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SIA raids Sarjan Barkati's home in Shopian

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

The State Investigation Agency carried out a raid at the residence of cleric Sarjan Barkati in south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said.

An official told news agency, that sleuths of SIA with the assistance of local police and CRPF carried out the raid at Sarjan Barkati home in Reban village. He said that the raid was going on and further details will be shared later.

Dry Weather in J&K Till 17 Feb: MeT

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

Ruling out any chances of rain or snow, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday forecasted "dry weather" in J&K till the 17th of February.

As per the news agency CNS, the MeT Centre Srinagar said that there will be no significant weather activity till the 17th of this month except for occasional clouds to be seen towards the 14th of February evening.

Till the 17th of February, it said that overall dry weather would be observed in the UT. However, a possibility of light rain or snow was expected during 18-20th February.

Cautioning the travellers, the MeT department advised them to follow administration and traffic police advisory in view of significant snow accumulation and sub-freezing temperatures over many hilly areas.

The minimum temperatures in Kashmir last night were recorded as -2.0°C in Srinagar, -3.2°C in Qazigund, -10.8°C in Pahalgam, -3.3°C in Kupwara, -4.3°C in Kokernag, -10°C in Gulmarg and -3.0°C in Konibal.

NHRC postpones its hearing in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has postponed its first sitting in Jammu & Kashmir, citing bad weather conditions and some unavoidable circumstances.

As per the news agency, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has informed the public that the camp sitting of the rights panel scheduled from 7th to 9th February has been postponed.

"General public is hereby informed that the camp sitting w.e.f 07.02.2024 to 09.02.2024 at Banquet Hall, Srinagar of National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi to hear the cases has been postponed for some unavoidable circumstances and due to bad weather conditions for the time being," reads a notice issued by Director Litigation, Khursheed Ahmad Bhat.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Srinagar Terror Attack: One killed, another injured

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

A civilian, hailing from Amritsar was shot dead while another was injured by terrorists in Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar, police said on Wednesday.

A top official told the news agency that two persons identified as Amritpal Singh & Rohit—both residents of Amritsar were fired upon by the terrorists in Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar.

However, the official stated that one among them Amritpal Singh has succumbed to his injuries while Rohit has been shifted to hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, a manhunt has been launched to nab the attackers. "The whole area has been cordoned off," he added.

Kashmir Zone Police in a post on X said, "#Terrorists fired upon 2 persons identified as Amritpal



Singh & Rohit, R/O Amritsar at Shaheed Gunj Sgr. In this #terror incident, Amritpal Singh succumbed to his injuries while Rohit has been shifted to Hospital for treatment. Area cordoned off."

Authorities in the SMHS hospital told KNO that one person has been brought to the hospital with bullet wounds, adding that the injured is being treated, and his condition is said

to be critical.

He has received a bullet wound in left abdomen. Meanwhile, the attack was condemned by the political parties in Jammu & Kashmir.

CPI (M) leader and former Kulgam legislator, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami condemned the attack and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

"Condemning in no

uncertain terms the despicable attack which left a non-local man dead and caused injuries to another in Srinagar. Such barbaric attacks on innocent civilians are reprehensible and absolutely devoid of humanity. Deepest condolences to his family!," Tarigami said in a post on X.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) expressed deep sorrow and condemned what it termed as the cowardly and shameful act of terrorism.

Senior BJP leader, Manzoor Bhat vehemently denounced the act, labeling it as a clear manifestation of terrorist frustration aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and developmental progress in Kashmir.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Amritpal and conveyed prayers for the swift recovery of Rohit.

Achievements of Kashmiri Pandit community fill my heart with pride: LG Sinha



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone of Synthetic Football Turf at Jagti Camp, Nagrota, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the young sportspersons and football enthusiasts on the occasion.

The Synthetic Football

Turf to be developed at a cost of Rs 5.75 crore, will include G+1 pavilion with a covered area having seating capacity of about 600 spectators, change rooms and other amenities.

"The achievements of Kashmiri Pandit community fill my heart with pride. I dedicate this vital sports project at Jagti to the Youth of this Community and to their immense

contribution to nation-building," the Lt Governor said.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government is fully committed to the welfare of Kashmiri migrant families and this is also reflected in the interim budget of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor observed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Over 1000 complaints of financial fraud cases registered in J&K last year

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

Over 1000 complaints of financial fraud cases amounting to more than Rs 780 lakhs have been registered by Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System in Jammu and Kashmir last year.

As per the figures accessed by the news agency, 1046 cases of financial fraud have been registered in the Union Territory last year. These

complaints amount to Rs 786.56 lakh.

The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' was set up under the 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre' by the Ministry of Home Affairs to report financial fraud.

Data further reveals that 253 cases of financial frauds were put on hold with a lien amount of Rs 62.55 lakhs.

Figures further reveal that a total of 1.13 million cases of financial cyber

fraud were reported in 2023 in India.

Uttar Pradesh was at the top with around 200,000 cases, the highest across 36 states and union territories. Next was Maharashtra with 130,000 complaints reported, followed by Gujarat (120,000), Rajasthan and Haryana (80,000 each). Lakshadweep was at the bottom with 29 cases.

Officials said that frauds including UPI, Digital Banking and Credit Card and QR Code are some

of the commonest financial frauds registered in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, we witnessed that a lot of people fall prey to financial frauds. Apart from these frauds, scams related to employment and social media are also being registered in Jammu and Kashmir," they said.

Officials said they have been constantly raising awareness among the public through various mediums to protect

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Security situation in J&K shows significant improvement post 2019: MoS Home in Parliament

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

The Ministry of Home Affairs Wednesday said that the security situation in J&K has significantly improved post 2019 and the Government of India continues with its policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

In reply to a query related to the security situation in J&K, Minister



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

J&K records investment of Rs 5656.78 cr in various sectors after abrogation of Article 370: Centre tells Rajya Shaba

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

The Central government on Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha that an investment of over Rs 5600 crore has been made in various sectors of Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

In a reply to a query, Minister of State in Ministry of Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, as per the news agency, said the

Government has notified the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 19/02/2021 so as to attract investors to make capital investments.

This has been supplemented by the policies/schemes, to boost investment in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, which include, J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy, 2021-30, J&K

Private Industrial Estate Development Policy 2021-30, Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in Industrial Sector in J&K, 2022, J&K Single Window Rules, 2021, Turnover Incentive Scheme, 2021, J&K Wool Processing, Handicrafts and Handloom Policy, 2020, Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives/Self Help Groups, 2020, Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, 2020 and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Bank Loan Case ED arrests Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 7

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested the Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited in a case related to bank loan fraud amounting to approximately Rs 200 Crore.

As per a statement issued to the news agency, a spokesman said that Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested Anil Kumar Aggarwal, Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited yesterday under the provisions

of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a bank loan fraud amounting to approx. Rs 200 Crore. "Anil Kumar Aggarwal was produced before the Special PMLA Court, Jammu on 07.02.2024.

The Court has granted custody to ED till 13-02-2024," the statement said. As per the statement, the ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by CBI against M/s. Bharat Papers Limited and its directors Rajinder Kumar Aggarwal, Parveen

Kumar Aggarwal, Anil Kumar and Baljinder Kumar Aggarwal.

"The FIR alleged that M/s Bharat Papers Limited and its directors have perpetrated bank loan fraud amounting to approx. Rs. 200 Crore with consortium of banks with State Bank of India as lead bank. J & K Bank, PNB and Karur Vysya Bank being the other banks," the statement reads.

"ED investigation revealed that Anil Kumar Aggarwal, in his capacity as one of the main Direc-

tor of M/s Bharat Papers Limited, since its incorporation in 2006, has committed the offence of money laundering by siphoning off part of the loan through bogus entities & related entities, illegal sale of machinery by raising fake invoices, selling scrap(machinery) out of books to unrelated entities and adjusting sundry debtors in the books of holding company," it added.

Earlier, ED had conducted search operations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Nearly 20,000 tourists throng Gulmarg in six days since snowfall

JNEWS SERVICE
GULMARG, FEB 7

Gulmarg, the picturesque hill station in Kashmir, has experienced a significant influx of tourists, recording a staggering 20,000 arrivals in just six days. The surge was witnessed following the end of a prolonged dry spell that had impacted the tourist destination.

Gulmarg, hailed as the winter wonderland, nestled in the Pir Panjal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Before Article 370 abrogation, J&K residents were deprived of progressive laws' benefits: Centre

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 7

The Centre on Wednesday said that before abrogation of Article 370, J&K residents were deprived of the benefits of number of progressive laws but now they are enjoying rights available to citizens of other parts of the country.

In a reply to a question in the Rahya Sabha, Minister of State of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said

as per news agency, that after abrogation of Article 370 and application of all the provisions of Constitution of India, the Central Laws which were earlier not applicable to erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, were made applicable and are implemented in the Union territory.

"After abrogation of Article 370 all the progressive laws such as the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education

Act, 2009, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014, the Juvenile Justice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Block Diwas at Koil: DC Pulwama sets tone for Collaborative Governance & Civic Responsibility

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 7

In a remarkable gathering held at Govt Higher Secondary School Koil, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today presided over the Block Diwas event.

He was accompanied by ADDC Pulwama, ACD Pulwama, and various District and Sectoral officers. The DC facilitated an interactive session aimed at enlightening the public about government schemes and initiatives.

The event witnessed active participation from departments across various sectors, each showcasing their schemes and benefits through informative stalls. Attendees were apprised of the opportunities available, fostering a deeper understanding of government programs.

A significant turnout



marked the occasion, with public delegations vocalizing their demands and extending gratitude for the responsive actions of the District Administration.

The DC, engaged attentively with the grievances voiced by the public, commending their participation and emphasizing Koil's pivotal role in the success of the program.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the resolution of past issues and adherence to timelines, particularly in projects like JJM. He also mentioned the identification of a playground for residents, underscoring the administration's commitment to community welfare.

Speaking on various schemes including HADP and the Vishwakarma scheme, DC emphasized

the importance of local support, especially from the youth and artisans, in maximizing the benefits of these programs. He stressed the significance of sanitation initiatives, highlighting the infrastructure development in the district and urging residents to contribute to maintaining cleanliness. Furthermore, the DC directed concerned officials to identify a suitable building for the establishment of a Senior Citizens Hub, equipped with facilities like a library and age specific recreational facilities, catering to the needs of the elderly population.

The Block Diwas event in Koil served as a platform for meaningful interaction between the administration and the public, fostering a collaborative approach towards community development.

MVD Doda, Health Department organise Blood Donation Camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 7

Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Doda, in collaboration with the Health department organized a blood donation camp at Government Medical College here today.

The camp was organized on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and supervised by ARTO Doda, Rajesh Gupta. The initiative was part of the ongoing celebration of National Road Safety Month.

The event was graced by the presence of chief guest, Retd Wg Cdr Tirath Singh Mahotra

During the event, members of the driver union and MVD officials came forward to donate blood, highlighting their commitment to the humanitarian cause. The primary aim of the blood donation camp



was to ensure that sufficient blood was readily available for accident victims, allowing for immediate lifesaving interventions during emergencies.

The ARTO emphasised the importance of road safety measures and the MVD's efforts to raise awareness throughout the district. He stressed the need for adherence to safety regulations while driving, underscoring the critical role each individual plays in preventing acci-

dents and ensuring road safety.

The ARTO extended gratitude to the chief guest for gracing the occasion with his presence. He also thanked the Health Department for organizing the blood donation camp, ensuring a ready supply of blood at the Doda blood bank for prompt response to accidents. The event served as a testament to the community's dedication to both road safety and humanitarian efforts.

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ramgarh and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 10 from 10 to 2 pm to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Padyarna, Padder and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Premnagar, Thatri, Dhara, Changa, Bhatyas, Gundoh, Bhaderwah and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Salehar, Khour, Biaspur, Makhanpur, Rathana, Jinder Mellu and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Chatha, Bhour Camp, Peer Baba, Govindpura, Khandwal and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 10 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Company Bagh, Chand Nagar, Ware House, Krishna Nagar, Jewel and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Upper Barnai, Lower Muthi, Paloura, JK Colony, Chandanvihar, PHE Roop Mahar, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, BSF Paloura and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Pouni, Shiv Khouri, Dadua, Bharkh, Ransoo, Talwara and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 11 from 9 am to 2 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Arnas, Dharmari, Mahore, Sarbaga, Gulabgarh, Chassana and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 11 from 9 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Panthal, Sundrani, Sugal Ghati, Searly and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 11 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Commissioner State Taxes reviews functioning of department



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Commissioner State Taxes department, P K Bhat today chaired a meeting with all State Tax Officers (STOs) of Jammu division here at Excise and Taxation Complex here to review the functioning of the department.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Administration & Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra; STOs of Jammu district attended the meeting in person while as STOs of outer districts joined the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the focus was laid on revenue augmentation, proper scrutiny and tracking of E-way bills, optimal use of technology for assessment of red flags, tax evasion and input tax credit mismatch cases.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner States Taxes instructed officers to regularly use the technology drive system to detect cases for revenue augmentation. He said there is lot of scope in the system and many indicators were floated regularly on the portal dashboard, which could be further used for revenue augmentation.

Underlining the massive infrastructural expansion undertaken by government in Jammu and Kashmir with several under construction national projects, the Commissioner directed officers to pay special attention on work contracts and construction sector to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir gets its share of revenue.

He also asked the officers to intensify their field visits in their respective circles under 'Know Your Dealer' campaign for better understanding of issues and con-

cerns of stakeholders. He also laid special stress on proper tracking of E Way-bills and scrutiny of ITC cases.

During the meeting, Namrita Dogra apprised the Commissioner regarding status of various activities and presented circle wise report. She stressed on inter circle coordination to detect tax evasion and revenue leakage cases. The officers were directed to ensure compliance by banquets, restaurants and adopt innovative approaches to identify tax evasions. Noticing noncompliance by contractors, the additional commissioner directed all STOs to approach the various departments to block payments if non-compliant contractors.

The case study of brick kilns, ITC fraud were also discussed in details and directions were passed to initiate action.

Two-Day District Level Seminar/Workshop on Scientific Beekeeping Under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission concludes at Udhamapur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 7

A two-day district-level seminar and workshop on scientific beekeeping, organized under the esteemed National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) organised by the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare concluded successfully, here the other day.

The event, held in the meeting hall of Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Udhamapur, was marked by insightful discussions, practical demonstrations, and interactive sessions aimed at promoting best practices in beekeeping.

The lamp lighting ceremony, symbolizing the commencement of this enlightening event, was graced by the esteemed presence of Chairman District Development Council Udhamapur Lal Chand, along with distinguished figures such as Chief Agriculture Officer Sanjay Anand, District Agriculture Officer (Extrn)



Udhamapur Anil Kachroo, Apiculture Development Officer Pawan Talwar, Mushroom Development Officer Vinod Gupta, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Shri Ajay Sharma, and other eminent Agriculture Officers representing various zones of District Udhamapur. Dr. Devinder

Sharma, a beekeeping expert from SKUAST-Jammu, delivered a detailed lecture on scientific beekeeping, enriching the seminar with valuable insights. This seminar and workshop served as a pivotal platform for knowledge dissemination, fostering dialogue,

and promoting best practices in scientific beekeeping within the district. Participants had the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions, hands-on demonstrations, and interactive sessions led by experts in the field. In-depth discussions on the latest advancements and innovations in beekeeping techniques and technologies, practical demonstrations showcasing modern beekeeping equipment and methods aimed at enhancing productivity and sustainability, workshops focusing on the importance

of beekeeping in biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and rural livelihood enhancement, and interactive sessions facilitating knowledge exchange and networking among beekeeping enthusiasts, practitioners, and stakeholders.

Interaction meeting held at KVK Samba



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 7

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) on Wednesday hosted an interaction meeting with Dr. Puranjan Das, former Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR.

Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized upon the economic viability of the initiative being undertaken by KVK at farmers' fields. He called upon the KVK to be a lighthouse for the farming community of the district. He elaborated upon the thrust of the Central Govt on the formation of FPOs, organic

farming and cluster based approach to make the agriculture in India future ready.

Dr. Parvender Sheoran, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone I highlighted the need for dissemination of the welfare schemes of the GOI to farmers' doorsteps to ensure their utmost penetration. He emphasized upon the development of entrepreneurs in agriculture to realize the full potential of this sector. "The development of business acumen among the farming community is a must, so that they realize the full potential of their efforts economically" he added. He stressed upon designing and implementing various courses on agribusiness manage-

ment for the farming community.

Dr. AmrshVaid Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu applauded KVK Samba for its efforts in improving the livelihood security of the farmers by reaching the far flung areas of the district.

Earlier, Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba welcomed all the dignitaries and gave an overview of the activities of the KVK for the benefit of the farming community

Prakash Chand, Member Kissan Advisory Board and other progressive farmers of the district also shared their views during the programme.

Dr. Pawan K Sharma, Assoc. Professor from the

Directorate of Extension also participated during the programme. Dr. Abhay Kumar Sinha and Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma delivered expert lectures during farmers-scientists interaction. Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Saurav Gupta. Dr. Neerja Sharma presented vote of thanks. Dr. Shalini Khajuria, Dr. Amit Mahajan, Bharat Bhushan contributed for the successful conduct of this programme.

A publication of various initiatives undertaken by KVK Samba was also released. An exhibition depicting various initiatives of KVK for the welfare of the farming community was also organized during this programme.

DC presides over Unani Day celebrations 2024 at B'pora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 7

In a run up to World Unani Day Celebrations 2024 to be observed on 11th of February, the Department of Ayush Bandipora today organised a district level event at Conference Hall, Mini-Secretariat Bandipora.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman was chief guest on the occasion, while as ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandit was guest of honour.

The program was attended by District Nodal Officer Ayush, Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Khan, Medical Officers Department of Ayush, Medical Officers of NHM, Mid Level Health Care Providers (MLHP) paramedics and other concerned.

In his welcome address, District Nodal Officer Ayush deliberated on the working of Ayush and exemplary vision of Hakim Ajmal Khan, who dedicated his life for the development and promotion of the Unani System of medicine.

He also highlighted achievements of the



Department, including High Altitude Medicinal Plant Nursery at Nyle Gurez on 10 kanals of Land, installation of fitness equipment at Aragam, Nadihal and Check Ganastan Shahgund Dispensaries.

The DC was apprised that in Bandipora 21 dispensaries are functional with 21 Medical officers, besides various issues faced by department were also put forth before the chair including establishment of Herbal Gardens, fencing for Herbal Garden, land issues for cultivation

of medicinal plants, availability of land in schools for establishing herbal Gardens and others.

On the occasion, Dr. Irfan, Medical Officer Department of Ayush, presented a PowerPoint presentation to highlight various IEC activities carried out by the Department of Ayush in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the role of Hakeem Ajmal Khan in the Unani system of medicine. He said, "to honor Hakim Ajmal Khan, we need to implement Government Schemes

regarding Unani System of Medicine in letter and spirit on ground level."

Stressing on conducting awareness camps at Panchayat level, the DC asked the concerned from the Ayush to draft a plan for conducting more extensive awareness camps at panchayat level for raising awareness regarding benefits of Unani System of medicine, Drug de-addiction and role of health and wellness centres.

Shakeel Rehman, on the occasion, assured full support from the district administration for implementing Ayush Related schemes in the district.

He asked the District Nodal Officer Ayush to submit activity reports on a periodical basis to review the performance of the department in the district.

Highlighting the role of Unani and traditional System of Medicine, Shakeel Ur Rehman stressed the cultivation of medicinal plants at the local level.

He also deliberated upon the role of lifestyle changes in addressing contemporary health challenges.

District admin addresses public concerns at Bhella under Weekly Block Diwas

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 7

The District Administration Doda took proactive steps to address public concerns by organizing an extensive Block Divas outreach program at Higher Secondary School Bhella.

Led by District Development Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, the program provided a platform for local residents to directly communicate their grievances to the authorities. Held at Higher Secondary School Bhella, Block Thathri, the event saw the participation of key public figures, and district officers including DDC Chairman Dhananther Singh, SSP Doda Javaid Iqbal, DDC members, SDM Thathri Masood Ahmed Bichoo, and other officials, alongside a large gathering from people Bhella and Chiralla.

During the outreach program, a wide array of pressing issues were raised, spanning con-



cerns about water and electricity supply, healthcare infrastructure, road connectivity, and various government-sponsored schemes. The active involvement of the public, PRIs, sarpanchs, panches, and BDC representatives underscored the collective effort to address these challenges.

The DDC Chairman expressed optimism about resolving public grievances swiftly, emphasizing the

positive impact of government-sponsored schemes and initiatives in the area. During the public outreach program, the DDC Chairman expressed gratitude to DC Doda and appreciated the swift construction of roads and the ongoing developmental projects in the region. He also praised the efforts of the honorable Prime Minister, highlighting initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat, free ration for 80 crore indi-

viduals, and the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, which he deemed essential for the region's progress. He further commended the three-tier system for development and encouraged former sarpanchs to continue advocating for the common people's welfare.

The District Development Commissioner reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing local needs, including the establishment of small-scale industries and ensuring opportunities for youth employment under the AVSAR scheme. Singh also assured the community of forthcoming government-sponsored schemes and initiatives, promising to bring these services directly to the doorstep of residents. Additionally, plans for the establishment of degree College and professional colleges in the region were discussed, with Singh pledging to pursue the matter with relevant authorities.

SSP Doda Javaid Iqbal emphasized the importance of strong police-public relations, assuring the community of the police department's dedication to resolving cases and issues promptly. The outreach event showcased the administration's commitment to responsive governance, ensuring effective communication of concerns and demands to relevant officials for timely resolution. Various government-sponsored scheme stalls were also set up, demonstrating the administration's efforts to streamline services and benefits for the populace.

Additionally, during his inspection visit, the DC also visited Government Girls Hostel at HSS Bhella and Government Model Orchard cum Nursery in Bhella, along with the Forest Nursery, reaffirming the administration's commitment to overseeing various aspects of development in the region.

GCW Udhampur organises awareness rally on 'Be a Road Safety Hero'



JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 7

To spread the awareness among the students and general masses regarding road safety, an awareness rally on the theme "Be a Road Safety Hero" was organized by Road Safety Club and NSS Unit of Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur.

The rally was flagged off by Principal of the College, Prof. Anjali Mahajan.

Principal highlighted the need of organising such events in the college to aware the students and public in general. She also stressed upon the fact that it has become the need of the hour to aware the public about the causes of accident happening on the road.

The message of rally was conveyed with the help of placards, posters

and through recitation of slogans by the 180 students and volunteers besides urging the people to follow traffic rules to avoid mishappenings on the road.

The standout feature of the event was the interaction between the volunteers and general public in the bazaar. Volunteers shared insights about the role of awareness about the road safety rules in saving the lives of the people. Following the rally, students of the college also played a Nukad Natak to aware the public about the road safety habits.

The route of rally was Government College for Women Udhampur-KDN Palace, Battal Balian Road- Vikas Nagar-Jojhada Talab Road - Radha Swami Satsang Road- Phangyal Chowk and culminated back at the college. The rally

was escorted by Prof. Parwinder Kaur, Convener Road Safety Club, Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, NSS PO, Prof. Shama Rani, NSS PO, Prof. Pooja Bharti, Prof. Yash Kumar and Kulldeep Singh.

Earlier, Prof. Parwinder Kaur, Convener Road Safety Club and Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, NSS PO elaborated that Road Safety has become the priority after the invention of mass-produced vehicles as road accidents can cause serious injuries and even death.

The rally was meticulously supervised and managed by Prof. Parwinder Kaur, Convener Road Safety Club, Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, NSS PO, Prof. Shama Rani, NSS PO, Prof. Yash Kumar and Prof. Pooja Bharti. Other faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Ravinder Kumar and Prof. Pardeep Kumar.

DC Ganderbal addresses public concerns at Shallabugh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 7

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambr today chaired the weekly Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Ghar Shallabugh, where he interacted with the public to listen to their issues and demands.

The programme, which was also attended by Vice Chairperson DCC Ganderbal, Bilal Ahmad, SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta, Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani and other senior officers, aimed to provide a platform to the people to voice their concerns and aspirations directly to the authorities and seek redressal of their grievances. The major issues projected during the event include development of roads, street lights, dredging of irrigation canals, ATM facility, installation of transformer at PHC



Kachan, development of playground at Girls High School Shallabugh and other issues of public importance.

After giving patient hearing to locals, the DC assured that all their genuine demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for prompt redressal.

While replying to the demands, the DC assured the locals that all genuine demands would be taken up with relevant authorities for swift redressal. He emphasized that issues raised during the weekly

Block Diwas and Back to Village programs would be given priority in formulating the plan for the fiscal year 2024-25. Additionally, the DC announced the approval of the JJM Plan to address water supply issues in the district.

Addressing concerns about door-to-door waste collection, DC informed that waste collection had been outsourced by the district administration and urged residents to pay usage charges on a monthly basis for the services rendered.

The Vice-Chairperson

DDC expressed appreciation for the proactive efforts of the district administration in Shallabugh Panchayat. He also acknowledged the dedicated endeavors of the administration and extended assurance of full cooperation to transform Shallabugh into a developed and thriving Panchayat.

Among the officers present on the occasion were Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad, District Lead Bank and other district officers and officials.

Boards erected to safeguard State Land in Keran village

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

In a proactive move today, under the directives of SDM Jammu North Nitish Rajora, boards were installed at State Land in Keran village. Tehsildar Jammu North Aman Kumara Anand oversaw the implementation of these directives.

As part of today's pre-emptive measures, rudimentary boundary walls were also dismantled, reinforcing the commitment to reclaim the State Land.

The newly erected boards, situated at Khasra Numbers 424 (measuring 129 kanal and 6 marla) and Khasra Number 648 (measuring 99 kanal), serve as a warning against encroachments, aiming to deter trespassers.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Udhampur holds public outreach programme at Panjgrain Nagrota Chanunta

JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 7

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today visited Block Chanunta where she attended a weekly Block Diwas meeting at Panchayat Panjgrain, listening to public issues and demands.

Additional District Development Commissioner Ghan Sham Singh, Sub Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal and other officers, along with the general public of adjoining panchayats participated in the weekly Block Diwas program. The general public of the area presented their demands and issues, seeking maintenance of local roads, provision for a new bus service from Udhampur to Nagrota Panj Grain, upgradation of



High School Nagrota Panj Grain to a Higher Secondary Level, Construction of a footbridge over local nallah at Saroiyan Grat, establishment of health centers with government buildings, construction of a road for Simti Village and construction of a boundary wall for GHS Nagrota. Responding to the demands, the DC addressed many griev-

ances on the spot by giving directions to officers of concerned departments. The remaining demands were recommended to the concerned quarters for addressing them as per budgetary provisions. The DC urged the youth of the area to register themselves under the Vishwakarma scheme to avail the benefits of the government scheme.

DDC Shopian presides over Block Diwas at Hermain

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 7

As part of the Government's public outreach programme, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Block Hermain, Shopian to assess the local issues and listen to the grievances of the people for their speedy disposal.

While interacting with the public, the DDC said that the Block Diwas is being organised across the length and breadth of the JK UT, with the sole objective to provide more transparent, accountable, public-friendly and responsive administration to the people.

This initiative of the Government is contributing immensely to good governance, DC, added.

On the occasion, several public issues including road connectivity to uncovered areas, better drinking water supply to the people of Reshipora and Alamgunj, upgradation of PHC, Hermain, replacement of damaged



electric poles, cleanliness of irrigation Khuls, especially Tongri Nallah, segregation shed for wastage, augmentation of health infrastructure, repairing of Nagisharan road, High Mass lights for Hermain, shifting of LT Line at Alamgunj playground, etc. were projected by the people.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the demands raised by the people and delegations. Some of the issues were redressed on the spot, while others were forwarded to the concerned departments, with strict directions to resolve the same expeditiously and submit the action taken report for all issues flagged-off.

The DDC directed the officers of Irrigation to gear up their men and machinery for cleaning

the Tongri Nallah and other Nallahs at an earliest to facilitate the general masses.

Later, he inspected the Alamgunj Bridge and directed the concerned executing agencies for completion of the bridge within a stipulated time frame.

Earlier, accompanied by ADC, ACR, Xen. R&B, Tehsildar, BMO, EO, the DDC visited Aasar-i-Sharief/Pinjoora, Shopian and took stock of the arrangements in place for the auspicious day of Shabi-i-Meraj.

SDM, Zainapora, Mushtaq Ahmed; ACP, Manzoor Ahmad; Tehsildar, Hermain, ARTO, BDO, Hermain, District and Sectoral officers, besides, people in large numbers participated in the Block Diwas programme.

Deputy Director General ICAR inaugurates Farmers Training programme under ATMA at Kheral



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 7

A one day Training program under Agriculture Extension (ATMA) scheme was organised today at village Kheral Zone Dharan Reasi.

Deputy Director General ICAR, Dr. Udhham Singh Gautam presided over the event in presence of Administrative Officers of ICAR District Agriculture Officer Dharmari Rajesh Verma and Head KVK Dr Banarsi Lal besides DDM NABARD and farmers.

Dr Gautam, while interacting with the farmers, advised them to adopt the income generating activities in the agriculture sector to improve their economic status, with special focus on women farmers. He emphasised the need for more such training programs by the depart-

ment in collaboration with KVK and NABARD for uplift of farmers. The Deputy Director General also handed over the KCC card to an eligible farmer on the occasion.

District Agriculture Officer informed the farmers about the training program in which hands-on training was imparted to the participants on Dhingri Mushroom cultivation, Apiculture and natural farming.

Head KVK Reasi Dr Banarsi Lal, while welcoming the dignitaries from ICAR, elaborated about importance of value addition in agriculture products and entrepreneurship development in agriculture.

DDM NABARD, AEO Dharan Sanjay Sharma, Dhani Kumari from Duggar Dhani Kheral, Field staff and ATMs were also present.

MVD Reasi organises Medical cum Eye Checkup Camp

JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 7

The Motor Vehicle Department Reasi, in collaboration with the Health Department and Rotary Hospital Udhampur and Katra today organized a Medical cum Eye Checkup Camp at Fountain Chowk Katra. The initiative was a part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month campaign and aimed to ensure the safety and well-being of drivers, conductors, and the local public.

Joint Transport Commissioner, Vinay Samotra and RTO Jammu Pankaj Bagotra attended the camp where 600 drivers and conductors, alongside members



potentially compromise their ability to operate vehicles safely.

Every individual underwent thorough examinations, particularly focusing on their fitness to drive. Those found unfit received personalized guidance and recommendations for further medical attention, ensuring their health and safety on the roads.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railways, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India is inviting open Tender (Two packet System) for Development of GCT at Awantipora Railway Station with details as under:-

Station	Awantipora	Code	ATPA	Period of contract	35 years
EMD Required (in ₹)	₹ 4,34,95,700/-			Tender form cost (in ₹)	₹ 11,800/-
Pre-Bid Meeting/Conference	19.02.2024 at 15:30 hrs. in DRM Office Conference Room				

Bids will be received only on IREPS on 27.03.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. For further details, please visit Railway's Website ireps.gov.in.
No.: 3AC-GCT-ATPA-FZR-24 Dated : 07.02.2024 405/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Srinagar Terror Attack...

He said the representation of Kashmiri Pandit Community in J&K's Legislative Assembly is a major step towards the empowerment of the community.

"I urge the youth of Kashmiri Pandit community to avail limitless opportunities in diverse sectors and fulfill the goal of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

He said the State-of-the-Art sports facility to be developed as per FIFA Standards demonstrates the unwavering commitment and dedication of the UT Administration to promote sports in the Union Territory.

In this Financial Year, indoor stadium, outdoor gym and cricket stadium with all facilities will be developed at Jagti, while Rs 30 lakh has already been allocated for the creation of badminton and volleyball court facilities, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the efforts of the administration to develop the massive infrastructure that has brought sports revolution in J&K, post 2019.

We have completed 702 sports projects. Multipurpose indoor sports halls have been constructed in almost every district. Playfields have been developed in every panchayat, he observed.

International level sports facilities are being developed in Jammu and Srinagar. Centres of Excellence have been established in Canoeing, Rowing and Fencing in both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Floodlighting and synthetic turfing are being installed in several stadia, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to extend necessary assistance and handholding to the budding sports persons and enterprising youth in different sectors.

He said the financial assistance to the 1049 youth identified during the Special camp will be provided by the end of February this year.

He instructed the Relief Commissioner and concerned officials to facilitate more youth interested in self-employment ventures and ensure their inclusion among the already selected candidates for assistance.

The Lt Governor called upon the community members to take the lead in creating large employment opportunities for the local youth and assured them every support from the administration in their endeavours.

He further directed for organizing the second leg of the Special Grievance Camp for Kashmiri Migrants in the coming days.

The work on the approved Yatri Niwas will start soon which will further augment the facilities for the devotees during the Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela, the Lt Governor said.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services & Sports J&K; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K, Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; senior officials, prominent citizens, sportspersons and people in large number were presents.

Over 1000 complaints...

themselves from such frauds.

"We make use of social media and the press to make people aware of such frauds. People are being constantly informed not to share bank details, ATM pins and OTPs with anyone and to avoid clicking on suspicious links," they said.

Pertinently, a new study by an IIT Kanpur-incubated start-up revealed that financial frauds accounted for over 75 percent of cybercrimes in the country from January 2020 till June 2023, with nearly 50 percent cases related to UPI and internet banking.

Security situation in...

of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Nityanand Rai said that the security situation has shown a significant improvement since 2019. He stated that in 2019, the number of terrorist initiated incidents were 153 that came down to 126 in 2020, 129 in 2021 and 125 in 2022. "In 2023, only 46 such incidents were reported," the reply reads as per news agency.

He said that in 2019, 102 encounters and counter terror operations took place. "In 2020, 118 such incidents were reported followed by 100 in 2021 and 117 in 2022. In 2023, 48 such incidents were reported in J&K," the reply reads, adding that as far the civilians killed in terrorist related incidents, 44 were killed in 2019, 38 in 2020, 41 in 2021 and 31 in 2022. "In 2023, only 14 civilians were killed in such incidents," the reply states.

As far as the security personnel killed, 80 lost their lives in 2019, 63 in 2020, 42 in 2021, 32 in 2022 while only 30 were killed in 2023.

The reply reads that 157 terrorists were killed in 2019, 221 in 2020, 180 in 2021, 187 in 2022 and 73 in 2023.

J&K records investment...

Kharkhandar Scheme for Development of Craft Sector in J&K, 2021, Revised Education Scheme 2022 for Artisans/Weavers of Handicrafts and Handloom Department and Export Subsidy Scheme, 2021. The impact of the steps have enabled investment of Rs 296.64 in 2019-20, Rs 412.74 in 2020-21, Rs 376.76 in 2021-22, Rs 2153.45 in 2022-23 and Rs 2417.19 in 2023-24.

Rai further said that the investments in various sectors like tourism, processing etc. and infrastructure such as construction, roads, power etc. will boost the development of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

ED arrests Director...

on 31.01.2024 & 05.02.2024 at multiple locations spread over Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh including office/residential premises related to the present/past directors of M/s Bharat Papers Limited, M/s International Traders and M/s Choudhary Industrial Projects Pvt. Ltd which resulted in seizure of Indian Currency of more than Rs 34 lakhs, around 600 grams Gold and various incriminating documents in the form of property documents, hard disk, digital

device and digital evidence, the statement said, adding that further investigation is under progress.

Nearly 20,000 tourists...

range in Kashmir is renowned for its breathtaking snow-covered meadows and world-class skiing facilities.

With the recent snowfall transforming the destination into a picture-perfect landscape, visitors started classic winter activities here. The delighted tourists are seen immersing themselves in the magic of snow, with a few creating snowmen and engaging in cheerful snowball fights.

A top official in the tourism department, Gulmarg, sharing the data with the news agency said that the destination witnessed a staggering influx of 19,532 tourists within just six days following the end of the prolonged dry spell. This notable surge includes 15,086 domestic visitors, 4,290 locals, and 156 foreigners.

"The charming landscape of Gulmarg, adorned with a fresh blanket of snow after the extended dry spell, has proven to be a magnet for tourists seeking winter experiences and snow-related activities," he said.

Local businesses, including hotels, restaurants and adventure sports operators, are experiencing a boost in demand as visitors flock to explore the scenic beauty and engage in various winter sports offered in the region.

Speaking to KNO, Tariq Ahmed, Gulmarg Guide Association President, said the losses incurred during the dry spell are irreplaceable; however, the significant increase in tourist rush, coupled with a 20-30% surge in bookings brings a ray of hope to Gulmarg's tourism sector.

"With more tourists showing interest and bookings on the rise, we're hopeful and looking forward to better days ahead," he said.

Earlier, the association said the industry faced a substantial 60 percent decline in bookings during the period of dry spell.

Similarly, Zahoor Ahmed Wani, President of the All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) Association, said that with the recent snowfall, their businesses have seen a significant boost, experiencing a notable 25 percent increase. "We anticipate this positive trend to continue and we're optimistic that it may rise up to 50 percent by the 15th of this month," he said.

Wani said that during the dry spell in November, December and January, their businesses were struggling, with only a meagre 10 percent of the usual activity.

A tour operator based in Baramulla said, "The recent snowfall has reignited the interest of travellers and we are delighted to see a surge in reservations as visitors eagerly embrace the magical winter experiences Gulmarg has to offer."

Tufail Ahmed, another tour operator, said the recent snowfall has been a game-changer for them. "Travellers who hesitated due to the dry spell are now excitedly confirming their bookings. The winter wonderland is back in action," he said, adding that their cellphones are ringing off the hook with inquiries and rebookings.

Meanwhile, skiers, who eagerly awaited the transformation of the famous ski resort, expressed happiness and satisfaction as the recent snowfall covered Gulmarg's slopes in a pristine white blanket. The skiers from various parts of the country are eagerly waiting to carve through the freshly powdered terrain of the region.

"Gulmarg is back in action and so are we," a group of skiers, who were unable to contain their excitement, expressed their happiness.

According to Waseem Ahmed, a ski trainer, "Skiing down these slopes is not just a sport, but a deep connection with nature and right now, nature is at its most beautiful here. As skiers, we are thrilled to be back on these mountains, enjoying the pure delight of skiing in Gulmarg."

Farhat Naik, a snowboarding instructor said, "My bookings for December and January were unfortunately cancelled due to the dry spell; however, with the recent fresh snowfall in Gulmarg, there's been a significant increase in bookings. The transformation is truly remarkable, and I'm excited to welcome eager learners back to the slopes."

He said they have already lost at least 40 days to the dry spell, a period that can't be conquered or regained. "But we are ready to make the most of the remaining season and provide our learners with the best skiing experience," he said.

Amir Syed, another skier, said "The snowfall has not only covered the slopes but also our hearts with joy."

Similarly, a seasoned sledger, Abid Hussain said the snowfall after the dry spell is more than just a white carpet. "It is our lifeline as it brought a sense of relief and a promise of survival to us. For sledge owners like us, the snowfall is akin to a rebirth. It brings back the thrill of our businesses and infuses life into Gulmarg's winter economy," he said.

Before Article 370...

(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis Act, 1993 etc. have been extended to Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "The minister said that now, residents of J&K are enjoying rights which are available to citizens in other parts of the country.

NHRC postpones...

The Commission was scheduled to hear cases of human rights violations which were filed in the State Human Rights Commission before it was abolished by J&K government due to constitutional and legal changes effected by Union Government in 2019.

After abrogation of Article 370, the J&K government abolished the State Human Rights Commission as a follow-up to the legal changes effected by the Union Government through the J&K Reorganisation Act.

On March 18, 2020, the Government of India empowered the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to deal with all human rights concerns in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

AIJMS extends financial assistance to parents of Gharjeet Choudhary, assures full support for his medical treatment



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS), under the leadership of Ch Manmohan Singh, extended full support to the family members of Gharjeet Choudhary during the challenging time as their son battles for recovery after a tragic accident.

In this regard, a delegation of the Sabha headed by Ch Manmohan Singh, President AIJMS, J&K and former Mayor, today visited the residence of Gharjeet Choudhary in village Nandpur, Ramgarh, to offer assistance and express solidarity.

Pertinent to mention here that Gharjeet Choudhary has been on a ventilator and fighting for his life for the past 10 days in a hospital in Ludhiana.

Ch Manmohan Singh, along with other members of the delegation, met with family members of Gharjeet Choudhary to inquire about his well-being. Recognizing the financial strain faced by the family due to the extensive medical treatment required, Ch Manmohan Singh provided immediate assistance of

Rs 75000 which was contributed by the visiting members and pledged more support from the Jat Maha Sabha. Ch Manmohan Singh conveyed sympathizes and urged the parents of Gharjeet Choudhary to have faith on God during this difficult period. He emphasized the importance of community solidarity and appealed to members of the Jat community to join hands in supporting the Choudhary family.

"We stand with Gharjeet Choudhary and his family in this hour of crisis. Our priority is to ensure that they receive the necessary assistance and resources for the treatment and recovery of their son. The Jat Maha Sabha is committed to provide unwavering support to the Choudhary family, and we urge the community to rally together to offer assistance in any way possible," he added.

Ch Manmohan Singh reiterated the Sabha's commitment to stand by the Choudhary family until their son's full recovery and return home. He assured the parents of Gharjeet Choudhary that the Sabha would spare

no effort in securing the required resources and support for their son's treatment, adding that money doesn't matter to save the precious life of our community youth.

Ch Manmohan Singh emphasized that the Jat Maha Sabha will always stand with every single family of the Jat community and emphasized that no one will be allowed to die due to lack of financial resources while undergoing medical treatment.

Among those who contributed the finance assistance and visited the house of Gharjeet Choudhary include Col Shiv Choudhary, Avtar Krishan from Kathua, Sunil Choudhary (CA), Sardar Ranjeet Singh Goldi, Sarpanch Jagdish Bhatti, Vijay Choudhary (LIC), Ram Pal Choudhary (Gangyal), Rashpal Choudhary (Chak Slaria), Ex Sarpanch Prem Pal (Barota), Surinder Singh Bajwa, Bachan Singh Master, Kala Choudhary (Apna Vihar), Surjeet Choudhary (Nanak Nagar), Darshan Lal (Paloura), Kashmir Singh (Ramgarh), Satpal Choudhary (Kathua) and Darshan Lal (Kathua).

Jharkhand, Chandigarh episode - bad Omen for BJP: AAP



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

In a meeting, during door to door campaigning at Kamal Nagar, JMC, ward No. 63, in Jammu North Assembly Constituency, today on 07-02-2024, several joint AAP, in the presence of Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, State Organization Building & Manifesto drafting Committee Member AAP- J&KUT & Sr. AAP leader, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Khan, getting impressed with the magical & dramatic socio-welfare schemes launched in Delhi by AAP under dynamic leadership of its leader Arvind Kejriwal. Those who joined AAP include S/Sh. Nisar Khan, Sahabina Koser, Asiya Bano, Shada Begum & Yasmeena Bano. The new entrants have resolved to carry forward the agenda of AAP of Delhi governance to every poor household of Ward No. 63 & said that poor sections are fed up with the misrule and rising prices of all essential commodities, be it domestic LPG, Diesel, Petrol, sand, Bajri stones etc and the life of common man is being reduced to a situation like hell. Welcoming

to the new entrants into Party fold, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao & Mr. Khan said that the AAP is serious to give a clean tested alternative to the electorates in J&K UT to get rid of 75 years misrule of corruption, nepotism, casteism & divisive politics of religion & region. They further said that the only alternative before the people is 4-point magical Mantra of Delhi model (i) free electricity up to 200 units without any cut (ii) free potable water up to 20,000 litres per house hold (iii) quality Health service on door steps through Mohalla clinics & (iv) quality Education in government Institutions for Delhites besides Char Dham yatra free of cost to Senior citizens, free Metro & bus services to women irrespective of caste, creed & colour, in addition to several other social welfare schemes. The AAP leaders said that AAP has revolutionized & galvanized the lives of Delhites which can be done here also in J&K if AAP is brought to power. They further said that time has come now when every Indian is appreciative of Delhi Model of gover-

nance which, in the first instance, hammers a death blow to the virus of caste, creed & colour and instead ensures development of all sections of society. They further exhorted upon the new entrants that Delhi Model of governance is the only alternative before the people to salvage from the clutches of present dispensation as more troubles are at the thresh hold in the form of various taxes like Dog Tax, Cow & goat Tax, TV & scooter Tax etc.

The AAP leaders have appealed the general masses to rise above the politics of religion & region in the larger interest of poor people & integration of the country and see through the game of divisive politics as well as Divide & rule policy of ruling dispensation as also the previous Political Parties who ruled the country as well as J&K, who simply boast of "VIKAS" from the roof top but in fact, on ground, they are sowing the seeds of hatred, division in the society, leading & dragging the country to a situation of 1947 which is highly dangerous for the unity & integrity of the Nation.

Bhalla condemns targeted killing of Sikh worker from Amritsar by terrorists

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla has strongly condemned the killing of Sikh worker Amritpal Singh, a resident of Amritsar and injuries to another non-local worker identified as Rohit, aged 25 from Punjab by terrorists in the Habba Kadal area of Srinagar city on Wednesday. "I strongly condemn the barbaric killing of Sikh man by terrorists. A befitting reply should be given to the perpetrators of heinous crime on innocent people," Bhalla said. He termed the news shocking saying words of condemnation are not enough for this inhuman act of terror but I pray for the departed soul to rest in peace," he added.

Bhalla said Kashmiris are sick of death and destruction unleashed by radicals. They wish to live in peace and pick up peaceful life and ensure no more Kashmiris or non-locals are killed by terrorists. Kashmir calls for peace and sustainable inclusive development for the betterment of future generations. JKPCC Working President said, "I am deeply saddened to know about the barbaric killing of Amritpal Singh. The bereaved family has my deepest sympathies and unwavering support. Words of condemnation and condolence ring hollow as do the assurances of the government on safeguarding the lives of people. This killing yet again raises the troubling question on the security apparatus and the law and order situation in Kashmir."

"Any killing, especially a targeted killing, is a matter of grave concern and condemnable. We condemn it," Bhalla said. The former Minister said every targeted killing was condemnable, be that of a Kashmiri Pandit or a Muslim or a Sikh and whether the victim was from Kashmir or Jammu. I wonder what the killers want to achieve by shedding the blood of innocent civilians. Such acts of terror should be condemned in strongest possible terms by one and all. The perpetrators of this brutal crime must be nabbed and brought to book, added Bhalla."

ADGP Jammu adheres new rank to newly promoted Head Constable

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Jammu Shri. Anand Jain, IPS decorated newly promoted Head Constables Ravinder Kumar PID No.ARP035820 by pinning new rank on his promotion in a simple function held at ZPHQ Jammu this morning.

The HC who was decorated is presently posted with ADGP Jammu Zone.

ADGP Jammu while felicitating the HC urged him to work with zeal and zest to make the department proud. He expressed his hope that the promotion would bring a new spirit of public service among the officials.

The other Police officers who were present on the occasion are Shri. Vishal Manhas, JKPS S.O to IGP Jammu and other officers.

Weekly Block Diwas: Back 2 School Awareness Camps

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 7

The second phase of the Back to School initiative for the Out of School Students (OoS) was launched today across several blocks of Kishtwar District amid Awareness Camps. The day also marked the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme meetings under the aegis of Weekly Block Diwas programme.

In a significant event, a mega awareness camp for OoSs took the center stage at the Block Diwas programme presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav at Government Middle School Rahalthal of Block Mughal-maidan. The parents, ST Community members and prominent personalities of adjoining areas participated.

Key district and sectoral officers, including SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ul Rehman Mughal, ACD Phulail Singh, Chief Education Officer Prahlad Bhagat, Chief Agriculture Officer Amjad Hussain Malik, Tehsildar Mughal Maidan Parveez Bhat, Nodal Officer Ayush, BMO Chatroo Dr Saima Ago, BDO Dheeraj Bahadur, Ex-En.Jal Shakti, along with other field functionaries of line departments, parents, and prominent persons of the ST dominated areas attended the OoS camps.

At the outset, the CEO apprised that a total of 200 ST Out of School Children, aged 6-14 years, have been identified for enrollment in the second phase of the Back To School initiative in the district.

Notably, 60 OoSs are from Block Mughal Maidan, posing a challenging task to integrate them into the mainstream education system. He appealed to parents to encourage their wards to re-enroll in the Schools for which 18 winter camps have been established across the Block.

The DC, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the aim of Back to School 2.0, emphasizing the saturation of OoS with mainstream education. He urged prominent persons and parents to encourage their wards to come back to school, underlining the importance of education in one's life. He stressed that this phase has been launched to ensure no ST OOSC is left out of the education.

The DC assured that these students would receive full support from Administration ranging from the financial to moral support after re-enrolling in the schools. He also stressed the need for additional special centers in dhoks for ST (Migratory) families to ensure their children can continue their studies without



encumbrance.

He highlighted the role of parents, community leaders and teachers besides other concerned field officials to make this endeavour a success.

The DC encouraged School Management Committees (SMC) to lead community-driven initiatives under the My School My Pride program, fostering a student-friendly educational environment through activities such as BaLA painting and establishing kitchen gardens in schools.

Meanwhile, the local delegation also emphasized the importance of

the Back to School initiative for the upliftment of the ST population in the region. The delegation also highlighted their concerns regarding the upgrading of local infrastructure in their respective areas.

After attentively listening to the grievances, the Deputy Commissioner addressed them, providing a series of directives to ensure the swift resolution of these issues. DC Kishtwar appealed to the community for cooperation to expedite developmental works in the area.

In response to the demand from the Self-Help Group (SHG) members,

SDM Chatroo was instructed to facilitate the training of a women's tailors group under PM Vishwakarma at Mughal Maidan. Additionally, locals were requested to provide accommodation space for the Ayush Centre in the area.

ACD received instructions to assess the feasibility of establishing a Rural Haat at TRC Mughal Maidan, and community members were urged to provide ground space for the development of a turf cricket pitch.

The Block Development Officer (BDO) was tasked with monitoring the performance of sanitary work-

ers in the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Simultaneously, Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Amjad Hussain Malik, provided detailed awareness on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). DC Kishtwar stressed the need for CSC centers to widely promote awareness aligned with the registration of farmers on the HADP schemes, urging progressive farmers to take advantage.

In the presence of SDM Chatroo, ACD Kishtwar, CAO Kishtwar, and AEA, DC Kishtwar distributed implements and seeds under organic clusters Rahalthal under the HADP schemes. Ayush medicines and immunity boosters were also distributed among the masses in the camp.

Later, DC along with other district and sectoral officers inspected H&WC Drubeel, taking stock of its functioning.

Similarly Additional District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Ghulam Rasool and Tehsildar Bounjwah Tejinder Singh presided over the OOSC camp at Karool of Brabshalla Block and Patnazi of Block Bounjwah respectively and revealed the encouragement and motivation to the parents and community under Back to School initiative.

DC Budgam reviews Revenue related matters



JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 7

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired Revenue related meeting to review functioning of the Revenue services in all Tehsils at Conference Hall, Budgam.

At the outset, the DC instructed the concerned to clear pendency under various heads and prompt service delivery to the general public at all Revenue offices across the district.

He stressed on proper record room streamlining, file indexing and prompt case disposals at Revenue offices for convenience of the general public.

He instructed all Tehsildars to conduct Revenue facilitation camps at each Patwar Halqa for better Revenue services to the people at their doorsteps.

Instructions were given to ACR Budgam and concerned SDMs to conduct random checks to assess rejected and reverted

cases under Public Services Guarantee Act in their respective areas.

Acquiring fireproof lockers, racks and other necessary infrastructure for safe custody of records was also discussed during the meeting.

Earlier, the DC also reviewed the status of disposal of land acquisition related cases, fencing of State land, disposal of cases on Revenue Court Cases Management Portal, action taken on RDA cases, land issues relating to infrastructure projects, disposal of inheritance mutations, maintenance of stock registry and other related file records at Revenue offices.

The DC also instructed concerned Revenue officials to check availability of assured minimum facility at designated draft polling stations in all Tehsils.

The meeting was attended by ACR Budgam, SDMs, concerned Tehsildars, Dy.DEO and concerned Revenue officials.

>> Weekly Block Diwas

DC Rajouri addresses public issues at Panchayat Loorkote in Block Doongi

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 7

As part of the weekly Block Diwas initiative, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today chaired a public outreach camp at Loorkote Panchayat of block Doongi to redress the people's issues at their doorsteps.

During the event, a wide range of concerns were raised by the local residents seeking renovation of roads, staffing and upgrading of government institutions, augmentation of water supply, healthcare infrastructure and the construction of motorable bridges.

The specific demands highlighted included sanctioning of community hall, 63 KV Transformer, inclusion of eligible beneficiaries under PMAY-G, Health Subcentre at Loorkote, augmentation of water supply, forest clearance issues, bridge at Kalidav, construction of road from main road to GDC Doongi, provision of electricity poles, speedy implementation of JJM schemes, adequate staff in educational institutions, handpump at GHS Kallar, construction of road to GHS Kallar, construction of road for Antee Mata Mandir etc.

The event also provided an opportunity to the government officers to inform the public about various schemes and programs being implemented by their respective departments. Attendees were encouraged to take advantage of these initiatives for their own betterment.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all their concerns have been meticulously documented and the same would be addressed through the intervention of the respective departments in a phased and



time-bound manner.

In a spirit of collaboration, the Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat also acknowledged the invaluable contribution of all stakeholders who have played a vital role in achieving the objectives of government initiatives. He fervently encouraged them to persist in their hard work for the greater good of the common masses.

During the public outreach camp, the Deputy Commissioner assured that the paramount focus of the Government is ensuring all essential facilities reach the doorstep of the general public. He assured attendees that the most robust measures are actively being pursued to achieve this ambitious goal. The Deputy Commissioner also issued on the spot directives to the concerned departments to prioritize and resolve the issues flagged by the public. Remarkably, several issues found resolution right there with the prompt intervention of the dedicated departments.

Referring to a number of Government schemes, he urged the public to avail themselves of the benefits of these schemes meant for their welfare. Regarding the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, he

assured that the district administration is working tirelessly to ensure the speedy implementation of the schemes in order to provide tapped water connection to all the rural households of the district.

In a proactive move to uphold the integrity of the electoral process, the Deputy Commissioner appealed to all the eligible persons to get themselves enrolled as voters.

Highlighting the pivotal role of the sports activities to curb the menace of drug abuse, he advised the youth to take part in sports activities. He earnestly appealed to the public, emphasizing the importance of their support in collaboration with the administration to effectively combat the pervasive issue of drug abuse within the district.

Regarding the ongoing developmental projects, the DC took a hands-on approach, directing officers to expedite progress and ensure timely completion. Recognizing the pivotal role these projects play in the growth of the region, he stressed the significance of efficient execution to bring tangible improvements to the community.

Regarding the bridge at Kalidav, the DC directed the concerned officer from the PWD (R&B) to prepare the DPR for the

same at the earliest. Responding to the issue of the shortage of electricity poles, the EXEN PDD informed that an adequate number of poles have been sanctioned for block Doongi.

He earnestly appealed to the public, emphasizing the importance of their support in collaboration with the administration to effectively combat the pervasive issue of drug abuse within the district. He informed the public about the array of online services offered by the government, encouraging them to leverage these digital resources for their benefit.

At the Block Diwas event, the Deputy Commissioner issued a pivotal directive for seamless collaboration among the concerned departments. Emphasizing the imperative of swift resolution, the Deputy Commissioner called for a united effort to eliminate bottlenecks hindering the timely execution of developmental projects.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also distributed baby care kits among the mothers of the newborn babies as a mark of respect and awareness under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

Among others, CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik; ACD Vijay Kumar; ACP Sheraz Chowhan; DSWO, Abdul Rahim; LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin; EXEN Jal Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma; EXEN REW, Zahir Khan; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohammad Rashid; EXEN PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan; BDO Doongi, Mohd Nawaz besides other district and sectoral officers attended the public outreach camp.

SARAS Aajeevika Returns to Jammu: A Celebration of Art, Craft, & Culture

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

The much-awaited second edition of the SARAS Aajeevika 2.0 is all set to enliven Jammu at the vibrant Aquaplex crown, Bagh-e-Bahu commencing from February 10th, 2024.

Organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) under the aegis of the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, this Tenda extravaganza promises to be a celebration of art, craft, culture, and cuisine, resonating with the essence of 'vocal for local'.

Showcasing the rich tapestry of Pan India, the event aims to provide a platform for rural self-help group women artisans

of DAY-NRLM to display their unique talents and products.

Visitors to the SARAS Aajeevika Mela can expect a diverse range of beautifully crafted handloom and handicraft products, including textiles, pottery, woodwork, metalwork, paintings, and more. The mela will also feature traditional music and dance performances, adding to the vibrant ambiance and celebrating the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Giving details Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib said that the, SARAS Aajeevika provides a platform for rural women to display their goods and create a market for them to sell their products directly to customers. It also allows

them to understand customer preferences and choices, enhance and reinvent their products, and sharpen their marketing abilities.

The Mela features handicrafts, handlooms, and natural food products from diverse rural regions of India. The event is solely managed by rural women, and everything displayed is made by them and will be sold only by them. The venue is equipped with essential facilities, including drinking water, toilets, security, and medical services. Stringent fire safety protocols have been implemented, and first-aid kiosks along with 24x7 ambulance services will be readily available, she maintained.

Apart from the exhibition and sale of prod-

ucts, the SARAS Aajeevika jammu will feature various cultural programs and activities to engage and entertain visitors and measures such as avoiding plastic use and promoting sustainable practices like cloth bags and paper packaging will be encouraged during the mela. Waste management systems will be put in place to ensure cleanliness and hygiene, she said.

She further informed that entry to the fair will be free, and it will be open daily from 10 am to 8:00pm, offering visitors the opportunity to explore around 60 stalls displaying a variety of art and craft. Additionally, a workshop will be organized for women of self-help groups to enhance their marketing skills.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin 2.0: Chairperson DDC Kishtwar flags off Hooper Tippers under 14th FC

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 7

Chairperson District Development Council, Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur, today flagged off three Hooper Tippers under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin 2.0. The Machines have been purchased under the 14th Finance Commission Savings. Among prominent persons present in the program included ACP Zakir Hussain Wani, DPO, Tariq Suharwardhy, BDO Sumit Singh, BDO Trigam, BDO Thakraie, AE Mechanical Division Kishtwar Umar Mushtaq, and staff from the RDD Department.

It's noteworthy that District Kishtwar has procured a total of 08 Hooper Tippers, all of which have been allocated to the 13 blocks of the district.

The DDC Chairperson



highlighted the importance of the vehicles and appealed to the general public to make optimum use of these hopper tippers. She also urged the public to make it a habit to pay user charges to

the department so that the areas are cleaned on a regular basis.

Besides, the public has been requested to make segregation of Dry and Wet Waste at source a habit to help sanitary

workers clean the area on a daily basis.

The hopper tippers are equipped with features like Public Address Systems, Rear Camera and GPS for Real-Time Tracking.

EDITORIAL

Under-trial prisoners in J&K

There is no denying in fact that the prisons in Jammu and Kashmir are plagued with the problem of overcrowding due to the slow judicial process and bureaucratic red tape. The recent statistics coming through an official document tabled in Lok Sabha revealed that over 2,000 under-trials are languishing in different jails across the Union Territory for the last more than one year, which comes to nearly 39 percent of total prisoners lodged in J&K. More than 250 under-trials have been lodged in jails for the last more than five years, while as many as 480 under-trials are in detention for the period ranging between 3 years to 5 years. A total of 543 under-trials are still languishing in jails for more than two years and less than three years. There are at least 823 under-trials who have been languishing in jails for the last more than one year. The statistics are compiled based on the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for the year 2022. The number of under-trials languishing in jails for a period ranging between more than one year and more than five years is just nine. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Section 436A) states that under-trials must be released if they have served half the maximum period of imprisonment that their offence warrants [unless their crimes attract a death sentence]. The burgeoning number of under-trials is also overcrowding prisons in Jammu and Kashmir. Over the initiatives taken by the authorities to address the issue of under-trial prisoners, the MHA said the Government of India inserted Section 436A in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) which provides for the release of an under-trial prisoner on bail on undergoing detention for a period extending up to one half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for an offence under any law. The E-prisons Software, which is a Prison Management Application integrated with Interoperable Criminal Justice System provides a facility to State Jail authorities to access the data of inmates quickly and efficiently and helps them identify the inmates whose cases are due for consideration by the Under Trial Review Committee, etc. the NCRB report has revealed that the prisons in Jammu and Kashmir are overcrowded as over 5,400 inmates have been lodged against the cumulative capacity of 3,629 inmates in 14 jails across the Union Territory. There are 14 prisons, including two central jails, 10 district jails, a sub-jail, and a special jail in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The total available capacity of two central jails is 1,411 inmates while 10 districts can accommodate only 2,096 prisoners. The available capacity of sub-jail and special jail (Correctional Home) is 26 and 96 inmates respectively. Out of the total 5,314 prisoners, including those lodged in 14 jails of the Union Territory, over 4,587 are under-trials, while the number of convicts stood at just 180. There are just 546 detainees in these prisons. The UT prison department's data till July last year showed that there were 1360 unemployed youth, who have been languishing in jails for various offences, among the total 5,489 inmates, while the number of prisoners, who were self-employed (business), lodged in different jails is 1165. There are 227 government employees lodged in different jails, while the number of prisoners having agricultural backgrounds in jails was 1195. Due to the slow judicial process and slackness at the bureaucratic level, many under-trials—who have been detained for petty crimes—often serve a longer jail term than they would have if they had been convicted. Barring a few jails, most jails are overcrowded as the number of prisoners exceeds the intake capacity. The need of the hour is to ensure that the under-trials detained for petty crimes should be kept in prison for a long period.

GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

Despite rising to become the world's fifth-largest economy from 12th position in the last 15 years (2008-23), with the second-highest growth rate recorded during the period among all peers, India's economy has remained stuck at the lowest investment grade, albeit with a stable outlook, assigned by the international credit rating agencies (CRAs) - that is, BBB- by Fitch and S&P, and Baa3 by Moody's. While an investment grade implies that low default risk on loan repayment, a lower rating, called a "speculative grade" signifies a high risk of default. The remarkable economic rise of India and its growing international heft have made no difference to the CRAs. As the first essay in a recently released collection titled "Re-examining Narratives: A Collection of Essays" by the Office of the Chief Economic Advisor stresses, CRAs need to reform their sovereign rating process to correctly reflect the default risk of developing economies, thereby saving them billions of dollars in funding costs crucial for development.

CRAs predate the Bretton Wood institutions of the World Bank and the IMF; they analyse the creditworthiness of governments and assign them "sovereign ratings" which provide indicators to investors around the world about the "ability" and "willingness" of governments to repay debts. These, in turn, determine their ability to borrow

from global lenders and the corresponding interest rates. A good rating makes borrowing cheap and also attracts foreign investments. Sovereign credit ratings measure not only the overall economic conditions of a country, including the volume of its foreign, public and private debt and investment, transparency of the capital market and forex reserves but also assess the overall political stability and the economic stability a country will maintain during political transitions. These are subjective assessments and the methodologies used by CRAs are opaque, to say the least.

CRAs are like sundry Western agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, some of them with questionable credibility and capacity, who take it upon themselves the task of ranking countries on issues ranging from democracy, governance, corruption, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, gender parity, human rights, openness of governments, etc., using samples which are often too small, or opinions of "expert" whose selection processes remain couched in complete opacity. They use processes that lack objectivity, methodologies that lack transparency and ignore the historical and civilisational characteristics of nations; neither do they consult them about the fairness of their processes. It is cultural colonialism that through these agencies, a decaying West is now trying to impose Western concepts, Western values and Western

views upon developing nations whom the West still looks down upon and refuses to treat as equal - it is a 'superior' West grading unruly developing nations on its own scales.

If it was just that, there would be inconsequential, but the problem arises because international financial institutions often base their decisions upon these rankings and there are unfair international comparisons on such rankings which are often dubious - to call them 'unscientific' would be mild. Things started changing with the rise of China and India. China now treats them with utter contempt despite their loud protestations about its authoritarian system. Now Indians have also started questioning their methods - exposing their weaknesses, contradictions and hypocrisies, and other nations will also join sooner or later. The world today is multipolar and consensus-driven, and must accommodate multiple narratives instead of only Western.

The global credit rating industry is an oligopoly, with only three leading agencies: Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch who rate the countries on "investment grades" from BBB-/Baa3 to AAA/Aaa, or "speculative grades" from BB+/Baa1 to D/C. Typically, to rate a sovereign, CRAs use various parameters that include growth, inflation, government debt, short-term external debt and political stability. Qualitative components contribute significantly to determining credit ratings, and as the CEA Report

states, "Institutional Quality, proxied mostly by the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGIs), emerges as the foremost determinant of a developing economy's credit rating, which presents a problem since these metrics tend to be non-transparent, perception-based, and derived from a small group of experts, and cannot represent the willingness to pay of the sovereign".

CRAs came under scrutiny and regulatory pressure following the financial crisis and the Great Recession of 2007-09. It was argued that they provided inaccurate positive ratings to mortgage-backed securities giving them the highest AAA ratings, leading to huge quantities of bad investments. They were accused of trying to raise their profits and market shares in exchange for these inaccurate ratings, which triggered the sub-prime mortgage market collapse that precipitated the financial crisis.

In the USA, the Credit Rating Agency Reform Act of 2006 allowed the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to regulate their internal processes, record-keeping, and business practices; post-2008, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 enhanced the regulatory powers of SEC further, forcing them to disclose their credit rating methodologies. Others have also brought them under some regulation, like the European Securities and Markets Authority or SEBI in India.

Disclosure of methodologies has not led to improvement either in transparency or objectivity. For example, in the Sovereign Rating Model (SRM) used by Fitch, the factors include quantitative SRM indicators and subjective Qualitative Overlay (QO) indicators. SRM indicators include (1) Structural Features that cover composite governance indicators, GDP per capita, share in world GDP, years since last default or restructuring and broad money supply; together, they carry 53.5 per cent weightage; (2) Macroeconomic Performance, Policies and Prospects which include indicators like real GDP growth and its volatility and consumer price inflation, with a total weightage of 10.1 per cent; (3) Public Finance indicators like gross government debt, foreign-currency government debt, general government interest and general government fiscal balance, with a total weightage of 18.5 per cent and (4) External Finance indicators like reserve-currency flexibility, sovereign net foreign assets, commodity dependence, forex, external interest service, current account balance and FDI, with 17.9 per cent total weightage.

But these weights again are only "illustrative", as the agency says, adding another layer of opacity to methodology. While the composite governance indicator is based on WGIs which are not free from methodological contradictions, the QO factors are qualitative and depend on the CRA's perceptions of

the country; these include indicators like political stability and capacity, financial sector risks, macroeconomic policy credibility and flexibility, GDP growth outlook for five years, macroeconomic stability, fiscal financing flexibility, public debt sustainability and fiscal structure. The methodology is silent about the weightage given to the qualitative factors in the final rating. Even the WGIs use a host of other indices on global competitiveness, freedom, rule of law, corruption, quality of regulation, etc. produced by sundry agencies which again are perception-based.

Moody's combines two quantitative pillars - Economic Strength and Fiscal strength with two qualitative pillars, Institutional & Governance Strength (I&GS) and Susceptibility to Event Risk- to arrive at the final scorecard, but adjusts each by a subjective qualitative score; here also WGIs have a 40 per cent weightage in I&GS. S&P combines the "Flexibility and Performance Profile" with the "Institutional and Economic Profile" to determine an "indicative rating level", and weights on these are neither fixed nor uniform. These subjective assessments determine the cost of borrowing for countries, hurting developing nations the most.

(The author, a former Director General from the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, is currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management)

Eat sattvic food for a healthy mind & body

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

It is said; "As is the food, so is the mind; As is the mind, so are the thoughts; As are the thoughts, so is the conduct; As is the conduct, so is the health". Food has a direct and intimate connection with the mind and plays a vital part in the makeup of the mind. Most of us eat food in order to derive energy, however, it would be surprising to know that of all the species, man is the only living being who dislikes raw food found in its natural state. As compared to animals who eat things as they are, man boils, fries, melts, mixes and adopts various methods of cooking in order to satisfy the cravings of the tongue, the eye and the nose. As a consequence, the food value of these articles is either reduced or destroyed.

Indian scriptures categorise food into three types namely saatvik, rajasic and tamasic.

As per Chandogya Upanishad, when the food is pure, the whole nature becomes pure; when the nature becomes pure, the memory becomes firm; and when a man is in possession of a firm memory, all the ties are severed. Similarly, Bhagavad Gita says that foods that are too bitter, sour, salty, pungent, dry, and hot can lead to pain, distress, and disease of the body. Further, it says that foods cooked more than three hours before being eaten, foods that are tasteless, stale, putrid, decomposed and unclean should be avoided by those who seek excellent physical and mental health. Hence purity of food is most important if men were to live a life filled with peace & happiness. Sattvic food calms the mind whereas

rajasic food excites the mind which creates worry within us which in turn causes hurry and both of these together bring about ill health. That is why it is said that today worry, hurry and curry are the root causes of man's ailments.

Most of us are not aware of the fact that the mind is made out of the subtle essence of food. So primarily it is the intention with which the food is procured, cooked or served that matters the most. Non-vegetarian food, for instance, is not fit for human consumption not just for physical or environmental reasons but basically because it is procured using inhuman violent means, making it a complete 'no no' for good health. We must also understand that the quality of thoughts that originate in the mind while food is being consumed drastically affects its

quality. A very visible example of this is "Prasad" which is prepared in the remembrance of the Almighty and loaded with good intentions and which is consumed as pure food by devotees. Similarly, home-cooked food that contains a mother's love and concern for her family is far more nutritious and fulfilling than food that is commercially produced or sold in restaurants with the aim of earning money.

Ask those who are forced to eat outside every day. In other words, if the intention of the cook is any other but to nourish the consumer with good health and love, the food meets half the hunger. Remember! food can always be made nutritious with the power of positive thought. The most nutritious form of food is the one that is prepared with fresh vegetarian ingredients, cooked in the Almighty's remem-

brance and served with love to someone who receives it with the same respect and benevolence and consumes it in peace. However, it is not as simplistic as saying that all vegetarians have better moral or physical strength than non-vegetarians.

This is because the mind is more powerful than matter or food. And so if the quality of thoughts that is the subtle food of the mind that's consumed or created by a person each second is not elevated despite the intake of sattvic food, it would not be possible to bring out a strong, morally upright character. Therefore as the food for the body must be saatvik, food for thought must also be pure and elevated for a truly healthy being.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Modi government must allay fears of locals in Ladakh

AURANGZEB NAQSHBANDI

The fear of losing jobs and land to outsiders has prompted the people of the Union Territory of Ladakh to hit the streets and seek protection under the Constitution of India.

As a show of strength, on February 3, hundreds of people took out a protest rally in Leh while a complete shutdown was observed in Kargil, the two districts of the Union Territory that was established on October 31, 2019, after being separated from Jammu and Kashmir.

The movement has gathered pace given the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

After the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Union government repealed the special status accorded to J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019, Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, by which the state was downgraded and divided into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The people of Ladakh had then hoped that the abrogation of Article 370 would end the discrimination against the region, and usher in an era of development. The enthusiasm soon waned, and the locals now fear that the outsiders are eyeing their land and resources. Many feel that they were better off as being a part of erstwhile J&K given that they had protection in terms of land and jobs. The changed domicile policy in J&K also resulted in apprehensions of possible demographic changes in Ladakh.

This led to the demand for bringing Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard land, employment, and cultural identity of the region. Over 97 per cent of the population of Ladakh is tribal.

The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 safeguards provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions - Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) - that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.

Till now, the Sixth Schedule applies to the Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.

The locals have now gone beyond seeking constitutional guarantees under the Sixth Schedule, and are also demanding full statehood for Ladakh, job reservation, land protection, a separate Public Service Commission (PSC) and two Lok Sabha constituencies - Leh and Kargil.

Political reactions

As the politics of the region is currently dominated by these issues, no political party will dare to go against the wind. All of them have joined hands in both the Buddhist-dominated Leh district and the Muslim (Shia)-majority district of Kargil.

The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and the Leh Apex Body (LAB), two amalgam organisations representing various political, social, religious, and student outfits in Kargil and Leh, have struck an alliance. Both had given a joint call

for the February 3rd protests in support of their demands.

The protests and the protesters demands will put the BJP on a backfoot. Ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the party had promised to implement the Sixth Schedule, helping its leader Jamyang Tsering Namgyal to win the Ladakh seat. However, the Union government now insists that the Sixth Schedule is for the northeastern states, and for India's other tribal areas, there is the Fifth Schedule.

The locals have threatened that if their demands are not met before the elections, they will give a befitting reply to the BJP and its sitting Lok Sabha member.

In January 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-powered committee headed by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai to ensure the protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh.

The panel was also supposed to discuss measures to protect the region's unique cul-

ture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance. Deliberating on steps for inclusive development and employment generation in the region and issues related to the empowerment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil were also on its agenda.

Just one meeting has been held so far (December 4) since its formation, and nothing much has happened on the ground. The second meeting of this committee will now be held in Delhi on February 19.

Going by the intensity of agitation and the general mood, the Centre will have to move fast in allaying the fears of the people of Ladakh, and, thus, prevent any escalation of protests in the arid desert region bordering two hostile neighbouring countries: China and Pakistan.

(Aurangzeb Naqshbandi is a senior journalist who has been covering the Congress for 15 years, and is currently associated with Pixstory.)

ACD chairs review meeting of RDD works in Block Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 7

Assistant Commissioner Development Kishtwar, Phulail Singh presided over a pivotal review meeting today at the Block Development Office Kishtwar. The session brought together key stakeholders including Block Development Officer Kishtwar, Sumit Singh, dealing assistants, Panchayat secretaries and GRSS.

At the outset, BDO Kishtwar and officials welcomed ACD Kishtwar, thereafter the meeting delved into a thorough evaluation of progress under various developmental initiatives, including District Capex Budget, CD & Pyt, MGNREGA, PMAY, Construction of Panchayat Ghars, and other pertinent activities.

During the review of MGNREGA and PMAY-G advancements at the block level, ACD emphasized timely payments, quality checks, aadhar seeding, shelf of works, digitization of MGNREGA Plans, Geo tagging of assets, transaction reconciliation, and NREGA Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS).

BDO Kishtwar, Sumeet Singh, received directives



to ensure adherence to these parameters.

The ACD further directed BDO, field functionaries, and Panchayats Secretaries to meet the set deadlines for achieving their targets, emphasizing the importance of completion within the stipulated timeframes.

In regard to the progress of District Capex Budget and CD & Pyt, the engineering staff received directives to conclude the billing process for all ongoing projects in the district within a week. Emphasis was placed on processing bills for all works, ensuring

100% physical and financial progress by the end of FY 2023-24.

Reviewing the construction of essential infrastructure such as Panchayat Ghars, Community Soakage pits, Segregation sheds, IHHL, Aspirational Panchayat Portal, ACD urged BDO Kishtwar to meet targets and maximize community benefits.

ACD underscored the need for a synchronized and target-driven approach among all field functionaries, emphasizing the collective responsibility to ensure successful project completion.

DC Bandipora chairs weekly DLIC Meeting of HADP; approves 453 Cases

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 7

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shaheel Ul Rehman Rather chaired a weekly DLIC meeting to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) in the district.

During the meeting, 353 cases of the Agriculture Department, 67 cases of Animal Husbandry department and 03 cases of the Horticulture Department came up for consideration, and after threadbare discussions, all the cases were approved by the committee. The DC took stock of the progress made under HADP since its launch, meticulously examining advancements in key areas like seed distribution, soil health testing, irrigation infrastructure development, micro-



irrigation projects, farm mechanization, farmer training programs and market linkages.

He emphasized the importance of close coordination between various departments involved in HADP, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and farmer representatives.

The DC said that effective collaboration is vital for ensuring proper plan-

ning, execution, and monitoring of HADP activities. He underscored the need for increased focus on capacity building initiatives, empowering farmers with knowledge and skills to embrace innovative practices and adapt to changing agricultural landscapes.

The meeting was attended by District Heads of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, LDM Bandipora and other field officers.

Block Diwas: ADDC presides over grievances redressal camp at Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 7

The District Administration Kulgam today organized Mega Block Diwas in three blocks of the district including Devsar, Kulgam and D. H. Pora to take appraisal of the public issues, grievances and demands.

On the occasion, Officers and officials from line departments listened to issues, grievances and demands of the public for timely redressal at all the three venues.

To take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat

Ahmad Rather presided over an outreach programme at block Kulgam and listened to grievances and issues of people for redressal.

People from Nowpora Kharpora, Gasren, Behibagh, Hanjin, Ashthal, Chawalgam and other villages participated in this grievances redressal camp. They apprised the officers about their issues and grievances and also projected development demands and requirements of their areas including augmentation of LT Power Networks, Construction of Hanjin Behibagh road, Desilting of Irrigation canals, installation of transformer at Gasren and other

demands. Officers and officials present responded to the grievances of the people, and some of the grievances of immediate nature were redressed on the spot. Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC urged people to make judicious use of electricity and also instructed KPDC authorities to ensure power supply as per schedule in all areas of the district.

Earlier, a brief of action taken on grievances of previous block diwas was presented by ACD.

ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACD Mohammad Imran, ACP Sharjeel Ali, ACR Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz and other district and sectoral officers were also present.

Contingent of Kishtwar students conclude educational visit to IIT Kanpur

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 7

Students from District Kishtwar, who recently concluded an educational visit to IIT Kanpur organized by SAMAGRA Shiksha Jammu, engaged in an interactive meeting with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, here in his Office Chamber.

Accompanied by CEO Kishtwar, Prahlad Bhagat, ACD Kishtwar, Phulail Singh and escort teachers Syed Imtiaz Ahmed (Teacher HS Sigdi Bhata) and Mir Novreena Kousar (Teacher GMS Bhata), who served as mentors throughout the visit, the students shared their insights and experiences from the tour.

DC extended heartfelt congratulations on the successful culmination of the educational tour. The interactive session allowed students to express their learnings and impres-



sions from their visit to IIT Kanpur.

During the meeting, DC Kishtwar discussed the students' brighter future prospects and explored various career avenues. He also shed light on the

initiatives undertaken by the District Administration, in collaboration with the Education Department and other stakeholders, related to career counseling and special workshops.

DC conducts tour of Rajouri town

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 7

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today conducted a tour of the town and inspected the progress of work on developmental projects. He also visited different areas to identify a suitable site for the multistorey parking project. He conducted an extensive tour of different sites and asked the con-



cerned officer from PWD (R&B) to prepare the DPR for the parking facility at the earliest. Meanwhile, the DC visited the Vedanta Ashram Bridge and asked the concerned officer to amicably resolve the issue

impeding the construction of the bridge.

While inspecting the progress on the circular road, he asked the concerned to expedite the progress and ensure that the project is completed at the earliest. Among the others, SE Hydraulics, Devi Dayal, Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma; EXEN PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan EO MC Rajouri; JEE, Anshul Garg were present.

Principal Secretary reviews JKAACL's functioning

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today convened a meeting to take stock of activities of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) being carried out for promotion of art and local culture in the region especially among youth.

While addressing the meeting, the Principal Secretary emphasized upon framing of year long calendar of activities to be carried out by the Academy in different parts of the UT. He also advised for creating a well designed coffee table book depicting different works regarding preservation and promotion of our culture, languages and different art forms of J&K.

Gupta asked the Academy to engage youth of the UT in their activities so that they get acquainted with rich art and cultural treasures of the region. He enjoined upon them

to provide much requisite platforms to the young generation for chiseling and fine-tuning of their art forms in a total professional manner. In this regard, he called for holding workshops, exhibitions and talent-hunt shows on regular basis.

He said that the art forms like music, dance, poetry, drama and painting are stress busters, the need of which is felt by all during these times. He asked for providing people the art of their choice so that they relish it to add colour to their lives. He also advised for creating awareness among public about the rich and diverse art, culture and languages of different regions of J&K found from Kathua to Kupwara. He directed for adding 'Cultural Vibrancy' to the overall ambience of J&K which is abundantly blessed with unique cultural legacy. He called for dissemination of information through circulation of short videos, brochures



and leaflets among public so that they can associate themselves with the Academy for showcasing their talent.

On the occasion, Gupta asked for better upkeep of the valuable assets like Tagore Hall and Abhinav Theatre here. He also directed for pulling up further the men and machinery for completing the work on Sufiyana School at Srinagar and Cultural Centre at Kathua. He directed for roping in and

duly recognizing those artists from J&K whose contribution has been applauded at national level.

On the occasion, Secretary, JKAACL, Bharat Singh, informed the Principal Secretary about different works and projects taken up by the Academy across the UT. He informed him that the society has conducted around 419 activities across different districts of the UT in this financial year till January, 2024. He said that the

Academy has constituted different bodies including the General Council, Central Committee and Finance Committee for smooth running of its affairs.

It was also informed that JKAACL is mandated to promote and develop Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Pahari and Gojri languages besides English and Punjabi.

Regarding the literary works of the Academy, it was informed that the major publications issued by it included Sheraza, bimonthly in Hindi, Dogri, Punjabi, Kashmiri, Urdu, Gojri, Pahari and English, Gatha, quarterly in Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi, Kashmiri, Pahari and Gojri, Hamra Sahita, yearly in Hindi, Punjabi, Dogri, Kashmiri, Pahari, and Gojri and Urdu.

Additionally, the Academy has published dictionaries in Kashmiri, Dogri, Pahari, and Gojri languages besides 7 vol-

umes of Encyclopedia in Kashmiri language while the Dogri Encyclopedia is under process.

The Academy has a rare and rich collection of paintings numbering more than 400 including those of M. F. Hussain, Gokul Dambi, GR Santosh, Tyeb ji, JS Bendre, etc. It has a collection of over 605 manuscripts in sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Kashmiri languages representing religion and history. Besides, old 100 miniature paintings, 10 art objects (Wood, stone and terracotta) and some old survey maps also form part of the repository.

The JKAACL has established Translation Research Centers in Jammu and Jammu divisions of the Union Territory respectively. These Centres are undertaking translation of literary works from one regional/national language into another and vice versa, informed during this meeting.

Food Safety conducts special drive in various Industrial Units at Zakura & Hazratbal areas

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7

A team of Food Safety department along with Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, Yameen ul Nabi today carried out inspections of manufacturing units operating in Zakura and Hazratbal areas especially food business operators (FBOs) involved in manufacturing/ processing of ready to eat foods, bakery and spices.

During the drive, 07 FBOs were compounded on the spot under Section 69 of FSS Act for violating various provisions of the Food Safety Act, 2006 and 02 FBOs were found operating under insanitary conditions whose challan will be submitted before the competent Court.

About 80 kgs of Minced meat which was transported in unhygienic and unsanitary conditions was destroyed in accordance

with environmental laws.

Dy. Commissioner Food Safety Kashmir, Shagoofa Jalal warned all FBOs that they should observe strict adherence to the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, while performing their food business and give due regard to the safety concerns of the foods they sell. She also added that in case of the violations made by the Food Business Operators, strict action as per FSS Act will be initiated against the defaulters which can even lead to the closure of facility and such type of market checking will continue in coming days across Srinagar city and all other Districts of Kashmir Division.

All the consumers are requested that in case they have any complaint regarding the food that is being served to them, they can lodge a complaint on toll free number 104.

Cultural Unit DIPR hosts Symposium on Nasha Mukht Bharat



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu today organised a Symposium cum Cultural program on the topic "Nasha Mukht Bharat" at Dewan Badrinath Vidya Mandir Mubarak Mandi Jammu.

Cultural Officer Jammu, Nasir Ahmed Khan was special guest of the event.

The objective of organizing the programme was to educate the students regarding drug de-addiction.

The students expressed their views on the topic and were judged on parameters of Pronunciation, Modulation of Voice, Factual Representation, confidence etc.

Vaishali Jamwal, Raghvi Sudan and Isha Sharma were the Judges.

A total number of 10 students participated in

the competition. First Position prize was won by Avni Sharma, Second Position was secured by Mahdhavi and Third Position was secured by Adhya Raj.

Artists of Cultural Wing Information Department Jammu presented a colorful Cultural program which enthralled the audience.

Head of the institute, Vishu Dogra educated the students regarding the topic and lauded the Department of Information & Public Relations for organizing the programme.

Among others, Accounts Executive Manager, Balvinder Singh, Staff members of the Institute and a large number of students witnessed the programme.

The whole program was conducted under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu.

Sudershan Kumar assumes Office as ADC Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 7

Sudershan Kumar today took over as Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda replacing Dr. Ravi Kumar Bharti.

Immediately after assuming the office, he interacted with the staff of the DC office in an introductory meeting.

The newly appointed Additional Deputy Commissioner urged the officers/officials down the line under him to attend the works of public importance on priority basis.

Among others who welcomed the newly appoint-



ed Additional Deputy Commissioner are ACR Doda Sanjeev Kumar, AO DC Office Sumit Sharma, DIO Doda Mohammad Ashraf Wani, Tehsildar Doda Dr Subuh Shad, Assistant Law Officer DC office Mohammad Shaban Attu, besides other officials of DC office Doda.

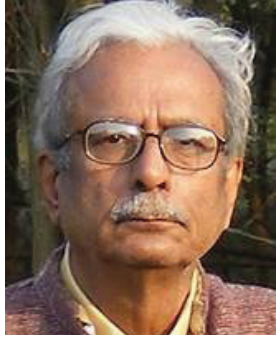
Renowned authors M. T. Vasudevan Nair, Vinod Kumar Shukla will be honored with 'Aakashdeep,' the lifetime achievement award

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Esteemed Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla and celebrated Malayalam author-filmmaker M. T. Vasudevan Nair will be honored for their exceptional contributions to literature, culture, and society with the highest honor 'Aakashdeep' established by leading Hindi News group Amar Ujala.

Yashwant Vyas, Group Advisor to Amar Ujala and coordinator of Shabd Samman, stated that the Amar Ujala Foundation celebrates the power of Indian languages and their collective dream. The 'Aakashdeep' Award, the highest honor in this category, includes a cash prize of five lakh rupees, a certificate of commendation, and a symbolic Ganga statue.

The 'Aakashdeep' Award, previously bestowed upon luminaries in Kannada (Girish Karnad), Marathi (Bhalchandra Nemade), Bengali (Shankh Ghosh), and Oriya (Pratibha Ray), has chosen Malayalam as the language of honor for the current year. Past recipients include distinguished figures in Hindi



language such as Namvar Singh, Gyanranjan, Vishwanath Tripathi, and Shekhar Joshi.

Vinod Kumar Shukla, born on January 1, 1937, in Rajnandgaon, is a luminary in Hindi literature. His unparalleled insights and literary prowess have made a lasting impression on the literary landscape. Shukla's journey in the realm of Hindi literature has been marked by a unique blend of creativity and thought-provoking narratives, earning him admiration and respect. His works, characterized by a distinctive style, have become an integral part of the literary heritage.

M. T. Vasudevan Nair, born on August 9, 1933, in Kerala, is a multifaceted personality known for his profound impact on modern Malayalam

art and literature. As an acclaimed author and filmmaker, Nair has contributed significantly to shaping the cultural narrative of Kerala. His literary works and cinematic creations reflect a deep understanding of human emotions and societal intricacies. Nair's storytelling transcends boundaries, captivating audiences with its universality and timeless appeal.

Kumar Ambuj, Manoj Rupda, Dalpat Singh Rajpurohit, Chinmayi Tripathi, and Malini Gautam have been awarded the Best Literary Work of the year 2022.

In addition to individual awards, the Shabd Samman Amar Ujala-23 are announced for the Best Literary Works of the Year. Kumar Ambuj's poetry collection 'Upasheershak', Manoj Rupada's story collection

'Dahan' and Dalpat Singh Rajpurohit's 'Sundar Ke Swapna' in the non-fiction category receive recognition as the best literary works of the year. The first book 'Thaap' category acknowledges Chinmayi Tripathi's work 'Apni Kahi,' and Malini Gautam is awarded the Bhasha Bandhu Award for the Hindi translation of Gujarati Dalit poetry.

A distinguished panel of judges, including renowned poet Naresh Saxena, acclaimed novelist Chitra Mudgal, distinguished author Shaji Zaman, celebrated writer Alok Bhalla, and esteemed poet Ashtabhu Shukla, has critically evaluated these works.

The Amar Ujala Shabd Samman ceremony, where these awards will be presented, is scheduled to take place soon.

Quotes from the Akashdeep Awardees:

"We gather experiences like children collecting beautiful pebbles in their pockets. This is how, over time, experiences come alive in writing." M. T. Vasudevan Nair

"I don't think in words; I think in images. Writing is an unfinished task, and I consider it a responsibility." Vinod Kumar Shukla.

Samsung R&D Institute signs MoU with IIT Kanpur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-Noida) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) for a period of five years to focus on key growth areas that will include joint research projects by IIT Kanpur students, faculty and Samsung engineers, helping students become industry-ready. These research projects will span areas such as health, visual, framework and B2B security, and cutting-edge technology areas such as Generative AI and Cloud. Apart from research projects, the MoU seeks to provide opportunities for upskilling Samsung engineers in key technology areas such as AI, Cloud and other emerging technologies. The MoU was signed by Mr. Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director, SRI-Noida, Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur and in the presence of Prof. S. Ganesh, Director, IIT Kanpur; Prof. Sandeep Verma, Department of Chemistry, IIT



Kanpur; Prof. Tushar Sandhan, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Kanpur; and other senior delegates from Samsung. We are excited to begin this collaborative journey with IIT Kanpur. This collaboration reflects our dedication towards merging academic excellence with industrial innovation, thereby making students industry-ready. We look forward to a dynamic exchange of ideas, knowledge and talent, which will certainly play a crucial role in the success of groundbreaking projects and contribute to the growth of both Samsung and IIT Kanpur," said Mr. Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director, SRI-Noida. "By combining the academic excellence of IIT Kanpur with the industry expertise of Samsung India, we

aim to create a dynamic environment for cutting-edge projects and provide invaluable opportunities for our students and researchers. This MoU complements IIT Kanpur's relentless efforts in bridging the gap between academia and industry, while creating a connection between theoretical knowledge and practical industry solutions," said Prof. S. Ganesh, Director, IIT Kanpur.

"The MoU reflects our commitment to providing our students and researchers with opportunities that go beyond academics, contributing significantly to technological advancements and growth of the academic landscape of our institute," said Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur. As

part of the joint research projects, students and faculty of IIT Kanpur will work on real-world industry challenges, aligning themselves with actual market needs. They will also work on Digital India related solutions, along with Samsung engineers. Students and faculty of IIT Kanpur will also be encouraged to publish joint research papers with Samsung engineers. Under the upskilling opportunities for Samsung engineers, IIT Kanpur will conduct specialized training programs in various domains, providing them with access to the institute's renowned expertise, culminating in degree programs, certifications and specialized courses tailored to enhance the skill and knowledge of Samsung engineers.

Samsung Launches Galaxy XCover7, its first-ever enterprise exclusive smartphone

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Galaxy XCover7, a powerful device which is rugged, and offers exceptional usability. Galaxy XCover7, engineered to survive extreme conditions aims to ease the lives of professionals, providing faster connectivity, seamless continuity, and minimizing risk of interruptions caused by external factors, allowing them to work faster and smarter. The Galaxy XCover7 will deliver enhanced mobility with 5G connectivity, upgraded mobile processor performance and increased memory. Additionally, the Galaxy XCover7 comes with a new powerful rear camera optimised for single and multiple barcode/QR code scanning and expanded display size and resolution, providing users the ability to work in a variety of settings. The easy POGO charging pin for convenient recharging in any setting, and increased touch sensitivity to support usage even with the gloves on makes Galaxy XCover7 a reliable



and convenience-oriented product. Defined by its durability and cutting-edge features, the Galaxy XCover7 ensures seamless continuity and enhanced productivity that enable users to work from anywhere in the world. The smartphone series come with an immersive, wide-screen display that enhances visual clarity, allowing users to work more efficiently even on the field. Knox Vault in Galaxy XCover7 helps protect the most critical data on these devices, including lock screen information like PIN codes, passwords and patterns. "At Samsung our objective is to provide our users con-

venience and durability through our product offerings. We have introduced Galaxy XCover7 series in two variants, the Galaxy XCover7 Enterprise Edition and Standard Edition. Both devices are engineered with cutting-edge technologies making them extremely powerful and resistant to tough weather conditions. Powered by Knox, we are excited to bring these revolutionary made in India products to our corporate customers and are optimistic that it will enhance employee productivity and ensure data security", said Mr. Akash Saxena, Vice President, Enterprise Business, Samsung India. Built To Last With Next-Level Durability With a robust case and a fortified glass display, the Galaxy XCover7 adheres to military-grade durability (MIL-STD-810H) standards and has been rigorously tested to ensure it withstands severe weather conditions, including extreme temperatures and rain. The IP68-rated2 smartphone is not only water and dust-resistant but is also built

to withstand drops of up to 1.5 metres3, ensuring rough handling or accidents do not impact operations. Engineered To Maximize Productivity and Security Featuring a programmable key for customizable shortcuts and a powerful processor for fast performance, the Galaxy XCover7 empowers users to work better while its Samsung Knox Vault ensures the safety of their data, protecting critical information in a separate, tamper-resistant hardware. The device boasts of a 50MP rear camera and a 5MP front camera and offers 6GB of RAM paired with 128GB of internal memory, expandable up to 1TB via microSD card. The product is available in two editions - Standard and Enterprise, will be available at INR 27208 and INR 27530 respectively. Knox Suite Subscription Samsung is offering 12 months subscription of Knox Suite on the Galaxy XCover7 Enterprise Edition, giving the users tools to secure, deploy, and manage devices throughout their life cycle.

Under PM Modi's leadership, BJP aiming for a hat-trick in LS polls: Vinay

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu North holds an ST Morcha meeting under the leadership of District President Omi Khajurua. Eye on Lok Sabha polls Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu District North conducted an ST Morcha, a monthly meeting, examining forthcoming programs here at the District office Jammu North. The meeting was chaired by BJP Jammu North Seh Prabhari Vinay Gupta and he said, the BJP aiming for a hat-trick in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and he tightening its party mechanism in Jammu North, intensifying grassroots work ahead of 2024. The meeting was performed in the esteem presence of Ajay Sharma and Surinder Baghat General Secretaries, Aksar



Ali District President ST Morcha and others were present on the occasion. Vinay Gupta and Omi Khajuria jointly hold threadbare discussions on the ongoing and upcoming organizational programs including the important strategy for the upcoming parliamentary polls in 2024. While addressing the meeting interacted with the ST Morcha team unit and sought first-hand information about various organizational activities. They asked all ST Morcha office bearers to work hard and stressed taking the public-friendly policies and programs of the BJP party and Narendra Modi-

led Union Government to every nook and corner of the District.

Omi Khajuria said the Modi government's successful ten years had been "magnificent, with unparalleled progress". He said the public-friendly decisions have helped in uplifting the agriculture and infrastructure sector besides helping the economy in J&K and people have seen unprecedented development in every sector, Omi Khajuria further claimed that the overwhelming approach he received from the people as he visited their doorsteps confirmed, that Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's victory in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

Outlining specific programs for ST morcha (Wing) in preparation for the upcoming polls, giving vital tips to party cadres, Vinay Gupta remarked, requiring the office bearers and workers of the morcha to disseminate the party's programs at the grassroots level.

Vinay expressed that BJP sets a target of winning 400 plus seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections with their new slogan "Teesri baar Modi Sarkar, ab ki baar 400 paar" and he guided the party workers, hardworking BJP cadre can reach the highest positions. He said that the BJP leaders were the face of the party in their respective communities and needed to follow the party's principles to achieve success. Vinay Gupta highlights

HDFC Bank expands SME Payment Solutions with launch of Business Credit Card Series for Self-Employed Community

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, today announced expansion of its SME Payment Solutions with the launch of Business range of credit cards customised for business owners, entrepreneurs, and freelancers. The credit cards will be available in 4 variants - BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack. The business credit card range offers a best-in-class interest-free credit cycle of 55 days, savings on core business spends like utility bills, GST, income tax, vendor payments, business travel, and business productivity tools.

This offering makes up a part of the strong suite of SME payments solutions that the Bank offers. HDFC Bank's SME Payment Solu-

tion is a designed to meet the diverse payment needs of self-employed individuals, SMEs and MSMEs.

Tailored to address both payable and receivable needs of businesses, the Bank has introduced a unified digital platform which consolidates all payables such as vendor payments, utility bills, and statutory payments etc. On the receivable side of payments, the platform is designed to manage and optimize end to end supply-chain arrangements and reconciliation. The platform provides a detailed dashboard with one view of payments made and accepted, for better cash-flow management. The Bank leads the commercial spends market with a significant 45% market share as of December 2023.

The new range of busi-



ness credit cards is envisioned to cater to the requirements of the self-employed community including MSMEs, startups, professionals, and freelancers.

Freelancers/GIG workers is a new emerging segment in self-employed category and the Bank will be launching GIGA Business Credit Card shortly, catering to specific needs

of this segment.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Parag Rao, Country Head - Payments, Liabilities Products, Consumer Finance & Marketing HDFC Bank said, "At HDFC Bank, we are committed to addressing the diverse payment needs of the self-employed as well as the business sector, ranging from MSMEs to large corporates. Understanding

the specific requirements of the self-employed community, our business range of credit cards, is designed to be a practical game-changer in supporting their everyday business needs."

In fact, the recently introduced payments platform has capabilities to process statutory payments, utility bills, onboard verified vendors

and centralized payments, providing custom dashboards and comprehensive MIS. Currently, 6,500 corporates are making payments to over 14,000 registered vendors on the platform, facilitating a total spend of Rs 82,000 crores since November 2021. Moreover, the Bank's Business & Commercial Payment Solution has efficiently processed Rs 26,000 crores in statutory payments in current financial year, establishing itself as a trusted and efficient financial partner for businesses. HDFC Bank is among the country's largest facilitators of cashless payments with 5.30 crore debit cards and 2 crore credit cards as of January 2024. HDFC Bank has the largest market share by spends in the credit card business of 27.1% as of December 2023.

DPS Leh Excels at Khelo India Winter Games 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
LEH, FEB 7

Adding to its string of achievements, dedicated faculty of DPS Leh - Ms Kunze Angmo and Ms Rinchen Dolma, along with student, Edzes Angmo of Class X won the coveted Silver medal in the historic inaugural Women's Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament held at NDS Stadium from 2nd to 6th Feb., 2024.

Prior to this achievement, the talented trio from DPS Leh clinched the gold medal and a cash award of 2.5 lakh in the 11th National Ice Hockey Championship (women's category) during Khelo India Winter Games 2024, held in Kaza, Himachal Pradesh from January 19th to 25th. Representing 'Maryul Spamo,' the team showcased exceptional skill in the event jointly organized by the Ice Hockey Association

of India, Ice Hockey of Lahaul Spiti, and Spiti Administration.

Moreover, DPS Leh also emerged victorious in the inaugural Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League, conducted in collaboration with UT Ladakh and the Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh at NDS Stadium in Leh from January 3rd to 13th, 2024.

Major General (Retired) Mohinder Kumar Sagoch, Director of DPS Leh, commended the triumphant trio and acknowledged the dedicated staff members whose guidance paves the way for the bright future of the students. Priyam Shukla, Principal of DPS Leh, praised the faculty and students for their outstanding achievements and expressed her hopes for the school's continued pursuit of excellence in education, sports, and co-curricular activities.

Devp stands still in J&K without an elected Govt: Manjit

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Expressing concern over the non-responsive attitude of the bureaucracy towards the public issues, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today said that the developmental activities have come to stand still in Jammu and Kashmir in absence of an elected Govt. The Former Minister chaired a meeting of District Jammu Urban leaders, and Incharge President of Wards here at Apni Party Office in Gandhi Nagar in which he reviewed the existing political and developmental situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also reviewed the functioning of the organizational structure and made certain suggestions to make it more effective and set deadlines regarding certain programs.

While addressing the meeting, the Former Min-

ister said that the developmental projects have remained incomplete, and many areas still lack basic amenities.

"The development and increasing unemployment have become the main concern for the people in Jammu and Kashmir, especially the educated youth," he said, citing various examples how unemployed youth have become drug addicts, and criminal activities have increased that has posed challenges to police and other security agencies.

He said that the administration can work then there is an elected Govt in place, and the officials are held accountable for delaying development, and failing to timely address public grievances.

"The public dealing has declined to a lowest level in Jammu and Kashmir. The situation has arrived where the civilian population hardly go to the Civil Secretariat or district



headquarters following the 2019," he reminded, while expressing pain over the plight of the people who have been rendered without any help, and elected Govt.

He recalled the Civil Secretariat as the symbol of governance, but in the last several years it remains deserted with hardly any presence of the local population.

"The people have lost hope in the present form of Govt, and they demand the holding of elections from Assembly Elections, PRIs, BDC, and Urban Local Bodies in Jammu and Kashmir so that the confidence of the people can be restored," he said.

He explained how the people have developed a feeling of alienation from the respective administration and the babus still lack connection with the people.

"The public darbars have become a mockery in the name of addressing public issues especially when the officers/officials fail to address grievances, except few," he stated.

He further appealed to the Election Commission of India to send a team of officials to assess the ground situation and take a review of the situation so that they can schedule legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir as early as possible.

"The statehood is another issue that has been delayed for long in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of unhappiness among the people for the degradation of their historic state into a Union Territory which has no elected Govt," he stated. He sought help from the Apni Party leaders and asked them to hold a series of meetings at every nook and corner of their respective areas, and wards to educate people about the developmental policy and programs of the Party. He also issued certain directions for the improvement of functions and insisted on them to continue public outreach programs.

"The Party leaders should not leave the people in distress when no one is ready to address their issues. The leaders should list the issues and highlight them accordingly in their respective areas for their early redressal," he added.

PM Modi showed mirror to Cong, every jibe true to hilt: Kavinder

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday endorsed PM Narendra Modi's remarks made against Congress party claiming that the country's premier has shown mirror to the leadership of the oldest party of India.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP stalwart leader from J&K said that the remark by PM Modi that Congress' thought is outdated is true to the hilt and not even the senior lobby of the oldest party's leaders can deny this fact because every



point raised in the Rajya Sabha has been deeply thought of and analyzed logically by the country's premier. He said that the downfall of Congress is no secret as people close to this party even feel shy about revealing their association with a party having leaders like Rahul Gandhi as its torch bearers. He said that lately the Con-

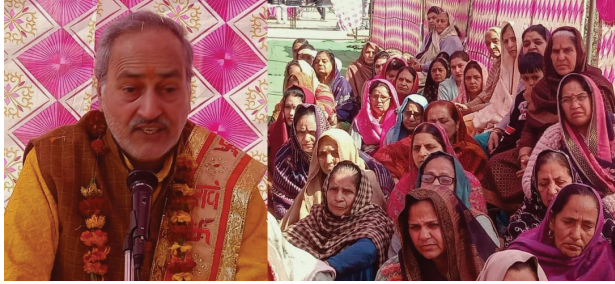
gress has turned into an Ayaram Gayaram party as the association of its leaders with the party is quite unpredictable because in the last few years the country has seen Congress leaders leaving the party just for petty gains exposing their trustworthiness and putting the Congress into credibility crisis. The senior BJP leader said that people of the country are quite mature and can judge things by themselves without taking lessons from failed party Congress and therefore it is necessary for the Sinking Ship - Congress to first set its own house in order before giving sermons to others.

22nd Sthapna Divas of Maa Durga Temple, Gagian celebrated with religious fervour

JNEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, FEB 7

The 22nd Sthapna Divas of Maa Durga Temple, Gagian RS Pura today celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety by Management Committee of Temple. On this occasion huge Langar also organized for devotees after proper Havan and performing rituals of Sthapna Divas. Earlier day long Ramayan Path also organized where hundreds of devotees participated. To mark the occasion, Dr Ved Parkash Shastri mesmerized devotees with religious sermons emphasizing to make the younger generation aware of the possibilities that can be attained or learned from the ancient Vedic tradition as it is applied to the modern age. By training our children in the principles of Sanatana-dharma, they also learn about the greatness of the Indian identity or Vedic culture," Shastri said.

Addressing devotees,



Shastri said that Sanatana Dharma is the oldest spiritual tradition known to humankind. The Vedas on the other hand are the oldest or the earliest expressions known to humankind to define the Sanatana Dharma. It focuses on living in harmony with each other and the nature by discharging one's duties honestly. Given the wide variety of roles that are warranted for smooth running of any society and preservation of the natural environment around us, it is logical that the duties and responsibilities of individuals will also vary as per their position in the society (Varna) and

stage of life (Ashrama). This implies that Varna is neither permanent nor hereditary. It may change within one's life or in successive generations depending on an individual's own calling, intellect, capabilities, opportunities available and the changing needs of the society. Shastri talked about different types of dharma - Grihastha Dharma, Sewa-Dharma and various other kinds of dharmas. Essentially, dharma means certain laws which are relevant for us to function in this existence.

Shastri further said that "The young generations have to understand the beauty and science behind

Sanatan Dharma. It has to be understood not as rhetoric for other religions but as a way of life. Everything in the Santan Dharma, from the time we wake up to the time we bathe, to what we eat, how we pray is in sync with nature, the human body, the planets, and the cosmos. The inter-linkedness had to be understood". Shastri maintained that it is up to the parents, teachers and gurus to find the ways in which the youth of today can understand and learn about the customs and history of the Vedic tradition in a way that makes sense to them, he said, adding that they need to see that Vedic culture is a dynamic and living tradition that holds eternal spiritual truths that are as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago.

Chairman Temple Committee Capt Kundan Lal Sharma speaking on the occasion said that

if a person is kind and gentle to everyone that means he is spiritual. A spiritual person does not blame others for his grief, his pain and his failures because a spiritual person knows that he is the sole cause of his circumstances. Being spiritual means self assessment. Stop being a cry baby just be thankful for what you have. Every time you see someone in a more miserable condition than you; say thanks for not being in that condition; every time you see food in your plate; say thanks, every time you see clothes in your closet; say thanks, you have parents, family and a home to live say thanks, every day when you wake up say thanks for this new day. Spirituality does not control your life it changes your life. Spirituality teaches you to connect with your soul. Spirituality gives you a chance to see inside you and explore your thoughts, added Sharma.

Over 10,000 BJP workers will undertake Gaon Chalo Abhiyan from Feb 08: Raina

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu Kashmir, while addressing a press conference at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, informed that more than ten thousand (10,000) workers of the party will reach different rural and urban areas of the UT under "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" from February 08 to 10, this month. These party workers will spend a minimum of 24 hours in a particular village or municipal ward to interact with the local residents.

Raina was flanked by BJP Vice President & Programme Incharge Pawan Khajuria, former minister & NEM Priya Sethi, Programme Co-Incharge & senior leader Sanjay Baru, and Media Relations Department co-incharge Balbir Ram Rattan.

Ravinder Raina said that the BJP is undertaking a country-wide mega campaign "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" and in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it will be under-



taken from February 08 to 10, this month, and cover every village in rural and every ward in urban areas of the UT.

For the successful conduct of this mega exercise, the party is deputing its MPs, former ministers, state office bearers, Ex MPs, Ex MLAs and MLCs, Ex BDC Chairpersons, sitting DDC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons, former VCs, DDC Members, District Office Bearers, Morcha teams, Sarpanches, Panches, he told. Ravinder Raina further said that the objective of this 3-day Abhiyan is to meet the local residents, the beneficiaries of Modi government's schemes, leaders of non-BJP parties, Self Help Groups,

NGOs, retired employees, the business community, and other prominent personalities of a particular village or ward. The party activists visiting the village or ward, will seek feedback about the central government welfare schemes, and their impact on the lives of the poor, needy people and compile suggestions, if any, for further implementation of the schemes. They will also place the BJP's report card before the people and make them aware of the need to support the BJP in the upcoming elections so that Narendra Modi assumes the chair of PM for the third consecutive term and further speed up the welfare schemes.

ICSSR sponsored 10-Day Research Methodology Course on Bharat Centric Research concluded in CUJ

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

ICSSR sponsored Ten-Day Research Methodology Course on Bharat Centric Research in Social Sciences: Emerging Designs and Approaches concluded at Central University of Jammu Under the esteemed patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director School Education graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address he said that Bharat Centric Research is the need of the hour but we have diversity in India and we have to solve various problems in the Indian context. Further he exclaimed that if research work remains in the thesis and dissertation then it is of no use, we should publish it in the public domain for the implementation in the society. He said that the field of social sciences is the most dynamic field of research as it works on the behaviour of the students and individuals so that we will modify the appropriate behaviour among the adolescents.

Earlier Prof. J.N. Baliya, Course Director Department of Educational Studies, in his welcome address presented the brief report of different sessions in this



ten-day Research Methodology Course. He said that during the course different resource persons from pan India had delivered the talk namely Prof SC Gakhar, Prof. Kulwinder Singh, Prof. Rajeev Rattan Sharma, Prof. Anjali Bajpai, Prof. Jeevan Jyoti, Prof. Amit Kauts, Prof. Deepa Sikand Kauts, Prof. Virender Koundal, Dr. Mandeep Singh, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Sunayna Khurana, Prof. Vishal Sood, Prof. Manish Sharma, Dr. Arvind Selwal, Dr. Mohit Sharma and others.

Prof. Deepak Pathania, Dean Research Studies, CUJ in his remarks said that learning is not confined only to this ten day of this research methodology course; it will be helpful in developing the spark

to do the research. He further explained that the Bharat Centric research is not only required in the field of social sciences but also there need to initiate research based on Bharat Centric in physical science to make India as Visva Guru. Prof. Pathania also exclaimed to the participants that if we want to be on the wheel of success, then we should have self-confidence and self-esteem along with hard work.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu, in his address appreciated the efforts of the Course Director Prof. J.N. Baliya and Course Co-Director Dr. Aman for organising such intellectually stimulating experiences. He said that choosing Bharat Centric

research means selecting and identifying the problems in Bhartiya context so that we will have the solution for further progress and development in the society. Prof. Yashwant emphasized the university's commitment to fostering a culture of research excellence and academic innovation.

Prof. Asit K. Mantry Head, Department of Educational Studies, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Prof. Kiran, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ram, Dr. Mohan, Dr. Anil, Dr. Aarushi, Mr. Arvind, Ms. Shivali, Dr Seema Thappa from Nagaland University as Co-Organising Secretary, deans and faculty of other departments were also present.

Dr. Aman, Course Co-Director, presented a formal vote of thanks.

Awareness cum training program on "Hygienic Milk Production and Value Addition of Milk" concludes at SKUAST-J

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Four days awareness cum training programme on "Hygienic Milk Production and Value Addition of Milk" to the Farmers of Jammu district concludes at Division of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, R.S.Pura, SKUAST-Jammu. The awareness programme was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu and being funded by HADP Project Entitled "Innovative extension approaches for revitalizing agricultural extension"

Dr. Rajesh Katoch, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, R.S Pura graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with women trainees. Dr. Katoch while interacting with trainees said that "empowerment isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength" and he highlighted the importance of the dairy sector as a source of income as well as food and nutritional security



for the rural masses. He emphasized the importance of modern milk production and processing methodologies in the dairy sector. He motivated the participants to remain in touch with the college experts and try to excel in dairy processing and value addition through hard work and innovation. He stated that there is a dire need for training programmes which aim to update the farmers' knowledge to boost up dairy farming community and uplift their socio-economic status.

Dr. Pranav Kumar, Senior Assistant Professor, Div. of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education, F.V.Sc & A.H, R.S Pura

& Training Coordinator of this training programme, welcomed the Chief Guest, resource persons and the women dairy farmers of the border areas and gave the overall view of this awareness cum training programme. He emphasized that by following hygienic milk production practices and value addition techniques, dairy farmers can produce high-quality milk and dairy products that are safe for human consumption and have a longer shelf life. Participants were given training completion certificate and inputs items for hygienic milk production.

Dr. Kumar gave special thanks to Dr. Kamal Sarma, HoD, Div. of VAHEE; Dr.

Sunil Kumar, Prof. & Head, Div. of Livestock Products Technology; and his team of training co-coordinators namely Dr. A.K. Pandey, Dr. Rajinder Bhardwaj, Dr. A.K Pathak, Dr. D. Chakraborty and Postgraduate students namely Dr. Anna Singh & Dr. Ravneet Kour; Shri Swarnlal, ex-Sarpanch, Suchetgarh as well as non-teaching staffs of Veterinary Extension division for helping in organizing this awareness cum training programme.

The training aims at overall development and capacity building of the rural women engaged in the dairy farming in the border areas of Suchetgarh in R. S. Pura of Jammu.

AM Hyundai celebrates triple inauguration in Jammu: Platinum Paloura, Rajouri Branch, Mobile Service Van

JJNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

AM Hyundai, a trailblazer in the automotive industry, today announced the grand inauguration of three key establishments in Jammu, underscoring their commitment to innovation, customer satisfaction, and community outreach.

The momentous inauguration ceremony witnessed the esteemed presence of officials from Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) including Mr. Anish Agarwal, Zonal Business Head, North Zone, Mr. Y.B Hwang, Advisor Group North Zone, Mr. Kishore Choudhary, Service and Parts Head, North Zone, and other notable figures. Gracing the occasion were key personalities from the AM Group, including Mr. Jatinder Gupta, Chairman, and Mr. Sanjay Mahajan,



Managing Director, among others.

Adding an aura of grace and warmth to the event were Mrs. Sharmila Gupta, Sakshi Mahajan, Ridhima Mahajan, and Aalaya Mahajan. In a poignant moment, AM Hyundai also celebrated the remarkable achievements of PARA Sport Events athletes Mr. Chandep Singh and Kritika Khanna, extending heartfelt congratulations and felicitations for their exemplary performances.

AM Hyundai Platinum Paloura, Akhnoor Road

The highlight of the triple celebration is the grand opening of AM Hyundai Platinum Paloura, located on Akhnoor Road. This state-of-the-art dealership sets the standard for excellence in the automotive retail experience. Boasting an opulent showroom and cutting-edge service center, AM Hyundai Platinum Paloura is poised to redefine the automotive landscape in the region.

Featuring the latest Hyundai models on display and equipped with

advanced service facilities manned by expert technicians, AM Hyundai Platinum Paloura promises an unparalleled automotive journey for its esteemed clientele.

AM Hyundai Rajouri Branch: Elevating Customer Reach

In tandem with the Platinum Paloura inauguration, AM Hyundai extends its reach with the unveiling of the Rajouri Branch. Positioned to cater to the residents of Rajouri, this branch offers dedicated sales professionals, effi-

cient service centers, and exclusive offers to ensure a seamless customer experience.

AM Hyundai Mobile Service Van: Bringing Service to Your Doorstep

In a pioneering move towards customer-centricity, AM Hyundai introduces the Mobile Service Van, designed to bring service and maintenance directly to customers' doorsteps. Equipped with essential tools and manned by trained technicians, the Mobile Service Van offers on-the-spot servicing and scheduled visits for added convenience.

The triple inauguration reflects AM Hyundai's steadfast commitment to delivering excellence at every touchpoint, inviting customers, media, and the community to partake in the celebrations and embrace a new era of automotive excellence in Jammu.

Modi has eliminated shortcomings of 70 years in 10 years: Amit Shah

JJNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah while addressing a programme on 'Security Beyond Tomorrow: Forging India's Resilient Future' emphasised, 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership of 10 years has worked to eliminate the shortcomings of 70 years'. Shah also launched the 'ORF Foreign Policy Survey', on this occasion.

It is an outcome of Modi's foresight and Amit Shah's politics of 'Antyodaya' that in the past 10 years, millions of common people who were deprived for years have received the real happiness of freedom. The work is underway to provide housing, electricity in every home, Har Ghar Nal se Jal, toilets, along with free gas connections and free health insurance up to Rs 5 lakh to crores of poor people today.

After independence, for decades, corruption, nepotism, and appeasement had become obstacles in the country's development. In the present era, under the leadership of Modi and the skilled guidance of Amit Shah, not only are the evils like corruption, nepotism, and appeasement being uprooted, but the continuous work of maintaining a self-reliant and developed India is also ongoing. In



the last 10 years, stability in politics and establishing corruption-free governance in the country have been accomplished. The new India is making a new identity for itself by achieving new milestones worldwide.

It is not a matter of secret that after independence, the country was plagued by terrorism and leftist extremism in matters of internal security for years, as evident in Jammu and Kashmir, areas affected by leftist extremism, and the Northeast. After 2014, due to Modi's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and Shah's firm decisions influenced by his belief of considering 'terrorism as humanity's greatest enemy', the three major hotspots- Jammu and Kashmir, areas affected by leftist extremism, and the Northeast, are now on the path of development. Rapid work on rail and air connectivity is underway, in all the neglected states of the Northeast.

Known as the 'Chanakya' of modern

politics, Shah believes that if the borders of the country are not secure, then the country cannot be secure, as border security is the country's security. Due to Modi's vision and Shah's policies, from poverty eradication to health, space, investment, and internal and external security, India has become extremely strong in every sector as compared to before.

Responsible for creating a new identity of Indian politics, the popular leader, Shah's claim in Modi's upcoming third term, India will achieve the goal of being the third-largest economy, is going to be proven correct. Because the whole world has seen that in the last 10 years, India has achieved unprecedented success in moving from the 11th largest economy to the 5th largest in the world. Based on the achievements of the past 10 years, it is not presumptuous to say that the people of the country will elect Modi as the Prime Minister once again in 2024.

BJP failed to fulfill promises to different sections: Cong

JJNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Taking dig over BJP for its failure to fulfill its promises to various sections & categories of people, in the final budget of the Union & for J&K UT after ten years of modi rule in the country.

Taking exception to lack of any provision in the budget for fulfilling its important commitments made ten years before, to the different categories, JKPC has said that there is nothing for various sections like refugees Kashmir migrants, daily wagers, adhoc, contractals, employees, pensioners, including old age, widows, specifically abled, and various other sections.

JKPCC Senior Vice President and media Chief Mr Ravinder Sharma listed out various commitments which remained unfulfilled after ten years in power.

He said there is no progress over the Jammu poonch railway project, linking the border region.

There is nothing for refugees of POJK and other refugees as the recommend package of 2014 remains unfulfilled except 5.5 lac.

BJP had promised to implement the package of Rs 30 lakh per family as recommended by NC-Congress government and enhanced to 30 lav by Parliamentary committee of home ministry.

Nothing for enhancing the financial package to kashmiri migrants, a long pending demand being agitated by them.

No provision for enhancing honorarium to Anganwadi workers, helpers, contractals - other such category of workers, even when there is high price inflation.

No provision of regularisation of daily wagers, need based, SPOs,

homeguard, REK, NHM & other such category of adhoc, temporary employees, workers in jobs for more than ten to 15 years, as promised by BJP before elections.

No provisions for clearing the pending liabilities of NG NREGA payments of workers & to revise the wages to current price index.

He said that the UT government is unable to pay the GPF to employees and pensioners for years after retirement

Even mid day meals payments being made by teachers from their pockets. There is no relief to the people from present exorbitant fees, taxes of various sorts.

He said that there is no major initiative to address the highest unemployment in J&K. The budget has dismayed different sections and left high and dry various sections and poor & commonman.

DDC Suresh Sharma holds Janta Darbar in Panchayats Gharatal, Kathara, Queer



JJNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 7

BJP senior leader and District Development Council member, Pandit Suresh Sharma, held Janata Darbar with administrative officials in the Panchayat Garatal, Kathar, Queer of Maira Mandrain block of Chhamb assembly constituency and listened to the problems of the people. In this Janata Darbar, people of all the three Panchayats raised their grievances, which were heard patiently. Pandit Suresh Sharma asked the administrative officers present there to resolve the grievances immediately even some problems were solved on the spot.

Addressing the people, Pandit Suresh Sharma said that development work is being done at a fast pace in Block Maira Mandrain and Chowki Choura. An amount of more than Rs 100 crore is being spent on new water projects under Jal Jeevan Mission in each Panchayat. Efforts are on to connect every village and locality with a pucca road. The pending demands of the people are being fulfilled. Gurha, Panada Pandwala, the last villages of Block Maira Mandrain, which were deprived of road connectivity for 75 years, is being constructed today

at a cost of Rs 12.50 crore. The construction work of the road is going on and the work on Gaida Khad to Jedi Bridge road connecting the two districts, which was a pending demand of the people for 25 years, is also going on at a fast pace. In the villages where there was problem of low voltage, new transformers have been installed and some will be installed in the coming days. New equipments in hospitals, new classrooms in schools etc. are being provided.

In these Janata Darbars, BDO Tahir Hafiz AEE Jal Shakti Department Rajeev Kumar, Rakesh Gupta AEE Flood Control Department, Naib Tehsildar Tara Singh, TSO Pradeep Kumar, Engineer Rakesh Kumar, Mohammad Iqbal, AEO Garuram, Parmanand Sharma, Gulshan Kumar, Vidhi Ram, Uttam Chand, Joginder Singh, Raman Kumar, Mahesh Kumar, Bodh Raj, Ratanlal, Ram Ratan, Kuldeep Raj, Rohit Sharma, officers from various departments of all three Panchayats. The public and other dignitaries were also present on the spot.

Vast changes seen in lives of crores of Indians under Modi govt: Sat Sharma



JJNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

During his weekly public darbar at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, former minister and BJP former president, Sat Sharma, listened to the grievances of a large number of people from different areas of the UT, whose problems were given patient hearings and taken up with the concerned senior officials of the departments and stressed for early solutions to give respite to the affected people.

Sat Sharma, while having direct interaction with the members of various deputations spoke on a number of issues of the public interest. He also shared the details of dozens of welfare schemes of Narendra Modi government launched during the last about ten years, which

have changed the lives of the poor, marginalized sections, the farmers, the women, the youth etc.

"Modi government has empowered every section and gender, socially and economically, he said adding that vast changes have been seen in the lives of crores of Indians who have availed the benefits of welfare schemes", said Sat Sharma.

Sat Sharma further said that the people of the country have a real taste of welfare schemes under the Modi government and are indebted to the BJP for giving a people-centric pro-poor government and Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a sea change after its reorganization, and got due care and share in welfare schemes, development projects.

Deputations and people from Budgam, Pargwal, Srinagar, Jammu

city, Poonch, Gandoh Balessa, Ware House Jammu, Kabir Colony, Vikram Chowk, Jammu, Gole Gujral, Talab Tillo, R.S. Pura, ad approached BJP headquarters to share their grievances and issues with the former Minister Sat Sharma for early disposal, who took up their matters with the concerned departmental officials.

Jeet Angral, BJP SC Morcha Seh Prabhari said that the senior party leaders, sitting in the office on working days, are sincerely helping the people resolve their problems through their efforts.

Ankush Gupta, Incharge RMJSA, said that the BJP has the distinction of being a party with a committed cadre, always on the ground to help the people in the woes and also extend help in availing the benefits of welfare schemes.

Notice

I, Dr. Shiwangi Vashishtha D/o Sh. P.K. Vashishtha have lost my LMV Licence date 23/10/2010. Now I am applying for duplicate of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to ARTO Reasi within seven days.

Notice

I, Rafiq Hussain S/o Kaku R/o Dingyali Majheen Sidhra have applying for electric connection. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days.

GDCB Udhampur organizes Poetry Recitation on Drug de-addiction

JJNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 7

NCORD Cell of Govt. Degree College (Boys), Udhampur organized a Poetry Recitation in collaboration with Department of Music and Urdu under the guidance of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and Prof. Shobna, Convener of the NCORD Cell of the College.

Principal of the college exhorted upon the students to play their role in spreading awareness among the masses as this is an immediate need of the hour to eradicate the drug addiction 'A menace' from the society and students can play an important role to aware the editors.

In this context Mr. Nikhil Brahmnu, Mr. Akshay Mr. Sumit Akhil



and other students of the College recited their poems on this topic to create the awareness among the students of the college. Dr Sanjeev Kumar Hod Urdu and Prof Samosh Kumar Hod Music Coordinated the program. Prof Samosh Kumar also revealed that the problem of drug addiction is spreading very quickly and we should control and eradicate it through the awareness among the youth and masses. He also expressed that unfortunately, mostly young lot

of the generation is going to effect badly. He also exhorted upon the students to play their role in spreading awareness among the masses to eradicate the Drug addiction.

Dr Sanjeev Kumar Hod Urdu expressed the vote of thanks to all Prominent among the others who participated in programme include Prof. Anoksha Sharma, Dr Kuljeet, Dr. Shivi Mehra and a large number of students participated and attended the program.

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

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- 1. CONSTRUCTION OF STRONG ROOMS FOR EVMs / VVPATs IN VIEW OF LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024 AT GOVT. POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE REASI

Reference:- This office e-NIT No. 103 of 2023-24 Dated 24-01-2024

In view of poor response and to get a good competition in the tender, the above subject work and referred e-nit dates are hereby extended as below.

Read as	Instead In
Bid Submission End Date	Bid Submission End Date
10-02-2024 up to 16.00 P.M	06-02-2024 up to 16.00 P.M
Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)
12-02-2024 at 12.00 noon in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi	08-02-2023 at 12.00 noon in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi

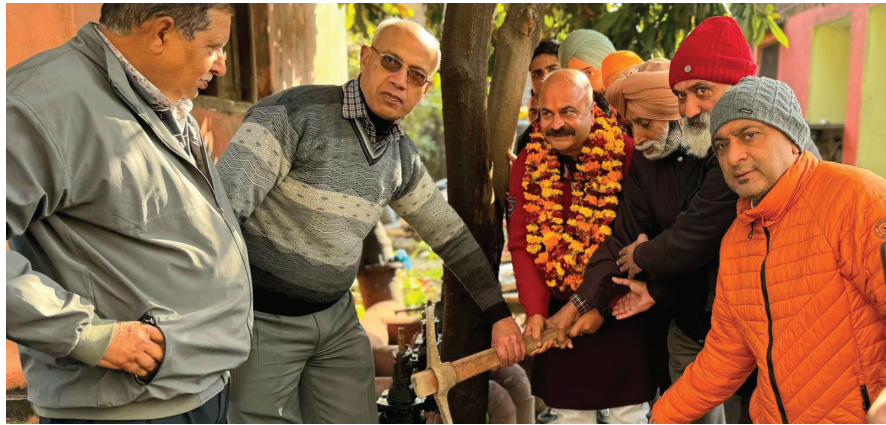
Sd/-
(Er. Rajesh Sharma)
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division
Reasi.

No.:- 7596-7600
Dated: 06/02/2024

DIP/J-14814/23
Date: 7-2-24

Modi Govt fully committed for devp of J&K: Yudhvir

Kick-starts devp works worth Rs 5.5 lakhs



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Central Government headed by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi stand fully committed for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. The unprecedented development of J&K witnessed today is the result of this sincere commitment of BJP led Government at the Centre for the progress and prosperity of this sensitive Union Territory and its people.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President while kick-starting the development of laying of water pipes with an estimated costs of Rs 5.5 lakhs at Chand Nagar area of Jammu. On the occasion, Sunil Dutt, Parveen Keri, Mandal President East, Arun Sethi General Secretary, Rajesh Dorga Vice President, Anil Mahajan Spokes-

person, Rohit Mehra, BJYM Mandal President East, S. Gurcharan Singh Shakti Kendra Parmukh, S Charanjit Singh and Rakesh Bhalla, Booth Presidents and many others were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said that BJP believes in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas' as a result of which the party has been progressing by leaps and bounds with each passing day. He said that it is the performance of the party and its government on ground especially in terms of development that speaks for itself. He said that while the government stands committed to overall development of every area especially in Jammu and Kashmir it is necessary that people also ensure proactive participation by monitoring the works especially the quality of material used in the

developmental works. The senior BJP leader said that the Union Govt led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a series of schemes for the common people across the nation. He said that these schemes cover every section of the society. He asked party cadre to disseminate information about Modi Govt's flagship schemes in each and every household of East Constituency so that the benefit of such schemes reaches right upto the tail end in the line of common people.

Referring to work started today, Yudhvir said the execution of works has been initiated and it will be completed with no compromise on the quality of work so that people don't have to suffer in the future. He said that with the completion of this project there will be no scarcity of water for the people of the area.

Sat chairs BJP Cells Sammelan at Akhnoor



JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 7

BJP J&K UT-All cells Sammelan was held at Akhnoor to highlight various Development and other significant activities by the Modi Government in the last 10 years. District President and Ex MLA Rajeev Sharma presided the program whereas Sat Sharma former Cabinet Minister & Ex BJP State President was the Chief Guest of the program.

More than 350 partici-

pants attended the Sammelan. The prominent leaders present during the sammelan are Dr Krishan Lal former MLA Khour, S.K Sharma IRS (Retd) & Convenor Professional Cell J&K UT, Abhay Kumar Mahajan SSP (Retd) & Co-Convenor J&K UT BJP Senior Citizens Cell & Suraj Singh Bhatt Vice Chairman DDC Jammu.

The Proceedings were conducted by Sh. Anshul Gupta Co-Convenor Professional Cell.

The Speakers high-

lighted the Developmental works undertaken. Sh Sat Sharma dwelt in detail regarding developmental works undertaken and called upon to strengthen the Party to achieve the goals of Prime Minister. Similarly other Speakers also highlighted various measures undertaken & pledged to strengthen the hands of Hon'ble PM & Party. The Sammelan was attended by Prominent CA's, Advocates, CS, Senior Citizens and Retired Employees.

Koul, Manhas inaugurate PM Vishwakarma Yojana training camp at Nagrota

JI NEWS SERVICE
NAGROTA, FEB 7

Ashok Koul, general secretary (organization), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, inaugurated a training camp for the Vishwakarma Yojana in the presence of Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former MP (Rajya Sabha) at Nagrota.

Somnath Khajuria, Senior leader BJP, Sunil Prajapati, President, J&K BJP OBC Morcha, and Gourav Khajuria, Chairman, GK Educational Trust were also present on the occasion.

The program was organized by the GK Educational Trust Training Partner NSDC.

Ashok Koul, on the occasion, spoke about the importance of PM Vishwakarma training camps and boosted confidence in the trainees by discussing a variety of opportunities lined up & guiding them to avail maximum benefits from such schemes. He said that the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, being run across the country under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is an initiative to acknowledge and support the traditional artisans, who



were earlier carrying out these 18 listed trades with minimal recognition and support.

Shamsheer Singh Manhas said that by running such schemes, the Prime Minister has given everyone a right to come and take training wherever they are skilled in the work they want to do. He said that the person availing the benefit can start work with the government's support. He said that after the successful training period, the bank will provide the trainee with a subsidized loan for the smooth operations of the technical work.

Sunil Prajapati highlighted salient features of the Vishwakarma Yojana

asserting that it has the full potential of empowering the aspirants be it the youth including women or other artisans and crafts-persons. It was also told on the occasion that a total cash benefit of about 4000 rupees will be given to each trainee/ beneficiary of the Vishwakarma Yojana during the training camp.

Gourav Khajuria thanked all the dignitaries for their auspicious presence during the inauguration. He also said that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a great initiative by the Government of India & encouraged all the Vishwakarma to avail maximum benefits from such schemes.

DPS Kathua extends warm welcome to Vivek Arora as Principal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Delhi Public School Kathua is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Vivek Arora as its new Principal. With a strong background in education and a commitment to excellence, Mr. Arora's leadership will undoubtedly enhance the educational experience at DPS Kathua.

Arora holds a Master's degree in Mathematics, Environmental Sciences, and Public Administration, in addition to a Masters in Education (M.Ed) and a Diploma in Computer Applications. His diverse academic background underscores his dedication to fostering holistic development among students.

A proactive participant, mentor, trainer, and observer of various CBSE programs, Mr. Arora's



expertise extends beyond the classroom. His contributions to education have been recognized with prestigious awards, including the National Award (A P J Abdul Kalam Award) by IITA and the 'Most Qualified Principal of the Year' by National School Awards.

"We are delighted to welcome Mr. Vivek Arora as the new Principal of DPS Kathua," said Smt. Kanta Andotra, Founder Chairperson, and Mrs.

Gauri Thakur, Director. "His wealth of experience and passion for education make him a valuable addition to our school community. We are confident that under his leadership, DPS Kathua will continue to thrive and inspire excellence."

Arora's appointment signifies DPS Kathua's commitment to providing a nurturing environment where students can excel academically and personally.

Bhau, others felicitate Inspector Ravi Kant



JI NEWS SERVICE
KHOUR, FEB 7

As a mark of appreciation and gratitude, the Police Station in Khour recently organized a Shiv Bhandara and Kanjak Poojan in honor of Inspector Ravi Kant, who is well-loved for his people-friendly approach. This heartwarming event was held in collaboration with the residents of Khour and was a testament to the strong bond between law enforcement and the local community.

During the event, Narind-

er Singh Bhau, President of the All India Bhau Rajput Sabha, presented Inspector Ravi Kant with a token of appreciation in the form of a Maharaja Hari Singh portrait, symbolizing his unwavering commitment to justice in the region.

Inspector Ravi Kant, who assumed the role of SHO at Police Station Khour in December last year, has been pivotal in resolving cases related to animal theft, particularly in the Khour and Akhnoor areas. His dedication and efforts were instrumental in the

successful apprehension of Raj Ali, also known as Kallu Gujjar, a notorious cattle lifter wanted in multiple cases across Police Stations Khour and Akhnoor. This significant achievement further solidified Inspector Ravi Kant's reputation as a proactive and effective law enforcement officer.

Reflecting on the overwhelming support received from the people of Khour, Inspector Ravi Kant expressed his deep sense of gratitude for the heartwarming gesture.

The Shiv Bhandara and Kanjak Poojan event served as a remarkable demonstration of solidarity and appreciation for Inspector Ravi Kant's exemplary service and dedication to upholding law and order in the community.

MD JPDCL visits Data Centre; directs for 24x7 availability of customer care executives

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7

Vikas Kundal, IAS, Managing Director, JPDCL, Jammu paid a surprise visit to Data Centre as well as Customer Care Centre at Gladni Grid Station Complex, Narwal today morning. During the visit MD JPDCL inspected the Customer care centre and directed the concerned officers to remain available 24x7 to resolve consumer's grievances. He also appealed the general public to call on Toll free numbers 1912/0191-2479122 in case of any grievances related to billing or power issues.

MD JPDCL during the inspection was apprised about the system upgradations which have been recently made in the JPDCL software to connect it with smart meters and Banking software to provide seamless experience to the end consumers of JPDCL. MD JPDCL during the visit emphasised that



JPDCL software should be continuously upgraded to meet the challenging requirements as the consumer base of JPDCL is increasing and successful installation and shifting to smart meters shall require a lot of back end support.

MD JPDCL also issued on spot instructions that the data Centre Staff in general to keep a check on hooking and bypassing of meters through

online mode and report such cases to the concerned sub-divisions for strict action against the erring consumers. Vikas Kundal (IAS) MD JPDCL was accompanied by Chief Engineer, (Distribution) Sh. Bavinder Kundal while Sh. Anil Verma, Executive Engineer IT & C Division, JPDCL explained the overall working of the IT Division to the inspecting officers.

Narinder demands ST status for PoJK DPs of 1947

JI NEWS SERVICE
RSPURA, FEB 7



Senior PDP leader and leader of Displaced Persons (DPs) from PoJK Narinder Sharma today demanded grant of ST status for this community. In a press statement, Sharma said Govt of India has granted Scheduled Tribes status to Pahari speaking people of UTJK in the ensuing Parliamentary session, this is a welcome step that rights of the Paharis of J&K has been acknowledged after long period /after independence. It is brought to the notice of the Government of India that 1947 PoJK DPs who are equally situated having distinct culture, ethnic and linguistic identity and having Pahari traditions also deserve the Schedule Tribe Status under Pahari category. The Indian constitution till date recognizes the identity of PoJK DPs as belonging to PoJK when PoJK is more towards the high mountains ranges with Pahari language and their non-inclusion in Pahari reservation/ST Status will not only be injustice to PoJK DPs but also against

the spirit of Constitution which endeavours to occupy the PoJK area and has also kept J&K Legislative Assembly seats vacant for the area. They most deserve for Schedule Tribe Status under Pahari category on this account only, added Sharma.

Sharma further said that numerous PoJK DPs settled temporarily in Poonch, Rajouri and Uri like area are duly covered under PSP category but their relatives settled in rest of J&K or other parts of country have been excluded. Thus conferring ST status as Pahari to some of PoJK DPs settled in Indian territory of Poonch, Rajouri and Uri etc and ignoring the others also settled temporarily in other parts of J&K or the country will be injustice to the people within the class.

SSP Reasi takes round of Katra town, visits PS Katra



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB 7

SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma visited Police Station Katra and also took round of Katra town to assess the preparedness for upcoming VVIP visits and forthcoming celebrations in the holy town.

SSP Reasi also held an introductory meeting with the staff of Police Station Katra. SSP urged upon the officers and officials to work with dedication and enthusiasm and ensured that effective working system is in place. SSP stressed the need for teamwork and directed every officer to exhibit

dedication, professionalism and to ensure effective measures to enhance the safety and security of pilgrims and general public. SSP Reasi also directed that safety and security of the holy shrine and pilgrims visiting there should be amongst the top priorities of the Police.

During this interaction, SSP had productive discussions with the officials and staff members of the police station, exchanging valuable insights and addressing any existing concerns like welfare of jawans, infrastructure etc. She also stressed upon the efforts to ensure the overall safety and security of the region.

PCPG meeting held by PS Arnia Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 7



SP Hqrs alongwith SHO PS Arnia conducted a PCPG meeting at PS Arnia. Various Sarpanches, Panches, including former Chairman Municipal council Arnia Sh. Ramesh Chander Saini, Chairman Bishnah Sh. Basant Saini, Former ward councillor Sh. Kailash Chander Saini, Former ward Councillor Sh. M.L Rao and other prominent persons participated in the meeting.

A threadbare discussion took place regarding drugs, theft cases, mining and other related issues. SP Hqrs Jammu also briefed them to inform the nearby PS/PP if any information

regarding drug trafficking is received to them. Other important issues discussed were regarding drugs menace, thefts, burglaries, MV violations etc.

SP Hqrs Jammu flanked by SHO PS Arnia gave a patient hearing to the public and assured them of addressing the genuine demands in shortest possible time. Also people were encouraged to come forward in sharing information related to crime in their area.

Later SHO PS Arnia thanked the participants.

DM Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairs Weekly Block Diwas meeting at Chakroi



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya today led the Block Diwas meeting at Suchetgarh's Chakroi. He was accompanied by DDC Member Taranjit Singh Tony and senior officers.

The occasion brought to light significant community concerns, covering a range of vital issues. Highlighted matters included the maintenance of irrigation canals and ensuring a steady water supply, tackling encroachment problems and addressing public challenges arising from Jal Jeevan Mission projects.

The Emergency medical provisions, particularly for snake bites, took precedence, along with issues related to the functioning of the Revenue Department and the delivery of welfare schemes.

Concerns of the refugee population, road and nallah conditions and a request for a fire tender vehicle were also discussed during the event.

DDC Member Taranjit Singh Tony expressed gratitude for recent developments and urged the initiation of cash crops and medicinal nursery projects in the region. He commended the progress in tourism, especially

around the Gharana Wetland and extended thanks for the ongoing bunker works.

District Magistrate Vaishya inquired about the quality and status of bunker development, emphasising their significance. He noted and acknowledged all highlighted issues, particularly those related to irrigation canals and farming. The DM encouraged public participation, stating that Block Diwas is an open forum for grievances, which are duly noted and prioritised for resolution. He praised farmers for their role in ensuring national food security and

encouraged the adoption of best farming practices.

Senior officers, including ADDC Sher Singh, Chief Medical Officer Dr Harbaksh Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and SDM Seema Parihar, besides other district officers were present at the event.

Post-chairing Block Diwas, the District Magistrate undertook an extensive tour of the block. Notably, he visited Gharana Wetland to interact with locals who promptly presented their concerns. He further progressed to Bulleychak village where he attentively listened to residents' grievances.

Commissioner Secretary GAD holds mega public grievances redressal camp at Batote

J NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 7

Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Sanjeev Verma, today chaired a mega public outreach programme at Tringla panchayat of Batote block to assess public issues and concerns.

"These public grievances redressal camps are primarily focused on facilitating direct engagement of administration with the community to address their concerns", maintained the Commissioner Secretary while appealing the common masses to actively participate in such programmes to get their issues addressed.

The event, being organized by the district administration under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, was aimed to provide a platform for locals to highlight their issues and seek resolutions.

The camp was among others attended by DDC Chairperson, Dr. Shamshad Shan, along with DDC members, prominent citizens and a large gathering of general public besides senior officers including Chief Engineer PWD, Mohit Majan, PO, ICDS, Jahangir Hashmir, ADC Harbans Lal Sharma, ASP, Gaurav Marjan and others.

Sanjeev Verma underscored the importance of such initiatives, highlighting their role in ensuring equitable access to government schemes and developmental projects. He sought proactive engagement from the community to propel the district's development trajectory.

Commissioner Secretary asked the Deputy Commissioner to intensify efforts to boost economic activities and provide more employment opportunities to SHGs, especially youth. He also directed the district administration to



plan development of bus stand, shopping complex and Tourism Reception Centre in Batote.

Advising youth to start local production based production units for generating job opportunities, the Commissioner Secretary directed the district administration to erect Hats alongside NH-44 to facilitate FPOs. He also asked to identify land for establishment of an indoor stadium. He directed the concerned to formulate a FPO for buying wool from sheep breeders.

Acknowledging the district's potential for growth, Sanjeev Verma emphasized the significance of sectors like Horticulture and Agricultural promising concerted efforts for their enhancement. He assured the public of the administration's commitment towards resolving issues promptly and in a result-oriented manner.

During the event, various concerns were raised ranging from infrastructure development to employment opportuni-

ties.

The Commissioner Secretary instructed the officers to address these issues promptly, emphasizing a time-bound approach for effective resolution.

Local representatives highlighted key demands such as Sub Division status for Batote, infrastructure improvements and employment opportunities. They also expressed community's gratitude for recent initiatives like land allotments and improved healthcare facilities.

In response to civil issues raised, the Commissioner Secretary reasserted the public of swift action, promising to prioritize the development of Batote based on valuable feedback received.

The event also featured stalls set up by various departments to educate the public about their schemes and services.

Additionally, a health camp organized by the Health Department provided essential services to the attendees.

PRIs led by Dr. Sham-

shad Shan highlighted various issues including Bus Stand for Batote, conduct of tourism activities at Baglihar dam, shift of administrative control of 6 panchayats of block Batote and Rajgarh from Doda, construction of Overhead bridge on NH-44 at identified locations, market linkage to local produces.

They also projected demands including rejuvenation of business opportunities in Batote market, construction of roads, replacement of wooden torn-out poles, proper implementation of JJM projects, development of indoor stadium, augmentation of Health and Education infrastructure, opening of Bank branches and ATMs, Cable Car for farming activities and execution of Gondola project.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary inaugurated a Plastic Waste Management Shed worth Rs 10 lakh and a Foot Bridge costing Rs. 4.10 Lakh constructed by RDD which will benefit 200 households of three panchayats.

Chairman IFFCO & Head National Cooperative Union of India, stakeholders from Cooperative Sector call on LG

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Sh Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, IFFCO, GUJ-COMASOL and National Cooperative Union of India Head along with key stakeholders from Cooperative Sector met the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

The meeting discussed several interventions to enhance the efficiency of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and membership of national federations.

Deliberations were held on utilising the experience and expertise



of retired army personnel in Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), formation of new Farmers Producers Organisations and Co-operative Societies for promotion of tourism.

The Lt Governor appreciated the vital role being played by the different stakeholders in strength-

ening the cooperative sector.

"The UT Administration will ensure the cooperative movement brings prosperity to farmers and our villages," he said.

Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary, Member, MSP committee and National President, Bharatiya Krishak Samaj; Sh Praveen

Sharma, Chairman, Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd; Sh Vikrant Dogra, Chairman, JK Dairy Cooperative Federation; Sh Khalid Lone from Sarhad Tourism Cooperative, Uri and other prominent members from cooperative movement were also present during the interaction.

DC Srinagar inspects different Offices in DC Office Complex



J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7

In order to ensure proper work culture and efficient public delivery system in the Offices housed in DC Office Complex, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat conducted a detailed inspection of various Offices and sections here today.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the Tehsil Office South, District Statistical & Evaluation Office, Office of Additional District Development Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Nazool, Offices of Registrar and Sub-Registrar East, besides petition writers and stamp vendor zones.

During the visit, the DC interacted with the Officers and other Officials and emphasized the paramount importance of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service delivery.

He stressed the need for adopting best work ethics and urged the staff to work with a proactive approach while addressing public issues and grievances.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the significance of maintaining clean and organized office spaces and adher-

ing to established protocols. He also discussed the benefits of technological intervention to streamline processes and reduce manual paperwork. The DC also enjoined upon the employees to ensure utmost punctuality in their respective offices, besides maintaining proper cleanliness and discipline. He further asked them to work with utmost dedication to ensure time bound disposal of files.

Meanwhile, the DC also inspected petition writers and stamp vendor zones and laid emphasis on treating the public in a compassionate way.

To address the concerns of residents in remote areas, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman visited several far-flung areas of Aloosa Tehsil including Binlipora, Ketson and other adjoining areas.

During the visit, the DC interacted with locals, listened to their issues and demands, and assured them of prompt action.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, Tehsildar Aloosa and other officers from the district administration.

On the occasion, residents raised various concerns. At Aloosa Binlipora, the families affected by the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) project sought compensation for land acquisition and other damages. The Villagers of upper Ketson highlighted the inadequacy of access to clean drinking water and requested the establishment of new water supply schemes. The residents also demanded the installation of additional electricity poles to improve power supply in their areas.

DC Bandipora visits far-flung areas of Aloosa Tehsil

J NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 7

Div Com for acquisition of structures to eliminate bottlenecks from city roads

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Wednesday chaired a meeting regarding acquisition of structures to remove bottlenecks from main roads of Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by SE, R&B Srinagar; Deputy Director Planning; Executive Engineer and Engineering officials.

The meeting deliberated over settling of the issues with proprietors to remove identified bottlenecks of shops and houses on vital roads.

It was deliberated that those parties who agreed to the conditions of acquisition their cases shall be put before HLC for settlement at an earliest and the bottlenecks shall be removed without consuming more time.

Div Com was briefed by the officers of R&B regarding the individual cases of acquisition & demolition of bottlenecks and the solution offered by the



department to the parties.

The meeting was informed about decisions to be taken for road widening and acquisition of structures on Habba Kadal-Baba Pora Road, Khankhi Moula-Fateh Kada, New Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari, Nawa Bazar-Zainakadal, Syed Merak Shah road, KZP road Karan, Nagar-Sakidafar Road, Karan Nagar-Kak Sarai Road, Buchpora Hazratbal Road, Nawa Kadal- Nawa Bazar Road, etc.

Further, Div Com directed concerned Executive Engineer of Shopping Complex Rainawari to issue allotments to dislocated shopkeepers whose structures were acquired.

Div Com also emphasized on the concerned to address all cases as per the feasibility of finances & priority.

Meanwhile, the department has already started demolition of acquired structures at Habba Kadal and Rainawari.

DC reviews Works undertaken by Municipal Council Bandipora

J NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 7

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman today convened a meeting of the Municipal Council (MC) Bandipora at the DC office complex here to review the progress and status of various ongoing developmental works undertaken by the Municipal Council within the town.

On the occasion, Executive Officer MC Bandipora presented a detailed report on progress and status of various developmental projects undertaken by the council.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of each project, including its current stage, timeline for completion, and any challenges faced.

He emphasized the importance of expediting the pace of work and ensuring timely completion of all projects for the benefit of the public.