

JINDRAH IMAGES

JANSAMPARK PRINTING PRESS

BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU
Mob. 9419104223

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 301 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Headache and continuous fever above 102°F
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A skin rash
- Darkness
- Steady low pulse or weak, rapid pulse
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

Year-End: In 2024, PDD clung to 'obsolete' 4 decades old infra

Departing fiscal fails to offer unrestricted power to consumers

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

With the finale of fiscal 2024, the Power Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir was abiding by its 'old and obsolete infrastructure' amidst mounting demand for electricity that has increased by more than four per cent in the past seven years.

However, the department has claimed that it would double the hydel power generation by 2026 through four power projects having power generation capacity of 3014 MWs.

Further, it has also said that the

power generation capacity is proposed to be augmented by 3284 MWs through the four power projects.

In the year 2024, the news agency published a series of stories including the developments in PDD, loopholes and the public unease issues.

Power generation shortage

Till the month of December, the power generation from the state pool had reduced by nearly 80 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir.

KNO had reported that "From across the regions, the total power generation capacity is 1200 Mega-

watts. However, as of now, we are only able to generate a total of 200-260 Megawatts of power from the UT pool."

Till November 2024, there was a demand of nearly 2000-2100 Megawatts. However, there was an availability of only 1600-1650 megawatts.

During the curtailment hours, KPDCCL was cutting off nearly 200-250 Megawatts during the peak hours.

In the last two months of 2024, Jammu and Kashmir records a very low generation of power because of less rainfall. In these months, the PDD was able to generate only

40-50 megawatts of power from the power grids of Kashmir. However, from one of the power grids in Chenab Valley, the department was usually generating nearly 150 megawatts of power in the evening and late hours.

Use of outdated, obsolete infrastructure

In an official document, authorities had said, "The replacement of existing old and out-dated elements of the distribution network has never been given due consideration and many of which are therefore continuing in the system for more than 40 years after repeated

repairs."

Not only old and obsolete, Jammu and Kashmir was able to harness only 3504.90 MW of power while the region has a potential of 20,000 Megawatt (MW) hydel power generation.

The Planning Department and Monitoring Department in 'JK Vision Document 2047' has stated, "Opportunities J&K is bestowed with huge hydel generation potential, however, out of the total identified potential of 20,000 Megawatt (MW), only 3504.90 MW has been harnessed so far leaving as much as 16500 MW of the identified potential is yet to be tapped.

Power Gaps lead to unscheduled power, distress cuts

Till the second week of December, there was a huge gap of nearly 200 MWs to overcome the unscheduled power and distress cuts in Kashmir.

The 'official' of PDD had said that the local DISCOM in Kashmir valley was not getting the same amount of power in which the consumers could not face distress cuts and unscheduled power cuts.

"Till the second week of December, the local DISCOM, KPDCCL had a requirement of at least 1700 Megawatts to provide distress

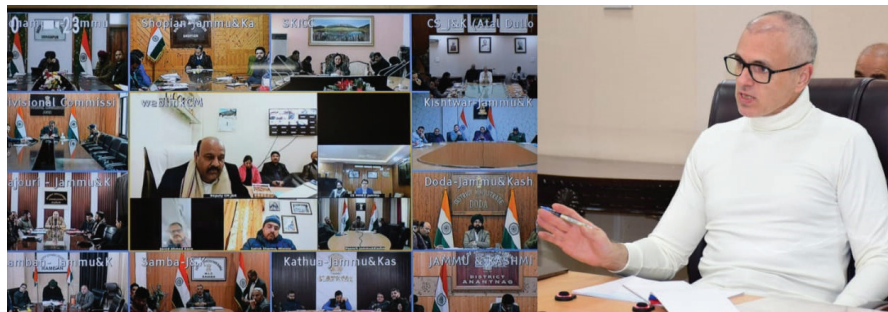
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CM Omar Abdullah chairs high-level meeting, directs all departments to gear up for winter adversity

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

In order to ensure smooth and uninterrupted delivery of essential services and functioning of vital installations across the Kashmir Division, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting here at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments to address challenges posed by harsh winter conditions, particularly in the



snow-bound zones of Kashmir Valley and Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health

and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmad Rana, Minister for Agriculture and RDD Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for FCS&CA and

Transport Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani participated through virtual mode. The Chief Minister conducted

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5 soldiers killed, as many injured in Poonch accident

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, DEC 24

At least five soldiers were killed while five others were injured after a vehicle they were traveling in plunged into a 150-foot-deep gorge at Balnoi area of Poonch district, officials said.

Officials informed the news agency, the Army vehicle en-route from Nilam Headquarters to Balnoi Ghora Post met with an accident near Ghora Post.

The vehicle fell into the gorge following which a Quick Reaction Team rushed to the site and



launched a rescue operation.

"Ten soldiers were injured while five of them suffered critical injuries, who later succumbed to their injuries," they said,

adding that a total of 18 soldiers were onboard the vehicle when the accident took place.

The injured have been shifted to a hospital for treatment. KNO

RBI approves appointment of Amitava Chatterjee as MD& CEO of J&K Bank

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

The RBI has approved appointment of Amitava Chatterjee as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Jammu & Kashmir Bank. According to a RBI communique, a copy of which lies with the news agency, Chatterjee (holding a key position in State Bank of India) would hold the position for a period of three years w. e.f December 30, 2024. "In case Shri Chatterjee is not able to take charge as MD&CEO on December 30, 2024, the bank is advised to immediately propose a suitable interim arrangement (to be made effective post the close of business hours on December 29, 2024) for RBI's approval, along with a copy of the Board's resolution, "reads the communique.

Search operation launched in Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Tuesday following suspicious movement in the area, sources said. Village Defence Guard (VDG) members reportedly fired a few shots after detecting suspicious movement in Kuntwara area of the district, they told the news agency. Subsequently, security forces and police were mobilised, and a cordon-and-search operation was launched, the sources said. The incident occurred in the same area where, on November 7, two VDG members were killed by terrorists. KNO

Mysterious disease claims another life at Budhal, Rajouri, toll 9

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

A mysterious disease has claimed yet another life in Budhal area of Rajouri district, taking the toll up to nine in the last 15 days.

An official told the news agency that a pregnant woman from Budhal area of Rajouri district became the ninth suspected victim of a mysterious illness.

Razeem Akhtar, wife of Mohammad Rafiq, resident of Budhal Koteranka Rajouri, was five months pregnant.

He said that Razeem was brought to the local hospital at Kotranka. Her condition worsened and she was referred to Government Hospital in Rajouri where she died.

He added that she had lost her three children Ashfaq (12), Ishtiyaq (7) and Nazia (5), to the same unidentified disease earlier this month.

Officials said that a post-mortem examination has been conducted to determine the cause of her death.

Earlier, deaths were attributed to food poisoning, however, later the investigations revealed that food poisoning was not the cause, and the deaths were attributed to unknown factors. It is pertinent to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Govt constitutes District Committees to verify PDS beneficiaries in JK

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

The government of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday issued an order sanctioning the formation of District Level Committees to oversee the verification of beneficiaries enrolled under the Public Distribution System (PDS) database.

The committees, as per an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, will be responsible for verifying the eligibility of beneficiaries, identifying and including any left-out eligible individuals,

and completing the e-KYC process for pending beneficiaries.

The Government Order No. 2129-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated December 24 available with news agency-Kashmir News Observer-KNO- the committees will be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, with the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Assistant Commissioner (Development), District Social Welfare Officer, and Assistant Director (FCS & CA) as members. The Assistant Director (FCS & CA) will serve as the Member Secretary, and the Chairperson has

been authorized to co-opt additional members as deemed necessary.

The committees have been directed to ensure that all beneficiaries in the database comply with the applicable rules, weeding out any ineligible individuals. They are also tasked with identifying left-out eligible beneficiaries and ensuring their inclusion in appropriate PDS categories. Additionally, the committees will oversee the completion of e-KYC for all eligible beneficiaries under the PDS. As per the government order,

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Lieutenant Governor's Greetings on the eve of Christmas

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ is an occasion to celebrate and imbibe Lord Christ's message of love, compassion and forgiveness.

I hope that the sacred occasion inspires us to build a future where all people love one

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CM Omar Abdullah extends greetings on Christmas

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended his Christmas greetings to all those celebrating this occasion across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

In his message, the Chief Minister described Christmas as a blessing for humanity, reflecting peace, love, and compassion.

He emphasized the timeless relevance of Jesus Christ's teachings, which continue to inspire the values of kindness, forgiveness, and harmony in today's world.

"Christmas is not just a celebration; it is a testament to the strength of our collective

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RESERVATION POLICY ROW

Merit biggest 'casualty, take action beyond courts, says Mehbooba Mufti

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief, Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday expressed deep concern over the ongoing reservation row, stating that the merit has become the biggest 'casualty' in the region.

Speaking over the issue, the PDP chief, as per the news agency, highlighted the importance of hard work and ability, lament-



ing that these virtues no longer hold value in the current system and that the merit has become the biggest 'casualty' at this point of time.

"What do we tell our children now? That their hard work and capability have no place in this system?" she said.

Taking dig at the Nation-

al Conference, Mufti pointed out that none of its MPs had raised the issue in Parliament over the past year, despite the mandate they received from the youth. "They promised to address rationalization of reservations without compromising Open Merit, but their silence is deafening," she said.

She also criticized the government for relying on the judiciary to resolve the matter. "If this government with a strong majority and 50 MLAs cannot act,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Nine-member House Committee to frame Business Rules for Assembly

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DEC 24

Jammu and Kashmir assembly speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Tuesday constituted a 9-member committee by him to finalise the draft Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the legislative assembly.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with news agency, speaker Abdul Rahim Rather will be the ex-officio chairman of the committee.

The panel has been set up under Rule 363 of the

Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by the speaker.

The members include legislators Mubarak Gul(NC) Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Saifullah Mir (NC), Nizam-ud-din Bhat (Congress), Pawan Kumar Gupta (BJP, Hasnain Masoodi) (NC), Ranbir Singh Pathania (BJPI) and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan(independent supporting ruling alliance).

In total, the committee has seven members

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DC reviews power supply scenario in Doda District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 24

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh convened a meeting to review the power sector performance in the district here at DC office Complex Doda.

The meeting was attended by key Officers and officials, including the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, representatives from the Project Wing Divisions of Doda and Kishtwar, STD, TLMD, and Assistant Executive Engineers of JPDCL Sub-Divisions Thathri and Gandoh. Other officers and officials also participated in the meeting virtually.

The DDC Doda assessed the status of ongoing projects, discussed measures to enhance power supply reliability and addressed issues impacting services delivery in rural and urban



areas. He emphasised the timely completion of power infrastructure projects and instructed the concerned departments to work collaboratively to resolve bottlenecks.

The DDC reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted power

supply during the ongoing winter season and urged the Officers and officials to prioritize addressing public grievances. He also reviewed the preparedness of the power sector to tackle any emergency scenarios, particularly in far-flung areas of the district.

Good Governance Week 2024 Ramban Admin concludes Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore campaign; redresses 550 Grievances in 1 week

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 24

As part of Good Governance Week 2024, the Ramban District Administration, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, conducted the widely attended "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" campaign across all eleven blocks of the district. The initiative, held from December 19, aimed to address public grievances and bring administration closer to the people.

During the campaign, more than 550 public grievances were received and resolved on the spot, while complaints registered through CPGRAMS and state portals were also addressed. The campaign witnessed significant public participation, reinforcing the administration's commitment to



transparency and citizen-centric governance.

On the concluding day, a mega camp was organized at Banihal, presided over by SDM Rizwan Asgar, along with Tehsildar Imtiaz Ahmed, BDO Asif Amin Chandel, and other senior officers. The camp successfully resolved 57 grievances, ensuring immediate

relief and satisfaction for the participants.

The "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" campaign has been instrumental in resolving public issues and enhancing the delivery of government services at the grassroots level, reflecting the district administration's proactive approach to fostering good governance.

RTO Jammu acts against traffic violators

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

On the directions from Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Pal Mahajan and under the guidance of RTO Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra, the Motor Vehicles Department conducted a comprehensive enforcement drive in Raipur Satwari and surrounding areas.

More than 165 vehicles were checked during the enforcement drive out of which 40 were challaned, 01 was impounded for masking the registration number plate and 04 driving licenses were suspended under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules. The anticipated revenue from e-challanes is INR 206,200.

The operation targeted unfit vehicles, passenger/goods vehicle overloading, mobile phone use while driving, without



helmet, two-wheeler riders, altered/tampered registration plates, vehicles without documents, reckless/dangerous driving, triple riding on two wheelers and driving under the influence of alcohol. The drive was supervised by ARTO Flying Squad Bipen Singh Charak. The team consisted of Jagandeep Singh MVI and MVTA Tarunot Singh. Driver, conductor, and vehicle owners were educated on road safety measures, preventative vehicle maintenance, and adherence to traffic regulations to promote road safety.

JMC Commissioner hands over PM SVANIDHI plates to street vendors



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav today encouraged the vendors to avail benefits of PM Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) - a special micro-credit facility launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.

The Commissioner said that the scheme was

launched with the aim to provide financial support to the street vendors through working capital loans, incentivize regular repayment, and to promote digital transaction.

He was speaking at an event organized to handover PM SVANIDHI plates to the Vendors. Dr. Yadav assured the street vendors that their welfare would remain a priority. He also urged them not to keep their rehries on footpaths and roads, as this

causes inconvenience to pedestrians and contributes to traffic congestion. He encouraged vendors to install their rehries at designated places within the municipal jurisdiction to maintain a smooth flow of traffic and public convenience.

Deputy Commissioner, (North) Sanjay Badyal, Deputy Commissioner, (South) Lal Chand and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

DC Baramulla reviews dev. projects, arrangements for Winter Tourism at Gulmarg

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting at Gulmarg to review the progress of developmental projects and the facilities available related to winter tourism in the Gulmarg sub-division.

The meeting focused on the developmental projects in the region as well as the facilities and arrangements at the world-famous Gulmarg Ski Resort for winter tourism.

The DC took a detailed and comprehensive overview of the status of various ongoing developmental projects in the Gulmarg sub-division, particularly those associated with enhancing the services for the tourists visiting Gulmarg during winters.

During the meeting, Minga Sherpa emphasized



the urgency of completing all pending infrastructure development work, particularly in areas concerning road connectivity, snow clearance, healthcare facilities, electricity and accommodation for visiting tourists.

In addition to infrastructure development, the meeting also focused on the operational aspects of winter tourism. The DC directed the AEE R&B and Mechanical to have efficient snow clearance mechanisms in place to have road connectivity to the ski-resort.

Meanwhile, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure round the clock availability of

critical services, such as electricity and water supply, during heavy snowfall periods.

The DC further emphasized that Gulmarg's success as a winter tourism hub hinges on the availability of modern infrastructure, safe travel conditions and efficient services, all of which must be in place during the winter season. The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Tariq Hussain; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gulmarg, Syed Altaf Musvi; SDPO Tangmarg; Executive Engineer R&B, AEE Mechanical, and PDD, among others.

Physical, financial achievements under District Capex Budget 2024-2025 reviewed in Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting with line department officers to assess the physical and financial achievements recorded under the District Capex Budget 2024-2025.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Block Development Officers and other District Officers.

The DC took exten-

sive review of progress achieved under the District Capex budget including Area Development Plan, Aspirational Block Development Programme, DDC, BDC, Untied and PRI grants within the district.

The DC emphasized the need for expeditious completion of pending development works, directing Block Development Officers to focus on completion of pending works on mission mode & start billing of completed works.

The Executing agencies were directed to adhere strictly to timelines, with an emphasis on conducting regular site visits to maintain uncompromised quality standards.

Javed Rana approves key proposal to accelerate tribal welfare in JK

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

In a significant move towards empowering tribal communities and ensuring inclusive development, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has approved a key departmental proposal for inclusion of newly notified tribes in Jammu and Kashmir under various tribal welfare schemes.

The Minister asked the Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G and Director, Tribal Affairs J&K, Ghulam Rasool and other senior officers to focus on expediting initiatives for socio-economic empowerment of the tribal population in J&K.

The Minister accorded approval for expansion of Dharti Aaba Mission, a flagship tribal development program aimed at improving the quality of life in tribal-majority villages. Under the proposal, which is being submitted to Ministry for Tribal Affairs (MoTA), the mission will cover 20 districts, 112 blocks and 393 villages notified in J&K.

Additionally, 676 new villages and 204 villages from aspirational districts including Baramulla and Kupwara, have been identified for inclusion,



bringing the total number of tribal villages under the mission to 880. The Dharti Aaba Mission will prioritize interventions in infrastructure, education, healthcare and livelihood development.

The Minister emphasized the inclusion of newly recognized tribal communities under welfare schemes. With the recent amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Tribes Order, 2024, communities such as Pahari Ethnic tribe, Gadda Brahmin, Koli and Paddari have been added to the Scheduled Tribes list, doubling the tribal population of J&K to approximately 30 lakh, which accounts for 11.9 percent of J&K's total population. These newly recognized tribes will immediately benefit from key programs such as Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships to boost educational opportunities and

Dharti Aaba scheme for livelihood development.

Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) will be extended to tribal villages, focusing on holistic development with an emphasis on improving basic amenities and socio-economic indicators. A detailed socio-economic survey is also in the pipeline to identify the specific challenges and needs of tribal communities, ensuring that interventions are targeted and effective.

To further strengthen the tribal economy, self-employment schemes like Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are being prioritized. Under these initiatives, tribal artisans and entrepreneurs will receive skill development training, financial support and market linkages to promote their indigenous crafts and products.

The Tribal Affairs

Department has prepared a comprehensive proposal to expand the coverage of tribal villages, selecting them based on specific criteria, such as a minimum population of 500 people with at least 50 percent belonging to Scheduled Tribes. For instance, Baramulla district will include 43 new villages alongside 54 aspirational district villages, while Kupwara will cover 50 new villages and 150 aspirational district villages, making them major hubs for tribal-focused areas.

Underlining the intent of the Government to ensure that all tribal welfare schemes reach their intended beneficiaries, the Minister instructed the Director Tribal Affairs to plan the launch of a series of awareness campaigns in collaboration with tribal leaders, NGOs and local bodies. These campaigns will educate communi-

ties about their rights and entitlements under various welfare schemes, he added.

Stressing the importance of a robust monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of tribal welfare schemes, Rana directed for regular reviews to ensure transparency, accountability and timely delivery of benefits.

Recognizing the pivotal role of women and youth in tribal communities, the Minister announced roll out of special initiatives under the Dharti Aaba Mission to empower tribal women through skill development centers and Self Help Groups (SHGs). Dedicated programs will also be launched for tribal youth, including career counseling sessions, sports programs and training for competitive exams to foster leadership and educational growth among the younger generation.

"The inclusion of newly declared tribes under welfare schemes marks a historic step in addressing inequities that have persisted for decades," the Minister said, adding that the Government remains steadfast in its efforts to ensure that every tribal community has access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

DLSA Bandipora organises awareness programme on National Consumer Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 24

As per the calendar of Activities for the month of December, 2024, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in coordination with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal and in collaboration with Mosaic Skill Center Sumbal Tuesday organized an awareness programme on 'National Consumer Day' at Mosaic Skill Center Sumbal.

The programme was organized under the chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora and guidance of Iqbal Akhoun, Secretary DLSA Bandipora.

This year, National Consumer Day 2024 underscores the theme of 'Empowering Consumers for a Sustainable Future,' emphasizing the need for informed decision-making and consumer rights in the age of rapidly advancing technologies and global challenges.

On the occasion, resource persons Adv. Abid Hussain Malla and Adv. Tasleema Jan delivered lectures on National Consumer Day and highlighted the theme and significance of this day.



They enlightened the audience about the importance of National Consumer Day and emphasized that the rights of the consumers are to be protected and respected, and that all consumers need to have the knowledge and power to protest against

the Market Abuses. The programme was attended by Staff Members of DLSA Bandipora, TLSC Sumbal, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Bandipora and TLSC Sumbal, and students of Mosaic Skill Centre Sumbal.

Lieutenant Governor addresses Annual Day Function of JS Group of Institutions at Varanasi

JINNEWS SERVICE
VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH, DECEMBER 24

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Annual Day Function of JS Group of Institutions at Varanasi. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to the management, teachers, students and everyone associated with the JS Group of Institutions.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the critical role of Science and Technology for a brighter future of India. He emphasised that modern education must touch every person of society for progress and prosperity of all.

Education is the process of self-discovery. It is the art of sculpting individuality. Education not only trains the individual in a specific skill and knowledge, but also develops



the latent intellectual, artistic and humanitarian abilities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the teaching fraternity to provide mentorship and guidance to the students and nurture their inherent potential so that they can contribute to nation building and development of the society.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the revolutionary changes taking place, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in various sectors including education, industry and technology.

Today's classroom will give a new shape to tomorrow's factory. It is the responsibility of our educational institutions

to collaborate with Industries and prepare smart technical professionals for the smart factories, he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor commended the contribution of JS Group of Institutions in education sector. He also inaugurated the Administrative Block of JS Public School, Sadhoganj, Varanasi.

CS lists contact tracing, intensive sampling & community involvement among the focal areas to make 'TB Mukta J&K'

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today in a meeting of Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department impressed upon the concerned to make untiring efforts in making J&K Tuberculosis (TB) free by the end of the year 2025 as envisaged under PM TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Besides the Secretary H&ME the meeting was attended by Principal GMC, Jammu/Srinagar, MD, JKMSCL, Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir; State TB Officer, Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers.

While taking note of the incidence of this disease in the UT, the Chief Secretary stressed on enthusiastic tracing of contacts, intensive sampling and involvement of community to make J&K free from TB.

He further advised for efficient utilization of the services of ASHA workers, women SHG members of JKRLM and other rural institutions to reach out to all the people and areas in identifying the potential affected persons and drawing out necessary diagnostics. As far as the IEC for



creating general awareness among public is concerned, Dulloo enjoined upon the Department to send bulk messages to the family members of the patients for their sensitization and care about their health.

He also asked them to make it a regular feature to keep check on the Health & Wellness Centres and Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs for sending samples from their areas of service. He also directed the senior officers of the Department to visit the TB facilities created across the length and breadth of J&K.

In his presentation the Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah gave out the overall view of the TB scenario here along with the aims and objectives of this ongoing PMTBMB Abhiyan. He revealed that J&K has a TB affected population

of around 11,650 persons who are provided free treatment through different facilities established across the districts of the UT.

He also revealed that besides the free treatment of these patients they are being provided Rs 1000/- month under Nikshay Poshan Yojana and a food basket to 6146 patients through 5406 Nikshay Mitras, who had given their consent to receive the community support.

In addition it was given out that the districts of Anantnag, Budgam and Pulwama had already been declared 'TB Free' with Baramulla, Srinagar, Baniptora, Kupwara, Kulgam, Shopian and Ganderbal submitted for this declaration to Sub-National Certification.

The meeting was further apprised that this year about 463872 presumptive

tests were done against a target of 486887 (1000/lakh of population) at the rate of 3047 persons per lakh of population here.

It was also apprised that out of 4243 Panchayats, 1516 had been declared 'TB Free'. In addition a '100-Days TB Campaign' has been launched from Dec, 7 this year to hold Ni-Kshay Shivir, targeting 347 high-priority districts across India, including Jammu, Srinagar & Baramulla districts of J&K under National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The campaign aims at accelerating TB case detection among vulnerable populations, reducing TB mortality through better management of cases and preventing new infections by implementing focused interventions in districts with the highest TB burden.

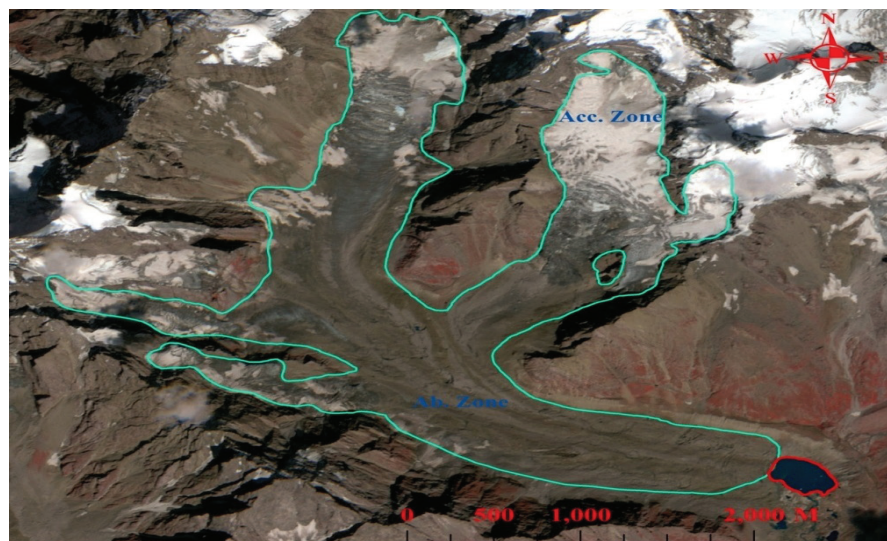
Govt intensifies efforts to tackle risks posed by glacial lake overflows

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

In a bid to tackle the increasing risks posed by glacial lake overflows, the Jammu & Kashmir government has intensified efforts to monitor and mitigate the threats of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

"A series of scientific expeditions have been conducted to enhance understanding and preparedness against these potential hazards, stated an official communication issued in this regard by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

As part of these initiatives, a specialized expedition team led by Dr. Sunil Dhar from the Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University of Jammu, recently undertook a comprehensive study of three critical glacial lakes in Kishtwar district. The team conducted a comprehensive study of various lakes including Mundikar, Hangu and Unnamed lake in the Kishtwar region. Besides, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducted a thorough study of Bram



Sar Lake in the Kulgam district. Besides, the Department of Geography & Disaster Management at the University of Kashmir conducted field expedition to two glacial lakes, earlier in June.

"These expeditions provided valuable data on the lake conditions, surrounding environmental factors and potential risks of GLOF events. The insights gained will be instrumental in formulating risk mitigation strategies and enhancing early warning systems in the region," added the document. These expeditions played a key role in collecting crucial data and assessing

the risks associated with potentially dangerous glacial lakes (PDGLS) in Jammu & Kashmir.

The communication added that the GLOF mitigation strategy will be implemented in two distinct phases. The phase I "expedition and data collection" will initially focus on identifying and studying glacial lakes that pose a high risk of GLOFs, based on the assessments provided by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), NRSC, CWC etc. The phase II will focus on developing and implementing specific mitigation measures.

A fully functional Glacial Lake Outburst Flood

Early Warning System (EWS) will also be established to enhance preparedness. The personnel will be trained in the operation and interpretation of EWS, ensuring effective responses to potential GLOF events where necessary lake-lowering techniques will be deployed to further mitigate the risks.

Pertinently, the Jammu & Kashmir government had constituted a Focused Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Monitoring Committee (FGMC) in the month of April 2024 to focus on mitigation measures in the wake of overflow of glacial lakes.

Deputy Chief Minister reviews progress on development works in Nowshera

JINNEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, today chaired a review meeting of the works department, encompassing Public Works Department (PWD), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Roads and Buildings (R&B) department at Dak Bungalow, Nowshera.

The meeting aimed to evaluate the progress on ongoing developmental works and review the status of projects yet to be initiated in the region.

The Deputy Chief Minister took a detailed account of the works in progress, stressing the need for maintaining high-quality standards in all phases of project execution. Highlighting the significance of infrastructure development, he directed the officials to ensure strict adherence to deadlines



besides addressing any bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of projects.

Discussions revolved around key projects under PWD, PMGSY and R&B, with a focus on road connectivity, maintenance of existing infrastructure and execution of new projects.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern over delays in certain works and emphasised the importance of meticulous planning and execution. He instructed the officials to prepare a prioritized list of pending projects and ensure their early initia-

tion. "Quality should not be compromised at any cost, as these projects are pivotal for overall development of the region and well-being of the people," he remarked.

During the meeting, the officials provided updates regarding the progress on various projects and highlighted challenges, including funding constraints, land acquisition issues and technical difficulties.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured them of the government's full support in addressing these challenges and facilitating smooth implementation

of development projects. In his closing remarks, the Deputy Chief Minister called for regular monitoring and evaluation of all ongoing works to ensure transparency and accountability. He also urged the officials to engage local communities and stakeholders in the developmental process to create a sense of ownership and responsibility among the residents.

Chief Engineer Anil Kumar Pandoi, along with Executive Engineers and other senior officials from the Works Department, attended the meeting.

Sakeena Itoo addresses SED's 'Pragaash: Nurturing an Innovation Ecosystem in J&K' event at SKICC

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today emphasised the critical importance of nurturing creativity and innovative mind-set among the students in order to aspire for a economically developed Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these comments while addressing School Education department's (SED) 'PRAGAASH-Nurturing Innovation Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir' event at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here today.

The event was organised by SED in collaboration with NITI AYOJ, UNICEF and Pi-Jam Foundation with an objective of fostering a thriving innovation culture and creating a con-



ducive ecosystem for students and tech enthusiasts in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the large gathering of Principals, Chief Education officers, Lecturers, Chief Masters, Teachers and young minds, Sakeena Itoo stressed on the critical importance of nurturing creativity and mind-set of young school

going children in order to bring about transformative change in Jammu and Kashmir's socio-economic fabric. "The system of education is changing and days of gaining knowledge behind closed doors are gone. Young, bright school going children are now more interested in innovations and practicals apart

from regular classroom activities", she said.

The Minister added that the standard of education in government schools is changing now and is at par with any private school these days. "The statistics are evident that the government schools have produced a good number of students who have displayed their innovative products at national arena", Sakeena said.

While commending the students of J&K for innovative products on display during Pragaash, the Minister said that these creations of young minds are related to different spheres of our society like agriculture, horticulture, health care and we need to nurture

them so that they can be turned into reality. She called upon the school education department, mentors and other stakeholders to handhold and guide these young minds for replicating their products into successful commodities for public use.

The Minister also stressed on the education department and other concerned stakeholders to organise such programmes on regular basis so that the

spark of innovation in our young minds is continuously lit up.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary, SED, Suresh Kumar Gupta, said that the department is dedicated to provide such platforms to school children in order to hone their talent and showcase their hidden abilities.

Addressing the gathering, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, Chintan Vaishnav said that J&K

is leading the Nation with innovations. He informed the gathering that against the national average of 3.18%, 36.33 % eligible schools participated in ATL marathon.

In his address, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo outlined various initiatives of the department to boost innovation ecosystem from the school level.

During the event, the Minister also felicitated

students for having performed remarkably in different aspects of the event. She also felicitated the teachers and other stakeholders.

Earlier, the Minister visited the stalls displaying innovative products of more than 100 schools of Jammu and Kashmir. She interacted with the students and assured them assistance for replicating their products into successful commodities.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEE/G/FZ acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-47-	Scheduled Maintenance and Repair Contract of RMPUs of LHB Coaches including their heavy repair, IOH and On Board Electrical Escorting duties in				14.01.2025 after 15:00	
2024-25	Primary based Trains of FZR Division, Train no. 12422/21 (ASR-NED), 04654/53 (ASR-NJP), 04652/51 (ASR-JYG), 14674/73/50/49 (ASR-JYG), 127484/83 (ASR-KCVL), 12492/91 (JAT-BJU), 20974/73 (FZR-RMM), 14620/19 (FZR-AGTL) and special trains for two years.	5,05,46,181.04	4,02,700/-	24 Months	Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

251-Elect/T/Notice No. 41-Elect/2024-25 Dated :-23.12.2024

3937/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Bethel Living Word School felicitates Tabid Hussain

Nurture academic, spiritual growth and extracurricular activities for excellence: Bhatti

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, DEC 25

The Bethel Living Word School felicitated Mr. Tabid Hussain, a student of their school for bringing laurels to the School by winning Gold Medal at the recently concluded National Roller Hockey Tournament at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Tabid's hard work and dedication were honored with a special recognition during the event, earning thunderous applause from the audience, the event also marked the joyous occasion of Christmas celebration with a vibrant program of unity, celebration, and devotion. The event was graced by Mr. John Roques Bhatti, the Chief Guest, alongside Guests of Honor Pastor Thomas Paul and Pastor Raju Sotra. The celebration featured an array of engaging performances, including carols, dazzling dance routines, and a moving Christmas play depicting the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.



The program brought together students, staff, parents, and community members to reflect on the season's themes of love, hope, and faith.

In his address, Chief Guest Mr. John Roques Bhatti commended the school for nurturing not only academic and spiritual growth but also extracurricular excel-

lence. "This program beautifully reminds us of the values of Christmas—faith, love, and community—and celebrates the remarkable achievements of young talents like Tabid Hussain," he said.

The Guests of Honor, Pastor Thomas Paul and Pastor Raju Sotra, delivered inspiring messages about unity and the true meaning of Christmas, encouraging everyone to carry the teachings of Jesus Christ into their daily lives. The program concluded with a heartfelt prayer for peace, followed by moments of fellowship and celebration. The evening was a testament to the school's dedication to fostering spiritual, cultural, and personal development among its students.

Bethel Living Word School is committed to providing a holistic education that promotes academic excellence, faith-based values, and community service. The school continues to celebrate and encourage the achievements of its students in all spheres of life.

Protest over reservation issue led by NC MP sparks controversy

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, DEC 24

National Conference (NC) leader and MLA Salman Sagar on Tuesday criticised the protest over reservation issue, led by party's Member of Parliament Ruhullah Mehdi, calling it a "drama" that played into the hands of the party's adversaries.

On Monday, several political leaders led by Mehdi and a large number of students staged a peaceful protest outside the residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah against the reservation policy, which was introduced earlier this year by the Lieutenant Governor-administration. Later a group of protesting students met Omar Abdullah who gave them a number of assurances.

The protest over reservation issues brought political adversaries together. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Waheed Parra and Iltija Mufti and Awami Ittehad Party leader Sheikh Khurshheed-brother of MP Engineer Rashid also joined the protest.

Speaking to the media, NC leader Salman Sagar expressed disapproval of the protest, stating it was neither sanctioned by the party leadership nor aligned with the NC's principles.

"This was not a protest of the National Conference. It was a protest of the enemies of the National Conference," Sagar said, pointing fingers at rival parties like the People Democratic Party for exploiting the situation.

He clarified that protests of this nature should only

proceed after directives from top NC leadership, including party president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah.

Sagar further criticized Ruhullah's involvement, calling the protest a "drama" and said that no one benefited from it.

"Unfortunately, our MP was also there. This gave our adversaries an opportunity to organize such gatherings and secure political points," he said.

Highlighting the importance of internal dialogue, Sagar emphasized that democracy within the NC ensures grievances are addressed systematically.

"If there are issues, they should be resolved within the party structure. Such actions outside the system are not democratic," he added.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Year-End: In 2024...

—free power to the consumers as per the load curtailment schedule so that there are no unscheduled power cuts. But the distribution company was getting less than 1500 MW of power," the official said.

DT damage in winters

Till the first week of December, on an average at least 50 Distribution Transformers (DTs) of different load capacities were getting damaged every day in Kashmir Valley.

A top official had said, "On average, at least 50 DTs were getting damaged every day. The main reason for the damage to DTs is overloading and using crude heating gadgets."

He had said, "Most of the DTs were getting damaged in rural areas wherein most of the consumers are unmetered."

In the meantime, KPDCL had said that in the month of November, at least 1043 DTs were damaged and 1035 were restored simultaneously.

Power pilferages

In 2024, KPDCL recorded more than a thousand power theft cases through illegal hooking on bare conductor lines.

An official said, "In the year 2024, the DISCOM had taken an upbeat approach and we have done nearly 50,000 inspections and disconnections."

The official further said that the team of KPDCL has saved hundreds and thousands of units of energy during the number of inspection drives.

Metering the consumers

The official documents reveal that there are 23.45 lakh electric connections and consumers of different categories in JK who are being catered to electric power supply.

"At least 14 lakh smart meters are targeted to be installed, 7.27 lakh smart meters are targeted to be installed by March 2025 out of which 5.78 Lakhs stand installed," reads the document.

It also said that the government will complete the loss reduction infrastructure projects by March 2025.

Power consumption surge by 13 Pc

The electricity consumption in Jammu and Kashmir has increased by more than thirteen per cent in the past four years.

The official documents reveal "Over the span from 2020-21 to 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir saw a steady increase in electricity consumption per capita, rising from 1,322 Kilowatt-Hour (KWhr) to 1,507KWhr."

"This trend reflects a growing demand for power amidst a population increase from 13.41 million to 13.70 million, with units purchased and consumed escalating from 17,721.76 million to 20,644.47 million units over the period," it reads.

Unscheduled outages, distress cuts

People of many areas in Kashmir continue to face unscheduled outages in both 'metered and non-metered' locales.

The electricity consumers of different areas say that the KPDCL was unable to cater the least expected services to them or were 'making concocted promises' which the DISCOM couldn't deliver with the officials of PDD saying that the Power demand was gradually increasing because of the intense cold weather conditions.

"If there are any areas that are facing unscheduled power outages and distress cuts, we will work on streamlining the issue," the official had said.

Power purchase 'hollows JK's exchequer'

In Jammu and Kashmir, the expenditure trend over the years reveals that a huge part of total expenditure is on the purchase of power with the official documents stating that analysis of expenditure trends over the years reveals that the UT of JK faces hard budget constraints on account of the sizable committed nature of its expenditure.

"They include interest payments, salaries and pensions. Cumulatively, they constituted nearly 73 per cent of its total expenditure in FY 2023-24. A significant part of the total expenditure of the UT is on purchase of power," it reads.

The documents further said that although power purchase expenditure cannot be classified as committed expenditure. "Yet in the case of the U,T it has assumed the nature of committed expenditure because of the historical practice of huge under-recoveries from the sale of the power sector."

"In recent years, there has been some increase in the power receipts with improvement in metering. However, despite this, the gap between the cost of power purchase bill and receipts is substantial," it reads.

AT&C losses

The official documents reveal that the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses have reduced from 55 per cent in 2016-17 to 48 per cent in 2023-24.

Last year, the AT&C loss of the Power Development Department was one of the highest in India—causing a gap between power purchase costs.

In the previous fiscal, the AT&C losses were of the order of 50 per cent against the national average of 19.73 per cent.

Developments, roadmap

The official documents reveal that it was doubling the hydel power generation by 2026 by heading four power projects having power generation capacity of 3014 MWs.

Further, power generation capacity is also proposed to be augmented by 3284 MWs through four power projects

It also said that the per capita electricity purchased and consumption recorded an average growth rate of 4.10 per cent per annum with 1171KWhr to 1507 KWhr in the last 7 years.

The documents further reveal that the government has made substantial investments of approximately Rs 2,000 Crores in enhancing its transmission and distribution (T&D) infrastructure to 31,743.5 MVA in 2024.

Similarly, the length of T&D lines has been extended to 166,376.05 Km. This infrastructure development was aimed at bolstering the region's power transmission capabilities. KNO

CM Omar Abdullah...

a department-wise review of the winter preparedness measures of all line departments.

He emphasized the need for a robust mechanism to minimize public inconvenience during severe weather conditions.

The Chief Minister also engaged with Deputy Commissioners to assess district-level preparedness and urged them to prioritize timely and effective responses to weather-related challenges.

Chief Minister Abdullah stressed the importance of keeping men and machinery in a state of readiness to ensure the routine functioning of essential installations.

He directed departments to prioritize uninterrupted trade, transport, and essential supplies while addressing disruptions caused by snow, waterlogging, or power outages.

On snow clearance, he was briefed that a sufficient number of hi-tech snow clearance machines have been deployed by the R&B Department, SMC, MED, BRO, and NHAI, with additional machines on standby to handle heavy snowfall.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah instructed the concerned authorities to focus on clearing key routes, including inter-district highways and roads leading to hospitals, power grids, water supply systems, and fire and emergency services.

The meeting was informed that adequate stocks of ration, petrol, diesel, and LPG are available to meet the needs of residents for several months. Additional provisions have been made to ensure timely distribution across districts.

The Chief Minister directed for establishment of joint control rooms in all districts to handle winter-related complaints promptly.

He stressed the importance of a swift response system to minimize public inconvenience and ensure seamless delivery of essential services. Reviewing the health sector's readiness, the Chief Minister directed the Health Department to ensure adequate stocks of medicines, oxygen cylinders, and emergency supplies across all hospitals.

He also emphasized maintaining functional central heating systems in healthcare facilities and ensuring the deployment of medical personnel in snowbound areas.

Instructions were given for providing transport service to expecting mothers in remote and far-flung areas.

Highlighting the criticality of uninterrupted power supply during winter, the Chief Minister instructed KPDCL engineers to prioritize the restoration of electricity, particularly for essential installations.

He called for timely replacement of damaged transformers and urged for protection of field staff with proper safety gear to prevent accidents during repair work.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah underscored the importance of maintaining road connectivity and efficient traffic management.

He directed agencies to deploy sufficient manpower and equipment for snow clearance on national high-

ways, main roads, and internal routes, ensuring minimal disruption to public movement.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah concluded the meeting by urging all departments to work in coordination and take proactive measures to mitigate the impact of harsh winter conditions. He reiterated his commitment to minimizing public inconvenience and ensuring the effective delivery of essential services throughout the region.

Chief Minister directed the PHE Department to deploy sufficient water tankers in affected areas to prevent water scarcity during the extreme weather conditions.

Additionally, he instructed the Forest Department to ensure an adequate supply of firewood in snowbound areas is available.

The Chief Minister also underscored the significance of coordination among line departments and directed for round the clock operationalisation of District Control Rooms to maintain and update records of vulnerable populations, particularly pregnant women in snow-blocked areas.

He emphasized that such cases should be promptly relocated to maternity centers well ahead of their delivery dates.

For regions with possibility of road block, the Chief Minister instructed authorities to ensure helicopter services are put in place for such areas which remain cut off.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reiterated that all preparedness plans should be practical and actionable, ensuring their effectiveness when put to the test.

He called for seamless interdepartmental coordination and directed Deputy Commissioners to maintain regular communication with field officers to address emerging challenges swiftly.

Chief Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the welfare and safety of the people.

He assured people that the administration is fully prepared to tackle the challenges of the harsh winter and deliver essential services effectively. Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra via video conferencing. Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir attended the meeting in person.

Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, senior Police and Security Officers, Deputy Commissioners, Commissioners of SMC & JMC, Officers of BRO, NHAI and other Departments also attended the meeting. Officers from Jammu and other District Headquarters participated through video conference.

During the meeting, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Jammu gave presentation on the winter preparedness measures already in place across both the divisions.

Govt constitutes District...

the committees are required to submit their reports to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs within one month. KNO

Lieutenant Governor's...

another and live together in harmony and further strengthen our bond of brotherhood. Let us rededicate ourselves to imbibe the life and teachings of Jesus Christ for the welfare of humankind and work for the uplift of the needy and underprivileged.

May this Christmas fill the hearts of people all over the Union Territory with warmth, love and goodwill towards fellow beings".

CM Omar Abdullah extends...

harmony where every community comes together to celebrate this joyous occasion. The teachings of Jesus Christ remain as significant today as they were then, reminding us to strive for a more peaceful and inclusive world," the Chief

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

Mail ID:- xenpwdrandbreasi@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- Hiring of vehicle (Scorpio) on monthly rental basis for Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Reasi (without Driver & fuel) Mahindra Scorpio.

Reference:- This office e-NIT No. 34 of 2024-25 Dated 18-11-2024

The tender of the above referred e-NIT is hereby cancelled due to poor response reason for the Subject of work

Sd/-

(Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra)

Executive Engineer

PWD(R&B) Division

Reasi

No:- 4657-61

DIP/J-8552/24

Date: 24-12-24

37TH SUB JUNIOR NATIONAL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP MP, Telangana lift titles; J&K bags silver in boys, bronze in Girls

J&K emerging as a sporting hub: Sarmad Hafeez

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Complimenting the organisers and the organisations that play a pivotal role in successful conduct of mega sports events in Jammu and Kashmir, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, today said that Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as a sporting hub and the Government is committed to promote sports in every nook and corner of the Union Territory.

He said this during the closing ceremony of 37th Sub Junior National Softball Championship held at MA Stadium here today. He declared the games closed.

Present on the occasion were Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and a



galaxy of dignitaries.

Sarmad Hafeez said that J&K Sports Council has organised 16 nationals during the year, adding that the Department of Youth Services and Sports has hosted historic four National School Games on the trot in Jammu.

Appreciating the participants for showing discipline, sporting spirit and preserving sanctity of sports and games, Sarmad Hafeez termed the athletes as future sporting

stars of the nation. He said that such events apart from helping the youth to showcase their sporting talent, help them not to derail from the mainstream.

Termining the participants as ambassadors of the nation, Sarmad Hafeez said that sporting extravaganzas like this help the participants to make new friends, exchange culture and language and build camaraderie.

Earlier, getting the

better of their rivals in their respective summit clashes, the formidable teams of Madhya Pradesh and Telangana lifted the title trophies, thus winning Gold medals while Jammu and Kashmir won Silver medal in boys and Bronze medal in girls in the 37th Sub Junior National Softball Championship, organised by Softball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, under the auspices of Softball Association of India and J&K

Sports Council.

In the boys section, Madhya Pradesh defeated J&K in the finals by eight homes to six (8-2) to win the title, while Andhra Pradesh claimed the 3rd place. In the girls category, Telangana drubbed Andhra Pradesh by (5-2), in the finals to win the title, while the third place went to Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, in Baseball-5 boys, Kerala won Gold, Madhya Pradesh

Silver and Chhattisgarh claimed Bronze while in Baseball-5 girls, Jammu bagged Gold medal, Kerala won Silver and the Bronze medal was bagged by Madhya Pradesh.

On the occasion, Sarmad Hafeez and other dignitaries honoured the medal winning teams with trophies and medals. He also felicitated technical officials and those who helped in conduct of this mega event in a most befitting manner.

District level workshop on Good Governance Practices held at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 24

A District Level Workshop on Good Governance Week, aiming to share good governance practices and initiatives, and present Vision Document for Shopian 'Shopian@100' was today held at Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The workshop, chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, focused on the current status of departments, key initiatives taken in the department in the last five years and vision for the next 25 years for the district through brainstorming sessions.

Departments including Agriculture allied, Industries, Higher & School Education, Rural Development, Health, Revenue, Social Welfare, Irrigation, Jal Shakti, Tourism & Wildlife, etc

presented their respective vision documents which were elaborately discussed for further actions.

The DC emphasized on aligning the existing government interventions and schemes with the Vision Documents and proposing the solutions to the deficits being encountered in the field.

Lack of financial, land and other resources were discussed and steps required to be taken for holistic and sustainable development in the district assessed.

Stress was laid on leveraging the existing government schemes with good governance practices in order to take the development to sustainable levels. Huge potential of the district in sectors like agri allied sectors, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, agro based industries, etc was attended.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KAND KASHMIR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & FARMERS WELFARE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICER, REASI

Tel/Fax: 01991-245677; e-mail: caoreasi@gmail.com

RE-ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF KRISHI UDYAMI (KUs) (Agriculture Entrepreneur) (Left Out Panchyats)

Applications on prescribed format were invited from eligible candidates for engagement as Krishi Udyamis (KUs) on contractual basis for a period of two years (extensible) vide this offices various Advertisement notices No: CAOR/KKG/2023-24/5394-96 dated 29/02/2024 ; CAOR/KKG/2024-25/1301-03 dated 27/06/2024 and CAOR/KKG/2024-25/ 1849-51 dated 19/07/2024 ; CAOR/KKG/2024-25/ 3479-81 dated 09/10/2024; CAOR/KKG/ 2024-25/ 4319-21 dated 22-11-2024 ; CAOR/KKG/ 2024-25/ 4601-03 dated 06/12/2024. Wherein only 68 selected Krishi Udyamis have shown willingness for running KKGs against advertised locations.

Keeping in view the poor response from the applicants in the uncovered Panchyats , the re-advertisement for leftover 07 proposed locations , is hereby annexed at annexure 'C'.

KEY DETAILS:

S. no	Details	Description
1.	Position	Krishi Udyami (KU) (Agricultural Entrepreneur)
2.	Number of positions	07 Nos. (As per Leftover Panchayat Level Kisan Khidmat Ghar of District Reasi as Annexure "C")
3.	Engagement Duration	Initially for a period of 2 years, with the possibility of annual extensions subject to the satisfactory performance of the PLE.
4.	Qualification	Diploma* in Agriculture & Allied Fields or Graduation in Science (BSc), Graduation** in Agriculture and Allied Fields. (BSc/ BVSc) Additional preference will be given to candidates possessing post-graduation (science/agri & allied) & computer*** diplomas/certifications. * Diploma courses: Diploma in Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary Sciences, Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture, Agri. Engineering, BHT, BAT from government recognised institution **Agri Allied courses: BSc in Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture; B. Tech in Agriculture Engineering, BVSc & AH from a Government recognised institution *** Diploma/Certification course in computers of 3 or more months duration from a government recognised institution Please see selection criteria (D) for full details
5.	Job profile	Operate Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Jammu & Kashmir as per details mentioned at (E)
6.	Remunerations	The engagement is based on a self-earning/entrepreneur basis. Full details of KKG operations can be viewed at (F)
7.	Last date for receipt of complete applications	2 nd January 2025

* Those who have already applied for the KUs need not to apply again.

* for more details visit district administration web site : www.reasi.nic.in/document/re-advertisement-notice-for-engagement-of-krishi-udyami/

A. GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Detailed information including application form can be obtained from office of Chief Agriculture Officer, Reasi or downloaded from official websites of district administration official website: www.reasi.nic.in & Agriculture Production Department (<https://jkapd.nic.in> and <https://hadp.jk.gov.in>)
- Candidate must have the requisite qualification for the post applied.
- Age should be between 21 and 45 years as of the last date of submission.
- Self-attested photocopies of the following documents must be attached with the application form:
 - Date of birth certificate (Matriculation certificate).
 - Marks certificate of all qualifying examinations.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Character certificate issued by competent authority
- Completed application forms should be submitted to the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer (Member Secretary), Reasi Room No. 202 DC complex District Reasi Pin 182311 in person or through registered post.
- Any postal delay shall not be the responsibility of the advertising authority.
- Incomplete applications will be summarily rejected without further notice.
- Original documents shall have to be presented during the verification process.

It is essential to note that the earning potential of KUs is directly linked to the efficient and effective operation of KKGs, the volume of services provided, and the successful facilitation of various agricultural processes. The program aims to create a sustainable and rewarding income structure for KUs, aligning their success with the overall progress of agricultural development in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

CAOR/KKG/2024-25/ 4780-82
Dated:21/12/2024

Sd/-
Chief Agriculture Officer
Reasi

DIP/J-8520/24
Date: 23-12-24

Annexure A – Application Form

Application Form for Krishi Udyami (Agricultural Entrepreneur)

- Name of the applicant: _____
- Parentage _____
- Panchayat applied for: _____
- Present address: _____

- Permanent address (Domicile): _____
- Aadhaar no: _____
- Contact no.: _____
- Email: _____
- Date of Birth: _____
- Highest Education Qualification _____
- Gender _____
- Age as on last date of submission (years, months & days) _____
- Qualification Details:

Affix latest passport size photograph with white background

S.No	Qualification	Year of passing	Board / University	Subjects	Marks & Percentage
A					
B					
C					
D					
E	ICT know how (Degree/ Diploma/certificate course)				

- Any other Qualification / Experience/ achievement relevant to job

Signature of the Candidate

Annexure- "C"

Proposed Leftout Panchyats for Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) in Respect of District Reasi.

S.no	District	Tehsil	Block	Panchayats Covered	Proposed Location
1	Reasi	Bomag	Bomag	Dangakote/Sarhi	Pyt H.Q Dangakote
2	Reasi	Chassana	Chassana	Banna A+B	Pyt H.Q Thandi Sui
3	Reasi	Bhomag	Bhomag	Sersundwan/Lamsora	Pyt. HQ. Bakkal
4	Reasi	Pouni	Pouni	Pouni, Kundkhanyri, Saloon, Mari	AEO Office Pouni
5	Reasi	Thakrakote	JijBagli	Narkote, Dhakikote	Pyt H.Q Narkote
6	Reasi	Thakrakote	Thakrakote	Gari, Chinkah	Pyt H.Q Chinkah
7	Reasi	Pouni	Pouni	Bharakh/ Kheralair	Pyt. HQ. Bharakh

Sd/-
(Harbans Singh)
Chief Agriculture Officer
Reasi

EDITORIAL

The Spirit of Christmas: A Time for Reflection, Connection, and Giving

As the year winds down, December 25th arrives as a cherished day of celebration, imbued with warmth, joy, and a sense of renewal. Christmas, though rooted in Christian traditions, has transcended religious boundaries to become a universal symbol of unity, generosity, and hope. In this editorial, we reflect on the multifaceted significance of Christmas and how its values can guide us throughout the year.

At its core, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, a figure emblematic of love, compassion, and humility. For Christians, it is a time to honor these virtues and reaffirm faith. For many others, Christmas is an opportunity to embrace these universal principles, fostering a spirit of kindness and connection. The festive season serves as a reminder that humanity thrives when we extend goodwill to one another.

Christmas is also a time for gathering. Families and friends come together, often traveling great distances to share meals, exchange gifts, and create memories. These traditions, while varying across cultures, emphasize the importance of relationships. They offer a respite from the hustle of daily life, allowing us to focus on what truly matters—the people we cherish.

However, the modern celebration of Christmas is not without challenges. The commercialization of the holiday has, at times, overshadowed its essence. The pressure to buy, spend, and consume can detract from the deeper meaning of the season. Yet, this presents an opportunity for reflection. By choosing mindful practices, such as giving thoughtful, meaningful gifts or donating to charitable causes, we can align our actions with the true spirit of Christmas.

Beyond the festivities, Christmas serves as a call to generosity. Communities around the world rally to support the less fortunate during this time. Food drives, toy donations, and acts of volunteerism abound, exemplifying the power of collective kindness. These actions remind us that the spirit of giving should not be confined to a single season but embraced as a guiding principle year-round.

In a world often marked by division and uncertainty, Christmas provides a moment of unity. Its messages of peace and goodwill resonate universally, encouraging us to envision a future built on mutual respect and compassion. As we light our trees and sing carols, let us also light a spark within ourselves—to be more patient, forgiving, and generous.

As the clock ticks toward the end of the year, Christmas offers us a moment to pause and reflect. It is a time to celebrate not just the traditions we hold dear but also the enduring values that bind us together. Whether you celebrate Christmas as a religious occasion, a cultural holiday, or simply a time to reconnect with loved ones, may its spirit inspire you to carry its lessons into the year ahead.

Macau: The glittering gem in Xi Jinping's China

SANTHOSH MATHEW

When Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Macau, the world's gambling capital, the air was thick with anticipation. Macau, often dubbed the "Las Vegas of the East," is much more than a beacon of wealth and opulence. For Xi and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), it is a sparkling gem in the palm of China's vast and complex economic system—a model of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework that allows capitalist practices to thrive under the watchful eye of a socialist regime. Xi's visit underscored the stark contrasts between theory and practice in the CCP's governance and the lessons it offers not only for China's neighbours but for the world at large.

Macau's significance lies in its unique identity. A former Portuguese colony, it returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999 under the promise of autonomy. Today, its glitzy casinos, luxury hotels, and sprawling Special Economic Zone (SEZ) generate billions annually, contributing substantially to China's GDP. But while the dice roll and fortunes are made on Macau's gaming tables, the CCP's control remains

unyielding.

The irony is palpable. The CCP, a party built on anti-capitalist ideology, oversees the largest SEZ in the world in Shanghai, nurtures capitalism in Hong Kong, and allows gambling—once condemned as a moral vice—to flourish in Macau. This duality reflects the pragmatic philosophy first espoused by Deng Xiaoping: "It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice." This approach has been pivotal in transforming China into the world's second-largest economy. Yet it also lays bare the contradictions at the heart of CCP rule.

Xi Jinping's Macau visit was not merely ceremonial. It was a reaffirmation of the CCP's ability to adapt and wield capitalist tools while maintaining a tight grip on power. In Macau, Xi emphasised stability and loyalty to the central government. This aligns with his broader strategy of tightening control over regions that might veer toward autonomy or dissent, as evidenced in Hong Kong. The "One Country, Two Systems" model—once lauded as a masterpiece of governance—has increasingly become a tool for consolidating Beijing's authority. Hong Kong's story is a cautionary tale.



A vibrant hub of multinational corporations (MNCs) and transnational corporations (TNCs), it has been at the forefront of economic globalisation. However, its recent struggles with political dissent and Beijing's heavy-handed responses reveal the limits of the "Two Systems" promise. The CCP's crackdown on pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong has sent a clear message: economic freedom does not translate to political autonomy. Macau, in contrast, has largely avoided such conflicts, partly due to its economic dependence on Beijing and the absence of a robust pro-democracy movement. Yet, this does not make Macau immune to the inherent tensions of "One Country, Two Sys-

tems." As Xi extolled Macau's success, he also warned against complacency and stressed the need for "long-term stability," a euphemism for unwavering allegiance to the CCP. For the CCP, Macau and Hong Kong are not just economic engines; they are experiments in controlled capitalism. The success of these regions bolsters the party's narrative that socialism with Chinese characteristics can coexist with, and even benefit from, capitalist mechanisms.

The underlying contradictions are hard to ignore. The CCP's insistence on ideological purity clashes with its pragmatic embrace of market-driven policies. This duality is reflected in Xi's leader-

ship, which combines Maoist centralisation with Dengist pragmatism.

For Maoists, Naxalites, and urban Naxals in India, as well as other ideologues clinging to rigid dogmas, Macau stands as a testament to the power of adaptation. The CCP's ability to evolve, to reconcile its Marxist-Leninist roots with the demands of a modern, globalised economy, has been the cornerstone of China's rise. This is a far cry from the ideological purism that often paralyzes leftist movements elsewhere.

India, too, can draw inspiration from Macau. As the world's largest democracy grapples with its development challenges, it must consider the role of SEZs, MNC headquarters, and even industries like gambling in driving economic growth. While gambling remains taboo in much of India, the success of Macau shows how regulated gaming can become a major revenue source.

Similarly, expanding SEZs and creating hubs for MNCs can transform India into a global economic powerhouse. At the heart of this debate is the question of whether ideology should dictate policy. The CCP's approach—that opinion is not an iron rod—offers a compelling

case for pragmatism. Yet, the party's intolerance for dissent, as seen in its suppression of Mao's "Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom" campaign, highlights the dangers of unchecked authority. The CCP's success in economic management is undeniable, but its human rights record and stifling of democratic aspirations serve as stark reminders of the cost of its iron-fisted rule.

As Xi Jinping departed Macau, the world was left pondering the paradoxes of modern China. Under his leadership, the CCP has doubled down on centralisation, curbing dissent while championing economic liberalisation. Macau's glittering casinos and towering skyscrapers are symbols of this duality, where capitalism thrives under the shadow of socialism. For Xi, Macau is more than a gem in China's palm; it is a symbol of the CCP's ability to adapt and endure. Whether in the neon-lit streets of Macau or the corridors of power in Beijing, the CCP's experiment in controlled capitalism continues to shape the future of China—and the world.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

India's math geniuses shine bright in international math competition 2024

SARIKA JHA

India has long been a land of great mathematicians, from Aryabhata to Ramanujan to Bhaskara, each leaving an indelible mark on the world with their mathematical ingenuity. Today, India continues to excel in the field, as evidenced by its stellar performance at the Universal Concept of Mental Arithmetic System (UCMAS) International Competition 2024 in New Delhi, where the country bagged both the highest individual and team trophies.

The competition, the world's largest event for Abacus and Mental Arithmetic, brought together over 6,000 students from nearly 30 countries. Participants faced the challenge of solving 200 arithmetic questions in just eight minutes, relying solely on the Abacus or mental math techniques—a feat that truly felt like magic. For the second time, the World's Largest Abacus & Mental Arithme-

tic Event- UCMAS International Competition 2024 was held in India at the Delhi University Multipurpose Hall.

Students from across the world competed with each other showcasing their mental prowess in solving a very large number of mathematics problems in the quickest possible time to win the awards. This landmark event reaffirms its global significance in nurturing young minds in mathematics.

The competition aimed at promoting brain development, enhancing cognitive skills, and demonstrating the incredible abilities students can achieve through Abacus and Mental Arithmetic. Presenting the trophies to top performers, former Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi rightly said, "Smart brain produces smart solutions for every problem and prosperity is moving forward only when we have smart brains." Commending the efforts of the young participants,



Lekhi emphasised the importance of such initiatives and said, "UCMAS is enhancing cognitive skills and academic excellence." The blend of the ancient tool of the Abacus with modern teaching methodologies creates a unique educational experience.

Over 3 million children across the world have benefited from the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic curriculum, which encourages creativity, visualisation, and focus while developing strong arithmetic abilities.

In today's competitive academic environment, maintaining mental well-being has become an uphill battle for many children. The relentless pressure to excel often leads to stress, anxiety, and even

depression. In some heart-breaking cases, it drives students to take extreme steps, as seen in recent reports from Rajasthan's Kota district—a hub for competitive exam preparators. However, innovative educational programmes like the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic course are emerging as a ray of hope, helping children manage stress while fostering mental stability and self-confidence.

According to Dr Snehal Karia, CEO of UCMAS India, the course is designed to enhance children's mental stability by boosting their concentration, focus, and memory. It equips them with the confidence to understand and embrace their individuality, effectively reducing

anxiety and depression. The Abacus & Mental Arithmetic program's key lies in its structured approach to building self-assurance through innovative teaching methods.

The encouragement and skills imparted during the training play a pivotal role in shaping a child's bright future. The program comprises eight levels, each lasting three to four months. Children attend weekly classes guided by trained instructors, working through specially designed books and activities. Unlike conventional education, the course serves as a supplementary learning system to enhance cognitive abilities. There is an urgent need to complement the school's curriculum by focusing on brain development. The course improves memory, sharpness, and alertness.

As a result, students perform better academically and approach challenges with greater confidence. In a world where competition often over-

shadows creativity and self-worth, programs like Abacus & Mental Arithmetic provide children with the tools they need to thrive—mentally, emotionally, and academically. Alexan Wong, CEO of UCMAS International Corporation, said, "The competition not only tests their skills but also serves as a platform to demonstrate their creativity, visual memory, and focus—all of which will shape their future success." The competition itself is a testament to the transformative power of such programs, where students not only test their math skills but also demonstrate the broader cognitive benefits that shape their academic and personal growth.

Ultimately, the world needs such initiatives to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to face the challenges of the future with confidence and creativity.

(The author is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)

A tribute to Atal Ji, the statesman who shaped India with his vision and resolve

SHRI NARENDRA MODI

Today, 25th December is a very special day for all of us. Our nation marks the 100th Jayanti of our beloved former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. He stands tall as a statesman who continues to inspire countless people.

Our nation will always be grateful to Atal Ji for being the architect of India's transition into the 21st century. When he took oath as PM in 1998 our nation had passed through a period of political instability. In about 9 years we had seen 4 Lok Sabha elections. The people of India were getting impatient and also sceptical about governments being able to deliver. It was Atal Ji who turned this tide by providing stable and effective governance. Coming from humble roots, he realised the struggles of the common citizen and the transformative power

of effective governance.

One can see the long-term impact of Atal Ji's leadership in so many sectors around us. His era marked a gigantic leap in the world of Information Technology, telecom and communications. This was particularly important for a nation like ours, which is also blessed with a very dynamic Yuva Shakti. The NDA Government under Atal Ji made the first serious attempt to make technology accessible to the common citizens. At the same time, there was foresight in connecting India. Even today, most people recall the Golden Quadrilateral Project, which connected the length and breadth of India. Equally notable were the Vajpayee Government's efforts to enhance local connectivity as well through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Similarly, his Government gave a push to metro connectiv-

ity by doing extensive work for the Delhi Metro, which stands out as a world-class infrastructure project. Thus, the Vajpayee Government not only boosted economic growth but also brought distant regions closer, fostering unity and integration.

When it comes to the social sector, an initiative like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan highlights how Atal Ji dreamt of building an India where modern education is accessible to people across the nation, particularly for the poor and marginalised sections. At the same time, his government presided over many economic reforms which set the stage for India's economic surge after several decades of following an economic philosophy which encouraged cronyism and stagnation.

A wonderful example of Vajpayee Ji's leadership can be seen in the summer of 1998. His Government had just assumed office

and on 11th May, India conducted the Pokhran tests, known as Operation Shakti. These tests exemplified the prowess of India's scientific community. The world was stunned that India had done the tests and expressed their anger in no uncertain terms. Any ordinary leader would have buckled, but Atal Ji was made differently. And what happened? India stood firm and resolute with the government calling for another set of tests two days later, on 13th May! If the tests of the 11th showed scientific skill, the ones on 13th showed true leadership. It was a message to the world that gone were the days when India would buckle under threats or pressure. Despite facing international sanctions, the then NDA government of Vajpayee Ji stood firm, articulating India's right to safeguard its sovereignty while simultaneously being the strongest proponent of world peace.

Atal Ji understood Indian democracy and also the need to make it stronger. Atal Ji presided over the creation of the NDA, which redefined coalitions in Indian politics. He brought people together and made NDA a force for development, national progress and regional ambitions. His Parliamentary brilliance was seen throughout his political journey. He belonged to a party with a handful of MPs but his words were enough to rattle the might of the all-powerful Congress Party that time. As Prime Minister, he blunted the criticisms of the Opposition with style and substance. His was a career spent largely in the Opposition benches but never carried any trace of bitterness against anyone, even though the Congress stooped to new lows by going to the extent of calling him a traitor!

He was also not one to cling on to power through

opportunistic means. He preferred to resign in 1996 instead of following the path of horse-trading and dirty politics. In 1999, his Government was defeated by 1 vote. A lot of people told him to challenge the immoral politics happening then but he preferred to go by the rules. Eventually, he came back with another resounding mandate from the people.

When it comes to commitment to protecting our Constitution too, Atal Ji stands tall. He was deeply impacted by the martyrdom of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Years later, he was a pillar of the anti-Emergency movement. In the run-up to the 1977 elections after the Emergency, he agreed to merger of his own Party (Jan Sangh) into the Janata Party. I am sure it would have been a painful decision but for him, and the others, but safeguarding the Constitution was all that mattered.

It is also noteworthy how deeply rooted Atal Ji was in Indian culture. Upon becoming India's External Affairs Minister, he became the first Indian leader to speak in Hindi at the United Nations. This one gesture showcased his immense pride in India's heritage and identity, leaving an indelible mark on the global stage.

Atal Ji's persona was magnetic and his life was enriched by his love for literature and expression. A prolific writer and poet, he used words to inspire, provoke thought, and even offer solace. His poetry, often reflective of his inner struggles and hopes for the nation, continues to resonate with people across age groups.

For so many Bharatiya Janata Party Karyakartas like me, it is our privilege that we were able to learn and interact with a person like Atal Ji. His contribution to the BJP was found-

ational. In those days to spearhead an alternative narrative to the dominant Congress showed his greatness. Alongside stalwarts like Shri L.K. Advani Ji and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi Ji he nurtured the party from its formative years, guiding it through challenges, setbacks and triumphs. Whenever the choice came between ideology and power, he always chose the former. He was able to convince the nation that an alternative world view from the Congress was possible and such a world view could deliver.

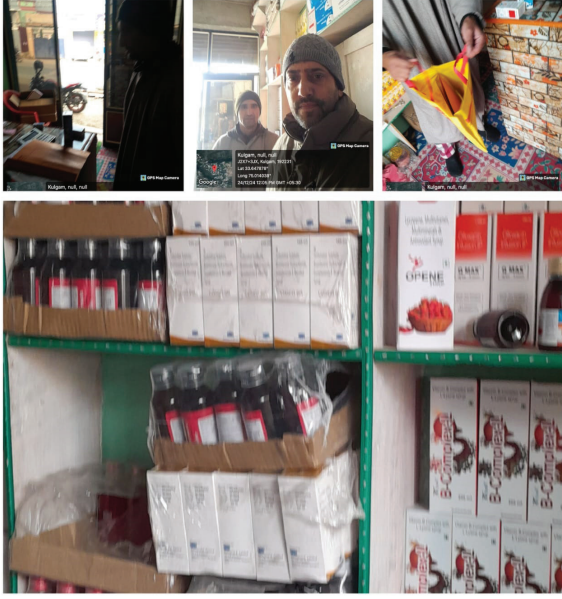
On his 100th Jayanti, let us rededicate ourselves to realising his ideals and fulfilling his vision for India. Let us strive to build an India that embodies his principles of good governance, unity, and progress. Atal Ji's unwavering belief in the potential of our nation continues to inspire us to aim higher and work harder.

Operations of 02 Wholesale medical agencies stopped for violating conditions of license at Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, DECEMBER 24

In continuous efforts to achieve 100 percent transparency in sale and purchase of Scheduled Drug formulations, the Drug Control officials of Kulgam District today carried out surprise inspections at various locations of Kulgam.

During the inspections, two Wholesale medical agencies were found violating the conditions of licenses and their discrepancies in the sale purchase records lead to their operation being disallowed on the spot, and have been put on show-cause notices. Moreover 15 drug samples were randomly lifted for ascertaining their quality parameters. Authorities have reiterated the



importance of adhering to regulatory guidelines and complying with mandatory Computerized Billing System to bring transparency in sale and purchase

records of Schedule Drugs especially those liable to be misused, and have warned that failure to comply will result in strict action and cancellation of licenses.

DFCO conducts surprise inspection of medical stores in Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 24

Drug Control Department conducted inspection of Medical stores in Ramban Town, here today.

The DFCO Team checked the compliance with the directives regarding the installation of CCTV cameras, regulations regarding the maintenance of psychotropic drugs sale and the implementation of computerized billing systems.

The team headed by Assistant Drug Controller Sanjeev Kumar Gupta conducted inspections of Jan Aushadhi Kendra District Hospital Ramban and Chemist stores in the main town.

The inspection primarily focused on verifying the installation of CCTV



cameras and Computerized Billing System. It was observed that all the inspected firms have installed CCTV cameras and adopted computerized billing systems.

The Drug Control Officer Ramban Imitaz Ahmed underscored the significance of monitoring CCTV footage to verify that the cameras effectively serve their intended function of deterring improper practices. The implemen-

tation of these measures will foster transparency in transactions, strengthen inventory management and promote overall accountability within the district's pharmaceutical sector.

The Drug Control Departments proactive approach underscores its commitment to safeguard public health and uphold ethical practices within the pharmaceutical sector.

Director Skill Development reviews implementation of Mission YUVA in Kathua District



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, DECEMBER 24

A district-level review meeting under Mission YUVA was held today in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Kathua, under the chairmanship of Director Skill Development and District Nodal Officer Mission YUVA OP Bhagat.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Director Employment (AD Employment), and District Statistics & Evaluation Officer along with Block Development Officers (BDOs), Master Trainers, and Supervisors nominated under the mission.

The meeting held

detailed deliberations on smooth implementation of the Udhya Jagriti Campaign. The BDOs were directed to intensify the Udhya Jagriti Campaigns under Mission YUVA and intensify Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities in their respective blocks to raise awareness and promote youth engagement.

Besides, Master Trainers and Supervisors were apprised of the objectives and importance of Mission YUVA and were instructed to conduct the baseline survey with utmost seriousness.

It was given out in the meeting that the baseline survey will be conducted from January 1, 2025, to

January 31, 2025, and is a critical step in assessing and addressing the needs of the youth under the mission.

The meeting underscored the role of Mission YUVA in empowering youth through skill development, entrepreneurship opportunities, and capacity building. The participants were urged to ensure timely execution of tasks and seamless coordination to achieve the mission's objectives.

The session concluded with a commitment to mobilize resources and strengthen outreach efforts, reaffirming the district administration's focus on youth empowerment and economic development.

Deepika Sharma inaugurates Dogri conference to mark "Dogri Manta Divas"

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Secretary in Culture Department, Deepika Sharma, today inaugurated a day long Dogri conference to mark "Dogri Manta Divas" at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu, in presence of artists and writers from across Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL)

The inaugural session was presided over by Padma Shri Mohan Singh. Others present on the occasion were Darshan Darshi, renowned Dogri poet, Dr. Om Goswami, eminent writer, Dr. Javid Rahi, Divisional Head JKAACL Jammu and Reeta Khadyal, Editor Dogri.

Addressing the gathering, Deepika Sharma emphasized the government's commitment towards promoting the Dogri language and culture. She stated that 32 new schemes have been approved to advance art, culture and languages in Jammu and Kashmir. She asked JKAACL to organize a week-long Dogri Theatre Festival to engage younger audiences and instil pride in their cultural roots.



D.K. Vaid, who was guest of honour on the occasion, underscored the importance of preserving Dogri literature and culture for future generations and called for collaborative efforts to sustain its legacy.

Padma Shri Mohan Singh highlighted the cultural richness of Dogri language and stressed the need for greater efforts to establish Dogri's rightful place in educational and cultural institutions. He encouraged initiatives that actively involve the youth in preserving the language.

The inaugural session concluded with vote of thanks by Reeta Khadyal.

The event presented a vibrant poetry session, which was presided over by Dr. Jitender Udham-puri. Others present included Prakash Premi, Om Prakash Sharma "Vidyaarthi," and Inderjeet Kesar.

Renowned poets including Vijay Verma,

Balwan Singh Jamorhia, Usha Kiran Sharma and others presented their works, enriching the session with their literary contributions.

A musical evening was followed, featuring mesmerising Dogri performances. Highlights included a Dogri song by Ravi Raghuvanshi, a Dogri Suhag by Reeta Khadwal and a Dogri folk song by Asha Kesar, among others. The ultimate highlight was a Dogri folk song mashup by Kusha Sharma and Chinmay Sharma, which captivated the audience.

The performances were complemented by Rakesh Anand on flute, Sh. Vijay Anand on dholak, and music composed by Sh. Ravi Sharma.

Earlier, Dr. Javid Rahi outlined the objectives of the event followed by a keynote address by Dr. Om Goswami, who presented an insightful paper on the historical significance and evolution of the Dogri language.

Health Department conducts Hepatitis, AIDS Screening Camp at District Jail Bhandarwah

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 24

District Health Society Doda on Tuesday organized a special Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and AIDS (HIV) screening camp for inmates here at District Jail Bhandarwah. The camp, organized on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, was conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Om Kumar and in collaboration with District Jail Authorities Bhandarwah, Sub-District Hospital Bhandarwah, and Government Medical College (GMC) Doda.

The camp screened a total of 146 jail inmates for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV, with the assistance of a dedicated medical team from GMC Doda, including Dr. Kamaldeep Singh, Dr. Rahat Goni, Asia Beg (Pharmacist), Asha Devi, Halima Kousar (FMPHWs), Puneet Kotwal (Lab Technician, ICTC), Saima Zargar (Counselor), and Mohammad Altaf (Lab Technician).

Superintendent District Jail Hamid Ullah Naik, alongside District Epidemiologist Umar Anayat, Dr. Hamid Parray (Medical Officer), Advocate



Isha Hitaishi from DLSA Bhandarwah and Faizan A. Trambo (Incharge Media Desk, Health Department) were also present.

In addition to the screening, the health department team educated inmates on health, hygiene, and mental well-being. Awareness was raised about preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyle practices, and addressing mental health challenges faced in confinement. Information about the ABHA initiative was also shared with the

inmates to promote access to digital health records.

Superintendent Jail, Hamid Ullah Naik, expressed his gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner and CMO for the impactful initiative. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the health and prison departments to improve the inmates' quality of life. The camp concluded with a strong message of care, inclusivity, and the government's commitment to equitable healthcare for all.

DC Ramban reviews arrangements for 76th R-Day Celebrations

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a meeting to discuss arrangements for the 76th Republic Day celebrations at District Headquarters Ramban. Senior civil and police officers, including SSP Kulbir Singh; ADDC Roshan Lal; PO ICDS Jahangir Hashmi; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR S. Harpal Singh and other officials attended the meeting.

The district-level func-



tion will be held at District Police Lines Ground, where the National Flag will be unfurled by the Chief Guest, followed by a ceremonial march past by the contingents.

Highlighting the significance of the Republic Day celebration, the Deputy

Commissioner formed a Committee to identify local achievers, particularly those excelling in prestigious competitive examinations for facilitation during the event. The Committee was directed that the local artists will also perform; showcas-

Cricket Trials held at Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 24

The District Administration Kishtwar, under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan and in partnership with the YUVA Society hosted cricket trials for identifying cricket talent among local Youth for the Global T20 tournament.

The event, organized under the ambitious Khelo India, Mission Youth, and Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan initiatives, drew an overwhelming response from young cricket enthusiasts from across the Chenab region.

The trials, aimed at providing local talent with a global platform, witnessed the active participation of skilled players, underscoring Kishtwar's potential to nurture world-class athletes.

The initiative reflects the administration's commitment to youth empowerment and sports development. The cricket trials offered aspiring players a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase their skills and secure a spot in an international tournament.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed personalities, including Surinder Khanna (Former Indian Cricket Player), Mushtaq Rather (Chief Coordinator for Jammu & Srinagar and Ex-Coach, Ranji Trophy), along with other prominent experts from the cricketing fraternity.

The trials saw enthusiastic participation from local players, students, and aspiring cricketers from across the Chenab Valley. The players showcased their skills and talent

in front of an experienced panel, aiming for selection to the Global T-20 Battle to be held in Dubai.

In his address, the DC expressed his delight at the overwhelming response from young cricketers. He emphasized the importance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork, and career opportunities for the youth of the District.

The trials will continue tomorrow providing talented cricketers an excellent opportunity to showcase their skills. Interested players are encouraged to participate and make the most of this golden chance to pursue their cricketering aspirations.

This initiative aligns with the goals of not only promoting sports but also addressing critical issues such as youth unemployment and substance abuse under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. Sports have proven to be a powerful tool for instilling discipline, confidence, and a sense of purpose among young people, and this event is a testament to that vision.

The overwhelming participation in the trials signals a positive shift toward a more engaged and motivated youth population in Kishtwar. Such events not only create awareness but also provide an alternative path to those seeking purpose and direction in life.

ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, CEO Kishtwar Javed Ahmed Kitchloo, DYSSO Kishtwar Jaffer Haider Sheikh and other senior officers and staff were present on the occasion.

Mission YUVA: Reasi gears up for Baseline Survey



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, DECEMBER 24

A review meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Director Skill Development OP Bhagat to assess the preparations for the baseline survey under Mission YUVA, an initiative aimed at empowering the youth through skill development and employment opportunities.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukdev Singh Samyal, DSEO Ashok Kumar, AD Employment Reasi Annie Vaid, supervisors and enumerators responsible for conducting the survey. During the session, the Director

emphasized the critical role of the baseline survey in identifying key areas of intervention for the mission's success.

Key points of discussion were the preparedness of supervisors and master trainers on survey app, training and capacity building of enumerators on 26th and 27th December.

He instructed the teams to maintain a high level of professionalism, ensuring data accuracy, timeliness, and ethical practices during the survey process. He also stressed the importance of community engagement to maximize participation and build trust among stakeholders.

ing the region's cultural vibrancy.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all departmental heads to hoist the National Flag at their respective offices and illuminate government buildings on the occasion. He emphasized greater public participation to ensure the event is celebrated with patriotic fervor and enthusiasm.

To enhance the grandeur of the event, DC Chaudhary directed departments to set up stalls at the venue and organize additional activi-

ties to mark the occasion. The DC also directed all concerned officers to ensure foolproof arrangements regarding seating, barricading, drinking water, power supply, sanitation, fire services, security, transport, traffic regulations, illumination of government buildings and other necessary arrangements for the National festival.

SSP Kulbir Singh briefed the officials on security protocols and sought their cooperation to maintain peace and order during the celebrations.

State Surveillance Team reviews Implementation of IDS Program in Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

A one-day training-cum-review meeting under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP)-Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) for District Surveillance Units (DSUs) of Jammu Division was organized here today by the State Surveillance Unit, IDSP Jammu Division.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) is being implemented with the support of National Health Mission J&K. The event was held at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar.

The meeting was chaired by Director of Health Services Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra.

The program commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Harjeet Rai, who acknowledged the significant contribution of District Surveillance Units in maintaining public health safety. He remarked that the future of disease pre-

vention depends on the meticulous efforts 'we make today in monitoring and reporting as integrated health information is the backbone of public health planning.'

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar appreciated the State Surveillance Unit for organizing the meeting and emphasized the critical role of the IDSP. He encouraged the participants to ensure proactive and collaborative efforts to improve disease surveillance and response mechanisms.

Dr. Ila Gupta praised the efforts of the District Surveillance Units in ensuring timely and accurate reporting through the IHIP platform. She also added that strong surveillance systems not only ensure better disease prevention but also contribute to evidence-based policymaking at all levels.

The meeting was attended by District Surveillance Officers, District Epidemiologists, District Microbiologists,

District Data Managers, and Data Entry Operators from all districts of the Jammu Division. Each district team presented their status updates and achievements under the IDSP-IHIP platform.

State Surveillance Team conducted an in-depth review of the IHIP implementation status across the districts and provided further guidance for strengthening the surveillance and reporting systems.

Other prominent functionaries present in the meeting were Deputy Medical Superintendent Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu Dr. Balwinder Singh and Assistant Director (Health Education Bureau Section), Directorate of Health Services Jammu Dr. Simmi Thakur. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from all participants to enhance real-time reporting and data quality, ensuring improved disease surveillance and response in the region.

Good Governance Week 2024 PDD acquaints Doda public about Muft Bijli Yojana



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DECEMBER 24

As part of the Good Governance Week 2024, the Power Development Department (PDD) on Tuesday conducted an outreach program and awareness camp here at DC Office. The initiative aimed to strengthen the department's engagement with the community, providing timely assistance and information about government schemes.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh interacted with PDD staff and the public, emphasizing the significance of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The scheme, designed to make electricity more affordable,

offers subsidies of up to 65%, enabling citizens to slash their electricity bills by 50%. The DC Doda highlighted the transformative potential of this initiative in improving the quality of life for households and urged people to take full advantage of the scheme. In addition to the awareness drive, citizens were provided with guidance on availing the benefit of the scheme, along with a dedicated help desk to address queries and facilitate enrollment. The event also underscored the government's commitment to fostering sustainable energy solutions, ensuring equitable access to resources, and promoting energy conservation practices in the district.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out stabilization/ improvement of 33 KV line/ oil topping and maintenance of Receiving Stations, the shutdown of 33KV Alusteng Nagbal line shall be observed due to which Receiving Stations at Zakura and B Alasteng, Nagbal, Gadoora and Tulbagh shall remain off while the power supply to the Shuhama, Bakura, Darend, Nagbal, Fatehpura, Check Gadoora, Tulbagh and Chunduna areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 28 December, 2024.

Similarly, in order to carry out stabilization/ improvement of 33 KV Badampora Safapora including other stabilization works, the shutdown of 33KV Badampora-Safapora Tap line shall be observed due to which Receiving Station at Safapora shall remain off while the power supply to the Safapora, Grabal, Jarakobagh and Manasbal areas will be affected from 10:30 AM to 03:00 PM on 26 and 28 December, 2024.

DC provides Red Cross aid to TB Patients in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, DECEMBER 24

A cheque amounting to Rs. 84,000 has been issued by the Chairman of the District Red Cross Society (Deputy Commissioner), Vikas Kundal to the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. P.A. Khan. The funds will be allocated among 28 tuberculosis (TB) patients under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMA) program.

The initiative aligns with the Ni-kshay Mitra program, launched by President of India Drou-

padi Murmu, on September 9, 2022. The crowd-sourced initiative enables organizations and individuals to 'adopt' TB patients, offering crucial support through nutrition supplies and vocational training.

Each patient will receive Rs. 500 per month for the next six months, providing vital support for their treatment.

This initiative demonstrates the district administration's commitment to enhancing healthcare access and supporting vulnerable populations in the fight against tuberculosis.

Republic Day arrangements discussed at Samba



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the arrangements for the Republic Day celebrations in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner assigned specific responsibilities to each department, emphasizing the need for meticulous planning to ensure the event's smooth and successful execution.

The importance of on-spot inspections by officials was stressed to ensure all preparations are completed in time. The DC also underscored the necessity of conducting proper rehearsals to ensure a seamless and well-coordinated event.

He highlighted the significance of Republic Day as a community celebration, urging all stakeholders to participate with enthusiasm and patriotism.

Special attention was directed towards ensuring the well-being and comfort of students participating in cultural programs and other activities. The Chief Medical Officer was instructed to ensure adequate medical facilities are in place to address any emergencies during the event.

The meeting was attended by SSP Virender Singh Manhas, ADC Samba Jagdish Singh, ACR Samba, PO ICDS, SDMs, XENs, and other district officers, along with representatives from various departments.

ADDC reviews arrangements for Agniveer recruitment rally at Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh chaired a meeting today to review and finalise arrangements for the Army Agniveer Recruitment Rally scheduled to be held at Sunjwan Military Station from February 3 to February 12, 2025.

The rally, being organised by the Army Recruiting Office Jammu, is expected to attract roughly tens of thousands aspirants from all districts of Jammu division.

Detailed deliberations were held on security measures, including perimeter checks, crowd control and anti-social element monitoring. Police authorities were directed

to deploy an adequate number of personnel, install metal detectors and ensure traffic management on NH-44 during the event. The Health & Medical Department was tasked with providing doctors, ambulances and drug-testing facilities.

Arrangements for sanitation, water supply and uninterrupted power backup were also discussed, with departments concerned directed to ensure adequate provisions at the venue. BSNL officers were instructed to establish reliable internet connectivity while the Fire & Emergency Services Department was tasked with deploying fire safety equipment and personnel to mitigate any potential risks during the event.

Recognizing the logisti-

cal challenges and security concerns, the ADDC stressed the importance of close coordination among various departments to ensure the event's smooth conduct.

ADDC Sher Singh emphasised the need to regulate prices of essential goods and services during the rally to prevent exploitation of candidates and their families. He urged all stakeholders to work collectively for hosting such a huge event successfully.

The meeting was attended by Chief Education Officer JK Padha, Executive Engineer Rahat Gupta, Assistant Commissioner General Vikas Dhar Bagati, ARTO Rehana Tabassam besides other officers from the district administration and the Indian army.

'National Consumer Day' celebrated at Ganderbal



JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 24

In order to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities, with a focus on consumer frauds and the objectives of the Consumer Protection Act, an event was today organized to commemorate 'National Consumer Day' at Town Hall, Ganderbal.

The event was organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, in collaboration with Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department Ganderbal under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and the guidance Sheikh Babar Husain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

During the event, Assistant Director FCS&CA Ganderbal highlighted the importance of National Consumer Day. He emphasised the need for consumers to be aware of their responsibilities, particularly in cases of misbranding, copying, or cheating.

He stressed that well-informed consumers can effectively exercise their rights and seek compensation when necessary. He urged the public to

spread awareness about consumer rights among neighbors, relatives, and friends.

He reminded consumers that their rights are meaningless unless they are exercised, emphasizing the importance of seeking redressal when needed.

Assistant LADC Ganderbal, highlighted the key aspects of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. He emphasized that consumers have the right to safety and can seek recourse in case of online purchase fraud by filing a complaint with the consumer protection forum. He also stressed the importance of reporting misleading advertisements, which is a crucial provision under the Act. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, aims to protect consumers from unfair trade practices, including false or misleading advertisements.

He said consumers have the right to be protected against hazardous goods and services, right to information about goods and services, including quantity, quality, purity, potency, price and standard, to seek redressal for grievances, including online purchase fraud and misleading advertise-

ments, etc.

While as Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized the importance of the Consumer Protection Act, which protects the rights of every individual.

She highlighted the rules and provisions including e-Commerce Rules, Product Liability Rules, Service Provider Rules, Misleading Advertisement Rules, Non-leading Dispute Resolution, Consumer Grievance Rules, etc. She informed that consumers can now file disputes through the e-portal, making it easier and more convenient to seek redressal.

This digital platform aims to streamline the dispute resolution process, reducing time and effort for consumers. She also encouraged consumers to be aware of their rights and to seek redressal when necessary.

The event was also attended by the Officials of DLSA Ganderbal, CA&PD Department, Ganderbal, PLVs of DLSA/TLSC Ganderbal, General public, consumers, etc. The event was a significant step towards empowering consumers and promoting awareness about their rights and responsibilities.

Sheep Husbandry Reasi hosts awareness camp on sector centric Govt Schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

The Department of Sheep Husbandry Reasi on Tuesday organized an awareness camp here to educate local breeders/farmers about the sector centric Government Schemes.

Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu Dr. Syed Moin ul Haq was the chief guest. He interacted with the breeders addressing their queries and explaining the benefits of schemes

and process of filling applications. Encouraging the attendees, he urged them to take full advantage of the government schemes. He exhorted the people to come forward to avail the benefits of the employment generating schemes of the department. He asked officers to encourage formation of FPOs, promote Live-stock Insurance under NLM and KCC and strive for effective implementation of the schemes to double the farmers' income. He informed the

participants about the availability of new sheep breeding techniques such as Artificial Insemination, synchronization of estrus and embryo transfer and value addition of the products and also stressed on the machine shearing. The problems put forth by the breeders were redressed on the spot by the Director after giving a patient hearing. He assured farmers that other issues will also be redressed as per laid down norms in a time bound manner.

DC Shopian visits PHCs Mashwara, Berthipora & Health Centre Wathoo



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today visited various health care institutions in the district to assess the availability of healthcare facilities to the citizens.

The DC visited PHC Mashwara, PHC Berthipora, and Health Centre Wathoo to take first-hand appraisal of medicare facilities and interacted with staff, and also took stock of heating arrangements and transport services.

The visit aimed to evaluate the healthcare services provided to the public and identify areas for improvement.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the under-

construction health sector building at Wathoo and the old building of PHC Mashwara, and emphasized the need for optimal use of these facilities for public welfare. Health department was instructed to submit a proposal for their proper usage.

The DC's visit is a step towards ensuring that these healthcare facilities provide quality healthcare services to the local population.

Enroute, the DC visited Kisan Khidmat Ghar at Berthipora and under-construction Indoor Stadium at Arhana and reviewed the working and ongoing works respectively.

Among others, the DC was accompanied by ACR Shopian, DIO, BMO, BMO Keller, and other officials during the visit.

Indian Army conducts National Farmers Day Celebration at Budhal, Kalal, Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, DEC 24 2024

The Indian Army, as part of its ongoing commitment to fostering development and strengthening bonds with local communities, organized an enlightening lecture on the occasion of Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) at Budhal and Kalal, District Rajouri. The event aimed to educate and empower the farming community by highlighting modern

agricultural techniques, sustainable farming practices, and government initiatives available for farmers. Expert speakers addressed critical topics such as soil health, water conservation, crop diversification, and financial schemes, helping farmers maximize productivity and profits. The program saw enthusiastic participation from local farmers, community leaders, and youth, who appreciated the Indian Army's efforts

in supporting their livelihoods and boosting rural development. Interactive sessions allowed attendees to discuss challenges and explore practical solutions tailored to the region's agricultural landscape. Through initiatives like these, the Indian Army continues to demonstrate its dedication to the well-being of the nation's backbone—the farmers—while fostering harmony and progress in border areas.

National Model Academy SH School, Kail Pardai celebrates Annual Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
MAJALTA, DEC 24

National Model Academy Smart High School Kail Pardai, Zone Majalta celebrated its annual Day cum prize distribution ceremony on the theme "Jai jawan Jai kisaan and social issues" in the school premises. This program was dedicated to all Farmers & Soldiers who are backbone of India.

The program started with the lighting of the lamp and the blessings of God Almighty. More than 300 students attended the ceremony and mesmerized the audience with their magnetic performance. Lok Sabha MP Jammu Reasi Mr. Jugal Kishore Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion, R.S.Pathania MLA Udhampur east as Guest of Honor and Jagdish Raj Sharma Chairman National Model Academy was present as a special guest. While the SHO



Majalata Insp.Sohan singh ,Naib Tehsildar Majalta Bhushan kumar, TSO Majalta Navneet singh , Summet sharma president & Pankaj Saraf Vice president press club Udhampur were also present. While the school sponsor, Mrs. Darshana Kesar, Managing Director Mr. Nirmal Kesar, Administrator Officer Dr. Neeraj Kesar and Academic Director Mrs. Puja Balgotra, Principal Mrs. Raj Rani Sambyal were also grace the program.

Principal Raj Rani warmly welcomed the dignitaries and presented the school's annual report for the year 2024_25. She

highlighted the achievements of the school in both academic and co-curricular activities. The students performed a wide range of colorful programs. During the program, the children entertained everyone by presenting scripts, plays, songs and dance performances. Through scripts and dramas, the students made them aware to respect and respect the importance of parents and elders.

The highlight of the celebration was a drama based on female feticide, which shows how our society is carrying out the wrong practices of female

feticide which brought tears to everyone's eyes. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Lok Sabha MP Mr. Jugal Kishore Sharma congratulated the school for making an effort on such an enlightening subject for the annual function, which requires speedy moral action from everyone. He appreciated the students, teachers and teachers of the school for presenting the program. He appealed to the students to participate actively in such activities and sports along with studies. Speaking on the occasion R.S.Pathania appreciated the efforts of

students, teachers and parents to make the festival a great success. He said that such programs provide students with the opportunity to showcase their talent. J.R.Sharma commended the Principal and teachers for their long-term efforts to bring results to the school and to provide quality education in Majalta and surrounding areas. Certificates and trophies were also distributed among meritorious students. The program was concluded by vote of thanks by Administrative Officer Dr. Neeraj Kesar and was followed by the National Anthem.

Rampaul Gupta, Aarti Rajput, Mamta samyal, Vandana devi, Tahera begum, Shivali devi, Kritika sharma, Shalu Rani, Kritika Mahajan, Archana gupta, Rekha Rajput, Darshana Devi, Sunita devi, Jagdish bitti , Arti devi, Kiran devi have made their important roles in making the program successful.

Deepak Sharma inaugurates day-long Dogri Conference to mark "Dogri Manta Divas"

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Deepika Sharma, Secretary in Department of Culture , J&K today inaugurated a day-long Dogri Conference to mark "Dogri Manta Divas" at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu, in the presence of a large gathering of artists and writers from across Jammu and Kashmir. The event was The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL)

The inaugural session was presided over by Padma Shri Mohan Singh, with Ms. Deepika Sharma as the Chief Guest. The presidium included prominent personalities such as DarshanDarshi, renowned Dogri poet; Dr. Om Goswami, eminent writer; Dr.JavaidRahi, Divisional Head JKAACL Jammu; and Ms. ReetaKhadyal, Editor

Dogri.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Deepika Sharma emphasized the government's commitment to promoting the Dogri language and culture. She stated that 32 new schemes have been approved to advance art, culture, and languages in Jammu and Kashmir. She also directed JKAACL to organize a week-long Dogri Theatre Festival to engage younger audiences and instill pride in their cultural roots.

Earlier, Dr.JavaidRahi welcomed the guests and outlined the objectives of the event. This was followed by a keynote address by Dr. Om Goswami, who presented an insightful paper on the historical significance and evolution of the Dogri language.

The Guest of Honour D.K. Vaid, underscored the importance of preserving



Dogri literature and culture for future generations and called for collaborative efforts to sustain its legacy.

In his Presidential Address, Padma Shri Mohan Singh highlighted the cultural richness of the Dogri language and stressed the need for greater efforts to establish

Dogri's rightful place in educational and cultural institutions. He encouraged initiatives that actively involve the youth in preserving the language.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by ReetaKhadyal.

The event continued with a vibrant poetry ses-

sion, presided over by Dr.JitenderUdhampuri. The presidium included Sh. Prakash Premi, Sh. Om Prakash Sharma "Vidyaarthi," and Sh. InderjeetKesar. Renowned poets such as Sh. Vijay Verma, Sh. Balwan Singh Jamorhia, Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma "RAJ RAHI," Smt. Usha Kiran Sharma, Sh. Gopal Krishan Komal, Sh. AnandKhajuria, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Capt. Lalit Sharma, Sh. Girdhari Lal "Rahi," Smt. Vijaya Thakur, DhirajBismil, Dev Raj Marehal, Sh. Kewal Kumar Kewal, Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma, Abdul QudirKundria, Sh. Roshan Bral, MohinderPanchervi, Sh. Ajay Singh, Neha Devi, Sh. DaleepSingh, Priyanka Verma, and SahilBadyal presented their works, enriching the session with their literary contributions.

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

The Department of Physics and Astronomical Sciences at the Central University of Jammu has reached a significant milestone by receiving a Rs 174 Lakh grant under the prestigious FIST (Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure) program of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The FIST program aims to build and enhance the infrastructure for teaching and research in higher education institutions, enabling them to stay at the forefront of scientific advancements. With this grant, the department will acquire state-of-the-art equipment, establish advanced laboratories, and promote cutting-edge research in emerging areas of science and technology.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of



Jammu, congratulated the department on this outstanding achievement. He commended the faculty for their unwavering dedication and emphasized the critical role of robust scientific infrastructure in achieving excellence in education and research. Prof. Jain added that this achievement highlighted the collective efforts of the faculty, staff, and students, whose hard work and vision have brought this accomplishment to fruition. He reaffirmed the university's commitment to supporting initiatives that align with national priorities in science and technology, contributing to the progress of society and the nation.

Prof. Vinay Kumar, Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomical Sciences, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for his visionary leadership and to the DST for recognizing the department's potential and providing this invaluable support. Prof. Vinay highlighted that the grant would empower the department to undertake high-impact research, attract talented students, and establish strong collaborations with leading academic and research institutions. "This grant will open new horizons for our department, enabling us to explore advanced research domains and address real-world challenges through innovative solutions," he added.

Shrine Board reviews Yatra Preparedness ahead of New Year

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, DEC 24

To ensure a seamless and convenient pilgrimage experience for the large influx of devotees expected during the New Year-2025, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) held a review meeting today to finalize all necessary arrangements.

The meeting convened under the directions of the Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) was presided by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and attended by senior officers of the Shrine Board, representatives from Security Agencies and other key stakeholders.

The Chief Executive Officer instructed the concerned authorities to make necessary arrangements for Yatra management including security measures through RFID card regulation and crowd management strategies to ease congestion along the track particularly at the Bhawan area. To ensure a smooth experience, separate entry and exit routes will be implemented at the Bhawan and over 700 CCTV cameras will provide all-time surveillance guaranteeing a safe environment for devo-



tees, he added. The CEO further stressed that security agencies should only allow pilgrims with valid RFID cards to proceed for the yatra and suggested deploying additional handheld scanners and sufficient staff to prevent any lapses in this regard. Furthermore, he instructed for regular public announcements to be made aiming to decongest the crowd on the track and maintain a smooth flow of pilgrims.

While emphasizing the need for synergy among all stakeholders to achieve this objective, he emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness measures directing the concerned quarters to monitor vulnerable areas and conduct joint patrolling. Additionally, the CEO issued directives for the smooth regulation of vehicle movement, improved sanitation, drinking water supplies and enhanced lighting on the track and in the Katra area. Special attention was called to resolving traffic issues

caused by unauthorized parking with plans for a special drive to tow away such vehicles.

Security agencies presented a detailed action plan including the deployment of drones and use of CCTV cameras for real-time monitoring besides deployment of additional security forces and quick response teams (QRTs). It was informed to the chair that a multi-tier security grid comprising the Police and para military forces will be in place to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the yatra. The meeting concluded with the clear instructions to ensure hassle-free pilgrimage experience for all devotees

The meeting was attended by SSP, Reasi; Jt. Chief Executive Officer & Dy. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan; SP, Katra; Asstt. CEOs, SMVDSB; SDPO Katra, Tehsildar & ACF, SMVDSB and officers from IB, CID, SMVDSB and other intelligence agencies.

Indian Army organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment at Ari, Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, DEC 24 2024

The Indian Army organized a lecture on Women Empowerment at Guru Gram Global Heights School, Ari Poonch. The lecture was aimed at guiding the children (especially girls) to make decisions on their own for both personal and social benefits. The Company Commander emphasized that it is beyond doubt that, given the right opportunities and a proper environment, women have excelled in different spheres of life. The lecture highlighted the need to create suitable conditions to facilitate and encourage women to have full, active, and unhindered participation

in social, economic, political, and public life, so that their potential can be fully realized for the benefit of society. Time and again, it has been proven that women's active participation in decision-making has a positive impact on education, health, nutrition, employment, social protection in society, as well as the social and economic development of the nation. Various government schemes initiated for the upliftment of women were also mentioned to the audience. Women's empowerment has a multiplier effect not only on their own lives but also on their families and society. A total of 73 students, including 67 children and 6 teachers, attended the event.

MLA Randhawa, Commissioner JMC tour Jammu South inspect water bodies



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Vikram Randhawa, accompanied by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, conducted an extensive tour of Chhanni Himmat of Jammu South to inspect water bodies being developed under Jammu Smart City Limited project and other ongoing works under the jurisdiction of JMC.

Highlighting the issue of the depleting water table, Randhawa emphasized the importance of preserving rainwater to aid in the replenishment of the water table. He said that coordinated efforts are needed

for effective water conservation.

Randhawa emphasized that the revival of such water bodies would significantly contribute to recharging the water table and provide recreational spaces for the local community. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned authorities to initiate necessary works at these water bodies.

The Commissioner stated that the water body is being revived through water treatment, with the project being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.5 crore under Jammu Smart City Limited. He highlighted the important role water bodies play in replenishing the water

table and added that the government is focused on their rejuvenation, maintenance, and sanitation under the AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) Scheme.

Responding to the demands of locals including construction of protection walls, installation of High Mast light, benches and construction of drains along the water bodies, the Commissioner said that the works would be taken up on priority.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Executive Engineer, Lokesh Gupta, and other senior officers accompanied during the tour.

Indian Army conducts "Interaction with Gujjar, Bakkarwals" at Chakalsalta, Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 24 DEC 2024

The Indian Army conducted an "Interaction with Gujjar & Bakkarwals" at Chakalsalta. The Gujjar and Bakkarwal tribes of Jammu & Kashmir are among the most backward of all tribes. They continue to face educational, economic, political, and social challenges, which is a matter of great concern. The

State and Central Governments have initiated various schemes for the upliftment of the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities, providing education, health, and employment opportunities. In order to spread awareness about Government schemes and policies created for their upliftment, the Indian Army conducted the "Interaction with Gujjar & Bakkarwals at Chakalsalta." The inter-

action was attended by 5 Sarpanches and 33 Bakkarwals, including elders and youth. The event aimed to foster goodwill, promote mutual understanding, and address the concerns of the local population. The interaction was highly successful in fostering a sense of mutual understanding and trust between the Indian Army and the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities.

JMC Commissioner hands over PM SVANIDHI plates among street vendors



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Saying that PM Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a special micro-credit facility launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav said that the scheme was launched with the aim

to provide financial support to the street vendors through working capital loans, incentivize regular repayment, and to promote digital transaction. Speaking at the event, Dr. Yadav assured the street vendors that their welfare would remain a priority. He also urged them not to set up their rehries on footpaths and roads, as this causes inconvenience to pedestrians and contrib-

utes to traffic congestion. He encouraged vendors to install their rehries at designated places within the municipal jurisdiction to maintain a smooth flow of traffic and public convenience. Among others, Deputy Commissioner, (North) Sanjay Badyal, Deputy Commissioner, (South) Lal Chand and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Tiny Scholars School Kathua celebrates 25th Foundation Day with grand event 'Sankalp 2024'



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Tiny Scholars School, a prominent educational institution in Kathua, marked its 25th foundation anniversary with a grand celebration titled 'Sankalp 2024.' The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries from the region, making it a memorable occasion. The celebration commenced with the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment. Director Manshia Gupta extended a warm welcome to the chief guest and other dignitaries.

Principal Reena Khajuria presented the annual progress report of the school, highlighting its achievements and outlining future aspirations. The event was graced by the presence of Jasrota MLA Rajiv Jasrotia as the chief guest. Among the special guests were DDC Vice Chairman Raghunandan Singh Babloo, Chief Education Officer Mangat Ram Sharma, Professor Rachna Raj, Press Club Kathua Chairman Manuj Kesar, Advocate Kushil Gupta, Indu Rekha, Kusum Slaria, Sushma Sharma, and Updesh Andotra. Their presence added to the prestige of the occasion.

Airtel continues to Lead J&K's Wireless Subscriber Market: TRAI October 2024 Data



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, continues to lead in wireless subscribers in Jammu and Kashmir circle for October 2024. According to the latest data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Airtel had 6,101,786 wireless subscribers in the Jammu and Kashmir circle as of October 31, 2024. Airtel remained the leading telecom operator in Jammu and Kashmir. Private operators, Reliance Jio and VIL, recorded

wireless subscriber losses of 114,604 and 2,306 subscribers, respectively, during the same period. Nationally, Airtel added 1.93 million (1,928,263) wireless subscribers across all telecom circles in October 2024. This growth has raised its total wireless subscriber base to 385.41 million (38,541,074) as of October 31, 2024. This achievement demonstrates Airtel's continued leadership in customer acquisition and market expansion. TRAI also reported Airtel's peak Visitor Location Register (VLR) at an impressive 90.74 percent in Jammu and Kashmir,

while its overall VLR percentage stood at 99.48 percent, the highest in the industry. These figures highlight Airtel's superior network quality and reliability, further solidifying its position as a trusted telecom provider. The telecom industry witnessed a decline in total wireless subscribers in India—from 1,153.72 million at the end of September 2024 to 1,150.42 million at the end of October 2024—Airtel's market share stood at 33.50 percent, reflecting its ability to retain and attract customers amidst challenging conditions. For further details, please refer to the TRAI Telecom Subscription Data for October 2024, available at TRAI Official Report.

Yudhvir initiates laying of water pipes at Mohalla Pahari

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Yudhvir Sethi, today took a significant step towards ensuring improved water supply for residents of Pahari Mohalla in East Constituency by initiating the laying of water pipes under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme. The two development projects, with an estimated cost of Rs 17 lakhs, aims to provide clean and reliable drinking water to every household in the area, aligning with the Government of India's ambitious 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' initiative. Among those who were present included JE Gandotra and other officials of PHE Department, Ex-Corporator Anil Masoom, Swarn Singh, S Subedar Singh, Brij Kumar, Satish, Vishwapart Singh, Rajiv, Vishal Sharma, Vikas Mahajan, Rahul and others.



Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the BJP government's commitment to bringing development to the doorstep of every citizen. He stated, "Access to clean drinking water is a basic necessity, and the Jal Jeevan Mission is a revolutionary step by the Modi Government to ensure that no household is deprived of this essential amenity. The laying of these water

pipes is a testament to our dedication to enhancing infrastructure and uplifting the quality of life for all." He said that the Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to provide functional tap water connections to every rural household in the country. This initiative has been a game-changer for water-stressed areas, ensuring

equitable distribution of water and empowering women and children by reducing their dependency on distant water sources, he added. The residents of Pahari Mohalla expressed their gratitude for the initiative, lauding the efforts of the BJP-led government in addressing their long-standing concerns. The project is expected to benefit numerous households, significantly improving the area's water supply infrastructure. Yudhvir Sethi further reiterated his commitment to the holistic development of Jammu and assured the public that more such initiatives focusing on essential services like water, electricity, and sanitation would follow.

Satish Sharma extends Christmas greetings

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

Minister for Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Youth Services and Sports, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, ARI & Trainings Satish Sharma has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the blissful and joyous occasion of Christmas. The Minister said that Christmas is the festival of happiness being celebrated across the globe with great grandeur and enthusiasm. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ and rekindles the spirit of peace and harmony. He also remembered Lord Jesus, who spread the valuable message of sacrifice, love, tolerance and preached the sublime qualities of simplicity and mercy.

SKUAST-TAJ, NTEA-J calls on Chief Secretary, discuss various issues

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

A joint delegation of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) and Non Teaching Employees Association Jammu (NTEA-J) under the chairmanship of Dr Vikas Sharma called on Chief Secretary of J&K Sh. Atal Dullo at Civil Secretariat today. President SKUAST-TAJ Dr Vikas Sharma informed the CS that the salary disbursement system has been disrupted in SKUAST-Jammu as the the teaching and non teaching employees of SKUAST-Jammu are not getting their salaries on time from the last 1.5 years due to which they are facing financial difficulties in the very beginning of every month, even till date, the employees have not yet received their salaries for the month of November, 2024 and due to delay in release of salaries, the employees are not able to clear their dues well in time like monthly instalment of housing loan, insurance premium, school fee of children, medical treatment etc. and they have to pay more interest in addition to their normal rate of inter-



est. Moreover, low paid employees are more sufferers being total dependency on salary. Therefore, proper mechanism should be developed for the disbursement of salaries of SKUAST-J employees on 1st of every month to save the teaching and non-teaching staff of the university from the extra burden of interest. The joint action committee requested for additional funds to overcome salary deficit of KVK establishment as the funds on account of travel allowance, medical allowance, children allowance for the employees of KVK establishment of SKUAST-Jammu has been stopped recently by the ICAR (liable to provide only basic salary +DA+HRA to the host Insti-

tute), which has directly impacted the payment of salaries of KVK employees. The Joint Action Committee of SKUAST-Jammu also stressed for abolition of review system for enhancing retirement age from 62 to 65 years of the Professors of erstwhile State Universities as the process has created a sycophancy / biased pick and choose resulting in humiliation and anguish amongst the teaching fraternity. The CS assured the delegation that their issues will be considered and in future the employees of SKUAST-J will get their salary on time. Dr. Vikas Sharma was accompanied by Sh. K. D. Singh - President NTEA-J, Sh Dheeraj Rajwal and Smt. Seema Bhatt.

Empowering Lives: AWWA, Udhampur & FICCI FLO launch Digital Skilling Program

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR: 24 DEC 2024

A transformative digital skilling initiative designed to empower the families of India's brave soldiers was conceptualized and jointly launched by Mrs Asha Suchindra, Regional President AWWA, Northern Command, Mrs Joyshree Das Verma, National President FICCI-FLOs, Ms. Reshma Patel, National Head, Digital Literacy Initiative; and Mrs. Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson FICCI-FLO Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh (JK&L), at Udhampur. The program aims to equip 100 Veer Naris and AWWA beneficiaries with essential skills, paving the way for financial independence and enhanced livelihood opportunities. Joyshree Das Verma, National President FICCI-FLO, commended FICCI-FLO JK&L for spearheading this empowering initiative, particularly for the courageous Veer Naris. She emphasized FICCI-FLO's commitment to creating sustainable livelihoods for women facing adversity and acknowledged the sacrifices made by military families. "These women are a source of true inspiration. FLO remains dedicated to supporting and strengthening them as a



tribute to their unwavering courage and sacrifice," she stated. In her address, Mrs Aarti Monga, General Secretary, AWWA Northern Command expressed heartfelt gratitude to FICCI-FLO for its dedication and contribution towards this noble cause. She further highlighted the transformative potential of the program, which offers Veer Naris and AWWA beneficiaries not only hope but also tangible pathways to financial independence. The online course, featuring pre-recorded modules and live sessions, ensures convenience and accessibility. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate recognized by Skill India and the National Skill Development Corporation, providing them with credibility, access to government schemes, and enhanced job opportunities. Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson FICCI-FLO

JK&L, shared insights into the program, explaining how the initiative equips beneficiaries to leverage their skills for entrepreneurial ventures or small businesses. She underlined FLO JKL's ongoing collaboration with AWWA to honor and support women who make the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. As part of the event, 100 HUNAR skilling kits were also distributed. The event was graced by FLO JKL core team members, including Varuna Anand (Immediate Past Chair), Aarti Choudhary (Senior Vice Chairperson), Sona Mehta (Treasurer), and Nandita Bajaj (Joint Treasurer), along with other esteemed FLO members. This milestone initiative marks a significant step towards supporting military families, empowering women to become self-reliant, and building brighter futures for their communities.

Nat'l Dentist's Day celebrated in Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu branch today observed National Dentist's Day to pay tribute to the visionary, Dr. Rafiuddin Ahmed, who laid the foundation of modern dentistry in India. Born on December 24, 1890, his contributions transcend time, inspiring generations to strive for excellence in oral healthcare. Dr. Rafiuddin Ahmed was an Indian dentist, educator and later minister in the West Bengal cabinet, who founded the first dental college of India, Dr. R. Ahmed Dental College and Hospital, later named "The Calcutta Dental College", where he remained its principal until 1950. He established the Indian Dental Journal in 1925, and played a key role in founding the Bengal Dentist Act in 1939. In 1946, he established the Bengal Dental Association which was then renamed as the Indian Dental

Association. The Government of India awarded him the Padma Bhushan in 1964. Remembered as the father of modern dentistry in India, in 2016, the Indian Dental Association declared 24 December as National Dentist's Day in his honour. Dr. Ahmed received a Fellowship from the International College of Dentists in 1947, and the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Pierre Fauchard Academy in 1949. To mark this occasion, Indian Dental Association, Jammu branch, organised a dental awareness camp for the children of Surabhi Nursery school and day care centre in the Dept. of Home Science, University of Jammu with the collaboration of the University Health Centre. In this camp, oral health of the children were examined and free samples of Colgate toothpastes were provided to them. They were also demonstrated the correct way of brushing their teeth and maintain oral hygiene.

AJKSCC to commemorates martyrdom of 'Chaar Sahibzadas' on Dec 26 at Digiana

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee held a Press Conference today at Press Club Jammu, which was attended by all the executive members from through out the J&K UT.

While addressing the media persons, Ajit Singh Chairman, flanked by Avtar Singh Khalsa Chief Advisor, Surat Singh Toofani General Secretary, Balwant Singh I/c Dharam Parchar wing alongwith the other office bearers, said that All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee is going to organize a Religious Function to commemorate the Martyrdom of CHAAR SAHIBZADAS (Vir Bal Diwas), on 26-12-2024, at Gurudwara Sahib (Sant Mela Singh Dast-



kari Ashram), Digiana, Jammu, from 6:00pm to 9:30pm which is also celebrated at the National Level by the Government of India and by the Governments of all the States & UTs through out the country.

Manoj Kumar Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, has very kindly consented to especially attend this function in order to pay the homage to the unmatched martyrdom of Baba Ajit Singh ji, Baba Jujhar Singh ji, Baba Zorawar Singh ji and Baba

Fateh Singh ji, the Great Chaar SAHIBZADAS of Guru Govind Singh ji, who laid their lives while fighting against the atrocities of the then ruling class to save the religion, culture, honour and dignity of the Indian Sub-continent, for the sake of the whole of the humanity and for the Universal brotherhood. The main function is being organised by the All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee at Sant Mela Singh Dastkari Ashram Gurudwara Sahib, Digiana Jammu,

in which the renowned Ragies, Katha vachaks / Preachers, including Bhai Jasbir Singh ji Jamalpuri, Hazuri Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Daljit Singh ji, Baba Balwant Singh ji, Bhai Fateh Singh ji, Bhai Rattan Singh ji, Sant Kuldeep Singh ji and Bhai Ranjit Singh ji shall sermonize the Gurbani and Sikh History to the Sangat.

Ajit Singh ji Chairman and all the other present in the Press conference appealed to the Sangat from all walks of life to attend this function in order to pay their homage and seek the blessings of Guru Sahib ji.

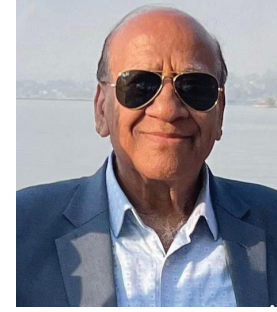
Among others, the Press conference was attended by Avtar Singh Khalsa, Surat Singh Toofani, Gurjit Singh, S. Sukhdev Singh, Paramjit Singh, and many others.

NC hits back at BJP's baseless criticism

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), strongly countered the statement made by BJP leader seeking the resignation of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He termed BJP leader's remarks as baseless and an attempt to divert attention from the BJP's decade-long failures in Jammu & Kashmir.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior NC leader reminded the BJP leader that the National Conference Government has just assumed office, inheriting a legacy of mismanagement and underdevelopment left behind by the BJP-led administration, which ruled Jammu & Kashmir for the past ten years. "The BJP Government miserably failed to create basic infrastructure in the Union Territory. Despite being in power at the Centre and in J&K for a decade, no substantial efforts were made to strengthen the power and water supply systems. Their neglect has left the people of Jammu



& Kashmir grappling with frequent power cuts and water crises," he said.

Rattan Gupta asserted that the National Conference stands firm on its commitment to deliver 200 free power units to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. "Unlike the BJP, which indulged in empty rhetoric, the NC Government under the dynamic leadership of Omar Abdullah is dedicated to fulfilling its promises. The NC Govt is already working to ensure uninterrupted power supply and equitable access to clean water," he stated.

The Provincial President further lambasted the BJP for attempting to undermine the NC's progressive initiatives. "BJP leader's claim that the 200 free power units are an eye-wash is laughable. The BJP,

which failed to address the most basic needs of the people during its decade in power, has no moral authority to lecture us on governance," he said.

Criticizing another BJP leader's remarks about the NC's promise of creating 1 lakh jobs for the youth, he questioned the BJP's track record on employment. "How many jobs were created during the BJP's tenure? The youth of Jammu & Kashmir became victims of rampant recruitment scams under BJP rule. In stark contrast, the NC Government is determined to provide 1 lakh jobs to the youth of J&K, ensuring transparency and fairness in the process," which is started, he added.

The Provincial President reiterated the National Conference's resolve to bring tangible development to Jammu & Kashmir and improve the lives of its citizens. "We will not be distracted by the BJP's baseless allegations. Under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, the NC Government is committed to ushering in a new era of progress and prosperity for Jammu & Kashmir," he affirmed.

Congress demands resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR DEC 24, 2024

All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary and CLP Leader in J&K Legislative Assembly Ghulam Ahmad Mir while addressing a presser at Srinagar Party Office demanded Union Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation and apology to the Nation over disrespecting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Ji.

Flanked by Senior Party Leaders of J&K, Mir termed the remarks of Amit Shah about the architect of Indian Constitution as very unfortunate and highly condemnable saying that Congress Party shall continue to demand resignation of Amit Shah for his disparaging and disrespectful remarks against one of the tallest leaders of India.

Amit Shah who happens to be senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and present Union Home Minister used the Parliament as a platform to disrespect Dr. Ambedkar Ji. In his passion to attack the opposition during the special discussion on the 75th anniversary of adoption of our Constitution, the Home Minister made disparaging and disrespectful remarks about "Dr. Ambedkar Ji, which cannot be tolerated.

AICC General Secretary urged the Prime Minister to seek resignation of Amit Shah for his objectionable utterances against the architect of Indian Constitution, as the remarks of Shah are extremely distasteful and disgrace one of the tallest leaders of our independence movement. Dr. Ambedkar's contribution to building our Nation' ethos in the form of our Constitution as well as safeguarding the rights of members of Dalit community and other marginalized groups are well documented and require no replication. Any attempt to disrespect such an esteemed National figure cannot and shall not go unchecked without any consequences, Mir added.

Refresher Course on Chemical and Physical Sciences concludes at CUJ

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

The Two-week Refresher Course on Chemical and Physical Sciences, organized by the Central University of Jammu, under the patronage of HVC Prof. Sanjeev Jain was successfully concluded today, marking the end of an insightful and dynamic learning experience for over 100 participants, including academicians, researchers, and professionals from various institutions across the country.

The program covered a wide range of topics, including quantum mechanics, nanotechnology, sustainable chemistry, renewable energy systems, artificial intelligence and deep learning studies and provided participants with a deeper understanding of the current trends shaping both disciplines. In addition to theoretical sessions, the course included practical demonstrations and laboratory experiments, ensuring a holistic learning experience.

Major General Anupinder Bevli, VSM, ADG JK&L Dte NCC visits 2 J&K Bn NCC, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 25

Major General Anupinder Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate visited 2 J&K Battalion NCC in Jammu to assess and review the systems and procedures in place that contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the NCC curriculum.

During his visit, Major General Bevli conducted a thorough inspection and praised the dedicated efforts of the officers, Permanent Instructor Staff and civilian staff. He emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards across all aspects of training and administration, encouraging everyone to continue their excellent work to fulfill the aims and objectives of the NCC. The



General Officer expressed particular appreciation for the excellent standard of drill demonstrated by the cadets from MAM College, recognizing their commitment and discipline. He also commended the collective efforts being made by all involved in NCC activities, underscoring that such commitment is vital to the growth and development of the NCC in the region.

In addition, Major General Bevli placed significant emphasis on institutional training and the role of Associate NCC Officers and

Permanent Instructors in ensuring the continued high quality of training. He further commended the contributions of the Commanding Officer and the staff of 2 J&K BN NCC, for the battalion's achievements and encouraged to further enhance the standards and performance of the unit. The visit served to reinforce the commitment to quality training and leadership development within the NCC, ensuring that the cadets in Jammu & Kashmir receive world-class training and opportunities for growth.

Shakti Parihar felicitates volunteers of Ekal Abhiyan, Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, DEC 24

MLA Doda West Sh Shakti Raj Parihar felicitated the karyakartas (volunteers) of Ekal Abhiyan (NGO) Anchal Doda for their commendable job in the field of education and creating awareness in the society.

During a program organised to honor the karyakartas and smittee members of Ekal Abhiyan anchal Doda today Sh Shakti Raj Parihar interacted with them and presented gifts to the full timer karyakartas in recognition to the selfless social services rendered by them. He urged the volunteers to continue their efforts to enable a self-reliant and independent society.

He appreciated the



efforts made by the karyakartas of Ekal Abhiyan in Doda district spreading the awareness regarding various welfare schemes launched by the government and providing basic and moral education to the children in tribal and downtrodden sections of the society.

It is pertinent to mention that Ekal Abhiyan is working nation wide for the welfare of people living

in far flung and tribal areas where there is dearth of government institutions and facilities.

Sh Vipan Sharma General Secretary (Org.) BJP Doda Udhampur parliamentary constituency and Sh Neeraj Thakur Kendriya Pramukh Jagran Shiksha Ekal Abhiyan along with prominent karyakartas and smittee members were also present on the occasion.

Cong takes out Ambedkar Samman March, demands resignation of HM Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Congress today took out "Ambedkar Samman March" from Ambedkar Chowk towards Divisional Commissioner office Jammu, seeking resignation and public apology from Home Minister Amit Shah for insulting the architect of the Constitution Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar in the parliament few days ago.

As part of the nationwide call of the party, senior Congress leaders of PCC, DCC & frontal wings took out "Ambedkar Samman March" to press for the demand of resignation and public apology from Home Minister. They raised slogans against the home Minister Amit Shah and in favour of Congress party and leadership of the party and fully supported the leadership to continue the struggle for seeking action against the Home Minister.

The March organized by PCC & DCC Jammu Urban, led by Working President Raman Bhalla alongwith Th. Balwan Singh, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, DCC President Manmohan Singh, Ved Mahajan, Indu Pawar, Naresh Gupta, Yash



Pal Kunda, Hari Singh Chib, Rajnish Sharma (Mian), Shashi Sharma, Satish Sharma, OBC Chairman Madan Dogra & other senior leaders raised slogans against Amit Shah seeking his resignation. The peaceful March started from the statue Chowk of Dr B R Ambedkar at Panama Crossing Gandhi Nagar and matched towards Div Comm office.

Earlier the Congress leaders garlanded the statue of Dr Ambedkar and raised slogans in his respect.

The police stopped the March just before the Div Comm Office, when a representative of the administration received the memorandum addressed to the President of India through divisional Commissioner seeking action against Mr Amit Shah.

Talking to media persons Shri Raman Bhalla Working President forcefully

reiterated the demand for the resignation and public apology from the Home Minister immediately.

He said that the entire nation is hurt by the insulting remarks of Home Minister in the parliament against the father of Constitution Dr Ambedkar but the Prime Minister is silent on this issue. The mindset of the B JP has come out open from the mouth of Home Minister Amit Shah, who used insulting words for the great stalwart.

He said that It was on the written request of Congress President and LOP in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and LOP in Lok Sabha Shri Rahul Gandhi to the Presiding officers of the two houses the discussions on completion of 75th was initiated, during the course of which Mr Amit Shah used the derogatory words against Dr Ambedkar.

Instead of paying trib-

utes and honouring his great contributions in the framing of the Constitution, Mr Amit Shah insulted the great personality by using insulting words.

The party demands immediate resignation and public apology by the Home Minister to cool down the unrest in the country over the issue, otherwise people will not be satisfied.

Several prominent leaders took part in the protest march including Sanjeev Panda, Neeraj Gupta, Ranjit Singh Manhas Ricky Dalotra, Rajesh Sharma, Virinder Singh Manhas, Dr R K Khajuria, Dewan Chand, Latish Sharma, Rajinder Singh Jamwal, Keval Krishan Jogi, Jugal Sharma, S. Baldev Singh, Sandeep Dogra, Pritam Singh, Anirudh Sawhney, Sat Paul Sapolia, Shamsheer Chand, Sanjeev Katal, Aman Baba and others.

Training Program on Importance of organic and natural farming practices for sustainable crop production conducted at CONF, Chatha

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DEC 24

Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (CONF), SKUAST-Jammu organized one-day training cum awareness program entitled Importance of organic and natural farming practices for sustainable crop production under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) project on Alternate agriculture Systems for Sustainability on 24-12-24. The program aimed to educate and empower local farmers and farm women by imparting knowledge on best practices for enhancing crop quality and marketability.

The training was conducted under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) B.N.Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Balbir Dhotra, Principal Investigator who welcomed Prof. Parshant Bakshi - Head, CONF and other scientists of the university. In this programme, more than 50 farmers and farm women from



village Shergarhi, Miran Sahib, R.S.Pura participated in the event. In his inaugural address Prof. Balbir Dhotra discussed importance of Organic and Natural farming to combat health related issues of soil and humans. He stressed that organic and natural farming practices should be followed to reduce the burden of chemicals in soils.

Prof. Bakshi emphasized the significance of the HADP project and its role in promoting organic and natural farming in Jammu region. He interacted with the farmers and urged them to share their experiences of traditional practices of farming. He stressed upon the farmers to follow Good Agricultural Practices for

improving human health and also taught the various methods of preparation of Jeevamrit, Bejmarit, Neem Astra, Panchgavya to the participants. He visited them to strawberry field where organic cultivation using various mulches were demonstrated.

Dr Satesh Kumar, Prof (Vegetable Science) discussed in detail the various aspects of Organic and Natural farming in vegetable cultivation and suggested the farmers to adopt few remedies like mulching, seed treatment, nursery management etc suitable in their farm. Dr S.K.Singh, Professor give live demonstration of the preparation of NSKE and other formulations to the farmers

Dr Kiran Kour, Professor (Fruit Science) discussed organic cultivation of dragon fruit to the farmers and suggested for introducing dragon crop in their orchards.

The training was concluded with the remarks of Smt. Soma Devi (Panch, Ward 5) who appreciated the efforts of the centre in promoting organic activities in the area and committed to adopt organic seed production of vegetables. During the event, various small tools (sickle and khurpa) were also distributed among the farmers. The program was managed by Sh Niraj Manhas, Sh Sadiq Ahmad, Sh. Vaid Raj and other staff members of the centre.

Deputy Chief Minister holds public grievances redressal camps at Dhanaka, Langer Nowshera

JINews SERVICE

NOWSHERA, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted public grievances redressal camps at Dhanaka and Langer in Nowshera to assess public grievances besides reviewing the development profile of the areas.

The events witnessed enthusiastic public participation who expressed gratitude for the government's outreach initiatives.

During the camps, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring holistic development in rural and urban areas. He assured the public that road connectivity would be extended to every village and ward in the region, emphasizing that no area would be left behind in developmental



progress.

In his address, Surinder Choudhary appealed the public to refrain from encroaching roads, highlighting the adverse impact of such practices on infrastructure and public safety as well. He stressed the importance of community cooperation in maintaining the integrity of public spaces.

The Deputy Chief Minister also issued clear directives to the officers present, instructing them to formulate MGNREGA plans only after consult-

ing Gram Sabhas. "Community participation is the cornerstone of effective planning and implementation of development projects. All developmental schemes under MGNREGA must reflect the needs and aspirations of the people," he remarked.

Surinder Choudhary acknowledged the overwhelming response from the public and assured them of the administration's unwavering support. "Our government is dedicated towards bridging developmental gaps and

ensuring that the benefits of governance reach the grassroots level," he concluded. The camps concluded with the Dy CM urging the public to actively participate in governance and development initiatives, fostering a spirit of collaboration and accountability.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, along with other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the public grievances redressal camps.

DC Ramban reviews performance of banks at DLRC meeting

JINews SERVICE

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 24

District Development Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a District Level Review Committee meeting to assess the performance of banks in the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, GM DIC Ravinder Kumar; ACR S. Harpal Singh; representative from RBI Amit Kumar; LDM Khurshed Ahmed Malik, besides CAO, CHO, ACP, CAHO, DSHO, DDM NABARD, DO KVIB, AD Fisheries, BDOS and Bankers attended the meeting.

Reviewing the implementation of Youth oriented schemes, the DDC expressed concern over the priority sector's underperformance and instructed banks to provide detailed data on beneficiaries. He urged swift



action on loan cases under schemes like PMEGP, KCC and MUMKIN to benefit local youth.

He directed to meet the credit targets under the Agriculture and allied sector. The GM DIC was asked to hold meetings with all stakeholders to set the targets with the strategy to achieve the 100% performance under government sponsored schemes, besides increasing the number of cases, directing market-relevant training, market and

financial linkages.

The Banks were directed to submit details of loan rejection cases with specific reasons. Collaboration between BDOs and banks was emphasized to expand banking services to remote areas and motivating youth to avail the maximum benefits from the schemes.

He also reviewed the Prime Minister's Social Security Schemes including PMMY, PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY in all panchayats of the district.

Water Supply to remain affected in areas fed from WTP Doodhganga

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

As per Ex. Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar, in order to carry out desilting work of 1.5 MG Service Reservoir at 10 MGD Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Doodhganga, the general public is informed that water supply shall remain affected in various areas falling under the jurisdiction of Water Treatment Plant Doodhganga.

The water supply shall remain affected w.e.f. 01 January, 2025 (09.00 a.m.) to 02 January, 2025 (09.00 a.m.) in areas include Bagh I Mehtab, Kralpora, Mochua, Chanapora, Natipora, Ramnabagh, Gogji Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Alouchi Bagh, Rawalpora, Hyderpora, Sanat Nagar, Baghat and adjacent areas.

Cultural Unit Kashmir of DIPR organizes Road Safety, Traffic Awareness program at S.P. College, Srinagar

JINews SERVICE

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

The Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) J&K in collaboration with S.P. College, Srinagar, organized a significant Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Program at the College Auditorium, here.

The event aimed to educate students and youth on the critical importance of adhering to traffic rules and fostering a culture of responsible road behavior.

The program began with the presidential address by the Principal of S.P. College, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Farooq Mir. He highlighted the growing concerns over reckless driving and the urgent need for students to act as ambassadors of road safety. He stressed that awareness among the youth is the first step



toward reducing accidents and saving lives.

RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan provided valuable insights into the consequences of traffic negligence. He discussed the devastating outcomes of over-speeding, drunken driving, and non-compliance with traffic rules. "Every life lost to a traffic accident is a preventable tragedy," he remarked, emphasizing the collective responsibility of citizens to ensure safer roads.

The Cultural Officer,

Kashmir, Burhan Hussain underscored the alarming rise in traffic violations and their tragic consequences, urging students to lead by example in their communities. He emphasized that "responsibility begins with individuals" and called on the youth to respect traffic laws, wear helmets, and avoid distractions while driving. His words resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a lasting impact.

The event also featured a thematic skit by

the Shahr-e-Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society, which creatively illustrated the importance of traffic awareness. The performance captivated the audience, particularly the younger participants, reinforcing the messages shared by the speakers.

A speech competition on road safety saw Shayan Showkat (10th Semester, Botany) securing first place, Mohammad Behzad Khan (1st Semester, Physics) taking second place, and Basit Bashir (1st Semester, Physics) winning third place.

The program concluded with a felicitation ceremony recognizing the winners and contributors. This initiative by the Cultural Unit Kashmir and S.P. College reaffirmed their dedication to addressing critical societal issues and empowering youth to take the lead in promoting road safety.

Awareness event on National Consumer Day held at Samba

JINews SERVICE

SAMBA, DECEMBER 24

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Samba, in collaboration with Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs observed the National Consumer Day here today at TSO Office.

The event was held under the supervision of Chairman DLSA Ravinder Nath Wattal and under the guidance of DLSA Secretary Sandeep Singh Sen to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities, with a focus on consumer frauds and the objectives of the Consumer Protection Act.

Assistant Director CA&PD Dr. Mohammad Sagir, highlighted the importance of National Consumer Day. He highlighted the need for consumers to be aware of their responsibilities, particularly in cases of misbranding, copying, or cheating. He stressed that

well-informed consumers can effectively exercise their rights and seek compensation when necessary. He urged the public to spread awareness about consumer rights among neighbours, relatives and friends. He reminded consumers that their rights are meaningless unless they are exercised, emphasizing the importance of seeking redressal when needed.

Sandeep Singh Sen, Secretary, DLSA highlighted the key aspects of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. He emphasized that consumers have the right to safety and can seek recourse in case of online purchase fraud by filing a complaint with the consumer protection forum. He also stressed the importance of reporting misleading advertisements, which is a crucial provision under the Act.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, aims to protect consumers from unfair

trade practices, including false or misleading advertisements. He said Consumers have the right to be protected against hazardous goods and services, right to information about goods and services, including quantity, quality, purity, potency, price, and standard, to seek redressal for grievances, including online purchase fraud and misleading advertisements, etc.

Advocate Tania Pargal, panel lawyer DLSA Samba, emphasized the importance of the Consumer Protection Act, which protects the rights of every individual. She highlighted the rules and provisions including E-commerce Rules, Product Liability Rules, Service Provider Rules, Misleading Advertisement Rules, Non-leading Dispute Resolution, Consumer Grievance Rules, etc. She informed that consumers can now file disputes through the e-portal, making it easier

and more convenient to seek redressal. This digital platform aims to streamline the dispute resolution process, reducing time and effort for consumers. She also encouraged consumers to be aware of their rights and to seek redressal when necessary.

Nisha Rani, Deputy LADC Samba, conducted the proceedings of the program and ensured the smooth execution of the event.

The event was also attended by the Officials of DLSA Samba, Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Samba, PLVs of DLSA Samba, General public, consumers, etc.

The event was a significant step towards empowering consumers in Samba and promoting awareness about their rights and responsibilities. DLSA Samba remains committed to protecting consumer interests and promoting a fair and just marketplace.

DC Kathua flags-off Red Cross Volunteers to attend National Youth Exchange Program at Amritsar



JINews SERVICE

KATHUA, DECEMBER 24

The District Red Cross Society Kathua, organized a flag-off ceremony today here at DC Complex to send off its contingent of volunteers for the National Youth Exchange Programme being held in Amritsar, Punjab.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner and Chairman District Red Cross Society Dr Rakesh Minhas in presence of ADC (Secretary DRCS) Om Parkash Sharma, Chief Education Officer, Mangat Ram Sharma, DEPO Kathua,

Karamjeet Singh and several members of the Red Cross Society and District Administration.

The other attendees were Member District Management Committee, DRCS Khem Raj Sharma, DICC Monika Khosla, ZICC Rishi Tangri, Member, District Management Committee DRCS Pinky Devi, Counsellor, DRCS Sunita Kumari and Counsellor DRCS Sunil Singh Jasrotia.

Addressing the volunteers, the DC commended their dedication towards humanitarian values and urged them to represent Kathua with pride. He emphasized the

importance of fostering cultural understanding, collaboration and community spirit through the exchange programme.

The Red Cross Society and District Administration extended their best wishes to the contingent, reaffirming their support for youth empowerment and humanitarian efforts.

The National Youth Exchange Programme provides a unique platform to Red Cross volunteers from across the country to share experiences, build networks, and strengthen their commitment to social welfare and disaster response.

Chairman DDC Srinagar reviews progress achieved under District Capex Budget, MGNREGA & PMAY-G



JINews SERVICE

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

The Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Srinagar, Aftab Malik Tuesday chaired a meeting here to review the progress achieved under District Capex Budget, MGNREGA and PMAY-G schemes for the financial year 2024-25.

Besides, CEO of the Council (ADCC, Srinagar), Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and members of the Council, the meeting was attended by General Manager, DIC Srinagar, ACD, ACP, CMO, CEO besides all Executive Engineers of R&B, KPDC, Jal Shakti, BDOs and other sectoral officers of the district.

At the outset, the CEO DDC briefed the meeting stating that 241 works under District Capex stand completed. He said an amount of Rs 48.08 lac have been expended on the execution of works identified by the council while work on seven works is going on apace.

Regarding the progress

achieved under MGNREGA 2024-25, the meeting was informed that 0.67 lac (43% of the approved labour budget) person days have been generated until now, against the target of 0.55 lac person-days earmarked for the Current FY 2024-25. Besides, 169 works have been taken up in hand in four CD-Blocks of this District comprising 21 Gram Panchayats. 1.00 lac person-days are anticipated to be achieved/generated by the end of current FY.

With respect to progress recorded under PMAY-G 2024-25, it was informed that in order to enable poor people in the rural areas to construct their houses, financial assistance worth Rs. 1.30 lac and 95 person-days (under MGNREGA) are being provided under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin. Under the scheme, 31 houses have been completed so far against the target of 41, and work on remaining houses is in progress.

The Chairman, DDC stressed on fast tracking

the execution to ensure that the funds are utilized in full ahead of the financial year end. He said there should not be any compromise on the quality parameters, and asked the supervisory officers to ensure strict monitoring on the ground.

Malik highlighted the need of strengthening coordination among various departments to ensure that the works are not held up for minor issues. He called for sharing details of development plans under flagship programmes with DDC members to avoid overlapping of plan works under council grants and centrally sponsored schemes.

The Chairman DDC also directed for keeping the members in loop while holding Gram Sabha meetings so the area specific plans are formulated in a more pragmatic manner.

Some issues of urgent public importance were raised by the members for which on spot instructions were issued for their timely redressal.

District Level Committee discusses action plan for revival of heritage sites in Poonch



JINews SERVICE

POONCH, DECEMBER 24

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Tuesday convened a meeting of the District Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee to prioritize the revival, restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the district's architectural and heritage sites.

The meeting deliberated on the renovation and improvement of Poonch Fort's basic structure, plans for Lodh Devta, Ramkund Mandir, Chotay Shah, Gurudwara Deri Sahab Khari Dharamsal, old Niwazodin Ziarat, Battalkote Ziarat, and the repair and renovation of Bagh Deodi

and Sheesh Mahal. Each site was examined in detail, underscoring their cultural significance.

The Deputy Commissioner asked that a team of the Department of Archaeology would be invited to assess the Fort's structure. "The assessment will facilitate the initiation of the tendering process for the restoration plan," he added.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the SE PWD and other concerned executive engineers to collaborate in devising a comprehensive strategy for the planned development of these distinguished locations, which hold immense importance for the local populace.