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Amit Shah chairs J&K BJP Core group meet in Delhi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday chaired a core group meeting on Jammu and Kashmir's BJP unit at party headquarters in New Delhi and directed party men to further strengthen the party at the booth level. He also asked party leaders to rope in prominent personalities into the party fold and to focus on "youth power."

Sources privy to the meeting told the news agency that top Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders including its National President J P Nadda and other leaders from J&K unit, which include its president Ravinder Raina, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul and



others.

The meeting started at 3:00 PM at party headquarters in New Delhi where discussion was made on the upcoming elections. The meeting has its significance as the Urban Local Body (ULB), Panchayat and Lok Sabha elections are on cards.

Sources said that the feedback was received from J&K leaders with regard to the ground situ-

ation.

However, Ashok Koul while talking to KNO said that it was an organizational meeting wherein the upcoming Lok Sabha polls were discussed.

"The leadership directed the J&K unit to gear up and strengthen the party at grassroots level," Koul said, adding that no other discussion took place during the meeting.

Sources said that the party's J&K unit was directed to start a door to door campaign and ensure the lotus blooms across J&K in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

However, Koul said that the ULB and Panchayat polls were not discussed in the meeting. A senior party leader, who

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Mercury plummets as season's first snowfall, overnight rains end prolonged dry spell in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 25

The prolonged dry spell has come to an end in the Valley as several places including Zojila, Razdan Top and others received season's first snowfall while the overnight rains lashed plains across Kashmir, bringing down the mercury while the Meteorological department (MeT) has predicted two-day wet spell from September 28.

According to the news agency, the overnight rainfall lashed plains of Kashmir including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir,



which has resulted in fall in the maximum as well as the minimum temperature here.

The overnight rainfall lashed Kashmir parts at a time when most parts of the Valley had received deficient precipitation

during the past two months including August and September, which led to the reduction in water level in the major water bodies including river Jhelum, Doodh-ganga and others.

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Cong party like 'rusted iron' which promoted corruption, poverty and appeasement politics: PM Modi



AGENCIES
BHOPAL, SEP 25

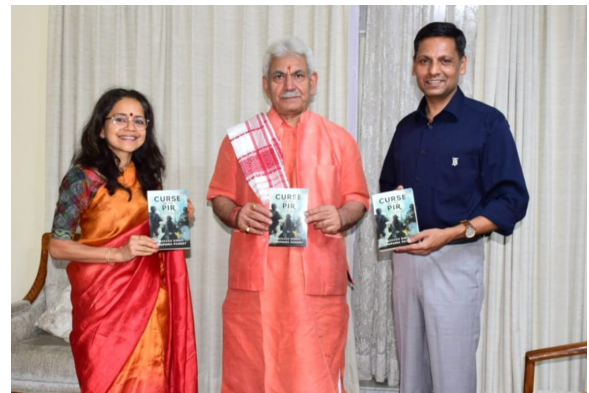
With an eye on the Madhya Pradesh assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday tore into Congress equating the party with "rusted iron" which he said would push MP

back into the BIMARU category if given an opportunity again.

Addressing a massive gathering of BJP workers 'Karyakarta Mahakumb', the prime minister said the Congress and its allies in the "Ghamandia" bloc supported the

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LG releases Mukesh Singh, Anupama Pandey's book "Curse of the Pir"



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 25

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released a book titled "Curse of the

Pir" authored by Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu and Anupama Pandey.

The Lt Governor congratulated the authors for their remarkable literary

endeavor. Inspired by true events, the book is a riveting tale of dedication of our Police officers and a tribute to their selfless service to the nation, he said.

"Curse of the Pir" is also a testament to the multifaceted talents of Sh Mukesh Singh beyond the realm of law enforcement into the world of literature. I am sure this excellent new book will take readers to an adventurous journey to understand the challenges faced by our Police and Security forces. Wishing author and book all success, the Lt Governor said. KNO

CS for comprehensive measures to improve footfall to Jambu Zoo



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 25

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on his visit to the Jambu Zoo at Nagrota on Monday reviewed the facilities being provided to the visitors there

besides overall functioning of Zoological Park thrown open for public last year.

While making his observations, the Chief Secretary made out that the footfall to this

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CS reviews progress of IT initiatives

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 25

With an aim to further ease the life of common citizens through the medium of e-initiatives for greater transparency and door-step delivery of various government services, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a detailed review of the IT Department on Monday.

At the sidelines of the review, he also launched various IT initiatives including dedication of five (05) new online services to the public, unveiling



the JK instance of Open Government Data (OGD) platform, the Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP) and Digital Internship programme 2.0.

The review meeting cum launch event was

attended by Commissioner/Secretary, IT Department; CEO, JKeGA; State Informatics Officer, NIC besides other senior officers of IT Department. At the outset of the

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NIA court rejects bail applications of 10 separatists

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 25

A special court here on Monday rejected the bail applications of 10 second-rung separatist leaders arrested on the charges of trying to revive the banned outfit Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

Additional Sessions Judge Srinagar Sandeep Gandotra, special judge designated under the NIA Act, rejected the separatists' pleas, saying if they were enlarged on bail at this stage, it will put to risk the interests of the public and the state.

"Taking into consideration the nature and



gravity of offence and the larger interests of the state and security of the state, the accused persons/applicants are not entitled to bail at this stage. The embargo contained under section 43(D) proviso 5 is attracted in the present case and the accused persons/applicants herein does not deserve the latitude of bail at this stage," the court observed.

"Further, if the accused

persons/applicants are enlarged on bail at this stage, public interests/interests of state/UT shall be put to stake. The applications are accordingly dismissed and be consigned to records after due completion under rules," the court added.

The court had clubbed the hearing of the bail applications.

The judge also observed

that the rejection of the bail applications shall not be construed as expression of opinion on the merits of the main case.

The separatist leaders who had moved the bail applications were Firdous Ahmad Shah, Jahangir Ahmad Bhat, Saheel @ Suhail Ahmad Mir, Khurshid Ahmad Bhat, Syed Rehman Shams, Sajad Hussain Gul, Mohammad Rafiq Phaloo, Gh. Hassan Parray @ Firdousi, Mohammed Yaseen Bhat and Shabir Ahmad Dar.

They were arrested in July this year on the charges of trying to revive JKLF, which was banned by the Centre in March 2019.

IAS officers joining service today, architects of India at 2047: Dr Jitendra

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 25

IAS officers joining service today are blessed with the privilege of being the architects of India at 2047 when the nation celebrates 100 years of independence, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

Addressing the 2021 batch of IAS officers undergoing the 2-month stint as Assistant Secretar-



ies in the Govt of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said, "You will be witness to India's ascent to that pedestal which is being envisaged for 2047 when Independ-

ent India turns 100. And you will be at the prime of your career, many of you holding senior positions and you will have

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Political biography of Farooq released



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 25

A new book on the life and times of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was released on Monday, announced Fingerprint! Publishing – an imprint of Prakash Books Pvt. Ltd.

"Farooq of Kashmir", written by journalists Ashwini Bhatnagar and RC Ganjoo, traces the journey of Abdullah from his childhood to his rise as a popular leader of Kashmir, who inherited the legacy of his father, Sheikh Abdullah, the founder of NC and the first Prime Minister of J&K.

It also explores the challenges and dilemmas that Abdullah faced as a politician who had to balance his loyalty to his people, his party, and his country amid the turbulent and complex situation in Kashmir.

Based on extensive research and interviews – including with Abdullah himself – the book, according to the

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Army's chinar corps commander, J&K DGP co-chair core group meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPT 25

Army's Chinar Corps Commander Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai and Director General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh, on Monday co-chaired a multi agency Core Group meeting of intelligence agencies and security forces in Srinagar, Army said.

It said the meeting reviewed the security situation and courses of action to enhance the counter infiltration and counter terrorism grid was deliberated on.

Army said the meeting



was held at Badami Bagh cantonment- the Army's 15 Corps headquarters.

"#ChinarCorps Cdr Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai & DGP J&K, Shri Dilbag Singh co-chaired a multi-agency Core Group meeting to include Intelligence Agencies & Security Forces at

BB Cantt, #Srinagar today. The security situation was reviewed and courses of action to enhance the CI/CT Grid was deliberated on," Army's Srinagar based Chinar Corps said in a post on X. The high level meeting was

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NCCD's innovative cold chain conclave paves the way for J&K's Economic Growth

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPT 25

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, led by the National Center for Cold Chain Development (NCCD), has once again demonstrated its commitment to educating cold chain stakeholders across the nation.

The recent India Cold Chain Conclave held in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on September 20 was

a resounding success, bringing together approximately 400 delegates and prominent dignitaries.

The event was graced by esteemed figures including Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and Advisor to Governor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar. The conclave provided a platform for constructive discussions and knowledge sharing, read the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare press release.

Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta commended the decision to host the conclave in Srinagar and emphasized the need to increase the capacity of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) stores in the valley for the benefit of growers.

Advisor to Governor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar highlighted the event's significance and extended full support to farmers, growers, and cold chain enterprises, read the press release.

Priya Ranjan, Joint Secretary (Horticulture), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, emphasized the importance of sustainable cold chain development in the Himalayan region.

He discussed NCCD's role in advancing the cold chain sector with a focus on energy, technology, and climate, which would open up investment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

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DC reviews ICDS services in Jammu District

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 25

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, on Friday presided over a meeting of Child Development Project Officers of the district to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the ICDS services. The meeting primarily discussed the ICDS operations, including the functioning of Anganwadi Centers and analyzed the demographics of the beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner sought insights into the major challenges faced by these crucial establishments. He emphasised the need for seamless coordination between the CDPOs and the Sub-Divisional Magistrates to enhance the effectiveness of their collective efforts.

Emphasis was laid on the well-being of children with a spotlight on nutrition. He raised pertinent queries regarding the standard procedures and stakeholders' involvement within this initiative.



Expanding the scope of the discussion, the DC also inquired about the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and proposed strategies to ensure the efficient delivery of benefits to the intended recipients. He also examined the officers on the functioning of Direct Benefit Transfer operations, a critical component of the welfare schemes.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner entrusted the Sub-Divisional Magistrates with the task of inspecting the quality of meals provided to the children, particularly in border areas. He emphasised the need to

prioritise the welfare of the impoverished and marginalised sections residing in the remote corners of the district. The functionaries were asked to furnish mandatory reports to the DC office in time.

The meeting also delved into various vital issues, encompassing a range of committees and bodies dedicated to the welfare of children.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh; SDMs, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Piyush Dhotra and District Social Welfare Officer.

Eid-Milad Un-Nabi preparations finalised in Udhampur



JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 25

A meeting of district officers and prominent citizens was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai here in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to finalize arrangements for the Eid-Milad Un-Nabi.

Senior Superintendent Police, Dr Vinod Kumar; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia and other officers along with prominent citizens attended the meet-

ing.

The meeting held extensive discussions on various aspects of the Eid-Milad Un-Nabi celebration, including ensuring water supply, uninterrupted power supply, price checks, security measures, traffic regulation, sanitation, and medical facilities.

In terms of traffic management, both the District police and Traffic Departments were instructed to streamline traffic arrangements for the convenience of devotees across the district during the Milad days.

Furthermore, the Health Department was tasked with ensuring the availability of medicines, doctors, and ambulances near identified shrines and mosques.

Directives were issued to concerned departments to guarantee uninterrupted water and power supply on the auspicious occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for close coordination and synergy among various departments to ensure adequate arrangements and the successful celebration of the festival.

DC chairs meeting to finalize arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) at Bandipora

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 25

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Monday chaired a meeting of officers to finalize the arrangements for the smooth celebration of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in the district.

The concerned officers were directed to ensure adequate arrangements of security, power supply, sanitation, transport, medical facilities, water supply, food grains etc in the district and particularly at Ahm i Sharief Shrine Bandipora during Milaad days. The DC stressed upon the officers for providing all the requisite facilities to the devotees visiting shrines and other mosques during the Milad days across the district.

He further stressed for close coordination and synergy among line departments for ensuring



uninterrupted arrangements of electricity, transition management, medicare, water, sanitation facilities etc.

The DC also directed for constituting market checking teams for proper market checking to keep availability of essentials at reasonable rates in Markets.

Among others, the

meeting was attended by Nodal Officer Coordination Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, ACR Bandipora, ARTO/DIO Bandipora, AD Food, Executive Engineer JKPDC Bandipora and officials from MC Bandipora, Administrator Waqf Board Ahemsharif besides other concerned officials.

Group Discussion on 'Gandhiji's Contribution to Indian Education' held in GDC Ramgarh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 25

In continuation to the series of activities under India's Presidency in G20 and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Government Degree College Ramgarh on Monday organized a Group Discussion on 'Gandhi ji's Contribution to Indian Education' to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti. The event was organized under the guidance and coordination of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

A total of 20 students actively participated in the discussion and put forth their thoughts.

Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra said that Gandhi Ji advocated imparting education in mother tongue and asked for activity centered education to



make the children skilled and independent. She further added that Gandhi ji wanted to construct small, self-reliant communities with its ideal citizens being all industrious, self-respecting and generous individuals. In Gandhiji's educational thoughts the development of the personality of a child is more important than mere literacy or knowledge of different subjects.

Dr. Paramjeet Kour, Department of Education, Dr. Priya Sharma, Department of sociology

and Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener of the event also spoke on different aspects of Gandhi Ji's views on the Education System. Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Prof. Risha Kumari, Dr. Priya Sharma, Dr. Ekta Rani, Dr. Paramjeet Kour and Dr. Sunil Kumar, were also present.

Meanwhile, the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit-Prabha of the College Ramgarh organized 'Pledge Taking Ceremony' on 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

I&C department hosts awareness camp on PMEGP at Polytechnic College Samba

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 25

An Awareness Camp on Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Program (PMEGP), State package/Centre Sector Scheme and its Incentives and benefits was today organized by the Industries and Commerce Department here in Government Polytechnic College, Samba.

Functional Manager apprised that 39 cases stand sponsored by DIC Samba so far in the current financial year and urged the attending students to avail its benefits to create start ups. The Functional Manager appreciated the initiatives taken by the Department of Skill Development to facilitate the youths of the remote area for setting up their businesses. Earlier, the resource persons from DIC Samba delivered lectures on schemes of the Industries & Commerce Department. They informed the students that DIC Samba is facilitating the prospective entrepreneurs to start their own ventures under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), where in the entrepreneurs can avail loans upto Rs. 50.00 lakh under manufacturing services and Rs. 20.00 lakh under sector and subsequently avail the subsidy from 15% to 35%.

DC Ganderbal reviews formation of FPOs at DMC meeting

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 25

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting of the District Management Committee (DMC) to review promotion and formation of Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) scheme in the district.

At the outset, the meeting reviewed the progress of FPOs sanctioned in block Lar and Sherpathri and future course of action of newly approved FPOs.

DDM NABARD, who is also the Member Secretary of DMC, appraised the chair about support and monitoring of the FPOs by NABARD. He also highlighted the salient features of the scheme besides broad service and activities to be undertaken by the FPOs.

The DC instructed all line departments to have an all-inclusive and holistic approach for the farming community to enhance their income by having successful FPOs in the district with forward and backward linkages.

He said that all the stakeholders must come together for the successful implementation of FPOs in the district.

He directed the concerned officers to identify and handhold the FPOs in various other crops and products to tap the full potential of agriculture and allied sectors.

On the occasion, members of FPOs raised several issues like delay in subsidy component, awareness and establishment of cold storage chain in the district.

The DC directed the concerned departments to carry out a survey and feasibility for establishing cold storage in the district besides capacity building programmes shall be organized for all the members of FPOs.

The meeting was also informed that Farmer Field School is established in Lar Block where farmers are given training regarding latest agriculture management practices. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri; DDM, NABARD; District Animal Husbandry Officer and other members of the Committee.

DLRC/ DCC meeting held at Shopian

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 25

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz today chaired the District Level Review Committee and District Consultative Committee (DLRC/ DCC) meeting to review the performance of financial institutions for the quarter Ist ended 30th June 2023 of FY 2023-24 at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The meeting was informed that the deposits of the district increased from Rs. 1419.50 crores as on June, 30, 2022 to Rs. 1468.64 crores as on June, 30, 2023 thereby registering a growth of 3% on YoY basis.

The advances of the district increased from Rs. 1775.17 crores as on June 30, 2022 to Rs. 2004.21 crores as on June 30, 2023 thereby registering a growth of 13% on YoY basis.

Against the financial target of Rs.2142.07 Crores and physical target of 34542 beneficiaries under District Credit Plan (DCP), 2023-24, the banks have disbursed Rs. 323.6 Crores to 12018 beneficiaries during the Ist quarter of the financial year, thereby achieving the financial targets by 15% and physical targets by 35%.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of various Govt Sponsored schemes and Social Security Schemes.



ADC took an extensive review of Government sponsored Schemes with special focus on KCC, PMEGP, Mumkin, MUDRA, Dairy, Fisheries, SVANIDHI and NRLM etc.

He advised all sponsoring agencies and banks to spread awareness among people about various self-employment schemes and social security of the Government and motivate them to avail the benefits of these schemes for generating self-employment opportunities in the district.

ADC emphasized the importance of identifying eligible beneficiaries and ensuring the smooth flow of credit to them through the convergence of assistance from Government sponsored schemes and financial institutions.

He also took bank wise and sector wise review of progress under DCP and Sponsorships.

ADC called upon banks to enhance credit flow under the priority sector, with special attention to KCC, Education and Women's Development.

He further encouraged banks to step up their efforts and improve their performance in the upcoming Quarters of year, 2023-24 and surpass targets.

He highlighted the significance of digital banking and asked for saturation of digital onboarding along with the need to conduct financial literacy and awareness camps across the district.

The meeting was attended by LDM, J&K Bank, Farooq Ahmed Bhat, Asst. GM, RBI, Sanjeev Sharma, DDM NABARD, Rouf Ahmad Zargar, Director, RSETI, Nazir Ahmad, Cluster Head, J&K Bank, Heads of line departments, District Heads of various banks, and other concerned.

DDC Poonch finalises action plan for organising SANKALP SAPTAAH in Block Mankote

JJ NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 25

District Development Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today chaired a meeting to discuss and finalize modalities for organising SANKALP SAPTAAH in Block Mankote scheduled from 3rd to 9th of Oct, 2023.

It is pertinent to mention that Block Mankote is selected as one of the Aspirational Blocks in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir by the NITI Aayog.

During the meeting, it was told that Prime Minister will formally launch this Programme on 30th September, 2023 from New Delhi in which Panchayat representatives, locals and Officials from Block Mankote will physically attend the programme at New Delhi, while the locals and other officers of the district administration will connect through virtual mode from the Auditorium of Degree College Poonch.

Under the Sankalp Week, health fairs will be organized on 3rd October in health and wellness centres, primary and community health centers under the Total Health One Sankalp programme. Suposhan Mela will be organized on 4th October under the Well-Nourished Family. There will be competitions on the cleanliness campaign on 5th October, While Agricultural festival will be organized on 6th October and competitions in primary and secondary schools will be held on 7th October. Information regarding livelihood generation schemes will be given on 8th October. Sankalp Week Inclusion Conference will be orga-

nized on 9th October.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said that the focus of Sankalp week in the Aspirational Block Mankote will be on Livelihood generation schemes particularly that of Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments.

He emphasized that the occasion would provide an ample opportunity to develop Mankote block of the district as a model block.

He further emphasized to focus on the indicators with less progress and working on the same rapidly by setting small targets.

He said that all the departments should prepare for the Sankalp Saptah at their own level. Further, all the departments were directed to coordinate with public representatives of the block to make this ambitious plan successful.

The meeting was

attended by Additional District Dev. Commissioner Poonch, Programme Officer ICDS Poonch Assistant Commissioner Development Poonch, Chief Medical/ Education/Agriculture/Horticulture / Animal Husbandry Officer Poonch, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Poonch, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Mendhar, Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mendhar, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) / JPDCL Division Poonch District Social Welfare Officer Poonch, Block Dev. Officer Mankote along with the Block Level Officials of concerned Departments, District Lead Bank Manager Poonch and District Project Officer NRLM Poonch.

DDC Reasi convenes Chintan Shivar at Thakrakote Block



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, SEPTEMBER 25

District Development Commissioner, Reasi Babila Rakwal today chaired a Chintan Shivar in Block Thakrakote to discuss a robust Developmental plan for the area under Aspirational Block Program.

Chairman Block Development Council, Thakrakote; Member District Development Council, Jij Bagli; Additional District Development Commissioner; Assistant Commissioner Development, Reasi; Tehsildar Thakrakote; Block Development Officer Thakrakote; other District & Sectoral Officers, PRIs and local people of the area participated in the programme.

Informing about the program, the Deputy Commissioner said that Thakrakote block is amongst 500 blocks selected under the Aspirational Block Program by NITI AAYOG, Government of India. She informed that this programme will be focusing on 9 sectors, 5 themes and 39 key Indicators. The 9 sectors are Health, Nutrition, Education, Agriculture, Social Development, Basic Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Sanitation and Financial inclusion.

Furthermore, she also informed that the objec-

tive of the program is to formulate the Block Development Strategies (BDS) finding the critical gaps and outline the priorities in each sector and services that will be offered to the public while making the best possible use of existing resources. She said the Chintan shivar will help to bring stakeholders together to analyze the existing situation, identify and prioritise key interventions for key sectors and agree on a strategy for accelerated implementation of schemes.

Issues regarding lack of Banking facilities and mobile connectivity in the area and main developmental needs were raised by the PRIs and public during the Chintan Shivar.

The DC emphasized on all the stakeholders to participate in Sankalp Saptah commencing from 30th September 2023 to be launched by the PM. Holding discussions on a wide range of issues of public importance, the DC exhorted the PRIs to work in tandem to hold thematic activities like Swasthya melas, Poshan Melas, Swachhta ek Sankalp, Krishi Melas, Shiksha ek Sankalp and Samridhi Divas for rural livelihoods across all the Panchayats of block Thakrakote. The PRIs pledged to work in unison for achieving progress in the process.

NDRF conducts table top mock drill at Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 25

A team of 13th Bn NDRF today conducted Table Top Exercise (TTE) on Earthquakes and Landslides as a part of its two-day awareness programme.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Harbans Lal Sharma presided over the event which was attended by ACR, Gias-Ul-Haq; Dy.SP Hqtr, Om Parkash; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Rajeev Gai; CEO, Devanand; Assistant Commandant NDRF, Javed Iqbal; ARTO, Samrinder Singh; AD Fire & Emergency, AD FCS&CA, Tehsildars, SDRF, QRT Ramban besides other officers of Police and line departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC highlighted the need for coordination among all the stakeholders to formulate a uniform operation strategy to deal with disaster-like situations.

The ADC asked the agencies to also focus on



handling cloud bursts, road accidents and earthquake-like challenges.

At the outset, the Assistant Commandant of NDRF in India, its abilities, the details of machines used for dealing with all types of natural and man-made disasters, etc.

He stressed on the need to maintain coordination among the stakeholders during a disaster to reduce response time for rescue measures.

Meanwhile, the team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) demonstrated Table Top Exercise (TTE) which is helpful in staying safe in the wake of an earthquake or landslide.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the Response, Rescue and

Rehabilitation preparation plan and strategy to mitigate the damage and loss of lives and property during high-intensity earthquakes and other disasters.

Heads of different stakeholder departments responded to the queries during the meeting.

Deliberations were also held on the utility of satellite phones, helipads, medical infrastructure and response team, hygiene and sanitation, drinking water supply, the role of media, awareness, and training to effectively tackle the unprecedented disaster in the district.

It was informed that the Mock Drill will be organized by the NDRF team to sensitize stakeholders about rescue preparedness at the time of an earthquake, landslide, or fire incident.

NSS Unit GGZSMDC Reasi celebrates NSS Foundation Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, SEPTEMBER 25

National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Singh Degree College, Reasi celebrated NSS Foundation Day, 2023 with great Zeal and Enthusiasm.

The College Staff members, NSS Volunteers and other students participated in the NSS Day function.

The function started with the welcome of the Chief Guest, Dr. Kulvinder Kour, the College Principal and the Special Guest Jasvir Singh, District Development Councillor Mougri-Panchari Constituency, Udhampur who has served in National Service Scheme for more than 10 years and also awarded with Indira Gandhi NSS National Award.

Earlier, the Chief Guest and other guests lit the ceremonial lamp followed by Sarswati Vandana and a



presentation of Dogri Folk Dance by the NSS volunteers of the college.

The NSS Alumnus named Shivani Menia, Bhawani Singh, Pallvi Lakhnotra, Priya Lakhnotra, Sumit Bali, Vishal Chandan, Nmo Narayan and Yashika Abrol were also present on the occasion. They shared their college time experiences with the students and volunteers. They were also encouraged by the college administration with appreciation Certificates for their valuable ser-

ices to National Service Scheme. Further, former NSS Program Officers of the college Dr. Amit Kumar Bali and Prof. Palvinder Kumari were also honored by the college NSS Unit on the occasion. Sumit Bali, NSS Alumni and Meenakshi Rajput, NSS volunteers presented the solo dance performances which received lots of applause.

Special Guest Jasvir Singh, while speaking on the occasion, shared his various valuable National and International experi-

ences about his journey from student to a NSS volunteer and then to be a member of District Development Council. He further explained in detail about the National Service Scheme (NSS) and also thrown light on the real life meaning of NSS and relate NSS. He also apprised students about how to make the NSS a philosophy and a way of life in real and practical sense. The Chief Guest, Dr. Kulvinder Kour also interacted with the students and appraised them about the activities done and services they rendered from time to time. Further, the volunteers presented Punjabi Jhoomer and Bhangra to entertain the audience present in the hall. The function ended with the presentation of the NSS Song by the volunteers. Formal welcome address was presented by Prof. Norin Akhter and vote of thanks was presented by

Shashi Kumar Sharma. The whole function was organized under the supervision of NSS Program Officer, Prof. Ajay Kumar and NSS Committee members comprising Prof. Palvinder Kumari, Dr. Saleem Ahmed, Prof. Norin Akhter and Mr. Shashi Kumar Sharma, Physical Director of the college. NSS Program Officer, Prof. Ajay Kumar was also honored with Appreciation Certificate by the college administration for his valuable contributions in NSS since last one year. Others prominent who witnessed the function includes Prof. Samriti Aggarwal, Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Prof. Kewal Krishan, Prof. Upasana, Prof. Ameer Rehman. NSS Volunteers named Garima Dogra, Vasudha Devi, Atul Kumar, Sonia Devi, Nilakshi Singh and Pallavi Sharma hosted the stage throughout the whole function.

2 groups of Anantnag Youth flagged-off for 10 days Tour

JJ NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 25

Nehru Yuva Kendra Anantnag, as part of Kashmiri Exchange programme flagged off 2 groups of Youth Male and Female of District Anantnag for 10 days tour to Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) and Udaipur (Rajasthan).

The tour is organized by NYK Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and all boarding and lodging facilities including to and fro tickets are being provided by the department.

The flag-off ceremony was organized at Sports Stadium Anantnag in which Vice Chairperson DDC, Advocate Javid Ahmad Sheikh; Deputy Director, Mohammad Khalil Mir and other officials of NYK Anantnag were present.

Mir while interacting with the touring youth who belong to different parts of District Anantnag said that main aim of this tour is to provide opportunities to the participants to visit different places of cultural, industrial, historical, religious and educational interest in the country and to share the information on tourism, cuisine, culture and handicrafts and other products of Kashmir Valley among participants from other parts of the country.

He also said that the aim of this tour is to expose Kashmiri youth to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational and availability of employment opportunities.

He advised the youth to imbibe in them the greatness of the country and to take full advantage of the opportunity and collect memories for life during the tour, besides wishing them a fun-filled, safe and life changing tour.

All the Youth were given a kit that contains a customized tracksuit and a pair of shoes. The group will be assisted by a guide who would be highlighting the significance of the historical spots and their importance to make the trip educational and informative as well.

SWD conducts Seminar/Awareness Camp on Substance Abuse at GHSS Narapora Shopian



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 25

The Social Welfare department, Shopian today conducted a one day Seminar cum Awareness camp on Substance Abuse at Govt Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Narapora, Shopian.

During the camp, students were made aware about the ill effects of substance abuse and various measures to combat the same. Various Helpline Numbers were also shared with the students to get

assistance of any kind regarding the menace.

On this occasion, a Debate competition was also held in which students highlighted the different aspects of the problem and the measures to combat the menace.

The programme was attended by Block Medical Officer (BMO), Shopian, Dr. Mohammad Yousof, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO), Farhana Tak, CA, OSC Samaira Gulzar, Staff members of the School and a large gathering of students.

DC Doda urges students to avail E-Kaksha, (Online Classes) on Adbhut Doda platform



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, SEPTEMBER 25

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan has urged students to make best use of E-Kaksha, (Online Classes) available on Adbhut Doda platform.

Interacting with the Students and Parents he said the UT administration has taken several other initiatives to improve education standards and make available the best educational services to the children living in remotest villages, to give them a level playing field to all progress in life.

The Deputy Commissioner was speaking after inaugurating Aakash Byju's Prime Classes by Shaheen Public Higher

Secondary School -a private institution.

"The time has come to stop monologue in the classrooms, It is time for expressive studies in the government and private schools by two-way communication," he said.

He impressed upon the students to work hard to gain education and become a valuable citizen and a good human being. He also stressed the students and the parents to understand the gravity of the menace of drug abuse and strive jointly towards achieving Nasha Mukht Doda. He advocated for people-administration cooperation for making Doda a swachh District of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Monday reviewed the functioning of Health Department, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and School Education Department with respect to ongoing Major Projects, upcoming projects, deliverables, implementation of UT & Centrally Sponsored Schemes in a meeting, held, here.

The meetings were attended by Directors and other senior officers of the respective departments.

At the outset, Director Health through a detailed presentation gave an overview of the department viz a viz organization, hierarchy of Health institutions, staff strength, major projects and schemes.

On the occasion, Div Com directed Director Health to complete the hundred percent enrollment of families and individuals under Ayushman Bharat Golden Card.

He emphasized on the creation of a centralized recruitment cell for recruitment of medical and paramedical staff to bridge the gap between staff required and total amount of vacancies.



To ensure foolproof arrangement at Addiction Treatment Facility centers across the valley, Div Com exhorted concerned to ensure proper vigil in the vicinity of the centres.

He asked the Director to extend support to AMTRON for "5G Health Use Application" medical programme in Kupwara & Baramulla. He directed for making complete arrangements for winter to ensure treatment and availability of medicine in the valley particularly in

far-off areas.

Director FCS&CA informed about the introduction of Smart Ration Card, OTP based ration distribution, distribution of ration to genuine beneficiaries, elimination of duplication of cards.

It was given out that there are 13.5 lakh ration card holders comprising of 54 lakh souls.

He also briefed about construction of Weighing Bridges and facelift of godowns besides chain of distribution link from

FCS&CA godowns to distribution shops.

He also briefed about the National Food Security Act, PMFSS, One Nation One Card, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Scheme for Political Migrants.

Regarding winter preparedness, Div Com directed concerned FCS&CA officer to ensure deposit of abundant quantity of essential items in snow bound areas and the areas which remain cut off during winters.

Director School Education, briefed about the literacy rate in Kashmir besides pass percentage of students of 10th & 12th classes. He also briefed about the plan to increase literacy rate among females. He informed that the department has chalked plan to enroll all the out of school children in the schools to create fully educated society.

Director informed about the major projects including Migratory Tribal Schools and deliverables including Beti Anmol, Model Schools, Annual online Transfer policy etc.

DC B'la discusses strategies to observe 'Sankalp Saptah' Week in Singhpora Block

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 25

As part of Government of India's ambitious Initiative to achieve 100% saturation under Aspirational Block Development Programme in all the identified blocks across the country, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today convened a meeting of all the concerned officers at Dak Bunglow to discuss various strategies in order to implement the said programme in Block Singhpora Pattan here.

It is worth mentioning here that as envisaged under the initiative, a week long "Sankalp Saptah" will be launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 30th of September to commemorate the 154th Birth anniversary of Mahatama Gandhi and the same will be celebrated in all identified 500 Aspirational blocks across India commencing from October 03 with Block Singhpora@ among one of the identified blocks.

During the meeting, Dr. Sehrish emphasized the need of initiatives to be taken for successful implementation of 'Sankalp Saptah' and exhorted upon the concerned officers to primarily focus on saturating indicators under Health and Nutrition, basic livelihood, agriculture in block Singhpora by bringing in innovative methods.

DC Ganderbal kick-starts plantation drive under Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign



JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 25

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today kick-started plantation drive in presence of President Municipal Council Ganderbal, Advocate Altaf Ahmad under ongoing Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign at newly developed Sindh View Park Duderhama.

On the occasion the DC and President Municipal Council planted several

saplings of conifers within the park.

Meanwhile, a mega sanitation drive was carried along the banks of nallah Sindh by the officials of Municipal Council Ganderbal. Pertinently, the District Administration has chalked out a work plan for Swachhta Hi Sewa, and ever since the launch of the campaign various activities are carried out at block, Panchayat and village levels to make district Ganderbal garbage free.

NHM J&K releases ranking of Public Health facilities on JK e Sahaj for August 2023

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25

National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of August 2023.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Jammu Psychiatric Disease Hospital, followed by GMC Anantnag, SMGS Hospital, Jammu, Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu and Government Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar. The bottom five in this category included SMHS, Srinagar, Government Dental College, Srinagar, GMC Doda, Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar, Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar.

In the category of District Hospitals, DH Ganderbal has secured first place followed by DH Shopian, DH Kishtwar, DH Samba and ASYM DH Budgam. The bottom five in this category included MCCH Anantnag, DH Poonch, DH Pulwama, DH Ramban and DH Reasi.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has

been banded by CHC Rajpora, Pulwama followed by E.H Vijaypur Samba, CHC Sunderbani, CHC Kangan and CHC Kralpora. The bottom five in this category included CHC Taryath, CHC Rohama, CHC Kremshore, CHC Gandoh and CHC Thanamandi.

Pertinently, JK e-sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration J&K) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sahaj, by the Lieutenant Governor, J&K, for different types of facilities i.e. Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some New Type PHCs. JK E-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Govt. of India.

The ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and Patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e Sahaj for the month of August 2023, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities has been shared on NHM website.

Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur meets public Delegations

J1NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 25

Vice Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Udhampur Juhl Manhas Pathania met several public delegations to listen to their demands and issues.

Interacting with a deputation hailing from the Dudu-Basantgarh area led by the local PRIs, specially Pinki Devi DDC Latti Marothi, underscored the need to upgrade Ramnagar to Basantgarh to Dudu to Chenani Roads on mission mode.

She urged for the utilization of the available funds under CRF I/II, PMGSY Upgradation and PWD and noted that the lackadaisical approach of the contractor agencies is seriously impairing vehicle movement. She also said an alternative road from Chakal to Katorni to Chakka shall also be constructed to address the snow-related complications at Trungliyan.

She also called for action against defaulting contractor firms and ensuring that the sanctioned money is utilized



diligently. She also called for bracing up of legal teams as two public utility projects have been stalled due to cases pending in the High Court. She informed that Ramnagar to Chatrari CRF-I road (costing Rs 18 cr) & CRF - II (Costing Rs 10 crores), stand sanctioned and major part of works too executed on spot. Referring to Ramnagar Dudu (Chatrari to Majouri) road (costing Rs 9.25 cr) and Dudu to Keya road (costing Rs 9.71 cr), she said works on these projects are in progress but there is a need for prompt execution with full focus on quality and time bound completion. She regretted that other two roads on the axis, Sira More to Shivgali (Rs 51 cr approx) and Shiv Gali to Basantgarh road (Rs 5.33 cr) have been held up in court litigations. She

called upon the district administration and legal agencies for earliest resolution of the issues and starting of the works on these roads.

Several other delegations also called on the Vice Chairperson to project a range of public issues including provision of drinking water, electricity supply, road connectivity, paucity of staff at various schools.

A spirited deputation from Thial of Majalta Tehsil called upon Mrs Pathania to take up the issue of acute shortage of staff in various Animal Husbandry Units in the area especially LDC Thial. They also put forth the demand for repair of the lane from main bazar Thial to the Health and Wellness Centre Thial. Mrs. Pathania took up the issue of the staff shortage

with the Director Animal Husbandry and assured the deputation of a favourable action.

A deputation from the Pathwar area of Tehsil Majalta called upon the Vice Chairperson regarding the installation of a new sub-station in view of low voltage. Mrs. Pathania took up the issue with the Executive Engineer EM&RW.

Another deputation from Kothi area of Udhampur called upon the Vice Chairperson regarding the staff shortage in GPS Kothi. She took up these issues with the concerned departments and instructed them to provide viable solutions to the people.

During the meeting, deputations raised various issues and demands regarding water, electricity, sports, educational, health, infrastructure amenities including demand for electric poles, water supply.

She assured deputations of proper redressal of all their demands. Besides other grievances were raised to which the Vice Chairperson gave a patient hearing.

Div Com reviews Developmental activities in Samba District

J1NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 25

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Monday chaired a meeting of district officers, focusing on the evaluation of ongoing development projects, including Central Sponsored Schemes and various other developmental initiatives in the Samba District. The meeting took place at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the onset of the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma presented a comprehensive overview of the district's developmental profile.

The Divisional Commissioner was given a detailed briefing on the physical and financial accomplishments under District Capex, as well as updates on the major projects underway in the district.

The meeting was attended by the District officers in addition to other senior functionaries including Senior Superintendent of Police, Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Chief Planning Officer among others.

Regarding significant projects underway in the district, the Deputy Commissioner provided updates on various endeavors, including the construction of the Vijaypur Bus Stand under JMRDA, the construction of Purmandal Degree College Building, the upgrading of the Municipal complex, the creation of a multifunctional complex at Bus Stand Samba, the construction of the Nari Niketan building, and the development of an OPD Block at the district Hospital. Emphasizing the importance of timely com-



pletion of the projects, the Divisional Commissioner urged the Deputy Commissioner to personally monitor the progress of these critical projects.

Discussing Rural Sanitation works, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for evolving an effective mechanism through Common Service Centers (CSCs) for the better maintenance of rural assets.

Reviewing the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), the Divisional Commissioner instructed the Rural Development Department to prioritize the allocation of houses to landless individuals and ensure the success of the AWAS Plus scheme. He also directed municipal authorities to accelerate the saturation of PMAY-U cases in urban areas.

Referring to creation of Solid Waste Management Units, segregation sheds and collection points, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the importance of adhering to project timelines.

To boost wage employment, the Divisional Commissioner called for increasing the number of person-days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Additionally, he urged the organization of special gram sabhas to garner community support for PRI grants and projects.

Regarding the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for achieving 100% saturation and prioritizing the construction of Tube Wells.

Recognizing the importance of synergy among stakeholder departments, the Divisional Commissioner tasked the Deputy Commissioner with convening a meeting involving ACD, CEO, BDOs, XEN REW, XEN PWD (R&B), and contractors to ensure that objectives are met within the stipulated time frame.

Discussing road connectivity, the Divisional Commissioner called upon the XENS of PMGSY, PWD, and REW to expedite ongoing road projects and ensure timely maintenance.

Highlighting the need to address issues faced by pensioners, the Divisional Commissioner asked for hosting sensitization cum awareness camps to educate beneficiaries.

Emphasizing the creation of self-employment opportunities, the Divisional Commissioner urged the early implementation of beneficiary-

oriented schemes aligned with market demand and skilled workforce mapping.

Regarding the power scenario in the district, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer PDD to ensure round-the-clock electricity supply and recover pending Power Fair dues from consumers. He also emphasized the reduction of AT&C losses and an increase in revenue collection.

The Divisional Commissioner called upon all departments to adopt a public-friendly approach in their operations and underscored the importance of digital penetration across the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Benam Tosh; ADDC, Rajinder Singh; ADC, Suresh Chander; CPO, Sukhleen Kour; ACD, Sidharth Dhiman besides district officers of all the key departments attended the meeting.

In a separate meeting, Div Com reviewed revenue matters in Samba District.

He also reviewed the status of digitalization of Jamabandies, quality checks, status of online services, land acquisition for important Government projects and other related issues.

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DIC organises Awareness Programme on Employment generation schemes at Shopian

J1NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 25

The District Industries Centre, Shopian in collaboration with Govt. Polytechnic College, Shopian today organized an awareness programme regarding employment generation schemes in College Auditorium.

The programme witnessed the presence of esteemed guests from DIC Shopian, students and faculty of the institution.

Er. Nasrullah Mubarak Bhat, Industrial Promotion Officer, DIC Shopian was the resource person for the session. On the occasion, students were apprised

about different Employment Generation Schemes like PMEGP, MSME, PM-Vishwakarma of the Govt. for self-employment.

An interactive session was also conducted wherein students and faculty cleared their doubts about the various aspects of employment schemes. The event was graced by the Principal GPC Shopian, Er Manzoor Ahmad whose invaluable insights added a significant layer of expertise to the discussion.

The programme ended with a resolve to continue collaboration with different departments for enabling students in shaping their careers.

NSS foundation day celebrated with enthusiasm, gaiety at GCW Udhampur



J1NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 25

The 54th National Service Scheme (NSS) Foundation Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and fervour at Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur here under the supervision of Prof. Rajinder Singh, NSS PO.

NSS volunteers presented a variety cultural show including Nukkad Natak by Anchal and group, Bangra folk dance by Pavneet and group and solo dance by Sakshi and Radha. Besides the volunteers also recited the NSS song. Priyanka and Tanya delivered motivational speeches on the duties and responsibilities of NSS volunteers towards society. Also Rupali, Kritika and Sanjana entertained the audiences with their self composed poetry.

The Principal of the College Prof. Anjali Mahajan was the chief guest. The programme started with the lighting of lamp by the chief guest, Prof. Anjali Mahajan along with other senior faculty members.

While speaking on the occasion, Prof. Anjali Mahajan applauded the students for coming to the forefront and taking part in such

events. She told that basic aim of NSS is to "inculcate the social welfare thoughts in the students, and to provide service to the society without any prejudice." She particularly mentioned humility as the tools to be used to lead a life which is instrumental for working in the service of humanity.

Earlier, Prof. Rajinder Singh, NSS PO presented formal welcome address. He briefed about the importance of NSS and basic duties and activities performed by NSS volunteers for community. He also appraised the audience about the history of NSS and appealed to the volunteers to relate their learning and experiences towards finding solutions to the problems.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Swati Gandotra Sunila. Among others who graced the occasion by their presence were Dr. Seema Sharma, Prof. Kewal Kumar, Dr. Kewal Kumar, Dr. Amit Kumar, Prof. Paramjit Singh, Prof. Sanjeev Upadhyay, Prof. Mushtaq, Prof. Tania Mahajan, Arun Gupta, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Yash Kumar, and about 80 numbers of NSS Volunteers.

Awareness camp on PMEGP organised in Govt Polytechnic College Reasi

J1NEWS SERVICE
REASI, SEPTEMBER 25

District Industries Centre, Reasi on Monday organised a seminar cum awareness camp here in Government Polytechnic College to educate the trainees about the incentives provided under Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Program (PMEGP) being implemented by Industries & Commerce

Department/District Industries Centre, Reasi.

The programme was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Mohammad Anwar Banday, General Manager DIC. Welcoming the participants, Functional Manager Ankur Kalotra highlighted the schemes being implemented by the Department to encourage the youth to become job creators instead of job



seekers. Industrial Promotion Officer, Adeish Singh gave a Power Point Presenta-

tion and sensitized the participants about procedure and uploading of application forms under

the scheme besides the benefits of enrolment with DIC. The students of Government Polytechnic College, Reasi were told about various benefits/subsidies they can get to start their own ventures by availing financial assistance under the PMEGP Scheme in manufacturing and service sectors.

The aspiring students were motivated by the

district. Dr Bharti asked the ACD and DFO (Territorial) Doda to submit the plan for the conservation and protection of Wet Lands in the district, to be added in the main District Environment Plan.

The ADM stressed on close coordination among different stakeholders for effective implementation of the District Environment plans and scientific disposal of wastes in the

district. MC Doda was instructed to keep check on burning of waste in the Town and impose penalty on violators in accordance to the guidelines of NGT.

The stakeholders were asked to organize seminars and symposiums in all the Panchayats of the district in collaboration with the education department for creating mass awareness regarding the ill effects of single use plastic.

At the end, the Functional Manager presented a vote of thanks to the Principal, Polytechnic College, Reasi, staff members and students who made their precious presence in the event.

EDITORIAL

A change in Centre's approach?

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a prominent political and religious leader in Kashmir who has been involved in the region's political and separatist movements for many years, was set free four years after he was put under house arrest. Mirwaiz got emotional and broke down after he appeared before his people at Jamia Masjid for the first time. Being the religious head of the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar and the chairman of the region's main separatist group, the Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz has both social and political clout in Kashmir Valley. Mirwaiz's release has several potential significance because he has been a key figure in the political landscape of Kashmir. His release could signal a change in the government's approach toward Kashmir or its willingness to engage with local political leaders. It could also be seen as a gesture aimed at initiating a dialogue. It also appeared to be an unannounced Confidence-Building Measure (CBM). The release of a prominent leader like Mirwaiz Umar Farooq could be viewed as a CBM to create a more conducive environment for peace talks or negotiations between different stakeholders in Kashmir ahead of the much-talked about assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, though it is not clear as to when these elections are to be held. The restoration of the democratic process in J&K and the holding of Assembly elections are the key demands of all organisations as this process has been on hold since the abrogation of Article 370 by the Central Government on August 5, 2019, when the erstwhile state's special status was revoked and it was bifurcated into two union territories—J&K and Ladakh. A day earlier, Mirwaiz had been detained along with top political leaders and hundreds of separatists and Internet service was suspended under the stringent Public Safety Act. How the release is perceived by the people of Kashmir can also be significant. It could impact the local population's sentiments and opinions about the government's policies and actions in the region. Former Chief Minister and sitting MP Farooq Abdullah was released from detention in March 2020, while another ex-CM, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, was freed in October that year. On both occasions, there was good reason to hope that their release would pave the way for the resumption of the electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir. Many others, including politicians, continue to be under detention. They need to be set free. Depending on the broader context and the conditions of Mirwaiz's release, it could have implications for the ongoing conflict in Kashmir. It may influence the dynamics between various groups and actors involved in the conflict. The development has come against the backdrop of the recent assurance of the Solicitor-General in the Supreme Court – which was hearing petitions against the abrogation of Article 370 – that the Centre was ready to hold elections in J&K 'any time now', even though it could not specify any time-frame for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. The release of a high-profile Kashmiri leader can attract international attention and scrutiny, potentially leading to diplomatic discussions or statements from other countries or international organizations.

Nose-Diving Bilateral Relations Between India and Canada

OMKAR DATTATRAY

The bilateral ties and political diplomacy between Canada and India is going down due to the unwarranted remarks of the prime minister Justin Trudeau of Canada that India is involved in the killing of Khalistani separatist leader in June. He further leveled unsubstantiated charges that India is also involved in interfering into the violation of the sovereignty of Canada. Justin Trudeau visited India recently and participated in G20 deliberations.

But he refused to rein in the Khalistani terrorists and their anti India movement when the host Indian government asked for it giving the argument that Canadian government does not interfere in the personal liberties of its citizens. Trudeau loves the anti India and anti Hindu stance of the Khalistani leaders and terrorists. During recent G20 Summit in Delhi Canadian PM Trudeau wanted to have bilateral meeting with Prime minister Modi but the later did not oblige him. Justin Trudeau blows hot and cold at the same time and gives anti India statements. But he was isolated by the super powers and the international community.

It is very unfortunate that Khalistani terrorist threatens Canada's Hindus after Trudeau softens stance on Nijjar charges. Amid escalating tensions between India and Canada, Pro-Kha-

listani organization Sikhs for Justice has threatened Hindus living in Canada. In a video, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun said that they want to avenge Nijjar whose death has sparked a diplomatic row between India and Canada. The US based lawyer, Pannun has repeatedly used his group, Sikhs for Justice, to push the Khalistani agenda ahead. It is important to note that after India, Canada is home to the largest population of Sikhs in the world.

It is sad and unfortunate that a country with the reputation of being one of the world's greatest democracies is now openly advocating secession. The Khalistan narrative has failed to find any traction in Punjab over the years. Even the recent protests led by the self-styled Pro-Khalistan leader of Waris Punjan De, Amritpal Singh petered out within a matter of days. With India's and Canada's diplomatic relations having nosedived and deteriorated sharply in the wake of Canadian Prime minister Justin Trudeau's claims that Indian agents were behind the killing of prominent Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Khalistan issue has surged to centre stage globally. But while a section of Sikhs abroad may still harbor the idea of Khalistan, back home in Punjab, people's concerns are confined to farming woes, moving abroad particularly to Canada dealing with the scourge of drugs, issues related to local developments and

listani organization Sikhs for Justice has threatened Hindus living in Canada. In a video, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun said that they want to avenge Nijjar whose death has sparked a diplomatic row between India and Canada. The US based lawyer, Pannun has repeatedly used his group, Sikhs for Justice, to push the Khalistani agenda ahead. It is important to note that after India, Canada is home to the largest population of Sikhs in the world. It is sad and unfortunate that a country with the reputation of being one of the world's greatest democracies is now openly advocating secession. The Khalistan narrative has failed to find any traction in Punjab over the years. Even the recent protests led by the self-styled Pro-Khalistan leader of Waris Punjan De, Amritpal Singh petered out within a matter of days. With India's and Canada's diplomatic relations having nosedived and deteriorated sharply in the wake of Canadian Prime minister Justin Trudeau's claims that Indian agents were behind the killing of prominent Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Khalistan issue has surged to centre stage globally. But while a section of Sikhs abroad may still harbor the idea of Khalistan, back home in Punjab, people's concerns are confined to farming woes, moving abroad particularly to Canada dealing with the scourge of drugs, issues related to local developments and

sometimes to do with local social and religious issues.

The fact that Punjab's stakes in Canada were high could be gauged from the fact that as per the 2021 census, Canada's population was around 37 million, out of which 1.4 million were of Indian origin. 770,000 people were Sikhs, which means around 2% of Canada's population was from Punjab. The impact of the immigrant Punjabi community was such that even the signboards in Canada were in Punjabi language. By contrast, the last 2011 census in India, Sikhs were just 1.7% and their population declined from the last census in 2001 by 0.2 percentage points. Amritpal Singh the dreaded terrorist along with his supporters was arrested in April this year and is currently lodged in Dibrugarh jail. Talking to The Wire, Chandigarh based senior journalist Jagtar Singh who has written two books -Khalistan Struggle.

A Non-Movement and Rivers on Fire, Khalistan Struggle discussed the India-Canada diplomatic row in the global perspective. The current tension between India and Canada are unfortunate and are of Canadian origin and it should end. The Canadian government should shun the policy of appeasement with the Khalistani elements and in the face of the current warnings to the Hindus act tough against such forces and protect the life, property and dignity of Hindus are

threatened by the Khalistani elements. Therefore Thudeau should shun his attachment with anti India and anti Hindu elements and sternly deal with the current situation and quell the anti India movement.

The current tensions between India and Canada may hit bilateral trade, however the experts are divided on this. Several former diplomats spoke to CNBC TV 18 about the likely financial fallout of the fresh tensions between India and Canada and rejected as absurd and motivated the Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's allegations of the Indian governments links to the killing of an Indian born Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June. "Business ties are unlikely to get affected." Said Jayant Dasgupta, former Indian envoy to WTO, in a special session with CNBC-TV18's Parikshit Luthra. However, K.C. Singh, former MEA spokesman and ambassador to Iran, felt differently. He said the present strain in the bilateral relationships between India and Canada will have some impact on trade and services between the two countries.

Trudeau said Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hasrdeep Singh Nijjar. He further said any involvement of a foreign government in the kill-

ing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty and ends sponsorship of Canada-based Punjabi singer Shubh's Indian tour amid Khalistan controversy. Indian government has responded with alacrity to Canadian Prime minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that the country was involved in the killing of Canadian citizen and Khalistan Tiger Force terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 19, offering to cooperate in the investigations, and briefing its key allies about both the emptiness of Trudeau's charge and Canada's tolerance and encouragement of the terrorist and separatists working against India and Indian interests.

Indian government is deeply concerned to the threats and warnings to the Hindus living in Canada and asked the Canadian government to protect the life, limb and dignity of Hindus. India suspends visas for Canadian's. India's Visa processing centre in Canada suspends services due to operational reasons amid row over allegations by Ottawa that India may have been involved in the killing of a Canadian citizen. Today another Khalistani terrorist Sukh-dool Singh ails Sukha has been killed in Canada. At this crucial time when Hindus in Canada are being threatened and issued warnings, the GOI should step in and ask the Canadian government to protect the Hindus living there. The Trudeau's gov-

ernment is sympathetic to the anti-India forces and the terrorists for the vote bank purpose, but the government has the responsibility to protect the minorities. Indian government has issued a dozer of 43 Khalistani terrorists among then 23 terrorists are in Canada and are busy in anti-India activities asking it to repatriate these terrorists to India and the Canada being a signatory to UN resolutions is bound to handover the most wanted terrorists to India. NIA has is now on the job of confiscating the properties of the Khalistani terrorists. In view of the current threat perception to Hindus and the Khalistani activities, the Punjab government has alerted its police and other security agencies against the Khalistani terrorists. The external affairs ministry has asked the Indians residing in Canada to remain alert in view of the threat videos. It has also asked its citizens not to travel to Canada. Canada has now agreed that Khalistani terrorism is dangerous for the country. Canada has become a safe haven of Khalistani terrorists and the government there should crush the terrorism and prove its democratic credentials. Nose diving of the bilateral relationships between India and Canada is not in the interest of the either country and sanity should prevail on the Canadian PM Trudeau so that he will soon make efforts to normalize the bilateral relations with India.

India's South East Asia Policy

ASADMIRZA

India initiated its Look East policy in 1991, which was transformed into an Act East policy in 2014, when India initiated a proactive engagement policy in the region to prevent it from falling prey to the Chinese domination. Under Prime Minister Modi, India in recent years has steadily strengthened key partnerships across Southeast Asia, particularly with countries along the maritime rim of the Indo-Pacific.

Earlier this month, the diplomatic bustle at the national level was focussed on G20 Summit. However, in addition to that the prime minister also focussed on India's Look East policy and participated at ASEAN and East Asia Summit in Indonesia, focussing on ways to counter China's regional dominance.

The G20 New Delhi Summit in early September was in fact a global brand and image making exercise for the Government of India. An exercise in which the Prime Minister Modi, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant and Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar were equally involved and committed and achieved the task with a finesse. The cherry on top was the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, which was adopted unanimously at the summit.

However, Prime Minister Modi as a leader of the Global South and keeping in mind India's strategic and regional

priorities, in spite of his heavy commitment to the G20 Summit, undertook a whirlwind tour of the Indonesian capital Jakarta, in order to attend the ASEAN and East Asia Summit.

This shows the priorities of the GOI at both the regional and global level. On one hand India was hosting the prestigious G20 Summit but on the other hand it not overlooked its regional priorities and strategy.

Let's take a look at the reasons for PM Modi to fly to Jakarta to participate at these two events. In fact, India is evolving into a strategic actor in Southeast Asia.

It has promoted ties - diplomatic, trade, defence and people to people, with almost all countries in the region from Vietnam, to Philippines to Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, Japan and S. Korea.

Over the years, India has signed an arms deal with Vietnam, stood with Philippines over China on sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea, and has increased defence cooperation with Indonesia.

The manner it has managed the balance-of-power politics in the region is a classic model of diplomacy. Basically, China's aggressive posture in and around the South China Sea is driving India and its partners in the region together. Though these bilateral and multilateral relationships have not trans-

formed into any formal alliances, but the trend is clear. India's regional forays will increasingly complement the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy to counter China in the coming years.

India initiated its Look East policy in 1991, which was transformed into an Act East policy in 2014, when India initiated a proactive engagement policy in the region to prevent it from falling prey to the Chinese domination. Under Prime Minister Modi, India in recent years has steadily strengthened key partnerships across Southeast Asia, particularly with countries along the maritime rim of the Indo-Pacific.

These moves are clearly designed to cooperate with Southeast Asian partners, who besides supporting the international rules-based international order insist on regional norms of behaviour in the face of rising Chinese assertiveness in the region.

Currently, India and Vietnam enjoy a "comprehensive strategic partnership" after Modi visited Vietnam in 2016. In contrast, the United States is only a "comprehensive partner" for Vietnam, two levels below India's status. Washington has struggled to raise the partnership and President Biden's recent visit to Vietnam was part of this endeavour.

The Philippines, an old and U.S.'s treaty ally, has also expanded security partnership with India. Late last month, Philip-

pine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo visited New Delhi and met with his Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar. For the first time, India recognised the legitimacy of the 2016 arbitration ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in favour of Philippine sovereignty claims over China in the South China Sea.

India has also remained committed to evolve a security partnership with Indonesia. Indo-Indonesian defence relations got a boost in 2018, when Modi visited Jakarta and elevated relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership. The two nations also initiated a new naval exercise, Samudra Shakti, which incorporated a warfighting component. In addition the two countries are exploring potential air force cooperation as well. Indonesia may also follow in the footsteps of the Philippines by purchasing BrahMos missiles.

India is also cooperating with Malaysia, on the basis of an enhanced strategic partnership signed in 2015. Although Kuala Lumpur's decision earlier this year to cancel a deal to purchase Indian-made Tejas fighter aircraft may have dampened the partnership somewhat, the intent clearly remains to strengthen ties in line with upholding the mutual goal of maintaining the rules-based international order in the region - especially internationally recognised maritime borders and

freedom of navigation, neither of which Beijing accepts.

Brunei is another emerging partner for India along the South China Sea. In 2021, the two nations renewed their defence agreement for five years, and they regularly engage in joint exercises, port visits by navy and coast guard ships, and official defence exchanges.

India's strategic partnerships with Singapore and Thailand are also close and longstanding. Singapore regularly engages in bilateral exercises, high-level dialogues, visits, and professional training with India. Modi visited Singapore twice in 2018, and on the first trip, he signed 35 memoranda of understanding agreements on a range of security and economic issues.

In 2022, India and Thailand renewed their partnership and pledged to elevate defence engagements further, to include cybersecurity. Perhaps of greater importance is the economic side of their relationship. In a nod to New Delhi's original Look East policy, Bangkok implemented its own Look West policy in 1997, in part to tap into the enormous Indian market. Moreover, Thailand and India are partnering with Myanmar to construct the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway that will significantly upgrade transport links between Southeast Asia and South Asia. Once the highway is completed, Modi and his government

also want to add connections to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam - another clear rival to China's BRI.

India further has good relations with both Cambodia and Laos. In May, Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni visited India, and the two sides reaffirmed "the strong civilisational bond" between the two nations. Phnom Penh and New Delhi cooperate on a range of socioeconomic projects, de-mining, water conservation, and heritage protection. India's engagement with Laos is less robust, but nevertheless, New Delhi and Vientiane are likely discussing ways to boost economic ties. This is all the more remarkable as both Phnom Penh and Vientiane are widely considered to be firmly in China's camp.

Overall, India's proactive Act East policy is also a net positive for the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at countering China. To provide a further impetus to New Delhi to do even more, the U.S. should also help India in its infrastructure and developmental projects, as well as trade deals, which could help lessen Beijing's economic dominance of Southeast Asia. However, New Delhi's policy of practical outreach to Southeast Asia - even if it were sustained only at current levels - would help further undermine Beijing.

(Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator.)

Shiv Sena calls people to get unite for a decisive struggle for rights



JINNEWSERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEP 25

The Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit, today launched "Mai Bhi Ek Sanik" campaign aiming to safeguard the cultural identity, education, and rights of the local populace, as well as make their city free from substance abuse and crime and the ongoing democratic process. Besides, the Party has also reorganized the Udhampur district.

Under the leadership of Manish Sahni, State President Shiv Sena, party workers of Udhampur unit reached out to the public door-to-door, urging them

to become a part of the "Mai Bhi Ek Sanik" Also a Soldier" campaign to take the fight for their rights to a crucial juncture.

Sahni emphasized that the abrogation of Article 370 has stripped our state of its status, and the restoration of democratic processes is still pending. He pointed out that outsiders are dominating our jobs, businesses, and education today. Youth are struggling for employment opportunities, and the burden of economic recession, inflation, and unemployment is increasing the woes of the people. Terrorism, along with drug addiction and crime, is on the rise. The

administration's autocracy and arbitrary actions have left the public feeling helpless.

Sahni urged everyone to get unite and take their fight for rights to a decisive phase, making Jammu and Kashmir prosperous and a pride of the nation once again. On this occasion, State Chief Manish Sahni, reorganizing the district unit, appointed Ajay Sharma, Rajesh Verma as District General Secretary, Anil Raina, Sunil, Nalesh, Kuldeep Sharma and Madan Lal as Vice President, Chand Mohan, Birju Thakur as Secretary while Sahil Gandotra as President Youth. Unit, Bhanu Pratap as Vice President, Vishal Verma as Secretary, Aditya Chanyal as City President, Rahul as Vice President and Rajesh Sharma as General Secretary.

Denying immediate reservation to women, another jumla of Modi: Ritu Chaudhary

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

AICC Spokesperson Ritu Chaudhary today questioned BJP for its dual standards on the issues of women representation and their security dignity & respect and asked why women have to wait for years for the taking the benefits of this reservation, even after passing of the bill, almost unanimously, except on its implementation & in its present form.

Addressing a crowded press conference at party Hq here today, Smt Ritu Chaudhary said that much hype was created over the issue of women reservation, as a special session of parliament was convened, conveying an emergency but when the draft bill came, it was known that it is not meant to be implemented in near future and no one knows when it will be implemented at least not for next several years to come. It proved to

be another jumla of Modi government with the women of the country.

It has been linked to census to be completed in few years and then delimitation, which again will take few more years and then women may get reservation after several years, if implemented. Whom the BJP is trying to confuse and the people can't be befooled any longer, by the Jumlas of BJP especially when the law passed, is not meant to be implemented for years to come.

She said then congress president Smt Sonia Gandhi and then again shri Rahil Gandhi wrote twice to Prime Minister Modi ji, to bring the women reservation bill, extending full support but in nine years no steps were taken despite clear majority by BJP. On the eve of elections, BJP and Modi government played truant with women of the country by just passing the bill but

fixing no time line for years to come.

She said BJP has been again maintaining dual standards on the issue of women reservation, security, dignity and respect as Modi government and BJP always sheltered those accused of serious offences involving sexual harassment and offences against women. She referred to the case of women wrestlers who accused BJP MP MP Bhart Bhushan Sharn Singh of grave charges of sexual exploitation but BJP government took no action, she also referred to Hathras case, Involvement of Kuldeep Sengar like others besides the latest in Manipur, where BJP remained insensitive to the serious incidents.

She said BJP can no take high moral ground on the issue and can't claim credit of being champion of the cause of women and rather it is congress party which always championed the

cause of women and took stern action on any incident involving their security, dignity and respect.

She said it was congress party led by Rajiv Gandhi which originally brought reservation bill for women in PRIs but questioned role of BJP and it's stalwarts but it was passed by Congress government headed by PV Narasimha Rao, as a result of which around 15 lakh women are elected representatives in PRIs in the country, today.

Again this reservation bill was first passed in the Rajya Sabha in, 2010 by Congress government with 33% percent reservation in Parliament and state assemblies for immediate implementation but could not be passed in Lok Sabha due to lack of clear majority in absence of consensus. However, BJP with clear majority remained silent for all these years and now again played another joke.

Prof. Gharu, Anuradha listens to public grievances at BJP

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Listening to the grievances put forth by the people at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Former MLA Prof. Gharu Ram and J&K BJP Vice-President Anuradha Charak stressed the need for a robust grievance redressal system at political and administrative levels. A large number of people, individually as well in the form of deputations, visited the BJP office to discuss their respective issues with the senior party leaders. Various issues raised contained matters of individual concerns as well as development-oriented related to their respective areas.

People from various areas presented issues related to the repair of lanes & drains, repair of streetlights, revenue record issues, issues related to the CAPD, installation of electric poles and other issues of public interest.

BJP leaders listened to all the individuals and the deputations patiently and immediately took up the matters with the concerned departmental officials telephonically as well as issued letters for the others. Talking to the concerned authorities, they pressed for the prompt redressal of the issues.

Yudhvir distributes stationery items, eatables among children



JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of Jammu & Kashmir BJP, marked the ongoing Sewa Pakhwada initiative by distributing stationery materials and eatables to children during a special event held in Ward No. 4, East Constituency, Jammu.

The programme was organized by Arun Sethi, General Secretary of East Mandal, aimed to contribute to the welfare of the local community.

In line with the spirit of Sewa Pakhwada, a campaign emphasizing selfless service and community engagement, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the significance of the occasion. He shared that Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi had urged party members not to celebrate his birthday extravagantly but instead to observe the day by participating in acts of service and social welfare. Sethi expressed, "Today, as part of our commitment to the principles of Sewa Pakhwada, we distributed stationery materials to students. Our objective is to send a strong message to society about the importance of educating our children by sending them to school."

He underlined the pivotal role of education, stating, "Education equips us with the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to fulfill our responsibilities towards our society, families, and nation. The

value of education in our lives is immeasurable, and it serves as a cornerstone for progress."

Yudhvir Sethi urged parents and guardians to prioritize education, emphasizing, "It is our foremost duty to ensure that our children receive a quality education." Among those who were present include Kuldeep Kandhari, Ashok Naidu, Vipen, Sameer Gandotra, Chaman, Shivam Jain, Tarun Tak, Raman Gupta, Anshul, Varun Tak, Dinesh Vermani, Ajay Gupta, Vijay Kumar Gupta, Vinod, Kamlesh Tak, Sanjay Grover, Sonu Kapoor, Deepak Raina, Toni, Arjun Gandotra, Usha Rani, Monika Sethi, Manju Dogra, Gautam Dogra, and other dedicated ward members.

Sham Lal Gupta welcomes passage of Women Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

In a momentous development for gender equality and women's empowerment in India, the Lok Sabha has successfully passed the long-awaited Women Reservation Bill, earning accolades from Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of the Anti Crime Bureau N.G.O.

This historic achievement signifies a significant stride toward addressing gender disparities in India's political landscape. With a keen understanding of the urgency and importance of increasing women's representation in decision-making bodies, Gupta commended the Lok Sabha for its foresight and unwavering commitment to women's empowerment. He stated, "The passage of the Women Reservation Bill marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards a more inclusive and progressive society, offering women equal opportunities to contribute to nation-building."

Gupta's words reflect the sentiment of many who see this legislation as a beacon of hope for millions of women across the country. This bill reserves a certain percentage of



seats in the Lok Sabha for women, aiming to rectify the historical underrepresentation of women in India's political sphere. It acknowledges the immense talent, capabilities, and perspectives that women bring to the table and the need to harness these for the betterment of the nation.

Highlighting the Modi government's flagship schemes, Gupta underscored their positive impact on women nationwide. Initiatives such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Ujjawala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, and others have successfully integrated women into the socio-economic fabric of the nation. These programs have not only empowered women but have also contributed

significantly to their economic independence and overall well-being.

For instance, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao aims to promote the welfare of girls and ensure their education, addressing the deeply rooted issue of gender bias. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana provides financial assistance to pregnant and lactating mothers, ensuring their health and the well-being of their children. Meanwhile, the Ujjawala Yojana, which provides LPG connections to households below the poverty line, and the Jan Dhan Yojana, which aims to ensure financial inclusion for all, including women, have facilitated women's active participation in economic activities and decision-making processes.

Gupta expressed profound optimism about the transformative effect of the Women Reservation Bill and these empowering schemes on society's holistic development. He affirmed, "These initiatives exemplify the Modi government's steadfast dedication to uplifting the status of women in Bharat. We have unwavering belief in the potential and capabilities of our women, and

the BJP government will persistently strive towards their empowerment."

He extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister, and the BJP leadership for their tireless pursuit of their promise to empower women. While recognizing this as a substantial step forward, he emphasized the need for continued efforts to ensure gender equality across all facets of society. He urged the public to actively support initiatives that champion women's empowerment, underscoring its pivotal role in shaping a progressive and inclusive nation.

As the Women Reservation Bill now stands on the cusp of becoming law, it represents not just a legal transformation but a cultural shift towards gender equality in India. While challenges remain, the nation is taking firm steps toward creating an environment where women have equal opportunities and a strong voice in shaping the nation's destiny. In this journey towards a more inclusive and equitable society, India looks forward to celebrating the diverse talents and perspectives of its women for the collective betterment of the nation.

Aakash Bharat calls for Signature Campaign to restore electoral democracy in J&K

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

A press conference was held today at the Pradesh Congress Headquarters, where Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress (PYC) President, Aakash Bharat, announced the commencement of a signature campaign aimed at restoring electoral democracy in the state.

Addressing the media, Aakash Bharat expressed concerns over recent statements made by the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir, suggesting that 80% of the people in the region were content with the current LG Rule and did not desire elections. In response, Aakash Bharat and the Youth Congress have initiated this signature drive to reveal the true sentiment of the people.

Bharat emphasized that the majority of the youth



in Jammu and Kashmir are grappling with unemployment, and instead of addressing this critical issue, the LG government has been distributing SMART meters, imposing tolls, and offering various superficial incentives. The signature campaign aims to highlight the pressing need for employment opportunities in the region. The signature drive commenced at Bahu Fort, Ward No. 47, Jammu,

and saw a significant turnout of enthusiastic participants.

Aakash Bharat reaffirmed that this campaign will extend across the entirety of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated, "Through this drive, we aim to convey to the current administration, led by LG Manoj Sinha, that the people of Jammu and Kashmir earnestly desire elections, not prolonged LG Rule. The youth of

Jammu and Kashmir seek employment opportunities, not tolls and smart meters, he added.

The press conference and campaign event were attended by distinguished individuals, including Vice Presidents PYC Divyansh Jamwal and Fiaz Diwan, Spokesperson Rahul Tondon, Chetan Sharma, Ex-Vice President PYC Ricky Dalotra, Besides Senior Congress leaders Dawan Chand, Mangat Ram, Dinesh Dalotra, Reeta Kumari, Ex-Corporator, and other prominent figures. Additionally, the event witnessed the presence of several other dedicated supporters of the cause. The signature campaign is set to be a rallying point for the people of Jammu and Kashmir who wish to voice their demands for electoral democracy and employment opportunities in the region.

Thousands of people are turning up in Kalash Yatra organized by NYKS J&K - Ladakh

JINNEWSERVICE
LADAKH, SEPT 25

The mega event Meri Maati Mera Desh is a tribute to the sacrifices of the National Heroes who gave their supreme for the motherland and under the phase 2 of this event, the UTs of J&K and Ladakh are witnessing numerous activities. NYKS J&K and Ladakh under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India is holding various Kalash yatras across the length and breadth of the UTs with people contributing soil and rice as a souvenir to be taken to the National Capital in the last days of October as the foundation of Amrit Vatika at Kartavyapath.

A large number of programs under the second phase of Meri Maati Mera Desh were organised in Jammu Division. In Kathua district, Kalash Yatra was taken out in panchayat



Gondh of Block Nagri by NYV Babita Saini. Similar Yatra was held at village Dharamkote, Block Billa-war in presence of Head Master Sh Ram Lal and Anganwari Workers. NYV Shivali Verma played a key role. A Kalash Yatra was

also taken out in Village Papral, Block Dharmah-anpur. Sh Pankaj Kumar Head Master was the Chief Guest in a program held at Dhadholi by NYV Mohd Yousaf. In Poonch district, Kalash Yatras were taken out in Blocks Sathra by

NYV Fozia Shabir and youth club members in which people contributed soil from their houses. Thannamandi Block of District Rajouri also witnessed Amrit Kalash Yatra which were coordinated by NYVs Waseem Shafi and Rukhsana Kouser in which people contributed rice and soil from their households. Kalash yatras were also taken out in Kashmir Division under the second phase of Meri Maati Mera Desh. In Pulwama and Anantnag districts, Kalash Yatras were taken out with people contributing rice and soil from their respective households. In Leh district of UT of Ladakh, Kalash Yatra was taken out in block Nyoma in people actively participated and contributed rice and soil in memory of the National Heroes.

NC won't allow divisive forces to vitiate peace, brotherhood in J&K: Rattan Lal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 25

Secularism, which has been the hallmark of Jammu and Kashmir and its people, is under threat from certain divisive forces who are hell-bent on destroying it for their own vested interests.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President J&K National Conference, Jammu, in a press statement issued here today.

The senior NC leader asserted that Jammu and Kashmir has always been an epitome of secularism but today certain divisive forces are hell bent to destroy the same for their vested interests. He said that it is quite unfortunate that some political parties are working to create a narrative that will only divide the people.

Without directly naming



the party, he said that a political party on the forefront in this regard is leaving no stone unturned in dividing the people in J&K to fulfill its political agenda of establishing its government in Jammu and Kashmir. He added that every attempt is being made to divide the communities who are living together since decades but the National Conference cadre right from the grass roots level to the top will not allow such elements to succeed in their divisive endeavours.

Rattan Lal Gupta, while castigating the Govt at the Centre as well as the Union Territory Administration for bringing only miseries for the common people, said that the economy of

Jammu and Kashmir has made a nose dive and is continuously going down due to the hollow policies of BJP Government and its proxy rule in this Union Territory. Not only this, the unemployment rate has gone rocketing high during the BJP regime. He said that as per the figures of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate which was nearly 4.1 per cent in 2013-14 but today the same has reached 23.1 in J&K which seems to be a cause of serious concern that craves for immediate solution, he said.

The senior NC leader said that even the per capita income has fallen considerably in Jammu and Kashmir. Asserting that hollow slogans of the Govt will not correct the unemployment rate in J&K, he said that youth can easily see that they have

only a bleak future in front of them.

Asserting that there is a need to remain united at this crucial juncture, he said that only then we will easily succeed in the fight against such divisive and disruptive forces. He said that such elements are working 24X7 to create a wedge between the communities but we will leave no stone unturned in defeating these divisive forces. He appealed to the party cadre and the people to stand united in order to defeat these divisive forces and uphold the secular credentials of this region at all costs.

Rattan Lal Gupta appealed to the people to support National Conference candidates in the impending ULB and Panchayat polls in J&K to get rid of all the miseries thrust upon them by the government at the Centre.

ADGP Jammu, team bids farewell to Staff Officer to ADGP Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Mukesh Singh -IPS Additional Director General of Police Jammu Zone, organized a Hi-Tea party for Shri Ashok Kumar-JKPS, SSP (Staff Officer) who is going to attain superannuation from the service on 30th of September-2023.

While speaking on the occasion, ADGP Jammu Zone highlighted and lauded the work/efforts put in by the officer during his service in the department in different capacities while his posting in vigilance organization, PTS Vijaypur, and Staff Officer to ADGP Jammu Zone.

For his outstanding performance in duties, Shri Ashok Sharma, SSP earned number of Commendation certificates/ rewards and appreciations from senior formations.

Adv Purnima pays glorious tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor, paid heartfelt tributes to the illustrious Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya on the occasion of his birth anniversary in a function held here today.

In her address, she threw light on the significant contributions of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya in providing a distinct political ideology to India, thereby fortifying our democracy. She conveyed the essence of Pt. Upadhyaya's philosophy to the dedicated BJP activists who gathered to honor his memory.

Speaking about Pt. Upadhyaya's concept of "Ekam Manavaad" (Integral Humanism), she articulated that Pt. Upadhyaya meticulously developed an economic and social



model aimed at nurturing a modern India. She emphasized that the path paved by Pt. Upadhyaya continues to empower and guide us today.

Under the resolute leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation is advancing along the principles of Upadhyaya, with a fundamental commitment to "Ekam Manavaad" and "Antodaya," as evidenced by various government policies that

prioritize the upliftment of the most marginalized segments of society. Initiatives such as universal access to banking and sanitation facilities are testimonies to this vision, she added.

She called upon BJP workers to actively contribute to the organizational strengthening of the party in their respective areas, echoing the enduring spirit of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's ideology.

BJP's strength is its cohesion: Rekha Mahajan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South held a meeting, which was attended by party senior leaders in ward no 68, Greater Kailash, Jammu. The meeting was led by its President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan in the esteem presence of BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Salathia, Jammu South Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Deputy Mayor Baldev Billowaria, State Secretary Naresh Singh, Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, Councillor Pawan Singh, District General Secretary Pushpinder Singh, and Mandal President Kunjwani Ranjit Singh. All the senior leaders of BJP hailing from Jammu South RSPura Constituency participated in the meeting. The meeting was attended by BJP Karyekartas including the Kunjwani Mandal team were present on the



occasion. The meeting was organized by Councillor Anil Kumar.

Giving the Guru Mantra to party cadres, including mandal team Rekha Mahajan said, "Booth Jeeta toh Chunav Jeeta" in which the threadbare discussions on the ongoing and upcoming organizational programmes being carried out by BJP cadres. Rekha implored the party leaders to ensure the completion of booth-level committees and committees of various Morchas, Cells, and Departments to enhance the party's functioning in their respective areas. She also shared information about various forth-

coming party programs. She said BJP's pro-people policies have been recognized by the public across J&K and other parts of the country, she appealed to the populace to extend their full support to the BJP government at the Centre.

Surjeet Singh Salathia asked BJP party men to work actively for organizational strengthening in their respective areas. Salathia provided a brief overview of the Party structure in Jammu and assured the party leadership of the best results in the forthcoming elections. He also discussed organizational matters with the

party cadre. He focused on strengthening the party at the ground level. He also apprised the party cadre of the forthcoming party programs and asked them to organize them with fervor.

Billowaria said that the role of BJP Karyekartas is very important to win the elections and the BJP has got the victory in every election only due to the efforts on the calculation of these workers. He familiarized that the BJP is the only party that is moving ahead with the goal "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" while working organizationally. Vikram Randhawa, Ayodhya Gupta, and Naresh Singh stressed the importance of workers going to every nook and corner of their allotted areas to establish rapport with every resident, which ultimately translated into a positive vote for the party.

Under 'Swachta Hi Seva', PIB, CBC Jammu organizes various activities

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Under nation wide campaign of 'Swachta Hi Seva', Press Information Bureau, Jammu and Central Bureau of Communication Jammu today organized various Swachta Activities in the office premises of Media Centre, PIB, Jammu.



During the program, Joint Director, CBC, Sh. Ghulam Abbas impressed

upon all the officers and officials of PIB & CBC Jammu to keep the sur-

roundings neat and clean and will neither litter nor let others litter. Cleanliness drive was carried out inside and outside the office premises and weeding of old physical files was also done by the employees.

To keep the office premises neat and clean, old obsolete items were also identified for auction.

GCW Udhampur hosts series of competitions for NCC cadets of 1 J&K NCC Girls Bn Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 25

Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur hosted a series of competitions for NCC cadets of 1 J&K NCC Girls Bn Srinagar under Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan. These competitions aimed to foster discipline, leadership, and camaraderie among the youth. The event concluded with a grand prize distribution ceremony to recognize and reward the outstanding performances of the cadets. The competitions were held at Common Room of GCW Udhampur and comprised several challenging events, including:

1. Poster Making Competition: It aimed at promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. The theme for the competition was "Small Steps Big Impact: Eco friendly practices for better tomorrow". 27 cadets participated and on the basis of creativity, content and theme; first prize was bagged by Cadet Aastha, second by Cadet Sanchi and third by Cadet Khushi.

The event was organised by Prof. Rukhsana Kousar. In Quiz Competition, the quiz competition followed a structured format, consisting of mul-

multiple rounds. It included questions on a wider range of topics including environmental science, Indian history, current affairs etc. After several rounds of intense competition, the first place was bagged by Group A headed by Sergeant Manvi, second by Group C by SUO Samiksha Thakur. The event was organised by Prof. Rukhsana Kousar.

4. Debate Competition: A thought-provoking debate competition was organised in College Common Hall. This event aimed to encourage critical thinking, effective communication, and deeper understanding of societal issues among young participants. After rigorous debates and deliberations, 1st position was bagged by Cadet Sanchi, 2nd by Cadet Saima and 3rd by Cadet Sheetal.

In Nukkad Natak, a nukkad natak was performed by NCC Cadets of 1 J&K NCC Girls Bn Srinagar aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic use on the environment and society. It portrayed various scenarios to highlight the consequences of plastic pollution. It was performed by a group of 14 NCC Cadets.

6. Awareness Rally: The NCC Cadets of 1 J&K NCC Girls Bn Srinagar took part in a spirited awareness rally as part of the "Special Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan for G-20 celebrations. The event aimed to promote cleanliness and sensitise the community about the importance of maintaining a clean environment. It was flagged off by Principal Prof. Anjali Mahajan and supervised by Prof. Rukhsana Kousar

Prize distribution ceremony of various Events conducted by 1 J&K NCC Girls Bn, GCW Udhampur was organised by Prof. Rukhsana Kousar under "Special Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan" for G-20 celebrations.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest ASP Anwaar-ul-Haq who added prestige to the occasion. The guest of honour was Prof. Anjali Mahajan Principal GCW Udhampur. The Ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Principal Prof. Anjali Mahajan.

A brief overview of Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan was presented by Cadet Sanchi highlighting its objectives and the positive impact it has on community.

Awards were distributed to the deserving NCC Cadets who excelled in various events conducted under PSA. ASP Anwaar-ul-haq addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of community service and the role of NCC Cadets in building a better society. The chief guest was felicitated with a memento by Worthy Principal as a token of appreciation.

A heartfelt vote of thanks was extended by the NCC officer Prof. Rukhsana Kousar to chief guest, Guest of Honour, Staff, NCC Cadets and participants for making the event successful.

The prize distribution ceremony served as a motivating factor for the cadets to continue their dedication to the NCC and their country. Such events play a crucial role in shaping the future leaders of our nation.

GDCW Kathua celebrates NSS Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 26

Government Degree College for Women, Kathua celebrated National Service Scheme (NSS) Day with great enthusiasm and fervour on 25-09-2023. The event, dedicated to honouring the spirit of community service, brought together students and faculty members to commemorate the legacy of NSS. NSS Day, celebrated annually on September 24th, marks the birth anniversary of the founder of NSS, Shri Keshav Baliram

Hedgewar. The programme commenced with an introductory speech by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme Officer, who inspired the students with his words of encouragement and the importance of selfless service to society. The NSS volunteers proudly took the NSS pledge, reaffirming their commitment to serve the nation. Many NSS Volunteers spoke on the occasion, showcasing their dedication towards making a positive impact on the community. Dr. Savi Behl, Principal of the college, expressed pride in the

students' active participation and their dedication to the NSS ethos. She emphasized the importance of inculcating the values of service and citizenship in the youth, acknowledging the pivotal role played by NSS in achieving this. The event reflecting the institution's commitment to fostering responsible and socially-conscious individuals. The entire event was organized and supervised by Dr. Arun Dev Singh (NSS Programme Officer) and other committee members: Prof. Raj Kumari, Prof. Pallavi and Dr. Rajni Khajuria.

Manjit demands restoration of democratic system in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARI BRAHMANA, SEP 25

Apni Party Provincial President Jammu and Former Minister S Manjit Singh has demanded restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir to address growing concerns of the people.

"The people have been in despair for the last several years in both the regions because of the absence of an elected Govt. The issues have multiplied, and the bureaucracy has failed to resolve the issues. However, the attempt to coverup the public anger against the authorities has resulted in protests a couple of weeks back," said Manjit Singh while addressing a meeting in Samba.

The meeting was organized by Mandeep Singh Mannu at Ward Number 8 in Bari Brahmna to discuss prevailing political situations and issues confronted by the people.

However, the people were annoyed with the way the Legislative Assembly is being delayed without any reason, and referred to the rumors about attempts to delay scheduled Urban Local Body and Panchayati elections in J&K.

"Certain elements do not want a peaceful atmosphere with an intention to delay elections in J&K with one reason or another. The anger among the people should be addressed without further delay by holding Assembly polls in J&K," he said.

He said that some of the top ranking bureaucrats do not want elections because they run the Govt as per their wishes and they fear their power will be taken over by an elected Govt. "If we form the next Govt, we will identify such elements in the Govt who are bent upon to create differences among the union and state Govts and show them doors," he said while criticising the officials responsible for creating disorder in J&K.

He said that the elected representatives are responsible to the people and these babus are not answerable to anyone.

"The issue of NHAI, Toll Tax Collection, poor planning in Smart City Project, involvement of mining and liquor mafia etc are such examples that Jammu will not forget and the elected Govt will seek answers from babus," he said.

He however assured the people that the Apni Party is committed to revamp the living standard of the people by providing them a stable Govt that would represent both the regions equally.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 25

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Chakroi, Pind, Hansa, Satariyan, Flora, BoP, Tanda, Kirpind, Seed Farm, ward no. 1 to 10 (RS Pura), Paper mill, Dablehar, Badyal, Chowalla and its adjoining areas will remain affected on September 26 from 7 am to 11 am.

TKM Flags Off its Third Zonal Drive of the 'Great 4X4 Expedition', in the Northern Region of India

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 25

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) commenced the third leg of its thrilling 'Great 4X4 Expedition' today in the northern region of India. In May 2023, TKM marking its inaugural 4X4 Expedition started in the Southern Region of India (Sakleshpur-Hassan of Karnataka State), followed by the second drive held recently in the West Region at Lonavala. Needless to mention, the recently concluded South and West based 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota' were filled with unlimited excitement and adventure. Participants were treated to specially curated drives and the joy of breath-taking green landscape views. This initiative has been designed to unite and engage with motoring enthusiasts from all corners of the country - the regions of North, South, East, and

West, thereby ensuring nationwide participation. Building on the success of the previous expeditions in the southern and western regions, TKM flagged-off its third 4X4 Expedition in the north region starting at Hoshiarpur, as a testament to Toyota's commitment to provide exhilarating experience to 4x4 SUV community, fuelling their passion for adventure, and promoting 'Mass Happiness and Mobility for All.'

The expedition features a convoy of remarkable 4-wheel drive SUVs, such as the iconic Hilux, the legendary LC300, the popular Fortuner and the Hyryder AWD (All Wheel Drive) and including the owners of SUVs from other brands as well, thereby fuelling their spirit of thrilling and adventurous 4X4 drive.

Starting from Gaj Retreat of Hoshiarpur in the northern region, the experiential



drive will take participants through the challenging terrains, showcasing the exceptional capabilities of the 4X4 vehicles. As a unique element of this extraordinary expedition, TKM has thoughtfully curated a 4WD trail featuring natural obstacles like articulation, side inclines, rambler sections, deep ditches, slushy terrain, and rocky beds at Kikar. These carefully designed tracks promise an unmatched off-roading adventure, showcasing the versatility of the 4X4 vehicles.

It goes without saying that Toyota places the utmost importance on customer safety and to ensure this, comprehensive safety measures have been meticulously put in place, wherein all the participants will be closely guided by the experienced 4X4 professionals throughout the entire expedition.

In addition to the thrilling adventure, participants will engage in a meaningful eco-activity, making a positive impact on the environment in line with Toyota's com-

mitment towards sustainability and carbon neutrality goals. Each of the participating 4x4 enthusiasts will also plant saplings at one of the identified locations during the expedition, which will be their contribution to enrich the biodiversity in the surrounding areas of Kikar, Hoshiarpur.

Commenting on the third edition of 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota', Mr. Atul Sood, Vice President - Sales and Strategic Marketing, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We believe that the 'Great 4X4 Expedition' isn't just about conquering terrains; it's about conquering hearts and inspiring a sense of adventure in everyone. With each of these 4X4 expeditions, we strive to connect people with their passion for 4X4 SUVs, foster unity and providing a joyful experience of indulging in 4X4 adventures. With this initiative, our aim is to

ignite the spark of thrill in the hearts of participants, regardless of the 4X4 vehicle brands they own. It is a testament to our commitment, to not only provide delightful 4X4 experiences, but also to promote inclusivity and the spirit of exploration.

As we navigate through the 4X4 Expedition, we are reminded of our responsibility to leave a positive impact in the places we visit. Through the 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota,' we aim to inspire individuals to not only explore their passion for motorsports but also to build lasting connections, strengthen their culture of contributing to a greener, more sustainable world through tree plantation activity."

Stay tuned for the next 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota', being planned in the eastern region of India in the coming month.

GCW Parade Ground Jammu celebrated NSS Day



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEP 25

NSS units GCW Parade celebrated 55th NSS day with great fervour. The event was formally inaugurated with traditional lamp lighting ceremony by the Principal of the college Dr S P Sarswat, NSS POs and other faculty members. About 150 NSS volunteers participated in the program. Volunteers presented NSS song before the audience, and a traditional Gojri dance was also presented by them. Principal of the College felicitated outgoing students with mementos, the Volunteers were felicitated for their exceptional contributions towards NSS namely Ms Mavi Sapolia, best NSS Volunteer for 2022, Ms Tarandeep Kaur, best NSS volunteers for the year 2023 who was appreciated for receiving

the Vice Chancellor Commendation Certificate for the year 2023. Other outgoing Volunteers who were felicitated include Ms Amulya Singh, Ms Usha Sharma, Ms Mehak Dharma, Ms Fatima Nissa, Ms Muskan Kumari, Ms Mehak Sharma and Ms Shienna Singh who represented NSS at National level. After that Principal of the College released Biannual Newsletter of NSS highlighting important activities of NSS from January to June 2023. The proceedings of the event were carried out by Ms Amisha Rajput, NSS Volunteer and the program ended with a formal Vote of Thanks by NSS Program Officer Dr Gurpreet Kour. The other present in the function included Dr Mohd. Majeed, Dr Parvaiz Ahmad, NSS Program Officers and Dr Mamta Sharma, HoD Sanskrit.

Ganesh leads strong protest against Bishnah Municipal Committee

Says people in Municipal areas deprived of basic civic facilities

JNEWS SERVICE
BISHNAH, SEPT 25

Shiv Sena Hindustan Youth activists led by J&K President Ganesh Choudhary held strong protest against Bishnah Municipal Committee for not cleaning drainage and collecting garbage in these areas. SSH activists blocked road and registered protest. They raised slogans against Municipal Committee and said that cleaning should be done right now and the employees who don't listen to the problems of people, they should be thrown out of the dept.

Speaking on the occasion, Ganesh said that Bishnah Municipality despite promising that matter will be resolved in few days. He also expressed locals helplessness who alleged that the concerned officers, supervisors don't listen to them. He said that people in Municipal areas were deprived of basic civic facilities. Piling garbage on streets and alleys, clogged and overflowing drains, power crisis, perennial paucity of drinking and potable water, possibilities of accidents due to poor maintenance of streetlights and roads, unkempt



park, non-functional hand pumps crying for repairs over a long period of time and demanded immediate solution to the stated ills at the earliest.

Ganesh said that due to lack of proper cleanliness in various areas, filth was strewn around localities, piling garbage piles in residential areas were like landmarks of BMC. The BMC concentrates on main thoroughfares while neglecting alleys and localities in matters of sanitation and garbage clearance.. It seems, BMC authorities are either unaware or have forgotten the purpose of setting up such Committees. As a result, basic civic needs continue to be overlooked," and continued, "The prevailing inhuman conditions are accentuated by the fact that even in the midst of this scorching summer, people are being subjected to water crisis, added Ganesh. If

the demands are not met within an early time frame, the Municipality officials would be made to experience the problems that people were being forced to face, added Ganesh. 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 Chaudhary, Reena Devi, Veeeta Devi, Sheela Devi, Pinky Devi, Sunita Devi, Santosh Devi, Suman Devi.

BJP pays tributes to Pt. Deendayal



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by its senior leaders paid tributes to great ideologue, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji on his birth anniversary in various programmes held across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

In a programme held at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, BJP leaders paid floral tributes.

BJP NEM Priya Sethi said that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, born on September 25, 1916, and leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, was a profound philosopher. He has been the source of ideological guidance and moral inspiration for the BJP since its inception. His views on integral Humanism and Antodaya are reflected in every welfare scheme of the Modi gov-

ernment, which aims to empower every section, socially-economically and politically.

BJP Vice President Anuradha Charak said that right from the days of childhood, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya faced many difficulties but did not deviate from his mission of serving the nation and its people. His focus was to strengthen the social fabric, induce a sense of patriotism and treat everyone equally.

Former MLC Choudhary Vikram Randhawa said that no one is born to live forever on this earth but there are a few such noble souls like Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji, who always live in the hearts of the people and become role models for others. BJP Secretary Arvind Gupta said that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji, led a simple life in the service of the nation and such personalities are

very rare, adding that on this day, each one of us should take pledge to educate the people about the nationalist ideology and pro-masses principles of Pandit ji.

BJP Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, DDC Suresh Sharma, Spokesperson Rajni Sethi, former VC Daljit Singh Chib, former VC Balbir Ram Rattan, OBC Morcha President Sunil Prajapati, Social Media Incharge Ankit Gupta and others also paid their tributes.

In a similar programme held at Talab Tillo, J&K BJP Secretary Ayodhya Gupta, senior leader Sanjay Baru, Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, District President Parmod Kapahi, Mandal Presidents Keshav Chopra & Atul Bakshi, Puneet Mahajan, Sahil, Veena Gupta, Lokesh Bhagat, Parveen Ghai, Sahil Sharma and others paid tributes to Pandit Deen Upadhyay ji.

One Day Awareness Camp organized by Civil Defence, Jammu



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

One day Awareness programme was organized at MIER College of Education (SOE), Jammu, in which (90) Female Students of the B.Ed/ B.Ed Special & M.Ed participated in the programme. During the programme awareness about basic knowledge on First Aid, CPR, choking, Amputation & Snake Bite and emergency rescue methods was given to the students by the Civil Defence experts. The

main objective of the awareness program is to sensitize students and staff members on precautionary measures during natural or man-made calamities and to adopt improvised methods while giving first aid to the disaster victim.

On the occasion a lecture was delivered on the above topics by the Civil Defence Experts. Principal of the MIER College Dr. Adit Gupta appreciated the role of Civil Defence in spreading awareness about disaster management and First Aid.

Beside others Dr. Rohinika Sharma HOD, Dr. Ritu Devidi NSSPO and other Staff of the MIER College were also present on the occasion.

Gandhi Jayanti: Shanti Yatra- a journey to peace reaches Kathua district

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, SEPT 25

As part of 154th Birth anniversary celebrations of Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi Ji, the 'Shanti Yatra- a Journey to Peace' being organised by School Education Department, J&K reached District Kathua today and was formally received Shanti Chinn to Bani zone at GHS Glodi zone Basohli. The Yatra was accorded a warm reception by ADC Sh. Ajit Singh. ZEO Basohli Sh. Ram Dass, Principal of Govt Model Hr Sec Basohli Sh. Lalit Sharma . ZICC Smt. Sarita Devika along with staff and students, a large number of locals amidst chanting of slogans in favour of universal peace and non-violence.

The Yatra, which entered district Kathua today, will touch Basohli, Mahanpur, Lakanpur,



Kathua HQ, Marheen and Hiranagar in next few days and the Shant Chhin will be formally handed over to Samba district on 27th September 2023 at Kootah Morh. Along side Shanti Yatra, Kathua administration has already rolled out a calendar of activities featuring theme based Symposium and Slogan Writing competitions at School, Zone and District levels, being held across all schools of the district from 16th September - 02 October 2023. Further, on 30th September, 2023 a Divisional level competition will also be held, winners of which will get prizes

on the culmination day of Shanti Yatra in Jammu. Pertinently, Directorate of School Education, Jammu with the co-ordination of Cultural Cell DSEJ has planned a Shanti Yatra to promote rich values of Gandhian Philosophy which was flagged off on 9th of September, 2023 from Poonch district.

The Yatra is being coordinated in Kathua District by a team of Cultural and Education Cell under the guidance of CEO Kathua Parkash Lal Thappa with active teams of Zonal Cultural Incharges under Zonal level Cultural Committee constituted for this purpose.

IIMC organizes Radio jingle competition on "paryavaran sanrakshan evam swacchta"

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Indian Institute of mass communication (IIMC), Jammu organised Radio spot/jingle competition on the topic "paryavaran sanrakshan evam swacchta" inleau of Hindi Pakhwada. The group of Yashi Purnima and Nidhi of Digital Media won the first prize, group of Ojasva, Adhinayak and Mohit of Digital Media and group of Ratan and Megha of Hindi Journalism shared the second prize. The third prize goes to the group of Sanjay, Dixant and Devesh of Digital Media.

Dr. Dilip Kumar, Associate Professor, Dr. Anshula Garg, Assistant Professor, Yasir arafat, Assistant Professor served as the judges of the radio jingle competition. Through this competition students of IIMC gave suggestions & measures to spread awareness



regarding environmental protection. Prof. Anil Saumitra, Regional Director, IIMC declared the result and also appreciated the students performance.

Yasir Arafat, Assistant Professor coordinated

this competition and Dr. Dilip Kumar was the convener of Hindi Pakhwada. The session was anchored by Paridhi and Pragati of Hindi Journalism and English Journalism respectively.



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Two days Boys and Girls Zonal Level Athletic Meet w.e.f 25-09-2023 to 26-09-2023, under the ages U/14/U/17/U/19 of AAG, commenced at Ghari Ground, Jaurian organized by Department of Youth Services & Sports, Zone Jaurian. Major, Viplove Sharma was the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest congratulated all the participants for taking part in sports activities at various levels and counted them the benefits of these sports events. Speaking on this opening ceremony the Zonal Physical Education Officer,

Jaurian Smt. Kumari Rajni congratulated all the participants for playing under sportsmanship during whole journey and assured them in future the department will try to organise such types of tournaments in more sports events. 150 Players from different Schools of Zone Jaurian participated in the Athletic Meet. This event was held under the overall guidance of Smt. Kumari Rajni ZPEO Jaurian. Dr. Ashwani Bali Activity Incharge, Zone Jaurian thanks to players for their extraordinary sports skills, discipline and true spirit sportsmanship. All the staff of Zone Jaurian were also present.

JU's Poonch Campus organizes Cleanliness drive in commemoration of World NSS Day

J NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 25

In observance of World NSS (National Service Scheme) Day, a significant cleanliness drive was organized at the Poonch Campus, reaffirming the institution's commitment to community service and environmental stewardship. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members and non teaching staff members, all eager to contribute to the noble cause of keeping the campus and its surroundings clean and green.

The cleanliness drive, organized by the NSS I/C of Poonch Campus Miss Kalpna Sudan, witnessed an impressive turnout of volunteers. Equipped with cleaning tools and a fervent spirit, the participants enthusiastically took up the task of clearing litter, debris and maintaining hygiene across the campus premises.

Director Poonch Campus Prof. Rakesh Vaid in his message congratulated students, faculty and staff for carrying out cleanliness drive. The Director expressed his appreciation for the wholehearted involvement of students, faculty members and non teaching staff members. He emphasized the importance of community engagement and the role of NSS in shaping responsible citizens and fostering a sense of duty towards society.

"The initiative aligned with the larger mission



of NSS to instill a sense of social responsibility and environmental consciousness among the youth. It emphasized the importance of active civic engagement and encouraged students to take part in activities that enhance the well-being of their communities," Director Poonch Campus Prof. Rakesh Vaid added.

Addressing the participants, Campus Officer Dr. Rubia Bukhari expressed her appreciation for the overwhelming response and commitment displayed by the volunteers. She highlighted the significance of community service and urged everyone to make it a regular part of their lives.

She highlighted the need for maintaining a clean and hygienic campus environment. She encouraged everyone to carry forward the spirit of community service beyond this event and integrate it

into their daily lives.

Furthering the motivational discourse, the In-Charge of NSS Unit at Poonch Campus, Miss Kalpana Sudan addressed the gathering. She spoke about the principles of NSS and its objective of instilling social responsibility among youth. She urged students to actively engage in community service and be the agents of positive change in society.

The cleanliness drive successfully showcased the dedication and zeal of the Poonch Campus community in contributing to the betterment of their environment. It underscored the importance of collective efforts in maintaining a clean and sustainable living space for all. Present on the occasion includes; Dr. Suraksha Chanotra, Dr. Jyoti Angotra, Dr. Palvi Sharma, Miss Kalpna Sudan, Mr. Mohd K Sagheer and Mr. Sandeep Kumar.

Ather Energy opens its first Experience Centre in Jammu and Kashmir

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 25 SEPTEMBER

Ather Energy, India's leading electric scooter manufacturer, inaugurated its 150th Experience Centre, Ather Space in Jammu. This is Ather's first Experience Centre in Greater Kailash, Jammu. This achievement marks a significant milestone for the company, as it represents the establishment of the first Experience Centre in the state. Ather Energy is dedicated to enhancing the electric scooter experience for enthusiasts in the country.

This Experience Centre, Ather Space will provide electric scooter enthusiasts with a unique opportunity to personally test ride Ather's range of scooters, including the highly acclaimed Ather 450X, known for its impressive speed and intelligent features. Furthermore, the newly introduced 450S model is now available for purchase at the Experience Centre. Ather Space is designed to educate customers about electric vehicles while providing a holistic experience in an interactive space. The Ather Space will provide complete service and support for the owners. Test ride appointments can be conveniently scheduled through Ather Energy's website before visiting the Experience Centres. The Ather 450X with a 3.7 kWh battery will be available for test rides and purchase at the Experience Centre from October across India in a phased manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ravneet Singh Phokela, Chief Business Officer at Ather Energy, said, "We are thrilled to announce the opening of our 150th Experience Centre in Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant milestone for Ather. The new Experience Centre in Jammu is a reflection of our com-



mitment to making our scooters more accessible to consumers. We have seen a surge in demand for premium EV scooters across India, especially the Ather 450X. Customers are looking at upgrading to electric scooters as they are technologically advanced and provide better performance than petrol scooters. As the consumer demand grows, we will open more experience centres across the state."

Chairman Shri Mahinder Gupta, and Director Mr. Satyam Gupta, and MD & Spokesperson Mr. Vikram Mahajan, Green Mile EV Pvt. Ltd says "We are very delighted to be associated with Ather Energy, the way it is transforming the electric 2W eco-system in India by bringing high-performance scooters with advanced technology effortless ride quality that has already bought a revolutionary benchmark in EV space with a highly aspiring team. We as a group find ourselves lucky and excited to be part of Ather. Also, Customers of Jammu are excited and thrilled to have a completely different experience all together. Being first in this kind, as Jammu and Kashmir as a state will have its first Ather EC in Jammu."

The Ather 450S is the latest addition to our 450 series of electric scooters, tailored for electric vehicle enthusiasts who seek top-notch performance. The 450S comes packed with a range of impressive features, including a robust

2.9 kWh battery, delivering an outstanding 115 km range on a single charge. It doesn't stop there - this scooter offers swift acceleration, going from 0 to 40 km/h in just 3.9 seconds, and can reach a maximum speed of 90 km/h. This enhanced model incorporates various upgrades, including the innovative DeepView™ Display, new switchgear, FallSafe™ technology, Emergency Stop Signal (ESS), and coasting regen, which can extend your range by up to 7%. For those who value quick charging, our Ather Grid fast chargers are at your service, delivering a charging rate of up to 1.5 km per minute.

Meanwhile, our existing model, the 450X, now provides even more options. Customers can choose between variants offering ranges of 115 km and 145 km. Both 450S and 450X riders can opt for the Pro pack, which unlocks additional features like Ride Assist, Ather battery protection, Ather-Stack updates, and Ather Connect. The Ather 450S introduces the groundbreaking DeepView™ Display, featuring a patented Enhanced Black and Narrowband (EBN) screen. Coupled with the revamped switchgear, this setup delivers a unique interactive experience that sets it apart from current digital displays. Furthermore, the new FallSafe™ feature, available across all models, can detect critical changes in the scooter's speed, orientation, and acceleration, triggering a

safety protocol that cuts off the motor and activates flashing indicator lights to alert bystanders in the event of a potential fall.

Ather Energy stands out as one of the few original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) dedicated to investing in charging infrastructure. The Ather Grid, with over 1500 fast charging points, currently is the largest two-wheeler fast charging network in India. Ather has installed one Ather Grid in Jammu and will expand this network further in the coming months. These strategically located charging stations play a pivotal role in addressing concerns related to electric vehicle range limitations and charging accessibility. Ather Energy's mission is to ensure convenient access to charging facilities for their electric scooters. Additionally, the company offers assistance for the installation of home charging systems within residential complexes, further enhancing user convenience.

The ex-showroom price post-Fame II revision for the Ather 450S starts at INR 1,30,894, and the 450X with a 2.9 kWh battery is priced at INR 1,38,895. For those seeking additional features, the Pro pack can be added for an extra cost of INR 14,000 for the 450S and INR 16,000 for the 450X with a 2.9 kWh battery. Ather Energy has established strategic partnerships with leading banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including IDFC First, Bajaj Finance, and Hero Fin Corp, offering a specially tailored 60-month loan plan for electric two-wheelers. This five-year vehicle loan plan offers highly affordable monthly installments, with EMIs starting as low as Rs 2,999, making it an attractive financial solution for Ather electric two-wheeler buyers in India.

Tony raises alarm over escalating Airtel Call drop crisis in Jammu region

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony has raised serious concerns regarding the increasing call drop issues being faced by Airtel customers.

In a statement issued here today, the Congress leader said for the last few weeks, the Airtel customers have been experiencing frequent call drops, which have resulted in considerable inconvenience and frustration. Customers have been reaching out to the telecom giant, expecting prompt resolution of this problem, but their concerns seem to have fallen on deaf ears, he added.

Tony stated, "Airtel has a responsibility towards



its customers, and the increasing instances of call drops are a clear violation of that responsibility. It is unacceptable that customers are being charged for calls that do not even last a few seconds due to call drops. This amounts to nothing less than daylight

robbery."

Expressing his deep concern for the affected Airtel customers, Tony warned, "If Airtel does not take immediate and concrete steps to correct the call dropping issue within the next few days, we will be constrained to move the Consumer Forum and Honorable Court to seek justice for the customers who have been looted of their hard-earned money through these call drops."

Tony urged the senior functionaries of Airtel to prioritize the interests of its customers and ensure that their grievances are addressed promptly. He also called upon the General Manager of Airtel to take immediate action to resolve this issue and prevent further customer dissatisfaction.

Munish chairs Kathua district BJP Meeting



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Senior leader, former General Secretary & Incharge Kathua district BJP, chaired a meeting of district office bearers, morcha and mandal presidents and general secretaries. The meeting was convened by district president Gopal Mahajan.

In this day long meetings, thread bare discussions were held related to the forthcoming elections

or Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and panchayats.

Munish Sharma, while speaking in the meeting, said that the coming few weeks are very crucial and the party activists have to devote more time in reaching the people at their doorsteps and share with them the splendid works done by Modi government in the field of development and welfare schemes. He said that the nine years rule of Narendra Modi has been historic in many terms. For

the first time, there has been a government which took one decision after the other for the socio-economic upliftment of the weaker sections and full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Munish Sharma said that there is a wave in favour of the BJP and people want to further strengthen the party and expressed confidence that party will win the future elections with huge margins.

BJP Tallab Tillo Mandal pays tribute to Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

BJP Talab Tillo Mandal pays tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay on his Birth Anniversary at Mahajan Sabha Talab Tillo, The Programme was attended by BJP Jammu District President & Councillor Parmod Kapahi, JKUT BJP Secretary & Prabhari South Zila Ayodhya Gupta, Mandal President Talab Tillo Keshav Chopra, BJP senior leader, Prabhari Nowshera Jila & Councillor Sanjay Baru, JKUT BJP Media Incharge Dr Pardeep Mahotra, Municipal Councillors Jeet Angral, Neelam Nargotra, Satpal Karlipua, JKUT BJP Health and Medical cell convenor Puneet Mahajan, Mandal President Rehari Atul Bakshi, Sahil Sharma, Veena Gupta and other leaders.

Speaking on the Occasion Parmod Kapahi said that the whole life of Deen Dayal ji was based on the "Sarvajna Hitay" and "Sarvajana Sukhayay".

Speaking on the Occasion Ayodhya Gupta & Sanjay Baru said that Deen

Dayal Upadhyaya was a profound philosopher, organiser par excellence and a leader who maintained the highest standards of personal integrity.

Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra & Dr Pardeep Mahotra said that Deen Dayal Upadhyaya emphasis on Antyodaya and serving the needy inspire generations, PM Modi is working to implement the vision of Deen Dayal Upadhyay by ensuring development through Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas they further added.

Rajesh Gupta, Pratibha Sharma, Anil Angral, Arun Dubey, Rahul Nargotra, Gurcharan Singh, Parveen Chai, Rajesh Saini, Deepak Sharma, Paramjeet, Vina Rathod, Geeta Sodhi, Raman Sharma, Omkar Verma, Bhupinder Gupta, Jaipal Sharma, Vikas Gupta, Kusum Gupta, Sonali Gupta, Lokesh Bhagat, Dr R.K Gupta, Tarsem Lal, Shardesh Rana, Ghanash Sharma, Shantiswaroop Gupta, Vikas Kumar, Tony Sharma, Kanchan Bala, Garu and others were also present.

NSS volunteers, GDC Kathua conduct campus cleanliness drive



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

As a part of series of activities to be carried out under Azadi Ka Amrat Mahostav and to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations 2023, NSS volunteers GDC Kathua conducted campus cleanliness drive. The students cleaned the college campus and collected plastic garbage from every nook and corner of the college premises. They also carried out a campaign on 'Say No to Plastic' and emphasized to make the campus plastic free. Around 50 NSS volunteers participated in this cleanliness drive.

On this occasion NSS volunteer Mr. Vishal Gupta addressed volunteers that cleanliness is most important for

physical well-being and a healthy environment. He said it is essential for everyone to learn about cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation and various diseases that are caused due to poor hygienic conditions. Cleanliness ensures a healthy mind and physique. He added that It is not the responsibility of only one person rather it is the duty of every countrymen. He also told the students not to litter on the roads and go for clean and green environment to nurture it for the future generations. Other volunteers promised to abide by it. This drive was conducted under the Patronage of Principal Seema Mir and supervision of NSS Prog officer Prof Manmohan Singh, Dr. Neha Bandral and Neha Bandral.

First Sub-Committee of Parliament OL reviews Rajbhasha implementation at NIT Srinagar

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEP 25

First Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Official Language (OL) Committee on Monday conducted a comprehensive examination of Rajbhasha implementation at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The meeting was hosted by the Border Security Forces (BSF) Kashmir, took place at The Lalit Srinagar. It was attended by esteemed members of First Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary OL Committee. Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Sudhakar Yedla, and the Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari, were also present.

Hindi Officer Dr. R.P. Shukla who oversees the Rajbhasha Cell, AR (Admin) Mohammad Iqbal Dar, AR Legal, Mohamad Hazik and Hindi Translator Dr. Sabzar Ahmad Batoo participated in the meeting.

During the event, First Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary OL members proposed various measures to enhance Rajbhasha's implementation on the campus. NIT Srinagar was granted an additional one-year timeframe to achieve its assigned goals.

Ritika pays tributes to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPT 25

Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan today paid homage to Pt Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary. Paying tributes, she said Deendayal Upadhyay was a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) thinker and co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party. She said, "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Ji's ideals inspire us to serve the poor and ensure a positive difference in their lives." "I pay my humble tribute to the great leader and profound thinker Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary today. His philosophy of Integral Humanism and Antyodaya has been a source of inspiration for all and will continue to guide the nation in the times to come," Ritika said. Ritika further said his life is an example of social harmony and patriotism. "The master of Indian politics, rich in versatility and founder of Jana Sangh Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Ji struggled throughout his life for the protection and conservation of India's culture and values. With ideas of integral Humanism and Antyodaya, he gave a progressive ideology to the nation," Ritika said. She also said Deendayal Upadhyay was "an excellent organiser" who laid the "foundation of alternative politics which is working towards bringing the poor, deprived and exploited people into the mainstream."

'The International Day of the Deaf'

Doctors stress lowering exposure to noise, avoiding drugs to prevent hearing loss

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 25

Lowering exposure to noise, staying away from drugs and maintaining cardiovascular health is vital to keeping one's ears safe and preventing hearing loss, according to doctors.

Talking to the news agency, Dr Saima Tabassum, Consultant ENT J&K Health Services, said there are various ways to protect the ears from hearing loss and the most important nowadays is lowering the exposure to noise.

Lowering the exposure to noise is the key to reducing the risk of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) as no matter what the age or hearing status is, it is always a good idea to protect the ears hearing while getting exposed to loud sounds, she said.

"Apart from the noise, we should be aware of drugs that cause hearing loss," Dr Saima said, adding that there are hundreds of over-the-counter and prescription drugs

linked to hearing loss. These ototoxic drugs can damage the hearing ability permanently, so one must consult the expert before taking any medication, she advised.

Other factors to consider, Dr Saima said, are maintaining cardiovascular health. "Raised blood pressure, cardiac disease and deranged lipid profile can damage the vascular mechanisms inside the ear that help one hear. Those having high cholesterol or blood pressure are at risk," she said.

Similarly, various researchers have shown that people with diabetes are twice as likely to have hearing loss, the ENT Consultant said, adding, "Smoking and drinking have also shown an association with hearing loss as studies have shown that cigarette smoke can have a big impact on a person's hearing health."

Dr Tabassum also mentioned alcohol saying its heavy use can produce free radicals which are toxic to the body and ear. To maintain healthy ears,

we must exercise and practice stress reduction as it improves blood flow and helps body and ear health in countless ways, she explained.

"Like exercise, healthy eating is highly beneficial so food high in certain vitamins and minerals especially B12, potassium and magnesium are vital to good hearing. Studies have shown beneficial effects of iron-rich diet in good hearing," she said.

Another ENT specialist from GMC Srinagar told KNO that the signs and symptoms of hearing loss may include muffling of speech and other sounds, difficulty understanding words, especially against background noise or in a crowd, trouble hearing consonants, frequently asking others to speak more slowly, clearly and loudly.

He said the causes of hearing loss include damage to the inner ear as ageing and exposure to loud noise may cause wear and tear on hairs or nerve cells in the cochlea that send sound signals to

the brain.

"When these hairs or nerve cells are damaged or missing, electrical signals aren't transmitted as efficiently, and hearing loss occurs," he said, adding that the ear wax can block the ear canal and prevent conduction of sound waves and earwax removal can help restore the hearing.

In the outer or middle of the ear, any of these issues can cause hearing loss and loud blasts of noise, sudden changes in pressure, poking your eardrum with an object and infection can cause the eardrum to rupture and affect the hearing, he said.

The International Day of the Deaf is being observed every last Sunday of September which serves as a platform to raise awareness about the daily challenges faced by the deaf community. The day serves to highlight the value of sign language as a means of communication and this day reminds us of the importance of ear and hearing. KNO

Police rescues stranded family from Bangus valley

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 25

The services of Dial 112 saved a stranded family who have lost their destination in the deep forest area of Bangus Valley & were subsequently shifted by the joint team of Police & Army to the safer location.

"Yet creating another example of being a saviour, Dial-112 received a distress information on 24/09/2023 that one person namely Atiq-ul-Rahman along with his family members including 05 ladies and 05 small children (total 11 persons) went Bangus valley in Kupwara for picnic purpose in a Scorpio vehicle," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

While returning back to their destination, they chose Upper Rajwar Wader Bala route towards Handwara. Unfortunately, they lost their way in deep forests besides, their vehicle got stuck and was unable to move any further. Finding themselves in distress, they contacted the Dial-112 for the urgent help, police said. Accordingly, police said that dial-112 instantly informed the concerned police units operating in the area for the urgent help.

"On receipt of this information, acting promptly Incharge Police Post Zachaldara along with a police party and Army (2IRR) and began the rescue operation. After strenuous efforts, the joint team reached the spot and successfully tracked the stranded family, thereby saving the precious lives of 11 persons. Subsequently, the stranded family was shifted to Police Post Zachaldara for night stay by the joint team where they were also served with refreshment. Moreover, their stuck vehicle was toed from the spot by a JCB which was arranged by the Police and later escorted them up to the main road where from they resumed their journey to their home," police said.

NHM releases ranking of Public Health facilities on JK e Sahaj for August 2023

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 25

National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of August 2023.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges,

Are authorities helpless in Sopore? Shopkeepers continue to occupy roads, commuters forced to walk on middle of roads

AGENCIES

SOPORE, SEP 25

There is no let-up in shopkeepers occupying all major roads in northern Sopore resulting in a great inconvenience to public movement.

Talking to the news agency, the commuters said that they are facing huge inconveniences while walking through the streets especially the one leading to the general bus stand and to Jamia Masjid - connecting the town with adjacent villages so as with the Bandipora and Ganderbal districts.

"The shopkeepers putting their items/stalls in front of their shops, covering main roads are a common scene in Sopore. Besides, vehicle owners park their vehicles along the roadside like hell, once

stuck in a traffic snarl, it takes time to get out of that," said a student Athar, who used to travel along Jamia road daily.

"Being a student of Sopore college, I have been traveling across the streets from the last 2-years and have never witnessed a smooth flow of traffic alongside as shopkeepers have become hindrance so as the shoppers who used to park their vehicles on roads," Athar said.

Pertinently, authorities earlier claimed of banning the traditional horse-carts within the municipal limits of this north Kashmir town for the purpose of decongestion, as they believe Tongas were the primary source for frequent jams in the town. However, Tongas continue to move around freely.

Similarly, another move was taken against the street vendors who usually used to occupy main roads and the vendors were removed from the main road bringing respite from the inconveniences being faced by the commuters for some time. However, yet again, after a gap, shopkeepers started to occupy the roads.

"We fail to understand why authorities who were so adamant on removal of street vendors are failing in removing encroachment by the shopkeepers," said a senior citizen.

Another local said: "The administration is watching as a mute spectator over the illegal encroachment of roads and footpaths by the shopkeepers. It seems they have given free hand to the shopkeepers to occupy the roads." KNO

Around 70 posts of doctors, paramedics vacant at District Hospital Pulwama

AGENCIES

PULWAMA, SEP 25

The District Hospital Pulwama catering to around 300 villages is grappling with a severe shortage of doctors and paramedical staff, giving a tough time to hospital administrators.

The officials while talking to the news agency said that the DH Pulwama not only caters to 300 villages of the district but the patients from Shopian and Budgam also visit here for treatment.

They said the hospital witnesses a huge rush of patients round the clock and it needs adequate staff

to provide better healthcare services to them.

In the last few years, many doctors from the hospital were transferred but were not replaced till date, they said.

While the people said there are better facilities available at the district hospital, they cited the shortage of doctors and other staff as the concern. If the government will post adequate staff at the hospital, then the rush and referral of patients to tertiary care hospitals will decrease as well, they said.

They have requested the Director Health Services and Deputy Commis-

sioner Pulwama to look into the matter.

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Pulwama Dr Ab Gani Dar said around 70 posts are vacant at the hospital.

We have already written to the concerned authorities in this regard and we hope the vacancies are filled soon, he said, adding that 69 posts including 15 doctors are currently lying vacant.

"In this 200-bedded District Hospital Pulwama, all facilities are available for patients, and efforts are being made to enhance them further," he said. KNO

the first rank has been clinched by Jammu Psychiatric Disease Hospital, followed by GMC Anantnag, SMGS Hospital, Jammu, Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu and Government Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar. The bottom five in this category included SMHS, Srinagar, Government Dental College, Srinagar, GMC Doda, Chest Disease Hos-

pital, Srinagar, Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar.

In the category of District Hospitals, DH Ganderbal has secured first place followed by DH Shopian, DH Kishtwar, DH Samba and ASYM DH Budgam. The bottom five in this category included MCCH Anantnag, DH Poonch, DH Pulwama, DH Ramban and DH Reasi.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has been bagged by CHC Rajpora, Pulwama followed by E.H Vijaypur Samba, CHC Sunderbani, CHC Kangan and CHC Kralpora. The bottom five in this category included CHC Taryath, CHC Rohama, CHC Kremshore, CHC Gandoh and CHC Thanamandi.

Meet Kashmir's Bear Grylls who loves to rescue wild animals

AGENCIES

BUDGAM, SEP 25

Every time, there is a scare of wild animals in the localities of Budgam, Muhammad Shafi Bhat is the first person to be called by the people living in the district.

Not only does he rescue the wild animal, Bhat also takes care that the animal is taken back to its natural habitat.

From ferocious leopards to venomous snakes and Himalayan bears, Bhat has volunteered to rescue hundreds of animals in Budgam district.

"Rescuing wild animals is my passion. They are as innocent as we humans are. I get distress calls every time

and then my rescue mission starts," he told news agency.

Bhat who worked as an electrician before is now a famous animal rescuer of Kashmir. He learned this skill out of curiosity and passion to explore the wildlife of Kashmir.

"I was working as an electrician. One day a leopard entered a locality and I played an important role in capturing the animal. That incident was a kind of trigger that I could rescue animals. Now it has become a passion to capture wild animals and release them in jungles," he said.

Later, Bhat changed his career and began working as a helper for the wildlife department.

"I used to work as an artisan in addition to being an electrician. I'm now more interested in nature. I want to continue my interest," he said.

In the last few years, Bhat said he saved the lives of many wild animals including leopards, black bears, snakes and porcupines.

"Till now, I might have rescued and saved the lives of almost 22 leopards. I also rescued black bears, snakes and other ferocious animals. It is a life risking job but once a person gets to know the animals' behaviour, it becomes easy to deal with animals," he said.

Bhat is simultaneously raising awareness about conserving wildlife

through his social media handles.

"I am running a Facebook page called Wild Frame. I record a video of animal rescue and then do a commentary about the techniques used to save the animals. I also appeal to my viewers not to be cruel with animals," he said.

Bhat, who works as a helper in the wildlife department said he desires to start a NGO which deals with the rescuing of wild animals and awareness regarding wildlife.

"I haven't started the process yet but someday I will start an NGO in which people collectively work to conserve wildlife," he said. KNO

Hit and run case solved in Kulgam, accused arrested: Police

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 25

Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kulgam on Monday said to have solved a hit and run case by arresting the accused person involved in the commission of crime.

"On 22-09-2023, at about 0623 hours an unknown Truck hit a Maruti Eco car bearing registration number JK06B-0901 near walnut factory in Qazigund are of Kulgam and fled from the spot. In this accident, the driver of Maruti Eco vehicle and 06 passengers got critically injured who were immediately shifted to Emergency Hospital Qazigund for treatment from where they were referred to GMC Anantnag for further treatment. However, among the injured four persons succumbed to their injuries," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 206/2023 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Qazigund and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, the investigation team led by SHO Police Station Qazigund under the close supervision of SSP Kulgam relentlessly made all efforts and collected evidences from CCTV, Toll Plazas, Telecom and other useful applications/services to identify the accused. After strenuous efforts, the accused driver identified as Aarif Ahmad Ellahi son of Ghulam Rasool Ellahi resident of Nawgam Verinag, Anantnag involved in the commission of crime was arrested. The police team also recovered the involved vehicle (Truck) bearing registration number JK22-7103. Further investigation in the case is going on, police said.

NOTICE

I, Rashpal Singh, son of Rattan Singh, a resident of Jandrah, Tehsil D a n s a l, District Jammu, declare that I am applying for issuance of Duplicate Diploma of Class 12th with Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days of the publication of this notice.

Low exposure to noise key to protecting ears from damage, say doctors

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 25

In order to keep your ears safe, one should lower exposure to noise, stay away from drugs and maintain cardiovascular health, doctors said on Monday.

Dr Saima Tabassum consultant ENT J&K health services told the news agency that there are various ways to protect ears from hearing loss and the most important is to stay away from noise.

"So lower your exposure to noise and reduce the risk of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) as no matter what your age is or what your hearing status is it's always a good idea to protect your hearing when you're going to be exposed to loud sounds," she added.

"Apart from noise we should be aware of drugs that cause hearing loss & there are hundreds of over-the-counter and prescription drugs linked to hearing loss. These ototoxic drugs can damage your hearing ability permanently so consult your expert before taking any medication."

The doctor said the factors to consider are maintaining cardiovascular health meaning raised blood pressure, cardiac disease and deranged lipid profile can damage the

vascular mechanisms inside ear.

"Similarly various researches have shown that people with diabetes are twice as likely to have hearing loss. Smoking and drinking has also shown association with hearing loss. As Studies have shown that cigarette smoke can have a big impact on a person's hearing health," Dr Saima added.

Similarly heavy alcohol consumption, according to her, can produce free radicals which are toxic to the body and ear.

"Like exercise, healthy eating is highly beneficial so food high in certain vitamins and minerals especially B12, potassium and magnesium are vital to good hearing. Studies have shown the beneficial effect of an iron rich diet in good hearing," She added.

"Hearing loss has a genetic predisposition so catching the risk early can reduce your risk of the negative impacts of hearing loss, such as depression and social isolation."

Another ENT specialist from GMC Srinagar told KNO that the signs and symptoms of hearing loss may include muffling of speech and other sounds, difficulty understanding words especially against background noise or in a crowd, trouble hearing

consonants, frequently asking others to speak more slowly, clearly and loudly.

He said causes of hearing loss include damage to the inner ear as aging and exposure to loud noise may cause wear and tear on hairs or nerve cells in the cochlea that send sound signals to the brain.

"When these hairs or nerve cells are damaged or missing, electrical signals aren't transmitted as efficiently, and hearing loss occurs," he said.

Ear wax can block ear canal and prevent conduction of sound waves and earwax removal can help restore your hearing. He also said that in the outer or middle of ear, any of these issues can cause hearing loss and loud blasts of noise, sudden changes in pressure, poking your eardrum with an object and infection can cause your eardrum to rupture and affect your hearing. Notably, the world deaf day is observed on last Sunday of September which serves as a reminder about awareness about the daily challenges faced by the deaf community.

The day serves to highlight the value of sign language as a means of communication and this day reminds us the importance of Ear and hearing. KNO

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION RTIC JAMMU

Notice INVITING TENDER

e- NIT MD/J RTIC/27 of 2023-24 Dated 22-09-2023

For and on behalf of the "Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu, invites online bids by e tendering mode from eligible bidders/tenderers /firms dealing with electromechanical /electrical works.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Validity of Rates
Reconditioning of 2.5 MVA AVR No. II by way of replacement of damaged components including replacement of transformer oil along with allied Works at Tawi pump House Jammu.	Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	500.00 (Rs. 250/- for PMT DIC/SSI Registered Firms) (Non-Refundable) In the shape of treasury Challan only in favour of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu payable at Jammu	Rs. 12000/- (Rs 6000 for DIC/SSI Registered Firms) In the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Position of Funds Available**
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 23-09-2023 (10:00 A.M) and uploaded upto 14-10-2023 (1:00 P.M). The tender shall be opened on 16-10-2023 (1:00 P.M).
 - The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
 - Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and bid security/ earnest money as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table. The cost of tender documents should be in the form of Treasury Challan only in favour of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu.
 - Furnishing of Hard copies of documents pertaining to a bids immediately after submission of e tenders have been dispensed with as per Govt Order No. O.M. no. A24(2017-651) dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of Financial Bids.
 - The hard copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money including other relevant documents must be delivered by L-1 to the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu within 03 days of opening of tender.
 - The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
 - The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu on 16-10-2023 at 1:00 P.M.
 - The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu during office hours on a convenient day.
 - Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: MD/JRTIC/24-27
Dated 22-09-2023

DIP/J-8752/23
Date: 25-9-23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
RTIC, Jammu

DC Srinagar chairs District Level Bankers Review Committee Meet

Stresses on 100% coverage under Digital Payment Ecosystem

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Monday chaired a meeting of District Level Bankers Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the performance of the Banks and other Financial Institutions under various Government initiatives and sponsored schemes for quarter ending June, 2023.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a sector wise performance of the Banks in implementation of different Government schemes and reviewed the achievements of Banks in lending to Priority/Non Priority sectors under Annual Credit Plan.

While reviewing the Bank-wise movement of CD Ratio in the District, the DC was informed that total deposits of the District Srinagar stood at Rs 34448.37 crore and Advance at Rs 24009.31 crore, constitute 70 per cent CD Ratio in the 1st quarter of current financial year ended in June, 2023.

The DC was apprised that an amount of Rs 960.39 Crore has been disbursed among 25449 beneficiaries in Srinagar District under different schemes thereby generating self-employment opportunities for over 62000 unemployed youth of the District during financial year 2022-23.

Besides, the Banks



operating in Srinagar have provided a total credit of Rs.1691.31 Crore in favour of 54488 beneficiaries under both Priority as well as Non-Priority Sector during for financial year 2023-24.

The DC was further apprised that under Prime Ministers Mudra Yojna (PMMY) Scheme Banks operating in Srinagar have disbursed Rs 277.83 Crore among 8189 beneficiaries of the District during Financial year 2023-24.

Similarly, under the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), total 1201 cases have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs 67.91 Crore has also been sanctioned.

With regard to implementation of Pradhan Mantri SVANIDHI schemes, the DC was informed that Rs 9.61 crore have been disbursed among 6993 Street Vendors of the District.

While reviewing the progress achieved in enrolment under social security schemes including Prad-

han Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)/ Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojna (APY), the DC was informed that under as many as 171243 registrations have been made till August, 2023 including 125089 under PMSBY, 37876 under PMJJBY and 8278 under APY scheme.

It was also given out that during recently held Jansuraksha campaign after Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, Government of India launched a 3-month campaign across the country to saturate all the eligible beneficiaries under Jansuraksha, a total number of 33641 enrolments were registered under these schemes.

Under Mission Youth schemes, for providing self-employment, the DC was informed that under the MUMKIN scheme, a total of 245 cases have been sanctioned so far involving an amount of Rs 17.36 Crore. Similarly, under TEJASWINI scheme

111 cases have been sanctioned in the District with an amount of Rs 5.27 Crore in favour of the beneficiaries.

Likewise, the meeting was informed that under the Swarozgar Utsav campaign launched as a step towards saturation of self-employment of the youth as many as 1121 beneficiaries have been sanctioned credit amounting to the tune of Rs 135.32 crore.

During the meeting, DC also took a detailed appraisal about the activities conducted in Digital Week and Brashtrachar Mukta Week held from August 31, to September 09, 2023. He was informed that over 400 awareness programmes on Digital Literacy were held in the District and 3527 beneficiaries availed benefits of Banking sector schemes through online mode.

The DC was informed that about 75% digital coverage has been registered in Srinagar as of the quarter ended June, 2023 with at least one of the digital modes adopted by

the Bank customers in the District.

During the meeting, the performance of Banks under Kissan Credit Card (KCC), RSETI, NULM, PMFME, FLCs, CFLs were also reviewed.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed on all the line Departments and Banks operating in the District to further improve the credit facilities and CD ratio. He also called for educating people about financial literacy and the Digital Payment Ecosystem by bridging the digital gap to ensure cent percent coverage.

He called upon Officers of all line Departments and Bankers to work in a coordinated manner with added vigour and zeal to achieve the set targets within the set timeline.

While appreciating the LDM, his team and other stakeholders for their work and improving their performance, the DC asked them to continue their efforts with a customer friendly approach to ensure better facilities and services to the Customers upto their satisfaction. The DC emphasised on improvement of other schemes and flagship programmes of the Government and focused attention towards targets set for financial year 2023-24.

The meeting was among others attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohamad Yaseen Lone, GM DIC, Hamida Akhtar, Lead District Manager, Abdul Majid, all District Officers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, representatives of Banks and financial institutions operating in Srinagar.

Asia Games: India clinch gold as women's cricket team beat SL in finals

AGENCIES
HANGZHOU, SEP 25

Indian women defeated Sri Lanka by 9 runs in the final of the 2023 Asian Games to give India their second gold medal.

Electing to bat first, India could manage 116/7 in the stipulated 20 overs. Shafali Verma (9) lost her wicket early as she was stumped by Anushka Sanjeevani off Sugandika Kumari. However, Smriti Mandhana (46) and Jamimah Rodrigues (42) stitched a very vital 73 runs partnership for the second wicket. Mandhana missed out on her fifty and so did Jemimah, and the Sri Lankan bowlers pulled things back by picking regular wickets towards the end overs.

Sri Lanka's fielding was excellent, and Sanjeevani behind the stumps was excellent. She held on to a



couple of fantastic catches and exacted an exceptional run-out on the last ball of the innings.

In reply, Sri Lanka scored 12 runs in the first over of the run chase as Chamari Athapaththu struck a meaty six against Deepti Sharma. However, Indian bowlers rocked the Sri Lankan batswomen.

Titas Sadhu was the pick of the bowlers for India as she picked three wickets and broke the spine of the Sri Lankan batting lineup.

Her spell of 4-1-6-3 choked the Lankan batswomen as they fell short of the target by 19 runs.

Left-arm orthodox Rajeshwari Gayakwad also chipped in with 2/20 with Deepto Sharma, Pooja Vas-trakar and Devika Vaidya picked a wicket each.

For Sri Lanka, Hasini Perera was the top-scorer with 25 followed by Nilakshi de Silva who scored 23. As many as six batswomen did not reach double digits.

PM lauds Indian women's cricket team on winning gold at Asian Games

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated India's women cricket team for winning gold medal at Asian Games 2023.

"What a grand show by our cricket team as they clinch Women Cricket gold at Asian Games. The



tricolour flying high in the sporting arena too with their talent, grit, skill and teamwork. Congratulations for your great victory," Modi said on X.

Indian women defeated Sri Lankan women by 19 runs in a T20 match to win the gold medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

If voted to power, Cong will conduct caste census to ensure participation of OBCs, Dalits, Tribals, Women, Says Rahul

AGENCIES
BILASPUR, SEPT 25

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said his party would conduct a "caste census" if elected to power as only such an exercise would ensure "participation of OBCs, Dalits, tribals and women".

He also asked why the Narendra Modi government had not released the details of a 'caste census' conducted by the Congress (when it was in power) and sought to know if the PM was afraid of such an exercise.

Addressing the state government's 'Awas Nyay Sammelan' in Parsada (Sakri) village in Bilaspur, Gandhi also waved a remote control at the crowd and said the poor and needy were benefited when the Congress presses it, while "Adani gets ports, airports and railway contracts" when the ruling BJP does the same.

"The Congress had conducted a caste census that has the record of the population of every caste in the country. The Union government has this report but Modiji doesn't want to reveal it," he claimed.

"Caste census has to be conducted if we want to give participation to Other Backward Classes, Dalits, tribals and women. If Modiji does not conduct a caste census, then when we are elected to power our first step will be to conduct a caste census



to ensure OBC participation," Gandhi asserted.

Gandhi said the government is run by secretaries and cabinet secretaries and not MPs and MLAs, and pointed out that only three of the 90 secretaries in various Union government ministries are OBCs.

These three persons control only 5 per cent of the country's budget, Gandhi said and questioned if India only had 5 per cent OBC population.

Asserting that the caste census is the answer to such questions, Gandhi asked why Modi was scared of the enumeration exercise.

At the event, during which he launched the Bhupesh Baghel government's 'Gramin Awas Nyay Yojna (GANY)' aimed at providing financial assistance to the homeless and families having kutcha houses in rural areas, Gandhi brandished a remote control to target the Modi government.

Gandhi said he had pressed a remote control today and several thousand crore rupees went into the accounts of

people of Chhattisgarh.

He said the housing scheme launched during the day covers those persons who were entitled to get assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana but never got it as the Centre failed to provide funds despite repeated reminders from the state government, Gandhi said.

"We (Congress) press a remote control in front of cameras. The BJP does it secretly. When BJP presses a remote control, (industrialist Gautam) Adani gets Mumbai's airport and railway contracts," he alleged.

"There are two remote controls. When we press it, farmers receive money into their accounts through Nyay Scheme and English medium schools get opened (in Chhattisgarh). But when BJP presses a remote, the public sector gets privatized and jal-jungle-zameen (water, forests and land) goes to Adani," Gandhi claimed.

Gandhi alleged his Lok Sabha membership was cancelled after he questioned PM Modi's relations with Adani.

Gandhi was disqualified as LS member after a court in Surat in Gujarat sentenced him to two years in jail for a remark at a rally in Karnataka about why thieves had the surname Modi.

His conviction was later stayed by the Supreme Court, after which he got back his membership of the Lower House.

Compassionate civil servant whose heart beats for Poor people is true civil servant: President Murmu



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, SEP 25

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said a compassionate civil servant whose heart beats for the poor and the underprivileged is a true civil servant as distinct from merely a career bureaucrat. Addressing a group of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, she said uplifting the marginalised sections of society should be an article of faith for them.

"You should make efforts to understand the link between 'file to field' and also between 'field to file'. This people-centric alertness and sensitivity will make you engage with the files in a far more meaningful manner," Murmu said.

The President asked the officers to always visualise the people who are going to be impacted by the files "you deal with".

A group of 182 IAS officers of 2021 batch, currently posted as assistant secretaries in various Union ministries and departments, had called on Murmu at the Rash-

trapati Bhavan Cultural Centre here.

"I have seen from close quarters the difficulties and problems faced by the people living in backward areas and belonging to the deprived segments of our society. I have also seen some sensitive civil servants who went the extra mile to help such people," she said.

A compassionate civil servant whose heart beats for the poor and the underprivileged is a true civil servant as distinct from merely a career bureaucrat, the President said. She said an inclusive, progressive and sensitive society allows greater space to women in all walks of life.

"The nation is on the path of women empowerment and women-led development. I am very happy that the historic 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament. Women are breaking stereotypes and the glass ceiling. They are playing increasingly larger roles in all aspects of growth and development," Murmu said.

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, SEP 25

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank is "not comfortable" with the gross non-performing assets ratio of 8.7 per cent in urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and asked them to work towards improving the same.

Addressing directors of UCBs in the financial capital at an RBI-organised conference, Das urged that such lenders should improve the governance standards, avoid related-party transactions and focus on credit risks, among others.

It can be noted that the UCB sector has been fraught with multiple challenges and also witnessed difficult times in the recent past, like the implosion of the city-headquartered Punjab and Maharashtra Bank.

Das reminded the directors of the UCBs that banks run on depositors and added that protection of the hard-earned money pooled in from the middle class, poor and retirees is far more sacred than going to a temple or a gurdwara.

While the overall picture at an aggregate level looks nice, the situation on GNPs and capital adequacy is "not at all satisfactory", Das said.

He said the overall GNPs have improved to 8.7 per cent, which is "not a good number. It is not a comfortable number even at an aggregate level".



and are widely estimated to improve further. To manage the scourge of NPAs better, Das suggested that there should be a focus on credit risk management with better underwriting.

He said the RBI has come across instances of conflicts of interest or related party transactions, which need to be avoided.

Similarly, there have been instances of many of the top defaulters being individuals or businesses having the ability to pay, Das said. The top 20 defaulters account for over 60 per cent of the loan overdue, and focusing on this segment can help improve the overall NPAs, he added.

On the capital adequacy front, he noted that there has been an improvement in the ratios to 16.6 per cent at the end of FY23 from 15.5 per cent a year ago.

Making it clear that he wants to share the RBI's concerns with the lenders, Das exhorted the UCBs to focus on the quality of governance by paying attention to compliance, risk management and internal audit.

He said the RBI has come across instances where there is only "paper compliance" and

no compliance is observed when an on-field inspection takes place, Das said, adding that the internal audit function also requires focus.

The governor asked bank management to present a risk analysis report to the board on a quarterly basis, rather than making it into an annual effort.

It is also necessary for the directors - who are elected and not appointed based on their skill sets, unlike the SCBs - to understand the financial sector, credit risk, banking, information technology and risk management, Das said.

The Reserve Bank of India has prescribed a board of management to help the elected board members with professional help in running a bank, and the same should not be seen as an impediment, he added.

Stressing that the board discussions should be free and fair, Das said it is important to have any dominance of one or two persons in the decision-making.

"There should be free, frank and democratic discussions. Board members should be encouraged to ask whatever questions they have on their mind," he said.