

JANSAMPARK PRINTING PRESS

 BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU
 Mob. 9419104223

GOOD HYGIENE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

 STOP SPREAD

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 35 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

In past 4-5 years, J&K's GDP increases from Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2018-2019 to Rs 2.64 lakh crore: LG Sinha

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Sunday said that the reforms done in the last four to five years have resulted in the growth of J&K's GDP from Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2018-19 to Rs 2.64 lakh crore in 2021-22.

"The reforms done in the last four to five years have resulted in efficient growth. J&K is on the path of good governance, development and peace," he said.

To another query about reservation to SC's, he said



that some people will continue to do politics over the issue the way they did on the issue of providing land to landless. "Let them continue their job, we will do ours," he said.

The LG said that J&K Bank that was a RS 1200 loss institution is now flourishing with RS 1300 Cr profit institution. "This year, we hope to see

LG mentions budget highlights for Jammu and Kashmir

BUDGET 2024-25:

- * The Budget 2024-25 reflects the felt needs and aspirations of the people of J&K and commitment of the UT Administration for peace, progress and prosperity.
- * The immediate goal is to accelerate the pace of economic development in the UT of J&K and make it multi-dimensional.
- * The budget 2024-25 is primarily a "Growth-Oriented" budget and in line with the endeavours of the UT Government to double its economy in the next few years.

BUDGET SIZE/KEY FIGURES:

- * The size of the Budget for 2024-25 is Rs. 1,18,728 crore as against Rs. 1,18,500 in 2023-24.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Congress remembers villages, poor people and farmers only during polls: PM Modi

AGENCIES
JHABUA, FEB 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said his government is working for the welfare of tribals, while the opposition Congress remembers villages, poor people and farmers only during elections.

He was addressing a public meeting of tribal community members in Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua district.

This is PM Modi's first visit to the state this year, coming ahead of the Lok



Sabha elections due in a few months.

"We started a campaign against sickle cell anemia not for votes, but for the health of tribals," he said.

"The Congress remembers villages, the poor and farmers only during elections," he said. Aware of their imminent

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lt Governor addresses 'J&K Women Science Congress 2024' at University of Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the inaugural session of the 3-day 'J&K Women Science Congress 2024' at University of Jammu.

The Lt Governor commended the unique initiative by University of Jammu and J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council for transforming the leadership trajectory for women in science, technology and innovation.

He highlighted the consistent efforts of the UT Administration to bridge



the gender gap at all levels of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines in J&K. "Today, I am happy to see our daughters are

driving innovation and change," he said.

"We are proud of women scientists and tech leaders. From space to Artificial Intelligence,

from entrepreneurship to healthcare, from education to innovation, from agriculture to research, the Nari Shakti is

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Dr Jitendra convenes joint meeting of science ministries, discusses space hackathon

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 11

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh today convened the monthly joint meeting of different Science Ministries and Departments at the Science Centre here, wherein among other agenda items, he reviewed the Space Hackathon held last month for the students to sharpen their skills and innovation.

The 30-hour hackathon on Space related challenges like technical issues related to the Geospatial BHUVAN portal was organised as part of



the India International Science Festival - 2023 (IISF-2023) held at the DBT THSTI - RCB Campus in Faridabad, Haryana from 17th to 20th January 2024.

Expressing satisfaction at the huge response for the first of its kind Space hackathon, the S&T Minister appreciated the fact that over 4,000 teams

were registered in the span of one month. 57 teams were shortlisted for the grand finale at Faridabad.

The high-level joint meeting of different Science Ministries and Departments included representatives from Science & Technology, Bio-technology, CSIR, Earth

Sciences, Dept. of Space and Atomic Energy.

The S&T Minister was informed that after the conclusion of a gruelling 30-hour hackathon at the IISF venue, the initial jury shortlisted the top 24 teams. Main jury selected 16 teams for the pitch presentation, and finally four teams were declared winners and their ideas were supported by ISRO. Besides, 11 runners up were also declared.

Dr Jitendra Singh also commended all the scientific departments for the grand success of the IISF-2023 that saw

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

SC asks its registry to stop referring trial courts as 'Lower Courts'

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 11

The Supreme Court has asked its registry to stop referring to trial courts as 'lower courts'.

The apex court said even the record of trial courts should not be referred to as 'lower court record'.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan passed the order while hearing a plea filed by two persons challenging the Allahabad High Court verdict which dismissed their appeal against conviction and life sentence awarded to them in a murder case of 1981.

"It will be appropriate if the registry of this court stops referring to the trial courts as 'lower courts'. Even the record of the trial court should not be referred to as lower court record (LCR). Instead, it should be referred as the trial court record (TCR). The registrar (judicial) to take a note of this order," the bench said in its order passed on February 8.

The top court asked its registry to call for the soft copy of trial court record of the case concerned and posted the matter for hearing on August 6.

The two petitioners have challenged the October 2018 order of the high court which

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

2 brothers held for robbing man after posing as policemen in Samba

JNEWS SERVICE

SAMBA/JAMMU, FEB 11

Two brothers were arrested for allegedly injuring and robbing a man after posing as policemen in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

The accused Bachan Lal and Lovely Kumar, residents of Smailpur, allegedly stopped the man and asked him to accompany them to a police station in the Bari Brahmana area for 'investigation' into a case, Samba SSP Vinay Kumar Sharma said.

He said the victim got suspicious about the real identity of the culprits, who allegedly attacked him with sharp-edged weapons and fled the scene after robbing him.

Police arrested the accused within three hours of the crime and seized two knives, one police and one Army jackets and a police cap allegedly

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CAPF constable exam being conducted in 13 regional languages for first time

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 11

For the first time, the constable recruitment examination in the Central Armed Police Forces such as the CRPF, BSF and CISF will be conducted in 13 regional languages apart from Hindi and English.

The examination are being conducted from February 10-March 7 and around 48 lakh candidates are appearing in 128 cities across the country, according to an official statement.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance



of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had decided to conduct the constable (general duty) examination for recruitment in CAPFs in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English from January 1, 2024.

This "historic decision" has been taken on the initiative of the home minister to increase the participation of local youths in the Central Armed Police

Forces and to promote regional languages, it said.

In addition to Hindi and English, the question papers will now be prepared in the following 13 regional languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani.

Constable examination is one of the flagship recruitment tests conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) attracting lakhs of youths from across the country.

The MHA and Staff Selection Commission

have signed an MoU to facilitate the conduct of the examination in the 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English. Accordingly, the SSC has issued notification in this regard.

The decision will result in lakhs of youth taking part in the examination in their mother tongue or regional language and improve their selection prospects.

As a result, the reach of this examination will increase among the candidates in the entire country and everyone will

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Gulmarg witnesses tourist surge after much awaited snowfall

JNEWS SERVICE
GULMARG, FEB 11

For Russian tourist Andrew, the wait for snowfall to try his skiing skills on the slopes of Apharwat in this famous ski resort of north Kashmir was worth it.

The picturesque Gulmarg, known for its breathtaking landscapes and world-class skiing slopes, has become a hotspot for adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts' alike after the recent snowfall that ended over two months of dry spell.

The lack of snow during peak winter left the people connected with tourism disappointed as winter

sports lovers waited eagerly to see the locale turned white which finally happened towards the end of January, bringing cheers on the faces of both the locals and the tourists.

"It's big pleasure to ski here. In my country, we have similar landscapes but not such high mountains. However, here it is something new, something different like the culture, the view and higher peaks," Andrew, who is in his late 30's, told PTI here.

Andrew lamented that he had to face disappointment and put his visit to the Valley on hold in view of the prolonged dry weather conditions and snow-less mountains.



"I arrived on January 18 and expected a lot of snow. However, there was no snowfall and I had to wait for a long time to witness one. I travelled to Chandigarh, Shimla and Dharamshala just waiting for proper conditions. I am

happy being here now," he said. Like Andrew, hundreds of tourists from the country and abroad are visit-

ing the famous ski resort to enjoy their time with families in the peaceful and tranquil atmosphere of Gulmarg, around 50 km from the summer capital Srinagar.

With the arrival of fresh snow, tourists from far and wide are flocking to Gulmarg to experience the thrill of skiing down the powdery slopes and revel in the serene beauty of the snow-covered mountains.

The dry spell over the last two months, including Chilai-e-Kalan - the harshest 40-day winter period when the chances of snow are higher - had prompted many tourists to either cancel or postpone their visit to the Valley.

According to the tourism department, the destination witnessed a staggering influx of 19,532 tourists within just six days of February after the fresh bout of snow.

The data available with the department says 15,086 domestic visitors, 4,290 locals and 156 foreigners have visited Gulmarg from February 1 to 6.

"We had put our booking to Kashmir on hold for two months because of no snowfall. However, as soon as we heard of snowfall, we rushed to Kashmir," Rohit, who comes from Madhya Pradesh, said.

Rohit came in a car to Srinagar in a tiring

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K AYUSH celebrates World Unani Day

"ISM, mainstream medicines are complimentary arms of health structure"

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 11

Directorate of Indian System of Medicine (AYUSH), on Saturday organized a grand seminar to celebrate World Unani Day at SKICC here.

World Unani Day is a global event taking place every year on 11th of February which marks the birthday of great Unani scholar and social reformer "Hakim Ajmal Khan". The main objective of the celebration is to pay tribute to the legendary Hakim Ajmal Khan for his wonderful contribution in sustained development of Unani system of medicine in the country and rest of the world.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, presided over the celebration.

While speaking on the occasion, the Secretary maintained that the Indian Systems of Medicine is an integral part of Health and Medical Education fraternity and finds a very important place in the scheme of things. He said that



Unani is perceived as one of the most ancient and well documented system of medicine equally relevant in modern times. The holistic approach of this system, whether for healthy individuals or for diseased ones, remains unparalleled, he asserted. Stressing on importance of integration between the mainstream and ISM, Dr Abid Rasheed said that there is no need of any comparison among the different systems as both are complimentary arms of the health structure.

He said that there is no need for any system to supplant other system but to work in a complimentary manner drawing on the strengths of our system based on rationale, regulations, drug efficacy. He

said that it is critical that we have interdisciplinary training programmes with the mainstream medicine.

The Secretary appreciated the work done by Directorate of Ayush J&K and emphasised upon them to remain true to the ethics and engage in research and development so that people will have more faith. He said that a lot will depend upon the practitioners on how would they upheld the highest standards of ethics and indulge in research and evidence based practices to validate the safety and mechanism of action of Ayush therapy.

Dr Abid Rasheed said that Ayush Systems have a history of providing cure for thousands of years and the need of the hour

is to augment modern research methodologies in Ayush so that an integrated approach is evolved for providing best health care facilities to the patients.

He emphasised on more capacity building programs for Ayush Medical and Para-Medical staff for better skill development. He stressed on need for further Research & Development programs in Ayush to make it popular across the globe.

Director AYUSH, while speaking on the occasion, informed that this day is celebrated with an attempt to further promote Unani into mainstream and focus on strengths of Unani and its unique treatment principles. He stressed on reducing the burden of disease and related mor-

bidity and mortality by utilizing the potential of Unani and exploring the potential of Unani to contribute towards National health policy and National Health programmes.

He highlighted the transformative achievements of Ayush at primary, secondary and tertiary level. He informed that under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, 483 Standalone Government Ayush Dispensaries have been upgraded to Ayush Health & Wellness Centres. He further added that Directorate of Ayush, J&K was awarded for NABH Accreditation in favour of 5 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres

Principal GMC Srinagar, Professor Tanveer Masood, Director AYUSH, Dr Mohan Singh, Administrator Associated Hospitals Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Deputy Director Ayush Jammu, Dr Suresh Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director Kashmir, Dr Nuzhat Bashir Shah, A Grade Specialist Dr Showket Hussain Yatoo, District Officers, Nodal Officers and others participated in the event.

Advisor Bhatnagar visits Bhaderwah, inspects works ongoing developmental projects



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 11

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, who is on a two day tour of Doda district, today visited the Bhaderwah area and took comprehensive inspection of various ongoing developmental projects there.

Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Harvinder Singh; senior officers of district administration and other officers of line departments also accompanied the Advisor.

During the visit, Advisor Bhatnagar took detailed assessment of ongoing construction works at Court Complex here.

Interacting with the officers of executing agency on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar delved on them to accelerate the pace of ongoing works so that it can be dedicated for public use at the earliest.

The Advisor, during the tour, also visited Bhaderwah Fort to oversee the progress of beatification and other allied works. He



discussed the issues stalling the progress of work with the executing agencies and gave directions to renovate the fort with the instructions of completing the work of the musical fountain in time bound manner. He highlighted that the musical fountain will add to the beauty of the fort and the tourists and visitors will have good recreational time at the fort apart from knowing the rich culture and heritage of the region.

Later, Advisor Bhatnagar explored the Guldanda tourist spot of the area and took onspot

appraisal of the facilities available for the visitors there. He emphasized upon the officers to ensure cleanliness as well as other facilities in this picturesque place so that maximum tourists are attracted to this place.

He also called upon the officers to keep all routes leading to these spots open and hassle-free so that the visitors are facilitated.

During the visit, Advisor Bhatnagar also paid obeisance at the revered Maa Chamdi Mandir at Chimote and Gupt Ganga temple.

Snow Festival organised at Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEB 11

Bandipora Youth Federation in collaboration with District Administration today organised Snow Festival at Sumlar area of Bandipora.

The festival witnessed a variety of spectacular celebrations of community, culture, and seasonal joy and offered an array of captivating activities and attractions for participants of all ages.

The festival also witnessed a range of activities, including colorful local Gojri cultural performances, snow sports activities like Sheen Jung (snow fight), snow Kabaddi, snow rugby, and tug of war.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Shakeel Ur Rehman Rather in presence of Padma Shree Faisal Ali Dar, DDC Arin Ghulam Mohiudin, Commanding Officer, 14 RR, Col Rohit Bhat, ASP Bandipora Sandeep Bhatt, DySP HQ Bandipora Shafat Ahmad, and huge gathering of Youth and people from all ages and walks of life from different areas of Bandipora.

With booming drums, traditional chants, and traditional garb, the local tribal community welcomed the Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora and



other officers with enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Shakeel Ur Rehman appreciated the Bandipora Youth Federation for their efforts in organising snow festival.

He said that these kinds of festivities transform dull winter and icy days into pleasant, exciting ones.

The DC said that in addition to exploring

tourism potential, these festivals also assist young people in directing their energies into worthwhile endeavors as opposed to idle diversion.

He advised the young people to abstain from drugs and spend their free time on productive endeavors rather than hanging out with undesirable people and the occasion, an oath to make Bandipora a Drug Free District was also under-

taken by all.

In his remarks, he praised the locals and public representatives for their tireless efforts in joining hands with Bandipora Youth Federation for organising such a magnificent and successful event.

During the event, it was revealed that a number of large-scale events are scheduled to take place at unexplored locations of Bandipora.

MVD B'la urges drivers to adhere to traffic rules

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 11

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) in Baramulla continues its relentless efforts to promote road safety awareness among the People, particularly the driver community.

During the campaign today officers of the MVD distributed roses and chocolates among drivers as a goodwill gesture.

The initiative aimed to remind drivers of the critical importance of adhering to traffic rules, avoiding speeding, and practicing safe driving habits. By distributing roses and chocolates, the MVD sought to engage with drivers in a positive manner, encouraging them to prioritize safety on the roads.

Speaking on the occasion, Muazzam Ali, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Baramulla, emphasized the significance of following traffic rules to ensure safe journeys for all. He urged drivers to remain vigilant, avoid rush driving, and prioritize the safety of themselves and others on the road.

MVD Doda holds Road Safety Awareness Program in Far-Flung Dossa Area

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 11

A road safety awareness program was today conducted in the remote area of Dossa here under the leadership of ARTO Doda, Rajesh Gupta.

The primary objective was to educate the public about road safety measures and precautions aligning with the ongoing National Road Safety Month campaign.

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) conducted road safety programs in key locations such as Bhagwah, Dossa Gai, and Mazmi, where large gatherings of locals, drivers, and MVD officials converged.

By targeting these specific areas, the MVD aimed to educate and empower



to prevent accidents, especially in hilly areas.

In remote areas like Bhagwah Gai, and Mazmi, the emphasis was on counseling the public about the significance of road safety, with a particular emphasis on driving in hilly regions.

Additional driving tips included raising awareness about the presence of black ice, a common hazard in colder climates, which can lead to accidents if not approached with caution.

By targeting these specific areas, the MVD aimed to educate and empower

communities to adopt safer driving practices, thereby reducing road accidents and promoting safer road environments.

Under the overarching theme of National Road Safety Month, initiatives like these underscore the importance of fostering a culture of safety on the roads. By engaging directly with local communities and drivers, the MVD, under the leadership of ARTO Rajesh Gupta, plays a crucial role in advocating for safer road behaviors and ultimately saving lives.

DDC Reasi reviews redressal of public grievances received on JKIGRAM

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 11

District Development Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan today chaired a meeting in the DC Office Complex to assess the resolution of grievances received through JKIGRAM Portal.

In the meeting, DDC Mahajan urged the departments to expedite the disposal of pending grievances with both speed and quality. It was informed by the ADC Abdul Star that 2228 grievances have been registered on the portal, out of which 2172 have been disposed of till date.



Highlighting the LG Administration's keen focus on addressing public issues promptly, DDC Mahajan directed officers to resolve all pending public grievances in a time bound manner.

Taking Department-wise reviews, the DDC Mahajan sought feedback to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

The DDC Mahajan noted that while most depart-

ments have one pending grievance, there were a few with a considerable pendency.

Emphasizing the urgency of the matter, all officers were instructed to accelerate the redressal process. He said that District Administration Reasi reaffirms its commitment to efficient governance and the timely resolution of citizen grievances.

PO Poshan Mohammad. Anwar Bandy, Joint Director Planning Sunita Kanchan, ACD Pardeep Kumar, ACR Anshumali Sharma, CEO, ARTO and other senior district officers were present.

DC Resolves Long-standing PMGSY Road dispute at Village Parat in Tehsil Mendhar

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 11

Deputy Commissioner Yasin.M.Choudhary, accompanied by a team of officials, undertook an extensive tour to Tehsil Mendhar, where he resolved a long-standing dispute concerning a 4 KM stretch of the PMGSY road.

The work on the road from Manjyari to Parat via Mohalla Jaglian Panayala, funded under NABARD, Ridf-28, was held up due to dispute with locals at three different places.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by DDC member, Mia Farooq Ahmed Baji, SDM Mendhar, Imran Rashid Kataria,



Tehsildar Mendhar, Rahul Basotra, Tehsildar Mankote,

Mohammad Maroof, AEE PWD Balakote, Mehmood

Ahmed, besides Concerned JES, PRI members and others.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reached the site of the road where disputes had persisted at three different locations for an extended period.

With deep consideration and discussions with the local residents, the Deputy Commissioner promptly resolved the issues on the spot, bringing an end to the impasse.

The residents of the area expressed their immense joy and gratitude to Deputy Commissioner for ensuring road connectivity to their locality.

Expulsion of Pramod Krishnam exposes Congress' Anti-Hindu & Anti-India Stance: Kavinder

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister, has strongly criticized the Congress party for its anti-Hindu and anti-India mindset, which has been further demonstrated with the expulsion of senior Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam for supporting the devotees of Ram Temple.

Speaking at the day-long convention organized by Party's Local Bodies Cell at Bharat Mata Mandir, Trikuta Nagar, Kavinder Gupta said that the Congress party has consistently shown opposition towards the interests and sentiments of Hindus and the nation as a whole. He emphasized that the expulsion of veteran Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam serves as a clear indication of the mindset prevailing within the Congress leadership, showcasing their disregard for the sentiments of Ram Bhakts (devotees of Lord Ram). He accused the party of not tolerating the expression of devotion towards Lord Ram, further solidifying their anti-Hindu stance.



The senior BJP leader called upon the people to recognize Congress party's true intentions and to support a party that upholds the values of inclusivity, respect for all religions, and the well-being of the nation. He urged the people to stand united against divisive politics and to embrace a leadership that prioritizes the interests of all communities and works towards the progress and unity of India.

While addressing the convention, Kavinder highlighted the government's achievements under Prime Minister Modi's leadership and outlined the vision for the future as the country gears up for the upcoming

Lok Sabha polls. He also shared Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering commitment to building a stronger and more resilient India. He emphasized the need for a united India that embraces progress, development, and inclusivity.

The senior BJP leader threw light on the government's transformative initiatives, including the successful implementation of various welfare schemes, infrastructure development, and economic reforms that have propelled India's growth trajectory. He emphasized that under PM Modi's leadership, the country has witnessed significant advancements in sectors such as healthcare, edu-

cation, and technology, leading to improved living standards for all citizens.

He also acknowledged the pivotal role played by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Local Bodies Cell in grassroots governance and empowering local communities.

Kavinder Gupta urged party workers to actively engage with the electorate and promote the government's achievements and future plans. He highlighted the significance of effective communication, stating that it is crucial to reach out to every citizen, understand their concerns, and address them effectively. He reiterated PM Modi's vision of a stronger and more resilient India, where every citizen has the opportunity to prosper and contribute to the nation's development.

Prominent among those who were present include Rekha Mahajan District President, Vikram Randhawa, Pawan Singh, Lucky Puri, Narinder Singh Bunt, Dinesh Gupta, Rahul Kumar, Ajay Gupta, Pushpinder Singh, Sandeep, Rachit Khosla, Vishal Gupta, Maheep Gupta, Indu Puri, Monika Khosla and Ritika Trehan.

Priya Sethi chairs meeting to accelerate Shakti Vandana Abhiyan in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

Priya Sethi, National Executive Member, BJP, and former minister today underscored the indispensable role of women workers in ensuring the resounding success of the Shakti Vandana Abhiyan in Jammu and Kashmir.

While chairing a meeting to oversee the progress and strategic planning of the Shakti Vandana Abhiyan in Jammu and Kashmir, Priya Sethi emphasized the significance of the Shakti Vandana Abhiyan, highlighting its focus on empowering women through self-help groups and providing them with necessary financial support in the form of loans and subsidies. She asserted that the aim of the Party to connect over 1 crore self-help groups operating across the country to ensure comprehensive upliftment of women.

Notably, the Shakti Vandana Abhiyan, a flagship program of the party, is being conducted nation-



wide on a mission mode to empower women through self-help groups and various schemes aimed at their upliftment.

Priya Sethi said that the meeting served as a platform to review ongoing programs and preparations to engage with maximum self-help groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) while acknowledging and honoring the contributions of women functionaries within these organizations. She informed the Shakti Vandana Abhiyan will be intensified to every district of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (UT), underscoring the commitment to reach

every corner of the region with empowerment initiatives.

Furthermore, it was revealed that a target outreach of 25 crore voters has been set across the country, with Jammu and Kashmir expected to make significant contributions. She urged extensive engagement with self-help groups and NGOs to achieve this goal effectively.

Priya Sethi asked Mahila Morcha activists to intensify the Shakti Vandana Abhiyan in every single district of Jammu and Kashmir. Recognizing the pivotal role of Mahila Morcha in galvanizing grassroots support

and fostering women's empowerment, she urged women activists to extend their reach to every corner of the region, ensuring the Abhiyan's penetration into the most remote and marginalized communities.

Sanjita Dogra, Mahila Morcha President, BJP J&K, laid stress upon Party's women workers to actively engage with women in rural and urban areas, ensuring their participation and empowerment through various initiatives under the Abhiyan. She emphasized the need for grassroots-level mobilization and the promotion of women's entrepreneurship to drive economic growth and social progress in the region.

Veenu Khanna, Secretary, BJP, J&K and Co-Coordinator of Shakti Vandana Abhiyan, also said that the involvement of women at every stage of decision-making and implementation is crucial for the success and sustainability of the Abhiyan, urging for inclusivity and gender sensitivity in all endeavors.

Ravinder Raina addresses massive public rally at Kulgam

JINNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEB II

Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, addressed a massive public rally at Kulgam, South Kashmir.

Ravinder Raina was accompanied by Sumer Ganai, Rafiq Wani, Nazeer Ganai, Vijay Raina, Mushaq, Zulfikar, Abid, district team, mandal presidents and other party leaders.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the rally, said that Modi government has served the needy and the poor people with clear heart, which has attracted thousands of people in the rally. He thanked the people of Kulgam for supporting the Modi government and its policies.

"Modi government is the representative of the poor. It has worked for the welfare of every section of society, while keeping their interests in mind. Earlier governments did not bother about the needs of common masses and now the Modi government has reached the needy population through hundreds of dedicated schemes", said Raina.

Ravinder Raina enumerated the public welfare schemes of Modi gov-



ernment like Ayushman card which has taken care of the health of the poor people. He said that the free ration has been distributed to the 60 lakh people of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that earlier the housing schemes never reached actual needy people, but now the Modi government has identified and given aid for the housing of the poor in every area. He said that scholarship schemes, pension, Ujala, Ujjwala schemes are benefitting lakhs of people.

Raina said that earlier government fed on the blood on the poor. He said that earlier governments did injustice with the OBCs of Jammu & Kashmir, but now the Modi government has ensured

benefits to them. He said that Modi government provided due rights to the Gujjar-Bakerwal, Pahari and other communities, while safeguarding interests of all.

Ravinder Raina added that the people of Kashmir have witnessed change in the development and security scenario with their own eyes under Modi government. He said that the people have accepted the policies of Modi government by their hearts and have made-up their minds to vote for BJP in all the 5 Parliamentary constituencies of Jammu & Kashmir.

Later, Ravinder Raina also conducted a Public Darbar at Kulgam in which he listened to the issues of large number of people and deputations.

Three accused arrested under cheating case by PS Satwari Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

An information was received at PS Satwari regarding three suspicious persons found during frisking at airport Satwari.

On this police teams of PS Satwari led by SHO PS Satwari reached at the said place and after inquiring into the matter found that three passengers namely:

Jeena W/o Supesh Kumar R/o Gurdaspur, Charanjit Singh S/o Bachan Singh R/o Marar Tehsil Batala, Gurdaspur Kuldeep Kumar S/o Puran Chand R/O Nagri Parole, Kathua who entered Jammu Airport with fake Aadhaar card by changing their names to Balwinder Kumari, Ravi Kumar and Mstr Niraj to match with the flight tickets.

On this a Case FIR No. 29/2024 U/S 419/420/467/468/471 IPC got registered at PS Satwari and accused got arrested.

Further investigation of the case is going on.

Indian Army Personnel Interact with People at Rajouri



JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEB II

Indian Army personnel interacted with prominent personalities & opinion makers of Darhal at Rajouri. It was an informal interaction, wherein the issues of development

of area and its people, to include infrastructure development, social welfare, education, religious harmony & important role played by Army were discussed. Civilian dignitaries lauded this confidence building measure of the Indian Army.

Indian Army Organised Medical Camp at Rajouri



JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEB II

As part of 'Op Sadbhavana', Indian Army organised a Medical Camp for the populace at Darhal, Rajouri District. In remote area challenges are further aggravated due to limited road connectivity, requiring residents to commute long distances to avail basic medical facilities. A joint team of doctors and support staff from the Army and Civil Health Department including specialist practitioner provided medical care,

consultation and counseling to the poor and under privileged residents of the border areas. A total of 761 civilians from the village and other far flung adjoining areas visited to avail medical treatment provided during the camp. The genuine efforts taken up by the Army to organise the medical camp were appreciated by the populace. Such an endeavour by the Army to reach out to the residents of remote areas will go a long way in developing and strengthening of trust between JAWAN and AWAAM.

PCPG Meeting organized at Green View Palace Bishnah by PS Bishnah Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

SP Hqrs alongwith SDPO RS Pura and SHO PS Bishnah conducted a PCPG meeting at Green View Palace Bishnah in the area under the jurisdiction of PS Bishnah. Various Sarpanches, Panches, ex-sarpanches/panches and other prominent persons participated in the meeting.

A threadbare discussion took place regarding drugs, theft cases, mining, illicit liquor, bovine smuggling and other related issues. SP Hqrs Jammu also briefed them to inform the nearby PS/PP if any information regarding drug trafficking is received to them. Other important



issues discussed were regarding drugs menace, thefts, burglaries, MV violations etc.

SP Hqrs Jammu flanked by SDPO RS Pura and SHO PS Bishnah gave a patient hearing to the public and assured them of addressing the genuine demands in shortest possible time. Also people were encour-

aged to cooperate with Police and Administration in maintaining Law & Order in their area of responsibility as well as in identifying Anti-Social Elements who are indulging in Drugs Peddling, Illicit liquor brewing, Bovine smuggling etc. Later SHO PS Bishnah thanked the participants.

PM Modi has always supported and encouraged Women: Rekha Mahajan

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

Hailing the significant role being played by the NGOs in dealing with social challenges, BJP District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan said, that these countless public-friendly organizations can complement Government ambitions and fill the gaps impeding social welfare through honest strides. Rekha Mahajan along with BJP team members, under the Shakti Vandan Programme, also held an interactive session and felicitated self-help group leaders Santosh Kumari and Seema under Shakti Vandan Abhiyaan along with ladies of their group who participated in the event. The program saw the presence of State



Secretary and District Prabhari Jammu South Ayodhya Gupta, District General Secretary and Convener of the Abhiyan Akash Chopra, Co-Convener Divya Jain, Mandal President Gadigadh Vijay Sharma, Suraj Parkash, Kissan Morcha District President Pawan Raina, Meetu Sharma, Raju and others were present on the occasion.

While interacting with the group of NGOs Rekha Mahajan hails the efforts

of Sunita Kumari and Seema along with a group of ladies. She said that no Prime Minister since Independence has been as sensitive as PM Modi has been towards daughters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always supported and encouraged Indian women in every field, and today, they are excelling in every field, whether it's medical, sports, or defense. Rekha appeals to groups of women including non-governmental organiza-

tions to unite and venture among the public. She remarks that the Central government is committed to the economic and social upliftment of women. PM Modi is consistently working for this and Shakti Vandan is a prime example of this.

Rekha Mahajan educates that the Mahila Morcha workers of various organizations are publicizing the schemes of the Central and State governments. She highlights that the women's self-help group and NGO contact program are part of these efforts. She added that the union government is working to provide better treatment to economically weaker people under the Ayushman Yojana. Cooperative banks are providing interest-free loans from

which women's self-help groups are also benefiting. Women are becoming economically self-reliant due to such measures, she added. Rekha furthermore underscored that women in rural as well as urban areas in Jammu South are being provided the benefit of Ujjwala Yojana. Rekha said under the banner of Modi Sarkaar has made every attempt to unshackle women with schemes for their security and respect in the last ten years of remarkable supernatural governance. She prompted that the BJP has been making efforts for the last three decades to ensure women's participation in democracy through this law. This was PM Narendra Modi's commitment, and today, he fulfilled it for future ages.

In past 4-5 years, J&K's...

J&K Bank's profit touching Rs 1800 Crore," he said. He said the present administration has inherited to re-pay the huge power debts worth Rs 28000 Crore. About the recent vote on the account budget presented in the parliament for J&K recently, the LG said that the economic condition of the UT is much better than what it was earlier. "J&K administration's efforts have been to increase capital expenditure and decrease revenue expenditure," he said. The LG said that revenue expenditure of J&K is Rs 80,000 Crore as a vast portion goes into salaries of employees while capital expenditure has recorded a quantum jump of Rs 38000 Crore from Rs 11000 Crore. On a query, about shifting of the office United Nations Military Observers Group of India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) located in Srinagar, the issue "will be looked into."

The LG stated this in reply to the query that now that J&K has been fully integrated into the Union of India while as there is zero tolerance against terrorism and Indian flag runs high across Kashmir, the UN office in Sonwar area of Srinagar continues to operate as whether there are plans to shift the same. "Now that the question has been asked, we will look into the issue....," the LG said. (KNO)

Congress remembers...

defeat, the Congress and its allies were resorting to last ditch-tactics, the PM said, adding that "loot and divide" is the motto of the Congress.

Even the opposition leaders in Parliament are now saying "abki baar 400 paar" for the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), he said.

PM Modi said BJP's 'lotus' symbol will bag more than 370 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

"I have come to Jhabua not to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections but as your sevak," the prime minister said.

"Our double engine government is working with double speed in Madhya Pradesh," he said.

PM Modi asked voters to ensure polling of additional 370 votes in each booth, compared to the last elections, for the BJP to win 370 Lok Sabha seats. (Agencies)

Lt Governor addresses...

breaking barriers and inspiring the new generation," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed Educational Institutions and departments to make policy interventions to further increase women's participation in Science and allied disciplines.

"I strongly believe the active participation of women in science, technology and research can build India as a global innovation powerhouse. Women-led development in J&K is our prime objective. It is our collective responsibility to achieve this goal," the Lt Governor said.

He further impressed upon the Universities and different stakeholders to take prominent writers and filmmakers on board for publications and films dedicated to women scientists and innovators of Jammu Kashmir.

Increased female participation in PhD courses and special research projects in science and technology should be ensured, besides necessary financial and technical resource support must be extended to women scientists associated with STEM disciplines, he added.

He instructed the J&K Science and Technology Department to establish a special cell integrated with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog.

The Lt Governor also appreciated the efforts of the University of Jammu for promoting research and innovation in diverse fields.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released the abstract booklet on the J&K Women Science Congress 2024.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Vibha Tandon Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata; Prof. Anju Bhasin, Convener J&K Women Science Congress; senior officials, faculty members, scientists and innovators from J&K and other states/ UTs were present.

Dr Jitendra convenes...

close to 35,000 participants including more than 11,000 delegates. Seven State S&T Ministers, 27 State officials and Secretaries and 75 delegates also participated in the four-day Science Fest.

The Science Secretaries monthly meeting also lauded the Departments for the ground work involved in the operationalization of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) with its issue of notification on 5th February 2024. Dr Jitendra Singh suggested that DST could go for the search of Anusandhan NRF Logo.

Dr Jitendra Singh was informed that a demonstration was held for the One portal being designed for all fellowships of various Science Departments. A Security Audit of the portal is now being conducted by NIC before it is launched for the scholars.

The meeting also discussed a proposal for Service conditions of Research Scientists in various Government Departments and Institutions.

2 brothers held for...

used in the crime, the officer said.

He said the arrested accused are hardcore criminals and it is a matter of investigation whether they were involved in any other such incident in the past.

Police have registered a case under the relevant sections of law and further investigation is on, the officer said. (Agencies)

CAPF constable exam...

get an equal opportunity for employment.

With this initiative of the central government, the youths across the country, have got a golden opportunity to participate in the constable (GD) examination in the Central Armed Police Forces conducted by the SSC in their mother tongue and make a career in the service of the nation, the statement said. (Agencies)

Gulmarg witnesses...

24-hour journey after his flight to Srinagar got cancelled due to fresh snowfall.

"It's really heaven here, it is truly beautiful. It's for the first time I am witnessing something like this," he said, adding that he also enjoyed sledding during his trip to Gulmarg.

He urged the fellow countrymen to visit Kashmir at least once in their life to enjoy the natural beauty of the Valley.

Not just Rohit, but many tourists from other parts of the country have also been left spellbound by the mesmerizing beauty of Gulmarg.

Among them is Deepanshi from Haryana, who waited for nearly three months to embark on her dream trip to Kashmir. "Finally, we are here in Gulmarg, the winter wonderland and we are enjoying it a lot. It's gorgeous. We are playing in the snow and having a great time here," she added.

Tourism stakeholders are happy and hopeful of further surge in the arrival of visitors with the start of the second edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 from February 21 to 25.

Originally scheduled to take place in Gulmarg from February 2 to 6, the fourth edition of the grassroots-level multi-sports competition was shifted from J&K to the Union Territory of Ladakh for the first time due to lack of snow in the top skiing destination of the country.

Jammu and Kashmir hosted the previous editions of the games in 2020, 2021 and 2023.

The weatherman has predicted another bout of snowfall at many places in Jammu and Kashmir from February 18 to 20.

SC asks its registry...

dismissed their appeals and asked them to surrender fore the court concerned to serve the remainder sentence.

They had approached the high court challenging the verdict of a trial court convicting and sentencing them to life imprisonment in the case. (Agencies)

LG mentions budget...

- * Revenue Receipt Estimates for 2024-25 is Rs 97,861 crore and Capital Receipt Estimate is Rs 20,867 crore.
- * Revenue Expenditure for 2024-25 is pegged at Rs. 80,162 crore with sector-wise allocations as under;
- * Administrative Sector Rs. 12,580 crore.
- * Social Sector Rs. 24600 crore.
- * Infrastructure Sector Rs. 12,675 crore.
- * Economic Sector Rs. 5,306 crore.
- * Capital Expenditure (i.e Developmental Expenditure) for 2024-25 is Rs. 38,566 crore with broad sectoral allocation as under;
- * Administrative Sector Rs. 1,362 crore.
- * Social Sector Rs. 3,779 crore.
- * Infrastructure Sector Rs. 13,512 crore.
- * Economic Sector Rs. 6854 crore.
- * Capital Expenditure contribution towards GDP is 14.64%.
- * GDP for the year 2024-25 has been projected at Rs 2,63,399 crore which shows a growth of 7.5%.
- * The tax/Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio for 2024-25 has been projected at 7.84 percent which is just higher than previous year's 6.56 percent.

INTERIM BUDGET DETAILS

- * The total receipts in respect of Vote on Account for part of financial year 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 59,364 crore excluding the provision for ways and means advances of Rs 16,568 Crore. These receipts include Rs. 48,930 crore as revenue receipts and Rs. 10,434 crore as capital receipts.
- * The own revenues both tax and non tax are estimated to be Rs. 15,158 crore.
- * Rs 18,639 crore is to flow as central assistance and Rs. 8424 crore as CSS/ PMDP to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
- * The total net expenditure is estimated to be Rs 59,364 crore. This includes the estimated capital expenditure of Rs 19,283 crore and the estimated revenue expenditure of Rs 40,081 crore.

FOCUS AREAS:

- * Good Governance
- * Strengthening Grass-root Democracy
- * Promoting Holistic and Sustainable Agriculture
- * Promoting Jammu and Kashmir as an Investment Destination
- * Employment Generation
- * Developing New Tourism Destinations
- * Accelerated Development & Inclusive Growth
- * Women Empowerment
- * Social Inclusion

E-GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES FOR 2024-25:

- * e-office to be extended in all the offices and panchayats.
- * Physical verification units to be established at Jammu & Srinagar.
- * Revitalization of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Viability Gap Fund (VGF) cell in the Finance Department.
- * PM Gati Shakti to be fully implemented.
- * Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and Internet of Things (IOT) to be implemented for effective delivery of services to the citizens by Information Technology Department.

SECTOR WISE KEY FEATURES FOR 2024-25:

- * Agriculture & Allied Sectors (Allocation of Rs. 2029.95 Crore under Capital expenditure for 2024-25)
 - * Establishment of 2000 Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) for providing facilities to the farming community at their door step.
 - * Strengthening of Departmental Seed Multiplication Farms.
 - * Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors project in Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP) to be implemented with an estimated value of USD 100 million loan from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The goal of the project is to contribute to the sustained increase in income of rural households by improving the competitiveness of farming operations.
 - * 283 borewells to be constructed and 520 irrigation pump sets to be distributed for providing assured irrigation covering an area of 1000 Hectare.
 - * 4500 dairy units to be established & 3000 sheep units to be set up providing direct employment to around 12000 people.
 - * Increase in milk production from 25 to 45 Lakh Metric Ton and increase in milk collection/chilling from 2.0 to 8.5 Lakh Litres Per Day (LLPD) over a period of five years.
 - * Fish Production to be enhanced from 30670 MT to 35250 MT with technological interventions.
 - * Production of designer plants for promotion of high density plantation and rejuvenation of orchards.
 - * 50 fruit including dry fruit processing units to be established for value addition of fruits, to reduce post-harvest losses and to generate employment opportunities for the youth.
 - * 83000 MTs of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage capacity to be added during next fiscal.

HEALTH & WELLNESS (ALLOCATION OF RS. 1427.61 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25):

- * Two Cancer institutes at Jammu and Srinagar to be made fully operational during 2024-25.
- * Enhancing DNB Seats to 400 thereby improving the avail-

ability of Specialists.

* Health records to be saturated by creation of ABHA IDs for 1.35 crore population.

* 100% screening of 30+ age population for hypertension and diabetes.

* Dialysis Services to be strengthened at 16 existing facilities and 10 new health facilities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ (ALLOCATION OF RS. 3730.83 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25):

- * Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 400 lakh mandays to be generated.
- * Under HIMAYAT scheme, training of around 7000 candidates to be completed.
- * Under NRLM 12000 additional Self Help Groups (SHGs) to be formed during 2024-25.
- * 600 new panchayat ghars to be constructed under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) with 100% internet connectivity.
- * 2.60 lakh mandays of training to Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- * 80,000 houses to be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G).
- * Villages to have solid/liquid waste management facilities in order to become clean/litter and plastic free.
- * 26000-hectare area to be treated with completion of 1800 works under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) during 2024-25.
- Power Sector (Allocation of Rs. 1875 Crore under Capital expenditure for 2024-25):
 - * Extension of power supply/grid connectivity to Tulail Valley in Gurez.
 - * Creation of 02 new grid sub-stations at 220/132 Kv level, which will enhance capacity by 260 MVA at Radampora (160 MVA) and Rathsun Beerwah (100 MVA).
 - * Construction of 03 new transmission lines at 132 Kv level Pampore-Nowbugh Chadoora, 132 Kv level Bandipora-Gurez and 132 Kv Direct Circuit tap line for 80 MVA grid sub-station Drusoo-Rafabad.
- Segregation of critically overloaded 11 KV feeders for improvement in voltage and reduction in fault level.

TOURISM & CULTURE (ALLOCATION OF RS. 469.20 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * Development of infrastructure and basic amenities in 20 off-beat tourist destinations, 10 each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions.
- * Development of Keran as border tourist village.
- * Development of Tosamaidan and Sitharan circuit.
- * Development of Duggar Dani at Samba with traditional set up in the form of "mock village".
- * Construction and installation of 130 meter (425 feet) high National Flag Mast at Patnitop.
- * Construction of grand welcome/entry gate at Lakanpur to showcase and emphasize the major destinations within the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory.
- * Completion of revival and restoration of 75 identified heritage sites/cultural sites.
- * Establishment and operationalization of 8 cultural centers.
- * Promotion and propagation of sufism in Jammu & Kashmir through structured programmes including operationalization of state of art Suffiana school at Srinagar.
- * Digitization of all libraries.

WATER SUPPLY & IRRIGATION (ALLOCATION OF RS. 5038.74 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25):

- * All 18.36 Lakh households of Jammu and Kashmir to have functional household tap connections.
- * Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) certification of remaining 4000 villages.
- * 3244 JJM schemes to be handed over to Pani Samities/ PRIs for their operation & maintenance.
- * 78 major medium irrigation schemes to be completed and 250 hectare of irrigation potential to be created/stabilized.
- * 297 Minor Irrigation Schemes to be completed for creating 2400 hectare of Irrigation potential benefiting population of 4400 souls.
- * 302 flood control schemes to be completed and 3000 hectare of land to be reclaimed and protected.
- * 51 schemes to be completed during 2024-25 under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Har Khet Ko Pani (PMKSY-HKPP) and 12 schemes targeted for completion under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) loan assistance.
- * Shahpur Kandi Dam likely to be commissioned during 2024-25, which will benefit Jammu & Kashmir with 1150 cusec of irrigation water facilities for 32173 hectare of land in Kathua and Samba.

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (ALLOCATION OF RS. 2329.55 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25):

- * 05 Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) with sewerage treatment capacity of 65.33 MLD are under implementation.
- * Under AMRUT 2.0, UT Water Action Plan for 153 projects of 78 ULBs has been completed. This includes 99 projects for water supply connections aiming to provide 2.25 lakh new tap household connections.
- * Under Smart Cities Mission out of 262 projects, 207 projects have been completed and 55 project are likely to be completed in 2024-25.
- * Pollution abatement of River Tawi by way of laying interception & diversion network at old city.
- * Revamping of Transport Nagar Narwal Jammu and Parimpora Srinagar.

EDUCATION (ALLOCATION OF RS. 1300.10 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25):

- * Separate annual library grant ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 covering schools from Primary to Senior Secondary for purchase of books under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- * 2000 Kindergartens to be established.
- * Only fortified rice to be served to about 8.43 lakh students at elementary level (I to VIII) under Mid-Day Meal Scheme for improving nutritional health of students.
- * Infrastructure of 233 schools to be upgraded under Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme.
- * 3.50 lakh adults to be made literate under New India Literacy Programme (NILP). Scholarship @Rs 5000/ student under Beti Amol Scheme for BPL girl students.
- * 18723 Schools to be provided sports equipments with the financial implication of Rs 18.50 crore.
- * Construction of 05 newly established colleges to be completed during 2024-25.
- * Two hostel blocks, two science blocks and 06 additional lecture blocks in various colleges to be completed.
- * 08 colleges to be assessed and accredited in 2024-25.

CONNECTIVITY (ROADS & BRIDGES) (ALLOCATION OF RS. 4108.87 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25):

- * 4000 Kilometers of road length to be black-topped during 2024-25 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)/ Cities & Towns scheme/Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) loan assistance/pothole free road scheme.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (ALLOCATION OF RS. 529.62 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * 46 new Industrial Estates have been identified for development that will attract investment and create employment opportunities.
- * Under Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (J&K REGP), 1167 units targeted to be setup during 2024-25.
- * New Start-up Policy to be introduced for creating start-up ecosystem.
- * Up-gradation of infrastructure in existing Industrial Estates.
- * Private Industrial Estate Development Policy to be revamped.

SOCIAL/TRIBAL WELFARE (ALLOCATION OF RS. 306.82 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * All intellectually challenged persons to be covered under Nirmarya Health Insurance Scheme.
- * Vatsalya Sadan Jammu to be operationalized.
- * 1000 Anganwadi Centres to be made attractive and interesting in phased manner.
- * 250 small nature of tractor and link road connectivity to be provided to tribal population.
- * 70 Hand Pumps to be provided to Schedule Tribe basties.
- * Smart cards to be provided to migratory tribal population.
- * Transit accommodations to be established for trans-human tribal population which includes accommodation for 150-200 families, community kitchens, medical dispensaries, veterinary dispensaries, community toilets and livestock yards.
- * 186 villages, having 500 schedule tribe population, to be covered under "Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)" scheme.
- * 10 milk villages targeted to be completed during 2024-25.

RELIEF & REHABILITATION OF KASHMIRI MIGRANTS (ALLOCATION OF RS. 1067.61 CRORE UNDER REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * Completion of construction of 1500 flats as transit accommodation for Kashmiri pandit employees during 2024-25.
- * Remaining 350 posts out of 6000 posts under PM-Package for Kashmiri migrants to be filled in 2024-25.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT (ALLOCATION OF RS. 165.50 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * Financial support through self-employment schemes like Seed Capital Fund Scheme, Youth Start-up Loan Scheme, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation scheme, Women Entrepreneurship Programme and under Mission Youth schemes to be provided to youth to undertake self-employment ventures.
- * Outreach and counselling activities to be conducted for aspiring job seekers through Model Career Centers (MCCs).
- * New age courses to be introduced in 10 Industrial Training Institutes.
- * Placement drives for 1000 pass outs to be organized in collaboration with big business and industrial establishments.
- * Training of 6000 women Self Help Groups registered with NRLM to be completed.

SPORTS & YOUTH INITIATIVES (ALLOCATION OF RS. 341.80 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * 75 lakh youth engagements in various sports events to be held at the Panchayat, Block, District, UT and National level during 2024-25.
- * 20 national sports events to be organized in 2024-25.
- * 200 playgrounds and 100 sports courts to be constructed. Swimming pools to be completed at Moulana Azad Stadium, Jammu and Gindun Park Rajbagh, Srinagar.

FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (ALLOCATION OF RS. 156.45 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * Planting of 190 lakh native trees and 100 lakh low cost greening interventions aimed to restore ecosystems, prevent soil erosion and enhance biodiversity.
- * All urban Local bodies of Jammu and Kashmir to have at least one Nagar Van, Nagar Vatika or an Eco Park.
- * 10 lakh saplings of local, medicinal and economic importance to be distributed among the farmers for planting to augment trees outside forests & improve livelihood.
- * Infrastructure at wetlands like Gharana, Hokersar and Shallbuth to be developed for promotion of eco-tourism.
- * Establishment of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) in Jammu.

FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES (ALLOCATION OF RS. 313 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * Additional 10 kg of rice per month at subsidized rate to Priority Households will be provided under Prime Ministers Food Supplementation Scheme.
- * e-KYC of all beneficiaries under Public Distribution System to be completed.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (ALLOCATION OF RS. 159.50 CRORE UNDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * 4000 AC agriculture pumps to be replaced by Solar Pumps in phased manner under PM-KUSUM Component "C".
- * Around 04 megawatt rooftop solar power plants to be installed on the government buildings. 100 kw floating solar power plant to be installed in the Dal Lake, Srinagar for demonstration purpose to attract the tourists.
- * 5000 improved biomass cook-stoves to be provided in the tribal areas to reduce indoor air pollution and fuel use.
- * Land bank to be identified for development of solar parks.
- * Under Special Area Development Programme (SADP) tourist & religious places to be taken-up for complete solarization.

SECURITY RELATED ACTIVITIES (ALLOCATION OF RS. 1284.45 CRORE UNDER REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25)

- * Construction of 42 new border police posts to strengthen the anti-infiltration grid.
- * Installation of CCTV cameras with command-and-control center at public places to be completed.
- * Improvement of basic facilities in police stations/police posts and police housing complexes.
- * 1218 community/individual bunkers to be constructed.
- * Implementation of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) Project.

BJP organizes “Samarpan Diwas” on death anniversary of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

Remembering Late Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay and his services to the Nation on his death anniversary, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir today organized “Samarpan Diwas” programmes on Mandal level across Jammu & Kashmir, which were attended by senior party leaders.

Former Dy. Chief minister & Parliamentary Cluster Incharge Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. Chief minister Kavinder Gupta, BJP Vice-President Sham Choudhary, General Secretary Vibodh Gupta, former MLCs S. Charanjit Singh Khalsa & Vikram Randhawa, Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi, District President Rekha Mahajan, participated in a programme on “Samarpan Diwas” organized under the supervision of Abhiyaan Incharge & Additional Treasurer Prem Gupta at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina who paid



tributes to Pt. ji in Kulgam, termed Pt. Deen Dayal as a distinguished Indian philosopher and a devoted patriot. He said that the ideals and immense in-depth knowledge, sensitivity to public issues of Pt. Deen Dayal ji paved way for a new vision for the development and future of nation. He said that identifying flaws in the existing political approaches at that time, he proposed Integral Humanism Theory to achieve harmony between extremes and a broader perspective, which has guided every BJP worker to work selflessly for the welfare of society.

“Modi government has ensured the welfare of every neglected and the

oppressed person following the ideals of Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji. Every BJP activist must imbibe their teachings to understand the working of organization for the nation and society”, said Ravinder Raina.

Ashok Koul, while paying floral tributes to Pandit Deen Dayal at Srinagar, said that Samarpan Diwas is observed on Feb 11 to mark the death anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, a leader and man beyond words and achievements. On this day, the memory of the great leader is remembered not just by his followers but millions of people who believe in his ideologies. He spoke

in detail on the life and values of Pandit ji. He said that the vision of Pandit ji was very clear that the true rise of India could only be achieved through “Integral Humanism” and “Antyodaya”. He said that Pandit ji was a strong advocate of nationalism, integral humanism having core of “Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah”, Antyodaya (benefit to the last person standing in the row), and great economic policy.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, while paying floral tributes to Pandit Deen Dayal at party headquarter, termed him as one of the biggest thinkers of present times, whose teachings will ultimately guide the whole world for the centuries to come.

Kavinder Gupta, while paying floral tributes to Pandit Deen Dayal at party headquarter, said that he has been the source of moral guidance and moral inspiration for the BJP since its inception.

All the senior BJP leaders participated in their respective Mandal “Samarpan Diwas” programmes.

Altat Bukhari demands hold Legislative Assembly elections in J&K, Parliamentary Polls together

JI NEWS SERVICE
BISHNAH, FEB II

Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altat Bukhari Sunday urged the Election Commission of India to hold Legislative Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the Parliamentary polls together.

Altat Bukhari made this demand while addressing one day worker’s meeting at Bishnah. The meeting was organized by Apni Party leader, Ashwani Kumar.

“The Govt of India says we shall hold Legislative Assembly Elections as well as Parliamentary Elections together. Then, they constituted a committee, but declined later, citing various reasons for elections in other states of the country,” reminded Bukhari.

Making a comment, he demanded holding of Legislative Assembly Elections as well as Parliamentary elections together in J&K because the people would get an elected Govt after five years of gap.

“The court has also directed the Govt to hold elections before September 2024 in J&K, but I suspect, they will not end the rule of an unpopular Govt in the erstwhile state,” he raised suspicion while criticizing the influence of UP and Punjab based liquor and mining mafia/contractors on the authorities.

Meanwhile, he said that “Five years have passed to Jammu and Kashmir without an elected Govt. Up to 2018, the last elected Govt was formed by the BJP in alliance with PDP.”

The BJP had contested assembly elections of 2014 against National Conference and PDP and then they formed the Govt with the PDP, he said, while asking the people if they saw any kind of development / employment in Bishnah or any other part of Jammu. He however raised the question about the involvement of non-local mafia in mining and liquor that has snatched the jobs, trade and spiked the prices of the construction material.

“The contractors from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab exploit the resources and local labourers whereas a number of liquor shops have been opened in every nook and corner of Jammu. If this is the naya Jammu and Kashmir, then we do not want such a situation, where rights of J&K are denied,” he added.

An atmosphere has changed in Jammu and



Kashmir following the day when special status was snatched from the people of the erstwhile state. The people were unaware across the country about the plight of the people living along the border with Pakistan in J&K. However, no one recalls the supreme sacrifices made by the civilian population living on the border in Jammu as well as in Kashmir.

“The people of Jammu and Kashmir did not get any kind of benefit in the last 70 years, but the benefits were grabbed by the two families in place of the masses. However, now the time has come, when the people shall be given constitutional rights of the people in J&K,” he stated.

He further said that “The people of J&K will fight for their jobs in a democratic manner. We are a peace-loving nationalist people who never restore to any kind of violent means.”

He however congratulated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah for granting reservation to a tribe of J&K.

He also extended support to those who have certain resentment the recent reservation that was granted to another tribe.

“Those who have objection to the reservation shall not worry about their issues because the Apni Party is there to support them. We will never allow discrimination with anyone,” he added, while seeking response from the Govt regarding issues of Dogra speaking belt in Jammu Region.

If the reservation can be granted to a tribe to address their long pending demands, he said then why couldn’t the concerns and demands of Jammu Dogras, Kashmiri speaking, and other communities be addressed by holding Assembly Elections and restoring the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting concerns of unemployed youth,

he demanded five years extension in upper age limits to the aspirants of central Govt jobs / Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in favour of the youth from Jammu and Kashmir.

“The situation in Jammu and Kashmir has yet to improve to a level that the youth can compete with other states of the country. The borders in Jammu region as well as Kashmir still face burnt of shelling from adversaries and therefore, the studies/exams of the students get often disturb,” he reminded to the Govt of India while asking them to consider the demand to extend upper age limit for the central job aspirants from J&K.

He again highlighted the concern that the un-scheduled power cuts across both the regions have further added problems for the students.

To overcome the power crises in J&K, he said that the power projects shall be returned to the erstwhile state after 35 years of its inception.

“They use our resources and generate electricity that is supplied outside J&K whereas the erstwhile state suffers without electricity,” he said.

Earlier, he said that Jammu and Kashmir is a border state, and it becomes imperative for them to work in coordination with the Govt of India in national interest.

Besides, he appreciated the people of Bishnah who elect their representatives wisely in every assembly election by going against the wave. He asked them to support the Party leader, Ashwani Kumar from Bishnah constituency.

In the meantime, General Secretary of the Party, Syed Asgar Ali also spoke on the occasion and commended Ashwani Kumar for organizing the worker’s meeting being one of the youngest leaders in the Party. He sought support from Bishnah for the Party leader.

Provincial President of the Party, S. Manjit Singh recalled how the Party struggled for the people of both the regions when other political parties were trying to protect their self-interests. He also highlighted the welfare schemes of the Party that would be launched if the Apni Party forms the next Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

Provincial Vice President of the Party, Adv Nirmal Kotwal also addressed the Party workers and raised concern as to how the people are being ignored by the babus in the civil secretariat and the Govt has become unapproachable for the people in J&K.

At the end, the organizer of the meeting, Ashwani Kumar expressed his concern over poor quality of education, shortage of staff and infrastructure in Govt schools in comparison to the private schools.

“The private schools have overburdened the pockets of the people, and the Govt schools need attention to improve the quality of education for the students,” he said, while demanding action against the authorities for turning blind eyes towards the collapsing education system in Bishnah.

Provincial Vice President Mohammed Shafi Sheikh, Provincial Secretary/Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta, State President ST Wing, Saleem Alam, SC State President, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Apni Trade Union President, Ajaz Kazmi, District President (Rural-B), Harpreet Singh, Vice President Youth/Spokesperson/Media Coordinator, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, Senior Vice President Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Provincial President Women Wing, Pavneet Kour, Adil Wani, Provincial President, Youth Wing, Jammu, Vipul Bali, Neelam Gupta, Dalbir Singh, Vishal Nariana, Babu Ram Bhagat, Pushp Raj, Bhehan Lal Choudhary, Mangat Ram, Irshan Choudhary, and others.

BJP organizes convention of Professional, senior citizen cell, education, employee & teacher cell

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, organized a convention of BJP Professional Cell, senior citizen cell and education, employee & teacher cell.

The convention was organized by BJP Professional Cell under the guidance of former cabinet minister Sat Sharma (Incharge for these cells). MP Jugal Kishore Sharma was the chief guest on occasion.

Jugal Kishore Sharma addressing the Cell activists, asked them to approach the people in their respective fields. He prompted them to involve the people in their daily programmes and ask them to vote and support the party in forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. He also asked them to apprise the prominent persons about the policies of Modi government and asked them to join the party. He appealed the people to vote for BJP to further the



vision of developed Bharat by 2047. He also deliberated upon the efforts and good work of the BJP govt and asked the party workers to endeavour for big win of BJP.

Sat Sharma exhorted upon the Cell activists to intensify their public working by multiple hours daily and do more touring in their allotted areas. He explained that how exactly Vajpayee-led government had taken the country forward on development front but then 10 years of Congress led government

hindered the development of India gifting the biggest scams and dark future. He then discussed the achievements of Modi government in the last 10 years that again upsurged the Indian economy, strengthened the nation on every front including defense, health, aviation, infrastructure, education etc. He asked the Cell workers to approach the people with these facts seek unprecedented support in favour of Modi government in 2024. He, on the occasion, also lauded

the public for their support and asked them to join the cause of inclusive development by voting the BJP to power again.

SK Sharma, convenor Professional Cell asked the audience to remain united and do not fall to the false promises of the opposition. He said that this Samelan was organized with the sole motive of depicting the journey of development of India during the last 10 years.

District President Omi Khajuria, education, employee & teacher cell convenor Mookherjee, senior Citizen convenor JD Singh spoke on the achievements, policies of Modi government, strengthening the party in the elections.

CA Ramit Khurana & CA Amit Gupta deliberated upon the various developments and milestones achieved by the BJP govt under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Ajay Ahuja GST consultant conducted the proceeding of the programme.

J&K treading path of inclusive development as per PM’s vision: Slathia

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEB II

J&K BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia today said Jammu and Kashmir is treading towards the path of inclusive and holistic development with renewed vigour as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, adding that results are discernible at ground zero.

Welcoming hundreds of public spirited Karyakartas on their joining the BJP, at a specially held function held here this afternoon, Slathia said J&K’s developmental odyssey, in consonance with Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Paryas, is key to transforming this part of the country that has witnessed most difficult and traumatic phase due to disturbed conditions during three decades.

“However, the situa-



tion has undergone major turnaround post August 2019 with peace dawning and development getting new impetus due to the concerted efforts of the government”, he said, adding that in this journey of overall transformation every segment of the society is working towards strengthening the hands of Narendra Modi to carry forward his mission of nation building.

Slathia said the agenda of inclusiveness has instilled a sense of confidence and hope among

the people, who have been craving for marching ahead as proud Indians to become part of the country’s growth story.

He also referred to the great initiatives taken by the BJP over the years and implementation of various schemes and welfare programmes across Jammu and Kashmir with missionary zeal, saying these have resulted in the growth of every section of the society.

Slathia said that due to dedicated efforts of the BJP led government at the

Centre the nation is at the threshold of becoming a world leader under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The nations across continents have already started looking towards India with a hope of being instrumental in resolving complex issues like conflict, challenges on the fronts of terrorism and climate, fighting poverty, disease, illiteracy and hunger, besides strengthening democratic values, he added.

Hoping that the joining of new entrants will make the BJP further stronger at the grassroots level to carry forward the mission of prosperous Jammu and Kashmir under the Viksit Bharat with avenues of progress to all, irrespective of caste, region and religion, Slathia said this is the core philosophy of world’s largest political

party that is dedicated to the service of the nation. He urged the Karyakartas to further intensify the public outreach programme to identify the problems facing the people for seeking earnest redressal.

Prominent among those who join BJP from various political parties along with hundreds of other workers are Vipan Bhagat Mohinder Singh Boby Sanjay Attri Romesh Hans Ajay Verma Harish Kaka Sansar Chand. Moreover others who are from BJP present on the occasion included Kashmira Singh President BJP Samba Vijay Singh Vice President BJP Samba Amit Dubey General Secretary BJP Samba Ankush Mahajan Mandal President BJP Samba Omkaar Padha General Secretary BJP Samba Suraj Parkash Verma President OBC Morcha Samba Arun Sharma Shashi Pal Vaid.

Cong leaders congratulate Pahari people, recall contributions of pahari stalwarts

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

Several Senior Pahari leaders of Congress party have congratulated the people of Pahari tribe over the achievement of ST status after the struggle of several decades of the pahari community & the Pahari leadership of different shades & support of successive governments of different political parties.

In a statement Former Minister Shabir Ahmed Khan, Former Dy Chairman Legislative Council Jahangir Hussain Mir & Former MLC Ravinder Sharma have expressed joy over the fulfilment of long pending demand of Pahari community & remembered the contributions of several stalwarts of the

community, irrespective of their political shades, in the long drawn struggle & paid rich tributes to all of them, for their contributions to the cause.

They recalled the services of several great stalwarts of the pahari movement from seventies & early eighties who achieved the recognition of Pahari as a language in the 6th schedule of j&K Constitution in seventies, got the case for scheduled tribe status recommended to centre in 1989, secured Constitution of Pahari people welfare board in 1993 and achieved so many milestones including unanimous resolution of state Assembly and passing of bill of 5 per cent reservation in 2014 in both houses. The case for ST status was recom-

mended time and again by the successive governments of different political parties including the present one who supported the pahari cause which culminated into success now.

They thanked present centre government and UT administration and all successive governments in past and all political parties of different ideological shades for their whole hearted support to the cause of pahari people, which resulted into the acceding of our demand & success of the struggle today. They said it’s time to recall and remember all those people including political, social, intellectual & cultural personalities & other activists who struggled a lot and contributed in their own ways.

EDITORIAL

Rejuvenating
hopes among KPs

Law and order situation in Kashmir Valley has improved significantly post-abolition of Article 370, with hartals, stone-pelting, and protests by fundamentalists becoming a thing of the past. The improved situation has revived the hopes of a dignified return of lakhs of displaced Kashmiri Pandits staying in different parts to their native homes. After decades of displacement and longing, the return of Kashmiri Pandits marks a pivotal moment in the region's history, symbolizing resilience, reconciliation, and the promise of a harmonious future. The exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from their ancestral land in the late 1980s and early 1990s remains a dark chapter in the history of this country, characterized by violence, fear, and shattered dreams. Forced to flee their homes amidst escalating insurgency and targeted persecution, thousands of families found themselves uprooted, their cultural heritage threatened, and their sense of belonging severed. For years, the plight of Kashmiri Pandits has been a poignant reminder of the unresolved conflicts and deep-seated divisions plaguing the region. Their absence left a void in the social fabric of Kashmir, casting a shadow of sorrow and disillusionment over their once vibrant communities. However, amidst the shadows of despair, glimmers of hope have emerged. The recent initiatives aimed at facilitating the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland signify a significant step towards healing the wounds of the past and fostering a climate of inclusivity and coexistence. The return of Kashmiri Pandits is not merely a matter of physical relocation but a poignant journey of reconciliation and rebuilding. It represents a collective endeavor to reclaim lost heritage, revive cultural traditions, and foster a spirit of unity amidst diversity. Moreover, the return of Kashmiri Pandits holds immense socio-economic implications for the region. Their reinstatement in their ancestral homes promises to inject vitality into local economies, stimulate infrastructural development, and create avenues for social cohesion and integration. However, amidst the optimism, challenges loom large. The process of resettlement must be approached with sensitivity, ensuring the safety, dignity, and empowerment of returning families. Adequate measures must be taken, barring few being put in place, to address concerns regarding security, housing, employment, and access to essential services, thereby laying the groundwork for a seamless transition. Furthermore, efforts towards reconciliation must extend beyond mere rhetoric, encompassing tangible steps to promote inter-community dialogue, foster mutual understanding, and address the grievances of all stakeholders. Genuine efforts at truth and reconciliation are essential to forge a path toward lasting peace and prosperity in the region. As Kashmiri Pandits embark on their journey back to their homeland, it is incumbent upon all stakeholders to extend a hand of friendship, solidarity, and support. Their return is not merely a homecoming for a community but a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the enduring power of hope. The stakeholders in Kashmir should seize this historic opportunity to build bridges of understanding, heal the wounds of the past, and forge a path toward a brighter tomorrow for all inhabitants of Kashmir. The return of Kashmiri Pandits is not just a restoration of homes but a renewal of hope, echoing the timeless refrain of resilience and reconciliation in the valley of Kashmir.

The loss of Bharatanatyam music's
nattuvanar origins and aesthetic

T.M. KRISHNA

Over the past few decades, there has been a lot of scholarship on the appropriation of Bharatanatyam by the brahmin community in the 20th century, and discussions on the aesthetic and sociological ramifications of it. In the recent past, Nrithya Pillai -- who belongs to the hereditary artistic community that birthed and nurtured this form -- has been asking very important questions and challenging the current social hegemony through her writing, performance and activism. All this has made the Bharatanatyam establishment uncomfortable and defensive. At the same time, it has created greater awareness among younger privileged practitioners who, I believe, are trying to find their own language to navigate the contradictions between historical and present wrongs and their own practice.

While discussions about the aesthetics of Bharatanatyam are slowly and steadily moving forward, there has been minimal conversation

about the impact the sidelining of the hereditary community has had on the music in Bharatanatyam. Because music is inherently nonphysical, momentary and abstract in nature, changes, appropriation and loss go unnoticed. By the time someone points to this past-present rupture, it is too late. Even when mentioned, excuses such as changing times, influences and tastes are provided. None of these tendencies can be separated from the obvious socio-aesthetic disempowerment of the hereditary community -- the people who created the sonic landscape for what we call Bharatanatyam. In the distant past, even the brahmins who were involved in the form as composers worked in tandem with the hereditary community. Severing that relationship has had a deep impact on Bharatanatyam music. With every successive generation, the distancing has widened.

Many caste-privileged dancers who trained under nattuvanars speak of the indescribable character of their guru's music. They have never been able

to articulate its nature. What's unexplainable is that even as they speak in awe of their guru's music, their own musical choices for new choreographies is, in my opinion, questionable, even in contradiction with what they seem to admire in their teacher! The first thing that strikes me when I listen to any of the great gurus sing is the entrenched Carnatic-ness. Is there any such thing? Let me give you a loose analogy. When a Tamilian speaks Hindi, there is an inherent Tamil-ness in the linguistic sound. This quality is not etched in stone; it is a range of accent possibilities. Yet, the Hindi spoken by a Tamilian in 1900 and by a Tamilian in 2023 has a common Tamil base. The same can be said of a Kannadiga or Malayali. Similarly, there is such a thing as Canatic-ness. When I hear the great nattuvanars, nadasvara artists or dancers belonging to the same community sing even a flash of a raga or line, I hear this Carnatic-ness. It is in the way they pronounce the syllable move the raga, articulate the svara. Even the non-melodic vocables that

accompany any musical rendition ooze this quality. When members of the hereditary community sang ragas that were imported into the Carnatic idiom from other traditions, they found a way of giving it a new existence within the Carnatic. It did not stand out as 'external'. This is also missing in our singing today. I include all of us, including those who sing Carnatic music concerts. What we tend to do is to imitate the sounds of the raga as heard in its source location. This could also be connected with the sound of Dravidian languages. The brahmin tongue is deeply sanskritised and there is a great degree of dissociation with Tamil as spoken by the majority of Tamilians. The hereditary community, despite their close association with the brahmin class, retain their larger Dravida linguistic identity. This might be one of the reasons why their renditions sound so deeply rooted. Since this is an aural influence and not semantic, it is detectable even in their instrumental music. These qualities are miss-

ing from Bharatanatyam music today, irrespective of the social identity of the singer. What we hear is a kind of aural sanitisation and correctness. Even when an old varnam composed by the Tanjore quartet is presented, there is a mechanisation in its presentation. Musicians use phrases such as "music is in their blood" to explain the difference. These are convenient euphemisms that allow us to ignore this serious problem of aesthetics. It is the intention behind their singing that gives the music that quality. I will hypothesize that in the music rendered by the nattuvanars and dancers from the hereditary community, there is an inherent understanding of the abstract. This allows for a raga that is not bound by the norms or obsessions of navarasa! This is observable even in the manner they speak about raga, laya or composition. Along with the rigour and attention to detail, there is a non-cultivated carefree-ness. The bhaktification and brahminisation of Bharatanatyam has stripped its music of this embracing expanse.

Another aspect that needs investigation is the choice of ragas in dance compositions. If we are to study a wide range of compositions created by the hereditary community, it is clear that ragas were not categorised within lazy, one-on-one emotion-raga constructs. This is a profound realisation of emotionality. We seem to have lost this almost completely. Today, when I hear Bharatanatyam music, the choices of ragas for nearly every context is literal, patterned, strait-jacketed. This has led to subtlety being replaced by vocal exaggerations in the name of emoting. As others have pointed out, the brahmin obsession with arithmetic accuracy -- or in other words, 'purity' -- has also diminished the fluidity of the older jathis where laya and musicality, rather than tallying, was the focus. Exclusion is also an aesthetic phenomenon. Privileged musicians and dancers speak of the "old days" whenever they want to claim antiquity but practice the art in a manner that perpetuates aesthetic loss.

Beyond likes and shares, millions of reasons to worry

SACHI SATAPATHY

Social media in South Asia isn't just a platform for selfies and cat videos; it's now a volatile cocktail of misinformation, hate speech, and violence, with real-world consequences dancing on the digital razor's edge.

A thorough scrutiny of social media is warranted, especially because the next few weeks and months will see elections across many countries, including India.

Dancing with the digital demon

Data tells a grim story: hate speech spews like venom from anonymous accounts, fabricated narratives spread faster than wildfires, and violence erupts on the streets, often ignited by the sparks of online vitriol. Platforms like Facebook, X, and WhatsApp, originally meant to connect, have become battlegrounds for bigotry, their algorithms amplifying hateful narratives and turning echo chambers into cauldrons of rage.

This isn't some abstract concern. Look at the 2020 India's Delhi riots, fuelled by WhatsApp misinformation, where over

50 lives were lost in a religious inferno. See the 2021 attacks on Bangladeshi Hindus, sparked by a fabricated Facebook post, leaving temples desecrated and communities traumatised. Witness the 2019 Sri Lanka Easter bombings, where online hate speech may have played a role in the radicalisation of the attackers, or Facebook posts calling for violence against the Madhesi community sparked clashes and protests in Nepal. These are just a few grim examples of how the digital demon of social media is playing a deadly game in the form of fake digital nationalism in South Asia.

A conservative estimate for the total number of social media users in South Asia as of October is around 961 million. With such vast number of people accessing these social media platforms, the key questions before policy-makers on social media are: how do social media algorithms, designed for engagement, contribute to the spread of hate speech and misinformation; what role do anonymous accounts and bots play in amplifying harmful narratives and inciting violence on social media platforms; what are

the specific ways in which social media platforms exploit religious, ethnic, and caste sensitivities in the region?

Most importantly, what is the role of governments and civil society organisations in holding social media platforms accountable for the harmful content they host? There are two other important questions, always debated in the region: first, how can we balance the need to curb online hate and misinformation with upholding freedom of expression and democratic values? Second, what are the long-term consequences of exposure to hate speech and misinformation on social media for individuals and communities?

There is so far no convincing answers to these questions, which is affecting millions of social media users in the region. Social media platforms for their political biases towards the governments in power to generate revenue are surprisingly silent in investing on these questions and address these pertinent questions.

The common pattern of creating social tension through these platforms in South Asia are to share misinformation and fake

news, trolling and abusing religious minorities, using derogatory language and hate symbols, organising online campaigns to incite violence, sharing caste-based slurs and discriminatory content, inciting violence against ethnic and religious minorities, spread blasphemy accusations, and inciting violence against journalists and activists.

Silence is violence

A 2020 study by the University of Oxford analysed over 250 million tweets related to India and Pakistan. The research found that 12 per cent of these tweets contained hate speech, with the majority targeting religious minorities and political opponents. The hashtag #FreeRohingya has been used over 40 million times on X, highlighting the plight of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar. However, the online campaign has also been marred by calls for violence against Myanmar nationals and the spread of misinformation about the conflict. In the aftermath of the 2019 Easter bombings, social media platforms in Sri Lanka saw a surge in anti-Muslim hate speech. The hashtag #Sin-

halaRavaya (Sinhalese Power) gained traction, further dividing the country along ethnic lines.

Silencing the digital mob

What is the solution? It is important to identify and remove biased algorithms. The platforms have a responsibility to audit their algorithms for bias that amplifies hateful content and unfairly targets marginalised groups. Removing or correcting such biases can significantly reduce exposure to hate. It is also important to train AI systems to understand the context and intent behind language, distinguishing genuine criticism from hateful attacks. This requires ongoing investment in natural language processing and human oversight.

With so much hate in social media, there is a strong need to develop a spectrum of consequences for varying degrees of harm, ranging from warnings and temporary suspensions to permanent bans. There is also a need to encourage bystander intervention by making it simple and safe to report hateful behaviour.

{Sachi Satapathy is Director, AF Development Care (AFDC).}

Glamorizing violence, gamifying debate

DEVDUPT PATTANAIK

Harry Potter ends with a great war. So does Lord of the Rings. So does every Marvel Comic. Good wizards fighting bad wizards. Elves fighting orcs. Superheroes battling supervillains. Angels fighting demons. For the past thirty years, that is what we have been consuming from Hollywood. Life is war. We are eternally under threat. We need warriors to protect ourselves.

This idea is based on Greek myths and Norse myths, where gods are in power, having kept their enemies at bay -- but the enemy is always at the gate, waiting for an opportunity to strike. This becomes the stuff of serial movies and serial books. This is also the stuff of the Bible and the Quran. For there is a great war anticipated at the end of the

world, between forces of good and evil. The Apocalypse.

Violence is glamorous. And now, we are seeing great wars unfolding before our eyes, on live television. We watch helplessly as cities are bombed, children are maimed and orphaned, women weep over dead husbands and brothers. Each side argues their case well. Their violence is justified. The enemy is the aggressor, the coloniser, the occupier, the terrorist. The other needs to die. Genocide and terrorism are perfectly justified, if you have a great lawyer.

As humans, we have the burden to justify acts of violence. But animals do not. Animals use force and cunning to get what they want. This is what politicians do. This is what Bollywood films are now promoting -- violence and trickery are the tools we have to get what we want.

The winner is Alexander (jo jeeta, woh Sikander, as the Hindi proverb goes). The winner is always right. So the point is not to be right; the point is to win.

These are the values we are giving our children, who are spending all day competing, in classrooms, in sports arenas, surrounded more by rivals than friends. Their video-games are also all about violence. You have to kill the zombie, the alien, the barbarian, the other. Even social media is competitive: How many followers do you have? How many likes do you have?

Everything is gamified. It is evident in social media. The Left is arm-wrestling with the Right. Each party derives delight in the other party's defeat. WhatsApp groups have become warzones with pseudoscience winning the war against science, religion claiming triumph

over logic. We see family members delighting at the sight of poor homes being bulldozed, corrupt politicians becoming heroes once they change party lines, people being beaten up in public, justice system serving the powerful, data being fudged. The point is to win!

We are told this is global culture. Even Hindu scriptures valorise war. Aren't Ramayana and Mahabharata about war? Doesn't Rama fight to rescue Sita? Doesn't Krishna encourage violence in the Gita? Aren't the devas constantly fighting asuras? This narrative is popular amongst modern mytho-fiction writers of India. Check the covers of their book. Every god looks angry, muscular and violent. Wisdom is now replaced by triumphalism. The tone of gurus in their lecture is to evoke pride and arrogance and victory. Kindness is

boring. Contentment is unrealistic.

But what distinguishes Hindu myths is the idea of karma. Actions have reactions. Consumption results in debts that everyone has to repay. This idea is missing in Western myths. In the many Ramayanas of India, Rama is cursed by the widows of villains he kills. Tara, widow of Vali, curses him. Mandodari, widow of Ravana, curses him. Rama therefore spends the last days of his life alone, without a wife or children by his side. Mahabharata is not just about the victory of the Pandavas; it is also about the price of war. All children of Draupadi are killed in the war. All children of Krishna are cursed to kill each other. Contrary to popular belief, good deeds do not always have good rewards. Hence Krishna says, focus on actions, not results. We cannot control the out-

come. This idea of outcome, of repercussions, of reactions, is a hallmark of Indian mythology, which is based on rebirth. Christian and Islamic mythology speak of a climax, a happily ever after, orchestrated by an all-powerful God. God is not cursed in Middle Eastern stories. They are in Indian stories. Those who identify themselves as scientific and secular, also secretly believe that one day all problems of the world will be solved, though they prefer the rational route. Right now, many in the Hindu elite believe the rise of aggressive Hindu nationalism will establish Hindu Rashtra forever. They do not read their own scriptures, where even Krishna's glorious Dwarka is washed away because of the curse of the mother of the Kauravas.

Under Gaon chalo Campaign, BJP leaders hold the Public Outreach Program at Jammu West

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Under Gaon chalo Campaign, Sat Sharma (Former Cabinet Minister) and Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) along with BJP workers hold public outreach programs at ward no 29, booth 33 and 34 Shakti Nagar Jammu West.

Atul Bakshi (mandal president rehari bakshi nagar), Surinder choudhary (ex Councillor), Kewal Verma (State Secretary OBC), Sanjay Verma (mandal president obc), Hira Lal Sharma (Shakti kendra pramukh), Pawan Sharma (Booth president), Pardeep Sharma were present on the occasion.

The Program was supervised and detailed by Rekha Sharma (mandal media secretary BJP).

BJP has launched the 3 days long Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan to bridge the gap between urban and



rural areas. Under the campaign, party workers will go to seven lakh villages and all urban booths will take the work done by Narendra Modi government to the last person. Over 30 lakh party workers will participate in the Abhiyaan across Nation.

In the program they interacted with the public in a door to door outreach program and took their feedback about government schemes. Then they drew lotus (the symbol of BJP) on the walls of their houses.

People were very happy by this and gave a very positive response and

joined the BJP instantly during this campaign.

Speaking on the occasion Sat Sharma said that during this Gaon chalo Campaign we visited to the houses of many people and public response was awesome. People are very happy with the working of BJP and many people joined BJP instantly during this campaign.

He said that we briefed the public about the welfare schemes of the Central Government being run under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and appealed them to take benefits of these schemes. He said

that the goal of this three-day campaign is to talk to local people, those who got benefit from the government's schemes and to take their feedback to make these schemes more effective on the grassroot level. He said we also present the BJP's performance report to the people, emphasising the importance of supporting the BJP in the upcoming elections to enable Narendra Modi's third consecutive term and accelerate the pace of welfare schemes.

Braham Jyot also briefed government schemes among public and said we are blessed to PM like Narendra Modi who works more than 18 hours a day for the well being of all segments of Society.

He thanked Sat Sharma and all other workers who were present on the occasion and make this a successful program. Later on he appreciated public who support this program gave positive response.

DPS Kathua Organizes Memorable Farewell Party for Class XII Students

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 11

The vibrant ambience of DPS Kathua echoed with joy and nostalgia as the Class XI students orchestrated a dazzling farewell party for their esteemed Class XII seniors. The event was a testament to the strong bonds and cherished memories shared within the DPS Kathua family.

The farewell extravaganza featured a diverse array of activities that left attendees enthralled throughout the day. From engaging games to enchanting Dogri dances that celebrated the region's rich cultural heritage, the program was a delightful showcase of talent and camaraderie. Attendees were treated to captivating skits, infectious



memorable dances, and culminated with an exuberant Bhangra performance that had everyone on their feet.

The highlight of the evening was the coronation of Mr. DPS and Ms. DPS, with Hari Sanjay Magotra and Sunanda Devi being crowned to represent the school's spirit and values.

Mr. Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, took the stage to express his heartfelt appreciation to the students for their

exceptional teamwork and dedication in hosting such a remarkable event. He extended his blessings to the outgoing Class XII students, encouraging them for their future endeavors and wishing them the best of luck for their upcoming board examinations.

Smt. Kanta Andotra, Former MLA and Founder Chairperson, and Ms. Gauri Thakur Director of DPS Kathua, also graced the occasion with their presence, commending

the students and staff for their tireless efforts in making the farewell party a resounding success. Their words of encouragement and blessings resonated deeply with the attendees, instilling a sense of pride and accomplishment.

The event concluded on a poignant note with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Tajinder Kaur Maughal, Senior Coordinator of DPS Kathua, expressing gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the farewell party.

The farewell party organized by the students of DPS Kathua will be fondly remembered as a cherished chapter in the school's history, symbolizing the bonds of friendship and camaraderie that define the DPS Kathua experience.

Police seize narcotics in Katra: Continuing Crackdown on Drug Abuse

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Continuing the drive against drug abuse launched by District Police Reasi, today Police party of P/S Katra while conducting foot patrolling near railway station Katra found one person namely Sudharshan Singh S/O Sunder Singh R/O Trintha, Reasi who was carrying a bag and moving suspiciously. During frisking of the said bag, *Heroin like substance (8.2 grams)* recovered from the possession of the said person.

On this, case FIR No. 46/2024 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS



Act has been registered at P/S Katra and investigation initiated to unearth the forward and backward linkages. The whole operation is led by *SHO Katra Nishant Gupta under the supervision of SDPO Katra Surinder Baloria and SP Katra Vipin Chandran- JKPS.*

Mohita Sharma-IPS Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi while sharing the details conveyed that Reasi Police is working on multipronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse, Illicit Liquor and will leave no stone unturned to curb this menace from the society.

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Natrang presented a new Hindi devised and improvised play 'Short Cut' here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. The play was devised and directed by Neeraj Kant. The play Short Cut is the story of a couple who rob people in an attempt to become rich overnight and are finally caught.

As the play begins, a young couple is seen fighting with each other in their house over dowry. Kajal accuses her husband Akash of lying to her family that their son is a doctor. Actually, Kajal is very regretful about her husband being an animal doctor. She says that her husband's family had demanded a motorcycle



from them as dowry. During their fight, noise of slogans along with drumming is heard from the locality. Just then Vibhu enters with a box of sweets in his hand and tells that he has got the title of best doctor and has bought a new house and a new car. On this, Kajal curses her husband that while treating animals, he has not even bought a scooter with

his own money. Vibhu's wife praises Kajal's saree and necklace. On this Kajal says that due to fear of thieves, she has kept all her jewelry hidden in her husband Akash's clinic. As soon as they come to know about this, Vibhu and his wife leave from there.

After this, since there are no patients in Akash's clinic, his brother-in-law is seen having fun. And then

a couple enters who have come to steal the jewelry from Akash's clinic on the pretext of getting treatment. Both of them try to render Akash unconscious by inhaling chloroform, when Akash's brother-in-law catches them. And these two are Akash's neighbours Vibhu and his wife who had become rich by robbing people in the same way. In this way, the short cut method of Vibhu and his wife is exposed and they are handed over to the police.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Mehak Singh, Anand Verma, Vishal Sharma, Chaitanya Shekhar and Vandana Thakur. The lights were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

SSH protests demanding immediate repair of Kool Kalyana Bridge in Arnia Block

JINNEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, FEB 11

Activists of Shiv Sena Hindustan (SSH) J&K led by their president Rajesh Kesri staged a protest demonstration today demanding repair of bridge in Kool Kalyana Block Arnia. The protesters torched effigy of govt and demanded from the government to make an estimate of the bridge as soon as possible because the condition of this bridge is very dilapidated, it can collapse any time and any untoward incident can happen on it, demanding to repair this bridge as soon as possible. Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that an estimate should be made at the earliest and the same should be forwarded to concerned department to analyze the durability of bridge so that the estimate can be passed as soon as possible and the government can know how much it has to be spent on its

construction. Kesri further said that the roads in and around this bridge



have been constructed but this bridge was deliberately ignored which speaks

of callousness of govt and continuous disregard of area. Kesri reminded govt that just a few days ago, dozens of people were seriously injured in an accident, some of whom are still undergoing treatment in the Govt Medical College and hospital and the wounds of seriously injured have still not been healed. Kesri demanded government that all the injured people should be given appropriate compensation as soon as possible so that these daily wage workers can support their families and pay the fees of their children demanding immediate intervention of SDM in this regard. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Saini, Suresh Kumar, Captain Gara Ram, Captain Om Prakash, Vijay Luthra, Rajkumar Baba, Sanjeev Sharma, Darshan Devi, Neeru Devi, Rajni Devi, besides prominent people of nearby villages.

Vinay, Samreen, Shazia among 15 nominated to TAC Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Ministry of Communications, Govt of India, on the recommendations of MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has nominated prominent social workers and activists as members to the Jammu Telephone Advisory Committee here. The nomination to Jammu Telephone Advisory Committee shall remain valid upto 13.07.2024 or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

The order further said that the nomination will be governed by the guidelines contained in DoT Circular No. 02-01/2022-PHP dated 16/11/2022.

The prominent social activists and citizens nominated to the Jammu Telephone Advisory Committee include Vijay K. Gupta

"Vinay" Shastri Nagar Jammu, Tilak Raj Gupta, Talab Tillo, Rajak Ali Putto Bathindi, Shazia Tabassum, Mehari Gujjaran, Rajouri, Munish Kumar Khajuria, Rajpura, Mangotrain Jammu, Samreen Khan, Tehsil Manjakote district Rajouri, Harbhajan Singh, Ranbir Singh-pura Jammu, Er. Mohd. Ashfaq, Teh Mendhar, district Poonch, Rajinder Singh Chib, Gho Manhasan Jammu, Waseem Ahmed Upper Bathindi, Jammu, Ashok Kumar, Gandhi, Jammu (Specially abled), Arshad Begum, Sangar, Block & Tehsil Purnamandal, Samba, Mushtaq Inqalabi, Rajouri, Shahid Choudhary Village Kheri, Raipur, Block Bhalwal, Jammu, Sanjita Dogra, Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni, Jammu and Rajan Gandhi, journalist, Purani Mandi, Jammu

Basant Panchami on 14th February Wednesday: Rohit Shastri

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

The Magh month Shukla Paksha's Panchami is celebrated as Basant Panchami. Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, informed that in the year 2024, the Magh Shukla Paksha Panchami will commence on 13th February at 2:43 PM and conclude on 14th February, Wednesday, at 12:10 PM. Hence, Basant Panchami will be celebrated on Wednesday, 14th February. Basant Panchami is also known as Shri Panchami, Vageshwari Jayanti, and Saraswati Panchami. Vasant Panchami is considered auspicious throughout the day, and any auspicious work can be undertaken.

Initiating education is considered auspicious on Basant Panchami or Magh Panchami as the manifestation day of Goddess Saraswati. On this day, the arrival of the spring season is celebrated. Worship of Lord Ganesha, Goddess Saraswati, Lord Lakshminarayan, and Lord Krishna - Radha is performed. Offerings of yellow flowers, sweet and yellow rice, and yellow sweets are made to the deities, and yellow attire is worn. On this day, Kamadeva and his wife Rati descend to earth, spreading the essence of love in nature. Therefore, on Basant Panchami, worship of Goddess Saraswati along with Kamadeva and



on Vasant Panchami. Students worship their books and study materials. Poets, authors, singers, musicians, playwrights, or dancers initiate their work on this day by worshipping their instruments and tools and paying homage to Goddess Saraswati.

On this day, children are taught to write their first alphabet. It is believed to be auspicious for initiating education. Mahant Rohit Shastri explained that the association of Goddess Saraswati is with intellect

and knowledge. If a child faces difficulty in studying or if there is an increase in feelings of despair in one's life, then worshipping Goddess Saraswati on Basant Panchami is recommended. Reciting Saraswati stotra daily benefits students, enhancing their knowledge and aiding in making correct decisions in life.

For those experiencing speech impediments, filling a bamboo flute with honey, sealing it with wax, and burying it in the ground should be done on Vasant Panchami. This practice is believed to alleviate speech difficulties. Alternatively, after worshipping Goddess Saraswati on Basant Panchami, chanting the seed mantra 'Aim' with the tongue touching the palate

is advised. To make a child knowledgeable, drawing the symbol 'Om' on their tongue with honey is recommended on this day.

Applying saffron or yellow sandalwood tilak on the forehead on Basant Panchami is believed to bring growth in knowledge and wealth. On this day, young girls are served yellow-sweet rice, and they are worshipped. It is advised to donate to the needy as much as possible.

Chanting 'Om Jum Sah' is recommended for health. Chanting 'Om Shreem Namah' or 'Om Kleem Namah' is recommended for wealth.

On Vasant Panchami, or daily in the morning, children should observe their palms. It is believed that

the palms house Goddess Saraswati, and seeing them is equivalent to seeing the Goddess herself.

Taking a bath, performing charity, and worshipping on Vasant Panchami help in dispelling sins and ignorance.

According to astrology, Basant Panchami is considered an auspicious day. Hence, any auspicious work like sacred thread ceremony, munda ceremony, vehicle purchase, land purchase, housewarming, etc., can be performed without looking for an auspicious moment.

On this day, a fair is organized at Baba Ballo Ji Temple in Mathwar. Additionally, worshipping a Shiva Lingam with yellow flowers is considered highly auspicious.

Over 2,500 school and college students participate at LiFE themed exhibition and activities at India Gate

PIB
NEW DELHI, FEB 11

A two-day national exhibition and programme of environment friendly activities on the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) themes was organized on 9th and 10th February at India Gate, Delhi. Over 2,500 school and college students from over 60 institutions participated at the event, and brought their energy and creativity to the LiFE actions; more than 3,000 people overall visited the exhibitions over the two days.

On the second day school students demonstrated their ideas for an eco-friendly lifestyle, which ranged from harnessing kinetic energy from the everyday mechanical activities, generating energy from agricultural stubble to making decorative products from e-waste. The ideas were well thought-out and practical.

There was an on-the-spot face painting and poster making competition, the school children and the youth made a creative expression of their view of environmental



consciousness, which ranged from adopting a healthy lifestyle and optimally using electric appliances to planting trees to enhance the flora and fauna around us.

A workshop was also conducted on waste management by Sulabh International Institute of Health and Hygiene, it showed how simply we can segregate dry and wet waste at source, namely, at our homes, which can make waste management by local bodies more effective.

At the exhibition of LiFE themed products, non-government organizations and IBEIACP (Environment Information Awareness, Capacity

Building and Livelihood Programme) centres across India, from Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Almora, Chennai, Dehradun, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Patna and Pune as well as WWF India, Sulabh-IIHH, IIT-ISM Dhanbad, TERI, JNU, School of Planning and Architecture, and Central Pollution Control Board EIACP centres displayed environment-friendly products made by people trained under the green skill development programme of EIACP. The products displayed ranged from millets-based foods, organic honey, utility items from non-timber forest produce such as cutlery, lampshades, bas-

kets and bags to manure from kitchen waste and portable solar panel for powering an electric stove. The youngsters displayed inspiring ideas and creative expression of environmental consciousness. The participants were outstanding in their display of LiFE themes, as well as in their enthusiasm and collective action towards it. Individual participants, teams as well as schools and colleges received awards from Ms Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC.

The event was organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India EIACP centre, with support from MoEF&CC.

LiFE was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26, as a mass movement for "mindful and deliberate utilization, instead of mindless and destructive consumption" to protect and preserve the environment. It aims to nudge individuals and communities to practice a lifestyle that is synchronous with nature and does not harm it. Mission LiFE seeks to translate the vision of LiFE into measurable impact.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed the Suttur Jathra Mahotsav in Mysuru, Karnataka today. On this occasion, many dignitaries including Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi were present.

In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that Suttur Mutt has been the centre of the three Sutras of selfless service, work is worship and charity. He said that all the 24 saints who presided over the Suttur Mahasamsthana Mutt over the centuries have continued the tradition of service and yagna uninterrupted, due to which this Mutt has millions of followers all over the world. He said that Suttur Mutt has filled the lives of people with light.

The Union Home Minister said that this festival being organized from 6 to 11th February, in a way, works to revive our cultural heritage. He said that many festivals and special pujas including Rathotsav, Tapotsav and mass marriages take place here. He said that during the

PM Modi has made India's cultural heritage proud, globally: Amit Shah

PIB
NEW DELHI, FEB 11

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed the Suttur Jathra Mahotsav in Mysuru, Karnataka today. On this occasion, many dignitaries including Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi were present.

In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that Suttur Mutt has been the centre of the three Sutras of selfless service, work is worship and charity. He said that all the 24 saints who presided over the Suttur Mahasamsthana Mutt over the centuries have continued the tradition of service and yagna uninterrupted, due to which this Mutt has millions of followers all over the world. He said that Suttur Mutt has filled the lives of people with light.

The Union Home Minister said that this festival being organized from 6 to 11th February, in a way, works to revive our cultural heritage. He said that many festivals and special pujas including Rathotsav, Tapotsav and mass marriages take place here. He said that during the



festival, agricultural fair, wrestling and traditional games are also held and in a way the festival is celebrated by incorporating all the parts of social life.

Amit Shah said that Jagadguru Shri Shivrathri Deshikendra Mahaswami has done many things while taking his tradition forward. He said that there are about 350 educational institutes under this mutt, with more than 20,000 people working and over one lakh students are studying in them. Shri Shah said that

this Mutt has established a Polytechnic Institute for the Divyang students and this effort in itself holds a special significance in the entire country and more than 900 specially-abled students are studying in this institute.

The Union Home Minister said that on January 22, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi consecrated the statue of Prabhu Shri Ram in Ayodhya. He said that Suttur Mutt has also decided to establish its branch in Ayodhya.

Amit Shah said that

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made India's cultural heritage proud on the world stage. He said that Prime Minister Modi has revived many cultural centres like Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Kashi, Mahakal Corridor, Baba Kedarnath and revival of Badri Dham. Shri Shah said that along with making the country safe and prosperous, Modi ji has also taken many steps to preserve Yoga, Ayurveda and our languages.

Mizoram CM calls on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

PIB
NEW DELHI, FEB 11

Chief Minister of Mizoram, Mr Lalduhawma, currently on a visit to the national capital, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy Dr Jitendra Singh in New Delhi today and discussed a wide range of State related issues including placement of Civil Servants and officers in the State.

Dr. Jitendra Singh told the Chief Minister that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi accords highest priority to the North Eastern Region and he is keen to ensure equitable development in all the eight States of the region.



He said, as Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has visited the North East over 65 times, which is possibly more than the total number of visits made by all his predecessor Prime Ministers put together. Even though Mizoram is a very small State, Prime Minister Modi has been visiting the State every now and then and launching development projects there, he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that one of the first

Centres of Excellence in the entire subcontinent, a specialised "Citrus Fruit Park" was set up by the Modi government in Mizoram with Israeli collaboration. This, he said, will give a boost to horticulture, revenue and employment in the region.

Lalduhawma requested Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also in charge DoPT, regarding placement of civil servants and officers in the State. The Minister suggested to the Chief Minister that he should send

an official communication and assured that whatever is possible and appropriate would be done.

The Chief Minister recalled his meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and conveyed his thanks for the interest and time given by the Prime Minister. He said, Prime Minister Modi had not only given him encouragement but also asked him to keep providing updates about the State of Mizoram from time to time.

First time, Constable (GD) examination for recruitment of constables in CAPFs will be conducted in 13 regional languages apart from Hindi and English

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 11

For the first time, the Constable (GD) examination for recruitment of constables in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will be conducted in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English. The Examination will be conducted from 20 February to 7 March, 2024 for around 48 lakh candidates in 128 cities across the country.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had decided to conduct the Constable

(General Duty) examination for recruitment in CAPFs in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English from January 01, 2024. This historic decision has been taken on the initiative of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah to increase the participation of local youth in the Central Armed Police Forces and to promote regional languages.

Question papers of Constable (General Duty) examination will now be prepared in the following 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English:

1. Assamese 2. Bengali 3. Gujarati 4. Marathi 5. Malayalam 6. Kannada 7.

Tamil 8. Telugu 9. Odia 10. Urdu 11. Punjabi 12. Manipuri 13. Konkani

Constable GD Examination is one of the flagship examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) attracting lakhs of youths from across the country. Therefore, Ministry of Home Affairs and Staff Selection Commission have signed an MoU to facilitate conduct of the examination in the above mentioned 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English. Accordingly, SSC has issued notification to conduct the Constable (GD) Examination, 2024 in 13 other regional languages in addition to English and Hindi.

The decision will result

in lakhs of youth taking part in the examination in their mother tongue/regional language and improve their selection prospects. As a result, the reach of this examination will increase among the candidates in the entire country and everyone will get an equal opportunity for employment.

With this initiative of the Central Government, the youth across the country, have got a golden opportunity to participate in the Constable (General Duty) examination in the Central Armed Police Forces conducted by the Staff Selection Commission in their mother tongue and make a career in the service of the Nation.

Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation Portal launched in New Delhi to create a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM

PIB
NEW DELHI, FEB 11

Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Kumar Sood today launched "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal, aimed at creating a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine)

Launching the Portal on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science at Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, Prof Sood said, the database of SWATI Portal will serve in policy making to address the challenges of Gender-gap.

The Portal is a complete interactive database; and the first-of-its-kind in India which is developed, hosted and maintained by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi under the leadership of

Dr. Subhra Chakraborty, Director, NIPGR, New Delhi; Link to join SWATI: <https://bit.ly/JoinSWATI>.

Dr Chakraborty in her address highlighted this aspect and said that this probably world's first Interactive Portal of its kind. She also quoted figures of 2021 UN Report to highlight the under representation of women across all sectors.

Dr Chakraborty reiterated that this is a dynamically growing portal and the endeavour is to have data of all women scientists of the country included.

Prof. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, President TWAS, in her Keynote Address said that even in 21st Century, we still have way to go to address Gender Parity in all sectors of life. She said, education is a great equalizer and access to it must be made available to women and girls across all streams.

The event was organized with a view to focusing on the importance

of "Science for Women & Women in Science" as well as emerging opportunities and inclusiveness of women in S&T endeavours. This will be beneficial towards dissemination of knowledge, new advances in fundamental science and role/importance of innovation and entrepreneurship development in strengthening the backbone of Atmanirbhar Bharat. This would also provide an opportunity to discuss and evolve a roadmap for 'Women in Science' & 'Science for Women'.

The other objectives of the SWATI Portal include to scale up the effort exponentially to include each and every Indian woman in science, across all career stages and subjects, spanning both Academia and the Industry enabling reliable and statistically significant long term research on the issues of equality, diversity and inclusivity in India, developing active search engine and searchable database (Name, Affiliation, Area of Interest).

The various Sections in the portal include Icons - Awardees (Padma / Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar / Stree Shakti Science Samman)



career stages, subjects, spanning both Academia and the Industry; Enabling reliable and statistically significant long term research on the issues of equality, diversity and inclusivity in India, developing active search engine and searchable database (Name, Affiliation, Area of Interest).

The various Sections in the portal include Icons - Awardees (Padma / Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar / Stree Shakti Science Samman)

& Directors, Secretaries Academy Presidents; Faculty- Indian Universities, Autonomous organizations including S&T Ministry/ CSIR/ DBT/ DST/ CSIR/ MHRD/ UGC/ GATI/ KIRAN; Research fellows- Post docs, JRFs, SRFs, technical Staff; Students- PhD Scholars, Research Interns, Graduates, Post graduates, Undergraduates; WiS Entrepreneurs, Startups, Business & Science Administrators; STEMM background pro-

fessionals in alternate careers (e.g. Science, Journalism etc). So far, 3000 'WiS Data Cards' have been incorporated.

The event was graced by the distinguished scientists of national/international repute viz. Prof. CNR Rao, Linus Pauling Research Professor & Hon.

President, JNCASR, Bangalore, Prof. P N Tandon, Formerly, Professor & Neurosurgeon, Dept. of Neurosurgery, AIIMS, Former President, NASI; Presidents of the three Science Academies viz. Prof. Balram Bhargava (President, NASI), Prof. Waghmare (President, IASC), Prof. Ashutosh Sharma (President, INSA), Dr. Manju Sharma, Former Secretary to the Govt. of India, DBT, Prof. Chandrima Shaha, Former President, INSA including other distinguished women scientists viz. Dr. Renu Swarup, Former Secretary to the Govt. of India, DBT; Prof. Rohini Godbole, Vice President,

IASc, IISc, Bangalore and Prof. Shobhona Sharma, Former Senior Professor, TIFR Mumbai and Chair, INSA 'Women in Science' Panel; Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Former DG, ICMR & Chief Scientist, WHO; Prof. Paramjit Khurana, Delhi University, South Campus.

Several eminent speakers/ scientists/entrepreneurs/ start-ups from all across the country have been invited to share their expertise on the subjects of relevance; several young women scientists, researchers, P.G. students, faculty members, technocrats and start-ups from various institutions, universities, PG Colleges as well as the industries all across the country are likely to participate in the event.

With this endeavour of the IAP, a platform would be created to encourage and bring together, all the young women scientists, faculty members, researchers and also the

young start-ups from India and abroad under one umbrella for pursuing the cause of Science.

Women constitute, the 50% of human resource, which is vital for the progress of the society. To empower women is to increase their role in the decision-making that affects their lives both within and outside the household. It is important to educate more women especially in the field of science & technology, because science education not only enhances awareness level but also builds a mind-set with an ability to judge between right and wrong. It provides a scientific approach to cope up with the problems being faced by the women, ensuring their socio-economic development. The women scientists can provide opportunities by making them aware on several scientific & societal issues, thus bridging the gender gap and removing the barriers of negativity.

Advanced Precision Cancer Surgery Conducted for First Time in J&K at Bee Enn General Hospital

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

In a remarkable medical achievement, surgical oncologists Dr. Vikas Heer and Dr. Paras Khanna, in collaboration with Bee Enn General Hospital and Aashna Oncology Association, have successfully conducted a precise and minimally invasive surgical procedure Sentinel lymph node biopsy in the field of Gynae-oncology for the first time in the entire UT. This pioneering procedure offers new hope for patients diagnosed with early stage uterine cancers. The 36 years old woman from Doda presented with abnormal uterine bleeding. Subsequent investigations revealed an early stage cervical cancer diagnosis. The recommended treatment protocol includes precise surgical intervention with laparoscopic SLNB. The principle of doing SLNB in early stage cervical cancer is to identify any occult metastasis to the first draining lymph node.

The procedure was led by Dr Vikas Heer, Consultant Surgical oncologist and equally assisted by Dr Paras Khanna, Consultant, Surgical oncologist and Dr Suksham, Consultant Gynaecology with the support of the anaesthesia team led by Dr Vikas Gupta. Dr Heer described that Sentinel lymph node biopsy is the world wide recommended precise surgical procedure and is done in the multiple solid cancers including uterus, breast, melanoma and genital cancers among others. He also added that in this surgical procedure, ICG dye was injected into the cervix and by the help of laparoscopic camera with 4K technology which is only available at Bee Enn Hospital, green dye coloured nodes were identified and subjected to the frozen section intraoperatively confirming the absence of cancer and allowing the surgery to proceed to complete radical hysterectomy.

Dr. Heer also underscored the crucial role played by pathologists Dr. Isha Kashyap and Dr. Chitralekha in conducting the intraoperative frozen section analysis. Dr. Vikas Heer, an accomplished surgical oncologist trained at National Cancer Hospital in South Korea and Tata Medical Centre. Dr. Heer's expertise spans various domains, including Gynae Oncology (minimal invasive and robotic), HIPEC, Peritoneal surface malignancy, breast cancer, breast oncoplasty and reconstructive surgery, skin cancers, sarcomas, GI cancers and head and neck cancers.

Baba Sahib Ambedkar Sports Club hosts successful inaugural Kabaddi Tournament 2024 in J&K



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

"Baba Sahib Ambedkar Sports Club" in Jammu & Kashmir successfully hosted the inaugural Kabaddi Tournament of 2024 on February 11th, 2024. The tournament, which commenced at 10:00 A.M., took place at Prem Resorts, situated on Muthi Akhnoor Road, Jammu. Young students hailing from various parts of the Jammu province participated enthusiastically, displaying their remarkable athletic prowess. A total of 8 teams competed in the tournament,

adhering to the nineteen format, with no participation fees imposed by the club. The event witnessed the gracious presence of esteemed chief guests, including SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat, SSP Mohan Lal Kaith (Railway), Sh. Bharat Hans, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, S. Narinder Singh, Sh. Vinod Banal, Sh. Ramesh Angral, Sh. Jagdish Ji (Owner of Prem Resorts), Sh. Sham Lal Bassan, Sh. Badri Nath, Sh. DK Bharadwaj, and Smt. Sunita Bangotra. Under the meticulous coordination of Ajay and Deputy Coordinator Gourav, alongside their

dedicated team, the tournament was flawlessly organized, ensuring smooth proceedings throughout. Furthermore, the club went the extra mile to provide nutritious meals and educational items to all participating players, underscoring their commitment to holistic development beyond sports. This initiative serves as a beacon for encouraging youths to engage in sports activities, not only to combat the menace of drug abuse but also to foster essential qualities of social leadership and sportsmanship.

Sham Sharma spearheads Anti-Drug crusade: uniting society, empowering parents, and educating youth for lasting impact



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

In a resounding display of unity and determination, Sham Sharma, alongside the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Welfare Association, orchestrated a powerful statement against drug abuse with the successful organization of a 6 km half marathon themed "Run Against Drugs" in Mishri-wala.

The event, held on [11/02/2024], witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with participants and from various walks of life joining hands to combat the pervasive influence of drugs in society. Esteemed guests Shri Sham Lal Sharma, State Vice President of BJP, Jammu Kashmir, and Shri Brijesh Kumar Sharma, SP Rural Jammu, inaugurated the rally, setting the stage for a day of solidarity and action.

The marathon concluded with a ceremony recognizing the exceptional

achievements of winners and runners-up across different age categories. Notable among the winners were Rimpdy Devi in the girls' category, Ritik Sharma in the boys' age group of 13-30 years, Ajay Kumar among men aged 30-45 years, Makhan Lal in the senior category of 45 to 60 years, and Capt Ashok Kumar, securing victory among senior citizens aged 60 and above.

In his impassioned address, Sham Lal Sharma underscored the gravity of the drug menace and advocated for a multifaceted approach involving society, parents, and education to tackle this pressing issue. Emphasizing the collective responsibility of all stakeholders, he called for unity in the fight against drugs and urged parents to engage in open dialogue with their children while pushing for anti-drug education in school curriculums.

SP Brijesh Kumar Sharma echoed Sharma's

sentiments, emphasizing the crucial role of community involvement in combating substance abuse. His words resonated with participants, further galvanizing their commitment to creating a drug-free environment.

Expressing gratitude to the organizers and participants alike, Sham Lal Sharma highlighted the significance of such events in fostering collaboration and raising awareness about the detrimental effects of drugs on society. He lauded the efforts of all involved, from organizers to volunteers and participants, for their collective endeavor in driving positive change.

The successful organization of the half marathon stands as a testament to the power of collective action and serves as a beacon of hope in the ongoing battle against drugs, uniting society, empowering parents, and educating youth for a lasting impact.

Prof. B. N. Tripathi visits Advanced Center for Rainfed Agriculture

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB II

Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu made his maiden visit to Advanced Centre of Rainfed Agriculture, Rakh Dhiansar along with Dr. Anil Kumar, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dean Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry and Dr. Mahital Jamwal, Associate Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu. During the visit to ACRA Dhiansar, Dr A. P Singh, Incharge, ACRA welcomed the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and other accompanying statutory officers of the university. He further briefed the Vice Chancellor about the ongoing station activities including different projects and experiments being carried out at research station. Vice Chancellor expressed his satisfaction regarding the working of research station, moreover, he also impressed upon the staff to strive to explore the possibilities and ways for further improvement of infrastructure and other research related facilities



at ACRA. He also exhorted the scientific and field staff to usher for their pursuit to achieve excellence in their professional endeavours. Prof. Tripathi interacted with all the scientific, technical and field staff working at station and had one to one interaction regarding various issues being faced by them while giving a patient hearing to their genuine concerns. Dr. Tripathi also visited the research farm of ACRA and took stock of the ongoing research.

During the visit, Dr. A. P. Singh, Incharge ACRA appraised the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu about the nullah carrying harmful industrial effluents, from nearby industrial area, passing through the ACRA experimental farm. He further explained that the same nullah gets housed and overflows in to the nearby field experiments and crops raised for seed production purpose, especially during rainy season, thereby causing enormous loss to

the elite planting material and spoils the experimental crops. Further, after threadbare discussion, it was resolved that either the course of this nullah should be diverted out of the experimental farm of ACRA or the nullah should be desilted and cement lining should be done in its left out kucha portion to improve its carrying capacity along with a pre-condition that the effluents should be released only after the proper treatment in the nullah.

Congress team tours remote areas of Samba

J I NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEB II

To interact with people in remote area for highlighting their grievances and demands, a team of senior Congress leaders conducted one day tour of far flung areas of Samba constituency. Led by District president Sanjeev Sharma and comprising of UT Vice President & Former Minister Yash Paul Kundal, Distt Vice President Balram Kundal, Youth Leader Avinash Attri, rashpal, the team visited far flung areas of Nud Block of Samba constituency where a series of public meetings were held. Sanjeev Sharma, while addressing, alleged that no development works was going on in this area while the concerned



officials was unavailable to public. He further said that the road condition was worst and it was not possible to shift a patient smoothly from here to distract hospital Samba. The Congress leaders assured the people to highlight their grievances before the concerned authorities and get the same addressed. Addressing the people, Kundal said that BJP has nothing to give to

the people of Jammu and Kashmir. People's rights have been taken away and the democratic process has not been restored. He said that there are many issues including inflation, unemployment on which BJP can be attacked. Targeting the BJP for not starting the process of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the problems cannot be solved without a popu-

lar government. While addressing the people, Kundal said that the workers should not be disappointed and should fight hard for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. It is the democratic right of the people to elect their own representatives and convey their problems to them, and they cannot be deprived of this right for so long without any justifiable reason.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH JAMMU**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT PHE/JMS/135 of 2023-24 Dated 07-02-2024

Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Validity of Rates
1	2	3	4	5
Replacement of components to HC Pump set 50000 GPHX 60 meter head with allied works for Pumping Station Channi OHT and HC Pump set 14000 GPH X 130 meter head unit no. 2 at pumping station Malik Market and 12000 GPH X 102 meter head H C Pump at T/well cum P/stn. Sec-F Chowadi Sainik Colony under Non Plan	PHE Mech. Division South Jammu	Rs. 200.00 (Non-Refundable) In the shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link http://www.jmciammu.org/online-payment.html	@ 2% of estimated cost/ tender value In the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 09-02-2024 (10:00 PM) and uploaded from 09-02-2024 (04:00 PM) to 15-02-2024 (03:00 PM). The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids must be accompanied by EMD and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu on 16-02-2024 at 3:00 P.M. or any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmciammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu within 05 days after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder within 05 days after opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: PHE/JMS/4102-06
Dated:- 07-02-2024

A.E.E
Sub Div-II
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Department
PHE Mech. Division South
Jammu

DIP/J-14901/23
Date: 11-2-24

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS REASI

Public Notice

This is to inform public in General that the following Persons had filed their petitions before this Court (Tehsildar Reasi) for seeking directions regarding registration of birth records.

S. No.	Name with Parentage	Date of birth (as stated by the applicant)	Place of birth (as stated by the applicant)
1	Geeta Devi W/o Gain Chand	01-01-1965	At home Seela Tehsil & District Reasi

Therefore, through the medium of this notice, public at large is informed that if any person has any objection in respect to the above mentioned details of the petitioners/applicant, he/she shall appear in this court either personally or through a counsel to file his/her objections within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in the newspaper.

DIP/J-14871/23
Date: 11-2-24

Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
REASI

Weightlifter Popy Hazarika hopes hosting KIUG 2023 will boost Assam's sporting culture

AGENCIES
GUWAHATI (ASSAM), FEB II

Seasoned weightlifter Popy Hazarika, who represented India in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, acknowledged the importance of the platform that the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2023 will provide to the thousands of athletes participating from across 200 universities in the marquee event, starting February 19 here.

Popy, a multiple-time medalist at the National Games and the Commonwealth Championships, believes the prestigious event, hosted in Assam for the first time, will boost the sporting culture in the state. Welcoming the athletes to experience the warmth and hospitality in the Gateway of the Northeast, Popy said, "Khelo India University Games provides a perfect platform for every young athlete to establish themselves in the big league. Assam is known for its warmth and hospitality, and I'm sure the state government will leave no



stones returned to make it a grand success."

Raised by a widowed mother, who worked as a farmhand and cook to support her four daughters after losing her husband, Popy had overcome multiple challenges after losing her father, a driver by profession.

A product of the SAI Centre in Golaghat, Popy, who won the 59kg gold in the Khelo India National Weightlifting Championships in 2022, said that the exposure athletes get by taking part in events like the KIUG is massive. "As an athlete, coming from a remote village in Assam, I have experienced how such tournaments help in boosting one's confidence. I wholeheartedly wish all the participants the very

best for the games. The exposure that the events like Khelo India University Games provide to young athletes is massive, and helps shape in one's individuality," she said.

The 25-year-old from Namti Salkathoni village in Sivasagar district, also reflected on the significance of the KIUG taking place in the state. "It's a testament to our state's rising stature in the field of sports."

"Our state has successfully hosted multi-discipline events in the past, and this time, it will be bigger and better. The sports infrastructure in the state has improved massively, especially after the National Games in 2007, and then the Khelo India Youth Games in 2020," she

added.

Popy also spoke highly of the state's support for athletes, while citing the Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma-led Assam government's decision to provide jobs to medallists of major national tournaments. "The state government has been really supportive towards sportspersons and this has brought in a sporting culture across the state. It's no longer limited to the bigger cities, but there's a sporting culture growing in the remote areas, thanks to the infrastructure and support from the government," she said.

"Right before the National Games in Gujarat, the government for the first-time announced flight travel for all athletes and support staff, participating in any major national event. The decision helped athletes save travel time, and focus on training. Also, the medallists were given jobs, which is a massive boost," she accounted.

Popy is hopeful that the KIUG 2023 will bring out several champions from the home state.

PKL 10: U.P Yoddhas eye victory against Jaipur Pink Panthers in last match in Kolkata

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, FEB II

U.P Yoddhas will be aiming to finish the Kolkata leg of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 with a win in their reverse fixture against table toppers Jaipur Pink Panthers in Match 117 on Monday, which will be played here at the Netaji Indoor Stadium.

When the two teams faced each other earlier in the season, the Yoddhas went down 24-41 against the Panthers. U.P Yoddhas, the GMR Group-owned franchise, are currently placed in 11th position in the table with 29 points and a score difference of -70 after going down 34-50 against the Haryana Steelers in their last match. On the other hand, Jaipur Pink Panther won 27-22 against Dabang Delhi K.C. in their previous match and are



currently placed at the top of the table with 77 points and a score difference of 80. The Yoddhas and the Panthers have locked horns on 10 occasions across the seasons of PKL. The rivalry has been very closely contested with both the teams securing victory on five occasions.

Speaking before the match, U.P Yoddhas head coach Jasvir Singh said, "We want to give our best in all of our remain-

ing matches. Our young players are remarkably cashing in on the opportunities that are coming their way. We are grateful for our fans who have supported us throughout the season and we will aim to finish our last few matches with a win." The Yoddhas are missing the services of their star players in the last few games. However, young raiders such as Gagana Gowda, Anil Kumar, and Mahipal

have stepped up in place of their seniors, and have earned 57, 24, and 19 points so far.

In defence, Sumit has been at the top of his game in the entire season, earning 59 tackle points and featuring in the top 10 list of most tackle points in the tournament. Along with him, corner Nitesh Kumar and cover Gurdeep has supported him throughout, and have earned 37 and 29 tackle points.

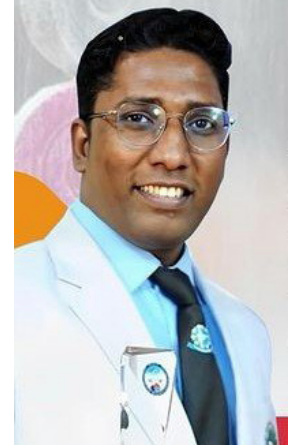
For the Panthers, their star raider Arjun Deshwal will lead the attack in the upcoming match. With 213 raid points in 164 successful raids, he currently sits in second position in the league in the list of most raid points and most successful raids. Their defence will be led by Ankush (62 tackle points) and he will be well supported by the Iranian defender Reza Mirbagheri (50 tackle points).

World champion Dive named top seed for Maharashtra Open Carrom Challenger

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, FEB II

World Champion Sandeep Dive of India has been given the top billing in the Rs 7 lakh prize-money Maharashtra Open Carrom Challenger, organized by Maharashtra Carrom Association (MCA) and scheduled to commence here from Tuesday.

Former World Champions Prashant More (India) is seeded second, Yogesh Pardeshi (India) is the third seed followed by R.M. Shankara (India) as the fourth seed. Mohammad Ghufuran is seeded fifth. International play-



ers Mohd Moontasir and Ibrahim Ali, both challengers from Maldives are the sixth and seventh seeds while Sri Lanka's Shaheed

Hilmy is the eighth seed.

A total of 503 top-quality carrom players from 18 states across the country and overseas have confirmed their participation in this inaugural edition of this event, which consists of a men's singles event.

The winner of this challenger competition will be presented with a handsome champion's prize of Rs 1.50 lakh and a trophy. The runner-up will pocket a prize of Rs one lakh and a trophy. The Third place winner will receive a prize of Rs 75,000 and the fourth-placed winner will be awarded Rs 50,000. The four losing quarter-

finalists will be awarded Rs 25,000 each.

In addition, cash prizes will be given to the players reaching the round of 32. Players will also receive an award of Rs 1000 for each White Slam or Black Slam in the first round and Rs 2000 for each White Slam and Black Slam from the semifinal round.

Seedings: 1. Sandeep Dive (India), 2. Prashant More (India), 3. Yogesh Pardeshi (India), 4. R.M. Shankara (India), 5. Mohammad Ghufuran (India), 6. Mohd Moontasir (Maldives), 7. Ibrahim Ali (Maldives), 8. Shahid Hilmy (Sri Lanka).

Glenn Maxwell equals Rohit Sharma's record for most centuries in men's T20Is

AGENCIES
ADELAIDE, FEB II

Australia's big-hitting batter Glenn Maxwell equalled India skipper Rohit Sharma's record for most hundreds in men's T20Is when he slammed an unbeaten 55-ball 120 in the second T20I against the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

Maxwell slammed a 50-ball century to propel Australia to a mammoth 241/4 against the West Indies. He came to the crease when Australia were in trouble at 64/3 in the seventh over and from there, he blasted eight sixes and 12 fours in an incredible knock of 120 not out from 55 balls.

The score of 241/4 is also



Australia's highest men's T20I score on home soil and fourth-highest total considering the overall records.

With this century at Adelaide coming in his 102nd T20I match, Maxwell has equalled Rohit, who reached the landmark in 151 matches, to become the only player

to have scored five centuries in the history of men's T20I cricket.

Rohit had scored his fifth T20I century against Afghanistan in the third T20I at Bengaluru in January, which is best remembered for India prevailing after double super overs. India's Suryakumar Yadav (four centuries), Paki-

stan's Babar Azam, New Zealand's Clin Munro and Czech Republic's Sababoon Davizi (three centuries each) are the next batters on the list of batters with the most men's T20I centuries.

"It was good fun, that's for sure, I just gave myself a chance. It's a really nice wicket, as we've seen during the Big Bash, and it was nice to cash in and spend some time out there. I was trying to give myself the best chance to use my hands to guide it through a gap or over the infield and that really seemed to work for me. I've had a few cursed Adelaide trips ... so it's nice to make this a positive one," said Maxwell to broadcasters Fox Cricket.

Jack Leach ruled out of England's Test series against India with knee injury

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB II

England's left-arm spinner Jack Leach has been ruled out of the rest of the Test series against India due to a left knee injury.

Leach hurt his left knee while fielding on the first day of the Test series opener in Hyderabad, where he collided with the ground after diving to stop a boundary.

On day two of the match, Leach aggravated the injury, which meant he picked a swelling on his injured knee and was unable to bowl long bowling spells, though he did bowl 26 overs in the first innings. But Leach managed to bowl 10 overs in the second innings and took out Shreyas Iyer as England secured a famous 28-run victory at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

He failed to recover in time for the second Test at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, which England lost



by 106 runs.

There was an expectation that Leach would become fit in the ten-day break and be available for England's third Test against India at Rajkot, starting on February 15. But with the team on a break in Abu Dhabi, it has been decided that Leach won't take any part for England in the remaining three Tests.

"He will fly home from Abu Dhabi in the next 24 hours, where the England team have been staying ahead of the third Test in

Rajkot, which starts on Thursday. Leach will work closely with the England and Somerset medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation. England will not be calling up a replacement," said a statement from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

It is a huge blow for England, as Leach has just returned from a stress fracture in the back which ruled him out of last year's Ashes at home. Not calling a replacement also means England's spin-bowling

options are now in a young trio of leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed, left-arm spinner Tom Hartley and off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who made his debut at Visakhapatnam in Leach's place and is also his teammate at Somerset.

England also have the services of Joe Root as a part-time off-spinner, and might look at including a second fast-bowler in either Mark Wood, Ollie Robinson or Gus Atkinson to partner James Anderson.

England are scheduled to arrive in India on Monday and start their practice at Rajkot on Tuesday ahead of the third Test, which will also be the 100th appearance for captain Ben Stokes in the format.

England Test squad: Ben Stokes (captain), Rehan Ahmed, James Anderson, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes, Tom Hartley, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root and Mark Wood.

Beijing to host 2029 World Aquatics Championships

AGENCIES
LAUSANNE, FEB II

Beijing, the Chinese capital, has been confirmed as the host of the 2029 World Aquatics Championships, following a bidding process and careful consideration by the World Aquatics Bureau, the international federation for water sports World Aquatics, formerly known as FINA, said on Sunday.

The World Aquatics Championships 2029 will welcome more than 2,500 world-class athletes from over 200 countries and regions to compete in the six aquatic sports of swimming, diving, water polo, artistic swimming, open water swimming and high



diving, the World Aquatics said. The World Aquatics event will be organised in close cooperation with the China Swimming Association and the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports.

In addition to the World Aquatics Championships 2029, Beijing will also host the World Aquatics Masters Championships 2029.

The dates for both of these events will be announced in due course.

Beijing has hosted 15 editions of the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup, along with multiple World Cup events in swimming, diving, artistic swimming and water polo. China also hosted both the World Aquatics Swimming

Championships (25m) in Hangzhou in 2018 and the World Aquatics Championships in Shanghai in 2011.

Moreover, China will also host three World Aquatics events in 2024 alone: the World Aquatics Artistic Swimming World Cup in Beijing (April 5-7), the World Aquatics Diving World Cup - Super Final in Xi'an (April 19-21), and the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup in Shanghai (October 18-20). With the World Aquatics Championships 2024 currently taking place in Doha, the 2025 and 2027 editions of the World Aquatics Championships will be hosted in Singapore and Budapest, respectively.

Zimbabwe Cricket to restructure, hire new coaches after Board accepts findings

AGENCIES
HARARE, FEB II

The Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) Board has adopted the comprehensive report presented by a Committee of Inquiry that was established to probe Zimbabwe's World Cup qualification failures as well as to review its cricket affairs structure. Zimbabwe had failed to qualify for the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup despite being the hosts of the qualifying tournament in June last year and even missed the opportunity to grab a place in 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, to be held from June 1-29 in the USA and West Indies, which led to the resignation of head



coach Dave Houghton.

Walter Chawaguta, who coached Zimbabwe in 2008, had taken over as interim head coach for the white-ball tour of Sri Lanka last month. The three-member Committee, chaired by renowned lawyer Lloyd Mhishi, presented its report to the Board after gather-

ing input from various stakeholders, both internal and external. After deliberating on the findings in a meeting held late on Saturday, ZC said its Board resolved to adopt the report in its entirety and to immediately implement the Committee's recommendations.

The key points in that report include: to restructure ZC's Cricket Affairs Department and its personnel, to restructure ZC's domestic and development pathway, to advertise to fill the head coach positions for the Zimbabwe Senior Men's national team and the Zimbabwe Under-19 Men's national team, to restructure the

coaching set-up at first-class level, to establish a National Academy; and to set up indoor training facilities in all the five first-class provinces. ZC added that management was tasked to look at all the recommendations made by the Mhishi Committee and present an action plan to the Board within four weeks. During the meeting, the Board also confirmed Walter Chawaguta as the substantive head coach of the Zimbabwe senior women's national team, while Prosper Utseya's resignation from his position as head coach of the Zimbabwe Under-19 men's national team was accepted.

Lt Governor inaugurates Kashmiri Pandit Premier League Cricket Tournament in Jammu



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Kashmiri Pandit Premier League (KPPL) Cricket Tournament at KC Sports Club Jammu, today.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated the Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization on its initiative to empower youth through sports.

He extended his felicitations and best wishes to the men and women players from across the country and abroad participating in the tournament.

"Sports has been an important pillar of the nation-building process.

It gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment to the ideals of ancient culture and nurture the values for new generations," the Lt Governor said.

He said tournaments like KPPL also provide a great platform to the youth to showcase their skills and hone qualities like discipline, determination and teamwork. He assured the necessary support from the administration for the expansion of the Kashmiri Pandit Premier League.

The Lt Governor also reiterated the commitment of the UT administration to extend hand-holding and financial assistance to the youth of

Kashmiri Pandit community, displaced persons of POJK and West Pakistan Refugees.

Sh Anil Bhat, President, Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization informed that a total of 21 teams including Men, Women and Junior teams are participating in the tournament.

Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K; former senior officials of UT and Police Administrations, prominent citizens, sportspersons and members of Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization were present.

CS Dulloo inaugurates SARAS Aajeevika 2.0, showcasing rural women entrepreneurs' talents

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today inaugurated the 2nd edition of the SARAS Aajeevika Mela, a vibrant 11-day event highlighting the resilience and creativity of rural women entrepreneurs. Organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) under the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, the exhibition opened its doors to a diverse array of art, craft, culture, and cuisine, echoing the spirit of 'vocal for local.'

He was accompanied by Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Mission Director J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission, Indu Kanwal Chib; Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu, Mridhu Slathia, Additional Mission Director JKRLM Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Beigh and other concerned.

Speaking at the inauguration, Chief Secretary emphasized the significance of the exhibition as a



platform for rural women from across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, to exhibit and market their products. He underscored the importance of providing broader exposure and support to ensure the self-reliance of rural women.

Atal Dulloo personally inspecting stalls from 15 States, alongside those representing all districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UT. He engaged with exhibitors, inquiring about the uniqueness of their offerings and commending their entrepreneurial spirit.

Later, Chief Secretary toured the food stalls, featuring traditional

delicacies from various states alongside authentic cuisines from Jammu & Kashmir. This initiative not only showcases the rich culinary diversity but also promotes cultural exchange and economic empowerment.

Featuring over 220 rural women from across 15 states, the SARAS Aajeevika Mela provides a platform for self-help group women artisans to exhibit their exemplary craftsmanship, artistry, and traditional skills.

The event showcases a rich tapestry of Pan India, with 60 unique stalls, including 40 from outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir,

displaying a fusion of products from different regions of India.

Visitors to the SARAS Aajeevika Mela can expect a diverse range of beautifully crafted handloom and hand-craft products, such as textiles, pottery, woodwork, metalwork, and paintings. Traditional music and dance performances will add to the vibrant ambiance, celebrating the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The main objective of the SARAS Aajeevika Mela is to provide a platform for rural women to display their goods, create a market for them to sell their products directly to customers, and understand customer preferences and choices. Additionally, the Mela aims to enhance and reinvent the marketing abilities of the rural women artisans.

In line with promoting financial independence, the fair also serves as a platform for self-help group (SHG) members supported by the Jammu

& Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission to exhibit and sell their products. Each stall at the Mela is managed by confident and empowered women SHG members, offering a wide range of products that cater to diverse tastes and preferences.

The SARAS Aajeevika Jammu 2.0 will not only feature exhibitions and sales, but also various cultural programs and activities to engage and entertain visitors. The organizers are also committed to promoting sustainable practices, such as avoiding the use of plastic by encouraging cloth bags and paper packaging. Waste management systems will be put in place to ensure cleanliness and hygiene throughout the event. The SARAS Aajeevika Mela will be open daily from 10 am to 8:00 pm, offering visitors the opportunity to explore around 60 stalls displaying a variety of art and craft. In addition, a workshop will be organized for women from self-help groups to enhance their marketing skills.

Jugal Kishore asks Cell Workers to facilitate others to join BJP

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Today All cells sammelan of Bharatiya Janata Party organized at Baba Kailash Dev Sathan Hall at Bantalab Jammu in which workers of Professional Cell, Senior Citizen Cell, Employee and Teacher Cell and others were present. This function was organized by professional cell under the leadership of Former Minister Sat Pal Sharma in which Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma was the Chief Guest.

This Sammelan was organized with the sole motive of depicting the journey of development of India during the last 10 years. Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha and workers of all cells paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his death anniversary and Member of Parliament addressed the gathering at the occasion. He also led Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan at village Kahpota in Block Dansal in Nagrota Constituency.

CA Ramit Khurana & CA Amit Gupta were among the prominent speakers who deliberated upon the various developments and the milestones achieved by the BJP Government under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji. Ajay Ahuja GST Tax Consultant conducted the proceeding of the programme.

Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament, the chief guest of the occasion while in his address said that the tenure of BJP Government in center under the stewardship of



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji would be marked as golden period in the history of Development. He said that many mega projects have been started all around Jammu and Kashmir which will change the face of UT. He said that many historical steps have been taken in the tenure of Modi Government like Pran Pratishtha of Idol Shri Ram, Abrogation of Article 370, ST Status to Paharis and many more for which people were waiting since long. He urged all the party workers present at the occasion that ideology of the party should reach every doorstep and asks Cell Workers to facilitate others to join Bharatiya Janata Party. He invoked people to vote for BJP to further the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Sat Sharma Former Minister & Ex Mla applauded the public for their support and ask them to join the cause of inclusive development by voting the BJP to empower again. Other speakers also deliberated upon the efforts and good work of the BJP Government and asks the party workers to endeavor for "Abki Baar 400 Paar".

SK Sharma convener Professional Cell asked the people to remain united & not fall into the false promises of the opposition.

Member of Parliament also led "Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan" at village kahpota in Block Dansal in Nagrota Constituency and said Party Workers that all the programmes of the party should be organized by great enthusiasm. He while appraising the achievements of the Modi Government among the masses said that today Bharatiya Janata Party is the single largest political party working for the Nation and Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji committed people for their overall development. He urged them to reach every doorstep and narrate the ideology of the party to strengthen the hands of Modi Ji to empower him again as Prime Minister in 2024.

Prominent Citizens who joined Member of Parliament were Mukherjee Sharma, JD Singh, Sakti Dutt, Raka Sharma, Mandal President Suresh Khajuria, XL BDC Surinder Bhagat, KL Sharma and others & who joined in Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan were Mandal President Shamsher Singh, Munshi Ram, Yog Raj, Pankaj Sharma, Dewan Chand, Manoj Kumar, Ex-Sarpanch Pritam Singh, Davinder Kumar, Raman Kumar, Ajeet Kumar, Baldev Singh & others also present at the occasion.

JNEWS SERVICE
BASOHLI, FEB 11

In a fervent display of grassroots engagement, Col Mahan Singh, the DDC Chairman of Kathua, spearheaded the "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" initiative in the Basohli constituency. The campaign, orchestrated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), aimed to bolster booth-level strength and community outreach, vital elements in the political landscape as the nation braces for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

During his whirlwind tour, Col Mahan Singh traversed through the heartlands of Ghagore, Kudgera, and Jait Madra-khi, meticulously inspecting the booth levels to fortify BJP's grassroots machinery. Interacting

fervently with booth presidents, panna pramukhs, and booth prabharis, Col Mahan Singh delved into the pulse of the local populace, keenly addressing their grievances and swiftly orchestrating solutions.

A fervent advocate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary governance, Col Mahan Singh eloquently elucidated



the myriad schemes and achievements of the BJP-led government. Emphasizing PM Modi's ambitious target for the nation to achieve developed status by 2024, coinciding with India's 100 years of independence, Col Mahan Singh underscored the transformative strides made under the BJP's stewardship.

From the resurgent

Indian economy to the historic realization of the Ram Mandir and the monumental abrogation of Article 370, Col Mahan Singh delineated the monumental achievements attained during the BJP's tenure. Particularly spotlighting the paradigm shift witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir post-article 370 abrogation, he lauded the infra-

structural advancements, including the expansive network of roads in hilly terrains through schemes like PMGSY and NABARD. Additionally, he extolled the establishment of two AIIMS hospitals, the burgeoning employment opportunities, and the resolute stance against terrorism, emblematic of the BJP's unwavering commitment to the region's prosperity and security.

As the political landscape brims with anticipation ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Col Mahan Singh's resolute leadership and unwavering dedication exemplify the BJP's unwavering resolve to empower communities, amplify voices, and usher in a prosperous, vibrant future for the nation.

Taxi operators' are backbone of J&K tourism: Tony

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Member of Suchetgarh, highlighted the significant contribution of taxi operators to the vibrant tourism industry of Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior Congress leader was speaking at the programme organised by the Taxi Operators Union at Railway Station Jammu. He congratulated the newly elected President Devinder Singh Choudhary and his team of Taxi Operators Union.

Tony emphasized that taxi operators are the backbone of J&K tourism, enabling visitors to explore the breathtaking and hidden locations nestled in the hilly terrain of the region.

"The mesmerizing beauty and cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir attract tourists from all over the world. However, it is the existence of taxi services that make it possible for tourists to access these remote areas," he said and acknowledged



the pivotal role played by taxi operators in facilitating travel and ensuring a seamless experience for tourists.

Taranjit Singh Tony also noted the essential role of taxi operators in promoting religious tourism in J&K. From the revered Vaishno Devi, to Baba Amarnath Shrine, Mahakali Temple at Bahu Fort Jammu, Buddha Amarnath, Nangali Sahib, Kheer Bhawani, Shankara-

charya, Shadara Sharief, Peer Kho, and many other sacred sites, taxi operators serve as enablers for pilgrims and devotees seeking spiritual solace.

Recognizing the challenges faced by the transportation sector in Jammu, the senior Congress leader urged the government to develop a comprehensive package specifically tailored to support taxi operators and transporters. He emphasized

the need for a holistic approach that addresses the unique requirements and concerns of the taxi industry in Jammu, aiming to enhance their financial stability and overall well-being.

By recognizing the invaluable contributions of taxi operators, Tony sought to ensure their sustainability and resilience, ultimately benefiting the entire tourism ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir.

Notorious Drug peddler booked under PITNDPS

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 11

An information was received at PS Akhnoor regarding one notorious criminal namely Razak Ahmed @ Kaka S/o Ghulam Mohd R/o Kandi Tehsil Maira Mandrian District Jammu who was evading his arrests in multiple cases.

On this special police teams of PS Akhnoor led by SHO PS Akhnoor raided at the suspected place and arrested the notorious criminal.

It is pertinent to mention that a warrant under PITNDPS vide order No.16 of 2024 dated 09.02.2024 under section 3 of prevention of illicit traffic in narcotics drugs and psychotropic substance act was also issued against the accused by Divisional commissioner Jammu.

The said accused was habitual of indulging in criminal activities and there were 03 different cases in which accused was involved.

Finally today the warrant was executed and the accused was sent to District Jail Kathua.