



Empowering Tribals, Transforming J&K

Historic Step for Inclusive Development

Communities getting benefits of ST reservation

- Balti
- Beda
- Bot, Boto
- Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin
- Changpa
- Garra
- Mon
- Purigpa
- Gujjar
- Bakarwal
- Gaddi
- Sippi

Additional Communities who will get benefits of ST reservation

- Pahari Ethnic Group
- Paddari Tribe
- Koli
- Gadda Brahmin
- Based on **SEBC Commission Recommendations**
- **Additional & proportionate reservation will be provided separately for above communities**



Existing Communities including Gujjar Bakarwal will continue to get the 10% reservation and there will be no reduction in it

Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIP J-14817/23
Date: 8-2-24

72nd All India Police Hockey Championship organised by J&K Police concludes

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Ten days long 72nd All India Police Hockey Championship organised by J&K Police concluded today at K.K Haku Stadium, Jammu. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, J&K Shri Manoj Sinha who was the chief guest, distributed the prizes among the winners & runners up teams besides to best players of the tournament. He declared the event closed.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP J&K Shri R.R Swain thanked Hon'ble Lt. Governor J&K Shri Manoj Sinha for gracing the occasion. He also thanked the Advisor to Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri R R Bhatnagar, Addl Director IB MHA Dr Mahesh Dixit representing Chairman AIPSCB, senior serving and retired officers from Police, civil administration. He thanked and appreciates the role of the media fraternity for

giving wide publicity to the event. He praised all the participating teams for their dedication and sportsmanship throughout the tournament, highlighting the importance of such events in fostering camaraderie and unity among the law enforcement agencies.

The DGP said that it is an honour to J&K Police given by AIPSCB to organise such a national level event. The event, which saw participation from 34 teams representing various police units from across the country. He said that within a short notice the responsibility was entrusted upon J&K Police and the organizing committee who worked hard to make this event a grand success, for which he said I am very proud of them.

The DGP said that J&K Police besides fighting on forefront against multiple challenges during the over last three decades is sharing the responsibility

of providing different platforms to the youth of J&K as well as to its own personnel in the field of sports.

He informed that under Civic Action Programmes in the year 2023, J&K Police organised number of youth-oriented activities that include Marathon in Jammu as well as in Srinagar, Cycle Race (Pedal for Peace) in Srinagar, 19th Martyrs memorial football tournament in Srinagar, Aman Memorial Cricket Tournament in Kishtwar, besides Bharat Darshan Programmes are being regularly organised for the thousands of school children that helps students to know their country.

He said 34 teams (Men-25 and Women-09) from 25 States Police Organizations and CAPFs, comprising 800 players/Technical officials participated in the championship and hoped that they had enjoyed this



journey and enjoyed their stay at Jammu.

He congratulated the Punjab Police men team and CRPF women team for winning their respective titles. He advised other teams that they shall continue to work hard adding that winning and losing the matches are part of the game but participation is more important.

He expressed heartfelt thank you to the All-India Police Sports Control Board for entrusting the

responsibilities to J&K Police for organizing 72nd All India Police Hockey Championship 2023-24, which adds one more feather to the crown of J&K Police.

He congratulated the Organizing Committee, especially the organizing Secretary of this Championship and his team for their excellent work, who worked hard, leaving their comforts, for smooth conduct of the Championship. He also thanked the J&K

Sports Council, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Hockey India, Hockey J&K, Jammu University, Municipal Corporation Jammu for their timely assistance for successful conduct of the Championship.

Addl. Director IB, MHA Dr Mahesh Dixit speaking on behalf of Chairman AIPSCB said that the successful conduct of this competition is a testament to the dedication and hard work put in by the officers and personnel

of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, especially through the provision of necessary infrastructure, arrangements and excellent hospitality for the participants and officials. Managing such major sporting events is a huge challenge in itself, he said. He on behalf of chairman AIPSC Board, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Jammu and Kashmir Police for organizing this wonderful event and hospitality. He congratulated all the trophy and medal winners and urged them to maintain the same level of responsive excellence in the future also. He also expressed gratitude to all the technical officers, officials, judges, referees, electronic and print media, who generously supported this event and made it a grand success.

In his welcome address, ADGP Armed J&K Shri Vijay Kumar extended his gratitude to all the dignitaries for gracing the occasion and briefed about different programs organised during this ten-day long championship. He said all possible facilities were made available for the participating teams and support staff and hoped that they had enjoyed their stay in the city of temples. He said that Jammu and Kashmir Police has always been on forefront in promoting sports activities in the region.

He extended thanks to the All-India Police Sports Council Board, Indian Hockey Federation, J&K Hockey Federation, J&K Sports Council Board, Youth Services and Sports, Jammu Nagar Nigam, and the media fraternity for their valuable support and assistance in making the championship a grand success. He also appreciated the teams' enthusiastic participation and extended good luck wishes to them for their future endeavours.

DC Rajouri conducts extensive tour of Subdivision Koteranka

J NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 8

In a proactive move towards accelerating developmental initiatives, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, embarked on a comprehensive tour of the subdivision Koteranka, evaluating the ongoing projects and engaging with local communities to foster collaboration and support.

During the tour, Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat diligently inspected several key developmental projects, including the Eco-tourism park at Kandi, where work has stalled due to financial constraints. Recognizing the inherent tourism potential of the region, Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat earnestly appealed to the local populace to rally behind the district administration in bolstering tourism endeavors, particularly emphasizing



ing the significance of the homestays scheme initiated by the Government.

Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri also undertook a meticulous assessment of potential sites for the construction of the Government Degree College building at Koteranka, engaging in thorough discussions with concerned stakeholders to ensure expedited progress in this vital educational endeavor. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to facilitating the establishment of the GDC building for the benefit of the local populace.

In addition, Deputy

Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat visited the site earmarked for the construction of the Eklavya Model Residential School at Hubbi, where certain local issues had arisen. Swift to address challenges hindering progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildar to promptly resolve the matter, underscoring the administration's resolve to commence construction without delay.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner paid a visit to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Koteranka, where he engaged with both staff

and students, encouraging them to aspire for greatness and diligently pursue their ambitions. Responding to concerns raised by the staff, Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat assured timely redressal, reaffirming the administration's unwavering commitment to quality education.

At the community health center in Kandi, Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat emphasized the paramount importance of ensuring top-notch healthcare services for the public, urging medical staff to redouble their efforts in delivering quality care to the community. He also inspected the ongoing work on building of CHC Kandi.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Koteranka-Khawas road project, a transformative infrastructure initiative poised to significantly enhance connectivity and socio-economic

development across the region. With an estimated cost of Rs 68 crores, spanning over 30.2 kilometers, this pivotal project holds immense promise in uplifting the lives of local residents.

Furthermore, Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat visited the fish farm at Phalni, where trout fish is cultivated, underscoring the administration's commitment to diversifying economic opportunities and promoting sustainable practices in the region.

Officers who accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during his visit were SE PWD(R&B) Devi Dayal, EXEN PWD (R&B) Sardar Khan, Tehsildar Sahil Shah, and other officers and officials. Overall it was a transformative tour which optimizes proactive governance and a steadfast commitment to propelling district towards a future brimming with promise and prosperity.

Shailendra Kumar emphasizes role of agri, allied sectors in realizing Prime Minister's vision

J NEWS SERVICE
CHAKROI (R.S PURA),
FEBRUARY 8

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, emphasised the pivotal role of agriculture and allied sectors in realizing the vision of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, during a mega farmers interaction program held at the frontier village of Chakroi, Ranbir Singh Pura here.

While addressing the gathering at Fruit Plant Nursery of Department of Horticulture Jammu, the Principal Secretary stressed the importance of reaching the agricultural community in far-flung areas of Jammu region. He expressed his commitment towards addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by farmers, highlighting the necessity for robust communication channels between stakeholders.

The event witnessed participation of District Development Council member, Taranjit Singh Tony; Director Horticulture/ Agriculture Jammu, Ram Sevak; Director Horticulture Kashmir, G. R. Mir; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal; Joint Director Horticulture and other concerned from Horticulture and Agriculture



departments.

During the interactive session, farmers from various districts of Jammu region voiced their concerns, ranging from farming practices to broader agricultural issues.

The Principal Secretary assured prompt resolution of issues raised during the programme and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers in this regard.

Shailendra Kumar said that in a bid to bolster agricultural resilience and foster growth, a plan for 29 projects has been sanctioned by the Apex Committee for Holistic Development of Agriculture and allied sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Sevak, highlighted ongoing developmental works at the nursery spanning 805 kanal. He emphasized incorporation of cutting-edge

technologies to ensure production of high quality fruit plants, aligned with market demands.

During a comprehensive inspection, Principal Secretary toured state-of-the-art protected cultivation structures, including Hi-Tech poly greenhouses and automated irrigation systems.

Shailendra Kumar displayed keen interest in understanding the nuances of advanced agricultural technologies, signaling a commitment towards innovation-driven growth. Also, he evaluated the progress of infrastructure development for laboratories, including Tissue Culture, Virus Indexing and Bio-control Laboratories, highlighting government's investment in research and development.

Earlier, Shailendra Kumar planted a sapling of Guava at the Fruit Plant Nursery.

JJM organises debate competition on water conservation

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 8

Aimed at creating awareness about importance of water conservation, the Mission Directorate Jal Jeevan Mission of Jal Shakti Department organized a debate competition on the topic "Water Conservation is primarily the duty of government, not the individual" at Teachers Bhawan here.

The event was participated by students from ten schools of Jammu district who spoke for and against the motion.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, was the Chief Guest while Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar was the Guest of honor on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS outlined the importance of collective efforts of different stakeholders like community, individuals and the most importantly different departments and private institutions like NGOs to make the country water secure by countering the challenges like climate change, contamination etc.

ACS highlighted that the advancements in the technology particularly



the spread of internet connectivity and lowering cost of software, hardware and electronic devices has made it possible to bring efficiency in the management of water resources and water supply systems.

Shaleen Kabra appreciated the understanding of students about the importance of water security while complimenting them for sharing their ideas in an articulated way.

Divisional Commissioner, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted

the importance of community engagement for making impact of government initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in making the UT water secure. The students from various schools presented their views on water conservation and touched all concerned aspects of the initiative, Nal Se Jal, Catch the Rain, Micro Irrigation etc. Neha Rana from GGHSS Shastri Nagar bagged first prize while Moksh Sharma from Jodhamal School won second

prize and Khushboo Parihar from GGHSS Mubarak Mandi got third prize in the debate competition.

During the event, the Mission Directorate displayed the JJM Tableau and demonstrated its significance to the students for disseminating the aim and objective of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Pertinent to mention here that Jal Shakti Department is implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission in the UT, aimed to cover all its 18.71 lakh rural households with functional household tap connections with the active involvement of the local communities in planning, implementing, monitoring, owning, operating and maintaining the water supply systems.

Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission, Director School Education Jammu, Chief Engineer, PHE Department Jammu, Chief Engineer I&FC Jammu and other officers of the Jal Shakti Department and School Education Department were present on the occasion.

RBI's policy statement fairly balanced: CE, HDFC Bank

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 8

Abheek Barua, Chief Economist, HDFC Bank has said that the RBI's policy statement was fairly balanced, remaining upbeat on growth and marginally bringing down its inflation forecasts. Although, the central bank highlighted that risks around its inflation projections due to any global or domestic supply shocks continue to linger. The RBI pegged growth at 7% for FY25 and inflation at 4.5%. The central bank kept both its policy rate and stance unchanged.

The RBI left little room for any imminent policy pivot and therefore we do not expect rate cuts to happen before the August 2024 policy. On liquidity, the central bank seemed to suggest that liquidity deficits were broadly frictional and durable liquidity remained more comfortable. It did not announce any new measures and said that it would continue to manage liquidity through its fine-tuning operations including tools like the variable rate repo and reverse repo auctions

DC Doda encourages students to avail services at Govt District Library



J NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 8

In a bid to promote literacy and academic excellence, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh recently conducted a thorough inspection of the District Library Doda.

During the visit, he emphasized the immense benefits of the library's extensive collection of books and resources.

Stressing the importance of education, Singh encouraged students to make full use of the facilities available, emphasizing

that the serene environment of the library is conducive to focused studying and preparations for various competitive exams. Deputy Commissioner also interacted with library officers and officials, urging them to implement further improvements within the premises. Recognizing the vital role libraries play in fostering intellectual growth and community development, Singh highlighted the need for continuous enhancements to ensure the library remains a vibrant hub of learning for residents of Doda.



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Parliament approves both appropriation bills for J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

The Parliament considered the Revised Estimates for 2023-24 and Interim Budget 2024-25 of Government of Jammu and Kashmir starting from Tuesday. The two Appropriation Bills on the Supplementary Budget for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25 were placed by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on 5th February, 2024. The ongoing efforts of the UT Government were also appreciated by the

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Tuesday. Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh Vaidya and Secretary Planning Mohammad Aijaz represented Jammu and Kashmir before the Committee. This effort highlighted the developmental initiatives of the UT government before the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Lok Sabha considered the Bills on 6th and 7th February and passed both the Bills on Wednesday. After seeking approval of Presi-

dent of India, these Bills were then considered by the Rajya Sabha which approved them on Thursday. Finance Department of the UT Government had drafted both the Bills for Supplementary Budget for the current year and the Interim Budget for the next financial year. For this, the Department had assessed the revenue receipts of the UT Government from GST, motor spirit tax, excise, and stamp duty. Further, the non-tax revenue from electricity and water supply, mining royalty,

timber sales, annual rent from industrial lands, etc were also examined. The own revenue of the UT Government has been estimated at Rs. 20,867 crore. The UT Government also pursued Government of India for getting central financial assistance. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo led the UT's efforts in this direction. Crucial meetings were held in August 2023, October 2023 and January 2024 in Ministry of Home Affairs

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'White Paper' vs 'Black Paper': Centre-Congress Blame Game over economy management in NDA, UPA rule

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 8

A 'White Paper' versus 'Black Paper' battle erupted on Thursday as the Centre and the Congress unveiled documents and crossed swords over the handling of the Indian economy during the nearly 10 years of the BJP-led NDA rule and the previous 10-year tenure of the Congress-led UPA government. As the rival multi-party alliances sought to put the spotlight on economic issues just ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a jibe at the



Congress for coming out with a "Black Paper" on the NDA government, calling it a "kaala teeka" (black dot) that will ward off the evil eye on the achievements of his government. While the NDA government's White Paper said the Indian economy was

on "road to nowhere" in 2014 because of the multiple wrong turns taken during the UPA rule, the Congress' Black Paper highlighted what it called the "failures" of the Modi government and alleged that the last 10 years have been a period of "injusti-

ce". The White Paper tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the alleged "economic mismanagement" by the previous UPA government and achievements of the 10 years of NDA rule. The BJP is likely to launch a nationwide campaign around the White Paper as it believes that the issue will resonate with the masses in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls and reinforce its message about Prime Minister Modi's able leadership and the ineptness of the Congress and its allies.

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Srinagar Terror Attack: Injured succumbs, toll 2

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 8

The death toll in Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar terrorist attack on Thursday reached two as the injured civilian, hailing from Amritsar, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital here, officials said. Pertinently, two non-locals identified as Amritpal Singh (31) and Rohit (27), both hailing from Amritsar, Punjab were fired upon by the terrorists in Shaheed Gunj, resulting in on spot death of Amritpal and

injuries to Rohit, who was evacuated to hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries this morning. As per the details available with the news agency, both the slain non-locals were working as carpenters. Meanwhile, the body of Amritpal Singh reached his native village today, where the cremation took place. Moreover, the body of Rohit is expected to reach Amritsar by tomorrow where the last rites will be held.

KNO

LG addresses inaugural session of 6th J&K Agricultural Science Congress at SKUAST-J

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the inaugural session of the 6th J&K Agricultural Science Congress on "Diversification of Agriculture for Self-Reliant Mountain Agro-Ecology" at SKUAST Jammu on Thursday. The Lt Governor welcomed the eminent scientists and researchers from across the country in the three-day conference. He said the exchange of ideas and discussions among the experts on critical aspects of alternative agriculture systems,



digital agriculture, start-up culture, advanced veterinary science, innovation, and data sciences will help in addressing the challenges and exploring opportunities in sustainable agriculture. The Lt Governor

directed the Agricultural Universities to prepare a strategy for diversification, value addition, supply chain management and profitable market linkage for small and marginal farmers.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K, Army share special relation: Lt Gen Dwivedi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

The Jammu Kashmir Police and Army share a special relation because not only they work together but they sweat together and bleed together, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, at his farewell function organised at Police Headquarters here on Thursday. The function hosted by the Director General of Police, J&K, R.R Swain, was attended by R.K.



Goyal FC (ACS) Home Department J&K, Lt. Gen. Naveen Sachdeva, AVSM, SM, GOC 16 Corps, ADsGP S.J.M Gillani, Vijay Kumar, Anand Jain, Maj. Genl. Sameer Srivastava,

VSM, GOC 10 Inf. Div., Maj. Gen. Gourav Rishi, SC, SM, GOC 25 Inf. Div., Maj. Genl. Upkar Chander, GOC CIF (D), Maj. Gen. Manish Gupta, VSM,

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Chief Secretary led Committee approves AAP for key Agri schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the UT level committee meetings called for giving approval to the Annual Action Plans (AAP) of some of the key Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for development of Agriculture and Horticulture sectors here in the UT. Besides the Principal Secretary, APD and Principal Secretary, Finance, the meeting was attended by MD, HADP; Secretary, RDD; DG, Codes; DG Resources and HoDs of the Agriculture Department who also happen to



be the Mission Directors of these schemes for J&K. While taking note of the components included in each scheme, the Chief Secretary maintained that these schemes are meant to enhance the overall productivity and qual-

ity of crops thereby substantially increasing the returns for the farmers. He remarked that the timely interventions on part of the department could aid in meeting the objectives in a time-bound manner.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Process begins to procure 25 more e-buses, to reach Sgr by Mar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 8

With the increasing demand, the authorities have started the process to procure additional 25 electric buses for Srinagar while the officials stated that some among them have already reached Jammu. Pertinently, the administration had announced the procurement of 200 e-buses, 100 each for Srinagar and Jammu cities. However, only 75 have been introduced so far while a process to introduce more 25 e-buses has been started.

Chief Engineer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Er. Abdul Qayoom Kirmani told the news agency that out of the initial target of 100 e-buses, only 75 e-buses are presently operational and that they are planning to procure around 25 more e-buses of 12 meter length. "Of the 75 available smart e-buses for Srinagar city, three are designated as backup in the event of any issues with the operational fleet. 25 e-buses, most likely of 12 meter length, will be added to the existing bus fleet," Chief Engineer SSCL stated.

He added that some among the total 25 have reached Jammu. "Some of the buses have already reached Jammu and are under registration process. Once done with paper work they will be added to the fleet," he said. He added that all the 25 e-buses are expected to reach Srinagar by March. The officials said currently, the e-buses in operation offer a seating capacity of 23, with 17 seats allocated for men and 6 reserved for ladies and disabled passengers. Er. Kirmani said that their eco-friendly

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Snow clearance underway on Srinagar-Leh highway

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEB 8

Snow clearance operation is in full swing at the Zojjila Pass after snowfall blocked the Srinagar-Leh Highway road. Heavy machinery has been pressed into service in collaboration with the Border Roads Organization. Another significant road affected by the recent snowfall is the route from Ranga to Domail in Sonamarg, where the Border Roads Organization (BRO) authorities have initiated snow clearance operations. The BRO is actively engaged in deploying heavy machinery to clear the snow from the said road. An official told news agency that Beacon started clearing snow from Zojila and Minimarg Shatan Nallah. The Srinagar-Ladakh road was closed by the authorities as a precaution following last Saturday's significant snowfall.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Laced with NDPS act, Police goes tough against drug dealers in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 8

Jammu and Kashmir police has tightened its noose on the drug peddlers by booking the big sharks under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) act as it has seized movable and immovable properties of those involved in drug trade besides freezing a large amount of cash. The police move has evoked a great response from all sections of the society with people hailing the

move widely. Figures available with the news agency, suggest that 15 vehicles and gold coins worth Rs 10.66 lakh were recovered and seized in 2023. "Of this, four vehicles were seized from the Jammu region with cash worth Rs 28.10 lakh was also freed," the figures reveal. Similarly, while continuing its war against narcotics, seven houses and 21.5 malras of land was seized in Kashmir where Rs 238 lakh were also freed. "Anti-Narcotics Task Force

(ANTF) also seized one house and four malras of land in Kashmir last year," the figures reveal. In total, 15 vehicles and gold coins worth Rs 10.66 lakh were seized under NDPS in 2023 besides eight houses and 21.9 malras land also attached under NDPS. "In total, cash worth Rs 296 lakh were recovered and freed," the figures reveal. A senior police official said that along with the NDPS, police are acting tough against big fish involved in supplying and

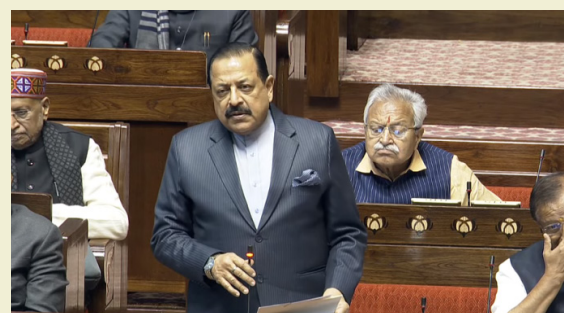
distributing drugs among youth in J&K. "Special police teams have been constituted to crack the gangs and nexus among suppliers and dealers. Focus is to ensure stern punishment those involved in spreading this poison among youth of J&K," he said, wishing not to be named. From seizing the properties including movable or immovable and freezing the cash earned out of the sale of narcotics, NDPS act is coming handy in

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Dr Jitendra shares with Rajya Sabha govt initiatives to boost space startups

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 8

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, shared with Rajya Sabha today several government initiatives to boost Space StartUps. The Minister said, Indian Space Policy 2023 has been released by the Government of India, where roles and respon-



sibilities of all the stakeholders contributing to the overall Indian space ecosystems are defined. In reply to a question, Dr Jitendra Singh enu-

merated various schemes to encourage and hand hold private sector also announced and implemented by IN-SPACE, i.e., Seed Fund Scheme, Pric-

ing Support Policy, Mentorship support, Design Lab for NGEs, Skill Development in Space Sector, ISRO facility utilization support, Technology Transfer to NGEs and Frequent meet/roundtable with the national and international industries for potential business opportunities. IN-SPACE has signed around 51 MoUs with Non-Government Entities (NGEs) to provide necessary support for

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Parliament approves...

and Ministry of Finance to review these demands of the UT Government. Union Home Minister and Union Finance Minister personally reviewed the fiscal management of the UT Government in recent months.

Accordingly, the Central Government has agreed to provide Rs. 41751.44 crore to the UT Government in this financial year and Rs.37277.74 crore in the next financial year. These assistance figures were duly captured in the Revised Estimates of 2023-24 and the Budget Estimates of 2024-25 of the Union Government. This assistance includes the normal assistance (resource gap) to the UT Government, equity contribution for hydropower projects at Kiru, Kwar and Rattle, etc.

Building on this, Finance Department drafted its Supplementary Budget for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25 and the two Appropriation Bills. The revised estimates for 2023-24 is overall lower than the budgeted estimates 2023-24 as the UT government was successful in streamlining its expenditure. The supplementary demands for 2023-24 of Rs 8,712.90 crore pertain to the four Departments of Finance, Power Development, Hospitality and Protocol and Cooperatives. The supplementary budget is required by Finance department in view of the repayment of debt, while Power Development department needs to provide for power procurement. The Hospitality and Protocol department intends to develop the new J&K Bhawan at Dwaraka, New Delhi for which land will be allotted from DDA. The Cooperative department requires the funding additionality for its new CSS, Assistance to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). These additional demands are proposed to be catered with Supplementary Demands for the current year 2023-24.

The Parliament also approved the interim budget for 2024-25 for Jammu & Kashmir which makes provisions for the ongoing initiatives in J&K to promote social inclusion, enhance transparency, augment revenues, and step up infrastructure development. It also provides for ongoing measures for sustainable agriculture, industrial estate, PRI level works, employment generation, and developing tourism. The Parliament also approved the UT's Vote on Account for Rs. 59,364 crore. This interim budget covers revenue expenditure of Rs. 40,081 crore and capital expenditure of Rs. 19,283 crore. It provides for the ongoing measures and schemes as follows -

1) Rs 2959 crore provisioned for tap-water connectivity for rural areas under Jal Jeevan Mission with Rs 532 crore as UT Share.

2) Rs 934 crore for transforming agriculture and allied sectors of the UT through the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), including provisions for IFAD funded J&K Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP).

3) Rs 1907 crore for rejuvenating school education infrastructure and services through funding under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PM SHRI and PM Poshan.

4) Provision of improving road connectivity with Rs 1683 crore for PMGSY roads, Rs 300 crore for CRF roads, and Rs 1000 crore NABARD scheme.

5) Rs 1313 crore for strengthening decentralized governance by providing for local area works of panchayat and urban local bodies.

6) Rs 1271 crore for strengthening infrastructure and services in Health sector.

7) Rs 1093 crore for rural housing under PM Awas Yojana-Grameen scheme.

8) Rs 1000 crore for e social security coverage for Old aged, Widow and Disabled pensions.

9) Rs 660 crore for J&K's equity for in the hydro electric projects at Ratle, Kwar, and Kiru, which would provide stable revenue source and cheaper power.

10) Rs 505 crore for timely procurement of machinery, equipments, prosthetic aids and drugs in Health sector through the dedicated corporation.

11) Rs 500 crore for capitalization of Cooperative Banks, Rural Banks, J&K Bank, etc.

12) Rs 450 crore for infrastructure of new Colleges and Universities as per NEP vision.

13) Rs 430 crore for women empowerment intervention of Ladli Beti and Marriage Assistance

14) Rs 400 crore for construction of Transit accommodations for Kashmiri Pandit employees.

15) Rs 400 crore for development of Industrial Estates and related infrastructure.

16) Rs 370 crore under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban) scheme.

17) Rs 390 crore for Flood Management Project of River Jhelum.

18) Rs 450 crore for GST re-imburement to ensure timely reimbursement of the claims.

19) Rs 272 crore for DDC /BDC grants improving local governance at district and block level

20) Rs 174 crore for development of model schools under PM-Shri scheme.

21) Rs 155 crore for industrial incentives, Start-ups, trade promotion, Job fairs , etc.

22) Rs 155 crore for Heritage conservation, Tourism promotion, and promotion of festivals, cinema/ theatre.

23) Rs 150 crore for developing rooftop solar and other avenues of new and renewable energy.

24) Rs 140 crore for creation of Sports Infrastructure

25) Rs 104 crore for construction of Police Housing, Bunkers, Police Stations, CCTV, etc.

26) Rs 100 crore for conclusion of World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

27) Rs 100 crore for Mission Youth programmes for education, skilling, and employment

28) Rs 91 crore for new tourism destinations, new circuits, Sufi circuit and identified religious circuits, ropeways, high-way resting places and promotion of Golf.

29) Rs 70 crore under infrastructure for welfare of tribals for construction of Tribal Hostels/Milk Villages/ Nomad Shelters/Libraries for Gujjars.

30) Rs 100 crore for sewerage projects in urban areas, Rs 70 crore for development of new Townships and affordable housing and Rs 50 crore for Dal development.

With the Parliamentary nod to the two Appropriation Bills on the Supplementary Demands for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25, the UT Government will now focus on expediting infrastructure projects and social and economic measures and meeting the revenue realization targets. KNO

'White Paper' vs 'Black...'

The Centre's 54-page document said the Modi government after assuming power in 2014 took "tough decisions" to overcome the "hydra-headed challenges" of runaway fiscal deficit, decision stasis, banking crisis, corruption and scams. "In sum, the progress achieved in the ten years of our

government has overcome the malaise and paralysis of the previous ten years of the UPA government. In 2024, confidence and purpose have replaced the diffidence and drift of 2014," it said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge released a 54-page 'charge sheet' titled '10 saal anyay kaal' attacking the Centre just ahead of the government's tabling in Parliament of the 'White Paper' on the "mismanagement" of the economy prior to 2014 with an aim to draw lessons.

In the Rajya Sabha, Prime Minister Modi said Kharge being an Elder has put this 'kaala teeka' for the good work being done by our government in the country's progress.

"Whenever a good thing happens, we apply the 'kaala teeka' (to ward off the evil eye), and I thank Kharge ji for doing this honour today," he added.

"When the country is touching new heights in the last ten years, we take it as 'kaala teeka' to help ward off the evil eye".

The White Paper brought out by the Centre with just two days left for the end of the last session of the current Lok Sabha tore into the Congress-led UPA rule, saying it had turned the Indian economy into a non-performing one through indiscriminate revenue expenditure, off budget borrowings and pile of bad debts at banks.

The reforms undertaken by the Modi government resulted in the transition of India from the league of 'Fragile Five' to the league of 'Top Five' global economies in just about a decade and the economy has been transformed into a far more resilient avatar amidst a challenging global environment, it said.

Indian economy was on a "road to nowhere" in 2014 because of the multiple wrong turns taken during the 10 years of UPA rule, leaving the onus on the Modi government to deal with the challenges and restore dynamism and optimism in the economy, the document said.

"When our government assumed office, the economy was on a road to nowhere, exhibiting tell-tale signs of deep distress emanating from multiple 'wrong turns' in economic policy," said the White Paper which is likely to be discussed in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Sitharaman, while presenting the 2024-25 interim budget last week, had said that the economy has been put firmly on a high sustainable growth path with all-round development in the past 10 years of the Modi government.

"It is now appropriate to look at where we were then till 2014 and where we are now, only for the purpose of drawing lessons from the mismanagement of those years," she had said.

Listing out 15 scams including those relating to coal block allocation, 2G spectrum auction, CWG and Saradha Chit Fund during the UPA regime, the White Paper said these corruption cases had "shaken confidence of the people" in the economy.

"Ultimately, what the UPA government bequeathed in 2014 was an unenviable legacy of a structurally weaker economy and a pervasive atmosphere of despondency." The UPA government failed miserably to facilitate economic activities and instead it created hurdles that held back economy, the paper said, adding that in 2014 the NDA government inherited a "deeply damaged" economy.

"Looking back at the last ten years, we can say with humility and satisfaction that we have successfully overcome the challenges left behind by the previous government." The Congress' 'Black Paper' on the other hand highlighted what it called social, economic and political "injustices" committed during the Modi government's tenure.

"The Modi government's 10 years in power have devastated the country's economy, aggravated unemployment, destroyed the country's agricultural sector, abetted crimes against women and committed grave injustices against minorities in the country," the party alleged in its document.

"The Modi government is silent on price rise... the prices of petrol, diesel and daily essentials has reached record levels." Terming the 2016 move of demonetisation as a "blunder", the party said economic effects of the "disastrous demonetisation" seven years ago continue to haunt the country even now.

The Black Paper also raised issues such as "unemployment, price rise, farmers' distress, failure to carry out a caste census and injustice to women".

"Whenever PM (Narendra) Modi presents his views in Parliament, he hides his failures. At the same time, when we speak about the failures of the government, it is not given importance.

"Therefore, we thought of bringing out a black paper and tell the public about the failures of the government," Kharge, who was flanked by party leaders Pawan Khera and Syed Naseer Hussain, told a press conference at his Delhi residence. (Agencies)

LG addresses inaugural...

"J&K has diverse agro-climatic zones which provide ample scope of adopting farm level diversifications. With this scientific solution, we can mitigate the impact of climate change and will be able to generate higher farm revenue from the same piece of land," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor made certain valuable suggestions to improve productivity and make the agriculture and allied sector more lucrative for farmers and stakeholders.

He advised for chalking out an effective scientific strategy for organic and integrated farming. Our farmers should be provided necessary handholding and guidance on Mono-culture farming so that they could avail the benefits of this 'Farming of Future', he said.

The Lt Governor emphasized on increasing awareness and dissemination of information on the benefits of crop rotation, digitization and precision farming tools among the farmers.

He also advised for Rural Action Plan for innovation, technological advances, digital agriculture to make rural community accessible to the key flagship areas of the agriculture and allied sectors.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor shared various progressive steps taken by the government including Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), high density plantation, GI tags for niche products, agri-entrepreneurship, new Farmers Producers Organisations and developing educational institutions as a technical hub to support farmers.

J&K is the biggest producer of apple in the country. Last year, our annual production was 75% of the country's total production. In the last 3 years, 2.44 lakh metric tonnes of CA storage additional capacity have been added and we are aiming to add similar capacity in the next 6 months, the Lt Governor further added.

Dr. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and Conference Chair emphasised upon the importance of diversification of agriculture and its potential in attaining food and livelihood security.

At SKUAST Jammu, the Lt Governor inaugurated the International Hostel of the University.

He also released the Souvenir cum Abstracts of the 6th J&K Agricultural Science Congress being organized by SKUAST-J in collaboration with J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Department of Science & Technology, J&K.

On the occasion, J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council, Department of Science & Technology handed over a cheque of the financial assistance of Rs 1.45 crore to SKUAST Jammu on account of research of R&D projects under the Sponsored Research & Extension Programme scheme.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner/Secretary, Science & Technology Department; senior Officers of UT Administration and SKUAST, Agriculture Scientists, scholars and students were present. KNO

J&K, Army share...

GOC CIF (R), IGP (Hqrs) PHQ B.S Tuti, and a galaxy of officers from Police and Army, a statement issued to the news agency reads.

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, while speaking on the occasion referred to the special relation between the Police and army and said that there is unwavering trust between the two organisations.

He said when you have 'trust' then every issue gets settled. He said that because of cooperation between the two there has been huge success in operations against the terrorists.

He shared that he has been serving in the Army for 40 years now and during this period, he had the opportunity to work with various police forces across the country and this synergy between the J&K Police and the army is unparalleled.

The Lieutenant General went on to express his hope that the cooperation between the J&K Police and the army would continue and flourish, allowing for more quantifiable outputs in the future. As Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi PVSM, AVSM, moves on to his new role as the Vice Chief of Army Staff, he assured his unwavering support for the J&K Police in the future.

R.K Goyal FC (ACS), Home department J&K in his address spoke about the qualities of head and heart of the outgoing Lieutenant General and wished him good luck for the future. He said that in the tenure of Lieutenant General Dwivedi the civil-military relations remained excellent.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director General of Police (DGP) expressed his gratitude to Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi for his cooperation and support during his tenure in Jammu and Kashmir.

R.R Swain praised the highly decorated officer for his exceptional service, describing him not only as a professional soldier par excellence but also as a human being one could connect, communicate, share thoughts, and draw inspiration from. Discussing the strong bond of trust and support that Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi had cultivated with the Jammu and Kashmir Police during his posting in the region, R.R Swain said that the outgoing General will be missed.

He expressed hope that the synergy and cooperation that exists between the J&K Police and the army would continue in the future, and the law enforcement agencies will maintain their collaborations and work towards the betterment of the region and its people.

He wished the Lieutenant General good luck for the future assignments.

On the occasion Lieutenant General decorated ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain and IGP (POS) PHQ, B.S Tuti with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Disc for their excellent services. Also, as a gesture of great bonding between the two organisations mementoes were exchanged between the officers. R.K Goyal FC (ACS), Home also presented a memento to the outgoing officer. KNO

Chief Secretary led...

He called for regular monitoring and evaluation of these schemes at higher level so that the bottlenecks if any are removed instantly. He also advised for inter-department coordination for smooth implementation of these schemes here in the UT.

Dulloo also stressed upon making the scheme benefits readily available to the prospective beneficiaries by simplifying the procedures. He also called for making necessary amendments as per the guidelines, wherever required, for orienting these with the interests of farmers here.

The Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar informed the meeting about the monitoring mechanism put in place by the department for achieving the targets on time. He also made out that the department has ironed out certain complications for the applicants based on their feedback.

He also threw light on the overall picture of the implementation of these schemes here besides the measures the department is contemplating to enhance the outcomes for each such scheme under implementation in the UT.

The respective Mission Directors presented the performance made in each scheme during the ensuing financial year. They also unveiled the AAP for the financial year 2024-25.

It was given out that under for CSS Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) funds to the tune of Rs 13.21 Cr were released by central government for different projects like RKVY-Normal, Agriculture Machinization, Soil Health Fertility, Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Agroforestry.

The outcomes of the scheme includes distribution of one crore vegetable seedlings among farmers, installation of borewells, bower systems. Similarly 230 clusters had been established for promotion of organic farming under PMKVY and distribution of 41 water lifting devices, 82 vermi compost units, 252 apiculture hives has also been done under RAD.

The meeting also held deliberations about the AAP under RKVY 2024-25. It was apprised that the AAP amounting to Rs 63.03 Cr has been laid for the next financial year. This includes Rs 6.51 Cr for RKVY-Normal, Rs 22.45 Cr for Agriculture Machinization, Rs 2.38 Cr for Soil Health Fertility, Rs 2.10 Cr for Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Rs 6.71 Cr for PKVY and Rs 18.75 Cr for Per Drop More Crop besides allocations for other sub-projects of this scheme.

The outcomes of the scheme includes 15-20% increase in production of vegetables and availability of 3.65 Cr vegetable seedlings, distribution of 82,846 quintals of quality seeds, assured irrigation, employment generation, gender-friendly machinery, better utilisation of Natural resources, better marketing and better returns by reducing distress sale among farmers besides dozens of other benefits accruing to them.

The meeting also discussed the projections made under the Saffron Mission, Bamboo Mission, Krishanoti Yojana,

ATMA, and the Mission for Integrative Development of Horticulture (MIDH). It was said that the AAP proposed under MIDH for 2024-25 is Rs 60.00 Cr.

The meeting also discussed the projects initiated on increasing the product of Saffron, honey besides other niche crops in the UT. It also deliberated upon establishment of two Centres of Excellence in Horticulture with the help of Netherland here besides the impact of HADP among other farmer oriented schemes implemented in J&K.

Process begins to...

mobility aims to bolster public transportation infrastructure in Srinagar for a better commuting experience.

He highlighted the importance of incorporating public feedback into their mobility initiatives, emphasizing the city's dedication to enhancing urban transportation accessibility.

"By expanding the e-bus fleet, Srinagar aims to not only reduce its carbon footprint but also provide convenient and reliable transportation options for commuters," Er. Kirmani said. KNO

Snow clearance...

After the recent snowfall on Zojila Pass, an official informed KNO that they have put in 300 snow cutters, 2 dozers, 1 EX 200, 3 excavators and 90 workers to clear the road. "We continuously monitor the amount of urea and salt. Our goal is to go via the Zojila Pass as quickly as we can," he said.

"The snow is drifting because of the strong wind. Even though we have connected both ends, the path is frequently covered in snow," he added.

A labourer told KNO that they are facing many challenges while clearing the road including heavy winds yet they are working to clear the road. KNO

Laced with NDPS...

dealing with the narcotics dealers, suppliers and distributors. "We want to set an example by ensuring the stern punishment to those involved in this drug trade so that it is rooted out from the society forever," he officer said.

After last year's success, police teams continue their efforts of reaching out to the big fish to crack the whip on the narco-terrorism in J&K. Meanwhile, locals have hailed the police action against drug abuse in J&K stating those involved in the supply chain should be booked under NDPS and sternly punished. "As far as this action is concerned, we are with the police every time. Our support is for the police as drug menace is eating our young population. Youth are falling prey to drugs at a great speed. Booking big fish under NDPS is a great move," a group of people from Srinagar's downtown said.

Similarly, locals from various district headquarters of Kashmir hailed the police move of going tough against drug suppliers and stated that drug supply should be plugged and those involved in it be strictly punished. "We appreciate the police for using NDPS as a big tool against the narco-smugglers. We are ready to support the police in breaking the nexus between suppliers and distributors. It's a time for a collective effort to root out drug abuse from Kashmir," a group of elder people from Baramulla and Kupwara districts said. KNO

Dr Jitendra shares...

realization of space systems and applications envisaged by such NGEs, which is expected to increase the industry participation in manufacturing of launch vehicles and satellites.

Total number of registered start-ups on Digital Platform are approximately 189, he informed.

As of now, ISRO has no plans for Deep Space Probes, stated Dr Jitendra Singh. However, conceptualization studies are underway for advanced space exploration missions, such as continuation of human spaceflight program, further follow-up missions to the Moon and the Bhartiya Antriksh Station, he added.

The "Make in India" initiative in space technology is a strategic approach to boost domestic manufacturing, innovation, and self-reliance in the space sector. The self-reliance in space technology caters to both the upstream and downstream sector.

The Indian space program, with substantial contribution from domestic industries, has touched several new highs over the past 5 years, showcasing indigenous capabilities across all segments of space activities. Key achievements include commercial launches of LVM3 & PSLV, development of SSLV, earth observation satellites, navigation satellite, soft landing & roving on the Moon, mission to study the Sun (Aditya-L1) and major strides towards demonstration of human space flight.

Following are some of the major highlights of Make in India initiative and outcome contained in the Minister's reply.

Domestic Manufacturing of Space hardware: Critical technologies and industrial ecosystems are being developed at ISRO as well as through IN-SPACE respectively.

Space system and satellite manufacturing facilities are being established by Indian NGEs.

Launch Vehicles systems realisation facilities are being set up by NGEs.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is already working with the space agency of USA (NASA) for realising a joint satellite mission, named 'NISAR (NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)' which is in the advanced stages of realisation. ISRO is working with CNES (French National Space Agency) for realising a joint satellite mission named 'TRISHNA (Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High Resolution Natural Resource Assessment)', which is in the initial stages. ISRO and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) have carried out a feasibility study to realise a joint lunar polar exploration mission.

Indian Space Policy - 2023 has been released, which provides the freedom of innovation to the private sector to pursue end-to-end activities in the space domain. Further, the India National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) has been functioning as a single-window agency to promote, authorise and encourage private sector participation in the Space sector.

ISRO pursues international collaboration with the objectives of enhancing the capacity of the Indian space programme for advancing programmatic priorities, augmenting space science and earth observation data base, widening ground station networks, bettering products and services through joint experiments and creating platforms for inflow of expertise.

DC Rajouri flags off group of 11 specially abled students for Vatan Ko Jano Tour

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 8

In a remarkable initiative aimed at fostering cultural and social empowerment among specially-abled youth, a batch of 11 students was ceremoniously flagged off today by Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Om Parkash Bhagat. District Social Welfare Officer, Abdul Raheem was also present on the occasion.

The Youth Exchange Programme, meticulously organized under the auspices of the Directorate of Rehabilitation Council, functioning under the administrative umbrella of the Social Welfare Department, embarks on a transformative journey for these young individuals. As they depart for Delhi and Agra, they carry with them the hopes and aspirations of a community eager to break barriers and embrace diversity.

During an intimate interaction with the



departing students, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri eloquently underscored the profound importance of such initiatives in nurturing a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of cultures that define our society. He emphasized the transformative potential of cultural exchanges in broadening perspectives and fostering inclusivity. The enthusiastic response from the students echoes the resounding success of this visionary programme, reflecting their eagerness to engage with diverse cultures and experiences. Their participation stands as a

testament to their resilience and determination to transcend limitations, inspiring countless others along the way. In line with the overarching mission of the Social Welfare Department to empower and uplift marginalized communities, this Youth Exchange Programme serves as a beacon of hope and opportunity for specially-abled youth across the region. It embodies the unwavering commitment of the government towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society. As the students embark on this enriching journey, they carry the collective aspi-

rations of a community rallying behind them. Their experiences will not only shape their individual growth but also contribute to the larger tapestry of social cohesion and understanding. The Deputy Commissioner, along with all stakeholders involved, extends their heartfelt wishes to the departing students, urging them to seize every moment and embrace the cultural mosaic that awaits them. As they embark on this transformative odyssey, may they emerge as ambassadors of unity, resilience, and compassion.

JKAACL's 2 day Punjabi writers seminar commences

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 8

A two day Punjabi writers seminar on the topic 'Samkali Punjabi Sahit, Jammu-Kashmir', organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) commenced today at K L Saigal auditorium.

Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Secretary, JKAACL, Bharat Singh and former Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn besides others were also present.

S. Ajit Singh Mastana, senior Punjabi writer and ghazal poet was the guest of honour in the function while Popinder Singh Paras, Senior Editor Sheeraza Punjabi, JKAACL shared the dais.

The programme organized under the guidance of Secretary JKAACL was attended by a large number of intellectuals, writers, poets, faculty students and scholars of Jammu University and colleges besides lovers of



Punjabi language.

Principal Secretary appreciated the Academy for promoting local languages and cultural legacy of the region besides encouraging the youth in this regard. He also appreciated the regular publication of Sheeraza Punjabi of JKAACL.

The Secretary said that the Academy is organizing literary, cultural and art events in different parts of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to provide platform to young and senior artists. He added that the Academy has organized many such Punjabi literary programmes at district and tehsil levels in J&K. He emphasized that the seniors should encourage the young generation to pursue art, culture and literary pursuits, so that the next generation is pre-

pared to make their contribution in the field.

In his presidential address, S Ajit Singh Mastana appreciated the Academy for organizing literary activities of Punjabi language at tehsil and district level. He also applauded the regular holding of Punjabi literary activities during the last two years.

During the first academic session of the seminar, three research papers were presented by Dr. Harbhajan Singh on the theme 'Samkali Punjabi Kahani: Sarvekhan Te Mulaankan', Dr. M P Singh on the theme 'Jammu-Kashmir Vich Punjabi Bhasha Di Vartmaan Stithi', and Dr. Gurpreet Kour on the theme 'Samkali Ate Jammu-Kashmir Di Punjabi Kavita Ik Jaiza'. Senior Punjabi writers including Khalid Hussain, S. Joginder Singh Paandhi

and Dr. Monojit gave their impressions on content of the papers presented and other aspects of the session.

During the second session of the day, Punjabi short story writers Khalid Hussain, Surinder Neer, R S Rajan, Dr. Satwant Singh, Jasmeet Singh and Antarjit Kour presented their short stories. Veteran Punjabi writer Dr. Baljit Singh Raina and Professor Rajkumar were present in the presidium. They expressed their views on the short stories presented during the session and the other related aspects of the seminar.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Anuradh, Probhjot Kour and Amanpreet Kour while S. Popinder Singh, Senior Editor Sheeraza Punjabi presented vote of thanks.

DSE Jammu chairs historic Education Conference at Rajouri: A Game-Changing Platform for Education Professionals

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 08

The Border district Rajouri on Thursday witnessed an extraordinary event as education professionals from across the region gathered at the Government Model Higher Secondary School, Lamberi, for the Mega Education Conference, the first ever of its kind.

The landmark conference, organised under the patronage and guidance of Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma, aimed to delve into the variegated aspects of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, alongside addressing the formidable challenges and charting a successful roadmap for its implementation.

The conference garnered immense interest and participation, with esteemed officers including Director School Education Jammu gracing the event as the Chief Guest and Mohd Ashraf Ch. Joint Director Rajouri-Poonch serving as the Guest of Honour.

In his enlightening speech, Director emphasized the significance of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in revolutionizing the education system. He highlighted the

need to create a student-centered approach that promotes creativity, critical thinking and holistic development. He advised the education community to work tirelessly with zeal and commitment to ensure that nep 2020's transformative vision is realised, creating a brighter future for our students and our nation.

He also applauded the outstanding efforts of Department of school education district Rajouri headed by Bishamber Dass Chief Education Officer Rajouri, in organizing this groundbreaking event, stating that it provides a crucial platform for education professionals to collaborate and exchange ideas, ultimately leading to the transformation of education in the region. He encouraged all participants to actively engage in the discussions and contribute their valuable insights towards the implementation of NEP-2020.

The conference showcased fervent enthusiasm for education reform, bringing together all stakeholders, including hundreds of Teachers, Lecturers, Principals, Zonal Educational Officers, Headmasters and Educators. Their collective presence exemplified the com-



mitment to enhancing the educational landscape in Rajouri.

The learned speakers from department of education, district Rajouri who deliberated on variegated aspects of NEP-20 including Suman Lata Teacher GHSS Sunderbani, Dr. Dushyant Pardheep Teacher BHSS Sunderbani, Rakesh Kumar Sharma Principal BHSS

Rajouri and R. C. Sharma Principal GHSS Sunderbani delivered captivating lectures that shed light on crucial aspects of education reform, fueling intellectual discourse and reaffirming the conference's pivotal role in transforming the local educational ecosystem.

In his address, the Joint Director Rajouri-Poonch Jb. Mohd. Ashraf also

expressed his admiration and appreciation for the Chief Education Officer Rajouri's exceptional efforts in organizing this first of its kind event. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to each and every participant, recognizing their invaluable contributions towards making this conference an astounding success. He also advised the teacher community to update their knowledge and skill to address the challenges of 21st century learner.

In his speech, the Chief Education Officer Rajouri Sh Bishamber Das expressed gratitude to the Worthy Director School Jammu and Joint Director Rajouri -Poonch, for their patronage and participation in the conference. He also thanked the education community of Rajouri for their active engagement and commitment to improving the educational landscape. Furthermore, he reminded the teacher community to remain conscientious and dedicated in their duties, emphasizing the importance of their role in shaping the future generation.

The highly engaging and enlightening discussions were masterfully facilitated by Sonia Sharma, Senior Lecturer

GMHSS Lamberi and Mohammad Muslim Wani Senior Lecturer (Physics) Govt. Girls Model HSS Rajouri, who expertly moderated the proceedings from the dais. Mr. Wani's insightful contributions to the topic further invigorated the audience's participation, ensuring a dynamic and thought-provoking exchange of ideas. He also got his book on NEP-20 released by the dignitaries.

Later on, Worthy Director School Education Jammu and Joint Director were presented mementoes and shawls by the Chief Education Officer as tokens of love and respect, recognizing their significant contributions and visionary guidance towards organizing the conference and advancing educational initiatives in the region.

In the end, Smt. Pawan Sharma Principal GHSS Dhangri, presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all attendees, speakers and organizers for their contributions to the success of the conference. She acknowledged the dedication and effort put forth by everyone involved and emphasized the importance of collaboration in driving positive change in the education sector.

National Road Safety Month 2024 MVD Kishtwar hosts awareness program for aspiring drivers



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 8

In alignment with the ongoing National Road Safety Month 2024, the District Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar, under the adept supervision of ARTO Kishtwar Mohd Saleem, orchestrated a comprehensive Awareness Program at the Trial Ground Heli Pad.

This event was exclusively tailored for the general public who have applied for seeking a driving license.

The program aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness among aspiring drivers, emphasizing the crucial role they play in ensuring

road safety. ARTO Kishtwar Mohd Saleem spearheaded the initiative, creating an interactive platform for participants to engage in discussions, gain insights into road safety protocols, and take a solemn pledge towards responsible driving.

The Trial Ground Heli Pad served as a fitting venue, providing a practical and conducive environment for participants to comprehend the importance of safe driving practices. This initiative stands as a testament to the District Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar's commitment to fostering a culture of road safety and responsible driving habits among the community.

Sikh United Front, J&K strongly condemns killings in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

An Emergency meeting of Sikh United Front J&K and an amalgam of various Sikh Organizations J&K held under the chairmanship of Sudershan Singh Wazir Chairman Sikh United front J&K, While Speaking on the occasion. Mr. Wazir strongly condemns the targeted killings of two non local hailed from Punjab shot dead by terrorists at Shalla Kadal area in Srinagar.

While addressing Mr. Wazir, further said that the todays incident is distressing to see the deteriorating situation in Kashmir where a minority is the latest target among the terrorist. The today's victims were Amritpal Singh Sikh worker and a non local worker Rohit both

from Punjab. He said it is unfortunate that the minority community is always targeted by the militants. The claims of central government as well as administration of Jammu and Kashmir are hollow. The majority community is not safe in the valley, the security for minorities is occasionally demanded but administration never bothered.

Mr Wazir said "The government's claim of zero tolerance policy is a farce as crime rate has increased manifold. The government is not sensitive even on incidents of serious crime. He further said "This is an attempt to defame local Muslims of Kashmir. Killing innocent civilians is a move to attack and damage the age-old tradition of communal harmony and brotherhood in

Kashmir. A befitting reply should be given to the perpetrators of such heinous crime on innocent people. Wazir further added that Sikh Community is one of the few communities in the Kashmir who hosted National Flag high in Kashmir and always spread the message of peace with all. But from recent years atrocities on Sikhs in Kashmir has increased which is not a good sign for peace and tranquility in the Union territory. At last Mr. Wazir appealed a personal intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to bring predators of this crime to justice and also to grant Rupees one crore ex gratia to the families and job to one member of their families for their livelihood, more over security be provided

to the minorities so that no one may become victim of militancy in future.

The other sikh organisations and leaders who participated in the meeting and condoled over the killings of innocents and show their sympathies with the bereaved families are Mohinder Singh Chief Organizer Bhai Kanhaya Nishkam Sewa Society J&K and Ex-Member DGPC Jammu, Darbinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Rajinder Singh General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Gajan Singh President J&K Motor Transport Company Association, Raja Singh Sarpanch, Ex-Member DGPC Jammu, Ravinder Singh Sarpanch & General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Kulwant Singh Khajuria Joint Secretary Shiromani

Akali Dal J&K, Smt. Kuldeep Kour President Istri Akali Dal J&K, Gurmeet Kour General Secretary Istri Akali Dal J&K, Paramjeet Singh Senior Leader AISSF J&K, Charanjeet Singh retired SDM, Prof. Yudhvir Singh Corporator, Charan Singh Bali, Convener, Kashmir Province Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Harpreet Singh Chhotu President Youth Akali Dal J&K, Surjeet Singh Kukoo President Sikh Naujawan Sabha, Manmohan Singh Chairman Gurdwara Singh Sabha Gole Gujral Jammu, Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Gurdwar Mata Gujral Kour Trikuta Nagar Jammu, Kuldeep Singh Malik, Kulwant Singh, Rasbir Singh, Paramjeet Singh Raina Ex-Corporator, Tejpal Singh, Kultar Singh, Charanveer Singh (Lad).

ESM and Civil community outreach organised by Indian Army in Naushera

JI NEWS SERVICE
NAUSHERA : 08 FEB 2024

Indian Army on Tuesday Celebrated 76th 'Naushera Day' commemorating the supreme sacrifice of Nk Jadunath Singh, PVC in Battle of Naushera. It was the fiercest battle in 1947-48 Indo-Pak War in Naushera Sector of Rajouri District in Jammu & Kashmir. The Battle of Naushera is unique wherein the residents fought alongside Army with little disregard to their own life or property to save the Motherland. As a tribute to locals contribution, the event was celebrated with residents, ESM and Civil administration authorities. Lt Gen



Navin Sachdeva, AVSM, SM, GOC 16 Corps, Maj Gen Gaurav Rishi, SC, SM, GOC 25 Inf Div, civil and military officials laid wreaths at Veer Bhoomi in remembrance of Nk Jadunath Singh, PVC who made supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. The event was followed by a cultural fest by schools of Naushera. GOC White Knight Corps awarded the school children and the teachers for their enthusiasm and active participation. He also interacted with

people of Naushera & ESMs, wherein he felicitated decorated soldiers, Veer Naris and Veterans from Naushera town and nearby border villages.

Speaking on the occasion, GOC paid tributes to the gallant population of Naushera who fought alongside the Indian Army. He also acknowledged the contribution of the Gurjar Bakarwal community towards maintaining peace in the region and assured them that Indian Army is always with them.

EDITORIAL

Gujjars, Bakerwals should remain cautious

Despite stiff resistance from some sections of the society, the Lok Sabha has passed the much-awaited 'Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Schedule Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023'—a move that granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to 'Pahari ethnic group' 'Paddari Tribe', 'Koli', and 'Gadda Brahman' communities. What is more satisfying is that Paharis have become the first linguistic group to get Scheduled Tribe status in the country. After the inclusion of four more communities, now 16 tribes are incorporated in the ST list of J&K. The historic bill was introduced in Parliament by Arjun Munda, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, on July 17, 2023. This is despite the fact that Gujjars, who already have a reservation under the ST category, had apprehensions that granting the ST status to the Paharis would dilute their quota. While introducing the Bill, the Minister stated that Scheduled Tribes have been defined in clause (25) of Article 366 of the Constitution as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the Constitution. By the said constitutional provisions, the first list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was notified vide the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989. The said list of Scheduled Tribes was amended vide the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 1991. By the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the said list of Scheduled Tribes, presently applies to both the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union territory of Ladakh. The tribes in ST list of J&K include Bakarwal, Balti, Beda, Bot, Boto, Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin, Changpa, Gadda Brahmin, Gaddi, Garra, Gujjar, Koli, Mon, Paddari Tribe, Pahari Ethnic Group, Purigpa and Sippi. The Administration of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir has requested to include the communities of "Gadda Brahmin," "Koli," "Paddari Tribe," and "Pahari Ethnic Group" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Based on the recommendation of the Administration of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and after consultation with the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, it is proposed to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989. Accordingly, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, proposes to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989, to include the communities of "Gadda Brahmin," "Koli," "Paddari Tribe," and "Pahari Ethnic Group" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) approved the inclusion of new "tribes" in the existing Scheduled Tribes list of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The NCST in November 2022 cleared the way for the inclusion of the "Pahari ethnic group", "Paddari Tribe", "Koli" and "Gadda Brahman" communities to be included in the ST list of J&K. The suggestion for inclusion had come from the commission set up for socially and educationally backward classes in the Union Territory, headed by Justice (Retd.) G.D. Sharma. Amit Shah had promised to grant ST status to Paharis in October 2021. The Central government has already assured the Gujjars and Bakerwals that this decision would not dilute the rights of the communities that are already enjoying the ST status. Still, some political parties and organisations are out to create trouble by inciting the passions of Gujjars and Bakerwals who need to remain cautious from such elements and must keep faith in the government while resolving their issues.

Unveiling the green revolution at Indian airports

GP PANDEY

India is ranked 5th in the world's GDP rankings in 2024. India's economy boasts diversity and swift growth, fuelled by key sectors such as information technology, services, agriculture, and manufacturing. The civil aviation sector is also emerging as a crucial driver of growth and mobility and by implication is steering economic growth for the country. Today, India stands as the third-largest aviation market.

This boom can be traced back to a mix of factors including the expansion of tourism & infrastructure development, along with low-cost carriers and growth of disposable income. The construction of new airports, expansion of existing ones, and the introduction of world-class facilities further strengthen India's position as a global aviation powerhouse. Air passenger traffic in India, com-

prising both domestic and international travel, is expected to reach 395 million in 2023-24. By FY2030, it is predicted that India's domestic airport passenger numbers will rise to 700 million, while its international airport passenger numbers will reach 160 million.

Moving to Renewables

Global experts across the world believe that India is on its way to becoming the most exciting market for global aviation due to investments made by the Indian government in airport infrastructure. However, the centre's priorities are in the middle of a complex Venn diagram - maximizing economic opportunity while also moving steadily towards achieving its decarbonization goals. This can be seen clearly in their decision to promote carbon reduction initiatives.

Earlier this year, Cochin International Airport (CIAL) became the first airport in the world

which is completely powered by solar energy. The unprecedented project is expected to avoid 3,00,000 tons of CO2 in the next 25 years - the equivalent of planting three million trees. A staggering 66 Indian airports have already achieved 100% green energy usage, powered by solar, wind, and hydro sources and 121 more are projected to become carbon-neutral by 2025.

In India, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has been spearheading the promotion of sustainable development in the aviation sector by encouraging the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), a green alternative. This green revolution in Indian airports is not merely an environmental initiative; it is a strategic economic imperative.

By embracing sustainability, India is positioning itself as a leader in the global aviation industry, attracting investments and fostering innovation.

Shaping an Industry for the Future

Usage of SAF against conventional jet fuels would result in a lifecycle carbon reduction of up to 80 per cent carbon emissions. The Indian government is actively promoting the use of SAF and has set a target of achieving a 10 per cent blending of SAF with conventional jet fuel by 2030. When the entire world is faced with the humongous challenge of climate change & related impacts, devising a sustainable approach to scaling infrastructure is crucial. It appears the government is cautiously stepping in the right direction, by adopting a 360-degree approach.

To augment the airport infrastructure the government aims to develop 100 airports by 2024 under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme. To date, 74 airports have been developed. More than 2.15 Lakh UDAN flights have been operated and over 1.1 Cr passengers have availed of the

benefits of UDAN flights so far. While new airports are being built to improve connectivity and bolster supply chain networks, this is being done with a green component. MoCA has issued guidance to developers of upcoming Greenfield Airports and the relevant State Governments, emphasizing the importance of working towards carbon neutrality and net-zero emissions. This includes promoting the use of green energy sources.

The Indian aviation industry has been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18% over the last five years, according to a report by KPMG. The Indian Civil Aviation MRO market, at present, stands at around \$900 Mn and is anticipated to grow to \$4.33 Bn by 2025 increasing at a CAGR of about 14-15%.

Various stakeholders have now come into the picture as the transition provides for new arenas of innovation. For example, the Odisha

Government has recently appointed RITES Ltd as the consultant for the airports in Rourkela, Jeypore and Amarda Road. The company has provided its expertise in green airport development. Earlier, the Railways PSU was signed on to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Shivamogga Airport under the UDAN Scheme. This shift towards green practices also improves resource management, generates cost savings, and ultimately enhances the overall competitiveness of the aviation sector in the country.

India has firmly established itself on the global aviation map. As we continue to embrace the future of aviation, the industry has the potential to transform the way we travel and approach our decarbonization goals. The sky's the limit for this exciting and dynamic industry.

(The author is a professor at Assam University, views are personal)

Jharkhand: In a state of perpetual unrest

KALYANI SHANKAR

The State had a tumultuous political history. It has witnessed eleven chief ministers in the last two decades, with the twelfth appointment being Champai Soren; on Friday, Hemant Soren, the previous chief minister, was interrogated for seven hours at his official residence and was subsequently forced to resign, resulting in a crisis. Corruption and defection have led to instability in the State. In the past, several former Chief Ministers resigned due to corruption. It was not surprising when Hemant Soren was arrested, as he knew it was coming sooner or later.

Unfortunately, the crisis occurred at a crucial time, raising several issues. These include the uncertainty surrounding the newly formed Opposition Forum INDIA. It could adversely affect the outcome of the 2024 elections, which are scheduled for April-May. Additionally, why small states are experiencing political instability should also be investigated.

Jharkhand has had political instability and Maoist violence since it was formed. In contrast, Chattisgarh, created

simultaneously, has been relatively politically stable. Jharkhand is blessed with plenty of natural resources. Still, its people have been struggling with poverty and underdevelopment due to frequent changes in governance. This has caused problems for the State's development over time. Jharkhand has had 11 Chief Ministers since 2000, with most having brief tenures. Only Raghubar Das, a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), completed a full five-year term from 2014 to 2019.

After Hemant Soren resigned, Governor CP Radhakrishnan delayed Champai Soren's swearing-in ceremony, causing tensions in Jharkhand. The State was left without a Chief Minister for more than 48 hours. However, Champai Soren, a committed Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party member and the former State Transport Minister, was finally sworn in as the new Chief Minister on Friday. Champai Soren is one of the party's founding members, along with Hemant Soren's father, Shibu Soren. Hemant chose Champai Soren as his successor not only for his loyalty but also for his competence and dedication to the party.



Just forming smaller states is no guarantee for better lives, as evidenced by Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand, all created in 2000. The Jharkhand Assembly has 81 members. A government can form with 41 members. The JMM-Congress-RJD alliance has 47 members, BJP has 25, and AJSU has three members. The remaining seats are shared by the NCP, a Left party, and three independent members.

The JMM-led alliance was concerned about the Bharatiya Janata Party destabilizing their government by luring their members away. As a precaution, the MLAs were taken to a safe place until the new chief minister took the oath. Defection problems have plagued the political system; resort politics is

another issue that needs attention.

The opposition coalition INDIA has faced a setback after instability in Jharkhand. The cracks in the alliance have become more evident due to a lack of unity within INDIA. Nitish Kumar's departure from the party, followed by Mamata Banerjee's announcement that her TMC party will contest in all seats in West Bengal, and AAP's decision to run independently in Punjab has posed a severe threat to the unity of the group. The strained relationship between the Congress and Akhilesh Yadav's SP in Uttar Pradesh has further worsened the situation.

The Opposition accuses the Modi government of investigating several leaders from the Opposition.

These include Delhi's CM Arvind Kejriwal, Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, NCP's Sharad Pawar, Hemant Soren, DMK's Stalin and the Congress. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee established three smaller states by dividing larger ones: Chhattisgarh from Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand from Bihar, and Uttarakhand from Uttar Pradesh. The main goal was to promote development in these regions.

However, two decades later, these states are still experiencing instability and a lack of development. The mere creation of a smaller state is no guarantee for better lives. The time has come to assess whether smaller states have achieved their intended purpose. There may be better options for the people. Smaller assem-

blies can cause instability as MLAs switch sides. In smaller states, elections often prioritize local issues, dividing representation among smaller parties and regional leaders who act independently. It can have unintended consequences that negatively affect people's lives. The stability of smaller states depends on various factors. In Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, direct contests occur between BJP and Congress. But, in Jharkhand, the multi-party system with national parties relying on regional parties can lead to instability and defections.

In elections, when no political party wins a clear majority, it can cause political instability in small and large states. To prevent lawmakers from switching parties, the Anti-Defection Law was created. However, this law often fails as some legislators are tempted by money and muscle power. Comprehensive electoral reforms should be implemented, and state funding must be provided for elections. Political parties must find practical solutions to ensure the system's fairness and transparency.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

The Significance of Conch Blowing

HK CHOPRA

Lord Krishna resounded throughout the world with the blast of a conch during the Mahabharata. The act of blowing the conch is an integral part of daily rituals performed during poojas and ceremonies in temples, households, and various events. In the Bhagavad Gita, at the onset of the great battle, Lord Krishna initiated this divine ritual by blowing the conch, followed by others such as Yudhisthira, Bheema, Arjuna, Nakul, Sehdev, and so forth.

The conch, held in Lord Vishnu's hand, symbolizes the essence of life and the primal sound. Blowing the conch signifies the primordial creative voice linked to the sacred sound "Aum," the breath of Lord Vishnu pervading all space. This primordial sound serves as the source of divine energy in all living beings,

including humans, animals, plants, vegetables, flowers, and galaxies. The sound emitted from the conch resonates with the divine presence. The spelling of the word "shankha" varies across different regions of India depending on the local language, such as Shankha in Sanskrit, Kannada, and Marathi, and as a "chank" shell in English.

The significance of Conch (Shankha) and its blowing lies in its representation of purity, primal energy, brilliance, wisdom, auspicious beginnings, divinity, and victory over evil. It purifies and energizes the environment positively, enhancing courage, willpower, determination, and optimism, thereby signifying the triumph of good over evil.

The act of blowing the conch three times before any ritual aims to diminish negative energy and reduce the vibrations of



Tamas and Rajas while enhancing Sattva's vibration. Blowing the conch symbolizes the dispelling of evil thoughts and actions before auspicious events.

The conch holds historical and mythological significance, such as its emergence during the churning of the ocean (Samudra Manthan) in Hindu mythology. It represents righteousness and the victory of good over evil, often referred to as

the "victory call of good over evil."

Another purpose of blowing the conch is to create auspicious sounds that mask negative noises, fostering a serene atmosphere for worship. It serves as a reminder for people to pause and acknowledge the divine presence, even amidst their daily routines.

Scientifically, spiritually, artistically, and in terms of humanity, the primordial sound "Aum" produced by

conch blowing generates divine energy and vibrations, harmonizing the internal and external environments. These vibrations have healing properties, promoting well-being, calmness, and happiness, and strengthening the immune system. They also stimulate the energy zones (Chakras), fostering creativity, confidence, compassion, peace, harmony, prosperity, and protection from negative influences.

It has several health benefits too, especially for the heart. Conch Blowing enhances blood flow in the Coronary Arteries of the Heart and 1 billion capillaries all over the body, thereby, being responsible for a healthy heart and healthy blood vessels. It also stabilizes activity of the sympathetic nervous system, thereby preventing palpitation, the conch blowing is important to practice at a young age with no underline comorbidi-

ties to enhance a healthy heart. A healthy Heart, healthy Brain, healthy Lungs and healthy blood vessels can be achieved by conch blowing daily from a young age. Heart attack at a young age is caused by increased sympathetic nervous activity, uncontrolled hypertension, uncontrolled diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity and optimization of lifestyle right from childhood by practising amalgamation of optimised lifestyle and spirituality in the form of meditation and yoga will reduce the rising menace of young heart attacks in India and the world. Conch blowing holds immense significance in Hindu rituals while also providing therapeutic benefits for individuals and the environment.

(The writer is Chief Cardiologist, at Medanta Moolchand Heart Institute; views are personal)

Langeh pays tributes to Rama Bhai Ambedkar on her Birth Anniversary

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Mata Rama Bhai Ambedkar, a heartfelt tribute ceremony was organized at the Gadi Garh Mandal in Jammu South District. The event, attended by members of the community, was graced by the presence of Neelam Langeh, former MLA and President BJP SC Morcha, who led the gathering in offering floral tributes to the revered Mata Rama Bhai Ambedkar.

During the ceremony, Neelam Langeh shared insights into the remarkable life of Mata Rama Bhai Ambedkar. He highlighted that Mata Rama Bhai, born on February 7, 1998, into a humble Dalit family, exemplified the enduring principles of equality and justice championed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Mata



Rama Bhai's life journey was deeply intertwined with the vision and values upheld by Dr. Ambedkar. Known for her innate compassion, humility, and empathy, Mata Rama Bhai's character mirrored the virtues embodied by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar himself. Dr. Ambedkar's profound reverence for his wife further underscores her pivotal role in shaping his ideals and convictions.

The tribute ceremony served as a poignant reminder of Mata Rama Bhai Ambedkar's enduring legacy and her invaluable contributions to the upliftment of marginalized communities.

Neelam Langeh and his esteemed colleagues paid homage to Mata Rama Bhai with reverence and gratitude, reaffirming their commitment to carrying forward her noble legacy.

Reasi Police solves theft case within 24 hours, recovers stolen property, 01 arrested

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB 8

Theft case FIR No. 10/2024 US 379 IPC was registered at Police Station Arnas after getting complaint of theft, when unknown individuals stole construction equipments from construction site worth lakhs.

A special team was constituted by *SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma- IPS* to recover the stolen material which was led by *Inspector Jeet Singh SHO P/S Arnas under the supervision of SDPO Arnas SP. Sh. Mohd. Irfan Khan JKPS.*

During investigation several suspects were rounded up and after sustained questioning one person identified as Kulbir Singh confessed to have committed the crime and on his disclosure stolen property was recovered. The swift action taken by Police Station Arnas in apprehending the burglar and recovering the stolen items demonstrates their dedication to maintain law and order in the region and sending a stern message to those involved in criminal activities.

Mohita Sharma-IPS, Senior Superintendent

EVM demonstrations reflect frustration of Modi Govt ahead of LS polls: Tony

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh has asserted that the village wise demonstration of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) by the Election Commission of India (ECI) reflects utter frustration of Modi Govt that is fearing defeat in the upcoming Parliament elections. He demanded the use of ballot paper in the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior Congress leader said that it is an irony of this nation that despite the people openly raising voice in favour of casting votes by using ballot paper the Govt is adamant on using the EVMs in the elections. He claimed that using EVMs is not fair mode of conducting elections especially with people rejecting this process after losing trust on these machines. He alleged that the writing on ECI vehicles "Modi Ki Guarantee" clearly proves that ECI is working wholly and solely on the directions of Modi led Union



Govt.

Tony said that people have lost faith in the institution of Election Commission of India as it has betrayed the people's trust by not ordering voting through ballot paper. The height of the things is that the vehicles used by the ECI for demonstrating EVCs across the nation prominently display the slogan "Modi Ki Guarantee". Questioning the autonomous functioning of ECI, Tony said that this is the clear example of blatant murder of democracy in the World's largest democracy. He said that the people of this nation want Guarantee of fair elections from ECI and not Modi Govt. He asserted that all the opposition parties are raising serious allegations of EVM hacking and there being still time for the elections, the ECI should announce the holding of these upcoming Parliamentary elections through the medium of using ballot paper.

Northern Railway celebrates 68th Railway Week

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 8

To commemorate the running of the first train in the country between Bori-bunder and Thane, Indian Railways celebrate the Railway Week every year during April. This year

Northern Railway is celebrating its 68th Railway Week. Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway presided over the Awards Distribution Ceremony held today at National Rail Museum, Chankayapuri, New Delhi. Ajay Kumar Singhal, Additional General Manager and all the Principal Heads of the various departments, other senior railway officials and railway employees of Northern Railway, Members of Unions Associations & Federations, President, Northern Railway Women Welfare Organization. (NRWVO) Saneeti Chaudhuri and other Members of NRWVO were present on the occasion.

The ceremony started with facilitation of 100 railway employees (Officers & Staff) for their meritorious services by Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway. 54 running shields were presented by the General Manager, based on performance-oriented parameters. Ambala Division has been awarded with the General Manager's Excellence Shield. Delhi Division was declared the Best overall performance in all fields, hence was awarded the shield for its overall performance. Firozpur Division has been awarded for its Most Economical Functioning. Best improved



division shield has been awarded to Moradabad Division. Speaking on the occasion, the General Manager lauded officers and staff for various achievements of the zone in core functional areas. He stated that this year has been an encouraging one for us. Northern Railways has achieved unprecedented growth in our infrastructure and services. It was an honor for Northern Railway when Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the first phase of renovated Ayodhya Dham Railway

station from Ayodhya.

Shri Chaudhuri was pleased to mention that all railway men are aware of the responsibility. Northern Railway has earned Rs. 7869 crores from 35-million-ton Cargo Loading. Earned Rs.349 crore from parcel & goods loading and achieved first position among all Zonal Railways. Ran 266 special trains during Deepawali and Chhath Puja festival besides augmenting 510 regular trains. Launched "One Station, One Product" scheme at 126 stations over NR and 1582 beneficiaries earned 04.39 crore rupees. 95 % route of NR has been electrified. 19 pairs of coaching trains have been converted from diesel to electric traction and registered Rs. 23 crore recurring annual saving in high-speed diesel. On Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Kolkata route, work is in progress to increase the trains speed up to 160 KMPH. 03 Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals have been completed on NR. 68 Km. long Rohtak - Meham new line has opened for the public after CRS clear-

ance. All the seven stations between Banihal and SMVD Katra have been completed and remaining work is in full swing on this section under the USBRL Project.

Northern Railway is proud of its outstanding and dedicated sportsmen and sportswomen who have won the highest laurels for us nationally as well as internationally. Northern Railways' sports persons give their best to bring glory for the country. RPF personnel of Northern Railway have consistently shown high dedication to duty and protected railway property and helped the public in times of need.

He congratulates all the recipients and their families on getting Awards today. The contribution of railway men and railway women's families to enable their spouses in discharging their duty irrespective of the demand's domestic issues like festivals, personal important occasions - which most railway men forgo to discharge their duties so selflessly.

CEO inspects remote schools in Zone Pouni



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 8

Chief Education Officer Reasi, Sunita Bali, undertook a significant visit to GMS Gooder and High School located in the remote Kotla area of Zone Pouni.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the educational landscape and address the unique challenges faced by schools in far-flung regions.

The Chief Education Officer engaged in comprehensive discussions with school administrators, teachers, and students to gain insights into



the specific needs and requirements of the educational institution. She emphasized the importance of providing quality education to all children, irrespective of their geographical location. CEO's visit underscored the commitment of the Education Department to ensuring equitable access to education in remote areas.

She acknowledged the dedication and resilience of educators working in challenging environments and expressed her gratitude for their efforts in nurturing young minds.

Secretary KVIB chairs District Level Awareness Programme at Katra

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEBRUARY 8



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEBRUARY 8

J&K KVIB Reasi today organized District Level Awareness Programme at Durga Bhawan Katra under the Chairmanship of Secretary/CEO J&K KVIB, Dr. Jagdish Chander Mehra.

The Awareness programme focused on Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) Schemes.

The functionaries of Khadi & Village Industries Board made people aware about the benefits provided to aspirants under the twin schemes.

They said aspirants can avail Easy loan facilities through recognized financial institutions for self employment and self entrepreneurship.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajay Kumar, (Field Officer) J&K KVIB enjoined upon the budding entrepreneurs to harvest the opportunities being provided by the government schemes by establishing self employment ventures.

Ashwani Kumar I/C District Officer KVIB Reasi, while addressing

ing the public informed that entrepreneurs have choice to setup ventures in manufacturing, services and trading sectors under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

The beneficiaries with middle pass qualification are being provided financial assistance up to fifty lakh in manufacturing sector and twenty lakh under Services sector to establish their self-employment generating units, he added.

He also sensitized the participants about procedural and various formalities required for registration and uploading of application forms under PMEGP & JKREGP schemes.

The camp was attended by Tilak Raj Dy. Chief Executive Officer Jammu Division, Ashwani Kumar I/C District Officer KVIB Reasi, Harish Dogra J&K Bank Manager Branch Arli, Rajinder Kumar Mengi (DDC Chairman) Panthal, Bansi Lal State Vice President Mazdoor Dastkar Union J&K UT, Yoyal Kishore Zila Pardaun (Sarpanch) Kundorian.

76 Battalion CRPF, Health Deptt organise free medical camp

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 8

Continuing its endeavour towards wellness of civilians, 76 Battalion CRPF, in collaboration with J&K Health Department, organized a free medical camp under Civic Action Programme here today.

The camp was held in the Prem Bhawan Banquet Hall Residency Road, under the guidance of Sandeep Khirwar, IG Jammu Sector and Ramesh Kumar, DIG Jammu Range. A number of needy people of the area availed the free health care and learnt about prevention and symptoms of different diseases.

Medical Officers, Dr. S. Sowmiya, 76 Battalion, CRPF and Dr. Sanjay Bhasin conducted free medical check-up of



around 290 civilians and provided free medicines.

Earlier, T.H. Khan, Commandant-76 Bn inaugurated the Civic Action programme and appealed to the people of the area to stay fit by doing physical exercises regularly. He sensitized them about healthy lifestyle and hygiene. Besides, he also elaborated the role of the CRPF in maintaining cordial relationship between locals and force.

Mahendra Singh 2IC, Rajesh Kumar Yadav 2IC, Girish Chandra Singh Sontiyal, Deputy Commandant, Priyanka Singh Parihar, Assistant Commandant and Praveen Kumar Assistant Commandant of 76 Bn CRPF also participated in the camp.

The initiative drew positive response and was received well by the locals with the urge that the CRPF organize such camps in future too.

AAP condemns targeted killing of Sikh labourer and non local resident in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Aam Aadmi Party (Aap) Spokesperson & Gen. Secy Aap, Partap Singh Jamwal Strongly Condemns the Attack on two non locals in Srinagar. He expressed his deep sorrow and condemns in the strongest terms the cowardly and shameful terror attack took place in the Shala Kadal down' town City Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar on Wednesday evening in which Amrit Pal Singh, a non-local Sikh hailing from Amritsar, Punjab, tragically lost his life in the attack, while another non-local, Rohit lost his life.

Partap Singh vehemently denounced the act, labeling it as a clear manifestation and frustration aimed at disrupting



the peace and tranquility in Kashmir. He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Amrit Pal Singh and Rohit.

Partap stated that these killings exposed the Hollow claims of Central Government and LG administration as targeted killing has become a regular and the administration has miserably failed in controlling the situation.

MHA decides to scrap FMR between India, Myanmar to ensure internal security of country

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 8

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North Eastern States bordering Myanmar. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in his post on 'X'said that "It is Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's resolve to secure our borders, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar be scrapped to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North Eastern States bordering Myanmar. Since the Ministry of External Affairs is currently in the process of scrapping it, MHA has recommended the immediate suspension of the FMR."

Jio-bp launches "You-Deserve-More" campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 8

Jio-bp (the operating brand of Reliance BP Mobility Limited, fuel and retailing joint venture of Reliance Industries and bp), a leading mobility solution provider, today launched their You-Deserve-More campaign showcasing their unique customer propositions to elevate India's fuelling experience.

Marching through the Amrit Kaal towards the 100th anniversary of Independence, India will continue to remain the bright spot for global energy. Offering "More" to India, the You-Deserve-More (YDM) campaign highlights the unique customer propositions on offer from Jio-bp, focusing on three pillars of performance, service, and cutting-edge technology.

The YDM campaign touches upon diesel delivering up to 4.3% higher mileage and petrol that keeps engines up to 10X cleaner through internationally developed bespoke "ACTIVE" technology at no extra cost along with a rapidly growing Jio-bp pulse EV charging point network. Also highlighted is the 24x7 shop for snacks, confectionery and travel need items, along with signature coffee under an international on-the-move brand Wild Bean Café, amongst other propositions at the country-wide network of Jio-bp Mobility Stations. In line with their vision of reimagining mobility for the country with low carbon solutions, Jio-bp also retails a bouquet of energy offerings including compressed biogas, ethanol based E20 petrol, and EV battery charging and swapping.

Even beyond Mobility Stations, Jio-bp is the pioneer in taking diesel to customer's doorsteps through automation driven pillar proof mobile dispensers and patented packed HDPE containers. Their seamless easy ordering, real-time tracking, optimized delivery routes and geo-tagging, have enabled Indian customers belief in safe and quality on-demand delivery. In lower carbon EV solutions, Jio-bp's hassle free Jio-bp pulse app, dynamic load sharing and auto-charge features are helping to accelerate EV adoption in the country.

2 Day Workshop on IoT, Industry commences in DoCS & IT, Jammu University

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

A two day workshop on IoT and its Industrial Applications, started today, on 8th February, 2024, in the Department of Computer Science & IT, University of Jammu (JU) in collaboration with M/s. AdvanceTech India Pvt. Ltd. The objective of the workshop is to provide hands on practical training to the students, scholars and faculty members in the domain of Internet of Things (IoT)

Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Director, Distance and online Education and former Dean Students Welfare, JU was the chief guest of the occasion. While addressing the participants, Prof. Srivastava appreciated the efforts of the department in providing exposure to the students and faculty in the latest fields of computer science. Prof. Srivastava emphasized that IoT is the technology of future



and hoped that the interested students shall be provided opportunity by the industry for projects and placements.

Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, Head, Department of Computer Science & IT, while welcoming the dignitaries said that Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, has been very keen to establish academia industry interactions and this workshop is organized under his dynamic leadership and vision. Prof. Abrol also shared that an MoU has been signed between the University of Jammu and M/s. AdvanceTech India Pvt. Ltd., recently. Prof. Abrol elaborated

the achievements of the department in the last few years including organization of Faculty Development Programme (FDPs), MOOCs and LMS, Techsakhsham, workshops on e-Yantra in collaboration with IIT Bombay, expert talks on different advanced areas like finger printing, biometric, and human authentication, mind matters, besides, interactions of the students with Director, NIC, J&K. Prof. Abrol further apprised the participants about the availability of the latest infrastructure, hardware, softwares, networking and other digital resources available in the department for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Ashish Verma, Head, Operation Manager and Execution, M/s. AdvanceTech India Pvt. Ltd., expressed his gratitude to department for inviting and organizing technical workshop on IoT. He said that the participants shall be working on the latest IoT kits which have been specifically arranged in sizeable number by the industry and have been installed in the labs of the department for the workshop purpose. He further added that Mr. Ankur Rawat and Mr. Gopal will conduct the technical sessions of two day workshop. Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma, Co-Convenor of the workshop discussed

about the significance of design and development of sensor based systems and application of IoT in different fields. He hoped that the students shall take lead from the interaction with the industry resource persons that will help them in their projects, dissertations, and placement efforts.

Dr. Shubhmandan Singh Jamwal, Organizing Secretary, presented the formal vote of thanks.

The participants of the workshop included the students, scholars, faculty members from the Department of Computer Science & IT, Department of Electronics, and Kathua Campus of the University. Prof. Vinod Sharma, Sh. Jasbir Singh, Dr. Suresh Rao, Ms. Namrata Karlupe, Dr. Rajneet Kaur, Dr. Haneet Kour, Ms. Ayushi Gupta, Mr. Anil Tikoo, Mr. Sanjay Manhas, Er. Gurpal, besides the faculty members, scholars, and the staff were present on the occasion.

Addiction Treatment Facility established at District Hospital Ramban



JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 8

In a significant step towards tackling drug addiction, the Ramban District Hospital inaugurated an Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre today, as part of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan.

The virtual inauguration ceremony was graced by Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale.

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale stressed the importance of ATF centres in combating drug abuse and achieving a drug-free nation. He emphasized the need for public participation in this crucial endeavor.

Welcoming the facility, the Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq

Chaudhary said "Inauguration of the Addiction Treatment Facility marks a pivotal moment in our collective fight against drug addiction. It underscores our unwavering commitment to prioritize the health and well-being of our community. With the establishment of this facility, we not only provide treatment but also extend a hand of compassion and support to those battling addiction."

The objective of the ATF is to provide dedicated treatment facilities to individuals struggling with drug addiction. Under the guidance of AIIMS Delhi, the ATF aims to serve as a beacon of hope for those in need.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal reiterated the gov-

ernment's commitment to eradicate drug abuse and implementing comprehensive rehabilitation policies. He called upon families, especially parents, to support youth in avoiding drugs and emphasized the crucial role of familial support in rehabilitation.

The ceremony concluded with the administration of the Nasha Mukti pledge, symbolizing a collective commitment towards a drug-free society.

Those attending the function include Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban Harbans Lal Sharma, GM DIC, Ravinder Anand, CMO Kamal Ji Zadoo, Dy. SP Om Prakash, District Social Welfare Officer, Rahul Gupta, MS, Dr. Renukar Trishal and Dr. Mohd Rafi Wani.

Shree Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha continues to empower J&K students with Scholarships

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Shree Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir, a prominent organization, continues to demonstrate its dedication to the welfare of the Rajput Community. In the month of February 2024, it has provided educational scholarships to the tune of Rs Two Lakh Eight Thousand (Rs. 2,08,000) to One Hundred Four (104) meritorious Rajput students belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS). Under the visionary leadership of President Sh. Pavitar Singh, a retired judge, the Sabha has so far disbursed a total of Rs Ten Lakh Sixty-Two Thousand (Rs. 10,62,000) in educational scholarships, benefiting numerous deserving students.

This generous financial support, made possible through the contributions of Four Hundred Eighty Five (485) members of the Rajput community, aims to empower and uplift students to pursue their academic aspirations.

Ashish Katoch, Organising Secretary of Shree Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha, J&K, stated, "The Sabha's dedication to the welfare of the Rajput community extends beyond education. To date, a remarkable financial assistance of Rupees *Twenty Lakh forty two Thousand (Rs 20,42,000/-)* has been disbursed under various welfare funds, including education/sports scholarships, marriage assistance, widow pension, family pension, and old age pension."

Under the guidance of Sh. Pavitar Singh, the Sabha remains actively involved in educational, social, and cultural initiatives to strengthen the community bonds and foster progress within the Rajput community and is achieving significant milestones in its pursuit.

Magh Gupt Navratri to commence this year from Feb 10: Rohit Shastri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU/KASHMIR

Magh Gupt Navratri, a festival dedicated to the worship of Mother Adishakti, is set to commence from 10th February 2024. Speaking about Gupt Navratri, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, highlighted the significance of puja and recitation in overcoming challenges. Magh Gupt Navratri will conclude on 18th February, and the Navaratri fasting will end on 19th February.

Muhurat Timings: The installation ceremony will commence from 8:44 AM to 10:11 AM on 10th February, and the auspicious time for worshipping Goddess Durga and lighting the lamp is from 12:12 PM to 12:58 PM on the same day.

While Chaitra or



Vasant Navaratri is well-known, there are two other Navaratri known as Gupta Navaratri. The first one falls in the Shukla Paksha of Magha month, and the second one in the Shukla Paksha of Ashadha month. These are called Gupta Navaratri due to the hidden mystical reasons associated with them. Devotees observe fasting and perform puja rituals for nine days, starting with the installation ceremony on the first day.

During these nine days, devotees worship the nine forms of Mother Shakti. Tantric practitioners focus

on the ten Mahavidyas instead of the traditional Navadurga forms. These ten Mahavidyas are - Kali, Tara Devi, Tripur Sundari, Bhuvaneshwari, Chinna-masta, Tripur Bhairavi, Dhoomavati, Baglamukhi, Matangi, and Kamala Devi.

Devotees ardently worship Goddess Shakti from Pratipada to Navami, seeking the blessings for inner strength and liberation from worldly troubles.

Gupt Navaratri holds special significance for practitioners of tantra, shakti sadhana, and Mahakal. During this period, devotees strictly adhere to fasting and intense sadhana to attain rare powers. The observance includes puja of Goddess Durga and recitation of Durga Saptashati either personally or under the guidance of a knowledgeable priest.

These days are consid-

ered auspicious for those interested in tantra and mantra practices, as well as for householders seeking to awaken their inner powers. Observing charity and virtuous deeds during this time is also emphasized.

Avoidance of tamasic foods like onions, garlic, eggs, and meat, refraining from cutting nails or hair, sleeping on the ground, practicing celibacy, harboring no ill will towards others, and abstaining from wearing leather items or accessories are recommended during Navaratri. Engaging in sinful activities during this time is believed to bring adverse effects on oneself and one's future.

During Navaratri, align fasting with one's health conditions, consume fruits more, and perform daily recitations of prayers to Mother Durga.

Col Mahan inaugurates crucial road connectivity project in Sheetal Nagar, Bhoond

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BHOOND (KATHUA)

Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman of Kathua, today inaugurated the commencement of construction work on the 6-kilometer-long Sheetal Nagar (Gadodi) to Kote road under the esteemed Project NABARD. This momentous initiative aims to address the longstanding demand for enhanced road connectivity among the vast population residing in the Basohli and Bani Region. The project is poised to exponentially elevate religious and adventure tourism, particularly in the revered Jodian Wali Mata and Daulah Mata hilly regions.

The event witnessed the gracious presence of notable dignitaries including Er Bharat Gupta, Executive Engineer PWD Division, AEE PWD (R&B) Bani, Thakur Darshan Singh, Ashok Purohit, Capt Harnam Singh, Pardheep Kumar, Chando Ram, alongside a large contingent of local residents hailing from Kote, Nooni, Bhoond, Gadodi, Patagar,



Danna & Janu villages. Notably, the event garnered enthusiastic participation from women and youth, accentuating the community's unified support towards the project.

Col Mahan was warmly welcomed amidst resounding cheers and slogans by the spirited villagers.

Addressing the gathering, Col Mahan underscored the critical importance of establishing this vital road link, emphasizing its significance in facilitating the seamless pilgrimage to the revered shrine of Shree Sheetal Mata at Jodian.

He emphasized the arduous nature of the existing 16-kilometer trek from Sheetal Nagar to Jodian and emphasized how the new road infrastructure will ease the journey for devotees and enhance the transportation of essential commodities and provisions. The DDC Chairman extended heartfelt gratitude to the Modi Government, LG Manoj Sinha, and particularly Dr. Jitendra Singh, MP, and Central Minister of State PMO, Sc. & Technology, and Space for their unwavering support towards realizing this transformative project. He also acknowledged

the pivotal role played by Reeta Thakur, DDC Member Bani, in conceptualizing and executing this commendable initiative.

The inauguration ceremony symbolizes a significant milestone in the region's development trajectory, promising improved connectivity, enhanced economic opportunities, and enriched cultural exchanges. Col Mahan Singh's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to community welfare continue to inspire progress and prosperity in the region.

LS Polls: Kavinder asks BJP cadre to accomplish goals diligently

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Thursday asked the party cadre to accomplish targets with diligence and exuberance claiming that political proficiency of activists at ground level can act as game changer leading to unprecedented victory in electoral battles.

The BJP stalwart leader was addressing a seminar organized by BJP's Urban & Local Bodies' Cell of Jammu North in context with upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

In his address, the senior BJP functionary asked the party workers to remain connected with the masses by providing necessary succor to the common man. He directed the party activists to toil hard to accomplish the assignments given to them by the higher ups in the party and also work with coordination and dedication to strengthen booths as this was imperative for winning the polls.

Kavinder emphasized the importance of disseminating information



regarding the significant achievements of the BJP government under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past decade. He asserted that no other administration in the history of the country has come close to achieving what the current BJP regime has accomplished. He underscored the need to highlight these accomplishments to the public, showcasing the transformative initiatives and progress made under the BJP's governance. This emphasis reflects the party's commitment to transparency and accountability, aiming to ensure that the electorate is well-informed about the government's achievements and contributions to the nation's development, he added. The former deputy Chief

Minister said that record of BJP government in fulfilling the promises is also unmatched and it is now the responsibility of each and every worker and leader of the party to permeate this message among masses so that victory of BJP in every Lok Sabha seat in J&K creates history by breaking all previous records of vote margins. Senior BJP leaders Omi Khajuria, Pawan Singh and Shiv Dev Singh also spoke in the seminar while Rajesh Sharma conducted the proceedings. Others present during the seminar include Dinesh Gupta, Narinder Singh Bunty, Dharam Vir Jamwal, Ravish Mengi, Suresh Khajuria, Vaishno Devi, Sunita Gupta, Tripta Devi, Yashpal Manto, Subhash Sharma, Mahinder Bhagat, Kuldeep Singh, Surinder Sharma and Rekha Manhas.

Pargotra holds public meeting at Vill - Pacholi, block Purmandal

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEB 8

With the efforts of Ram Chand a meeting of the locals of village Pacholi block Purmandal Jammu-Samba-Reasi Parliamentary constituency, was organised. Dozens of locals attended the meeting under the leadership of Rajesh Pargotra Provincial Vice President AAP Jammu.

Khajur Singh Ex-Sarpanch Bagla Rahya and Retired Principal was also present in the meeting.

The public of village



Pacholi counted their problems such as non-availability of drinking water, shortage of electric power and the deteriorative condition of road and other problems relating to basic amenities of Health and Education.

Speaking on the occasion Rajesh Pargotra assured them to fulfill their demands and accomplish all the basic and

other facilities for sam-puran vikas irrespective of any ill-will, caste and religion.

Besides, the policies of Aam Aadmi Party for the welfare of general public were also briefed their and the public of village Pacholi embraced the policies especially the Youth who attended the meeting liked the policies of AAP threadbare and happily.

Balwant Thakur felicitates two State Awardees Kuldeep Raina, Pawan Verma at Natrang

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Natrang organised an exclusive function here today to felicitate two State Awardees in the field of performing arts Kuldeep Raina and Pawan Verma. The felicitations were done by Natrang Director Padamshree Balwant Thakur. Speaking on the occasion Balwant said that it is a matter of pride for Natrang for the reason that two of the proud artists of Natrang have been conferred the most prestigious State Award in the field of performing arts for the year 2024. Fact remains that both Kuldeep Raina and Pawan Verma started their career in theatre from Natrang and accomplished outstanding achievements in the field. This is also extremely gratifying that in the past 40 years of Natrang gave

to the world best of the artists who took the name of this region to National and International heights through their outstanding achievements. Today majority of J&K artists who are outshining in Indian Cinema, Television Industry, Theatre and other professional fields are the proud products of Natrang Jammu.

Dr. Kuldeep Raina started his career as an actor from Natrang and later accomplished himself as a multifaceted performing artist who outstandingly excelled in every sphere of art particularly in Music. As a music director, he directed musical events for National and International events including International Theatre Festival of India organized by National School of Drama. As a scholar he has many research projects to his



credit including 'A Qualitative Study of Music and Personality', 'Music and its Positive effect on Mental Health' and 'Natya-shastra'. In television, he has acted in over 200 TV serials and also has the credit of having received the National Junior Fellowship in Theatre from Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Currently he is the cultural coordinator of the cluster University of Jammu, Member Board of Governors, North Zone Culture Centre, Member Expert Committee (The-

atre) in Ministry of culture, and Convenor, Board of Studies (Music) Cluster University of Jammu. He is also the acting President of Sanskar Bharti, Jammu & Kashmir. Pawan Verma who also started his career from Natrang Jammu is having the experience of more than 24 years in theatre. He acted in over 80 plays which were performed more than 700 times through-out the country and abroad too. Important among them are Bawa Jitto (Dogri), Mahabhoj (Dogri), Ghumayee (Dogri), Kauva Chala Hans Ki Chaal, Andhon Ka Hathi, Holi etc. He has also participated in more than 40 National Theatre Festivals in which major among are Bharat Rang Mahotsav, Nandi-

kar International theatre festival, Jash-ne-Bachpan, Vivechana's National theatre festival etc. organized by the prestigious Institutions like National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, NZCC Patiala, Indian People Theatre Association (IPTA) etc. Pawan has also the credit of having performed in many International Theatre Festivals like "Year of India in Russia" Festival- Russia 2009, Frankfurt International Theatre Festival- Frankfurt-2009, Commonwealth games, New Delhi-2010, International Cultural fest in Indian International Centre (IIC)-2011, 101th Indian Science Congress-2013 and 8th Theatre Olympics -2018 etc. He also has received National Junior fellowship in literature from Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Khatana meets Amit Shah 'Vested interests are misleading people of Rajouri-Poonch'

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 8

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Ghulam Nabi Khatana on Thursday met Union Home Minister, Amit Shah at national capital New Delhi.

Khatana briefed the Home Minister Amit Shah about the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir and updated him regarding ongoing campaigns for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The Rajya Sabha MP informed the Union Home Minister about his back to back meetings with tribal youth and others and said that there is a good feedback in favour of BJP in upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

"BJP will win all the five Lok Sabha seats from J&K and the one seat from Ladakh Union Territory," he said and thanked the HM for restoring peace in



Jammu and Kashmir. Khatana said that incidents of terrorism in J&K have come down after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A.

"This year Kashmir witnessed record number of tourists as peace prevails in the valley under the leadership of PM Modi," the Rajya Sabha member told Amit Shah.

He said that some vested interests are misleading the people of Rajouri-Poonch area to disturb the peace.

"I appeal to the people of Rajouri-Poonch area to maintain peace and brotherhood as the Union

Home Minister, Amit Shah has announced on the floor of the Parliament that reservation to tribal Gujjars and Bakerwals will in no way be affected due to the reservation to Paharis," Khatana maintained adding: "Rajouri-Poonch area has seen record developments under the leadership of PM Modi."

He said that tunnel between Chowki Chora and Bhambra and another tunnel in Nowshera area are being constructed to facilitate the people of Rajouri-Poonch areas and these tunnels will reduce the travel time from Jammu to Rajouri.

BJP workers take on "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" across UT

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

On first day of the "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan", programme, thousands of BJP workers reached different allotted villages in rural and booths in urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir UT to spend 24 hours there. They were welcomed in respective mandals, provided the printed material related to the Abhiyan and given warm send off. On reaching their respective areas, they were received by the village Sanyojak and his team members.

Later, they took up their scheduled activities in villages and wards to meet the people of different sections and follow the chalked out programme.

BJP State General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul send off the workers of Trikuta Nagar Mandal from party headquarter to their assigned wards of Jammu South District, in presence of State Vice Presi-



dent Aseem Gupta, former MLC Ch. Vikram Randhawa and District President Rekha Mahajan.

While speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul said that over 10000 party activists and leaders from state are going to every village in rural areas while in urban areas, they are going to cover every ward. They have to interact with people, particularly farmers, women, youth, the prominent personalities, and tell them about the

policies and programmes initiated by modi government for the upliftment of every section..

He said that through this exercise, the leaders and workers will stay overnight in the village or ward allotted and listen to the issues of the people and work for their redressal and added that the BJP will also put forth its report card before people. He said that PM has a dream of making India a developed nation, the "Viksit Bharat by 2047,

and people will be asked to work for the achievement of this goal.

Koul further emphasised that the party through this exercise will cover rural as well as urban areas and reach out to the people to win their support for making BJP government at the centre for the third consecutive term.

Pawan Khajuria, State Incharge for "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan", while speaking about the commencement of the Abhiyan, said that

almost all the leaders and workers holding different posts and responsibilities at different levels, reached their allotted areas and started their work as prescribed by the party. He said that on first day, there was great enthusiasm among the party cadre and it is expected that in the next two day, every worker will contribute in making it a great event.

Similarly, Vice President Aseem Gupta, undertook this exercise in Booth Number 63, Channi in Bahu assembly constituency. Vice President .Sham Choudhary in Booth Number 29, Jammu South, General secretary Dr. Devinder Manyal in MC Ward No. 1, Ramgarh, former minister Ajay Nanda in Ghar Ballian, Reasi constituency, former MLC Vikram Randhawa in Booth No 141, Kunjwani, Likewise every leader and worker allotted the area was there to attend his responsibility under "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan".

Shiv Dev encourages BJP members to educate public about various welfare schemes of Modi Govt



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta, has affirmed the readiness of the BJP to participate in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayat elections in the region. His statement came during a one day seminar of Local and Urban Bodies of Jammu District North organized by BJP Urban and Local Bodies Convenor and ex-MLA Shiv Dev Singh at Roop Nagar, here on Thursday.

Co-Convenor Pawan Singh, Zila Pradhan Omi Khajuria, ex-Corporators namely Surinder Sharma (Ward 38), Sunita Gupta

(Ward 37), Mohinder Bhagat (Ward 61), Kuldeep Singh Chib (Ward 63), Rakha Manhas (Ward 62), Ashok Singh (Ward 59), Yashpal Sharma (Ward 35), Tripta Devi (Ward 66), Subash Sharma (Ward 36) besides Dharamvir Singh Jamwal, Rupesh Mengi (Janipur Mandal president) and Suresh Khaujua (Paloura Muthi Mandal President) were present on the occasion.

Kavinder Gupta urged party leaders with significant responsibilities at different levels to intensify their activities in preparation for the upcoming ULB and Panchayat elections, emphasizing the party's full readiness for these elector-

al contests. During the gathering, Shiv Dev Singh outlined various upcoming programs aimed at enhancing outreach to the masses at the grassroots level.

Shiv Dev Singh encouraged party leaders and members to educate the public about various welfare schemes and assist them in accessing benefits from social security programs initiated by the Union Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

He called for increased efforts in organizational expansion and reaching out to the masses during party events and public welfare initiatives.

NS Bhau meets Chairman of Ex-Servicemen Committee



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

The Ex-Servicemen Committee, under the esteemed leadership of Shamsher Singh call off Narinder Singh Bhau , as they has reiterated their long-standing demand for a dedicated housing colony for ex-servicemen in Jammu and Kashmir. In light of the continued challenges faced by ex-servicemen in finding suitable and affordable housing, the committee is calling for immediate attention and action from relevant authorities to address this critical issue.

Narinder Singh Bhau, speaking on behalf of being one of the renowned leader of Chhamb constituency and President AIBRS committee, emphasized the pressing need for a housing colony that caters specifically to the requirements of ex-servicemen in

the region. Their unwavering commitment and sacrifices in serving the nation deserve the support and consideration of the government and local authorities in facilitating access to suitable housing options. Recognizing the integral role played by ex-servicemen in safeguarding the nation's security, it is imperative to ensure that their post-retirement living conditions are conducive to a dignified and comfortable lifestyle.

The Ex-Servicemen Committee urges the concerned authorities to engage in constructive dialogue and take concrete steps to address the housing needs of ex-servicemen in Jammu and Kashmir. The provision of a dedicated housing colony would not only serve as a testament to the nation's gratitude for their service but also contribute to their overall well-being and quality of life.

Narinder Singh Bhau and the Ex-Servicemen Committee remain steadfast in their pursuit of this essential initiative and are committed to working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to achieve a positive resolution. Their advocacy for the welfare of ex-servicemen reflects a deep-seated commitment to upholding the rights and dignities of those who have selflessly served the nation.

The Ex-Servicemen Committee calls upon the Narinder Singh Bhau to heed their plea and take decisive action in addressing the housing needs of ex-servicemen in Jammu and Kashmir and represent their case to central ministry of India especially to Rajnath Singh. The time has come to honor their service with tangible support and provide them with the housing accommodations they rightly deserve.

BJP to facilitate pilgrimage for Ram Devotees from J&K with Special 'Aastha' Trains: Yudhvir

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, will facilitate the pilgrimage of Ram devotees from Jammu & Kashmir to Ayodhya. The Northern Railways is running special 'Aastha' trains which will be operated from Katra, Udhampur, and Jammu Railway Stations to facilitate this sacred journey.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Convenor of Ram Darshan Ayodhya, while addressing a press conference at Party Headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Sanjita Dogra, President BJP Mahila Morcha, J&K and Reema Padha, Co-Convenors of Ram Darshan Ayodhya were also present.

Yudhvir Sethi informed that the Special Astha trains are scheduled to run on February 13, 16, 20, and 27, as well as on March 1 and 5, 2024, providing devotees with convenient travel options to visit the holy city of Ayodhya. He said these trains will depart from Katra, Udhampur, and Jammu Railway Stations, ensuring accessibility for devotees from various regions of Jammu & Kashmir.



He informed that the J&K based Member Parliamentarians will give a rousing reception to the devotees at Ayodhya.

Sethi informed that the District Offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party across the Union Territory will extend all possible support to Ram devotees by assisting them in train ticket bookings, arranging accommodations, providing local conveniences, and facilitating their Darshan at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

This initiative comes at a significant time, as it marks the first collective pilgrimage of Ram devotees to Ayodhya since the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22. The inaugural 'Aastha' train, which com-

menced its journey on February 6, received an overwhelming response from devotees, reflecting the enthusiasm and devotion of the people towards Lord Ram. Yudhvir Sethi expressed that this sacred journey to Ayodhya will not only deepen spiritual bonds but also reinforce the spirit of nationalism among devotees across the country. Emphasizing the significance of pilgrimage, he highlighted its role in fostering unity and solidarity. Additionally, he extended gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling the dreams of crores of people of the country with the historic construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya after a gap of nearly 500 years.

The senior BJP leader also extended its gratitude to the Northern Railways for their overwhelmed support in making this pilgrimage initiative possible. By facilitating the journey of Ram devotees to Ayodhya, the BJP aims to provide an opportunity for spiritual fulfillment and strengthen the bond of devotion among the people of Jammu & Kashmir, he added.

For further information and assistance regarding the Ayodhya pilgrimage, he urged the Ram Bhakts to contact their respective District Offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jammu and Kashmir and assured that full support will provide to them in their sacred journey from Katra to Ayodhya.

Vikramaditya condemns killing of 2 Punjab residents in Valley

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 8

Former MLC Vikramaditya Singh today vigorously condemned the killing of two workers hailing from Punjab in Srinagar, and said that the entities inimical to peace are hell bent to again revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Wednesday, militants fired at two carpenters, both residents of Amritsar in Punjab, in the Shalakkadal area of old Srinagar city. While one of the carpenters Amrit Pal Singh was killed while another carpenter Rohit was critically injured in the attack, who succumbed to his injuries on Thursday.

Slamming the reprehensible action of the violence mongers, the senior political leader urged the government to ensure that all the perpetrators of the vicious cycle of violence in J&K should be taken to task as soon as possible.

Vikramaditya Singh also conveyed sympathies to the grieving families and prayed to God to grant eternal peace to the departed souls.

SSH team felicitates SP Headquarters, SHO Arnia



J I NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, FEB 8

Prominent members of Shiv Sena Hindustan today met Superintendent of Police Headquarters Jammu Irshad Rather and SHO Deepak Katoch in Arnia today to congratulate Police officers for taking effective steps to address drug addiction in the area by solving many theft cases by SHO Deepak Katoch terming it very remarkable. The delegation highlighted the significance of preventive education, awareness generation, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of affected persons and greater involvement of society in eradicating the menace. The prevailing situation vis-à-vis drug menace has already received the priority attention of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Lieutenant Governor has already passed instructions to all the concerned agencies to leave no stone unturned to plug the smuggling routes

and generate awareness by involving all the educational institutions.

They made appeal to the society from various platforms to extend all possible assistance to the Government in this regard as it is the collective responsibility of the society to rehabilitate youngsters who have fallen prey to the drug addiction conspiracy hatched by neighbouring country. They appreciated Jammu and Kashmir Police and Anti-Narcotics Task Force for adopting "Zero Tolerance Policy" towards the menace and because of collective efforts of all the concerned agencies large number of drugs have been seized as indicative of the effectiveness of the policy.

They said that young generation have become addicted to drugs in these areas and some people are selling drugs without license due to which our young generation is getting spoiled because of these hidden drugs. It does not cause bad breath

nor does it stumble and the parents think that because their child is not drinking alcohol, hence no one would be intoxicated, they added. By the time the parents come to know about it, it is too late and on the other hand. They also expressed concern over production of desi liquor in these areas which is produced by the people in the desi Bhatti.

They said Police is also doing its work, but it is a matter of big concern that now drug peddlers have also included women in this illegal trade, which is very dangerous for the society besides Police also have to face a lot of problems to catch them. However the government and the police are catching them and putting them in jails but after coming out, they again start doing the same work again because they do not have any other work. He demanded enhancing funds for identification, motivation, counseling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation of the drug users.

Manjit demands release of full package in favour of DPs

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH (SAMBA), FEB 8

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has demanded release of full package in favour of the Displaced Persons (DPs) in Jammu region.

"These DPs (refugees) were displaced from their respective places in 1947, 1965 and 1971 following hostility between India and Pakistan whereas then Govt of India announced a package for them i.e., Rs 25 lakhs for each DP family," said Manjit Singh, while addressing a Block Level Committee, Ramgarh at extreme border village Gokale Chak (P.S. Pura) in District Samba.

The meeting was organized by Block President, Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary. In his address, he said that the package was sanctioned, and released in favour of the DPs so that they can be provided some financial support for their rehabilitation by the Govt of India.

"However, the authorities did not fully release the financial package. Instead, they released Rs 5.5 lakhs per family in support of DPs which was insufficient and improper implementation of the



package that was sanctioned by the Govt of India," he stated.

He further said that the DPs remained sidelined and constantly ignored by the authorities regarding the release of pending packages and granting them property rights on the state/custodian department's land which were allotted to them decades back by the previous Govts.

"To reduce burden from their shoulders and worries about their children, the Govt should give property rights on state/custodian lands to the DPs / farmers along the International Border," he stated.

While referring to the development and unemployment related issues, he stated that these

issues can be addressed by an elected Govt. However, the elections have not been announced in Jammu and Kashmir that has deprived the people from their constitutional rights to elect their own Govt, and get their issues resolved, he added.

He said that the elections should not be delayed, and accordingly, the statehood should be restored to J&K.

He also demanded reservation of 8 Legislative Assembly seats of the Displaced Persons (DPs) while expressing disagreement with the reservation of one Legislative Assembly seat in favour of the DPs in J&K.

"The DPs have a huge population, and they shall be given adequate representation in the assembly

because they remained sidelined for decades," he added.

Meanwhile, he referred to the welfare policies of the Apni Party that would be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir for equitable development in both the regions, if the Party forms the next Govt in the erstwhile state.

He also highlighted the schemes of enhancing the widow pension up to Rs 5000, four cooking gas cylinders to each poor family in a year under Ujjwala scheme, providing 500 units of electricity free of cost and 300 units of electricity during winters in Jammu region, enhancement of marriage assistance up to Rs 1 lakhs in favour of the girls from the economically weaker section, and similar other

schemes.

The meeting was also addressed by District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti.

In his address, Adv Bharti highlighted the issues of underdevelopment, poor road connectivity, irregular drinking water supply, and constant unscheduled power cuts.

Block President, Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary also spoke on the occasion regarding various issues. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, Provincial President SC Wing, Lovely Mangol, State General Secretary SC Wing, Joginder Lal, Provincial President, Jammu, Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Provincial Vice President Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Provincial Secretary Women Wing, Sheetal Sharma, senior leader of the Party, Vishal Nariana, District President Women Wing, Priyanaka Devi, District President, Youth Wing Samba, Managat Ram, District President Minority Wing, Dalbir Singh, Bhagat Sai Dass, Block President Youth Wing Bari Brahmana, Irshan Choudhary and others.

Inspired by PM Modi's doctrine several people joins BJP in Jammu South

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Impressed by the Bharatiya Janata Party BJP's doctrine including public-friendly magical union government schemes, several people joined the saffron party (Bharatiya Janata Party) here at RSPura Miran Sahib Mandal of District Jammu South. The mass joining was led by BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. The program was organized by District General Secretary and Co-Incharge Joining Programme Akash Chopra in the esteem presence of State Vice President Sham Choudhary, Parbhari Ayodhya Gupta, DDC Gharu Ram Bhagat, former Mayor and Incharge District Jammu South Baldev Singh Billa-waria, OBC State President Sunil Prajapati, Mandal President Bikram Sandhu, Ex-Chairman Satpaul



Pappi, District President OBC Rampaul. In the meantime, all BJP senior leadership of Jammu South felicitates Ex-President Sabzi fruit Rehri Rs Pura, Seema Mehra, Anil, Koushal, and many other supporters.

Rekha Mahajan While joining the BJP all new entrants from different segments of society impressed and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's good governance and putting forward India on the global stage. She said that the mass joining of these prominent political and social activists including the general public from different parts of Jammu South strength-

ened the party at the grass-roots level and enhanced the BJP party activities for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls 2024.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold Sham Choudhary, said the people living in remote areas have appreciated the intention and policies of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government. "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vish-waas aur Sabka Prayas has been the hallmark of Modi Sarkaar and we as the representatives of the BJP have to work together like a family to make sure that our country advances on the path of unity, peace, and progress.

GOC White Knight Corps visits Narian on 'Nowshera Day'

J I NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, FEB 8

Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, GOC White Knight Corps interacted with ESM, Veer Nari, Veer Mata, local people and students during the "Souhard aur Milaap" programme organized at Narian by Tithwal Brigade. GOC highlighted and appreciated the role of local people in establishing peace, progress and prosperity in the area. During the programme, students performed Gidda and Gatka to promote the local culture of Naushera. Sewing machines, school furniture and stationery were distributed on the occasion for the locals and students and a medical camp was organized for monitoring any health issues of the citizens. Maj Gen Gaurav Rishi, GOC Ace of Spades Division, Brig DKS Sharawat, Vrc, VSM, Commander Tithwal Brigade, DC, Rajouri and DIG, BSF Sect HQ Rajouri were also present during the occasion. GOC White Knight Corps felicitated the young team of Gatka, school children and teachers for their enthusiasm and active participation. Speaking on the occasion,



the GOC highlighted the contribution of ex-servicemen in maintaining peace in the region and assured them that the Indian Army is always stands by them. He also mentioned that the Indian Army is at the service of all the citizens in the region and is available for the people at all times. On this occasion, the Sarpanch of Narian village and other eminent members also appreciated the contribution of the army and the development work done by the Army in Narian village through Op Sadbhavna and hoped that the Indian Army will continue to help the people in the same way in future also. The local people expressed happiness in

finding a very senior Army officer among them and said that for the first time that such a senior Army officer had come over to interact with the local populace. Local people were proud of our Indian Army which, along with protecting the borders, always takes along with it the people living in the villages in every aspect. They provide every possible help to the people living in the border areas. If there is any kind of problem, the Indian Army is the first to reach that place and help the people. The locals also expressed their desire for more such events in the future to strengthen the bonhomie in the region.

Jugal demands Jammu to Mumbai train on daily basis to be started soon



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament BJP Lok Sabha Jammu today raised his voice in Lok Sabha at new delhi and demanded a new train from Jammu to Mumbai and back Mumbai to Jammu on daily basis to be started soon.

Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament today in Lok Sabha informed the house that there are many people and labour of Jammu and Kashmir who are working in Maharashtra to earn their livelihood are used to travel through trains. Their connectivity mode

is train which is economic and affordable to them. He said that there are more than 1000 people who want to travel on daily basis from Jammu to Maharashtra and back but they have to suffer a lot due to non-availability of trains on daily basis. Only two trains presently in a week are running from Jammu to Mumbai. He urged Hon'ble Minister of Railways to start a new train on daily basis from Jammu to Mumbai and back from Mumbai to Jammu so that people may not have to suffer any more and can travel easily from Jammu to Maharashtra and Maharashtra to Jammu.

MSCBMC Trust holds National Art Workshop at GMS Kalyar in Mathwar

J I NEWS SERVICE
MATHWAR, FEBRUARY 8

The Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust today organized a National Art Workshop at Government Middle School Kalyar in Mathwar, drawing enthusiastic participation from students of various government schools in the vicinity.

Led by President Anuradha Rishi, the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust initiated a week-long National Art Workshop titled 'Trikuta - The Maharani of Mountains'. The workshop features a distinguished team of ten nationally renowned artists from across the country including Ashok Kumar, Gopal K Samantray, Gouri Vemula,



Jiban Biswas, Nilesh Vede, Rahul J Mhetra, Ranjeeta Kumar, Sanju Das, Suman Dongre, and Vijay Kumar, who are actively engaging with students to impart artistic skills and insights.

On the second day of the workshop, students from Government High School Mathwar, Government Middle School Mawa, Gov-

ernment Primary School Parla Mathwar, and Government Primary School Keri Mathwar enthusiastically participated in the workshop at Government Middle School Kalyar in Mathwar.

The participating artists not only demonstrated various artistic techniques but also interacted

with students, providing them with valuable guidance and encouragement. Additionally, the artists distributed gifts among the students, fostering a spirit of creativity and camaraderie.

Anuradha Rishi, President of the Trust expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Director of School Education and the dedicated school teachers for their invaluable support in facilitating the art workshop.

Emphasizing the importance of such art workshops, she highlighted the vast potential of local students in remote areas like Mathwar, where opportunities for learning art skills are scarce. She called upon the government to extend support for organizing more workshops in

such underserved regions, emphasizing the transformative impact it could have on the lives of students and communities.

Furthermore, Anuradha Rishi urged the government to promote Mathwar as a cultural hub, emphasizing the potential for tourism, employment generation, and economic growth in the region.

She also extended special thanks to Petronet LNG for their generous support in making the art workshop possible.

The Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust remains committed to empowering young talents and fostering cultural enrichment in communities across Jammu & Kashmir.

Foundational Training Program for Hostel Staff organized at SMVDU

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

A 7-day training program, aimed at enhancing computer literacy among hostel caretakers and supervisors, concluded successfully today. Titled 'Foundational Training: MS Word, MS Excel, and Email Basics', the initiative was designed to improve efficiency and productivity in hostel management through the development of skills in document creation, data management, and email communication. Prof. R.K. Mishra, Dean of Students, led the opening session motivating participants to hone their skills. The resource persons Dr. Sonika, Dr. Sunanda,



Dr. Sakshi, Dr. Arti, Dr. Shafaq, Dr. Shazia, Dr. Purnima, Dr. Pooja, and Dr. Deepak offered hands-on sessions on MS Word, MS Excel, email basics and note writing. The training was geared towards enabling better record-keeping and streamlined communication with the administration, addressing the specific needs of hostel management. Dr.

Sonika Gupta and Dr. Rashi Taggar successfully conducted this training program and expressed their gratitude to Prof. Pragati Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor of SMVD University, who consistently offers guidance and inspiration for such programs as university's dedication to empowering its staff in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat Abhiyan.

Sunil Verma calls on Omar, discusses political scenario prevailing in distt Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Sunil Verma, District President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Udhampur, today met with Omar Abdullah, Vice President of JKNC and former Chief Minister, in Jammu and extended heartfelt congratulations to him for successfully performing Umrah.

Sunil Verma also apprised the Party's Vice President about the prevailing political scenario in district Udhampur. He highlighted the challenges faced by the general public, particularly the lack of basic amenities in the absence of a popular government. He conveyed the sentiments of the people, who are decrying the inadequate provision of essential services and infrastructure, such as healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and road connectivity.

The District President emphasized the urgent need for effective governance to address these pressing issues and improve the quality of life for residents in Udhampur.



He underscored the importance of aligning policies and initiatives with the aspirations and welfare of the people, in line with the principles espoused by the National Conference.

Omar Abdullah expressed gratitude to Sunil Verma for the warm wishes and underscored the paramount importance of fostering unity and harmony within the community. Recognizing the significance of collective cohesion, Omar reiterated the need for solidarity and mutual respect among all sections of society, regardless of differences. He emphasized that by promoting understanding and collaboration, com-

munities can overcome challenges and progress towards a brighter and more inclusive future.

Omar Abdullah also asked Sunil Verma to remain accessible to the public and actively engage in addressing their concerns and grievances. He emphasized the importance of being responsive to the needs of the people and working tirelessly to address their issues. He asked him to champion the policies and ideologies of the National Conference (NC) at the grassroots level, emphasizing the party's commitment to inclusive governance and equitable development for all segments of society.

NSF condemns exclusion of Sikh Advocates from High Court Judgeship

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

In a fervent response to the recent decision by the central government to omit two Sikh candidates from consideration for Judgeships in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Varinder Jeet Singh, Chairman of the National Sikh Front, has vehemently opposed what he perceives as discrimination against the Sikh community.

Mr. Singh has urged the central government to promptly rectify the situation by appointing the two Sikh Advocates to the esteemed positions of Judges, emphasizing the importance of ending discriminatory practices against Sikhs.

Expressing solidarity with the Supreme Court's stance on the matter, Varinder Jeet Singh highlighted the need for the



central government to provide clarification on the exclusion of Senior Advocates Harmeet Singh and Depinder Singh from the final selection list. He underscored that both advocates have demonstrated impeccable professional credentials, making their exclusion a pinnacle of discrimination.

He further advocated for the consideration of Sikh representation in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, citing the significant Sikh population in these regions. He empha-

sized that the appointment of Sikh judges would expedite the resolution of cases with compassion and efficiency.

Asserting the importance of adhering to Supreme Court guidelines in judicial appointments, he called for non-interference by the government in such matters. He stressed that the appointment of Judges should be based solely on merit and recommendations put forth by the Supreme Court.

In light of the gravity of the situation, Singh concluded by urging the immediate appointment of Senior Sikh Advocates to address the prevailing concerns and uphold principles of fairness and equality in the judiciary.

Mr Singh condemned the brutal terrorist attack in Srinagar in which Sikh Amritpal Singh was killed and Rohit was seriously injured.

Killing innocent people in Kashmir is proof of cowardice of terrorists: Dr Preeti Bhagat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has condemned the target killing of two people in Srinagar and said that terrorists want to spoil the communal harmony through these attacks at the behest of Pakistan. He said that last day terrorists shot two migrants in Srinagar in which one youth died on the spot while the other died on Thursday morning. He said that every citizen of the country has full faith in the bravery of the Indian security forces that they will soon take revenge of this attack by sending the terrorists to hell, but no one can compensate the loss of those who have lost their relatives. During the investigation of this case, every aspect should be brought to the fore as to how the terrorists succeeded in their objective and who supported them. He said that this is not the first case of target killing in Kashmir, even before this terrorists have targeted many innocent people. Security forces should take strict steps to eliminate the terrorist network.

Congress announced Raj Salaria as State Vice President of OBC Wing

JI NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, FEB 8

The Delhi High Command of the Congress Party has made a major reshuffle in its leadership in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, youth leader Raj Mohammad Salaria, who left the Aam Aadmi Party and joined the Congress Party in front of the State Congress High Command, has been given the post of State Vice President of the Congress OBC Wing by the party. Due to which there is a lot of happiness among the supporters of Raj Salaria. At the same time, supporters of youth leader Raj Mohammad Salaria are reaching his residence in large numbers to congratulate him and are honoring the newly appointed State Vice President Raj Salaria by giving him a necklace and wishing him good luck for the new innings. On this occasion, newly appointed State Vice President Raj Salaria thanked the party's National President Arjun Kharge, KC Venugopal, Rajni Patil, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Vikar Rasool Bani, Raman



Bhalla and other top party officials from the bottom of his heart and said that He will try to live up to the responsibility assigned to him by the National Committee and will work day and night to make the party united and strong in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Congress is the only party which can uplift the poor. He said that Congress has done many such works for the upliftment of the poor during its tenure which cannot be counted. Raj Salaria took a jibe at the BJP and said that the BJP is running a dictatorial government at the Center and in Jammu and Kashmir, but now the pot of their sins is full. In the upcoming elections, Congress will form the government in the country and state on its own.

Kesri condemns killing of Sikh worker in Srinagar, demands suitable compensation to deceased family

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today strongly condemned targeted killing of Sikh worker from Punjab and serious injuries to another non-local in Habba Kadal area of Srinagar city. Condemning the attack on civilians, Kesri demanded Govt that no efforts should be spared to bring the perpetrators to justice demanding civil and police administration to ensure all assistance to the families.

Addressing media persons in Jammu during a press conference, Kesri blamed Pakistan for the killing of a non-local man from Amritsar by terrorists in Srinagar, calling it a cowardly and inhumane act. He said Pakistan was unhappy with the peace in Kashmir and was targeting innocent lives. "This clearly shows



that Pakistan is not liking the peace in Kashmir. It is attacking non-locals in the dark of the night, like cowards," Kesri said. Kesri condemned the incidents of terrorism, saying terror violence has no place in a civilized society. Time has come to tackle the terrorists sternly, who have unleashed terror regime in our land of Rishis and Sufis. He said that a united fight has become imperative to meet the challenge, lest the monster of terror eats up the vitals of the inclusive society.

Kesri said "for almost 30 years, this land of peaceful co-existence of almost all religious sects

had to suffer due to state-sponsored terrorism by our neighbouring country. However, security forces, isolated the terror ecosystem, which thrived with support from across the border. J&K is now witnessing a new era that has opened limitless possibilities for growth and peace," Kesri said. He added that the government's initiatives have helped bring about change on the ground in J&K. "Today's J&K is not the land of hartals, separatism or stone pelting but it has become a land of peace and prosperity which is difficult for Pakistan to digest," he said.

ESM, Civil Community Outreach organize by Indian Army in Naushera

JI NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, FEB 8

Indian Army on Tuesday Celebrated 76th 'Naushera Day' commemorating the supreme sacrifice of Nk Jadunath Singh, PVC in Battle of Naushera. It was the fiercest battle in 1947-48 Indo-Pak War in Naushera Sector of Rajouri District in Jammu & Kashmir. The Battle of Naushera is unique wherein the residents fought along with Army with little disregard to their own life or property to save the Motherland. As a tribute to locals contribution, the event was celebrated with residents, ESM and Civil administration authorities. Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, AVSM, SM, GOC 16 Corps, Maj Gen Gaurav Rishi, SC, SM, GOC 25 Inf Div, civil and military officials laid wreaths at Veer Bhoomi in remembrance of Nk Jadunath Singh, PVC who made supreme



sacrifice in service to the nation. The event was followed by a cultural fest by schools of Naushera. GOC White Knight Corps awarded the school children and the teachers for their enthusiasm and active participation. He also interacted with people of Naushera & ESMs, wherein he felicitated decorated soldiers, Veer Naris and Veterans from Naushera town and nearby border villages.

Speaking on the occasion, GOC paid tributes to the gallant population of Naushera who fought alongside the Indian Army. He also acknowl-

edged the contribution of the Gurjar Bakarwal community towards maintaining peace in the region and assured them that Indian Army is always with them.

In the run up to 'Naushera Day Celebrations' Indian Army conducted various events to include Multi Specialty Medical Camp wherein 535 locals were treated, Artificial Limbs Camp which provided 54 Artificial limbs, 47 Wheel Chair and Crutches, Cross Country Run for youth population, Cricket Tournament, Professional and Vocational Courses.

IDR School, Jammu hosts Two day-long J&K UT Referee Workshop, Certification Program 2024



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Two day-long J&K UT Referee Workshop /Certification Program 2024 was conducted successfully by Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K. The course commenced on 7th February and was concluded on 8th February 2024 at International Daily Rising School, Jammu. The sole motive behind organizing the workshop and the certification program was to aware and provide advanced knowledge, new rules and new developments to the UT's coaches/referees regarding Ju-Jitsu, so that the UT based referees can hold the championships at various District / UT level and also get a chance to officiate at National championships. The chief examiner of the above mentioned Workshop was Mrs. Shikha

Pathak - International Technical Official & Joint Secretary Ju-Jitsu Association of India accompanied by Mr. Danish Sharma - National A Grade Referee as well as Technical Director Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K.

"It is the professional and elite course in which our aim was to aware and educate coaches and referees about the latest trends, techniques, rules, means and methods of the sport, Ju-Jitsu," the jury said.

More than 50+ Coaches from different districts of J&K Participated in the said workshop. They further said that the participants having basic knowledge of officiating in the game were eligible for this course. The participants who attended this workshop told that such courses and seminars will prove fruitful for them in future. "The course is useful

and will update our knowledge and skills that we can exhibit during officiating," they said. They further said that it was their long pending demand for conducting such course.

"We can enhance our precision to take decisions besides we will be able to give fair decisions as per the rule book of the game," they said.

"The objective of conducting this workshop and refresher course was to upgrade the future referees with technical knowledge and acquaint them with recent developments, rules of the sports".

The School Management staff Ms Supinder Kaur (Chairperson), Mr Raghav Gupta (MD), Dr Atul Hans Director Academics cum Principal & Vice Principal Ms Ruchi Manhas were also present and appreciated the efforts of Ju - Jitsu team.

SSH Youth Wing gives impressive farewell to SHO Arnia on his transfer

JI NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, FEB 8



Shiv Sena Hindustan Youth wing leaders led by President Ganesh Choudhary gave impressive farewell to SHO Arnia on his transfer from Arnia to Samba. They visited the police station Arnia to bid a goodbye to the outgoing police officer. They were seen presenting him with bouquets, garlands and other souvenirs. Emotional scenes were also witnessed and some civilians broke into tears after learning about the transfer of Katoch. They wished him the best for his future assignment as SHO. Ganesh Choudhary speaking on the occasion appreciated SHO Katoch and hailed him for taking a number of measures for youth engagement, curbing drug addiction and checking various social evils. He recalled pro-peo-

ple services rendered by him during his tenure as SHO Arnia. He said that he used to treat everybody with respect. SHO Katoch used to address the distress calls even during the dead of night," he said, adding that he developed an emotional attachment with the locals and they used to send him a first invitation on occasions of social gatherings, marriage ceremonies and various sports events. "Today we are here to say goodbye to Katoch, who has been transferred to the Khanyara area of Samba," Ganesh said, adding that they will miss him for being very polite to young and old and performing his duties in an honest manner. "He used to give a patient hearing to people and try to help them in every possible way," he said, adding that his role in curbing drug peddling and solving other cases of crime is commendable.

Rajni Sethi presides over BJP Media Wing meeting in Ramban



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN

A crucial meeting was held at the BJP headquarters in Maitra Ramban, presided over by Smt. Rajni Sethi, BJP Spokesperson and Media Management Incharge for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by members of the BJP media wing from Ramban District, along with media in charges from Ramban and Banihal constituencies. During the meeting, Rajni Sethi underscored the importance of gearing up for the forthcoming parliamentary elections and urged the BJP media team in District Ramban to diligently document all political activities of the party within the district.

The objective is to effectively counter any misleading propaganda against the party. Rajni Sethi also empha-

sized the need to brief the media comprehensively about the people-oriented schemes initiated by the BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the aim of ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach the grassroots level. Additionally, the meeting focused on highlighting the developmental initiatives undertaken by the government at the local level.

The meeting witnessed the participation of several key figures, including BJP District President Sh. Rajeshwar Kumar, former District President Rakesh Thakur, BJP General Secretaries Balbeer Singh Bali and Jagdeep Singh Thakur, District Vice President Suraj Singh Parihar, District Media Incharge Advocate Khajoor Singh Gouria, District President of Mahila Morcha Smt. Renuka Katoch, and Amrit Versha.

Srinagar terror attack condemnable in all forms: Gurmeet Singh



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 8

Gurmeet Singh Present Beopar Mandal and Gen. Sect. JKPCC strongly Condemns Srinagar Terror attack in which Amritpal Singh from Amritsar died and one Rohit a non local

labourer sustained injuries such killing are inhumane and condemnable in all forms Gurmeet Singh urges upon the law enforcing agencies that the perpetrators involved in such heinous crimes must be dealt sternly.

Addiction Treatment Facility inaugurated at IMHAANS, Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Badamwari under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 8

As a part of the ongoing efforts of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to address drug demand through the National Action Plan For Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), an Addiction Treatment Facility(ATF) Centre under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan was inaugurated at Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences(IMHANS) Govt Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Badamwari here on Thursday.

The Addiction Treatment Facility was inaugurated by Union Minister Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Dr. Virendra Kumar through virtual mode.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and Principal Government Medical College(GMC), Srinagar Dr. Masood Tanvir Bhat were present at the inaugural ceremony.

While, Administrator, GMC, Srinagar Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Nodal Officer ATF IMHAANS, Dr Arshid, Incharge Drug De-



addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Dr Yasir, DDMO, Srinagar, Imtiyaz Amin Naik and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

After dedicating ATF to the public, the Union Minister Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Dr. Virendra Kumar in his address through virtual mode said that these ATF centres will prove beneficial in eradicating the menace of drug abuse from the society and help make the dream of drug free nation a reality. He said public participation will play a crucial role towards this cause.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar said that the objective of ATF is to bridge the gap between drug abuse victims and

the treatment facility dedicated for them.

While interacting with the Staff of ATF, the DC emphasised upon the Doctors and other Paramedical staff to take the job as a noble task and treat the affected people with patience and dedication.

The DC further said elimination of drug menace from society is top priority of the Government and to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged rehabilitation, counselling and guidance policy is being implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace.

The DC also sought cooperation from the families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth

which also leads to other social evils and crimes. He said parents have an important role to keep the youngsters away from the use of drugs and also the family support for the affected people could lead them towards normal life.

The DC further said that the objectives of setting up of ATFs include drug preventive education, awareness generation, capacity building, skill development, vocational training, and livelihood support for victims of drug abuse.

After inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Addiction Treatment Facility(ATF) and took stock of the facilities available. He also inspected the Department of Clinical Psychology and Tele-MANAS centre providing free tele-mental health services to those in need.

Pertinent to mention that Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, today virtually inaugurated as many as 41 addiction treatment facilities (ATFs) across the country including an ATF at IMHAANS, Srinagar.

Candle march held at Kupwara to express solidarity with families of Punjab residents killed in Srinagar



JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 8

To express solidarity with the families of the two Punjab residents killed on Wednesday evening in Srinagar by militants, hundreds of people in North Kashmir district held a candle march today.

Amrit Pal Singh and Rohit Masih, who were killed in a militant attack in Srinagar on Wednesday evening, belonged to poor families in Punjab's Amritsar and had come to Srinagar to support their families.

Around 6:00 pm, hundreds of people including the local residents, members of Civil Society Kupwara, Traders, and Trans-

porters took out a candle march from Kupwara Bus stand which culminated at Fountain Chowk Rigipora after passing through Kupwara By-Pass.

The protesters denounced the attack and expressed solidarity with the families of the civilians killed.

Terming the killing an unfortunate and dark chapter in Kashmir, protesters said that such incidents create sadness and distress among people of Kashmir.

The protesters said that people want to live in peace & harmony. They said that such unfortunate incidents should not take place as every human life is precious.

DC B'la flags-off 20 students for educational tour of IIT Kanpur

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 8

In a significant initiative to foster educational enrichment and broaden the horizons of young minds, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa in presence of CEO, Balbir Singh Raina, flagged off a group of 20 students from different Government Educational Institutes in Baramulla for an immersive six-day educational exposure tour of IIT Kanpur.

The six-day educational tour of the IIT aims to provide students with a firsthand experience of the renowned educational institution, providing them insights into cutting-

edge research, technological advancements, and academic excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of youth-oriented programs, highlighting their role in broadening individuals' vision and horizons of knowledge.

Minga Sherpa underscored that such experiences provide opportunities for exploration and learning beyond traditional classrooms.

The educational tour to IIT Kanpur signifies a commitment of the administration to nurture talent at young age and foster a culture of continuous learning and growth among the youth of Baramulla.

ARTO, Anantnag visits Khiram Dargah, reviews transport facilities to devotees



JINNEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 8

In connection with the observance of the Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW), Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Anantnag, Dr Mohammad Zubair Lattoo undertook a visit to Khiram Dargah to take onsite review of the transport arrangements for the devotees.

On the occasion, he directed transporters to provide better transport facility to the devotees during the auspicious days of Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) and Friday following.

He also presided over

an awareness programme regarding Road Safety organised by the transporters. The programme was attended by a large number of commercial drivers and civil society members.

In his speech ARTO emphasized the importance of following traffic rules and regulations and advocated to adhere to speed limits besides asked them to desist from overloading of passengers.

He further said that precious lives are lost in road accidents and emphasized on the need of collective efforts to minimise the fatalities.

Civil Society B'la holds candle March against Target Killings

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 8

Members of civil society, traders federation, and citizens of Baramulla today gathered together and held a candlelight March condemning the killing of two innocent civilians in Srinagar yesterday.

The march witnessed huge participation of people, with participants holding candles as the march passed from Main Chowk to Nanak Bhawan, expressing their sympathies with the families of the innocent civilians of the target killings.

With resolute determination, the participants called upon the authorities to swiftly and diligently identify the perpetrators responsible for this despicable act and ensure that they are held accountable under the full extent of the law.

The protesters fervently denounced the heinous attack, unequivocally expressing their unwavering solidarity with the grieving families affected



by their tragic loss.

The candlelight March served as a poignant reminder of the community's collective resolve to stand against violence and to uphold the principles of peace, justice, and unity.

Similarly, candlelight vigils and solidarity marches were held across the district including Sopore, Uri, echoing the sentiments of unity and empathy towards the victims.

DC Kupwara conducts extensive tour of main Town

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 8

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today conducted an extensive tour of Kupwara town.

The tour encompassed areas including the Bus stand Kupwara, Jamia road Kupwara, parking slot at main chowk Kupwara, Hospital road and Bye-Pass road and other markets of town, where the Deputy Commissioner assessed the status of basic amenities, cleanliness and interacted with people.

During her visit, the DC also engaged with local residents to gather feedback, understand concerns and reinforce collaborative efforts towards beautification of the town and to provide hassle free services to the people.

DC took first hand appraisal of Solid waste management, market checkings, and anti encroachment drive from roads and pavements of Kupwara town.

DC reviewed the status of traffic management in the town and checked



the parking slots besides assessing bottlenecks impeding smooth flow of traffic in the town.

DC directed CEO, Municipal Council Kupwara to get important roads and pavements like Bye-Pass road and Hospital road free from vendors and illegal encroachments.

DC directed EO to impose fine on those shopkeepers who don't use dustbins and spread

litter and plastic wastes in the market.

DC directed that no vehicle shall be parked on Jamia road Kupwara, Hospital road and bypass, instead commuters will use parking slot near old Chowk Kupwara and Rigipora bus stand.

DC was accompanied by EO Municipal council Kupwara, Naveed Aijaz, officers and officials of Police and revenue departments.

Mehraj-e-Aalam (SAW) celebrated with fervor across J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 8

Thousands of devotees from all over Kashmir converged at the revered shrine Hazratbal in Srinagar to have the glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) on the occasion of Mehraj-e-Aalam (SAW) on Thursday.

Mehraj-e-Aalam (SAW) was celebrated with great religious fervour across J&K. From Wednesday evening, thousands of devotees from far off places of Kashmir reached the Hazratbal shrine to be part of the night-long gathering. Duroods, Khatmatul Moazamat and naats were recited throughout the night at the shrine after which the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was displayed

to devotees soon after the Fajar (pre-dawn) prayers. As per reports, similar gatherings were held in the Jammu region as well.

Thousands of people were seen rushing towards the shrine for Zuhr (afternoon prayers) and to have a glimpse of the holy relic. Holy relic was displayed after every prayer of the day.

The 26th night of Islamic month Rajab is observed as Mehraj-e-Aalam (SAW) across the world. It was the night, when Prophet Muhammad (SAW) descended on the journey of skies in the middle of the night.

Emotional scenes were witnessed at the shrine when the holy relic was displayed for the devotees after Zuhr prayers. People,

children and women were seen praying amid moist eyes. "This is the time when our prayers get answered," Shameema, a woman devotee, who had come from northern district of Kupwara told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Like her, there were scores of women seeking the blessings of Almighty Allah while the holy relic was on a display. "Have the glimpse of the holy relic gives us relief from the pain. This soothes our eyes, hearts and purifies our hearts," said Ali Muhammad Darzi, a resident of Srinagar.

Children including young boys and girls were also seen in tears while having the glimpse of the holy relic.

Around 7,000 cancer patients registered in GMC Sgr since 2017

'1,640 cases registered in 2023 alone'

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 8

The number of cancer patients is on the rise in Jammu and Kashmir as around 7,000 patients have been registered alone at the Department of Radiation Oncology, SMHS Hospital GMC Srinagar since 2017.

As per the details available with the news agency, 1640 cases of cancer were reported at the Radiation Oncology Department in 2023, which is the highest in the last several years.

The details reveal that 491 new cancer patients were registered at the radiation oncology department, SMHS in

2017; 1,032 in 2018, 801 in 2019, 650 in 2020, 1,010 in 2021, 1,169 in 2022 and 1,640 in 2023.

Officials told KNO that around 5 to 6 new cancer patients are being registered at the department every day.

Prof Manzoor Ahmad, Head of the Department of Radiation Oncology at GMC Srinagar said there is a sharp increase in new cancer cases in J&K, with the department registering a record number of 1640 cases in 2023, out of which 911 were males and 729 were females.

"The most common tumour in males was lung cancer and in females breast cancer. This sce-

nario looks very grim as far as lung being the most common tumour in males is concerned because this cancer has a direct bearing and relation with tobacco use," he said.

"This indicates the magnitude of tobacco products in our society and how much awareness we have to make among the general public regarding the use of tobacco," he said.

As far as breast cancer in females is concerned, one of the major reasons is the lack of physical activity and obesity. "So both the common cancers, whether it is lung in males or breast in females, could be easily

avoided if we make the change in lifestyle," Prof Ahmad said.

He called for public awareness through signs and symptoms of cancer, preventive measures and timely medical evaluations.

He said that the OPD of the department remains functional for six days (Monday-Saturday) from 10 am to 4 pm where the consultant along with senior resident and PG student remains available.

"After checking the relevant reports in the OPD, Stereotactic body radiation therapy, Stereotactic radical surgery and Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT), the doctor said.

ted and four consultants along with senior residents remain available in each of the wards.

"Later, plans are being discussed after proper unit meetings and accordingly, the patient is being treated for months. The patient comes for follow-up in OPD whenever it is feasible for him," he said.

All high-tech and latest technologies are available at the department including Intensity-modulated radiation therapy, Image-guided radiation therapy, Stereotactic body radiation therapy, Stereotactic radical surgery and Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT), the doctor said.