



# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## Air Force symbol of strength, bravery, dedication: LG Sinha



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEP 22

Braving erratic weather conditions and dark clouds, the much anticipated and internationally acclaimed Surya Kiran Team of Indian Air Force enthralled the audience at Air Force Station, Jammu on Friday as the atmosphere was filled with patriotism amidst the chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Jai Hind'.

As per news agency, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who attended the Air show and Air

Awareness Campaign as Chief Guest lauded the forces and stated that the Indian Air Force is a glowing symbol of strength, bravery and dedication.

"Indian Air Force is a glowing symbol of strength, bravery and dedication. I salute the Indian Air Force personnel for their magnificent heroism and the spirit of sacrifice. My deepest gratitude to the Air Warriors and their families," the Lt Governor said.

The Surya Kiran Team of nine advanced BAe Hawk MK 132 aircraft

of the Indian Air Force mesmerised and won the hearts of the people with their acrobatics formations and unique maneuvering in the sky.

The aircraft also showcased their combat capability at the Jammu Air Force Station. The SKAT display included flying very low flying in various formations like the Diamond, Tejas, Aero, Thunderbolt and Yankee Y, which is dedicated to youth.

The perfect crosses and the breath-taking manoeuvres executed by the pilots

were definitely a treat to the eyes. Some scheduled aerobatic displays, however, had to be cancelled owing to bad weather and low visibility in Jammu. Despite the bad weather, the Air Force pilots proved mettle by hovering flying machines in the sky that thrilled the spectators. A breathtaking para-jumping performance was given by nine bravehearts of the IAF. However, the Air Show that was scheduled to end at 11:30 am was cut short by 30 minutes because of rains

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## Strong, stable Govt with majority made passage of Women's Bill in parliament possible: PM Modi

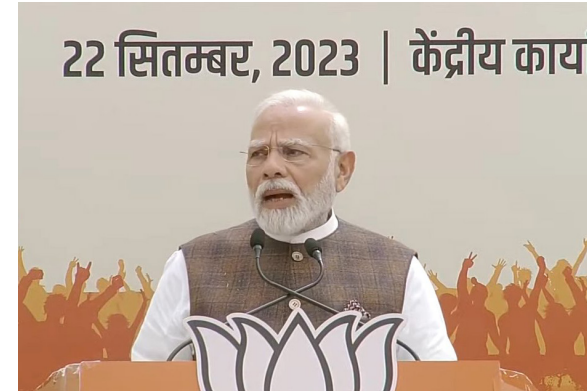
**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, SEP 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Friday that the women's reservation bill is no ordinary legislation, but an announcement of a new India's new democratic commitment.

Addressing an event organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Mahila Morcha to felicitate him for the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament, Modi also made a pitch for having a strong government with majority, saying this made the parliamentary approval for the long-pending idea possible.

Having reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was talked about for nearly three decades, he noted, adding that the earlier efforts lacked commitment and women were even insulted.

Asserting that his government worked to



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empower women, who have emerged as a power over the last one decade, Modi said that is why the political parties that used to tear copies of the women's reservation bill in Parliament had to support it – a jibe at parties, such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi Party (SP).

Every party had to support it, he added.

The prime minister said it was the BJP's good fortune that its government got the opportunity to pass the bill.

Some decisions have the power to change a country's fate, he said, describing the proposed law as one such measure that will infuse new confidence among women and multiply India's strength to advance.

The Constitution amendment bill will soon become law after the president's assent and the subsequent notification – a procedural formality.

A new history was made on September 20 and 21, Modi said, referring to

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SC rejects pleas seeking permission to allow manufacture of firecrackers containing Barium, Joint Crackers

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 22

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected petitions seeking permission to allow manufacture and sale of firecrackers containing barium and joint fireworks.

A bench of Justices A S Bopanna and M M Sundresh said the court has reiterated its 2018 ban and directions on bursting of conventional firecrackers to curb pollution.

"We are dismissing two applications seeking manufacture and sale of firecrackers containing barium and joint firecrackers. We have not interfered with the 2018 directions and reiterated them," the bench said, adding that the authorities concerned have to comply with the directions. On September 14, while reserving its

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## Lt Gen Dwivedi visits LoC, RR formation in Kashmir to review operational preparedness

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 22

Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Friday visited units along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir and reviewed the operational preparedness, officials said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi also paid a visit to the formation of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) in Jammu Kashmir's Anantnag to review counter infiltration grid and operation preparedness.



Recently, two decorated Army officers, Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer of the 19 Rashtriya Rifles, his company commander,

Major Aashish Dhonchak, Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzamil Bhat, and a soldier were killed and two other

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## EP Department intensifies drive against encroachers, illegal occupants in Jammu Province

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEP 22

Evacuee Property Department intensified its drive against encroachers and illegal occupants in Jammu province and reclaimed three kanal land illegally occupied in Samba.

As per news agency, spokesman Custodian General Rajinder Singh Tara has asked the officers and officials of the Evacuee Property Department Jammu

to intensify the drive against encroachers and illegal occupants of Evacuee Properties in Jammu Province.

Rajinder Singh Tara, after taking over Custodian General J&K Government, took a meeting of the officers/officials of Evacuee Property Department Jammu in his office chamber at Wazarat Road Jammu to review the functioning of the department.

After threadbare discussions on the function-

ing of the Evacuee Property Jammu, the Custodian General emphasized that the Evacuee Property Department has been tasked with the responsibility to safeguard the Evacuee property with honesty and dedication. "As such, as and when any report of encroachment of Evacuee land is brought into the notice of the department, stern action in collaboration with Revenue/ Police Department should be taken" he said.

The Custodian General J&K also asked the Deputy Custodians to liaise with the District Administration to identify evacuee land/property which has potential for commercial purpose including other lands which may be fenced and sign boards installed to avoid any encroachment.

He further asked that the land not viable for departmental use be put to open auction through e-auction mode for which the department

has already developed an e-auction portal.

Acting upon the directions of Custodian General J&K, the Evacuee Property Department Jammu through Dy. Custodian Samba has in the first instance reclaimed the possession of Evacuee Land measuring 3 kanal Land under Khasra No. 722 alongwith structures raised thereon. As per the department the person was occupying the

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## Centre delegates powers to LG Ladakh under 2 more central laws

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, SEP 22

The President of India has empowered the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the state government within the Union Territory under two central laws.

Details available with news agency reveal that Ministry of Home Affairs has issued two separate notifications for delegation of powers of the

"state government" and the "appropriate government" under the Indian Stamp Act and Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, respectively, to LG of Ladakh within the UT. "In pursuance of clause (1) of article 239 of the Constitution, the President hereby directs that the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Ladakh shall, subject to the control of the President and until further orders, exercise the

powers and discharge the functions of the State Government under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (2 of 1899) within the said Union territory," reads one of the notifications issued by MHA.

In another notification, LG Ladakh has been empowered to exercise the powers and discharge functions of the appropriate government under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

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## Parliamentary committee on home affairs recommends MHA to give clear definition of 'young offenders'

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 22

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to give a clear definition of "young offenders".

The committee's recommendation comes in its 245th report on the subject 'Prison - Condi-

tions, Infrastructure and Reforms'. The report was submitted in both the Houses of Parliament (the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha) on Thursday.

The committee, in para 2.5.3 of its report, has noted that "the picture of young offenders is not clear across states".

In view of this, the committee recommends that, a "clear definition

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## Skill, speed, scale key to startup capacity building: Dr Jitendra Singh

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 22

The three 'S' - Skill, Speed and Scale are the key to capacity building for StartUps as also for those engaged in any other vocation, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said while inaugurating the Training Program conducted by IIM Raipur faculty for the Ken-



driya Bhandar (KB) staff. The Minister said, "Quality with Cost-Effectiveness of the end-product is what determines the sustainability amid competition", he said.

Kendriya Bhandar is the first organization in India

to seek institutionalised training for its employees. Training and constant upgrading of skills are the two main aspects constantly reiterated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the Minister.

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## 60-Year-old farmer successfully grows kiwis in Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

A 60-year-old ex-serviceman and progressive farmer from Udhampur district has become an inspiration to the youth after he departed from conventional agricultural practices and generated a bumper crop of the Kiwi fruit after three years of diligent work. The 60-year-old Mohammad Aslam Bhat hails from the Village

Bian in Chenani Block of Udhampur district in Jammu and Kashmir and serves as an example of innovation and motivation to the young people of the state.

Bhat entered the field of Kiwi farming after departing from conventional agricultural practices. He successfully conducted his first trial of the Kiwi fruit and was gifted for his three years of hard work and toil with a bumper crop of the

fruit that was ready to hit the market.

Bhat, who has been working as a farmer for the past 18 years, encourages young people to explore horticulture and establish a good life. The wife of Mohd Aslam Bhat Shahina Begum said, "My husband Aslam has been working as a farmer for several years now and mostly uses conventional methods to grow a variety of crops. He has worked really hard for



this." The farmer's life was to change forever after he travelled to Himachal Pradesh for some person-

al work. During his visit, Bhat was fascinated by the prosperous Kiwi farms in the areas of the hill state, where farmers were

making large profits. After becoming aware of the great demand and medical qualities of kiwi fruit, Bhat decided to bring kiwi cultivation to his home in the hamlet of Bian, which boasted a favourable environment for the fruit.

Bhat started his own kiwi nursery with the Department of Horticulture's significant help. He started his ambitious adventure by importing kiwi plants from Him-

achal Pradesh and acquiring some locally. After three years of consistent trials and tribulations, the farmer was finally able to produce a huge produce of Kiwi. Bhat said that he is certain that this business initiative would bring him a sizable profit.

Bhat described his path by saying, "I have been in farming for the last 18 years, and four years ago, I started dabbling with Kiwi farming with the help of

the Department of Horticulture. They gave me Kiwi plants and really helpful advice. We have had a great Kiwi fruit harvest this year, and I am anticipating substantial earnings. I used to rely on conventional crops and veggies before this." "I embraced several agricultural techniques, including those for producing fruits, vegetables, and poultry, since the government

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## Param Vir Chakra Recipient Captain Bana Singh named as Ambassador for 'War against Waste' in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
R S PURA, SEPTEMBER 22

In a remarkable move to combat the sanitation challenges in rural areas of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K is proud to announce the nomination of country's highest gallantry award-ee, the Param Vir Chakra recipient Captain Bana Singh, a dedicated and decorated former soldier, as the ambassador for the "War Against Waste" initiative in Jammu & Kashmir.

This was announced by the Director Rural Sanitation, J&K Charandeep Singh on Friday at Captain Bana Singh Stadium, R. S. Pura Jammu during an ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS 2023) campaign. SHS 2023 is being celebrated from 15th September to 2nd October aiming to generate mass move-



ment through community participation to reinforce the concept of Sanitation as everyone's business; and as a prelude for the Swachh Bharat Diwas (2nd October) with nationwide participation.

Theme of SHS-2023 is 'Garbage Free India' with focus on visual cleanliness and welfare of SafaiMitras. The focus of these swachhata drives is on high footfall public places like bus stands, railway stations, cantonment boards, beaches, tourist places, zoos, national parks and

sanctuaries, historical monuments, heritage sites, river fronts, ghats, drains and nallahs.

Director said that the "War Against Waste" initiative aims to address the pressing issues of waste management and environmental conservation in rural J&K. The Param Vir Chakra Recipient Captain Bana Singh joining the cause will raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and inspire local communities to actively participate in waste reduction and preservation

of the J&K natural splendor.

Captain Singh, whose distinguished military service has been widely recognized for valor and dedication, now takes on a new mission - a mission to protect and preserve the pristine beauty of Jammu & Kashmir by leading the charge against waste and pollution.

As the Ambassador for the "War Against Waste," Captain Bana Singh brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the cause. Having served on the front lines to defend the nation, his dedication to safeguarding the environment is unwavering.

While addressing a mammoth gathering here during the SHS 2023 program, Captain Singh expressed his enthusiasm for this new role, saying,

"Just as I dedicated my life to defending our country, I am now committed to defending our environment. Jammu & Kashmir's natural beauty is a national treasure, and we must ensure it remains pristine for generations to come."

Around 2000 people including students, sports persons, NCC cadets, PRIs, prominent people of adjoining areas, officials and shopkeepers participated in the Swachhata pledge followed by a cycle race and painting competition.

The director awarded the top performers of the cycle race and painting competition.

Others present on the occasion were Sanna Khan, Deputy Director, Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K, Preeti Sharma ACD Jammu, SDM, R S Pura, Rajni; BDO R. S. Pura and other officials.

## Entrepreneurship awareness programme organized at Mahore



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, SEPTEMBER 22

An awareness programme for unemployed youth was organized by MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO) Jammu at Mahore in District Reasi.

Officers from MSME DFO Jammu gave a detailed presentation about the schemes and activities for the development of MSME sector.

Ajay Kumar, the Officer from KVIB gave a detailed presentation on the schemes implemented by KVIB including PMEGP. He informed that under

the scheme projects up to Rs. 50 Lakh can be covered with 30% subsidy in rural areas.

Adesh Singh, Officer from District Industries Centre, Reasi explained in detail the different schemes offered under MSME sector and implemented by the Government of J&K.

Sajad Ahmed Baig, officer from State Bank of India exposed the participants about various credit schemes of the bank.

Mujahid Hussain Shah SDM Mahore spoke about the role of district authorities in the development of the MSME sector. He

requested MSME DFO, Jammu to organize more such programmes in Mahore. He assured all help from his office for those who come forward with a viable project.

More than 150 unemployed youth attended and benefitted from the programme. Question and answer session was held after the lectures to the fullest satisfaction of the participants.

The programme was coordinated by Vinu Je Koul of MSME DFO Jammu and Vote of thanks was delivered by Sunil Dang, Assistant Director MSME DFO Jammu.

## FOOD SAFETY ACT & EAT RIGHT CAMPAIGN

### District Development Commissioner reviews implementation in Rajouri District

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 22

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, presided over a crucial meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) to evaluate the implementation of the Food Safety & Standards Act and the Eat Right Challenge Campaign in the district.

The meeting underscored the paramount importance of spreading mass awareness about the Eat Right Challenge Campaign, a nation-wide initiative aimed at promoting healthier dietary habits. The DC Vikas Kundal emphasised the need to educate the public about the numerous advantages of adopting wholesome food practices to ensure the successful realization of the campaign's objectives.



Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal stated, "The Eat Right Challenge Campaign is not just about encouraging dietary changes; it's about improving public health and overall well-being. To make this initiative a success, we must diligently educate our community about the benefits of choosing nutritious foods. By doing so, we can contribute to the realization of a healthier and more vibrant society." The District Development Commissioner called upon all stakeholders to collaborate actively

in disseminating information about the Eat Right Challenge Campaign. He urged them to engage in comprehensive outreach programs to ensure that every citizen of Rajouri is aware of the positive impact that healthy eating can have on their lives.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all DLAC members to intensify efforts towards creating a healthier and more food-conscious society. The District Development Commissioner expressed his confidence that, with collective dedication, the district would make significant strides in

implementing the Food Safety & Standards Act and achieving the objectives of the Eat Right Challenge Campaign.

Officers who attended the meeting were ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ASP, Vivek Shekhar; GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma; AD Fcs&CA, Auqil Nuvaid; CMO, Dr Rajinder Sharma; CEO Education, Sultana Kouser and other concerned officers as well as President Beopar Mandal, Rajesh Gupta also attended the meeting.

## DC reviews progress of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes in Poonch District

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 22

District Development Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M Choudhary on Friday chaired a crucial meeting here in the conference hall of the DC office to review the progress under the District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Jammu, Er. Hamesh Manchanda attended the meeting through Virtual Mode. The focus of this review meeting was to ensure the timely and efficient execution of the JJM projects in Poonch, aligning with the vision of the "Har Ghar Jal with NaI" initiative.

During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion took place, focusing on the "Har Ghar Jal with NaI" initiative.

The DC took scheme wise review and the con-



cerned Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), Junior Engineers (JEs) provided the latest status of projects coming up in their respective jurisdictions.

The DC took scheme wise review and the con-

The Executive Engineers were asked to strive towards achieving the target of providing "Har Ghar Jal" (water to every household) by the end of December.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulic Circle Poonch, Brahma Jyoti Sharma, Executive Engineer (PHE), Riaz Ahmed, AEEs, AEs, JEs of PHE and AEE PDD as well as representatives from the Integrated Support Agency (ISA), District Project Management Unit (DPMU), and Third-Party Inspection.

The District Administration remains committed to providing safe and accessible drinking water to every household, thereby improving the overall well-being and quality of life for the residents of Poonch.

## ADDC Kulgam takes stock of pace & progress on transit accommodations for KP Employees at Mirhama, Chowgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 23

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather today visited Chowgam and Mirhama areas of the district to take stock of pace and progress recorded on construction of transit accommodations for KP-Employees.

At Chowgam the concerned informed the ADDC that a total number of 12 blocks comprising 192 flats will be constructed with a project cost of 22.89 crore and out of these 12 blocks, 08 blocks are under construction



presently.

At Mirhama the concerned officers of the executing agency informed the ADDC about the progress of work on Transit accommodation and added that work on 08

blocks is in progress and substructure of these blocks have been completed and the total project cost is 22.95 crore.

ADDC instructed the officers of the executing agency to expedite the

pace of work and ensure timely completion of all blocks at both the places Mirhama and Chowgam.

He instructed them to mobilize more men and machinery to complete work projects well in time.

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 22

To transform district Ganderbal into a world-class tourist destination, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired a meeting to discuss the modalities for establishing District Tourism Development Council.

At the outset, the meeting held a detailed discussion on requirements for creating a comprehensive district tourism policy to harness the district's potential as a tourist destination while ensuring sustainable development and community involvement.

While discussing the requirements for creating district tourism policy, it was revealed that the District Tourism Development Council shall be



established headed by the Deputy Commissioner and involving all stakeholders associated with the tourism sector.

The DC maintained that the District Tourism Development Council shall play a vital role in promoting tourism in the district, attracting visitors, and boosting the local economy. The council shall identify areas of improvement and discuss strategies for further areas of development to ensure best facilities to the visitors.

The meeting also

discussed the current infrastructure and the importance of constantly upgrading and maintaining tourism-related infrastructure such as hotels, transportation facilities, and tourist attractions and also analyzed the challenges faced by the tourism industry in the district.

Interacting with the officers, the DC said that the district Ganderbal is blessed with breathtaking natural landscape, pristine lakes and rich cultural heritage and the District Tourism Development

Council will act as catalyst to harness these assets and develop a sustainable tourism industry that benefits all stakeholders.

The DC highlighted the collaborative efforts required from all stakeholders to boost tourism in the district and maximize its potential as an economic driver. He stressed that a comprehensive tourism master plan is required that outlines long-term development goals and strategies, aligning tourism with the district's socio-economic and environmental objectives. The meeting was attended by CEO, Manasbal Development Authority, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, CPO, SE PWD, Deputy District Election Officer and Sonamarg Tourist Officer.

## Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Sarore, Jakh, Jogpur, Raika, Industry, Patli and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 23 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to SICOP, Birpur Complex, Bari Brahmana, Palli, Kothi Morh, Canal Road, Sevada, Industry, DC Office, Bainglad, Raiyan, BSF, Mawa, PHE, Industrial area of Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 24 from 6 am to 10 am.

## LCMA conducts Special demolition drive in various Srinagar areas

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22

The Enforcement Wing of Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) today conducted a Special demolition drive in the area of Harwan, Wangund Teilbal, Ishber, Baba Demb, Bagi Roop-Singh Rainawari, Beigh Mohalla Saidakadal and Dalgate. Several illegal constructions were demol-

ished/ removed on the occasion, including 04 single storey houses, Compound walling, one plinth and one raft. Also illegal earth filling was removed by utilizing the services of Departmental JCB and trippers. Besides, legal action has also been initiated against the violators.

The Police Station Harwan and Police



Contingent from PCR were accompanying the Special Demolition Drive.

The Special Demolition Drives will continue within LCMA Jurisdiction especially in Green Belt (200 mts) and the violators will be dealt under law. Therefore, people within LCMA Jurisdiction are time and again warned not to resort

to any kind of illegal construction/encroachments within LCMA Jurisdiction especially Green Belt (200 mts).

More so, people residing within LCMA residential areas are requested to get proper building permission from the competent Authority before taking any construction work in hand, otherwise, strict action shall be taken against them.



## GDC Kishtwar hosts Exhibition; Promoting sustainable development through recycled products

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 22

The Eco-club of Government Degree College organized a remarkable exhibition as part of the ongoing weeklong celebration of Gandhi Jayanti and showcased a wide range of products made from recycled materials. The event, led by Dr. Sehrish Gazal and held under the guidance of Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar, aimed to instill the values of simplicity, sustainable living, and zero waste generation among the students and the community.

The exhibition showcased different aspects of Gandhi's life and his philosophy, highlighting the significance and relevance of his teachings in today's world. The event aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and commitment towards sustainable development among the students, while also promoting the idea of reducing waste and up-cycling discarded items into usable creations.

The exhibition attracted a large crowd of students, faculty members, and local residents, all eager to witness the innovative and eco-friendly products on display. The event provided a platform for students to exhibit their creativity and craftsmanship



in transforming old and discarded materials into functional and aesthetically pleasing items.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar, the College Principal graced the occasion as the chief guest. Her presence accentuated the significance of sustainable practices and encouraged students to embrace their role as responsible citizens in safeguarding the environment.

Dr. Ashiq Hussain, Prof. Mussarat Mattoo and Prof. Romana Akhtar as jury evaluated the exhibits based on their creativity, functionality, and adherence to sustainability principles.

The exhibition showcased a wide range of products, including furniture, cloth and jute bags, home décor items, fashion accessories, and artwork, all crafted from recycled materials such as plastic bottles, newspapers, and discarded fabrics. The creativity and ingenuity demonstrated by the students were truly commendable, as they transformed waste

materials into unique and valuable creations.

Dr. Sehrish Gazal, convener of the Eco-club, expressed her delight at the overwhelming response to the exhibition. She emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering a culture of sustainability and equipping the youth with the necessary skills to become conscientious global citizens.

Dr. Tariq Tamkeen, Prof. Sarita Parihar, Prof. Swami Raj, Prof. Sonika Sen, Dr. Madhu Bala, Prof. Susheel and other faculty members also attended the exhibition.

The exhibition at Government Degree College Kishtwar successfully achieved its objective of inspiring students to embrace sustainable practices and contribute towards a greener future. Through this event, the college reiterates its commitment to nurturing environmentally-conscious individuals who can make a positive impact on society.

## Final round of training imparted to Polling Staff at Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 22

The District Election Office in Doda concluded the third and final round of training for presiding officers, Polling officers, micro-observers, and Anganwari workers in preparation for the upcoming municipal election 2023. The training took place at the Town Hall Doda to equip these officials with the essential skills and knowledge required to ensure a seamless and fair conduct of the elections.

The training sessions, organized by the Election Office in Doda, under the directions of DEO Vishesh Mahajan, were conducted by district-level master trainers. They provided comprehensive guidance to participants on various

aspects of the electoral process. Presiding officers received training on their roles and responsibilities, including the proper handling of Electronic Voting Machines, vote counting procedures, closing the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after counting, and maintaining the secrecy of the vote.

Micro-observers were also a crucial part of the training, in view of their pivotal role in monitoring the election process and promptly reporting any irregularities or violations they may observe. Furthermore, Anganwadi workers, well-versed with the local communities, were included in the training to enhance their involvement and ensure that they play a valuable role in the electoral process.

## Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) arrangements reviewed and finalised at Anantnag



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid today chaired a meeting of officers to finalize the arrangements for the smooth celebration of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in the district.

The DC stressed upon the officers for providing all the requisite facilities to the devotees visiting Khiram dargah Shareef, Kabamarg, Reshmool, Aishmuqam, Seer Hamdan and other shrines, mosques during Milad days across the district.

He further stressed for close coordination and synergy among line

departments for ensuring uninterrupted arrangements of electricity, transport management, Medicare, water, sanitation facilities, food, security etc.

The DC directed for constituting a market checking teams headed by Tehsildars in their respective jurisdictions for proper market checking to keep availability of essentials at reasonable rates in markets.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC, SDM, ACR, CMO, SE Hydraulic, ARTO, CAHO, AD Food, DSHO, Tehsildars, EO MC, Ex. Engineers of PDD and PHE, AD Fisheries and other concerned officers.

## DC Rajouri inspects progress of work on Mother Child Care Hospital at Lamberi

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 22

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal conducted a comprehensive inspection of the pace of progress on the construction of the 100-bedded Mother Child Care Hospital in Lamberi today. The hospital, a vital addition to healthcare infrastructure in the region, is set to provide essential Maternal & Child Health Care Services to the residents of Rajouri and the neighboring district of Poonch. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by XEN PWD Nowshera B.K Raina.

Situated on National Highway NH144A, Lamberi serves as a crucial geographic point, with easy accessibility from Rajouri, Kalakote, Sunderbani, Budhal, and Poonch. The hospital, with a total of three floors and an allotted cost of Rs 3.75 Crore, is anticipated to be completed by January 2026. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the importance of adhering to



high-quality construction standards and urged the project team to strive for its completion well before the set deadline.

Speaking about the commitment of the Government to improve healthcare access in hilly and remote areas, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal described the MCH Hospital in Lamberi as a cornerstone of Maternal & Child Health services.

The facility will cater to institutional deliveries, high-risk pregnancy management and facility-based care for newborns, making healthcare services more accessible to the

community. The execution of this project demonstrates the unwavering dedication of the Government to ensure the well-being of the residents of the region. Once operational, the Mother Child Care Hospital in Lamberi will serve as a vital healthcare hub, enhancing the quality of life for the people of Rajouri and Poonch.

In addition to healthcare services, the location of the hospital on the Jammu Poonch highway also has strategic significance, contributing to improved connectivity and emergency response capabilities in the region.

## Municipal Elections 2023: DEO Bandipora conducts training session for Presiding, Polling Officers

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 22

The District Election Office (DEO) Bandipora Friday organized a day-long training session for Presiding, Polling Officers and Nodal Officers in the run up for the upcoming Municipal Elections 2023.

District-Level Master Trainer (DLMT) Mohamad Rafiq Paray besides other DLMTs imparted training among the participants.

They gave detailed information regarding the preparation and conduct of the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) election (2023).

The Nodal Officer Election Monitoring urged the POs to adhere to the rules and regulations already laid down for the conduct of elections.



During the training program, a question-and-answer session was held to address the doubts about the election procedures

and rules, ensuring that the Municipal Elections in the district are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner.

## IIT Jammu, SIBA organise Multispeciality Health Camp on Jagti Campus



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

In a collaborative effort, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu joined hands with SIBA to host a Free Multispeciality Health Checkup Camp on the serene Jagti Campus of IIT Jammu.

The event witnessed the unwavering support and participation of renowned regional healthcare establishments, including Amandeep Hospital, Dr. Acharya, Sharp Sight Eye Hospital, Raksha Kidney Centre, Green Court Hospital and IVF Care, Sehora Dental College. Their collective dedication to promoting community health was evident throughout the event.

The multispeciality health camp was inaugurated by Prof. Vijayan Pallipattu, Dean Administration of IIT Jammu, who

was joined by Dr. Karunika Sharma, Medical Officer IIT Jammu, adding an aura of prestige to the event.

One of the standout features of this health camp was the provision of free medicines to attendees, prescribed by the visiting doctors. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to avail themselves of complimentary basic tests for blood sugar, blood pressure, eye, et al. ensuring that even the most fundamental health concerns were addressed.

This collaborative effort between IIT Jammu and SIBA is a testament to their commitment to the well-being of the community they serve. The event was a resounding success, with numerous attendees benefiting from the expertise of leading medical professionals and the generosity of the participating healthcare institutions.

## Special Pension Camps held across District Samba

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 22

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) Samba organized a special camp in Panchayat Chak Daluma, District Samba to facilitate the saturation of the ISSS pension scheme. This scheme encompasses old-age, widow, and physically handicapped pensions.

These specialized camps are being conducted across all the blocks in Samba District, following the directives of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) and Chief Secretary (CS) J&K. The primary objective is to achieve 100% coverage under the ISSS pension scheme.

In nine camps held till date, a total of 2,200 applications were sanctioned, ensuring that a significant number of eligible persons receive support under the ISSS pension scheme.

During the camp, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba Abhishek Sharma had the opportunity to interact with beneficiaries. The DC emphasized that these camps have been established to ensure that every eligible citizen benefits from government welfare schemes. No deserving beneficiary should be left without the support they are entitled to.

The initiative reflects the government's commitment to extending the reach of welfare schemes and ensuring inclusivity in our society.

## GDC Ramgarh organises Extension Lecture on 'Non-Violence as a weapon in Freedom struggle'

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 22

Government Degree College Ramgarh on Friday organized an Extension Lecture on 'Non-Violence as a weapon in Freedom Struggle' to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti. The event was held in continuation to the series of activities being organized by the College under the aegis of India's Presidency in G20 and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The event was



organized under the guidance and coordination of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College

Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Department of Political

Science was the Resource Person. She said that Gandhi Jayanti is an occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public aware-

ness. Non-violence and truth are inseparable and presuppose one another. She further added that We may never be strong enough to be entirely nonviolent in thought, word and deed. Non-violence played a crucial role in the way in which India received its territory from the British. Gandhi Ji leadership of a successful decades-long nonviolent struggle for Indian independence Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener of

the event, said that Non Violence is the mightiest weapon devised by ingenuity of man. Nobody can make a better statement to define non violence other than our Father of Nation.

A large number of students as well as staff of the college participated in the event. The faculty members present included Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Dr. Priya Sharma, Dr. Ekta Rani, Dr. Paramjeet Kour and Dr. Sunil Kumar.

## Govt Degree College Vijaypur takes out awareness rally to mark Gandhi Jayanti

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 22

In a spirited tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and as part of the Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations, the NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Govt. Degree College, Vijaypur on Friday organized a rally to promote the principles of non-violence and peace championed by the Father of the Nation.

Around 50 enthusiastic NSS volunteers of the college actively participated in the rally, making it a vibrant and impactful endeavor. The memorial rally was organized to pay tributes to the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and also to serve as a powerful reminder of his teachings on non-violence, peace, and unity. It was a harmonious blend of education, community engagement, and homage to the principles that continue to inspire generations.

The standout feature of the event was the interaction between the volunteers and the general public in the bazaar. Volunteers shared insights about the pivotal role played by the "Father of the Nation" in India's struggle for freedom and his unwavering



commitment to communal harmony and peace during challenging times in the nation's history.

The event was executed under the auspices of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and enjoyed the wholehearted support of the college's esteemed Principal, Dr. Vandana Gupta.

The rally was meticulously supervised and managed by Prof. Jan Mohd. Wani, the dedicat-

ed PTI of the college. The rally wound its way in and around the college campus. During the procession, the NSS volunteers passionately raised slogans advocating non-violence and peace, echoing the timeless principles espoused by Mahatma Gandhi.

The event was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, NSS PO and Dr. Shital Sharma, Convener IQAC, ensuring its smooth execution.



## Emotional scenes at historic Jamia Masjid as Mirwaiz returns to pulpit after 4 years

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 22

Emotional scenes were witnessed at the historic Jamia Masjid as the Kashmir's head priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq returned to the pulpit of the grand masjid after a gap of four years.

Mirwaiz couldn't control his emotions and broke down. People who were present at the masjid in hundreds of numbers were seen crying. Mirwaiz delivered the Friday congregational sermon at the historic masjid for the first time after August 5, 2019, when Centre rolled back Article 370 and sliced the erstwhile State of J&K into two Union Territories—J&K and Ladakh.

"The day is no less than the Eid for us as Mirwaiz is among us for the first time after a long gap," said a group of worshippers inside Jamia Masjid. Many were seen praying for Mirwaiz's health while some asserted that their prayers get answered when Mirwaiz raises his hands towards Almighty Allah. "He (Mirwaiz) is a spiritual leader. We are so happy to see him back," a group of women told KNO as tears rolled down on their cheeks.

Addressing the gathering, emotionally charged Mirwaiz, as per news agency, said: "It is all



because of the prayers of people that I am here again to deliver the sermon. It was quite difficult for me to stay away from the pulpit for four years. As a Mirwaiz, I have the responsibility to raise the voice for the people."

Reacting to the statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Ukraine issue, Mirwaiz said that he was right in saying that the present era is not of war. "We are following the path of peace, we had to bear difficulties, but unfortunately, we were branded as separatists, anti-national and anti-peace."

Mirwaiz said that he doesn't have any personal ambitions. "It is because of our peaceful mission that we continued to appeal for the return of Kashmiri migrants," he said.

He also demanded

release of all political prisoners, journalists, lawyers, civil society members and the youth as well. After delivering sermons, Mirwaiz appealed to the gathering to leave the Jamia Masjid peacefully and also appealed to the youth to stay calm, maintain peace and to have faith.

Kashmir's head priest also said that he believes in peaceful coexistence between communities and nations between the strong and the weak, between the majority and the minority. "We have always advocated the return of Kashmiri Pandits and disapproved of making this human issue a political one. Stern approaches to deal with issues are dangerous things. It leads to human rights violations," he said. KNO

## Pulwama farmers worried over 'rice blast' disease, seek compensation

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, SEP 22

The farmers in several areas of south Kashmir's Pulwama district have complained of heavy loss due to the rice blast disease. The distressed farmers told the news agency that they are worried due to the disease as around 50 percent of their crop gets damaged every year. They lamented that no steps have been taken by the concerned authorities to reduce the damage.

The disease, as per the farmers, has hit the crops in parts of Rakh, Zahidbagh, Niloora, Nowpora and other adjacent areas in the Litter tehsil of Pulwama. "We suffered

losses due to the disease in paddy, and are very much worried as it will reduce rice production in the area this year," Tariq Ahmed, a farmer from Litter, said.

"Last year, we complained before the concerned authorities about this disease and asked them to conduct soil testing programmes in our area. However, despite assurance, not a single official or representative came," he said. The farmers said the disease is affecting their livelihoods as they don't have any other source of income.

Gul Mohammad Bhat, a farmer from Zahidbagh, said despite spraying as recommended by the

authorities, the paddy on around six kanals of land has suffered damage due to the rice blast. He said more damage is on around two kanals.

The government must take cognisance of the issue and provide compensation to the affected farmers accordingly, he said.

An officer of the Agriculture Department told KNO that the rice blast affects the old varieties of paddy only while the varieties provided by the department have been giving bumper crops every year.

Despite organising awareness camps, the farmers still resort to traditional varieties and then

blame the department, the official said, adding that the farmers must work in cooperation with the department so that the disease can be eliminated once and for all.

Those farmers who have been covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna will get the insurance amount while the details of those who have not registered under the scheme will be compiled and it will be forwarded to higher officials for consideration of compensation.

The official requested the farmers to avoid sowing traditional varieties and implant disease-resistant varieties like SR2 and SR4. KNO

## DIG Central Kashmir inaugurates open air gym at Police Public School Bemina

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 22

DIG central Kashmir Range Sujit Kumar in presence of principal Police Public School Bemina Snigdha Chauhan inaugurated and dedicated an open air gym to the wards of police martyrs of the school.

According to a statement, issued to the news agency, the gym has been constructed under the civic action program of Jammu and Kashmir police.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG said that martyrs and their families are their top priority and the department is constantly taking steps towards their improvement. He added that martyrs will always remain close to their hearts and it is a personal satisfaction to work for their betterment.

He expressed hope that not only students but teachers can also benefit out of this facility.

He said police has been earmarking a substantial amount of money for extending help to society under CAP and thanked police department for their concerns towards police martyrs. KNO

## Water Zorbing draws crowd at Dal lake

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 22

Yet another element of adventure -water zorbing has been introduced at Dal Lake, which is drawing crowds in the form of locals as well as tourists.

As per news agency, Zorbing, a recreational sport, had taken off in the region in recent years as this facility was available in Sonmarg and Pahalgam earlier where it worked on the surface.

Now, Dal lake which is the main attraction in Srinagar, has the water zorbing where participants roll

inside a transparent, inflatable sphere on the water's surface,

The facility has been introduced by a local entrepreneur with the help of the tourism department to give a next level experience of adventure to the visitors.

Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir administration earlier this year had invited expression of interest for operation of Zorbing balls in Dal Lake.

Taufeeq Ahmad, one of the entrepreneurs, who introduced this adventure sport at Dal lake said the main motive behind starting water zorbing is to add

to the adventure options at the lake.

"We have many other options of adventure sports like Jet Ski, Pedal boats but Water Zorbing was missing. So, we took this initiative to introduce this sport at Dal Lake. We are witnessing a good response from non-local visitors as well as locals," he said. Ahmad said all the features of the safety have been kept in mind while starting this adventure at the lake.

"We got the permission from tourism department and LCMA to start this service. On the first day of

the service, we got many customers who were very happy to enjoy water zorbing," he said.

Meanwhile, the tourism players said that the majority of the tourists visiting the valley like to enjoy such adventures.

"Water zorbing at Dal Lake will inject new life to the Dal lake. It's a win-win situation as tourists get to experience something extraordinary, and it benefits our local economy. This adventure is very common in other states and we are sure tourists will love it," said Umar Ahmad Khan, a travel agent.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Air Force symbol...

and winds but the audience tried to capture each and every moment on their cell phones.

The first of its kind air show was organized to commemorate 76 years of accession of J&K into Indian Union and the Diamond Jubilee of Air Force Station Jammu. The residential areas surrounding the Technical Airport Jammu witnessed huge rush on the rooftops as people watched the amazing flying machines performing in the sky. The young and the old were also motivated with the show and desired to become fighter plane pilots after watching the Surya Kiran team enthralled the audience.

During the air show, the Akash Ganga team of the Air Force demonstrated stunts by para jumping under the leadership of Group Captain Kunwar Bhawani Singh while Garud Commandos demonstrated the actions taken during war and combat operations. Tight security arrangements were made around the venue while traffic advisory was also issued for the general public.

Earlier, the show commence with arrival of Chief Guest escorted by the formation of three M-17 helicopters. Air Vice Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra, AVSM, VM, Air Officer Commanding Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh and Air Commodore S S Rawat, AOC 23 Wing, AF received the chief guest at Air Force Station Jammu. The event started with the National Anthem and salute by three MI-17 IV helicopters. KNO

### Strong, stable Govt...

the days the bill was passed first by the Lok Sabha and then by the Rajya Sabha. "It was our good fortune that they gave this government the chance to do so," he added.

It was made possible because people elected a strong, stable and decisive government that has a full majority, the prime minister asserted.

This is a proof of fulfilling "Modi's guarantee" that he will usher in a new era of women-led development, he said amid loud cheers from the large number of women present at the BJP headquarters.

Citing a number of his government's schemes and decisions for women's welfare, Modi said it has made every attempt to unshackle them with programmes for their security, respect and prosperity. (Agencies)

### Lt Gen Dwivedi visits...

soldiers were injured in a gun battle that raged in the woods of Gadrol Kokernag in Anantnag district on September 13.

Two militants including Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) commander Uzair Khan were also killed during the anti-militancy operation.

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi visited frontline units along the LoC in Tangdhar in Jammu Kashmir's Kupwara district to review the operational preparedness today, Army said.

He was also briefed on automation of intelligence and engagement Matrix.

The Army Commander interacted with the troops and felicitated them for maintaining high standards of operational preparedness in active Counter Insurgency Operations.

"LtGenUpendraDwivedi, #ArmyCdrNC visited frontline units along the Line of Control in #Tangdhar and a #Rashtriya Rifles formation in #Anantnag to review Counter Infiltration Grid and operational preparedness. He was briefed on automation of Intelligence & Engagement Matrix.

The Army Commander interacted with the troops and felicitated them for maintaining high standards of operational preparedness in active CI #Operations.", Northern Command-Indian Army said on X.

### EP Department intensifies...

Evacuee Property illegally, though the land in question was leased out to him but he failed to deposit the premium fixed by the department and violated the terms and conditions of the lease.

"Ample opportunity was provided to the occupant to deposit the premium as provided under the provisions of J&K Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act 2006 and on failure, the action was taken in the matter."

The Custodian General, while appreciating the action taken in the matter reiterated that the drives be undertaken by the department against the encroachers, illegal occupants and violators and may be intensified. He appealed to the general public to refrain from such acts failing which action as warranted under law will be taken against such violators which may include punishment with imprisonment in terms of Section 18 of J&K Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act 2006 Svt. KNO

### Centre delegates powers...

"In pursuance of clause (1) of article 239 of the Constitution, the President hereby directs that the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Ladakh shall, subject to the control of the President and until further order, exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the appropriate Government, to the extent they relate to the State Government in the Union territory of Ladakh for the purposes of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (19 of 1952), within the said Union territory," reads the notification.

It is pertinent to mention here that the President of India has also earlier delegated powers to LG Ladakh under different central laws. KNO

### Parliamentary committee on...

of 'young offenders' should be given by MHA along with a common guideline to all state and Union Territory (UT) governments describing the procedure to govern them.

It is also recommended that the guidelines in this regard shall be provided for the convenience of the state and UT governments.

"State governments may take steps for holistic development of these young offenders by providing all of them with education, skill and vocational training, nutrition," states the report.

"Also, the rate of recidivism among this category of inmates may be monitored regularly and a study may be conducted to understand the social background of such young offenders."

The committee, in the para 2.5.4 of its report, has noted that, not all the state and the UT governments have borstal schools in their jurisdictions. Only Tamil Nadu and seven other states namely, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Telangana have borstal schools in their jurisdictions.

Taking notice of this fact, the committee further recommends that, at least two to three borstal schools should be opened wherever it is non-existent on need basis.

In the beginning paras of the report, the committee

also noted that the issue of "overcrowding and delayed justice" has become a pressing concern, leading to a series of consequences for both the prisoners and the criminal justice system as a whole.

The committee also recommends that "prisoners from overcrowded jails may be transferred to other jails with vacant cells in the same state or other states by signing MoUs (Memorandum of Understandings) to that effect."

"This kind of an arrangement can be mutual in nature between the states signing the MoU," the report states.

In the report, the committee pointed issues of transgender prisoners and recommended that they are to be provided the same standards of health care available to other inmates and should have access to necessary health-care services without discrimination on the grounds of their gender identity.

The committee recommends that a doctor of their choice, rather than the prison officials, should examine them before lodging them in the appropriate prison so that they may not be misgendered. "There should be provisions made in prisons to have medical and health care experts to provide appropriate care to transgender inmates, if it is not feasible to have in-house health experts, they may be referred to doctors and professionals who specialize in this area of health care.

The committee also recommended separate infrastructure facilities for transgender prisoners.

"Separate barracks or ward may be ensured for transmen and transwomen. To preserve their right to privacy and dignity, there should also be provision for separate toilets and bathing facilities for such prisoners," added the report.

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party MP Brjilal. The Committee held six meetings on the subject and interacted with the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, domain experts on the subject, and various state governments.

The Committee also collected information from all the States and UTs on the issues of Conditions, Infrastructure and Reforms in the prison system. The Committee had considered the draft report and adopted the same in its meeting held on August 24 this year. (Agencies)

### Skill, speed, scale...

Dr Jitendra Singh said, success stories like Chandrayaan-3 and G20 have established PM Modi as the world's tallest leader. He said, these successes have been possible because ever since PM Modi took over in May 2014, he has heralded a new work culture, where excellence is pursued and promoted.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, KB Society was performing dismally after the withdrawal of Stationery OM in March 2015, and the sales turnover started falling down by 100 to 150 crores annually and the profit also declined sharply till March 2018 and thus the Society was almost on the verge of losses.

The Minister said, it was the cost-cutting measures and the efforts of the Managing Director Mukesh Kumar and the Board of Directors and all employees of the Kendriya Bhandar for ushering in a lot of reforms, especially in the wake of Covid pandemic, and thus making a turn around. As a result, profits soared over 30%.

In his address, Managing Director of Kendriya Bhandar, Dr. Mukesh Kumar said, the Society has taken a lot of measures to heighten the morale and confidence of the employees by granting them fair wages which are

comparable to the industry, while record number of promotions at faster pace to the performing employees were granted. He said, apart from these, measures like re-designation of posts guaranteeing respect, improving the quality of life at work place and periodical training through cooperative institutes, FSSAI and other activities for personality development of the employees.

Kendriya Bhandar created an all-time record by achieving five-fold growth of Rs.4,043 crores in 2021-22 from Rs.750 crores in 2017-18, which is unprecedented in any public or private sector.

It is also worth mentioning here that the society had accumulated fixed deposits of Rs.98.59 crores in 55 years since its coming into existence and Rs.41.28 crores (29.51% of total Rs.139.87 crores) have been added in the last five years.

The Society serves the common man by providing essential commodities at the lowest rates in the country. In recent times, the Society sold Onions @ Rs.15/- per kg against market price of Rs.70/- per kg; Bharat Atta @ Rs.27.50 per kg against market price of Rs.40/- to Rs.45/- per kg in February-March 2023; Sold Tomatoes @ Rs.70/- per kg against market price of Rs.200/- per kg in the month of August, 2023; Selling Bharat Dal (Chana Dal) @ Rs.58/- per kg against market price of Rs.110/- per kg. Further, the role of Kendriya Bhandar during the Corona / crisis has been commendable as it provided fastest services and quality items at the lowest rate in the country.

Kendriya Bhandar was set up in 1963 as a Welfare Project. It is the Society with shareholding of the Govt. and the Govt. employees. It has been registered as a Multi-State Co-operative Society under MSCS Act 2002. It has over 93,000 members out of which more than 10,000 members are still serving in Govt. The Society is managed by a Board of Directors (14 Directors). The Board has 09 elected Directors, 03 Nominated, 01 MD and 01 Co-opted Director. The Society has 149 shops and establishments/offices, besides 05 Chemist Shops/Jan Aushadhi outlets all over the country.

### 60-Year-old...

emphasised doubling farmers' earnings. This experience has demonstrated that with hard work and diversity, income may actually double. I encourage young people to choose horticulture and agriculture for profitable returns and to think seriously about farming as a career choice," he added.

The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are being pushed to take advantage of the enormous potential provided by horticulture and agriculture, and Mohammad Aslam Bhat provides an excellent example. The farming industry promises a successful future where young people may obtain a steady income and contribute to regional expansion thanks to government programmes and departmental assistance. (Agencies)

### SC rejects pleas...

verdict on a plea seeking a ban on firecrackers containing barium to curb pollution, including in Delhi-NCR, the bench asked the city police not to issue temporary licences for sale and storage of any kind of firecrackers, saying when the Delhi Government has banned all firecrackers, no distinction can be made on the basis of whether those are green or not.

The top court banned conventional firecrackers in 2018 and only allowed the bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR. (Agencies)



# CS review Development scenario in Udhampur District

J1 NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 22

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, conducted a comprehensive assessment of ongoing developmental projects and flagship initiatives across various sectors in Udhampur district today. This visit aimed to review the progress of projects funded through the Central Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and other development programs.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, DIG Udhampur Reasi Range Mohammad Suleman Choudhary, and heads of various divisions and departments within the district.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, warmly welcomed the Chief Secretary and gave a detailed sector-wise presentation on the progress of ongoing projects and flagship schemes managed by various departments in the district. She also provided updates on major projects such as the Devika project, Yoga International Convention

Centre in Mantalai, Chenani Sudhmahadev road (NH-244), NH-44, Udhampur to Chenani, and the Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev.

Chief Secretary reviewed the status of ongoing projects, programs, flagship schemes, and financial progress for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years in detail. Several departments, including Horticulture, National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Agriculture, Education, Health, Social Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, SBM-G, Jal Jeevan Mission, PMGSY, PWD, and languishing projects, were discussed.

During the review of the Devika project, the UEED department was instructed to expedite the pending work, including that restoration and house-to-house connections. The Education department was directed to rationalize teaching staff in government schools within a month.

Dr. Mehta emphasized the importance of ensuring that all eligible ben-



eficiaries are covered by government schemes and called for effective coordination among departments at the grassroots level. District heads of various departments provided updates on their respective schemes and their current status.

The Labour and Employment department was tasked with creating a comprehensive database of unemployed youth in the district and ensuring that reasonable opportunities for self employment are provided to each one of them. The agencies responsible for the Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities in Mantalai were directed to complete their work within one month. Additionally,

the Director of Tourism was instructed to develop a District Tourism plan. The revenue Department was asked to complete Geo referencing by the end of October 2023.

In the review of RDD sector projects, the ACD was asked to enhance coverage under MGNREGA and organize competitions related to Amrit Sarovar. The Traffic department was instructed to install CCTV cameras on the National Highway. District Sports officers were directed to organize games and activities at the panchayat, block, and district levels to promote participation.

The General Manager of DIC was tasked with facilitating unemployed youth in establishing their busi-

nesses in the district, while the DC was instructed to monitor the PM Poshan program in government schools.

Chief Secretary commended the efforts of the Police department in creating awareness about the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (Drug-Free Campaign) in the district and reiterated the commitment of the UT administration to provide clean governance. He urged officers to work with dedication and honesty, stressing the importance of inter-departmental coordination in addressing public issues. The officers were directed to complete projects within the specified timeframes.

During a review of road progress in the PMGSY and

## Workshop on "protection of women against sexual harassment at workplace" concludes at GCW Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 22

The Two Day workshop on "Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at workplace" concluded today here in Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur.

The workshop was organized by Internal Complaint Committee against Sexual Harassment in collaboration with Swachhta Action Plan (SAP) Club under the convensorship of Dr. Seema Sharma and Dr. Kewal Kumar respectively under the able guidance of Prof. Anjali Mahajan, Principal of the college.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia was the chief guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest lauded GCW Udhampur for organizing such a wonderful workshop. He further added that such workshops are the need of the hour for every educational institution to generate awareness among the youth as well as society. He also discussed various initiatives taken by the Government to ensure safety of the women.

Earlier, Principal of the host college, Prof. Anjali Mahajan presented the formal welcome address and highlighted the outcomes of the workshop and how it will go a long way in spreading the message of the workshop to the general masses.

In the morning, a self defense training session especially for girl students was conducted where Sensei Aaftab, President and Technical Instructor, Karate Association, Udhampur and

his team imparted knowledge of various martial skills through practical demonstration to the students which they can utilize in case of any emergency.

Many students voluntarily shared their experiences and knowledge they gained during the workshop. Meanwhile, a theme based motivational song on women empowerment was presented by Mousmi and a party from the Department of Music. A theme based Nukkad Natak was also presented by the Aanchal and Party from the Department of Music which was highly applauded by the audience.

Later, Chief Guest along with Principal and senior faculty distributed mementos and certificate among the resource persons and participants on the occasion.

The proceedings of the programme and a brief report on the 2 days workshop was presented by Pragnya Raina, a student of Sem-V while the formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Sanjeev Upadhyay.

Among others, Dr. Seema Sharma, Kewal Kumar, Ashni Devi, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Sarika Mahajan, Sumita Rao, Tania Akhter, Dr. Amit Kumar, Tania Mahajan, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Yash Kumar and about 180 students were also present on the occasion.

## SIDBI hosts customer outreach programme

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Jammu organized a customer outreach program

today at Udyog Bhawan.

Kishore Singh Chib, Director of Industries and Commerce Jammu, attended the program as the Chief Guest, while Virender Kumar Manyal, General

Manager, DIC, was present as the Guest of Honor and G Velladurai, Joint Director, MSME DFO along with Deputy Director Devendra Tyagi ji attended the event as special guests.

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

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**Fresh e-NIT No. 120 of 2023-24 Dated 20-09-2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)**

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	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	Removal/ filling of potholes of various roads in Sub Division Barneen for the year 2023-24 (Under Potholes)	22.99	600/-	(2% of the Advertised Cost)	60 Days	28-09-2023 (1200 hours)	"Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "B/C"- Class
2.	PART "A" Removal of potholes on Omarah Moth Link road						
3.	PART "B" Removal of potholes on Rakh Badali road to the house of Shivam Sharma & Pawan Kumar Sharma						

**Position of AAA:-** Accorded  
**Position of TS:-** Accorded  
**Major Head of Account:-** Potholes 2023-24

### Special Condition:-

- Security deposit shall be deposited by the contractor within 10 days of issuance of LOI, failing which the concerned tender issuing authority shall forfeit the EMD and recommended contractor for blacklisting and issue a fresh tender forthwith.
- The contractor shall initiate the work within 10 days of entering into the agreement, failing which the concerned Executive Engineer shall terminate the contract and issue a fresh tender after imposing penalties viz. forfeit security/LD as per T&C of the BID document and recommended contractor for blacklisting.
- The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in BID document/agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting EMD and shall be recommended for blacklisting.
- As per Worthy Development Commissioner (Works) Civil Secretariat, Jammu/ Srinagar's Circular PW/DCW/DB/505-510/22 dated 10.05.2022 for macadamization work under City & Towns/ Potholes Free Roads, all contractor having Class/A/B/C registration cards other than Hot Mix Plant (HMP) Owners have to upload an undertaking stating therein the e-NIT No., Name of the work and source of procurement of macadamization material (within 40 Kms from the work site) failing which the bid of such contractors shall be considered as non-responsive.

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	20-09-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 21-09-2023 to 27-09-2023 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, Udhampur.
4	Bid submission Start Date	21-09-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	27-09-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-09-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur 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, Udhampur. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur at the time of allotment.

- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need 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, Udhampur. The date for same shall be intimated separately. No-17574-79

Dated:- 20-09-2023

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Udhampur

DIP/J-8668/23

Date: 23-9-23

## Joint Mock Drill conducted in Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE

REASI, SEPTEMBER 22

A joint mock exercise (Drill) was conducted today in Reasi district to prepare for natural disasters/flooding. As per the directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India/Central Industrial Security Force Headquarters, the exercise focused on the flooding of the Dam and the rescue of downstream inhabited areas.

## G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

**E-Tender Notice**  
Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date: 12.10.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
20.09.2023	28.09.2023	12.10.2023/ 15:00 Hrs.

S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	216-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	Repair and maintenance of bridges and tunnels including repairing to flooring, protection works etc. in the section of SSEW/UHP on UHP - SVDK section under ADEN/UHP.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money
	39,99,710.84/-	80,000/-
	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	60 Days	06 Months

Similar Nature of work:- "Nil".			
2.	217-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	Repair and maintenance of bridges and tunnels including repairing to flooring, protection works etc. in the section of SSEW/SVDK on UHP - SVDK section under ADEN/UHP.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	
	39,23,638.98/-	78,500/-	
	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
	60 Days	06 Months	

Similar Nature of work:- "Nil".			
3.	218-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	Misc. works in c/w special repairs to water supply sewerage, drainage to staff quarters at Ramnagar & Chakrakhal Colony Station on JAT-SVDK section under ADEN/UHP.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	
	49,98,908.54/-	1,00,000/-	
	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
	60 Days	08 Months	

**Note 1.** Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. **Tender Notice No:- 216, 217 & 218-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Date: 21.09.2023 2949/2023**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## CANCELLATION/REGULATION/SHORT TERMINATION/ SHORT ORIGATION/DIVERSION OF TRAINS

In order to upgrade the infrastructure and enhance passenger amenities, Northern Railway will undertake the redevelopment work at Jalandhar Cantt. Railway Station and the launching of Foot Over Bridge at Kandrori yard over Firozpur Division. To execute this work traffic block will be taken from 30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023. As a result following trains will be affected temporarily on the dates shown against each :-

Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)
04598 Jalandhar City - Hoshiarpur Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
04597 Hoshiarpur - Jalandhar City Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
14506 Nangal Dam - Amritsar Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
14505 Amritsar - Nangal Dam Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
04653 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Karmabhoomi Express	06.10.2023
04654 Amritsar - New Jalpaiguri Karmabhoomi Express	04.10.2023
04591 Ludhiana - Chheharta MEMU Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
04592 Chheharta - Ludhiana MEMU Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
22429 Delhi - Pathankot Superfast Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
22430 Pathankot - Delhi Superfast Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
04642 Pathankot - Jalandhar City DEMU Special Express	03.10.2023
06949 Jalandhar City - Pathankot DEMU Special Express	03.10.2023

Train No. & Train Name	Short Terminate at/ Originate from	Date (s) (from originating station)
15531 Saharsa - Amritsar Jansadharan Express	at Ambala	01.10.2023
15532 Amritsar - Saharsa Jansadharan Express	from Ambala	02.10.2023
22551 Darbhanga - Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express	at Ludhiana	30.09.2023
22552 Jalandhar City - Darbhanga Antyodaya Express	from Ludhiana	30.09.2023
12497 New Delhi - Amritsar Shane Punjab Express	at Ludhiana	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
12498 Amritsar - New Delhi Shane Punjab Express	from Ludhiana	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023

Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Date (from the Originating Station)
19611 Ajmer - Amritsar Express	Firozpur Cantt.-Kapurthala-Jalandhar City	30.09.2023
22318 Jammu Tawi - Sealdah Humsafar Exp.	Jalandhar City-Nakodar-Ludhiana	04.10.2023
22479 New Delhi - Lohian Khas Sarbat Da Bhala Express	Ludhiana-Phillaur-Lohian Khas	30.09.23, 01.10.23, 03.10.2023 & 04.10.2023
16277 Gorakhpur - Jammu Tawi Amarnath Express	Jalandhar Cantt.-Jalandhar City-Amritsar-Gurdaspur-Pathankot Cantt.	02.10.2023
19224 Jammu Tawi - Ahmedabad Express	Pathankot-Gurdapur-Amritsar-Jalandhar City	03.10.2023

## REGULATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Regulation	Date (from the Originating Station)
12919 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar-S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 80 Minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.2023 to 03.10.2023
12471 Bandra Terminus - S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.23, 01.10.23 & 02.10.23
12473 Gandhidham - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	30.09.2023
12475 Hapa - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	03.10.2023
12029 New Delhi - Amritsar Swarna Shatabdi Express	Will regulate 30 minutes in Delhi Division, 30 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023
04652 Amritsar - Jaynagar Special Express	Will depart 155 minutes late from Amritsar	01.10.2023 & 04.10.2023
04651 Jaynagar - Amritsar Special Express	Will regulate 60 minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.23, 01.10.23 & 03.10.23
11057 Chhatrapati Shivaji T. - Amritsar Express	Will regulate 60 minutes in Firozpur Division	28.09.2023 to 02.10.2023
14615 Lal Kuan - Amritsar Exp.	Will regulate 100 minutes in Firozpur Division	30.09.2023
12549 Durg-Udhampur S.F. Exp.	Will regulate 40 minutes in Firozpur Division	03.10.2023
12379 Sealdah - Amritsar Exp.	Will regulate 40 minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.2023
15655 Kamakhya - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will depart 180 minutes late from Kamakhya, will regulate 45 minutes in Ambala Division & 45 minutes in Firozpur Division.	01.10.2023
12920 S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express	Will depart 90 minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra & will regulate 65 minutes enroute	03.10.2023
12472 S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra - Bandra Terminus Express	Will depart 60 minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra & will regulate 60 minutes enroute	03.10.2023

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

Visit RailMadad website [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in) Download RailMadad app.

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"GOD'S LOVE FOR HIM, EXCEEDED OUR AFFECTION"  
**Sh.Thakur Dass Sharma**  
Lived a fulfilling life as a loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Relative, Friend & an inspiration to many.

**"An anniversary of a loved ones death is always tough. It can open old wounds and rekindle memories that we haven't thought about for a long time.**

**The pain never fully goes and is often at it's rawest and most vivid on days like anniversaries. But whilst for some it's a day that brings back unwanted grief."**

-DEEPLY MISSED BY-  
Mrs. Hema Sharma (Wife)

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Mohinder (Principal) & Poonam Meekhra JKAS (FA CAO) (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Ramesh Sharma (Editor Lok Shikhi) & Ruchi Sharma (Teacher) (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Suresh Kumar (Editor Rashtra Jyotsna) & Aarti Sharma (Teacher) (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Grandchildren- Abhivveer, Alankrita, Arundhati, Aaira and Abhisar



## EDITORIAL

## Exploring rare minerals

It is quite heartening to hear that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified the deposits of Chromite and Platinum Group of Elements (PGE) in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The identification of these minerals in the cold desert has come close on the heels of the discovery of 5.9 million tonnes of Lithium block in the Reasi area of Jammu and Kashmir. If reports emerging from different quarters are to be believed, the GSI, in its preliminary surveys, has established some encouraging results regarding the presence of Chromite and PGE in Ladakh and these minerals hold great economic significance. In the last one year, the GSI teams carried out explorations near Drass, the world's second coldest place on earth, and received high values about the presence of these minerals during their study. It has now been decided to further expand the survey so that more data is accumulated with regard to the presence of Chromite and PGE. The GSI teams intensified their explorations for Chromite and PGE in the Drass area last year and decided to explore the feasibility of collaborating with other geological institutions across the country for research and data sharing. Pertinently, the PGE comprises six metals—Platinum, Palladium, Iridium, Rhodium, Ruthenium and Osmium. These elements have almost similar physical and chemical properties and occur together in nature. These elements are believed to be among the rarest metals occurring on Earth. The scientists and experts opine that the properties of these elements comprise high melting points, corrosion resistance and catalytic qualities make them indispensable to many scientific and industrial applications, including production of items for day-to-day use. Chromite has an important role in the production of steel. In India, the presence of PGE is minuscule. The GSI teams have so far identified three other sites, Hanumalpur Complex in Shimoga, Karnataka, Baula-Nausahi Complex in Orissa and Sittampundi-Anorthosite Complex in Tamil Nadu for potential deposits of PGE. According to the first-ever list of 30 critical elements issued by the Ministry of Mines, PGE is considered vital for the country's economic growth, technological development and zero-emission future. The Union government had recently declared that the Jammu and Kashmir government reserved the rights to take a final call on the auctioning of the 5.9 million tonnes Lithium mineral block discovered in the Reasi area of the Union Territory. The GSI carried out a 'preliminary exploration' i.e. G3 stage mineral exploration project on Bauxite, Rare Earth Elements and Lithium in Salal Haimna areas of Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir during FS 2020-21 and 2021-22 and confirmed an inferred resource (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium ore. The Lithium deposits are very critical for India as the government has been focusing on electric cars, especially in the metro cities including Delhi, Mumbai, and others. The UT governments, both in J&K and Ladakh, should extend all possible help to the geologists and scientists in exploring the minerals for the better future of coming generations.

## Resurrecting the academic landscape in J&amp;K after COVID-19

MOHAMMAD ZUBAIR UD DIN

The COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented global crisis, brought about significant challenges to various aspects of life, including education in Jammu and Kashmir. This region, known for its stunning natural beauty and complex socio-political landscape, faced unique difficulties during these trying times. This article delves into the impact of COVID-19 on education in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the challenges that emerged and proposing potential solutions to address them.

**The initial response: Lockdowns and educational disruptions**

When the pandemic hit, governments worldwide swiftly implemented measures to safeguard their populations while attempting to maintain essential services. In Jammu and Kashmir, like in many other places, this involved imposing strict lockdowns and restrictions on movement to curb the virus's spread. Among the most significant consequences of these measures was the closure of educational institutions, which profoundly affected students and educators.

Jammu and Kashmir's educational institutions, once bustling with activity, fell silent as classrooms remained empty. This abrupt shift marked the

beginning of an unprecedented journey into the world of online education for the region. While online learning had been on the rise before the pandemic, the rapid and widespread adoption of this mode of instruction was unparalleled.

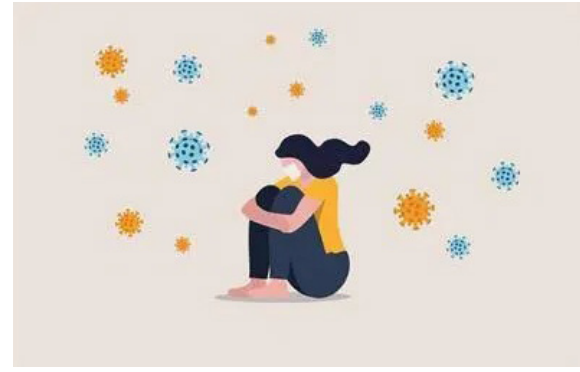
**The transition to online education**

The shift to online education necessitated a rapid adaptation by both educators and students. Teachers had to quickly familiarize themselves with digital platforms like Zoom, Google Meet, and Google Classroom. On the other hand, students, some of whom had limited access to the internet and technology, had to adapt to this new mode of learning. It was a learning curve for all, and it came with its own set of challenges.

**Declining interest in academics**

One of the most notable trends that emerged in Jammu and Kashmir, as in the rest of the world, was a noticeable decline in students' interest in academics during the post-COVID period. Several factors may contribute to this concerning trend.

1. Grading Adjustments: Firstly, the absence of or simplification of exams in 2020 and 2021 meant that students could achieve good grades with comparatively less effort. Authorities recognized the unique challenges students faced



during the pandemic and adjusted grading accordingly. While this was a necessary step to reduce stress during a global crisis, it unintentionally led to a decline in academic rigour.

2. Reduced Attendance: Secondly, colleges in Jammu and Kashmir reported significantly reduced attendance. The shift to online learning allowed students to access lectures from the comfort of their homes, reducing the need to physically attend classes. While this flexibility is a positive aspect of online education, it has also resulted in a lack of engagement and reduced motivation among students.

3. Emphasis on Non-Academic Activities: Another possible contributing factor to the decline in academic interest is the increased emphasis on non-academic activities. The pandemic brought to the forefront the importance of mental health and well-being, prompting schools and colleges to focus on activities beyond

academics. While this is undoubtedly a positive development, striking the right balance between academics and non-academic pursuits has proven challenging.

4. Employment Uncertainty: Furthermore, the uncertainty surrounding future employment prospects has weighed heavily on students. The economic fallout of the pandemic has created an atmosphere of insecurity, with many students wondering about their post-graduation prospects. This uncertainty can lead to a loss of motivation for academic pursuits when the future seems uncertain.

5. Influence of Social Media: Lastly, the pervasive influence of social media cannot be ignored. As students spent more time online due to remote learning, they were exposed to the captivating world of social media. While social media offers countless opportunities for learning and connection, it can also be a major distraction, pulling students away from their

academic responsibilities.

**Resurrecting the academic landscape: Ways ahead**

Addressing the declining interest in academics in Jammu and Kashmir is a shared concern among government authorities, educators, parents, and students. To revive the fading academic landscape, a multifaceted approach is required:

1. Reintroduce Academic Rigor: It is essential to reintroduce academic rigour while recognizing the challenges posed by the pandemic. Striking a balance between accommodating students and maintaining academic standards is crucial to keeping their interests alive.

2. Enhance Student Engagement: Colleges and educational institutions can improve attendance and student engagement through hybrid models of education that combine online and in-person learning. This provides students with the benefits of both flexibility and social interaction. Encouraging active participation in class discussions and extracurricular activities can also reignite students' passion for learning.

3. Address Employment Uncertainty: Tackling employment uncertainty is complex but essential. Career counselling and guidance services can play a crucial role in helping students navigate their post-graduation options.

Collaborations between educational institutions and industry can create opportunities for internships and practical training, increasing students' confidence in their employability.

4. Responsible Technology Use: Regarding the influence of social media, educators can incorporate technology and social media into their teaching methods to make learning more engaging. Simultaneously, students should be educated about responsible and mindful social media use to avoid distractions.

**Post Script**  
The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted education in Jammu and Kashmir, much like it did worldwide. Online education became the new norm, but it brought challenges such as declining academic interest. To resurrect the academic landscape, a comprehensive approach focusing on academic rigour, student engagement, employment prospects, and responsible technology use is required. By addressing these challenges, we can ensure that education in Jammu and Kashmir not only recovers from the impact of the pandemic but also thrives in the post-Covid era.

**The writer is Assistant Professor of History (J&K Higher Education Department). He can be reached at zubairud.m4@gmail.com**

## High crude prices bad for India's economic outlook

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

World oil prices are hardening and the outlook for the rest of the year is ominous. The decision by Saudi Arabia and Russia earlier this month to extend voluntary production cuts for another three months has caused prices to spike to their highest level since November. This does not portend well for India as it relies on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs. Currently, the benchmark Brent crude is nearing \$95 per barrel, while the West Texas Intermediate crude from the United States, is around \$91 per barrel. This is in sharp contrast to three months ago when prices were hovering in the range of \$75-80.

It was then that Saudi Arabia, leader of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Plus cartel announced this production cut which came into effect in July. It had come on the back of an earlier output cut of 1.15 million barrels

per day for the entire group in April. Russia, as a member of OPEC+, has extended its reduction of 300,000 barrels per day for the next three months, right up to December.

The contraction in supply combined with other developments like improved demand from China, have created the current price spiral. Though the economic outlook for the world's largest oil importer is not yet robust, demand has picked up, reports say, due to a rise in industrial output and higher consumer spending.

**Global North's woes**

The spike in oil prices is not just a problem of emerging economies such as India which will be forced to shell out more foreign exchange resources to meet their energy needs. The issue also looms large before the Global North. Developed countries in Europe and the US which had been facing the brunt of soaring energy prices and inflation ever since the onset of the Ukraine conflict

could once again face a crisis.

The unprecedented inflation caused by high energy costs over the past year-and-a-half, threatens to recur in case crude oil prices fail to cool down soon. These pressures had been the driver for aggressive rate hikes by central bank but the softening of oil prices since December had brought some relief.

In fact, the US Federal Reserve has indicated its intent to pause the current rate hike cycle recently. This followed moderation in US inflation to 3 per cent in June. It has since accelerated to 3.2 per cent in July, and 3.7 per cent in August. The rising trend is being pushed by higher energy costs. If oil prices continue to surge, the US Fed may have to call off its plans to halt rate hikes. In addition, the Joe Biden administration is worried over rising gasoline prices as a big chunk of its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) was released last year to stabilise prices. This gives it little leeway to act in the current scenario.

European countries will also be hit hard by the continuing firming up of oil prices. Inflation had tamed to some extent in recent months with the Eurozone recording 5.3 per cent rise in August. But the hardening of oil markets will recreate last year's scenario of high energy costs.

**Gloomy outlook**

As for India, if the current trend continues in world oil markets, it could face an expanding fuel import bill. What is interesting, however, is that any special discount for developing economies has been ruled out by OPEC+ in the past and there has been no indication that this issue was discussed with Saudi Arabia recently. This is despite improved bilateral ties and the recent official visit of Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman. Though Riyadh declared its intent to make sizable investments here, there has been no change in its stance towards pushing oil prices higher. The leader of OPEC+ is clearly ada-

mant about ensuring that prices remain above \$85 per barrel.

In the case of discounted oil purchases from Russia, these are no longer much different from market rates. India will, therefore, find it difficult to keep its oil import bill at manageable levels in 2023-24. The price of the Indian basket of crudes has already shot up to \$95.46 per barrel.

The outlook is gloomy in view of forecasts by at least two major banks, Goldman Sachs, and Citibank, that oil prices will touch \$100 per barrel by the end of 2024. In this backdrop, India will have to keep the focus on new and renewable energy sources to reduce its reliance on hydrocarbons from abroad. The results of this drive are likely to fructify only in the long term. For the time being, India has no option but to spend more on oil imports to ensure that its strategic energy needs are fully met in the short and medium term.

**(Sushma Ramachandran is a senior journalist.)**

## India has a missing women crisis it needs to address now

FAUZIA KHAN

"I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own." — Audre Lorde

The distressing issue of missing women has long cast a shadow over India's diverse landscape. In a nation known for its cultural richness and diversity, the revelation of the pervasive reality of missing women and girls is deeply disheartening. The monsoon session of Parliament brought this issue to the forefront of public attention. To a question I raised in the House, the response provided by the minister was both chilling and profoundly moving.

**The challenge**

What the nation needs to know is that within the vibrant tapestry of India's societal fabric, the startling truth about the magnitude of missing women and girls emerges as a sombre reminder of gender equality and the steeply uphill battle against gender-based violence, human trafficking, and discriminatory practices. Recent government data has unveiled a staggering figure of missing girls

and women, between 2019 and 2021, which is over 1.31 million!

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report reveals that more than a million women above 18 years of age and a quarter of a million girls below the age of 18 have gone missing during this timeframe. These numbers lay bare the vulnerability of women and girls across the expansive landscape of India. It underscores the complex and pressing challenges of what we as a civilised society must face, and what the nation must necessarily combat.

Initiated by a directive from the Supreme Court of India in 2019, the earlier analysis undertaken by the NCRB aimed to identify regions susceptible to child and women trafficking. As per this analysis, the causes of these disappearances are complex and multifaceted, ranging from mental health issues and miscommunication to domestic violence and criminal victimisation. Yet, the persistent threat of trafficking for forced marriages, child labour, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation continues to loom ominously. Numbers in states may vary, but the problem exists

almost everywhere.

Zooming out to the global context, the 2018 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons sheds light on the disproportionate victimisation of females in trafficking for sexual exploitation. This grim revelation serves as a stark reminder of the pervasive gender-based violence and exploitation that persist worldwide.

Delving back into the national landscape, the phenomenon of 'missing women' paints a deeply concerning picture. As of 2019, while Maharashtra led the nation in the number of missing women, closely trailed by Madhya Pradesh and followed by West Bengal, these states stand as the epicentres of vulnerability. Notably, as per the report, metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, and Indore have reported alarmingly high incidents of such disappearances.

**Missing women**

Throughout their life gender discrimination against women remains ingrained across the entire strata of society. The term

'missing women' encapsulates the disparity between the expected and actual count of women within a specific region, or nation. This discrepancy is rooted in multifaceted factors like sex-selective abortions, female infanticide, and insufficient healthcare and nourishment for young girls. Coined by Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, this term encapsulates the profound repercussions of gender-based bias and the discrimination that moves from cradle to grave.

Regrettably, the count of 'missing women' has witnessed an alarming surge, more than doubling over the past five decades, surging from 61 million in 1970 to an astonishing aggregate of 142.6 million by 2020. In this disconcerting trend, India's contribution is staggering, accounting for 45.8 million absent women as of 2020. This indicates that the existing government initiatives are leading us nowhere.

The prevalence of gender-biased sex selection and the subsequent mortality of female infants play a pivotal role in perpetuating this distressing phenomenon. The elevated rate of

surplus female deaths in India casts a grim light on the reality that approximately one in nine female deaths under the age of five may be attributed to postnatal sex selection.

**Conclusion**

Looking forward, nations that have ratified international treaties must take on the responsibility of ending harm against girls, regardless of whether it is perpetuated by family members, religious groups, or even the State. The road ahead demands collective efforts from society, governmental bodies, and international organisations to address the pressing issue of missing women in India. By tackling the root causes and fostering a culture of gender equality, a brighter and safer future for women and girls across India can be achieved.

From silence to solidarity, we need to progress towards building a world where no woman goes missing!

**(Fauzia Khan, former Minister of State in Government of Maharashtra, is Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. Twitter: @DrFauziaKhanNCP)**



## DC B'la flags-off Shanti Yatra from GHS Deewanbagh

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today flagged-off the Shanti Yatra-2023 from Government Boys High School Deewanbagh here by lighting a Peace Torch in commemoration of 153rd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Shanti Yatra was organized by the Education Department Baramulla. School children and other concerned stakeholders took part in the yatra which passed through several locations of Baramulla.

It is worth mentioning here that Shanti Yatra along with Peace Torch will pass all the 10 districts of Kashmir with School students and other concerned bringing a message of peace and will



culminate in Srinagar on 2nd October, the Gandhi Jayanti.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish said that the Shanti Yatra is aimed to popularize the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi with regard to peace and universal brotherhood among the students, which is the need of the hour.

The DC further said that month-long activities based on teachings

of Gandhi Ji would be conducted in all the educational institutions of Baramulla.

Meanwhile, the Education department Baramulla expressed its gratitude to all participants, volunteers who have come together to make this Yatra a reality.

Chief Education Officer Baramulla, Balbir Singh Raina and other senior functionaries were present at the event.

## Poonch: AHD trains Youth as MAITRI

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 22

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Poonch today organized a significant event at the District Veterinary Hospital to distribute multi-purpose Artificial Insemination kits and certificates among unemployed youth who have recently completed their training as Multi-purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians for Rural India (MAITRI).

The event was graced by the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the value of young entrepreneurs to tap the vast employment potential in agriculture and allied sectors. Moreover, he called for a change in mindset towards farming, animal husbandry, fisheries and other allied sectors as



business and profitable enterprises rather than routine sustenance based activity. In his address, he extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly trained MAITRIs, expressing hope that their training would empower them to become self-employed individuals. Furthermore, he emphasized the invaluable role that these MAITRIs would play in extending essential services to farmers at their doorsteps. The MAITRI Scheme, currently being implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry in Jammu and Kashmir, aims to address unemployment among educated youth by

equipping them with three months of comprehensive training in multi-purpose Artificial Insemination and First-Aid techniques. The training is conducted in Bhatinda, Punjab, and focuses on generating self-employment opportunities for the youth while providing insemination and First-Aid services to farmers residing in far-flung rural areas. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer of Poonch, expressing gratitude to all the participants, trainers, and officials involved in making the MAITRI Scheme a success.

## 3-day UT level freestyle wrestling competition for boys takes off in Doda



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, SEPTEMBER 22

UT level wrestling competition for boys was today inaugurated by District Youth Services Sports and Officer Doda Jaffer Haider Sheikh here in the indoor Sports Stadium Doda.

In all, 220 Players drawn from 9 J&K UT districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Samba, Doda, Kathua, Anantnag, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Reasi, are taking part in the wrestling competition. The tournament is being held under the

patronage of Subash Chander Chibber, Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, and Suram Chand Sharma, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu and under the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Doda, Jaffer Haider Sheikh. Suresh Kumar Padha, ZPEO Doda shall act as overall in charge of the venue.

Out station wrestlers have been provided boarding and lodging facilities within the vicinity of Doda headquarters.

## Programme on Home stays, Rural Tourism & Tourism as medium of Self-employment organized at Aharbal, Kulgam



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 23

Deptt. of Tourism along with RDD & PR Kulgam today organized a one day programme on Rural tourism & Home stays and Tourism as medium of self Employment at Aharbal Tangmarg, here.

The programme was attended by ACD Mohammad Imran, AD- Tourism and other officers besides members of youth clubs, PRI Members and locals. During the programme participants were

apprised that the main focus of the programme is to stimulate rural economy through rural tourism, besides creation of new business and self employment opportunities especially through home stays.

Officers also highlighted the potential of rural tourism in boosting the rural economy and generation of employment. It was highlighted that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes can change the future of the unemployed youth.

## DC inspects patient care facilities in Government Sarwal Hospital



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today conducted a surprise inspection of the Government Hospital Sarwal.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the inventory of crucial supplies and medications available in the hospital. He examined the hospital's operations, administrative areas and toured various sections, including the Dengue Ward and Emergency Ward.

The DC paid special attention to the Jan Aushadhi store within the hospital, instructing Medical Superintendent Dr. Vijay Raina to conduct a

prescription audit of its sales to ensure transparency. He also stressed that the public should be encouraged to buy the medicines from the Jan Aushadhi Stores as much as possible. Furthermore, the DC assured to provide arthroscopic surgical equipment for minimally invasive procedures, benefiting patients who may not afford such surgeries outside government hospitals.

In a meeting with the hospital staff, he commended their performance and stressed the importance of punctuality, diligence and dedication to public service.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Harbaksh Singh was also present during the inspection.

## GDC Ramgarh organises Declamation Contest as a part of Gandhi Jayanti



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 22

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit-Prabha of Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a Declamation Contest as a part of Gandhi Jayanti celebration. The event was organized under the supervision and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Convener, IQAC said that whenever we think of Mahatma Gandhi, two words come to our mind- truth and non-violence as he was a staunch believer in these two ideals. Truth and non-violence were his tools during India's freedom struggle against British Colonial rule.

The event was organized by the NSS Program Officer, Dr. Shamsher Lal. He highlighted the truth and Non-violence go hand

in hand and is the best combination for overall development of youth and society.

The event was co-ordinated by Ms. Malkit Kour of BA Semester-V. A large number of students of the College participated in the Declamation Contest and expressed their view on truth and non-violence. The first position was secured by Ms. Jagmeet Kour of BA Semester-III, second position was secured and shared by Ms. Tamana Attri of BA Semester-III, and third position was secured by Ms. Kajal Thappa of BA Semester-V.

The faculty members who were present include- Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Dr. Shamsher Lal, Prof. Risha Kumari, Dr. Ekta Rani, Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Ms. Priya Sharma, Dr. Paramjeet Kour, Ms. Priya Sharma and Mr. Sunil Kumar.

## Eid Milad-Un-Nabi (SAW) celebration preparations reviewed at Pulwama



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 22

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Abdul Aziz today convened a meeting of the stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the auspicious occasion of Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) 2023 at Circuit House Pulwama.

The ADC directed all 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 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.

Special focus was laid on sanitation measures wherein ADDC directed the Municipal Bodies in case of towns and RDD in respect of rural areas to ensure cleanliness and special sanitation drives are carried out in and around the Mosques and Shrines where prayers are to be held.

## DC Ganderbal flags-off 15th annual Gangbal Yatra



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 22

The 15th annual Gangbal yatra commenced here today after a group of pilgrims mostly Kashmiri Pandits was flagged-off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir from Naranag.

SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar and other civil and police officials were present on the occasion.

The group of pilgrims left from the Naranag temple for Annual Harmukh Gangbal yatra amid religious fervor and were accompanied by SDRF team, Police and other officials.

After performing Puja at Naranag temple, devotees set on foot to undertake a 36-km journey to Gangabal Lake, which is located around 14,500 feet above sea level in the Harmukh mountain range. The sacred puja would be performed on the banks of Gangabal Lake

situated at an elevation of 3570 meters on Saturday following which the pilgrims will return the next day.

The pilgrimage was organized under the banner of the Harmukh Ganga (Gangabal) Trust (HGGT) and All Parties Migrants' Coordination Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the administration has made all arrangements including accommodation, food, medical and security arrangements for the pilgrims.

On the occasion, devotees thanked district administration, police and locals for extending their co-operation and support in facilitating this Yatra. Among others, SDM Kangan, Javid Ahmad Rather, SDPO Kangan Muzaffar Jan, Tehsildar Kangan, SHO Kangan and other concerned were present on the occasion.

## Municipal Committee Vijaypur set to get new office building



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 22

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma laid the foundation stone for the new office building of the Municipal Committee Vijaypur.

The event took place at the designated construction site, where a three-storey building will be erected at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore.

The Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by local officials and dignitaries, expressed his enthusiasm for this project, which will enhance the administrative infrastructure of the Municipal Committee Vijaypur. The new office building is expected to provide a modern and efficient workspace for

municipal employees and serve as a hub for various civic services and activities. The construction of the three-storey office building underscores the commitment of the government to strengthen local governance and improve public services in the region.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively for the completion of the project within the stipulated timeframe and budget.

Key attendees at the event included SDM Vijaypur Rajesh Kumar, President of Municipal Committee Vijaypur, Ganesh Sharma, Vice President of Municipal Committee Vijaypur, Superna Dhar, Ward members, Executive Officer, Vinod Kumar.

## Intra-college Declamation contest on "Truth and Non Violence" hosted in GDC Sunderbani



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 22

In continuation to Gandhi Jayanti celebration, NSS unit Government Degree College Sunderbani, in collaboration with the Road safety club of the college, organized an intra college Declamation on the topic "Truth and Non Violence".

A large number of NSS volunteers and students

participated with great zeal and enthusiasm to make the event a success.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Sheraz Kousser and Prof. Beant Singh.

Ashutosh Bhagyal secured 1st position, Dheeraj Khajuria secured second position and Palvi secured third position. Prof. Sham Lal, Supriya Sharma and Prof. Rajneesh acted as judges.

## Baramulla emerges Victorious in Inter-District Kho Kho Under 19 Girls Competition



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 22

The District Baramulla has once again proven its sporting prowess, achieving a resounding victory in the inter-district provincial level under 19 Girls competition at Shopian.

The competition witnessed District Baramulla triumph over their formidable opponents, District Budgam.

Jatinder Singh, the District Youth Services & Sports Officer of Baramulla, extended his warm congratulations to the

outstanding performance of the district team. He commended their dedication, teamwork, and unwavering spirit that led to this remarkable win.

He also expressed his gratitude towards Mahjabeen PEM and Mohd Arif Mir, the Rehbar-e-Khel teacher, for his guidance and support that contributed to this success.

This victory not only exemplifies the athletic prowess of Baramulla but also highlights the district's commitment to fostering sportsmanship and excellence among its youth.



## 3 Day long OP, ME by CBC at Basantgarh concludes



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BASANTGARH, SEPT 22

Block Medical Officer, Basantgarh, Dr. Sheikh Yaser Nazir presided over the concluding function of the 3 Day Multimedia Exhibition organized at Basantgarh today by Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Field office Udhampur.

Dr. Yaser presented detailed overview of the various schemes of health sector department. While elaborating the services of health department, Dr. Yaser said that for any emergency health exigencies, even in remote areas, dial 108 for free ambulance services for patients. Live demo for dialing 108 was conducted during the event. Dr. Shiekh also discussed the major aspects of programmes like Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Ayushman Bharat Health Cards, ABHA Cards & other health related schemes.

BMO, Basantgarh appreciated the role of CBC in awareness of Welfare Schemes especially with regard to health sector.

The concluding day of the outreach program was dedicated for awareness about the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Health department and Education department.

Khursheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Udhampur in his welcome cum introductory address briefed the audience

about the functions and mandate of CBC. He also presented an overview of Vigilance Week 2023 to be organised from 30th October to 5 November.

Prof. Vijay Kumar, Faculty from Govt. Degree College, Basantgarh delivered comprehensive expert lecture on National Education Policy (NEP)2020.

Vijay said, the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a global knowledge superpower. Sh. Vijay further said, the exhibition installed by CBC at Basantgarh is first of its kind in the area and its utility is multidimensional and beneficial for the people of this area.

Besides students, teachers, locals, employees of Jal Shakti & Health Department., the concluding day of the event was attended by Principal HSS Basantgarh, Sh. Rajinder Kumar. The whole event was coordinated by TA (S) CBC Udhampur, Gurnaam Singh. During the event, on the spot quiz competition was organised on Seva Sushasan & Garib Kalyan and patriotic songs & cultural programs were performed by the students & Empanelled PRTof CBC, J&K and Ladakh. The prizes were later distributed among the winners of quiz competition and cultural programs.

## Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Mr Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away of Late Rajinder Handoo Adv Son of Late P.L. Handoo Adv former member of parliament and former minister and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mr Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province and Nasir Aslam Wani Provincial President Kashmir have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretary, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Babu Rampaul Central Zone President, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Ajaz Jan Provincial President Jammu YNC, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial Presi-

dent Women Wing, Vijay Lakshmi Datta, Raghvir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Sardar Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Sardar Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Nitish Gowsami, Jatin Bhat and other party functionaries of JKNC participated in the cremation at Bantalab today.

Senior leaders of the National Conference have also conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family. Those who prayed for peace to the departed soul, include Khalid Najeef Suharwardy Provincial Vice President Jammu Province, Javed Ahmed Rana Zone President Pir Panjal, Abdul Gani Malik Zone President Udhampur Reasi, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo Zone President Chenab Valley, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Surinder Choudhary Central Secretary, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Deepender Kour, Ex-MLC, Jugal Mahajan, Zeeshan Rana, Th. Yashvardhan Singh Additional Spokespersons Jammu, Ayub Malik, Ankush Abrol, Ghar Singh, Nar Singh, Harshvardhan Singh, Waris Gill, D.S Chouhan, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban and Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Sudagar Gupta District President Samba, Som Raj Taroch and other party functionaries.

## BJP celebrates passing of women reservation bill

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir unit led by hundreds of women leaders and the Mahila Morcha activists of the party celebrated the passing of historic women reservation bill in both the houses by dancing and distributing sweets amongst themselves and others.

Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP also joined the celebration along with other party leaders at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Former Minister and BJP NEM Priya Sethi led the celebration. J&K BJP Vice-President Anuradha Charak, Secretary Veenu Khanna, Spokesperson Rajni Sethi, Reema Padha, Neha Mahajan, Rekha Mahajan, Divya Jain, Anuradha Sharma, Vaishno Devi, Adv. Jasmit Kour, Pooja Salgotra, Jyoti Devi, Asha Gupta, Kunti Jasrotia and others were amongst the prominent present to celebrate the occasion.

Ravinder Raina congratulated the women leaders and activists of BJP on passing of women



reservation bill in the Parliament. He said that the initiatives implemented by the Modi government, including the cooking gas Ujjwala Yojana, opening of Jan Dhan accounts, specialized fixed deposit schemes, the disbursement of MUDRA loans to women entrepreneurs, Mission Poshan, Mission Shakti (Integrated Women Empowerment Programme) aimed at strengthening interventions for safety, security and empowerment of women have significantly benefited women. He said that this is the real women empowerment as envisioned by PM Modi.

Priya Sethi, speaking on the occasion, said that through all these years, the Modi government has

empowered women. With this historic step, women would be empowered to make legislation and raise their power on every platform. She said that the welfare of the women remains the centre of all the Modi government schemes. PM Modi has recognized the importance of women in the society and the value of their contribution for 360-degree development. This decision is historic, and would change the political discourse and the phenomenal progress in the development of the nation and the world is about to happen. The Modi government has recognized the Women as a fortune maker and decision maker in addition to brilliant homemaker, added Priya Sethi.

## FMCG Giant Bonn Group engages Channel Partners Meet in Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Bonn Group of Industries, one of India's leading manufacturers of FMCG Food products, is focused on establishing connections and building bonds of trust and successful partnerships with its massive channel partners' network. The brand organised an exclusive channel partners' meet in Jammu. Coming together to acknowledge performance and construct plans, the event was marked by insightful discussions and guidance by leaders. Besides being appreciated for achieving sales objectives through the hygienic distribution of products, the channel partners were also celebrated for being an integral part of the company's progress journey.

The channel partners were also acknowledged for their efforts in helping the company meet its Sales objectives by ensuring the hygienic distribution of Bonn & Americana Products across the state. The top deck from Bonn Group shared its vision to build the Jammu market as one of its prime markets.

## Rohit Shastri meets Mukesh Singh, ADGP, Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Shri Kailakh jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, President presented a courtesy call to Sh. Mukesh Singh, IPS (ADGP), Jammu Zone and presented a Book "Sara Sanskrit Bodh" published by his trust.

On this occasion, trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri told him that the trust is continuously working for the promotion of Devvani Sanskrit in the state. It should be noted that Kashmir is the only state in India, where Sanskrit has been used not only as a language of instruction but also as a communication language for the longest time in the past. Here Abhinavagupta, commentator of Raghuvansh Vallabhdev, mathematician Utpal, Kshem-



The objective of the meeting was to make the channel partner feel that they are very much a part of the Bonn Group of Industries and that their growth is an integral part of the company's progress.

Dawinder Pal, the Head of Marketing at BONN Group of Industries, said, "We have a strong network in India, and we want to expand into cities and towns in Jammu. Our dedicated sales team and partners are crucial for us. Distributing our products is the most important part of our business. This year, we want to grow a lot, so it's vital that everyone understands and supports our company's goals."

"Karnal channel partners' meeting has helped

us in identifying challenges and market gaps in the Jammu market. Despite our good performance amid COVID, we want to take the game ahead by making the best of the coming quarter. The channel partners have shown a lot of keenness for our new upcoming products which would certainly help in achieving our projected growth for this financial year," said Mr. Navdeep Chadha, VP of Sales, Biscuit.

Guest of Honor: Navdeep Chadha (VP Sales), Dawinder Pal (Head of Marketing, Bonn Group), Rakesh Sharma (GM Sales), Sukhpreet S. Naz (Brand Manager Marketing), Surjeet Singh (Sr. ASM)



These Acharyas had paved the way to unite not only India, but the whole world in the thread of unity with their penance. Whereas Punyasalila Jammu-Kashmir Vasundhara is becoming extinct from Sanskrit today. Trusts are working in the promotion of the same.

On this occasion, Sh. Mukesh Singh, IPS (ADGP), Jammu Zone said that Devvani Sanskrit is the only language which ennobles us. Study and teaching of Sanskrit is very necessary to bring this land back to its ancient historical glory. At the same time, he praised the works of the trust.

## Gaurav calls on CS Mehta, discussed issues of Gher Mumkin Khad, Tourism, Industry

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Gaurav Gupta, Former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, held a meeting today with Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and submitted a memorandum of demands.

During this meeting, Mr Gupta conveyed the concerns and aspirations of the citizens of Jammu regarding various urgent issues affecting the region.

He began by acknowledging the remarkable progress witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha. The region has experienced substantial development in multiple sectors, including infrastructure, healthcare, and education, with transformative projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and economic growth.

However, Mr. Gupta highlighted pressing issues of "Gair Mumkin Khad" land issues. He emphasized the need for a swift response to protect the rights of affected individuals and communities while addressing inaccuracies in land status.



Another critical matter discussed was the timely disbursement of turnover incentives for existing industries in the region. He stressed that the delay in these incentives, due to limited funds, was causing liquidity stress for existing businesses and discouraging potential newcomers from investing in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also laid stress upon expediting ongoing tourism projects in Jammu, particularly the Artificial Lake/Taw Barrage project. He said the government has done a great job in promoting Kashmir and the need of the hour is to take adequate action to boost tourism in Jammu. He suggested the government make a tourism circuit by connecting all the places having the potential to boost tourism and hold

the tourists in the Jammu region. He reiterated the potential to boost tourism in the region, which could have far-reaching economic benefits.

Lastly, Mr Gupta expressed concern over the proposed hike in power tariffs for industrial units in the region. He requested the Chief Secretary to hold and review this move, emphasizing the importance of supporting the industrial sector's growth and competitiveness as the industrial region is in struggling mode.

The Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to the issues put forth by the former General Secretary of the Chamber and assured to take necessary steps in redressing the same.

## JSK Range police organizes "Santolia" tournament under CAP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

Range Police Hqrs. Jammu has been organized "Santolia (Seven tiles) tournament under Civic Action Programme in different Locations i.e Gujroo Nagrota, Baddu, Bilawar, Machedi, Mahanpur, Basohli, Sheetal Nagar and Bani of District Kathua on 22.09.2023 under the guidance and directions of DIG JSK Range, Jammu Sh. Shakti Kumar Pathak, IPS.

The Main Motive of the Jammu and Kashmir Police to organizing such Tournament is to encourage youth to stay away from negative influence, drugs and bad company and to maintain polar bond between police and youth, so that youth energy is channelized in better way.

This is Knockout based tournament and total 51 teams of boys and 35



teams of girls has been participated from different schools and far flung areas of district Kathua and Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final will be played tentatively on 25.09.2023 in Basohli town of District Kathua.

Total no. of 15 teams in which 08 teams of Boys and 07 team of girls are qualified for next round.

The Principals, Teachers, staff of all the schools, dignitaries and general public presented in all the locations of the tournament appreciated the welcome step of the J&K Police for organizing such

type of tournament in far flung locations of the Kathua district, they also said that this is first time such type of matches has been conducted by J&K Police.

The Whole Event is conducted under the overall supervision of the Staff officer to DIG Jammu Sh. Rajinder Singh Katoch SSP, Dy.SP Sh. Raman Kumar, ADO Rphq, Dy.SP Rphq Sh. Jatinder Singh Sambyal, SI Suresh Kumar, ASI Jasbir Singh, ASI Tarsem Lal, ASI Deepak Kumar, Sgt Suresh Sharma, Sgt Prashant Choudhary, Sgt Narinder Sharma all above CAP members of RPHQ Jammu and officers/officials of District Police Kathua deployed for the tournament played a vital role to conduct the tournament smoothly and successfully in said different locations of district Kathua.

## LJP (R) takes out candle light march to pay tributes to Kokernag martyrs

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Lok Janshakti Party Ramvilas held a candle light march in Jammu as well as in Kashmir to pay tributes to martyrs Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer of 19 RR; Major Aashish Dhonchak; DySP Humayun Bhat, son of former DIG Kashmir Gulam Hassan Bhat martyred in Kokernag terrorist encounter. The March was led by Rafiq Malik State President JKUT and accompanied by Mahraj Krishan Bhat State President Migrant Cell, Davinder Pal Singh State President Minority Cell, Subash Chander Sharma Jammu Province General Secretary, Satinder Singh District Rural President Jammu, Nirmal State General Secretary Mahilla Wing, Karan Singh, Manjeet Singh, Chanchal Singh, Rajinder, Harjeet, Satinder, Varinder, Parvinder, Jungbahadur Singh,



Parvinder Singh Bunty, Sandeep Singh, Romi Singh, Gurdeep Singh, JB Singh, Shahsi Pal. The candle March in Kashmir led by Yasir Bhat State Vice President in Kashmir.

Rafiq Malik paying rich tributes to the fallen heroes of Police and Army who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and attained martyrdom in the anti-terrorist operation at Gadool Kokernag area of district Anantnag, said their commitment and devotion towards professional obligations shall

always be remembered. He said it was a cowardly act of terrorists which would further strengthen the determination of the security forces to defeat their designs decisively. The sacrifice of our valiant forces personnel is "unforgettable" and killers "won't go unpunished". He said that Pakistan is leaving no stone unturned to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir and employing its malicious tactics day in and day out to inflict wounds on the people of J&K. He condemned the killings and expressed heartfelt sympathy with the families of slain forces personnel. Let us always remember and honor the heroes who protect our borders and ensure our safety. Their unwavering courage and sacrifice for our nation will never be forgotten. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never truly be repaid," said Malik.



## Foundation of new India laid through women's reservations bill: Rekha Mahajan

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

After the passing of 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' (Women's Reservation Bill) in the Rajya Sabha, the BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan along Prabhari District Jammu South Ayodhya Gupta, District General Secretary Pushpinder Singh, District Vice President Narinder Koki, District Secretary Pummi Choudhary Mandal President Bharat Bhushan including members of the BJP women's and local public in ward no 43 of Bahu Constituency in District Jammu South offer sweets in extravaganza after the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha during the Special session of Parliament, in New Delhi, India on Thursday, September 21, 2023.



Rekha Mahajan remarked "It's a big day for women," and do not doubt about implementation "Modi Hai Toh Mum, kin Hai". She expressed her happiness over the passage of the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' and said the Rajya Sabha passed the long-pending bill granting 33 percent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies with 215 MPs voting in favor of the bill. The Upper House of

Parliament underwent a day-long session discussing the 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill. Rekha lauds PM Modi's historical vision in favor of women reservation in India's parliament passed a landmark bill Thursday that will reserve a third of its seats in the lower house and state assemblies for women, in a major win for rights groups that have for decades campaigned for

better gender representation in politics. Rekha added "We are really happy about the passage of 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in the Parliament. She said it's a historical and visionary move and we are happy because we are half the population and had only been hearing about 33 percent reservation for so many years," the BJP District President Jammu South Rekha said.

Rekha Mahajan along with team members were seen holding 'Thank You Modi Ji' posters as they gathered in ward no 43 and expressed their happiness, sweets were also distributed among the general populace. Rekha said the Bill was awaited for 27 years. A historic era has begun. The Bill was passed in a golden era. I want to thank him for finding the solution to years of struggle she added.

## IDS, SIBA Foundation jointly conduct Free Dental Check-Up at IIT Jammu



J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Institute of Dental Sciences, Sehora Jammu recently organized a successful event in collaboration with SIBA Foundation where free dental check-ups were conducted, followed by the distribution of medicines and dental kits to all participants. The event was aimed at delivering valuable information about related products while promoting oral health among the community.

It was Inaugurated by Dean of the IIT Jammu Prof Vijayan Pallippattu, Dr Karunika and team, Founder Members of

SIBA Foundation namely Baljeet Singh and Sidharth verma, accompanied by other prominent people of the institute. Moreover, medical wing from other hospitals were also present delivering services at single point.

The event witnessed the presence of a dedicated team of healthcare professionals led by Dr. Esha Bali, Head of Public Health Dentistry, Dr. Sania, Reader at the Department of Periodontology, and Dr. Kamaljit Singh were also part of the esteemed team. Additionally, interns and final year students from the institute actively participated in providing their support.

Participants of the event received comprehensive dental check-ups, ensuring they received accurate diagnoses and guidance for maintaining good oral health. The team of doctors not only provided valuable information but also distributed free medicines and dental kits to the students, ensuring they have the necessary resources to continue their oral hygiene practices at home.

This initiative by both the organizations including SIBA Foundation reflects their commitment to promoting oral health awareness and providing accessible dental care within the community.

## Range Police HQRs dedicates Open Air Gym to Police Public School Bemina in the memory of Martyrs



J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR SEPTEMBER 22

DIG Central Kashmir Range (CKR) Sh Sujit Kumar, IPS, in presence of Smt Snigdha Chauhan, Principal Police Public School Srinagar inaugurated and dedicated an Open-Air-Gym to the wards of police martyrs of the school. The gym has been constructed under the civic action program (CAP) of Jammu and Kashmir police.

On the occasion, beside the teachers and students

of the school, Sh Aslam Chaudhary C O AP 13th battalion, Sh sajjad khaliq staff officer to DIG CKR, Sh Shah Jahan SDPO west were also present. Many of the students performed exercises on spot by using these gym items.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG, CKR Sh Sujit Kumar said that martyrs and their families are our top priority and the department is constantly taking steps towards their improvement. He added that martyrs will always remain close to our hearts

and it is a personal satisfaction to work for their betterment. The officer also expressed the hope that not only students but teachers can also benefit from this facility. He said the Jammu and Kashmir police has been earmarking a substantial amount of money for extending help to society under CAP and thanked the police department for their concerns towards police martyrs.

At the end of the function, refreshment was also served to the guests.

## BJYM commemorates ineffable legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on His Birth Anniversary

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 22 AUG

The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) marked a momentous occasion as it celebrated the birth anniversary of the esteemed Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. The event witnessed the participation of distinguished leaders, including Shri Ravinder Raina, BJP State President, and Deputy Chief Ministers Dr. Nirmal Singh, Kavinder Gupta, Former Ministers Sat Sharma, Priya Sethi alongside State President BJP Yuva Morcha, Shri Arun Prabhat.

The renowned artist Praveen Sharma conducted the stage proceedings.

Ravinder Raina, BJP State President, affirmed the party's unwavering commitment to the cause of Jammu and acknowledged the significant role played by the BJP in declaring a public holiday on the occasion of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birthday. He stated, "BJP remains steadfast in its advocacy for the people of Jammu, and the recognition of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birthday as a public holiday is a testament to our dedication to preserving his legacy and the rich cultural heritage of Jammu."

The celebration also featured a poignant tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh's visionary reign

by Dr. Nirmal Singh shed light on the impactful reforms initiated by the monarch during his rule, including the promotion of free and compulsory girl education, the support for widow remarriage, flood control measures, the creation of irrigation canals, environmental and forest protection laws, the promotion of local handicrafts, advancements in sericulture, and the protection of small traders' interests.

Dr. Singh emphasized, "Maharaja Hari Singh's reign was characterized by a commitment to progressive reforms that uplifted society and advanced the region. His visionary initiatives have left a lasting legacy that continues to shape our lives.

## Women Reservation Bill

## PM Modi gives new wings to Nari Shakti: Devender Rana

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU SEPT 22

Lauding the passage of Women Reservation Bill in both Houses of Parliament with near unanimity, senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said the path breaking initiative reflects Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi's strong political will to make something huge like this to happen, which was just a political slogan for others.

Interacting with deputations and individuals during weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters along with Smt. Veenu Khanna, BJP State Secretary, here, Mr Devender Rana said the new Parliament House will stand witness to Nari Shakti getting new wings on its opening day coinciding Ganesh Chaturthi.

He said the enthusiasm with which the entire nation, cutting political barriers, walked along the Prime Minister is a tribute to his towering and selfless leadership that always stood for good of the nation. He said the bill will pave the way for fair repre-



sentation of women in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies across the country and their larger participation in the decision making.

Devender Rana congratulated all women irrespective of their political leanings on this momentous occasion and said their proactive role in active politics will bring about harmony in the public discourse and motivate generations to work for the betterment of the nation with renewed vigour. As the times are fast changing for the country under Mr Modi, this bill is going to enhance role and contribution of women in policy making, he added.

Rana said the legislation empowering women is yet another historic milestone registered during the past over nine years under the decisive, bold and vision-

ary leadership of the Prime Minister. The entire world is watching with awe and admiration Bharat scaling new heights in every field with a sense of pride and spirit of nation first, he maintained. The deputations and the individuals raised collective and personal issues with regard to utility services, drinking water and power supply, road connectivity, civic amenities etc and sight Mr Rana's intervention in getting these resolved.

The Senior BJP leader assured that all the points raised would be taken up at appropriate levels for earnest redressal. He said the BJP is committed for the welfare of people, irrespective of religion, region, caste as per the Prime Minister's cherished agenda of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayas.

## Marengo CIMS Hospital in Ahmedabad spreads increased awareness on miracle of heart transplants, a journey from death to life

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

A change of Heart, changes everything, which is not just philosophically true, but medically as well. Heart Transplantation gives the highest hope to patients with end-stage heart failures.

Dr Dhiren recounts about a 17-year-old bubbly young girl from Amreli who suffered from COVID viral myocarditis and then suffered from heart failure with heart functioning of only 15%. She was in the hospital for almost 5 months and practically on death bed and was neither recovering with any modalities of medical treatment. Heart Transplantation was the only option possible and after the procedure, she was discharged from the hospital on the 14th day and currently, a year and a half of the transplant, she is dancing, playing, and has even started going to school and enjoying life like any other teenager. This is really and most satisfying 'Change of the Heart' for any doctor.

This became a possibility only because the family of a brain dead patient made the selfless decision to donate their loved one's organs. A young 21-year-old boy who suffered severe brain injuries in a road accident and did not survive was the donor. His all other vital organs were functioning normally and his family members chose to donate his heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, eyes, and a pair of hands, gifting eight patients a new lease of life. It is worth noting that in addition to these organs, the pancreas, small intestines, and skin can also be donated. Organ donation is not limited by age, as anyone from just a few days old to 100 years of age can potentially donate organs, depending on the condition of their organs.

Dr Dhiren Shah, Director and consultant, Cardio-Thoracic and Vas-



lar Surgery Department, Director Heart and Lung Transplant Program, Director Mechanical Circulatory Support Program, Marengo CIMS Hospital says, "Heart transplantation is no longer an experimental procedure (or a non-imp topic for exam). It is now the therapy of choice for selective patients with end-stage heart disease. It does change the quality of life dramatically for bedridden and terminally ill heart failure patients. And in the 44 heart Transplants that I have performed, I have seen this and had first-hand experience."

Brain death is an irreversible condition, which results from a severe injury to the brain and the most common reason is either accidental injury or Brain hemorrhage or stroke. All these patients are usually on ventilators and cannot breathe without a support system. Their body's vital functions will be maintained by an artificial support system and such patients can donate organs. This is a different condition from coma which is a state of deep unconsciousness because of brain injury. The brain is still functioning and the person is still able to breathe on his own without a ventilator with chances of Brain Recovery. Such patients cannot donate organs. Patients with Cancers and having critical conditions because of any infections also cannot donate organs.

Dr Dhiren Shah further explains the process,

"Once we identify that the patient seems to be brain dead, either a Neurosurgeon or a Physician will carry out various tests and lastly one Apnea test is performed to declare the patient as brain dead. After this panel of four doctors who can be a neurosurgeon/physician, intensivist, anesthetist, medical officer, and/or a registered medical officer can certify the person as brain dead after performing two Apnea Tests on the patient. The hospital then informs the SOTTO about this potential organ donor. Now SOTTO, a Government organization, will allocate the organs as per the waiting list on the government listing. Once the patient is declared brain dead, the organs need to be retrieved within 24-48 hours."

Another way of organ donation is through living donors, which is common in India, where any of the living close relatives can donate one of their kidneys or part of the Liver to their blood relatives. Organs are harvested in the operation theatre just like any other operation. There is no disfigurement of the body after the organ harvesting. After organs are harvested from the donor, the time period within which you can use organs for recipients is within four hours for the heart, 5 to 6 hours for the lungs, 12 hours for the liver, pancreas, and small intestine, and 24 hours for the Kidney.

By the gift of organ donation, a person can give a decade or even more years of normal and fruitful life to a person who was suffering from heart failure, kidney failure, or liver failure and who would not have lived even for 3-5 years otherwise. Organ donation remains the highest act of humanity>

"It is infinitely better to transplant a heart than to burn or bury a heart to be devoured by worms." -Dr Christian Bernard

## 5 grams of heroin recovered by PP Phallain Mandal Jammu

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Jammu Police achieved major success by recovering 05 grams of heroin from one accused person in the jurisdiction of PP Phallain Mandal.

A police team of PP Phallain Mandal led by SDDO South Sachit Sharma assisted by SHO PS Satwari Inspr Sumeet Sharma and I/C PP Phallain Mandal PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal while on naka duty at Doana Morh rounded up a suspected person. During search, 05 grams of heroin was recovered from the possession of accused later identified as Malkeet Singh S/o Surjeet Singh R/o Sohanjana, Tehsil Mandal Jammu.

In this regard cognizance of the case got registered at PP Phallain Mandal and accused got arrested.

Further investigation of the case is going on.

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

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

## Police Public School Bemina organises Annual Sports Day of LPD wing

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR SEPTEMBER 22

"It is said that healthy mind resides in a healthy body". With this thought today, JKPPS Srinagar organised maiden Annual Sports Day of LPD wing with great fervor and enthusiasm. Sh Sujit Kumar Singh, IPS DIGP (CKR) and Administrative Officer JKPPS Srinagar graced the event as Chief Guest. Sh Mohd Aslam Choudhary, (JKPS) SSP Nodal Officer was Guest of Honour. Others who were present are Smt Snigdha Singh principal, Sh Sajjad khaliq Bhat, SSP, Smt Sha-beera Shabnum, Head-mistress, Sh Shahjehan SDPO West Srinagar and SHO Bemina.

Event started with National Anthem and was thrown open with tricolor air balloons. Students from Nursery to 4th classes participated in different games. The day was really inspiring and filled with joy. Sh Sujit Kumar IPS applauded the efforts and stressed more events of this kind in future for good physical health of students. The event culminated with prize distribution for the winners of all the events.



## SSH youth wing holds protest demanding waving off huge electricity bills of poor people

JNEWS SERVICE  
ARNIA, SEPT 22

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K Youth President Ganesh Choudhary today led strong protest against huge electricity bills being served to poor people of border areas in Arnia demanding waving off huge power bills of poor and restoring earlier installed meters. Speaking on the occasion, Choudhary said poor quality aerial bunched cables installed at the electricity poles of Jammu have become a reason for long power cuts this summer in border areas. The cables do not take load at most of the localities and get damaged easily. "These cables get heated and burn after taking load for a couple of hours, added Choudhary. We have registered complaints of wires getting burnt from dozens of localities on a daily basis. To get rid of such complaints and



to protect these cables, the department has increased the scheduled power cuts," Choudhary said. "The department had promised us that after the installation of these cables and electronic meters, there will be no scheduled power cuts. But despite paying hefty power bills, we are facing 10-hour unscheduled power cuts," said Choudhary.

Choudhary said, "We don't understand why the government is not listening to our grievances. Despite all resentment, the government is going ahead with the move," he said. He said that they want flat rates and not the smart meter-generated

power bills. He said that given their economic condition, they won't be able to afford exorbitant bills. He said that most of the locals are either roadside vendors or labourers. He said the government should consider the poor people of the society before installation of Smart Meters.

Choudhary further said that most of the people in the area barely earn enough to feed the family. How are they supposed to pay thousands as electricity bills when their salary is meager" he said. "Despite abundant power resources, people are made to suffer. This is our electricity and we

have first right over it," he said. He demanded that the installation of Smart Meters should be halted. He said that the hike in cooking gas and other commodities has already made life difficult for them.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include District President Jammu Raj Kumar Gupta, Badi Brahmana Block President Sanjeev Kumar, District President Samba Nek Ram, Bishnah Block Vice President Shankar Singh, Arina Block Vice President Bharat Bhushan, Bishnah Chairman Vikas Kumar, Karan Singh, Bhushan Kumar, Kamal Kumar, Punjab Singh, Jhankar Singh, Mohammed Ashraf, Girish Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Kewal Kumar, Bishnah Block Vice President Pritam Singh, Madhu Bala, Sunita Devi, Sonia Choudhary, Reena Devi, Veeta Devi, Sheela Devi, Pinky Devi, Sunita Devi, Santosh Devi, Suman Devi.

## DPS Jammu Commemorates Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's Birth Anniversary with a Green Initiative

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Delhi Public School Jammu paid a heartfelt tribute today on the occasion of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birth anniversary by organizing a special plantation drive. This event was orchestrated by the School Environment Club and members of the Student Council, with the intent to honour the memory of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and champion environmental stewardship through the planting of saplings and the creation of a vertical garden on the school premises, utilizing recycled plastic bottles as innovative planters.

The program commenced with a solemn assembly, characterized by a prayer beautifully delivered by Aditi Lohia, a senior student from class XII. Jasmeen Kour, also from class XII, shared an



insightful thought of the day, followed by an emotionally stirring poem recited by Divija Mahajan from class X and Divita Gupta from class XII. Bhindeep Kour, a student from class X, took the lead in reciting the environmental pledge, while Parikash and Arshia from class XI eloquently articulated the remarkable contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji to his state and its people.

Later, the students and staff united to create a vertical garden and pledged to incorporate sustainable practices into their daily lives, with the shared goal of reducing their carbon footprint and safeguarding natural resources. The

event saw the successful planting of 100 saplings, reflecting the school community's deep-seated commitment to fostering environmental sustainability.

The esteemed management of DPS Jammu, including the honourable President-RCT, Sh. M.K Ajatshatru Singh Ji, honourable PVC-Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, and honourable Director-Sh. S.S Sodhi Ji, extended their heartfelt congratulations to the students and staff for their exceptional 'green' tribute to the great Maharaja Hari Singh Ji during his birth anniversary celebration, a profound mark of respect for his illustrious reign. They commended the

innovative use of recycled plastic bottles as planters, which reflect school's commitment to sustainability. They also extended their best wishes to all staff and students for their future endeavours.

Ruchi Chabra, Principal of DPS Jammu, lauded the enthusiasm and collective commitment demonstrated by the students and staff of DPS Jammu in making a positive impact on the environment. She encouraged the students to embrace the mantle of environmental stewardship. Ms. Meenu Gupta, Headmistress, emphasized that the saplings planted during the event symbolized the school's unwavering commitment to environmental protection. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Ekaumjit Singh and Tehzeeb Kour, Environmental Club Secretaries. The event ended with the National Anthem.

## Ritika inaugurates 'Karwachauth, Diwali Special' Exhibition

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

IZEL Salon-Spa-Aesthetic in association with Rionna D Studio House of Liggey today organized 3 days Fashion and Life Style exhibition Karwachauth and Diwali edit at Zone By the Park Hotel Rail Head Complex Jammu. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Spokesperson Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan.



Speaking on the occasion, Ritika said that exhibition is witnessing a heavy footfall of members along with their families and guests. The stalls comprised of jewelry, bangles, Traditional Suits, Khadi Suits, Kashmiri and Rajasthani items, live snacks, and music at the exhibition have been specially curated to showcase everything that might be needed by women to wear, deck up their homes and help them prepare for not only for the festival of 'Karva Chauth' but also for Diwali thus making these festivals memorable.

Ritika asserted that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi led Government has accorded top priority to women's entrepreneurship as a result of which women across the nation including the Union Territory are availing the benefits of various schemes specially launched for

them. She said that this has boosted the morale of women as these schemes ensure that they would not have to depend on others now. Ritika said women entrepreneurs can be seen everywhere in the startup-up ecosystem of India. Women too are seen leaving their high-profile jobs as well as some stepping out of the four walls of their homes and joining the pool of entrepreneurship in India.

"Women-owned businesses enterprises are playing a prominent role in society inspiring others and generating more employment opportunities in the country. However, to promote a balanced growth in the country, there is need for sustainable growth of women entrepreneurs," she said, adding that at present women are more in numbers among the beneficiaries of significant Mudra schemes. The increasing presence of women in the

business field as entrepreneurs has led to the change in the demographic characteristics of business and economic growth of the country, she added.

She lauded organizer Mrs Ruchi Khare of exhibition for the strong initiative to become a job provider instead of a job seeker thus generating employment avenues, Ritika appealed to the women of J&K to come forward and establish their own ventures under the schemes rolled out by the Modi Government.

She said that Government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the cause of women's empowerment. From Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao to improved health and education facilities and a range of initiatives to improve both their living conditions and their long-term prospects and the Government's actions have touched a chord with the nation's women, she asserted.

## BJP Mahila Morcha to play vital role in upcoming polls in J&K: Kavinder



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, while asserting that Women Reservation Bill passed by the Parliament will result in real empowerment of women across the nation, said that the BJP Mahila Mocha, the Women's Wing of the party, has a very vital role to play in the upcoming polls.

He expressed this while addressing the workers and activists of Mahila Morcha during a programme organised by Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra in the presence of her General Secretaries Neha Mahajan and Reema Padha. Program was held at the party headquarters here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder said that Mahila Morcha has already been playing a vital role in the BJP organization and its role has assumed greater significance in today's scenario with the coming into existence of the Women's Reservation law. He said that as of today when the opposition parties under INDIA Alliance are out to mislead the people on the unprecedented achievements of the BJP Govt, it is the responsibility of the Morcha activists to counter such moves of opposition parties with full might under a well planned strategy.

The senior BJP leader said that in this regard

the Morcha activists must equip themselves with full-fledged knowledge about the working of party its policies and programmes and accordingly formulate the strategies in the respective areas giving due credence to the local factors also. He said that after feeling desperate on seeing no scope of returning to power the opposition parties under the banner of I.N.D.I Alliance have been resorting to the cheap practices never ever witnessed in the Indian democracy. He said therefore it becomes inevitable for the Mahila Morcha activists to remain vigilant and be present among the people at the grass roots level to counter the misdeeds of disgruntled opposition.

Kavinder Gupta asserted that the Mahila Morcha will not play significant role in upcoming ULP polls only but even in the J&K Assembly polls whenever held as well as the 2024 Parliamentary elections. He expressed happiness over the fact that the new Lok Sabha will have a substantial number of women MPs as a result of the historic measure of thirty three percent reservation to women.

Among those who were present in the meeting include Ankush Gupta, Neeraj Lucky Puri,

Anita Gandotra, Suman Raina, Sunita Gupta, Poonam Gupta, Indu Puri, Sneha Lata, Sarojini, Karuna Chetri, Neelam Nargotra, Veena Rathore, Reeta Kotwal, Aarti Koul.

## Er Khatana hails Women reservation bill

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEP 22

BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has congratulated the Matrishakti on passage of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam and said that it would go a long way to empower women in India and is in line with the Bharatiya Janata Party's commitment to remove gender discrimination. He said that BJP govt during its nine years

has opened new vistas for female population and they are now deployed in combat duties in armed forces, an area which was a taboo upto now. He said that BJP-govt introduced Matru Vandana Yojana, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers received cash incentive directly in their bank accounts. He said that the government also put special focus on controlling the maternal mortality rate.

## GDCW Kathua organizes cleanliness drive in Dreamland Park, Kathua



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

In a significant contribution to the ongoing activities of Gandhi Jayanti, a noteworthy cleanliness drive was organized in Dreamland Park, Kathua, under the Swachhta Abhiyan (Cleanliness Campaign) by the National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) Units of Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Kathua, on September 22, 2023. This event, which was dedicated to commemorating the principles and values of Mahatma Gandhi, was conducted under the able leadership of Dr. Savi

Behl, Principal of Government Degree College for Women, Kathua. The primary objective of this initiative was to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and the spirit of community service, aligning seamlessly with the ideals and philosophies cherished by the Father of the Nation. The tasks carried out during the cleanliness drive included the diligent picking up of litter and the thorough sweeping of pathways within the park.

Smt. Veena Sharma, representing the Flowery Culture Department and serving as Incharge of Dreamland Park, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated

volunteers and Cadets who participated wholeheartedly in this event. She emphasized the profound connection between Gandhi's teachings and the vital importance of maintaining public spaces. She further encouraged the community to perpetuate the practice of cleanliness and hygiene as a fitting tribute to the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

The entire event was organized and supervised by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NCC Programme Officer, Prof. Pallavi (Nodal Officer of Shikshit Bharat Club) and Dr. Anupam Manuhaar, ensuring its smooth execution and success.

## Shiv Sena, SSP demand a retired army general as LG, local cadre on top, important posts

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sanik Samaj Party J&K unit expressed their anguish and concern about the prevalent condition in Jammu, highlighting the indifference and apathy of government towards people, attitude of bureaucrats and their management and unprecedented escalation in the militancy in both the regions of JKUT.

During a press conference held at Jammu Press Club today, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni and Sainik Samaj Party chief Colonel S.S. Pathania paid heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who made supreme sacrifice in the recent encounters of Rajouri and Kokernag.

Sahni said in his address that for the last 35 years we have been burning in the flame of terrorism. After Pulwama, perhaps the biggest terrorist attack was in Kokernag of Kashmir, in which Colonel, Major, DSP (J&K police) were martyred. He said that in the last five years, there were around 1000 ter-



rorist attacks in which around 200 soldiers were martyred, although our security forces gave a befitting reply to terrorism and around 800 terrorists were sent to hell. He said that the target, killing of comman man and martyrdom of soldiers continues, but it is unfortunate that no major change is being seen at the top level along with fixing any accountability.

Whereas Colonel Pathania said that the Central Government probably does not have any concrete roadmap for restoration of peace and betterment in the state.

Jammu and Kashmir, which has 90 assembly seats and 20 districts, is being run by the Lieutenant Governor along with only one non-local advisor. At the same time, the public is helpless, disappointed and angry due to administrative indifference towards public issues.

The arbitrariness of the bureaucracy and lack of communication with the public is at its worst. The main reason for which is the appointment of non-local officers on top and important positions. They have no doubt on the ability of non-local officers.

Both the leaders jointly asked the central government to nominate a retired Army general as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on the lines of Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, appoint a retired army officer as security advisor in the interim period, give priority to the appointments of local officers on top and important posts in police and administration. So that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir can be made truly better and people friendly. On this occasion Meenakshi Chibber, Balwant Singh, Varinder Baloria, Amrik Singh, Sunil Dutt were present.

## GDC Udhampur holds seminar "Relevance of Gandhi: Truth and Non-Violence"

JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, SEPT 22

Department of Philosophy under the able guidance of Principal, Professor Anjali Mahajan organised Seminar on the topic "Relevance of Gandhi: Truth and Non-Violence," here today at college campus.

The program was motivated by Literary club of the college under the con-nership of Dr.Mool Raj, HOD Urdu, in the presence of committee members and faculty of the college. The whole idea is being exercised under the aegis of Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations 2023. A formal welcome note was presented by Sanjay Kumar, HOD Philosophy, GCW Udhampur with an introduction of the topic and life of Mahatma Gandhi. He stressed upon the inclusivity of National Education Policy (NEP) with WARDHA scheme of Education, pro-



posed by Mahatma Gandhi in 1937 in Wardha. Also, he stressed Gandhi's idea of making skill-based education at elementary level in mother tongue, a driving force behind National Education Policy (NEP).

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Yash Paul, HOD History threw light on the basic themes on which Gandhiji has worked and practiced in his life; Truth, non-violence and celibacy.

Afterwards, in the concluding remark Dr.Mool Raj, Convener Literary Club highlighted the practical part of Gandhi's life. Particularly, he emphasised on the idea of doing and not

only restricting ideas to the level of theory. Further, sole theorizing would lead us nowhere but practice may lead us to virtuous life which intern might be an example for the world. Also, five students participated in the Seminar namely Ms. Ritika Karthol, Ms. Surbhi, Ms. Shalu Devi, Ms. Kashish Mahajan, Ms. Pragyan Raina & Ms. Shruti Sharma participated in the event. All of them threw light on the topic and highlighted significant aspects of Gandhi's life. Among others who graced the occasion by their presence were Dr. Meena Gupta, Dr. Preeti Sharma, Dr. Satish and Dr. Ashraf.



## District Ramban lifts U-14 Leather Ball Cricket Trophy



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, SEPT 22

District Ramban lifted the u-14 year Leather ball cricket trophy at Mini Sports Ground Chadwal in the Inter District Division level Cricket tournament to defeat the District Jammu while batting first, Jammu scored 97 runs but District Ramban scored 98 runs and got victory.

The final match was inaugurated by Sarpanch Panchayat Chadwal Semant Sharma. Sarpanch gave their best wishes to the players in the final.

Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K UT organised the Inter District Division level u-14 year Leather ball cricket tournament on the guide-

lines of the Joint Director Suram Chand Sharma and Deputy Director Jatinder Kumar Mishra.

Under the overall supervision of DYSSO Kathua Sunil Kumar along with activities in charge. DYSSO Kathua Sunil Kumar distributed the trophy to the Winner as well as Runner up team.

Finally DYSSO Kathua appreciated the Medical staff, Police Persons, Management Committee, Mess Committee, Accommodation Committee, Press and Publicity Committee, Record Committee and especially Ground and technical Committee for Best Cooperation and gave the best wishes to the selected players for upcoming Inter Division UT level tournament.

## Modi govt policies ensured development on ground level: Sat Sharma



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 12

Sat Sharma, former BJP president and former Minister, accompanied by Ward 40 JMC councillor Neelam Nargotra, today initiated the work for laying of Paver tiles in the Bharat Nagar area of the ward.

J&K BJP Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and Mandal President Keshav Chopra along with Yashpal Shivgotra, Arun Dubey, Rahul Nargotra, Parveen Ghai, Paramjeet, Manohar Lal Gupta, Abhishek Sharma, Vikas Kumar, Sonali Gupta, JP Sharma, Devinder Singh Jamwal, Anil Gupta, M.L. Raina, Sardar Jaswant Singh, Jugal Kishore Gupta, R.L. Koul, Anil Bhat, and others were also present.

Sat Sharma, initiating the Paver Tile laying work, said that being the low-lying area in the lanes, the earlier macadamization in the lanes was damaged, requiring major repairs, and now for the long-term solution to the issue, the local Councillor Neelam Nargotra made efforts for the Paver Tile here. This work will give local people a big respite from the problems being faced.

"Buoyant development policies in the nation with proactive strategies for the welfare of common masses have been the

major achievements of the Modi government, who are equally determined to strengthen the nation internally and globally with active diplomacy and cultural projection. Policies enacted by the Modi government have ensured development on the ground level as per the expectations of people", said Sat Sharma.

Neelam Nargotra said that many major development works in the Ward have been completed in the previous years. She said that, for the first time, the Corporation has received such liberal funding under the Modi government and she is sure that soon all the urgent works in Ward 40 would be completed.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that these nine years of Modi government have been dedicated to bring about development which is inclusive, progressive, and sustainable. PM Modi has brought the politics of development - Vikasvaad - into the mainstream, making it the focal point around which political discourse and policy action now revolves.

Keshav Chopra praised the Ward Councillor for her endeavours to provide the best facilities to the ward residents and insisted that she is taking forward the development mission of the Prime Minister in every nook and corner.

## DDC Reasi clears rent assessment cases

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, SEPTEMBER 22

A meeting of District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was convened today at Reasi under the chairpersonship of District Development Commissioner, Babila Rakwal.

On the occasion, the DDC held a detailed discussion with officers of different departments functioning from rented accommodations. The Committee approved 19 rent cases pertaining to various government departments.

## Will revoke Property Tax if voted to power in ULBs': Babu Rampaul

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir are being deprived of their democratic and constitutional right as the Centre is shying away from holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir". It was said by Babu Rampaul former minister and President Central Zone (Jammu-Samba-Kathua), JKNC while addressing the meeting at old Janipur in Jammu district.

The meeting was organized by Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Jammu) which was attended by Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Surjit Kumar, Ashok Tyagi, BD Dalotra, Charan Dass, Rajinder Kumar, Arjun Tyagi and others.

While addressing the meeting Babu Rampaul said that the last election was held in 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir and since then no election has been conducted depriving people of their constitutional and democratic rights. He said that India was called as mother of democracy but keeping people without elections for long is the murder of democracy and urged upon the Centre to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir without any delay.

He further said that no democracy can survive without elections as popular government is the soul and people are its body. "The elections in Jammu and Kashmir



had been conducted in the worst situations in the past and one cannot digest the excuse of the Centre that the situation is not conducive for elections", Rampaul added.

Former Minister criticized the stoppage of 'Darbar Move' practice as immoral by the government because it has adversely affected the business community. "The business community, small traders and commoners are all suffering due to policy paralysis and deep rooted corruption at all levels. "Unemployment among youth has also impacted the life of the educated youth who are concerned about their career for which their parents are in a doldrums and deeply worried about their children", he added.

Lauding the pro-people work done during the NC rule, he said that his party leadership knew the ground realities and framed the policies in such a way that people of J&K irrespective of region, religion, caste and creed benefited equally.

While welcoming the new entrants into the party fold Babu Rampaul said that the party will get a new energy and momen-

tum in spreading the message of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, party president and vice president respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma said that only the youth can bring visible change and they should actively work in the upcoming ULB elections, elect NC candidates and bring them forward for equitable development and progress of Jammu City. Hence everyone should join hands together to do good for Jammu City by ensuring victory of JKNC candidates. Dr Vikas emphasized that whether it is meter or property tax, we will not allow it to be imposed as we will do the work for the overall interest of the public, he added.

Those who joined the National Conference include Rajinder Kumar, Gulshan Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Shamsher Singh, Sanjeev Kumar, Deep Kumar, Shiva Kumar, Sonu Singh, Pawan Sharma, Gulshan Kumar, Shammi Kumar, Avinash Kumar, Rajat Kumar, Rinku Kumar, Shammi kumar, Kewal Krishan, Kaka Ram, Monik Kumar, Deepak Sharma, Shanga Ram and others.

## NSS SMVDU organized Fit India Freedom Run



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

NSS SMVDU organized "Fit India Freedom Run" under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav'. The motive of the run was to make students aware about the efforts of our freedom fighters. Nearly 150 students participated in the said event. The event was held in the university ground in the morning hours. All the participants also sang

"Saare Jahaan se Accha Hindostan Hamaara" at the end of the Run. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar appreciated the efforts of all volunteers for organizing the event and informed that more such runs will be planned on regular basis. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated NSS volunteers for successfully organizing the event. The entire event was successfully coordinated by NSS volunteers.

## DC Reasi chairs NCORD meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, SEPTEMBER 22

A meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was held today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal in the video conference hall of DC Office in order to discuss the comprehensive strategy to counter the menace of drug abuse in the District.

The DM reviewed the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling from the Reasi District.

At the outset, the DM took a detailed appraisal from concerned members of NCORD Committee regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, areas of concern, hot spots of

drug abuse in the District. In a threadbare discussion, DM took feedback from all the nodal officers. DDNodal officer Bhomag block Mohd. Anwar Banday PO Poshan stated that eight panchayats within block Bhomag have been declared as drug free panchayats. She exhorted upon other designated nodal officers of the blocks to regularly visit their respective allotted blocks and take feedback from all the stakeholders of the society and follow the necessary parameters for declaring the panchayats as Nasha Mukta.

The DM also laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns at Schools and Colleges levels to sensitize students and common masses about ill effects of drugs as well as encouraging healthy activities and hobbies to discourage drug abuse.

## GGZSMDC Reasi organises Declamation competition on "Truth and Non-violence"

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, SEPTEMBER 22

Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College, Reasi has organized an Intra-College Declamation Competition on Gandhian ideas of "Truth and Non-violence" in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, College Cultural/Literary Activities Committee and National Service (NSS) Unit in which more 20 Speakers expressed their views on the topic.

The competition was organized as a part of the upcoming Gandhi Jayanti under the direction of Nodal Principal, Jammu (Higher Education Department). In the competition, Pallavi Sharma student of B.A. Hons. Political Science secured the first position while Samreen Malik, a student of B.A. Semester 5th remained at the second spot. Suhani Sangam, a student from B.A. Semester 3rd secured third position in the competition. The competition winners will participate in the District Level Competition to be organized by the college on the 26th of September, 2023 in which all the Degree colleges of the district are invited.

The district-level competition winners will further participate in the divisional-level competition to be organized by the Nodal Principal's Office at Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu on 30th of September, 2023. Prof. Ajay Kumar, H.O.D. Political Science, Prof. Norin Akhtar, H.O.D. English, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed and Dr. Rameez played the part of judges.

## USFBL leads the way with Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal Using UPI on ATMs

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited ("USFBL" or the "Bank"), today announced the launch of an innovative service, set to revolutionise cash withdrawal experiences. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank is dedicated to offering process-centric, technology-driven, and customer-oriented services that lead to a reliable, scalable, and sustainable institution, driving socio-economic change.

The Bank is pleased to announce the launch of Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) service, that utilises UPI (Unified Payments Interface) on its ATM networks. This is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's directive in May 2022, urging all banks to provide Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) options at their ATMs, and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank has taken the lead in fulfilling this mandate. The ICCW service empowers bank customers who are active on UPI to conveniently withdraw cash from Utkarsh Small Finance Bank ATMs designated for UPI-ATM - ICCW transactions, all without the need for a physi-

cal debit card.

Notably, this ground-breaking service extends its convenience not only to Utkarsh Small Finance Bank customers but also to customers of other Banks who employ BHIM Utkarsh, BHIM UPI, or any other ICCW-enabled UPI application on their mobile devices. It's an exciting development that underscores our commitment to enhancing customer experiences.

Mr. Govind Singh, Managing Director of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, commented, "This represents a significant improvement, shifting from using an UPI app on a mobile phone to accessing an ATM, without the need for any physical cards. It epitomises next-generation banking solutions, delivering utmost convenience to our valued consumers.

He further added, "Utkarsh Small Finance Bank continues to lead the way in banking innovation, making every day financial transactions more accessible, secure, and convenient for our valued customers. We look forward to a future where ICCW becomes a cornerstone of modern banking, ushering in a new era of financial convenience."

## 9-day training for women entrepreneurs concludes at KU

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEPT 22

A nine-day training programme for women entrepreneurs jointly organised by the Department of Social Work, Kashmir University (KU) and Usha International through its Usha Silai School (USS) initiative concluded with a valedictory ceremony held at the Institute of Technology (IoT), University of Kashmir, Zakura Campus on Friday.

The programme marked the culmination of the nine days of training for women entrepreneurs under the Silai Schools Project by Usha International, an organisation dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs - an initiative launched in Kashmir in 2018.

Vice Chancellor, KU, Prof Nilofer Khan presided over the function.

In her address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan emphasised that grassroots-level programmes like this are pivotal for the genuine empowerment of women.

"Women equipped with craft skills can not only secure a sustainable livelihood but also serve as

agents of change within their communities by training other women in their households and neighbourhoods," she said.

The vice chancellor highlighted the broader significance of the programme beyond stitching, sewing, cutting, and tailoring, emphasising its role in the psychological empowerment of women.

She underscored the potential for the trainees to become resource persons capable of training women in other districts in the future.

Registrar, KU, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir noted the alignment of such initiatives with the National Education Policy-2020's focus on skill development and self-reliance for women.

He emphasised the duty of academic, corporate and other institutions to actively participate in such empowerment initiatives as part of their social responsibility. Head, Department of Social Work, Dr Shazia Manzoor described the training programme as an excellent opportunity for young women to acquire skills that empower them both economically and psychologically. Project Manager at Usha Interna-

tional, Shaysta Ayoub highlighted the organisation's collaborative efforts with the university in empowering women while sharing some success stories of women trained through Silai Schools, who had showcased their products at various exhibitions and fashion shows.

The trainees shared their journeys, detailing how the Kashmir University and Silai Schools helped them not only in earning a living but also promoting their skills beyond Jammu and Kashmir and later received certificates. The Vice Chancellor also distributed free sewing machines among the trainees.

Faculty at the Department of Social Work, KU, Dr Javid Rashid conducted the proceedings of the event. Stressing on gearing up for the upcoming NAAC visit, post the valedictory ceremony, Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan accompanied by Registrar, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir, Director, IoT, Zakura, Prof Gowhar Vakeel and other senior functionaries and escorted by the university's proctorial wing later took stock of the facilities and infrastructure available at the Zakura campus.

## MC Kishtwar promotes cleanliness, healthcare under Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 22

To promote cleanliness and well-being in the community, the Municipal Council Kishtwar, on the direction of Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav, and under the guidance of Chairman Municipal Council, Sajjad Najjar, and the vigilant supervision of EO Municipal Council, Ninad Sen, conducted an extensive Cleanliness Drive across various wards and public spaces. This initiative was carried out as part of the Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign.

The dedicated team of the Municipal Council worked tirelessly to ensure that the surroundings of the town remained pristine and hygienic. Their efforts extended to the premises of the revered Jamia Masjid Kishtwar, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining a clean environment for all residents and visitors.

## OLX AUTOS opens its flagship franchisee store "Best Price Cars" at Greater Kailash, Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 22

The store was inaugurated by OLX AUTOS Cluster Head North- Mr Ritesh Chawla and Regional Sales Head Mr Rajan H Kanojain the presence of CEO Abhishek Kotwal, Director Mr Vikram Mahajan and Director Mr Satyam Gupta.

Ritesh said, "With a mission to create an efficient ecosystem of pre-owned cars in Jammu, we are launching our Flagship franchise Store - "Best Price Cars". The

mission is to cater to the ever-growing demands of organize retail of pre-owned cars in J&K. Best Price cars will work collaboratively with OLX to Provide best Quality cars at best Prices to its customers."

Customers will have access to a larger inventory of verified cars, avail extended warranty services, roadside assistance, and insurance on their pre-owned car purchases. This Store will also be able to provide finance up to 90% to its customer at attractive rate of interest.



## Gandhi Jayanti

## District Kishtwar flags in Shanti Yatra 2023

J NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 22

District Kishtwar today welcomed the Shanti Yatra and "Shanti Chinh" Symbol of the Directorate of School Education (DSE) Jammu here at an event hosted by School Education Department Kishtwar here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Additional District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, Sham Lal; ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; DPO, Sunil Bhutyal; SDM Paddar, Arun Kumar Badyal and Chief Education Officer, Prehlad Bhagat besides ZEO Ranveer Singh Chouhan, ZIC among others were present.

Scores of students from government and private schools, and staff of different departments participated enthusiastically as the Yatra made its way through the district.

The event was organized to mark the 154th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, celebrated as Gandhi Mahotsav across the Union Territory. The Shanti Yatra which started from District Poonch after passing different districts of Jammu Division, reached Kishtwar the day, aims to propagate Mahatma



Gandhi's message, particularly emphasizing his philosophy of truth and non-violence. In a symbolic gesture, the Shanti Chinh was received yesterday evening from the District Incharge Cultural Cell (School Education Department) Doda at Thathi Model check Nakah by CEO Prehlad Bhagat, ZEO Drabshalla, Tehsildar Drabshalla, DICC Kishtwar, ZICC Kishtwar, along with students and staff of HS Drabshalla. As the Shanti Yatra made its way from Thathi to Kishtwar, it was welcomed by students and staff of various schools at MS Kandani and MS Hasti enroute, eventually being handed over to the ZEO Kishtwar at GMS Malipeth whereat the Shanti Chinh was warmly received by President Municipal Council Kishtwar Sajjad Ahmed Najjar along with councilors and prominent persons where it paused for the night. Today, the Shanti Yatra, accompanied by the Shanti Chinh, continued its journey up to DC office Kishtwar, passing from

expressed that the Shanti Yatra aims to popularize Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of peace and universal brotherhood among students and a necessity in today's world. He urged students and the public to incorporate Gandhi ji's teachings into their personal and social lives as a true tribute to his birth anniversary.

ADDC commended the Education department for organizing the Shanti Yatra. Speaking on the occasion, CEO Kishtwar welcomed the participants and dignitaries who made this Yatra in the district. He emphasized the program's significance in educating students and the masses besides giving insightful views about the Father of the Nation's teachings.

The education department has planned a series of activities under this program, he informed.

It is worth noting that the Shanti Yatra, along with the Shanti Chinh, will return to Doda tomorrow and after passing various other districts, the yatra will culminate at Poonch on 2nd October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The proceedings of the program was efficiently hosted by DICC Kishtwar Awani sen.

## Comm Secy visits Doda; reviews RDD schemes, inspects ongoing works, assets under SBM-G

J NEWS SERVICE

DODA, SEPTEMBER 22

Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur, today visited Doda and reviewed progress on implementation of ongoing schemes of the department during an exclusive meeting.

She met with the District Development Council and had a detailed discussion on various development schemes besides taking stock of their issues.

DDC Councillors and BDC Chairpersons voiced their genuine issues and sought redressal of the same at the earliest. They raised various issues pertaining to liabilities under MGNREGA, left out genuine beneficiaries for PMAY-G and AWAS Plus houses, Human Resource status of the district including shortage of BDOs and JEs, enhancement in honorarium of GRSS, construction of BDC office buildings in blocks, UT Capex Budget, PMAY (G), MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission (G), Capex Budget, and other local matters.

Commissioner Secretary said that the department is following strict financial management system with utmost transparency through online mechanisms and digital services. All the public grievances are being redressed in a swift and prompt manner extending much relief to common masses, she added.

While replying to certain complaints against some officials by the Councillors, she informed that the department has zero tolerance against corruption and corrupt officials. She made it clear that it is being ensured that detailed inquiry is conducted against any complaint of corruption or misappropriation with immediate disciplinary action against the erring official.



During the meeting, Mandeep Kaur said that about 500 new panchayats have been sanctioned by the government. She added that the department will take stern action against poor performing districts and the blocks. She asked the officials to take the PRIs on board while taking up developmental activities in their jurisdiction.

She said that the Panchayati Raj Institution is in continuous evolution in the UT, and the government is committed towards strengthening the democracy at the grassroots level.

Among others the meeting was attended by Chairman, District Development Council, Dhyanter Singh Kotwal, Vice Chairperson DDC, Sangeeta Rani, BDC Chairpersons, DDC Councillors, Additional District Development Commissioner (CEO), Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Block Development Officers and other concerned officials.

Later, Commissioner Secretary along with District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, reviewed implementation of RDD schemes in the district in another meeting held with the RDD officers. She discussed in detail the availability of block wise funds and their utilization, so far.

The meeting discussed in detail establishment of Amrit Sarovars, creation of Shila Phalakam, PD generation and time pay-

ment under MGNREGA, PMAY-G, AWAS Plus, UT Capex, ADHAAR seeding, construction of DDC and BDC offices, allotment of land to landless PMAY beneficiaries, ODF Plus, SBM, door to door waste collection, composite pits, 14th FC, District Capex budget, IWMP, UMEED and Human Resource status of RDD in the district.

Commissioner Secretary also inspected various ongoing works and assets created under different schemes and gave immediate directions to the RDD Officials to maintain the assets for their sustainable use in future also.

She appreciated the efforts of district administration and RDD Doda for meeting up the targets in time under each parameter, maintaining the quality and creating the assets for sustainable development of the district.

She instructed the officers to follow proper procedure while implementing the schemes on ground so that development works and disbursement of payments are not hampered on this account. She asked for consultation with all the BDCs, DDCs and PRIs for identification and execution of works in their respective areas.

She emphasized completion of approved works within stipulated time, ensuring high quality standards. She directed the officers for uploading details of completed works on the departmental portal for information of the concerned.

## Students' induction program concludes at GCET Jammu

J NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

Two week students Induction Program for B.Tech first year students, 2023 batch, organized by the students induction program cell, GCET Jammu culminated today.

The program was organized under the Patronage of Prof. (Dr) Sameru Sharma, Principal, GCET Jammu.

On this occasion, Prof. (Dr) Sameru Sharma appreciated students for their enthusiastic participation in the induction programme for their inclusive development of personality. She further stated that it was designed not only to guide students for various job prospects but also to explore their latest talent and creativity.

The closing address was given by Prof. (Dr) Anita Brar, Coordinator for Student Induction program wherein she highlighted the real objective of the

programme to make students inquisitive learner, socially conscious, ethically and morally upright individuals. She assured students that the knowledge and exposure they got during the two week induction programme will be beneficial for their overall career and personality development of life.

The program was followed by lectures and interactive sessions by experts and eminent speakers from reputed institutes/ companies across the country. Several questions and queries were raised by the students during the interactive session and were answered amicably by the experts. All the sessions were interactive, motivating and insightful. Interactive sessions on "Mind Management" by Prabha Salathia, Er. Ritvik Mahajan and "Skills for personality enhancement" was given by Dr. Neena Gupta Vij from Central

University Jammu which were highly applauded by the students.

An energetic session by Sandeep Sharma & Sanjeev Kumar from Jammu University on "Yog" was well received which stimulated the minds of students for a healthy and stress free life. Enlightening sessions on "Personality Development through sports and International peace" were shared by Brij Bala and Prof. Ashaq Raza. Immediate attention grabber and motivational lectures on "A successful entrepreneur, career opportunities and the journey from campus to corporate" were shared by Er. K.R. Suri, Dr. Ankush Anand, Divya Sharma and Er. Nahida Malik. "Goal setting and time management" by Akshita Sharma and Sukhmani Paul Kour inspired students to set their goals which is self desired and self motivated. The highly insightful and value based The presenta-

tion was given by Rajinder Kotwal and Manu Rajput on "value education and universal human values" which enriched students with Indian ideological belief. Faculty from Host College also holds sessions on various topics like "Counselling and T&P activity" and UHV by Dr. Ajay Abrol, Dr. Dina Nath, Er. Sanjeev Gupta and Er. Manoj Gupta where as Dr. Sarbjit Singh talked about "Innovative technology" followed by a session on "Emerging trends in cyber security and engineering" by Er. Neeraj Dubey. All the sessions were appreciated by the students. Certificates were given to all the eminent speakers, student coordinators and to winners of different events.

Beside this, other events like poster making, slogan writing, rangoli and sports activities were also a part of the programme. The plantation drive was organized in the gracious

presence of principal Prof. (Dr) Sameru Sharma and was witnessed by Heads of different departments, Coordinator Induction programme, Committee members, Staff members and the students. During the valedictory function, Sohan Lal Sharma, Registrar GCET addressed the students and wished them for their congenial and successful stay in the campus. The program was attended by around 170 students. The organizing team comprised of Shammi Kumar, Dr. Raman Gupta, Dr. Heera Saini, Dr. Neerupama, Altaf Ahmad, Er. Karan Kapoor, Er. Bharat Bushan, Er. Neeraj Gupta, Er. Jaswinder Singh, Er. Meenakshi, Er. Ajay Attri, Balbir Singh, Om Prakash and students from 3rd, 5th & 7th Semester Made a remarkable contribution to make the programme a great success. Altaf Ahmad, Asstt. Professor presented a formal vote of thanks.

with a heartfelt vote of thanks presented by the College Principal Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat. She expressed gratitude to the talented artists, dedicated support staff, and officials from JKAACL, with special recognition for Bharat Singh, Secretary of JKAACL, for orchestrating such a culturally enriching event within the walls of their esteemed institution. She underscored the significance of such programs in fostering a deep connection to one's roots and preserving the invaluable cultural heritage of the region.

The college also witnessed dance performances by students which were as eclectic as Classical Saraswati Vandana, Dogri, Pahadi, Haryana, Laavni etc., by Shruti Jasrotia, Khushi, Tamanna, Riya, Taniya Rajput, Poonam, Reetu, Radha, Mitani and more, who were equally supported by Dr. Sukriti Sharma, Dr. Jagmeet Kaur, Aastha Sharma and Sanya from the College. The programme was ably conducted by Bindiya Raina Tikku.

## GDC Akhnoor, J&amp;K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages host one day folk festival

J NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

Government Degree College, Akhnoor resonated with the vibrant beats and melodies of Jammu and Kashmir's rich folk traditions as it hosted a remarkable Folk Festival organized by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL). The event, held with the intention to preserve and showcase the vanishing vernacular culture of the Jammu region, witnessed an enthusiastic participation of students and staff members.

The Event was graced by Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, the College Principal, Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary, JKAACL, the visionary behind these cultural initiatives, Dr. Shah Nawaz, Editor cum Cultural Officer, Anil Tickoo, ACO, as well as the College Cultural Committee headed by Dr. Sandhya.

Bharat Singh extended a warm welcome to the students and staff, he stressed on the importance of Cultural activities in student life.



He said that these programmes aim to revive the rich and vanishing vernacular culture of Jammu region. The youth, in multitude, of the region are highly encouraged to participate in these programmes to witness the grandeur of the regional heritage.

The Folk Festival showcased various folk forms, including Geetru, Karikaan, and Dogri Folk songs, each shedding light on the unique traditions of the region. Geetru, presented by Vijay Kumar Ratta & Group, is a captivating dance-song originating from the Dogra-Pahari region of Jammu. It is traditionally performed during festivals, feasts, and weddings by rural folk parties. The performance featured both boys

and girls donning traditional costumes, adding to the authenticity of the presentation.

The mesmerizing Dogri Folk dances, such as "Jagarna" performed by the Radhika dance group captivated the audience with their ritualistic and rhythmic steps.

Renowned singers Uttam Singh, Vanshika Jaral and Ravi Raghuvanshi graced the stage with their melodious voices, presenting enchanting Dogri Folk songs. Their performance was impeccably supported by accomplished musicians, including Rakesh Jasotra on the flute, Ashish on the dholak, Sunil Sharma on the synth, and Ripan on the Octapad. The grand event concluded

## J&amp;K Bank dedicates Cash Recycler Machine to public at Mahanpur Branch



J NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

In line with its policy to enhance ease-of-banking, J&K Bank has dedicated a Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) for the public at its Branch Mahanpur in District Kathua.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated the touchpoint in presence of Cluster Head Vinay Gupta, Branch Manager Vishwanath Bhardwaj, prominent citizens of the area besides a good gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens, local businessmen and other officials of the bank.

Speaking on the occasion, the Zonal Head said, "We feel pleased to dedicate a new CRM for people of the area. Now the customers can deposit, withdraw cash as per their

need and convenience even after the banking hours and on holidays."

Urging people of the area to avail various schemes of the bank, he said, "We are committed to empower people by providing them with opportunities to start their own business ventures thereby contributing to the economic upliftment of society."

He instructed the branch staff to sensitize the locals about digital delivery channels rolled out by the bank besides various schemes tailored to meet their financial needs.

After the inauguration, he held a detailed interaction with the customers and other participants, who expressed their gratitude for various banking and financial facilities provided to them by the Bank.

## Arunachal Pradesh's Agriculture Minister visits IIKSTC

Dussoo, Pampore

J NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22

Minister for Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Arunachal Pradesh, Taggi Taki, along with team of Agriculture Officers today visited India International Trade Centre (IIKSTC) Dussoo, Pampore.

He visited different sections of IIKSTC where he along with the team was briefed about grading, labelling, packing, drying, processing, marketing and related things available at the centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture Minister said that the purpose of their visit to IIKSTC is to learn basic techniques and explore possibilities for introduction of saffron in AP besides exposing the accompanying offices to different technical interventions in saffron production, protection and post harvest management.

He appreciated the officers and officials of IIKSTC for their role and commitment towards development of saffron sector. He said this part of our country produces world's best quality saffron.