surveys per districts are to be carried out through Mobile APP covering Consumers, Household, BIS registered Jewellers and Non-registered Jewellers. After submission of the survey questionnaire by the participants, the NGO conducting survey shall sensitize the participants highlighting the benefits of buying hallmarked jewellery.

# Police arrests miscreant running "Pulwama News" Facebook Page for anti-national activities



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPT 21

In order to maintain peace & tranquillity, Police in Pulwama have taken commendable action against anti-national activities by arresting a social media user who was inciting the general public and promoting terror activities.


It has come to light that an individual was running a fake social media account with the name "Pulwama News" and was involved in uploading videos and pictures of terrorists killed in the Kokernag encounter. This account was created to promote the activities of the terrorists and spread fear among the general public, which posed a severe threat to the unity, integrity and sovereignty

of the country.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 98/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, the accused identified as Ashiq Ah Khan son of Bashir Ah Khan resident of Niloora Khan Mohalla has been arrested for carrying out such unlawful activities. The investigation of the case is going on.

We urge the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with the Police to nab the miscreants who are inimical to the peace and tranquillity. We stand together in the fight against terrorism and will continue to work towards a peaceful, safe and prosperous future for all citizens.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION NAGROTA**

Email:- [nagrotadivision@gmail.com](mailto:nagrotadivision@gmail.com)

### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**Short e-NIT No. 02 of 2023-2024/Nagrota Dated 18-09-2023**

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (RS. in lacs)	Cost of document (in RS.)	Earnest Money (in RS.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract or
1	Upd. and Blacktopping of road from PMGSY road to Mohalla Bhagtian Ward No. 05 Kathar (Manwal). (Under PRI)	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	23.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 month	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	B & C Class
2	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. High School Chak Largan, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
3	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. Middle School, Sewan Dansal, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
4	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. Middle School, Bamyal, Dansal, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
5	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. Primary School, Thara, Dansal, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
6	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt Middle School Camp Jagti, Dansal, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
7	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. middle School, Korga, Dansal, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
8	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. middle School, Seri Kalan Bye pass Dansal Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
9	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. High School, Aithem, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
10	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. Middle School, Chilla, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
11	Repair/painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. Middle School, Dhoon, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class
12	Repair / painting of rooms on bala pattern (building as learning Aid) at Govt. Middle School Sail Jagir Nagrota	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	0.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 26-09-2023	'D' Class

Position of AAA : Accorded.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-09-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 19-09-2023 to 25-09-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota
4	Bid submission Start Date	19-09-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	25-09-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26-09-2023 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota
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 MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt**, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of **CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota**. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No :- EE/ND/2023/189-98  
Dated :- 18-09-2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Nagrota

DIP/J-8608/23  
Date 22-9-23

## NITI Aayog lauds J&K H&MED for successful implementation of DNB program in DHs

High profile team visits UT; Assesses implementation of ambitious initiative

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

Achieving accolades in implementation of ambitious healthcare initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, the Health and Medical Education Department of the UT has received high appreciation from NITI Aayog for successful implementation of Diplomat of National Board (DNB) Program in District Hospitals.

"The DNB programme has significantly improved the standard of healthcare services in various hospitals of J&K", stated Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul, member NITI Aayog, during his extensive visit to the Union Territory.

The visit was part of strengthening and assessing the services being delivered at Health Wellness Centers besides implementation of DNB Program in J&K.

Besides Dr Paul the team was

comprised of Dr Rajiv Bahl, DG ICMR and Secretary DHR, New Delhi in J&K today visited Jammu.

The team visited rural Health and Wellness Centre SC Shama Chak and urban Health and Wellness Centre UTPHC, Shastri Nagar to assess services of comprehensive primary healthcare being provided in the field. They also toured Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, who has been pioneer in implementation of DNB program in J&K also accompanied the visiting team.

A brief presentation on implementation of DNB program at Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Jammu was given by Dr. Parveen Yograj, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul appreciated the Health and Medical Edu-

cation Department J&K for successful implementation of DNB program in District Hospitals. He addressed the faculty members and DNB residents from all parts of India like Kerala, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul highly appreciated the facilities being provided to the DNB residents including DNB library and conference room.

He said the prime objective of DNB program is to have high and uniform national standard in various disciplines of modern medicines. He motivated the DNB residents and faculty members to get quality medical education, have nice interaction with patients and give services to poor patients round the clock. He congratulated the administration, staff, faculty members and DNB residents for being part of successful implementation of the DNB program.

Bhupinder Kumar expressed gratitude to Government of India for all the support being provided to the UT Government for successful implementation of DNB program in J&K.

Secretary also made a mention of SDH Kupwara, GMC Anantnag and other health institutions where DNB program has improved the healthcare facilities to a great extent reducing unnecessary referrals to the higher institutions. It is pertinent to mention that Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu is the first Health institution of J&K (UT) to implement the DNB program in the year 2020.

The team was accompanied by Director Health Services, Jammu, Chief Medical Officer Jammu, State Epidemiologist and State Programme Manager along with other officials of health department.

## Union Joint Secretary Horticulture visits IIKSTC Dusoo, IGC Lassipora

J I NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 21

Union Joint Secretary Horticulture, Department, Priya Ranjan, today visited India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC), Dusoo Pampore and IGC Lassipora, Pulwama. He inspected different sections of IIKSTC and was briefed by the concerned officers regarding various facilities available there like preserving, grading, packing, labelling, processing, marketing for the concerned saffron farmers.

While addressing the meeting, Union Joint secretary reiterated Government's commitment towards development of saffron sector. He said the GI tagging of Kashmir saffron has increased its significance in national as well as global markets.

He took a detailed review about the current status of saffron production, marketing facilities being provided to saffron growers. He impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure optimum use of different facilities available at the IIKSTC. He asked the management of IIKSTC to maximise awareness among the saffron growers.



Director Agriculture

Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal gave a detailed presentation of saffron sector and the interventions by the department for the promotion of saffron sector. He also briefed the Union Joint Secretary regarding the functioning of India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre.

Later, Priya Ranjan along with Mission Director MIDH /Director Horticulture, Kashmir, GR Mir visited I.G.C. Lassipora, Pulwama, to inspect various Cold Storage facilities being established under

the Mission.

During the visit, Union Joint Secretary inspected various C.A stores and took stock of functioning of the units. He enjoined upon the entrepreneurs to work for harnessing potential of this sector for its growth and employment generation.

He requested all the interested entrepreneurs to invest in the Horticulture sector for creation and establishment of infrastructure to facilitate the farming community with raw materials and its value addition for earning better livelihood through this sector.

## Capex Budget 2023-24: DC B'la reviews sector wise progress of Works

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 21

In order to take first hand appraisal of physical and financial status of the works taken up under Capex Budget 2023-24 in the district, a meeting of all Sectoral/ District Officers was today held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asga at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC was apprised about the current status of different works being executed in the district besides a detailed sketch about the implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes were presented before the chair.

During the meeting, Dr



Sehrish took sector wise review and progress of works in various sectors including Education, RDD, PDD, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture and PHE.

The DC also took a detailed review of allotment of works, works started on ground, works completed, tendering and other related issues.

It was given out that a total of 2203 works have been accorded approval under which 1850 works

have been tendered wherein 1360 works stands allotted after being tendered and the remaining part is yet to get tendered.

After reviewing the sector-wise progress of the projects, the DC impressed upon all the departments/executing agencies to ensure the timely completion of all developmental works in a time-bound manner, besides exhorted upon

them to ensure 100% allotment of tendered works within 07 days keeping in view the limited working season.

Reviewing the issues hampering the pace of progress, the DC asked the concerned to monitor the pace of progress on a regular basis and resolve the issues hampering the progress of several works at an earliest.

Joint Director Planning M Yousuf Rather, Assistant Commissioner Development Shabir Ahmad Hakak, Assistant Director Planning Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Superintending Engineer R&B Reyaz Ahmad Parray, Chief Education officer Balbir Singh Raina and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

## Intra-college declamation contest on theme 'Truth and Non-Violence' held at GDC Vijaypur

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 21

To mark the observance of International Day of Non-violence, Government Degree College Vijaypur organized a declamation contest on the theme Truth and Non-Violence here as a part of Gandhi Jayanti Celebration 2023 and under the flagship banner of Nasha Mukh Bharat and Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K.

A large number of students of semester 3 and semester 5 presented their valuable views.

The first prize was won by Taniya Jamwal of BA Sem-III while second position was shared by Abhishek Rajra, Tanshu and Haroon Malik of BA Sem-V and the third prize was secured by Nikita Sharma of Sem-V.

## Awareness camp on PMEGP held at ITI Ramban

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 21

District Industries Centre Ramban, on Thursday organized a seminar cum awareness camp, here in Industrial Training Institute, Ramban to create awareness among the trainees regarding PMEGP scheme being implemented by the Industries & Commerce Department and District Industries Centre.

The seminar started with the welcome address delivered by Mukhtar Ahmed from ITI Ramban.

In his address, General Manager, District Industries Centre, Ravinder Kumar Anand highlighted the schemes being implemented by the Department to encourage the youth to become job creators instead of job seekers.

Block Investigator, DIC Ramban, Ravi Danaishwar Singh elaborated the procedure for availing benefits of PMEGP scheme through a PowerPoint presentation.



He sensitized the participants about procedure and uploading of application forms, besides the benefits of enrolment with the DIC. The trainees of the Industrial Training Institute were told about various benefits and subsidies they can get to start their own ventures by availing financial assistance under the PMEGP Scheme in manufacturing and service sectors.

Awareness regarding PM Vishwakarma scheme was also imparted to the participants during the programme.

The aspiring trainees were motivated by the scheme and expressed willingness to avail the benefits offered by the Prime Ministers Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) after completion of their courses.

## Drugs Awareness Program organised in District Samba



J I NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 21

The People's Forum for Human Values-an NGO hosted a remarkable Drugs Awareness Program and environmental awareness program, here today.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

SSP Samba, Benam Tosh, BDC Chairman Vijay Tagotra, NGO members and locals were also present on the occasion.

The event took place at the prestigious Shahid Major Rohit Kumar Verma Government Higher Secondary School in Ghagwal and witnessed the participation of Sarpanch Jagram Sharma and Jiya Lal Verma

among other prominent figures. In his address, the DC paid tributes to the Late Major Rohit Verma, a valiant martyr and emphasized the importance of drawing inspiration from the sacrifices made by such heroes. He highlighted the significance of the occasion and its purpose, which is to create awareness among people about environmental conservation and the perils of drug abuse.

DC Sharma lauded the People's Forum for Human Values NGO for their relentless efforts in organizing events of such importance for the community. He acknowledged that raising awareness about critical issues like drug abuse is paramount

in building a healthier and safer society.

In addition to the informative sessions, a thought-provoking debate competition on drug abuse was held, where young minds passionately discussed the various aspects and challenges associated with this issue. The competition not only encouraged critical thinking but also provided a platform for the youth to voice their concerns.

Furthermore, an important highlight of the event was the "Nasha Mukh Pledge" taken by all attendees, symbolizing their collective commitment to a drug-free and healthier community. This pledge serves as a reminder of the shared responsibility in combating drug abuse.

## DC Rajouri engages with newly selected JKAS Officers of 2023-II Batch



J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 21

In a significant and encouraging interaction, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal engaged with the recently appointed officers of the 2023-II Batch of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS).

The interaction served as a platform for the newly selected officers to gain valuable insights and guidance from an experienced leader.

Deputy Commissioner shared his extensive knowledge and experience with the young, enthusiastic officers. The session was marked by thoughtful discussions, where Deputy Commissioner Kundal provided valuable perspectives on the nuances of administrative responsibilities and challenges in the region.

The newly selected JKAS officers had the opportunity to seek guidance on a wide array of topics, ranging from effective governance and public welfare to the unique socio-cultural dynamics

of Rajouri. The interaction of the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal aimed to empower these officers with the necessary tools and insights to excel in their roles and make meaningful contributions to the development of the region.

The engagement also highlighted the dedication of the administration to nurturing and mentoring the future administrative leaders of Jammu and Kashmir. The willingness of the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal to engage with and support the incoming batch demonstrates his commitment to fostering a culture of excellence and public service in the region.

The interaction was marked by a spirit of camaraderie and shared commitment to the welfare of the people of Rajouri and the broader Jammu and Kashmir region. The newly selected JKAS officers departed from the interaction with renewed enthusiasm and a deeper understanding of the responsibilities that lie ahead in their administrative careers.