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PM Modi holds talks with UAE President; bilateral investment treaty inked to boost strategic ties

AGENCIES
ABU DHABI, FEB 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks with the UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during which they reviewed the strategic partnership, discussed new areas of cooperation and witnessed the signing of several agreements, including a bilateral investment treaty.

In a special and warm ges-



ture, Modi was received at the airport by President Mohamed bin Zayed. The two leaders hugged each other. He was later given a guard of honour. "Immensely grateful to my brother, HH @Mohamed-BinZayed for taking the time to receive me at Abu Dhabi airport," Modi posted on X.

The two leaders held one-on-one and delegation-level talks soon after Modi landed here.

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LG launches 'J&K Sambhaav Utsav -2024' in New Delhi



JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13

On the eve of Basant Panchami, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha launched 'J&K Sambhaav Utsav-2024', organized by Resident Commission Jammu Kashmir at J&K House, New Delhi today.

The Lt Governor also launched Information-cum-facilitation hub 'Hello J&K'; Digital Photography, Painting and Singing competitions for Youth on the theme "Know Jammu Kashmir" and inaugurated various new projects undertaken by J&K's Resident Commission. The Lt Governor congratulated the officials

of the Resident Commission Jammu Kashmir and all the associated departments of J&K Government.

He said the 7-day long vibrant exhibition will represent the very best of cultural artistic heritage, cuisine, agriculture and handicraft products of J&K UT.

"Sambhaav Utsav also put the spotlight on the future of J&K which is readying to contribute in Viksit Bharat. It is a perfect occasion to reiterate our resolve to revive the ancient heritage and preserve it for the generations to come," the Lt Governor said.

He said the new beginning by the J&K Resident Commis-

sion will provide glimpses of a new and resurgent J&K to the visitors.

The Lt Governor said the 'Hello J&K' initiative launched today will connect the youth of Jammu Kashmir with domain experts from various fields, both online and offline, facilitating a rich exchange of knowledge, insights and opportunities.

It will be a one-stop center for education, entrepreneurship, livelihood, health and wellness, tour and travel guidance, safety & security of citizens of Jammu Kashmir living outside the UT, he said. At the inaugural ceremony,

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Terrorist involved in killing of two Punjab residents in Srinagar arrested: Police

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 13

Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday claimed to have solved the February 7 attack case in which two Punjab residents were killed stating that the terrorist Adil Manzoor Langoo of Srinagar has been arrested.



attacks in Srinagar. DIG Central Kashmir had constituted a team led by SP to probe the

agency, in Srinagar. The IGP said that the slain Punjab residents were involved in wood work and were attacked in Shalla Kadal area of Shahed Gunj. "FIR was registered and a SIT was constituted by the DIG Central Kashmir headed by SP South. Police did field and technical analysis," he said.

On February 7, one Amritpal Singh and Rohit Masi of Chamyari, Amritsar were attacked at Shalla Kadal, Shahed Gunj area.

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To curtail power purchases, JK admin mandates solar panels in all Govt buildings

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

In a move to tackle the persistent power shortage in government buildings, the Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to make it mandatory for all its departments to install solar power panels.

This initiative as per the government sources has been taken to address the mounting expenditure on power dues incurred by various government departments.

The directive comes following a detailed communication issued by the Director of Planning in the Public Works Department to all government offices across the Union Territory. The communication outlines specific requirements, urging departments to provide essential details to facilitate the smooth implementation of the solar power initiative.

As per the news agency, Government offices are required to furnish information regarding the amount of

available space without any shading, specify whether the office operates in a rented or government-owned building, and detail the monthly expenses incurred on power bills. This comprehensive data will aid in customizing solar solutions that align with the unique requirements of each department.

A source within the government said, speaking on the condition of anonymity, emphasized the urgency of such a measure. "The decision to make solar panels mandatory in government buildings is a proactive step towards reducing the burgeoning expenses on power bills. Many government offices, both in rented and owned buildings, consume a substantial amount of electricity. By harnessing solar power, not only will we contribute to a cleaner environment, but we will also significantly alleviate the financial burden on the state exchequer." The move is particularly timely consider-

ing the increasing demand for electricity and the associated costs incurred by government departments. Solar panels not only offer a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative but also provide a long-term solution to the perennial issue of power paucity.

A government official involved in the decision-making process commented, "The decision to mandate solar panels in government buildings is a visionary move by the administration. By tapping into solar energy, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint but also fostering fiscal responsibility. The cumulative impact of this initiative will be felt not only in terms of cost savings but also in promoting cleaner and greener practices within government infrastructure." "It is expected that this directive will pave the way for a substantial reduction in electricity bills for government offices, resulting in considerable savings for the state.

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3.4 magnitude earthquake hits Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

An earthquake of magnitude 3.4 on the Richter Scale hit the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, the National Centre for Seismology said.

They said, the earthquake occurred at around 06:34 pm at a depth of 5 km.

The epicentre of the earthquake was found to be at latitude 33.35 and longitude 76.62, as per NCS.

"Earthquake of Magnitude:3.4, Occurred on 13-02-2024, 18:34:44 IST, Lat: 33.35 & Long: 76.62, Depth: 5 Km ,Location: Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, India," the National Centre for Seismology said on its official X handle.

102 films, web series shot in J&K last year

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 13

Jammu and Kashmir continues to be the hotspot for Bollywood and south Indian film industry as 102 films and web series have been shot here during 2023.

With this in the last two years more than 300 films and web series have been shot in Jammu and Kashmir, which earned applause for featur-

ing the beautiful locations of Kashmir.

As per the figures, a total of 102 Bollywood and Tollywood films and web series have been granted permission to shoot in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023.

To name a few, Shahrukh Khan Starrer Dunki, Yami Gautam's Article 370, John Abraham's Vedaa are some of the prominent Bollywood movies that have been shot in Kashmir last year.

Prior to it in 2022, as many as 200 films and web series were given permission by the government to shoot in Kashmir.

Officials said the valley has succeeded in attracting filmmakers as a lot of them have applied for permission to shoot in Kashmir.

"The film policy proved to be a catalyst to attract filmmakers to choose Kashmir

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J&K Illegal Arms License Case: ED files prosecution complaints against 21 accused

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 13

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint against 21 accused in a case linked to illegal arms licenses case in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a statement, issued to the news agency ED filed the prosecution complaint against 21 accused which includes the then arms license authorities Rajeev Ranjan (IAS) and Itrat Hussain Rafiqi, judicial clerks, other officials of deputy magistrate Kupwara and gun house deal-

ers, agents and middlemen including Rahul Grover, Syed Adhel Hussain Shah and Syed Akeel Shah before the special PMLA Court Jammu in a case related to illegal issuance of large number of arms licenses.

The statement reads that the ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by the Anti-Terrorist Squad/Special Operations Group Rajasthan Police and Central Bureau of Investigation Chandigarh under various sections of IPC and Arms Act.

"ED investigation revealed that during the relevant period the then DM/ADMs, judicial

clerks and other officials of office of Kupwara in connivance with gun house dealers and agents hatched a criminal conspiracy among themselves and issued or renewed large number of illegal arms license to ineligible applicants in lieu of monetary consideration by flouting various norms, procedures of Arms Act," it reads.

It added that the accused were found to be in acquisition and possession of proceeds of crime generated out of criminal activities related to the above scheduled offences. Earlier, ED had issued a

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Dr Jitendra flags off 'Vande Bharat' with stops at Udhampur, Kathua

JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 13

In a ceremony full of excitement and jubilation, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today flagged off the maiden regular run of Vande Bharat Express train with stops at Udhampur and Kathua respectively, both of which stations happen to be a part of his Lok Sabha constituency.

Terming it as a historic decision of the government, Dr Jitendra Singh said it was possible only due to the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's special attention and priority that he has accorded to the J&K region for its fast-paced



development.

Dr Jitendra Singh today flagged off the maiden stoppage of the Train from the Udhampur Station early this

Jammu GMC to get NGS testing facility to detect early stage of Cancer

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

The Government Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Jammu, is going to be the first health institution in the Jammu region that will soon have an NGS (Next Generation Sequencing) testing facility for detecting and diagnosing early stage cancer.

The NGS facility is expected to start in the Jammu GMC by February, official sources said on Tuesday.

"The Jammu based Government Medical College and Hospital will have the NGS test facility by the end of February in the MicroBiology

Department for early diagnosis of cancer-like symptoms," sources said.

The NGS is notably a massively parallel sequencing technology that offers ultra-high throughput, scalability, and speed. The technology is used to determine the order of nucleotides in entire genomes or targeted regions of DNA or RNA.

Compared to traditional methods, NGS offers advantages in accuracy, sensitivity, and speed that have the potential to make a significant impact on the field of oncology.

Because NGS can assess multiple genes in a single assay, it eliminates the need to

order multiple tests to identify the causative mutation.

Official sources said that detection of cancer in an advanced stage can help its prevention and treatment, adding that "in the first phase, 100 tests will be conducted in testing mode, and based upon the results, the facility will be a regular feature."

They said that early detection can help the patient get timely treatment, and the start of the NGS test facility in Jammu will benefit the patients battling with the chronic disease.

A well-known oncologist and principal of

SC refuses to stay new law on appointment of CEC, ECs by panel excluding CJI, issues notice

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 13

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to stay the operation of the new law that provides for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners by a panel which does not include the Chief Justice of India.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta issued notice to the

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NHM Mission Director launches 8th edition of 108 free ambulance service magazine

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Nazim Zai Khan, today launched the 8th edition of 108 Jammu and Kashmir emergency medical services magazine.

Addressing the launch event, the Mission Director highlighted the significant contributions made by the 108 ambulance services in transporting patients to hospitals during emergencies. He mentioned that more than 2,77,024 patients have availed this service, so far. The 108 ambulances also played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic, serving 12,110 COVID patients, he added.

The Mission Director urged upon the people to avail the free 108 ambulance service, which is fully equipped with life-



support system and ensures better medical care and safety for patients. He encouraged people to call the toll-free number 108 in case of any medical emergency, rather than transporting the patient in a private vehicle.

Regarding the magazine, the Mission Director stated that its launch will generate awareness about the 108 ambulance service among the public. Out of the 203 ambulances, 139 vehicles are equipped with advanced life support including

ventilators, defibrillators, suction machines, nebulizers, syringe pumps and oxygen support systems, along with fully trained Emergency Medical Technicians for optimal patient care. Notably, 1015 deliveries have been conducted successfully by 108 Emergency Medical Technicians at the scene or inside the ambulance.

During the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, the 108 ambulance service provided assistance to over 1025 Amarnath pilgrims. Also, 17 4x4 vehicles have

been deployed in snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir to rescue patients during heavy snowfall, with 299 patients successfully rescued, so far, out of which 122 patients were pregnancy related.

Pertinently, the J&K government has an active MOU with M/s BVG India Limited since 24th March 2020 for running the 108 Ambulance services in the UT. They provide free ambulance services in every district of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with 203 fully equipped ambulances offering pick-up services for emergency cases, referral cases and interfacility transfers to patients.

State Program Manager 108, Dr. ADS Manhas and Project Head, Mushtaq Ahmed of 108 Emergency Medical Services were also present at the launch event.

Aijaz Asad reviews construction of Helipads in Gurez, Kishtwar, hilly districts

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Secretary, Civil Aviation Department (CAD), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a meeting of senior officers here at Civil Secretariat Jammu to review ongoing development works of the department besides assessing progress achieved, so far, pertaining to construction of six helipads in various locations of Gurez area of Bandipora district.

The meeting had detailed review of other issues including status of Kishtwar Airstrip under RCS-UDAN, upgradation of Katra (Panchi Helipad) PTB under RCS-UDAN and sea-plane operations under RCS-UDAN Manasbal Lake.

While reviewing the current status of Kishtwar Airstrip and helipad, the Secretary directed the district administration to



submit the documents about action taken and further course of action at the earliest. The concerned authorities gave details about various aspects of the said project and assured full co-operation in this regard.

The Secretary also reviewed and discussed the proposal from Ministry of Civil Aviation under RCS-UDAN for up gradation and development of heliport at Panchi Katra.

Joint Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaish-

no Devi Shrine Board, informed that requisite land free from all encumbrances for up gradation of Panchi Helipad shall be provided at the earliest.

The Secretary also reviewed the present status of Sea-plane Operations at Manasbal Lake, a new mode of transportation under flagship scheme of UDAN.

He gave directions to Chief Executive Officer, Manasbal Lake Development Authority and VC, LCMA to take up the pend-

ing issues, in this regard, with Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Srinagar. He stressed upon them to remove all bottlenecks so that the work could be completed in a stipulated time frame.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, ADC Kishtwar, Director Finance CAD, Additional Secretary CAD, CEO Manasbal Lake Authority and other concerned officers from Civil Aviation Department attended the meeting online and in person.

Horticulture P&M conducts Awareness programme on PM-FME at Fruit Mandi, Handwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 13

As part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing (HP&M) District Kupwara, on Tuesday, organized a one-day awareness programme regarding Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprise Scheme (PM-FME) at Fruit Mandi, Handwara.

At the outset, Nodal Officer PM-FME/Area Marketing Officer Kupwara, Mushtaq Ahmad Kumar highlighted the scope and objectives of the scheme to motivate people attending the workshop towards agri-based entrepreneurship. He also encouraged existing unit holders to expand their business by availing the benefits of the



scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, District Resource Person of PM-FME, Riffat shared information about the scheme and importance of One District One Product (ODOP) to generate employment besides deliberating on the modal-

ities and procedure for sponsorship of cases to avail benefits under the scheme. The workshop was attended by officers of agriculture and allied departments, aspiring entrepreneurs and representatives from Byapar Mandal.

DC Kulgam inaugurates free medical camp organized by CRPF at Yaripora



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 13

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday inaugurated a free medical camp organised by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) 18th Battalion at Yaripora Kulgam.

The camp was organised as part of the Civic Action programme to bring healthcare to the community's doorsteps.

Present on the occasion

were B.A.K. Chaurasia, Commandant-18 Bn CRPF, Chaudhary Mahesh Kumar, 2nd In Command, other senior officers and Jawans of 18 Bn CRPF and senior Officers of District Administration Kulgam.

A large number of people attended this free medical camp and received free medicines, health check-ups, tests, and screenings.

Addressing the gathering, DC Kulgam highlighted that the civic action programme is a welfare mea-

sure for the local people thereby bridging the gap between the security forces and civilians.

It is an ongoing attempt to bring qualitative change in the lives of the local population, he added. The DC stressed that CRPF is totally committed towards its social obligations and will continue to carry out similar civic action programmes in future, and will make all best possible efforts to improve the living standard of the local people.

GDC Marh, JK SOTTO organizes Awareness lecture on Organ Donation



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Red Ribbon Club, GDC Marh, organized one-day awareness lecture on Organ Donation in collaboration with the State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation, Jammu & Kashmir under the guidance of the Principal of the college Prof (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul.

While addressing the faculty and students, the Principal emphasized that the need for organ donors has increased significantly over the years. He said that the voluntary organ donation is the only way to meet the huge demand for organs.

The resource person of

the awareness program was, Ansu Sharma (IEC, SOTTO), who gave a PPT presentation about the functions of SOTTO in J&K and different types of organ donation and donors like liver, cornea, Kidney, deceased/dead donors.

She also focused on Brain Stem Death (BSD) wherein vital organs are taken only after the person is declared Brain Stem dead.

She added that people die due to the non-availability of organs for transplant so it is very important to donate organs. The pledge 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' was also taken by the students and faculty.

DC Bandipora chairs DLAC meeting on Safe Food & Healthy Diet

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 13

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shaheel Ur Rehman Rather on Tuesday chaired a meeting of District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) on safe food and healthy diet.

The meeting was aimed to ensure effective implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) 2006 and to discuss enforcement, inspection and sampling status of food items in the district.

Various food safety measures and the role of different agencies were also discussed in the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the availability of Slaughter House, sampling of food items, implementation of Eat Right movement, availability of fresh fruit and vegetables in market, and food safety on wheels besides other issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the critical role of proactive measures in safeguarding public health and consumer confidence in the safety and quality of food products.

He underscored the need for close collabora-



tion among relevant agencies and stakeholders to effectively address challenges and strengthen the implementation of food safety regulations across the district.

The DC, on the occasion, reviewed the status of FOSTAC Training and Certification, registrations and licensing, and directed the concerned for proper monitoring of registrations and licensing. He directed the concerned to conduct joint inspection teams of different stakeholders for

regular market checking and proper sampling of food items.

Rather also stressed on increasing the number of Eat Right Schools and directed to conduct workshops in schools in collaboration with the Education Department.

The DC emphasized on conducting training cum awareness camps in Anganwadi centres and schools to promote fortified food.

He stressed on the concerned to promote fortified food in ICDS and

schools besides creating awareness under Eat Right schools about food safety, nutrition and hygiene among school children, and to educate them regarding ill effects of junk food.

The DC assured support from district administration to all field functionaries and asked them to perform duties with added responsibility for proper implementation of government programmes.

On the occasion, the DC also directed Executive Officer MC to enforce regular market checking besides ensuring cleanliness in the market area.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat; Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Amin Beigh; Designated Officer Food Safety, Zahoor Ahmad Shiekh; Executive Officer Municipal Council, Ajaz Ahmad Khan, representatives from Police, Health and other concerned departments.

Awareness Programme under Road Safety Month-2024 held at A.S College

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 13

As a part of ongoing Road Safety Month-2024, a mega awareness programme was held today here at Amar Singh College to enhance road safety awareness among masses with a resolute commitment to control accident-related mortality in Srinagar District.

The programme was jointly organized by Amar Singh College in collaboration with City Traffic and National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDC).

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Srinagar was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

While, SSP Traffic, Muzafar Ahmad Shah, Principal A.S College, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, SP Traffic, Tariq Ahmad, Director, NHIDC, G. M Dar, faculty members and large number of Students of the College were present in the awareness programme. Addressing the awareness programme, the Deputy Commissioner said that road safety is among the top priori-



ties of the Administration and concerted efforts are being taken to ensure efficient traffic management system for smooth and safe flow of traffic in Srinagar City. While speaking about the alarming surge in road accidents with rising fatalities, the DC called upon one and all to play key role in road safety awareness by sensitizing people, particularly youth about road safety ethics and strictly adhering to the traffic rules to save precious lives.

The DC said objective of National Road Safety Month is to carry forward the message of inculcating responsible road behaviour among

citizens so that Srinagar District become a model for other Districts in traffic management with a resolute commitment towards achieving less accident-related mortality in Srinagar District.

SSP Traffic Srinagar, RTO, Kashmir, Principal A.S College, SP Traffic also spoke on the occasion and unanimously emphasised the importance of collective efforts to make roads safer for everyone by obeying traffic ethics and rules properly following. They also underlined the statistics of road accidents and subsequent loss of precious lives. They emphasised the need for a com-

prehensive approach to tackle this vital concern by working together to change this narrative. The ongoing Road Safety Month-2024, begins from January 15 to February 14, 2024 and month-long campaign would feature various activities, including awareness drives, workshops, and educational programmes aimed educating vehicle owners, bike riders, drivers and pedestrians about the importance of adhering to traffic rules and adopting safe practices.

Later, during the programme, the Deputy Commissioner felicitated the volunteers propagating road safety measures.

SMVDU, JKSTIC Udhampur organises One-Day Awareness Program on Clean & Green Energy Technologies

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 13

School of Energy Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra, organised one-day awareness program focused on clean and green energy technologies in collaboration with Department of Science & Technology, JKSTIC, Udhampur.

The primary objective of this initiative is to educate individuals and communities about the latest advancements and innovations in clean energy technologies, with a specific emphasis on their role in mitigating climate change and promoting a more sustainable future.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMVDU, in his key address, highlighted the steps taken by SMVDU in organizing high quality awareness programmes, workshops and conferences. He stressed



that such events help in broadening the knowledge base of the participants.

Prof. Pragati Kumar highlighted various aspects of Clean and Green Energy Technologies. He said that this awareness program will make all of us understand the need for clean energy, sustainable development and spread awareness and knowledge

among the participants and society.

Shruti Khanna District Coordinator JKSTIC highlighted the major initiatives and activities undertaken by DST, J&K. She asserted that the event's objective is to encourage the young minds across and hoped they would be role models with a particular emphasis on promoting

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Green Energy for Sustainable Development. Dr. Ankit Tyagi, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT, Jammu laid emphasis on super capacitors for electric vehicles. He stressed on the new advancements in materials for reliability of electric vehicles.

Managing Director, Maini Industries Jammu Arjun Maini, Assistant Manager, Germi Himanshu Malpotra, Head, School of Energy Management and Dean R&D Dr. Vineet Veer Tyagi, Associate Dean R&D and Coordinator, Dr. Sanjeev Anand also spoke on the occasion and delivered lecture on aspect of clean energy, its environmental benefits as part of a global energy future, policy and regulatory framework besides other concerned topics.

Transport Commissioner inspects Driving License Test Ground

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

In a concerted effort to enhance road safety and ensure the well-being of motorists, Transport Commissioner, J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara conducted a rigorous inspection of driving skill tests and the fitness of vehicles at DL skill test ground, Khanpur-Nagota here today.

Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra also accompanied the TC on the occasion.

During the inspection, the Transport Commissioner closely observed the ongoing tests, providing valuable insights into the processes. Notably, the Commissioner issued crucial directions and instructions aimed at improving facilities at the ground and ensuring greater transparency in the evaluation procedures.

The comprehensive



inspection that took about one hour involved meticulous assessments of driver competence and the roadworthiness of vehicles.

The TC urged the ARTO and MVIs to take into consideration drivers' adherence to traffic rules, ability to handle various road conditions, and overall driving proficiency while conducting the DL skill test.

Simultaneously, a meticulous examination of vehicles took place, focusing on essential components such as brakes,

lights, tyres, and overall mechanical condition. The goal was to identify potential safety hazards and ensure that vehicles met the required standards for roadworthiness.

The Transport Commissioner emphasizes the importance of such inspections in fostering safer roads and reducing the likelihood of accidents.

ARTO Board of Inspection, Esha Chib, MVIs Surinder Kumar and Jasbir Singh were also present during the inspection.

Forest Department paid homage on the demise of retired Chief Conservator of Forests

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Forest Department paid condolence to S. Prem Singh, a retired IFS officer who worked at various important positions in the Jammu and Kashmir, Forest Department and superannuated retired as Chief Conservator of Forests.

The senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir, Forest Department along with the field staff in a condolence meeting at FRMC Forest Head-quarter Jammu, expressed their condolences and sympathy to the aggrieved family.

PCCF-HoFF J&K Government Roshan Jaggi IFS while expressing his views on this occasion expressed sorrow and grief over the sad demise of the said officer.

Ending Stigma, Embracing Dignity: one day workshop on Sparsh Leprosy awareness campaign held at Bandipora

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 13

Health Department Bandipora in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday organised a day long Workshop on sparsh leprosy awareness campaign.

The workshop organised under National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) was presided over by ACR Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani and was attended by principal AMT school, BMOs, MS DH Bandipora, Medical Officers, MLHPs, Paramedics, District Management Unit And Block Management Unit of Health Department Bandipora besides other concerned.

District Epidemiologist, Dr. Nabeel in his welcome address highlighted prevention and management



under NLEP.

On the occasion Senior Physician Consultant, Dr. Parvaiz Sajad Shah deliberated upon various aspects of leprosy and available treatment facility.

Dr. Parvaiz said that in District Bandipora presently only one case of leprosy exists. He said the patient is under treatment

and is expected to recover soon.

He said all the necessary free treatment is provided to the patient by Health Department Bandipora under proper supervision.

On the occasion, ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani distributed blankets, medicines, first aid kits and other items among leprosy affected patients.

Prerna Puri holds public darbar at Lamberi; assesses, addresses public issues

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 13

In an effort to address public issues, Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology, Prerna Puri, along with the Deputy Commissioner, Om Prakash Bhagat today conducted an extensive public darbar at Lamberi block in Rajouri district.

The event, attended by PRI representatives and locals, recorded several issues including road macadamization, bolstering health infrastructure, staff shortage, water scarcity, repairing of old handpumps, timely rectification of electromechanical components of water supply schemes, appointment of an Urdu teacher at GHSS Lamberi, expediting pending instalments under PMAY, resumption of work on GHSS Lamberi, dilapidated condition of road leading to Dandani, sanction of a veterinary center at Lamberi, proper drainage system on internal roads, enhanced pension for persons with disabilities, improving internet connectivity at Garan, tackling staff shortages at HS Garan, construction of road from Lamberi to Garan and blacktopping of Rajal to Garan road, opening of a bank branch at Garan and start of work on Dabbar Bagnoti bridge.

The attendees were not only heard but were also motivated to explore and avail the benefits offered by these initiatives.

During her speech at the public darbar, the Commissioner Secretary conveyed government's commitment towards addressing the issues brought forward by the local community. She said that top priority of the Government is to ensure that basic facilities and services are delivered to the general public in an efficient and timely manner. She reassured the attend-



ees that their demands have been heard, and their concerns would be redressed on top priority.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the significance of collaboration between the government and the public saying that the development process can only be successful when these both work in tandem. She encouraged the community to actively participate in the journey towards a better quality of life for everyone. She stated that the role of the Government is to facilitate progress, but true development requires the active engagement and support of the people.

During the public outreach camp, the Commissioner Secretary said that the primary goal of holding these public darbars is to establish an accountable and responsive governance and ensure prompt redressal of grievances of the public. She highlighted the significant progress

made in this regard, stating that out of 292 grievances raised during the last five public darbars, 164 have been successfully redressed.

Recognizing the importance of proper implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme, Prerna Puri directed the officers to ensure effective monitoring of the projects to ensure their completion within the predetermined timelines.

In response to concerns about internet connectivity, the Commissioner Secretary informed that 968 sites in Jammu and Kashmir have been identified for installation of mobile towers. She reassured the public that necessary steps are being taken to address the issue, with the aim of installing the mobile towers by March 2024. She emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of ongoing developmental projects to ensure their smooth progress and successful completion.

The Commissioner Secretary valued the opinions and suggestions of the public, recognizing their role as vital stakeholders in the process of governance. By fostering an inclusive and participatory environment, the program aims to establish a strong bond between the government and the people it

serves, she added.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary distributed baby care kits among the mothers of newborn babies under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign besides presenting certificates of cutting and tailoring to women beneficiaries.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the achievements recorded under various schemes being implemented by different departments in the district including Ayushman Bharat, PMGSY, JJM, PM KISAN, PMAY-G, etc. He also presented the status of grievances raised by the public during the recent public outreach camps and the redressal of those grievances.

Among others, DDC member Sunderbani, Rajinder Sharma, DDC member Seri, Sangeeta Sharma, ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandan, DFO Nowshera, CPO, Mohamad Khurshid, ACD, Vijay Kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan, DMO, Naseeb Bajrang, DD Employment, Zaheer Kaifi, DPO, Mohd Nawaz Choudhary, CMO, Dr Rajinder Sharma, LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin, Executive Engineers REW, PDD Rajouri, Jal Shakti Nowshera, PWD (R&B) Nowshera, and other district officers attended the event.

MVD boosts Road Safety awareness in Doda, Marmat Promotes awareness on various initiatives



JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 13

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) in Doda, led by ARTO Rajesh Gupta, organized an awareness program on various road safety initiatives, including the Good Samaritan Scheme, Road Accident Victim Funds, Hit-and-Run cases, and SO-653 (All J&K route permit) at Doda. Officials from MVD Doda enlightened the public about the

importance of aiding road accident victims without fear of legal consequences. They also discussed the vital role of Road Accident Victim Funds in providing financial support to those affected.

In line with National Road Safety Month, another awareness camp was conducted in Marmat under the supervision of Inspector MVD Doda Robin Parihar, highlighting the signifi-

cance of community participation in promoting road safety. Participants were educated about Hit-and-Run cases and the legal ramifications of such incidents.

The program highlighted SO-653, a key regulation aimed at enhancing road safety and traffic management. Participants were urged to proactively assist accident victims and adhere to relevant laws, contributing to a safer road environment for all.

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner Office organises awareness camp

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Office of the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K in collaboration with J&K Bank organized a special awareness camp at Community Hall, Muthi to aware the beneficiaries about various Government Schemes. Representatives from Line Departments viz Social Welfare, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Employment, KVIB, Labour, Handicraft & Handloom gave awareness about various Government schemes in the Camp. The departments also enrolled beneficiaries and gave detailed information about self employment generation schemes.

Ayush Department held a health check up camp and examined

more than 100 persons and distributed free Ayush Medicines to them.

Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K also visited the camp alongwith Dr. Riaz Ahmed Assistant Commissioner (Relief). The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K was assured by the J&K Bank Officers that all eligible beneficiaries identified by the concerned departments shall be provided loan facility on priority to set up their businesses. Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) accompanied by Dr. Rahul Sharma, Tehsildar Migrant Camp Muthi and the prominent residents of Migrant Camp Muthi also visited the

migrant camp Muthi, Primary Health Centre, Zonal Office (Relief) and Higher Secondary School Muthi to take

stock of all the problems being faced by the camp inmates. The Commissioner (M) J&K assured the residents of early

resolution of their genuine demands and also emphasized on transparent and time bound disposal of all issues.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-Tender Notice						
Sr.DEN/II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 05.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in						
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
Open	Works	Single Bid System	12.02.2024	20.02.2024	05.03.2024/15:00 Hrs.	
S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender				
1	416-2023-24-ADEN-JUC	Replacement of Arch Bridge No. 113 with RCC Box on ASR - KEMK section & Replacement of Girders with RCC Slab of Br. No. 23 (UP & DN) line & 28 (siding) on JUC-ASR Section.				
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		1,20,72,835.52/-	2,10,400/-	60 Days	08 Months	
Similar Nature of work:- "RCC Bridge/Limited Height Subway Work".						
2	417-2023-24-ADEN-IASR	Upgradation/Improvement of Goods shed at Khasa on ASR-ATT section under ADEN-IASR.				
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		78,42,431.67/-	1,56,900/-	60 Days	06 Months	
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work"						
3	418-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR	Misc. P-way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/PAX under ADEN-II/ASR				
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		55,00,090.88/-	1,10,000/-	60 Days	09 Months	
Similar Nature of work:- "Any type of track work".						
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 416-2023-24-ADEN-JUC, 417-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR & 418-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 12.02.2024 473/2024						
Serving Customers With A Smile						

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

PM Modi holds talks...

They reviewed the bilateral partnership and discussed new areas of cooperation.

They welcomed the deepening of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across sectors, including trade and investment, digital infrastructure, fintech, energy, infrastructure, culture and people-to-people ties. Discussions also covered regional and global issues, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

"I thank you for this grand welcome of me and my team. As you said, I feel that whenever I have come here, I have always felt that I have come to my home and family," Prime Minister Modi said in his opening remarks at the bilateral meeting with the UAE President.

"We have met five times in the last seven months. Today, there is a mutual partnership between India and UAE in every sector," he said.

The two leaders witnessed the exchange of eight agreements including a Bilateral Investment Treaty, MoU on cooperation in the field of electrical interconnection and trade and an Intergovernmental Framework Agreement between India and UAE on the India-Middle East Economic Corridor.

The Bilateral Investment Treaty will be a key enabler for further promoting investments in both countries. India has signed both a Bilateral Investment Treaty and a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with UAE, the statement said.

Other agreements include an MoU on cooperation in Digital Infrastructure Projects, a Cooperation protocol between the National Archives of the two countries, an MoU for cooperation in the field of heritage and museums, an agreement on interlinking of the instant payment platforms - UPI (India) and AANI (UAE) and an agreement on inter-linking domestic debit/credit cards - RuPay (India) with JAYWAN (UAE).

Prime Minister congratulated President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed on the launch of UAE's domestic card JAYWAN, which is based on the digital RuPay credit and debit card stack. The leaders witnessed a transaction made using the JAYWAN card.

The leaders also discussed the strengthening of their partnership in the energy sector.

They appreciated that in addition to the UAE being among the largest sources of crude and LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas), India is now entering into long-term contracts for LNG (Liquefied natural gas).

Modi in his opening remarks said the UAE and India are partnering with each other in every area of cooperation.

Modi, who will inaugurate the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Mandir, the first Hindu stone temple in Abu Dhabi, on Wednesday, said: "The BAPS temple in the UAE is an example of your affinity for India."

Prime Minister thanked President Sheikh Mohamed for his personal support and for his graciousness in granting the land for the construction of the BAPS Temple in Abu Dhabi.

Both sides noted that the BAPS Temple is a celebration of UAE-India friendship, deep-rooted cultural bonds and an embodiment of the UAE's global commitment to harmony, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Modi said the construction of the BAPS temple in Abu Dhabi would not be possible without the support from the UAE's leadership.

He also thanked him for attending the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January.

He also thanked the UAE for its support for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

The corridor was announced in New Delhi during the G20 summit in September.

The IMEEC is being seen as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The IMEEC will connect India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Europe.

Modi said this will not only connect the region but also open the doors for economic development.

Modi also thanked the President for the grand diaspora event.

This is the third visit of the Prime Minister to the United Arab Emirates and the fifth meeting between the two leaders during the past eight months, which reflects the depth of the bilateral partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs said on X.

"Marhaba UAE! PM @narendramodi sets foot in the city of Abu Dhabi. Received with special warmth by UAE President HH @MohamedBinZayed at the airport, and accorded ceremonial welcome," it posted on X.

"Immensely grateful to my brother, HH @MohamedBinZayed, for taking the time to receive me at Abu Dhabi airport," Modi posted on X.

Ahead of the visit, RITES Limited signed an agreement with Abu Dhabi Ports Company and Gujarat Maritime Board with Abu Dhabi Ports Company. These would help in building port infrastructure and further enhance connectivity between the two countries, the statement said. (Agencies)

LG launches J&K...

the Lt Governor shared the transformation of Jammu Kashmir, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

In last few years, the UT of Jammu Kashmir has witnessed a complete turnaround in the development scenario. A big section of the population in J&K who were neglected earlier, have been empowered. People's participation is now shaping the future of J&K's growth journey, he said.

Today, J&K is seen as a model in urban transformation, innovation, start-ups, agriculture, industrial development and has created a niche in tourism. The achievements of the youth, women and farmers of J&K are inspiring the country, the Lt Governor observed.

Now, the UT of Jammu Kashmir is seen as a hot-spot of tourism and not the hotspot of terrorism.

Last year, a record 2.11 crore tourists visited Jammu Kashmir. The arrival of foreign tourists in the UT has also increased manifolds. Gurez and Lolab Valley were chosen as the most beautiful offbeat destinations of the country in last two years, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the key initiatives of the UT Administration including Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), GI tagging for niche products, better market linkage, capacity building of farmers and promotion of local products. I am confident that in the next 4 years, J&K will be number one in terms of farmers' income in the county, he said.

A number of departments including Tourism, JKPTO, Agriculture, Horticulture, Information and Technology are showcasing their activities in different ways to a wide array of stakeholders during the exhibition.

Products of diverse range, featuring ODOP items, Handmade GI-tagged carpets, GI-tagged Pashmina shawls, silk sarees, chain stitches, authentic Kashmiri suits, paper mache, crewl woodcarving items etc have been put to display for the visitors and the potential buyers.

On the occasion, Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making competition by Department of Information & Public Relations J&K was also launched.

The Information department invited the filmmakers and citizens of J&K to participate in the competition and submit their short films highlighting development in Jammu Kashmir over the last four years. The Winners will have the opportunity to interact with leading filmmakers in Mumbai. The contest will remain open till February 28, 2024.

The facilities inaugurated by the Lt Governor today include Officers' Transit Accommodation at Rajaji Marg, Office-cum-Utility Area at J&K House, Chanakyapuri and Fitness Centre at JK House, 5-Prithviraj Road.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Satish Chandra, Chairman RERA; Dr Rashmi Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner; senior officials of J&K Government; members of business and trade associations, representatives of SIDBI, PHD Chamber, ASSOCHAM, FICCI, Invest India, NGOs; artisans, entrepreneurs, artists and citizens of J&K living in the national capital and other parts of the country were present.

Terrorist involved...

While Amritpal died on the spot, Rohit succumbed on the next day (February 8)

ADGP Law and Order J&K Vijay Kumar said that police will act tough against the Pakistani handlers who are locals but residing in Pakistan at present. "We are seizing the property of the local handlers who are sitting across and hiring locals here to carry out terrorist activities," he said. About Adil Manzoor Langoo, the ADGP said that he is from Zaldagar area of Srinagar. "He was in touch with the Pakistani handler through social media, who had managed to provide him a pistol in January," the ADGP said.

He said that Lashkar-e-Toiba/Toiba has already claimed responsibility of the attack on social media.

The ADGP said police are acting professionally to deal with incidents of terror activities in Kashmir. To a query about the presence of terrorists in Srinagar, he said that one local terrorist is active in Srinagar.

The ADGP J&K said that there are only 25 local terrorists active in Kashmir. "There are 25 to 30 foreign terrorists also active in Kashmir," he said. He urged parents and teachers to keep the close watch on their children especially those who spent most of the time on Social Media use—(KNO)

102 films, web...

as the destination for shooting their films. A lot of filmmakers have got permission for shooting films and web series in Kashmir during the last two years," they said.

Officials also said the government has unveiled some of the new destinations in order to promote them as prime film destinations.

In 2021, the government launched its maiden film policy to attract filmmakers to Jammu and Kashmir. The government also created a Film Development Fund (FDF) in the Information Department for the fiscal year 2022-23 for the disbursement of subsidies envisaged in the J&K Film Policy 2021.

A single-window mechanism has been started by Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council to facilitate hassle-free shooting. Filmmakers are applying online at jkfilm.jk.gov.in.

Since the unveiling of the film policy, a lot of directors are applying for shooting their films in Jammu and Kashmir. The administration has offered filmmakers a subsidy to shoot in the union territory—(KNO)

To curtail power...

The holistic approach to gather specific information from each department reflects the government's commitment to tailoring sustainable energy solutions to the unique needs of different government offices," says a senior government official.

As the Union Territory gears up to embrace solar energy on a larger scale, this initiative marks a significant stride towards a more energy-efficient and environmentally conscious government. With the potential to set an example for other regions, Jammu and Kashmir's move towards solar power integration is a noteworthy step in the quest for a sustainable and cost-effective future—(KNO)

J&K Illegal Arms License...

provisional attachment order attaching movable and immovable properties of the accused worth Rs 4.69 crore and seized cash to the tune of Rs. 1.58 crore and gold during search—(KNO)

Dr Jitendra flags off...

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said with this facility, Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled the demand of the local people and commuters for providing stoppage of Vande Bharat Train at Kathua station. He said this achievement was not a small feat as the entire process of ticketing and haltage was completed within just one-and-half-month period without tinkering with the mandated eight-hour journey time of the Vande Bharat Train.

Dr Jitendra Singh also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi on behalf of the local people, for acceding to their demand to change the name of the Udhampur Railway Station to Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station, saying that it is for the first time in the country that a railway station has been named after a martyred soldier. Dr Singh also informed that in an earlier notification, the word Udhampur had got inadvertently dropped but has been rectified naming the station as Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station Udhampur.

Dr Jitendra Singh added that the railway route to J&K is unique as it is among the few that have two Vande Bharat Trains chugging off, whereas many places in the country are yet to avail this state-of-the-art transport facility which was unveiled in 2015. He said the pair of Vande Bharat Trains were sanctioned for J&K after the trains of the same make were dedicated to Varanasi, the Parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Modi.

The Union Minister stated that Udhampur, which a major centre of the military in North India, will turn into a big junction in future, particularly when the Kashmir Valley gets connected to the rest of the country via the train in the next 3-4 months. Both Udhampur and Kathua Railway Stations will hold great significance in the coming decade, Dr Singh added.

Sharing the revised time schedule of the two Vande Bharat Trains, with Udhampur and Kathua as stoppages, Dr Jitendra Singh said it has been done keeping in mind commuters' comfort. He said travelers from Kathua and Udhampur can now have lunch in Delhi whereas travelers from Delhi can have dinner at the next destination.

The present departure timing of Train number 22478 from Katra is 6 am which has been changed to 5.50 am. The train will reach Udhampur railway station (Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Station) at 6.14 am and start further journey at 6.16 am.

As per revised timings, the train will reach Jammu railway station at 7.10 am and start after a two minute halt. It will reach Kathua at 8.03 am and start at 8.05 for further journey towards New Delhi.

Likewise, Train number 22477 from New Delhi will reach Kathua at 8.45 pm and depart at 8.47 pm. It will reach Jammu station at 9.45 pm and halt for two minutes. The train will reach Udhampur at 10.42 pm and start at 10.44 pm to reach Katra at 11.15 pm.

Jammu GMC to...

Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, Dr (Prof) Ashutosh Sharma, said, "We are on the job, and the NGS test facility is expected to begin in the hospital by the next two weeks."

"Initially, it will start with breast cancer, and it will be the first of its kind facility in the GMC in the Jammu region," said the Principal.

As per reports, over 55,000 cancer cases were detected in Jammu and Kashmir in the last five years. According to the Health Ministry data, 12396 cancer cases were reported in the year 2019, 12726 in 2020, 13060 in 2021, and 13395 in 2022.

Mouth and lung cancer in men and cervical and breast cancer in women are responsible for 50 percent of deaths due to cancer in Jammu and Kashmir.

"More than 6,000 cancer cases have been registered at the State Cancer Institute Jammu in the last year," official sources said.

SC refuses to stay new...

Centre on a plea filed by an NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, and listed the matter along with other pending petitions on the issue for hearing in April.

The plea challenged the constitutional validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, submitted the law is contrary to the constitution bench judgement of the apex court which had directed that the CJI be there on the panel that would appoint the CEC and ECs.

He said two election commissioners are about to superannuate, and if the operation of the law is not stayed, the plea will become infructuous.

"Sorry, we cannot grant you interim relief in the matter. The matter of constitutional validity never becomes infructuous. We know our parameters for granting interim relief," the bench told Bhushan, when he insisted on an interim stay.

The new law states: "Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of - (a) the Prime Minister - Chairperson; (b) the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People - Member; (c) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister - Member."

The plea said the law was enacted in 2023 in order to fill the vacuum under Article 324(2) of the Constitution of India.

"However, the impugned section restores the earlier position of law i.e. Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner would be done solely by the executive. The selection committee is dominated by the members from executive i.e. Prime Minister and Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister," it said. (Agencies)

97 Bn BSF sponsored Week-long Bharat Darshan Tour for Kupwara Students concludes



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA

Bharat Darshan Tour 2024 organized by 97 Battalion BSF Trehgam, Kupwara Kashmir under the Bharat Darshan program of MHA for Kashmiri students from 06th Feb to 12th Feb 2024 concluded today.

A Group of 14 Students (Boys) & 01 Teacher from Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Keran, Govt High School Mandian and Govt Upper Primary School, Naga which are located near Line of Control Participated in the said tour. On their arrival from the tour the group was given a warm welcome at 97 Bn BSF, Trehgam, Kupwara wherein the students enthusiastically shared their experiences and learnings from the tour. The tour was earlier flagged off by Brig (Retd) Manish Dutt

Upadhyay, DIG, SHQ BSF Kupwara on 06 Feb 2024.

During the 07 days tour, these students visited places of historical and cultural importance at Mumbai and witnessed the multicultural & multi-lingual diversity of mighty India. These students visited all the major tourist attractions in Mumbai "The Economic capital of India" like Film City, Vidhansabha, Juhu Chopati, Marine Drive, Gate Way of India, Elephanta Caves, Fashion Street, Belapur Dubble Junction, Nexus Seawood mall, Atal Setu, Hazi Ali Dargah, Bandra, Bungalow of Film Stars, Campus Area of 102 RAF CRPF, Local Market and also enjoyed a ride in the Metro train.

During the tour, students carried the message of love and peace from the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India.

Civil Defence Jammu organizes One-day awareness camp



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

One day awareness programme was held at Bhartiya Shiksha Kendra, Hr. Sec. School, Domana, Jammu which was organized under the supervision of Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu. The awareness programme was attended by 100 students of the School. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting, CPR, Chocking and other life saving techniques were given to the students by the Civil Defence expert. During the programme demonstration on the above said topics was also present-

ed by the Civil Defence team. The main aim of the awareness programme was to educate students with regard to preventive measures during natural or man-made disasters.

On the occasion Smt. Sandhya Pathania, Principal of the Hr. Sec. School appreciated and thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing such programme. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu, Smt. Monika Sharma, Vice-Principal of the School, Sh. Ram Dayal Saini, Sub-Inspector, in charge Civil Defence Trainings and other staff of the School also present on the occasion.

People working to further strengthen PM Modi's hands: Langer

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Sham Lal Langer, Convenor Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Trade Cell, Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that every segment of the society is today working to further strengthening the hands of Narendra Modi in carrying forward PM Modi's mission of nation building. He said that this is the result of the Govt's agenda of inclusiveness under the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' in which every section of the society irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion or regional affiliations has become part of the narrative.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that it is for the first time in the history of this nation that people of the nation feel that they are confidently marching ahead as proud Indians to become part of the coun-

try's growth story and a big leap to become an entity to reckon with at the global level. He said that today the nation is at the threshold of becoming a world leader under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The nations across the globe are today looking towards India with a hope of being instrumental in resolving complex global and regional issues and there should be no doubt about it that we are poised to become the Vishwaguru very soon.

Sham Langer said that the greatest achievement of the Modi led Govt in J&K is abrogation of Article 370 of the constitution and decisions the separatism and terrorism infrastructure and bringing the situation to near normalcy. This has further increased the confidence of the people of this UT in BJP led Govt and they overwhelmingly favour a third term for PM Modi which will be proved in the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

Routine pursuit by officers, sustained communication vital for efficient governance: Rehana Batul

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Secretary Information, Rehana Batul, chaired a public darbar at Panchayat Marhol in block Arnia today.

The event, which saw participation from both public representatives and locals, recorded several issues and concerns primarily focused on challenges faced by the people in the block, particularly in border areas, where uncertainties and cross-border shelling pose innumerable threats and hardships for the inhabitants.

Addressing the gathering, Rehana Batul reiterated the importance of fostering communication between the public and government functionaries for efficient governance and effective implementation of welfare and development programmes. She emphasized regular social audits of MGNREGA and other rural development works while assessing the status of various works being executed under the sector. She assured that social welfare pension issues would be addressed in consultation with the Social Welfare Department.



The Administrative Secretary educated the masses about the Back to Village programme, emphasising the significance of sustained communication for overall benefit of the public and effective public service delivery. She also addressed some of the power related concerns raised by the public, on the spot. She instructed the concerned Power Development Department official to look into the power meter related issues so that the public do not face any inconvenience on this account. She urged upon the public representatives to play their role in raising awareness among the people regarding the need and importance of judicious use of power.

She conducted a comprehensive review of ground achievements of Jal Shakti Department, emphasising maximum coverage under the Har Ghar Nal Se Jal mission. She also stressed the importance of water testing to ensure the people get safe drinking water supply. She highlighted the vital economic role of maintaining tube wells and urged the concerned department to prioritise their upkeep and functionality. She also took stock of issues concerning irrigation canals and their cleaning, ration cards, education facilities and animal husbandry department. She asked the concerned officers from PWD (R&B) to explain the status of proposed projects, including the NABARD road and bridge. She also instructed the Block Medical Officer and others to address development demands related to the Primary Health Center Arnia. The Secretary advocated timely establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya besides acknowledging demands for vocational training, ITI set up and improved public transport through JKRTC.

The event witnessed presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ansuya Jamwal, SDM Jammu South, Atul Dutt Sharma, ACD and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Bandipora chairs preliminary meeting on District Irrigation Plan formulation

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA FEBRUARY 13

In order to frame comprehensive strategy aimed to optimize water resources, enhance agricultural productivity, and ensure the resilience of farming communities in the face of climate variability, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman today discussed District Irrigation Plan (DIP) in a meeting convened at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting encompasses detailed assessments of water availability, distribution infrastructure, soil types, cropping patterns, and technological interventions tailored to meet the needs of the district.

The meeting discussed various features and objectives of the District Irrigation Plan and various components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojna (PMKSY).

Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora, Javid Ahmad Samoon, who is member secretary District Level Committee DIP-PMKSY Bandipora, apprised the chair regarding various parameters of DIP through power point presentation.



The DC on the occasion highlighted strategy and approach needed to be adopted for creation of new water sources, repair and renovation of defunct water sources besides stressed on construction of water harvesting structures for efficient water and crop management. The DC asked the concerned to take into account problems faced by people while framing District Irrigation Plan and to come up with alternative solutions in case of drought.

Shakeel ur Rehman also emphasized on the concerned departments to take up embankment works in low-lying areas where required to prevent river flooding.

Besides CPO Bandipora Mohammad Maqbool, the meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Executive Engineers I&FC Bandipora and submal and other concerned.

DC Reasi inaugurates District Premium League

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 13

In order to promote youth engagement towards sports, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan inaugurated District Premium League in General Zarowar Singh Sports Stadium which is organised by Hindustan Cricket Club.

While inaugurating the event, the Deputy Commissioner commended the Hindustan Cricket Club for their commendable initiative in organizing and hosting such events. He emphasized the crucial role of such sporting engagements in aligning with the government's vision of a Nasha Mukht Bharat, highlighting the importance of engaging youth in constructive activities like sports.



The DC reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to promoting sports and its manifold benefits. He emphasized that sports activities play a pivotal role in the holistic development of youth, impacting their social, physical and mental well-being positively. Furthermore, he underscored how participation in games fosters sportsmanship qualities among individuals, equipping them with essential skills to navigate and succeed in life.

SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma, DSP Hqs Neeraj Padihar, SHO Reasi were also present on the occasion.

Road Safety Month-2024: multiple Road Safety events held at Bijbehara sub-division

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 13



The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Anantnag, in collaboration with the Health department and Govt Medical College Anantnag today organized a blood donation camp at Sumo Stand Bijbehara under the aegis of National Road Safety Month 2024.

The camp was inaugurated by Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Anantnag, Dr Mohammad Zubair Lattoo, who was also the chief guest on the occasion. Speaking at the event, ARTO Anantnag said that the aim of the blood donation camp was to ensure availability of sufficient blood in the blood banks for accident victims, allowing for immediate lifesaving interventions during the 'Golden Hour' period. In another event, a First Aid and CPR training camp was also organised in which hundreds of drivers were imparted training on First Aid and CPR. Life saving skills like how to use Fire Extinguishers, Use of tourniquet in case of bleeding, Mouth to mouth breathing etc were given to the participants. Later, a maxi cab rally on Road Safety was flagged-off from Dooru by ARTO Anantnag which culminated in Kapran area of Verinag.

Officials from Health, ICDS, Police, Numberdars, members of youth club were imparted training on various aspects related to the action plan and the role of different departments in combating and tackling the menace of drug abuse.

SWD conducts one day training/ awareness camp under NAPDDR at GDC Zainpora



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 13

Social Welfare Department (SWD) Shopian today conducted a one

day training cum awareness programme under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) at Govt. Degree College Zainpora.

The chief guest, Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainpora, Mushtaq Ahmed Lone addressed the role of Civil Society and Administration in dealing with drug related issues and the need of such programmes in sub-division which is worst-hit. The programme was attended by SDPO Zainpora, Sunil Kumar; TSWO, Farhana Tak; Central Administrator OSC, Sumaira Gulzar; Women Welfare Officer, Burooj-ul-Islam and other officials of the Social Welfare department.

DC Doda inspects Parisha Home for Girls at Nagri Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 13

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh conducted a thorough inspection of Parisha Home for Girls in Nagri Doda. The purpose of the visit was to assess the overall condition of the hostel, including its rooms, kitchen, and other facilities. Accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer Doda, the DC Doda emphasized the importance of providing all necessary amenities to the girls residing in Parisha Home.

The DC interacted with both the inmates and officials of the home. He encouraged open communication between inmates and the staff to address the issues, if any, timely and promptly.

During the inspection, the DC inspected the record of the home and directives were given to ensure that the hostel maintains up-to-date facilities and that any challenges faced by the students/inmates are promptly addressed by coordinating with the District Social Welfare Officer Doda.

Chairperson DDC Kulgam chairs Public Darbar at Gadihama



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 13

In a bid to listen to the people and ward-off their grievances, the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parrey today chaired a public darbar at Gadihama, Kulgam.

Public darbar witnessed participation of a large number of people from the said areas, who flagged-off their issues, grievances and demands with the chair.

RTO Jammu organises awareness camp for commercial vehicle drivers, pollution checking centres

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

In line with ongoing NRSM celebration, Regional Transport Officer, Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra organized an awareness programme with vendors of Pollution Checking Centres at Ware house Jammu.

Addressing the gathering he said that regular awareness program for commercial vehicle drivers is a crucial initiative to promote safe driving practices and reduce the risk of accidents on the roads.

Another one such program was held at fitness test ground Nagrota during which commercial vehicle driver were sensitized about defensive driving techniques of driving, educated traffic rules and Regulations, vehicle maintenance, fatigue management, first aid etc.

Commissioner SMC conducts surprise visit to all Wings/ Sections of Central Office Karan Nagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 13

In a proactive move to enhance productivity and efficiency, the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed Tuesday conducted a surprise visit to all wings and sections of the central office, here. The purpose of the visit was to monitor attendance, interaction with office staff, and address their grievances. During the visit, the Commissioner personally engaged with the employees, listening to their concerns and providing patient attention to their grievances. This initiative aimed to promote a supportive work environment and boost morale among the staff of the Corporation.

Furthermore, the Commissioner directed the Works Wing of SMC to initiate the process of transformation of all offices into smart offices. This strategic decision is intended to cultivate a smart work culture that aligns with modern practices and facilitates improved productivity.

By implementing the smart office concept, SMC aims to streamline workflow, enhance communication, and optimize resources. This transition will serve as a catalyst for positive change and innovation within the organization to encourage a dynamic and progressive work environment.

ADDC Shopian flags-off group of Orchardists for training/exposure tour



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 13

The Additional District Development Commissioner, (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today flagged-off a group of 60 orchardists from Mini-Secretariat Shopian for training cum exposure tour to SKUAST-K Shalimar and Central Institute for Temperate Horticulture Srinagar.

During the tour, Orchardists will interact with the Scientists of the SKUAST-K and CITH, and will also visit the different demonstration plots for imparting Practical Training about establishment/ upkeep of High Density Fruit Plantation and organic farming in the field of Horticulture.

The exposure tour was organised by the Department of Horticulture Shopian under ATMA.

On the occasion, ADDC interacted with the Orchardists and took feedback on various schemes and programmes implemented by the department.

The tour is aimed to enrich knowledge of Orchardists and enhance agricultural practices besides providing Orchardists firsthand experience and insights into innovative farming techniques, sustainable practices and modern technologies.

Participants will have the opportunity to interact with experts and fellow Orchardists, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing, he added.

Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Shopian, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, Chief Horticulture Officer, Shopian, Mohammad Ramzan War, other officers and officials of Horticulture Department were present on the occasion.

EDITORIAL

Lal Singh's BJP return?

Political circles of Jammu and Kashmir are abuzz with speculations that former minister Choudhary Lal Singh who floated Dogra Swabhimaan Sangthan (DSS) after parting ways from BJP is likely to rejoin the Saffron party on February 20. The development holds significance ahead of the Lok Sabha polls as Singh has the ability to impact voter turnout through his own style of leadership. Both sides, however, have maintained a complete silence over the subject and have preferred to wait for an "appropriate time". What has added fuel to the rumours are the conflicting statements of Dogra Swabhimaan Sangathan Party's founder Choudhary Lal Singh who in an informal chat with media persons recently has neither denied nor confirmed his rejoining the Saffron Brigade. Though the local saffron party leaders deny such development, some leaders in the BJP high command have confirmed the return of Chaudhary Lal Singh into the party fold. Singh has been lately sojourning in the capital, apparently being called by the high command for a deliberation. Singh, who has remained a Lok Sabha member from Kathua-Udhampur-Doda parliamentary seat, is also reportedly in touch with the Congress party which has also been exploring the options of fielding him again from the same seat but Singh's reluctance and the possibility of his return to BJP folds have become one of the major hindrances in this direction. A group within the BJP has suggested the idea of bringing back Choudhary Lal Singh to the party before the Lok Sabha elections. They have started back-door talks with Singh to explore the possibilities of his rejoining the BJP. After grilling him for three days, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) formally arrested Choudhary Lal Singh in a money laundering case on November 8 last year. The ED investigation had revealed that RB Educational Trust through its chairperson Kanta Andotra (ex-MLA), her husband Ch Lal Singh (ex-minister and two times ex-MP), and other trustees in connivance with Ravinder Singh (the then Patwari), Gaurav Sharma (the then Naib Tehsildar) and Subhash Chander (the then Tehsildar) had entered into criminal conspiracy during the period 2011 for wrongful issuance of 'fards' to retain lands to the extent of more than 328 kanal in favour of her trust beyond the permissible limit of 100 standard kanal. However, in its latest observation, the court granting interim bail to Lal Singh had observed that interim bail granted to the petitioner be made absolute, of course, all conditions drawn shall remain alive pending proceedings, if any, by way of a complaint by the ED. After going through the entire procedure, the Party High Command had allegedly come to know about a fishy game plan that laid a trap for Lal Singh. Certain media reports that a high-profile Delhi-based political leader from JK UT made things go wrong for Lal Singh as he feared Lal Singh's rising acceptability among the masses in Jammu and Kashmir has made Singh's rejoining BJP an interesting case. In August 2014, Singh parted ways with Congress after being denied a ticket as a Congress candidate during the 16th Lok Sabha elections. He later formally joined the BJP. He resigned as cabinet minister in 2018 and left BJP following the alleged Kathua rape and murder case. Opposition parties are keenly watching the development and have kept all guns blazing at the BJP for allegedly intimidating politicians to bring them into the folds of the Saffron Brigade.

Delink disinvestment from the Budget

UTTAM GUPTA

In a briefing following the presentation of the interim Budget for the financial year (FY) 2024-25 by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2024, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan stated that the "government no longer views disinvestment - fancy nomenclature for sale of Union government shareholding in central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) - from the perspective of balancing the budget". The statement is out of sync with Sitharaman setting a target of Rs 50,000 crore as proceeds from disinvestment for the FY 2024-25 though it wasn't mentioned in her speech.

If, the government's intent was not to view it as an exercise in balancing the budget - as stated by the finance secretary - then, it made no sense to fix a target. Yet, setting a target for boosting non-tax revenue receipts means that it hasn't shed its age-old stance of linking this exercise with the budget.

To plan for garnering resources from the sale of government shares in CPSUs is inherently flawed. This is because unlike tax revenue, which can be projected with a degree of certainty based on the existing tax rate and a reasonable assessment of the growth in nominal GDP, the same cannot be said about proceeds from disinvestment. In this case, a lot

depends on the market scenario and, in particular, the perception of investors about the company in which share-sale is contemplated.

In cases where the strategic sale (it reduces the government's holding in the CPSU to below 50 per cent or privatization) is mooted, the Government faces a bigger challenge as apart from a favourable market, it needs bidders with deep pockets. The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape further undermines the chances of its kicking the ball rolling just around the time when the strategic investors are ready to put in their bids.

The Niti Aayog identifies companies for disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) - a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc., for approval. After AM's approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moves a proposal for in-principle approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

It is therefore not surprising that the Modi - government has missed its disinvestment targets ever since it started the process in 2015-16 with a particular focus on 'strategic' sales. Only

during two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19, it achieved the target. That was primarily because, in those years, it had conducted two big-ticket sales of its shares from one CPSU to another.

During 2017-18, the government sold 51.11 per cent of its shareholding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) yielding Rs 37,000 crore. In the following year, it undertook the sale of its 52.63 per cent stake in the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) yielding Rs 13,000 crore. But, those sales can't be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC.

For the current FY, while presenting the budget on February 1, 2023, Sitharaman had set a target of Rs 51,000 crore for proceeds of disinvestment. This has since been revised downwards to Rs 30,000 crore. Against this, as of February 1, 2024, the government has raised only about Rs 12,500 crore, and it is unlikely that even the revised divestment target will be met.

At a fundamental level, disinvestment of the government's shareholding in a PSU is in effect sale of its assets. Therefore, receipts arising therefrom can only be treated

as 'capital receipts' (CRs). While preparing the budget, it won't be logical to plan for receipts from this source in the same manner as it is done for revenue receipts (RRs) which are receipts generated from the day-to-day business activities e.g. dividends on shares held by the government. The government should change the track. It should unequivocally fall in line with what the finance secretary has indicated. It should pursue share sales 'independent' of the budget exercise.

The government's tax revenue is buoyant (for three years in a row since 2021-22, these have exceeded the BE) and it is getting higher dividends from CPSUs as also higher dividends from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and state-run banks. These positive trends should be good enough for managing fiscal deficits. Hence, its budget need not have to depend on proceeds from disinvestment.

The FM has referred to the approach to share sales outlined in her Budget speech for 2021-22. Under it, CPSUs are divided into two broad categories i.e. strategic and non-strategic. The strategic group covers atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other

sectors such as industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing.

While, the government wants to sell CPSUs in the strategic sector with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sector, it will privatize 'all' undertakings in non-strategic sectors. All loss-making undertakings in the latter category will be closed. However, it needs to unshackle the process from a host of legacy issues.

Foremost, the majority ownership and control by the Government for several decades has ingrained in the bureaucrat a feeling of exercising command over the management of the PSU. Although things have improved under the Modi - dispensation (courtesy of its focus on a 'policy-driven state', and increase in 'transparency'), the basic ingredients remain intact. This mindset has to go.

Second, even after strategic sales, the government wants to remain in the driver's seat. This is amply reflected in a statement in Sitharaman's budget speech for FY 2019-20. She had stated the intent was to change the existing policy from "directly" holding 51 per cent or above in a CPSU, to one whereby its total holding, "direct" plus "indirect", is maintained at 51 per cent. This stance remains intact.

Third, it remains inclined

to use CPSUs for achieving other unrelated objectives. For instance, it uses fertilizer PSUs to ensure adequate availability of this politically sensitive agri-input in every nook and corner of the country. This has come in the way of taking up the strategic sale of nine CPSUs in the fertilizer sector (it falls in the non-strategic category) recommended for sale by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and Niti Aayog.

Despite, the deregulation of petrol and diesel prices way back in 2010/2014, the government continues to regulate their prices.

For this purpose, it rides piggyback on oil PSUs which control over 90 percent of the total sales. For this reason, the strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) hasn't happened nearly four years after it was initially mooted in 2019-20.

Fourth, the government wants to use CPSUs to build infrastructure and invest in green transition to meet climate mitigation goals. While the argument is tenable, this doesn't undermine a case for vigorously pursuing strategic sales to maximize asset value besides involving the private sector in achieving climate goals. Modi should remove all legacy obstacles and debureaucratize the process of share sale.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Regulators cannot chase you for compliance, but they can surely chase you out of business

SRINATH SRIDHARAN

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s recent regulatory stand against Paytm Payments Bank (PPB) is a lesson for many entities where compliance is not a pillar of the organisation and their business model assumes that its creativity and innovation can replace compliance.

It's essential to steer the narrative away from pitting the RBI-against-Vijay Shekhar Sharma debate. The crux of the matter lies in the RBI's legitimate regulatory expectations of full compliance from the PPB, an entity under its regulation and licensing. Attempts to paint the RBI's actions as a witch hunt or to evoke sympathy through sob stories detract from the core issue at hand - ensuring regulatory compliance and upholding the integrity of the financial system.

Engaging in such diversionary tactics only serves to obfuscate the responsibility of entities like the PPB to adhere to regulatory standards and address any shortcomings transparently and expeditiously.

If a regulator must chase its regulated entities for compliance, it speaks very poorly of the entities. Unless this culture of compliance changes to fundamental sanctity and the way of doing business, it won't augur well for society.

'Non-compliance is the fast-track to making regulators your new best frenemies'

But then again, here are lessons for the regulators. Take action, proactively. Yes, one can be lenient, but repeated compliance issues cannot be condoned. It would only indicate that the regulatory system may not be independent and

under regulatory capture by the industry or influentials. Or that the supervisory capabilities of the regulators are feeble.

Again, when one looks at frantic calls to the regulator to be lenient because of the popularity of the entity, there could be a way out. Save the entity, but dock those who forced the regulatory hands to act with severity.

Financial entities must prioritise full compliance with regulatory requirements to maintain trust, stability, and legitimacy within the industry. Compliance not only ensures adherence to legal and ethical standards, but also mitigates risks associated with regulatory penalties, reputational damage, and loss of consumer confidence. While achieving full compliance is an ongoing endeavour, financial entities should continually

strive to improve the quality of their compliance efforts through robust internal controls, regular audits, staff training, and responsiveness to regulatory feedback.

Financial market history is replete with examples of large entities facing severe consequences due to non-compliance with regulations. It is crucial to send a strong message to entrants into the market about the non-negotiable importance of compliance. By enforcing regulations rigorously and holding violators accountable, regulators not only protect investors and consumers but also uphold the integrity and trustworthiness of the financial system.

The pervasive adoption of a 'growth at any cost' mantra among many organisations raises significant concerns. When growth (linked to boosting valuations) becomes the singular

focus, it can lead to a dangerous neglect of regulatory compliance and ethical considerations. In the pursuit of rapid expansion and market dominance, organisations may resort to cutting corners, disregarding regulatory requirements, and tolerating compliance lapses. This shortsighted approach not only exposes the organisation to legal and financial risks, but also undermines the integrity and stability of the financial system as a whole. Compliance lapses in financial businesses can result in severe consequences, including regulatory sanctions, reputational damage, loss of investor trust, and ultimately, systemic instability. Innovation or creativity does not mean that one gets a pardon infinitely for anything repeatedly missed. There have been examples of how to solve such a founders' dilemma.

'Simply don't run anything that's regulated'

Let appropriately qualified and experienced professional leaders run the entity, as well as chair your boards. Stick to being a shareholder, and enjoy the financial outcomes of a well-run and respected entity. In the United States tech field, it is common to see founders not having executive roles, but simply enjoy what they do best - code or program management software. That's a larger message to founders who think compliance is someone else's job. If you are in the finance business, behave well enough to stay in the field. Regulators cannot keep chasing you for compliance, but surely can chase you out of the race.

(Srinath Sridharan is a policy researcher and corporate adviser. X: @ssmumbai.)

Strive for all-round development

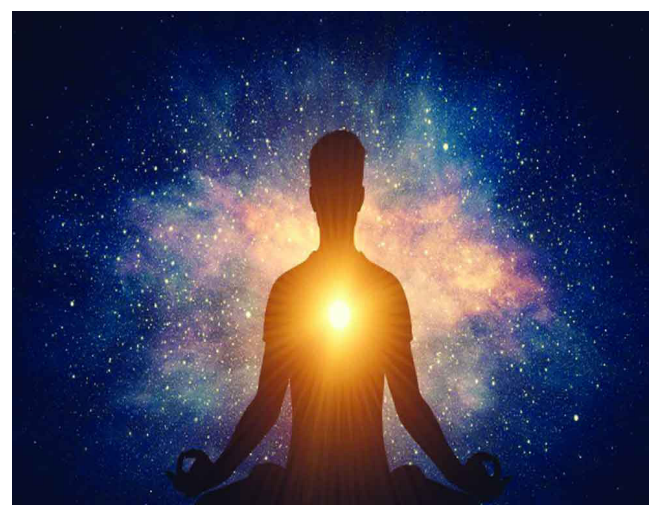
RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

All of us dream of a world without poverty, that is equitable, that respects the dignity of all living beings, and the sacredness of the natural world. There is no doubt that it is an achievable dream, but we all must collectively pave a new way to make it into reality. Over the past two millennia, man has made great strides in almost every field of development as a result of which, today we have achieved a standard of living and scientific development unimaginable even half a century ago. But, if development concerns the betterment of the human being and his relationship with other humans and beings, then one would find that we have come down the wrong path in our quest for material fulfilment. Right? When we

discuss development, we usually talk of economic development to meet material needs, measured perhaps through growth in the GNP or GDP. So, is this all that there is to development?

Does economics measure everything? The answer to this is NO, because if we are aiming at all-round development, then it must include not only material progress but social and cultural dimensions as well.

It's a fact that cannot be denied that the ideal of development as a continuing process of growth, creation, improvement and positive change has yielded to a reality more frequently marked by destruction, degradation and negativity. In his quest for improving his lot, man first turned to religion, which not only provided an anchor for his life but



also answered some of the questions about his existence in this world and his place vis a vis the universal scheme of things. However, with time, religion itself got corrupted by ritualism and the greed for power, thereby making men disillusioned, who then turned to politics, to make their lives better. They sought succour and salvation from political ideologies

but to no avail, resulting in their pinning hopes on science. With the aid of science, much development happened in several fields.

Today as we stand on the threshold of both hope and fear of losing everything, we realise that materialistic progress is a transient solution and hence the effort to establish lasting peace and prosperity for all has to come

from an imperishable source. The seed of lasting peace and happiness lies in human values and wisdom, which are both eternal and universal. The need of the hour is that we have to look at our development from a broader perspective than the one we have been adopting so far. Our narrow concept of development can find its roots in a narrow concept of the self that neglects the larger reality of the soul and overlooks the essential unity of the human family. Hence we need to move from an overly materialistic approach to one that includes the broader and deeper realities of human life and experience i.e. the inner world of our thoughts and values and the innate spirituality on which our worth and dignity are based. Spirituality offers us a methodology to deepen our awareness of our inner being. From this awareness may follow steps to develop or change the self in ways that are conducive to the kind of world we want. Values and spirituality are at the heart of not just who we are but also of the political, social, economic and environmental issues we are facing. Remember! A development that sustains all people depends at least as much on spiritual empowerment as on material progress and prosperity. So let us inject values into our society by effective education in self-awareness, and spiritual principles and realize our dream of a world that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

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

UTRC meeting held at District Court Complex Kupwara



JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 13

In accordance with the guidelines of NALSA and under the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting was today held at District Court Complex, Kupwara. Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kupwara, Shazia Tabasum, who is also Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge Kupwara presided over the meeting, which was also attended by ADC Kupwara, ASP Kupwara, In-charge CMO Kupwara, SP Jail Kupwara, SP Jail Baramulla, and Public

Prosecutor Kupwara & Legal Aid Defense Counsels Kupwara. The meeting was aimed for identification and review of prisoners lodged in District Jail Kupwara, who are eligible to be considered for release under the SOPs issued by NALSA. During the meeting, medical facilities provided to the jail inmates, condition of sick jail inmates, women offenders and other facilities provided to jail inmates was discussed. Later, the Principal District & Sessions Judge expressed gratitude to all the officers for their participation in the meeting.

Secretary Planning reviews implementation of BADP



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Secretary Planning Development, Monitoring and Reviewing Department, Aijaz Asad, today chaired a review meeting regarding functioning of Border Area Development Programme. District Development Commissioners and Chief Planning Officers of BADP districts of UT of J&K including Director General (PMCE) and Deputy Director (BADP), among other officials from PD&MD were present in the meeting. The Secretary reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under the ambitious programme in the districts. He had exhaustive interaction with each District Development Commissioner regarding the implemen-

tation status of the initiative in their respective districts. The Secretary exhorted upon all stakeholders to work in tandem so that set targets under Border Area Development Programme are achieved in time. He asked the District Development Commissioners to ensure full utilization of funds available with the districts, besides completion of all the ongoing works implemented by the district authorities under BADP in order to get fresh instalment of funds from MHA, GoI. Furthermore, the Secretary impressed upon all Chief Planning Officers, to update the Physical and Financial Progress on BADP OMS Portal in line with the actual figures, within stipulated timelines.

DDC Kupwara reviews progress under Zimadari Project



JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 13

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the implementation of Zimadari Project of the Education department. On the occasion, it was informed that a comprehensive exercise has already been done regarding the implementation of Zimadari Project in the district and a dashboard to capture elaborate detail of various indicators is already in place to monitor the progress of different indicators, school wise. The DDC stressed upon the concerned officers to identify indicators for targeted intervention for more meaningful results of this comprehensive exercise. She directed CEO Kupwara to sit with

the representatives of the Pratham and Parimal Foundation and chalk out the comprehensive plan for interventions needed for successful implementation of the Zimadari project. She also directed the CEO to finalize modules of refresher training courses for the teachers in consultation with experts from Pratham and Parimal Foundation by next Monday. She said that, to begin with, 25 schools which are figuring in Category-D as per the assessment will be targeted for imparting 30-days learning courses, as per the specialized modules. The meeting was attended by Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Principal DIET Kupwara, Dy. CEO Kupwara, and representatives from Pratham and Parimal Foundations.

KVK Anantnag initiates Skill Training programmes to empower Rural Youth

JNEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 13

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, SKUAST-Kashmir has embarked on a significant initiative to enhance the skill set of rural youth through a series of training programmes under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) in collaboration with State Agricultural Management Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), DOE-SKUAST-Kashmir and MANAGE-Hyderabad. These skill training programmes are specifically aimed to empower rural youth including women and tribals. The first programme titled 'Empowering Tribal Women through Artisan Skills' commenced on 12 February, 2024 at Gujar Basti Zamalgam, Doru, marking the beginning of this impactful series. Today, another training programme titled 'Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Integrated Farming System (IFS)' was held at KVK-Anantnag campus.



and strengthening the district's skilled manpower. He reiterated KVK Anantnag's commitment to uplifting the socio-economic conditions of resource-poor farmers by nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit through knowledge and skill empowerment. The programmes, spanning over seven days, feature a diverse range of activities including lectures by experts, practical handouts and exposure visits. This concerted effort by KVK-Anantnag signifies a pivotal step towards fostering sustainable development and prosperity in rural communities.

Transformative Training Programme in Bamboo Furniture Making launched at CFC Sallan, Kathua

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

Under the guidance of Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, Suraj Parkash Rukwal, Director Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu, spearheaded a transformative 1-month training programme in Bamboo furniture making at the Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Sallan, Kathua. This initiative has been sponsored by the Directorate of Handloom and Handicrafts Jammu and organised by North East Cane Bamboo Development Council, Assam (NECBDC) with an objective to empower 25 artisans from Kathua district with essential skills in Bamboo craftsmanship. The event also included an insightful inspection of the Common Facility Centre, poised to emerge



as a Centre of Excellence in Bamboo Craft in near future. In addition to the inspection, the delegation also visited the sale outlet of Handloom and handicrafts in Hiranagar, Kathua, underlining the importance of promoting and showcasing locally made products. During the event, Director Handloom & Handicrafts felicitated numerous artisans by presenting them with bamboo tool kits. He also shed light on various departmental schemes, aiming to raise awareness and provide support to artisans. The Department's persistent efforts have been instrumental in establishing the Common Facility Centre for Bamboo at Sallan and the CFC for Agarbati at Billaar. Both facilities are nearing completion and are set to be operational soon, promising a significant boost to the handicraft sector in the district. Joint Director Handicrafts, Tilak Raj Thappa; Deputy Director Planning, Mega Baogia and AD Handicrafts Kathua Pardeep Shan were also present on the occasion.

DDC reviews progress of Holistic Agriculture Development Plan in Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 13

District Development Commissioner, Reasi Vishesh Mahajan today chaired a meeting with key officers to assess the latest achievements under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan in the district. Sukhdev Singh Sameyal, Additional District Development Commissioner Reasi; Dr. Sarfaraz Naseem Choudhary, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, CAO; CHO, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries, District Sericulture Officer Reasi, and Agriculture Planning and Marketing Officer were present in the meeting. Dr. Sarfaraz Naseem Choudhary, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Reasi, provided a comprehensive review of all relevant sectors, focusing on the expenditure for the year 2023-24. The DDC issued necessary instructions to expedite spending in areas where it is lacking and addressed bottlenecks, if any, faced by some departments in project



implementation. Emphasizing the HADP's crucial role in establishing a robust and profitable agricultural ecosystem, the DDC urged banks to fast-track loan processes, highlighting the initiative's significance in supporting farmers. He called upon departmental officers to ensure effective HADP implementation, aiming for the optimal benefit of farming communities. Stressing the prompt approval of loans under allied department schemes, the DDC's emphasis on expeditious loan sanctioning reflects a proactive approach to meeting farmers' financial needs and enhancing their well-being. Furthermore, the DDC directed concerned officers to raise awareness among farmers about the schemes, complete targeted objectives before February 28, 2024, and create a database of farmers who have not availed the HADP Scheme. He also urged officers to foster a people-friendly atmosphere for the effective implementation of these schemes on the ground and emphasized the initiation of special campaigns and advertisements to ensure every farmer is informed about the schemes.

Khelo India Winter Games: DC B'la visits Gulmarg, finalizes arrangements

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA FEBRUARY 13

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today visited Tangmarg and Gulmarg, and finalized the arrangements for the successful conduct of upcoming 4th Edition of Khelo India National Winter Games 2024 at Ski-Resort Gulmarg. The DC accompanied by the visiting team from concerned departments conducted inspections of multiple slots across Tangmarg and Gulmarg to be leveraged as parking facilities to efficiently manage the influx of vehicles driven by the heightened tourist activity during the winter games. During on-spot assessment of the road connecting to Gulmarg, the DC directed the R&B and Mechanical & Engineering department to remove any frozen ice and clear snow from the road sides. The DC also conducted an inspection of the ski slopes to assess their condition, ensuring they are prepared and maintained for optimal use by skiers during the upcoming games. Later, the DC convened



a meeting at Golf Club Gulmarg which was attended by Director Health Services, SDM Gulmarg, CEO, Police Officers, officers from R&B, M&E, PHE, PDD, Health and other concerned departments. During the meeting the DC directed the ARTO and Traffic police Baramulla to implement efficient measures to manage traffic flow during the Winter Games and instructed them to enforce mandatory use of anti-skid chains for all vehicles operated either by transporters or general public, in case of a snowfall. PDD and PHE were directed to ensure provision for uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water during the period of Khelo India National Winter Games. The Director Health Services informed the meeting that they already have doctors, para-medical staff, ambulances stationed at Gulmarg to cater to any needs of emergency during the period. Officers from the Mechanical and Engineering Department assured the DC that the department has proper machinery stationed for any snow clearance operations in case of any inclement weather conditions. Minga Sherpa also assessed the lodging and accommodation provisions for athletes and guests visiting Gulmarg during that period to ensure impeccable service.

KVIB Kathua organizes Awareness programme on PMEGP & JKREGP



JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 13

Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) organized one day awareness camp on Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) at ITI Kathua under the Chairmanship of Secretary/CEO J&K KVIB, Dr. Jagdish Chander. Among others, Director RSETI, LDM Kathua, Cluster

Head J&K Bank, Regional Manager JKGB, Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Superintendent, ITI, Kathua and large number of aspirant entrepreneurs and educated unemployed youth of the Kathua area attended the programme. Secretary/CEO KVIB Dr. Jagdish Chander informed the gathering that Self Employment Schemes like PMEGP & JKREGP are the best alternative in the current scenario to get employment and generating sustainable source of income. He further appealed for getting maximum benefit under these Schemes. Speaking on Occasion Dy. CEO KVIB, Tilak Raj & District officer KVIB Kathua S. Harvinder Singh explained the gathering regarding processing of applications under KVIB Schemes at different level. Besides, Director RSETI informed the public regarding trainings imparted by their Institute to desirous candidates under various crafts, free of cost.

DC inaugurates JKB ATM at Laroo, Kulgam



JNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 13

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today inaugurated Jammu & Kashmir Bank's automated teller machine (ATM) at Laroo, Kulgam. This is the 29th ATM of J&K bank in Kulgam district. The cash dispensing terminal was inaugurated in presence of the Bank's Zonal Head Khursheed Muzaffar, Cluster Head Shariq Mehraj amid a good gathering of valuable customers, Traders besides other Bank officials.

While inaugurating the ATM, the DC commended the Jammu and Kashmir Bank for its efforts in expanding its network. It was informed that the newly inaugurated ATM will provide convenient banking services to the people of Kulgam and traders as the ATM is located near bus stand Laroo Kulgam. This will also enable residents to withdraw cash, check their account balance and perform various other transactions without having to travel to distant bank branches. The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir who is also Adjudicating Officer Handwara and Kupwara today imposed a fine of Rs 1,40,000 on various Food Business operators (FBOs) for violating various provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) 2006. The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for selling miss branded and substandard food) during the proceeding of cases related to the FSSAI-2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer. The Adjudicating Officer warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of FSSAI-2006 and rules there under by the FBOs will be dealt with more strictly in coming time.

SMVDU, JKSTIC, Udhampur jointly organize One-Day Awareness Program on 'Clean and Green Energy Technologies'

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

School of Energy Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, a leading educational institution and promoter for sustainability and environmental conservation organised a one-day awareness program focused on clean and green energy technologies in collaboration with the Department of Science & Technology, JKSTIC, Udhampur. The primary objective of this initiative is to educate individuals and communities about the latest advancements and innovations in clean energy technologies, with a specific emphasis on their role in mitigating climate change and promoting a more sustainable future. In his keynote address, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU highlighted

the steps taken by SMVDU in organizing high quality awareness programmes, workshops and conferences. He stressed that such events help in broadening the knowledge base of the participants. Prof. Pragati Kumar highlighted various aspects of Clean and Green Energy Technologies. He said that this awareness program will make all of us understand the need for clean energy, sustainable development and spread awareness and knowledge among the participants and society. Ms. Shruti Khanna District Coordinator JKSTIC highlighted the major initiatives and activities undertaken by DST, J&K. In her address, she expressed the event's objective to encourage the young minds across and hoped they would be role models with a particular emphasis on promoting Green Energy for Sustainable Development.



Dr. Ankit Tyagi, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT, Jammu laid emphasis on super capacitors for electric vehicles. He stressed on the new advancements in materials for reliability of electric vehicles.

Arjun Maini, Managing Director, Maini Industries, Jammu delivered a lecture on the aspect of clean energy and its environmental benefits as part of a global energy future. Renewable resources also preserve the world's natural resources and also reduce the risk of environmental disasters. Mr. Himanshu Malpotra, Assistant Manager, GERMI deliberated on policy and

regulatory framework. He discussed various Govt. Policies regarding Solar Rooftop power plants. Dr. Vineet Veer Tyagi, Head, School of Energy Management and Dean R&D highlighted the initiatives taken by School of Energy Management for climate change mitigation. "By bringing together experts, stakeholders, and members of the public, we hope to inspire collective action and drive positive change in our communities". Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Dean R&D and Coordinator of the programme in his welcome address explained about the schedule of the awareness programme and

stressed upon the need for the same. By organizing the awareness program in collaboration with the Department of Science & Technology, JKSTIC, Udhampur, we aim to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to embrace renewable energy solutions and reduce their carbon footprint. "We believe that raising awareness about clean and green energy technologies is essential for accelerating the transition to a low-carbon future," added Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, and coordinator of the workshop. The inaugural function of the event was attended by Deans and Heads of different schools. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Ar. Navin Gupta, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Landscape Design, SMVD University.

Dental awareness camp inaugurated at District Jail Bhandarwah

JNEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, FEB 13

Pr District and Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority Bhandarwah Sunit Gupta here today inaugurated a dental awareness cum hygiene camp for the inmates of District Jail Bhandarwah. The camp was organised by Indira Gandhi Government Dental College in collaboration with J&K Legal Services Authority and Prison Department, J&K. Secretary DLSA (Sub Judge) Ramesh Lal, Dr Azhar Malik from Govt Dental College Jammu, Supdt District Jail Mush-taq Ahmed Malla, Dy LDC Advocate Pooja Kotwal and Panel Lawyer DLSA Advocate Mohd Majid Malik along with all PIVs of DLSA and team of 22 dental surgeons from Indira Gandhi Dental College Jammu were also present on the



occasion. While addressing after inaugurating the one camp, Pr District and Sessions Judge Sunit Gupta said that dental hygiene is equally important for every person but due to lack of awareness the people normally ignore these issues.

He said this awareness cum hygiene camp has been specially designed to address the dental problems being faced by the jail inmates. He said that a number of jail inmates had raised the demand for referring them to dental hospitals for dental check-up. So, the J&K Legal Services Authority after holding a detailed meeting with Principal Indira Gandhi,

Government Dental College and Director General, Prisons formulated a calendar for organising dental awareness cum hygiene camps in all the jails of Jammu and Kashmir and said inmates of District Jail Bhandarwah will get benefit from camp where free medicines and surgery will be conducted. On the occasion, various dental surgeons and Panel Lawyer District legal Services Authority Advocate Mohd Majid Malik also addressed the gathering and educated them about various precautions required for maintaining dental health and also threw light on rights of prisoners'.

Braham Jyot, others hold Public Outreach Program at Jammu West

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Under Gaon chalo Campaign, Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) along with BJP workers hold public outreach programs at ward no 29, booth 35 and 36 Shakti Nagar Jammu West.

Surinder Choudhary (ex Councillor), Perveen Badyal (District vice president OBC), Kamal Kishore (Booth president), Som Nath (state secretary SC morcha) and others were present on the occasion.

The Program was supervised and detailed by Kamal Kishore (Booth president 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 partici-



pate in the Abhiyaan across Nation.

In the program they interacted with the public in a door to door outreach program. They distributed Pamphlets and briefed about the 10 year's working of BJP Government. They also took people's feedback about government schemes.

People were very happy by this and gave a very posi-

tive response and joined the BJP instantly during this campaign.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot 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 grass-root 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.

He 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.

N S Bhau, team celebrate 'National Women Day, at Khour

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Narinder Singh Bhau, President of the All India Bhau Rajput Sabha and Executive Member of BJP JK UT, spearheaded a noteworthy celebration in Khour dedicated to National Women's Day, focusing on women empowerment.

During the event, Mr. Bhau emphasized the importance of initiatives such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, lauding the schemes aimed at uplifting and supporting women under the visionary leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister. He highlighted the exemplary achievements of female role models like Sania Nehwal, Lata Mangeshkar, Kalpana Chawla, Mary Kom, and Sheetal Devi, drawing inspiration from their suc-



cess stories to motivate and empower the women of Khour. Furthermore, Mr. Bhau shed light on the significance of political awareness and advocated for the rightful 33% representation of women in decision-making processes. He reiterated the Prime Minister's stance on considering women as one of the key pillars of society, acknowledging

their indispensable role as a significant Jaati in India.

The event was a testament to Mr. Bhau's unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality and championing women's rights. His dedication to promoting inclusivity and empowering women serves as a shining example for communities across the nation.

Uday Chib calls for rollback of Agnipath Scheme

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Senior Congress Leader and former President of Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress, Uday Bhanu Chib, has raised significant concerns over the implementation of the Agnipath scheme, calling for its immediate rollback. The scheme, which recruits individuals aged 17.5 to 21 years for a four-year service period in the Army, Navy, and Air Force, has been met with widespread opposition due to its perceived negative impacts on the Armed Forces. In a statement issued here today, Uday Chib emphasized the damaging effects of the Agnipath scheme, particularly its division of soldiers within the same unit. "We are against the Agnipath scheme as it creates two sets of soldiers in the same unit and is damaging for the Armed Forces," Chib stated.

Wani chairs Cong leaders meeting, discusses upcoming LS elections, organizational matters

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR FEB 13

Amid ongoing election preparations Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Tuesday held an important meeting of Senior Party Leaders, DCC Presidents and others to review the organizational activities and the preparations currently underway for the upcoming parliamentary elections and other elections in J&K.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Vikar Rasool Wani chaired the meeting while Senior Leaders including Former JKPCC President Peerzada Mohd Sayeed, Sr. Vice Presidents, G.N.Monga, Mohd Anwar Bhat and others attended the meeting and had a detailed discussions over the election preparations and the measures required to be taken to deal with the other challenges.

The participants including PCC Office bearers & DCC Presidents briefed Wani about the preparations and other organizational activities including conduct of workers' and public meetings in their respective districts.

JKPCC Chief apart from the organizational activi-



ties and affairs highlighted the urgencies relating to Parliamentary and other elections, urging the party cadres to reach out to people and seek their support to Congress party's pro-active role, its struggle and endeavors to safeguard their rights, which are under assault since the BJP assumed power and subsequently started dismantling the democratic institutions and democracy in J&K for the lust of power.

Congress is fully prepared for the upcoming Lok Sabha and other elections. I am confident that the Party will emerge stronger, Wani added and laid emphasis over working harder to ensure overwhelming public support to the Party.

JKPCC Chief slammed the BJP's policies and its actions based on lies and deceit to secure votes, but the people have decided to defeat the BJP for failing them on all counts and punishing them under the garb of various anti people measures especially tax terror, smart metering, failures to contain unemployment, economic crisis, lack of development and deliberate move to assault public rights to serve its vested interests for the sake of power.

Those who spoke on the occasion included PCC Vice Presidents, General Secretaries, Mahila Congress President, PCC Secretaries, District Congress Committee Presidents and others.

Col Mahan initiates crucial road project to fulfill 40yr demand in Kathua's isolated villages

JNEWS SERVICE
BASOHLI, FEB 13

Addressing a longstanding concern for the residents of Farnot and surrounding villages, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, initiated the commencement of a vital road construction project. The endeavor aims to address connectivity challenges faced by over 30,000 individuals residing in areas affected by the construction of the Ranjit Sagar Dam (RSD) reservoir in the 1990s.

The project, encompassing the construction of a 5.2-kilometer road under Phase III of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at a cost of Rs 5.39 Crores, is poised to significantly enhance accessibility for local inhabitants. Scheduled for completion within the next year, the initiative heralds a new era of connectivity and development for the region. During the project's inauguration, Col Mahan expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and the BJP Government for their



unwavering commitment to fulfilling public aspirations in isolated regions. He underscored the transformative impact of improved road connectivity, envisioning a future where migration is curtailed, living standards are elevated, and economic prosperity is revitalized. The upcoming road is poised to facilitate access to the revered religious Shrine of Baba Rajamandlik at Baleta near village Farnot, further enhancing cultural and spiritual significance for

local residents. The initiative garnered widespread acclaim from the community, who commended the dedication of the BJP Government and local representatives, including DDC Chairman Colonel Mahan Singh, in addressing their longstanding grievances.

On the occasion, AEE Deepak Kohli, AE N.S Pathania, Capt Harnam Singh, Kartar Singh, Karan Singh, Ram Ratan Badu, Contractor Pardeep Lohria and prominent people of the area were present.

NYK Udhampur to host National Youth Parliament Festival at District Level on 20-02-2024

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Nehru Yuva Kendra Udhampur, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India is going to host 5th edition of National Youth Parliament Festival at District Level on 20th February, 2024 in which youth will participate and deliberate on national issues towards achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. District Youth Officer, NYK Udhampur, Khushal Gupta briefed that the young boys and girls belonging to districts Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Leh & Kargil are urged to participate in the district level event going to be held on 20-02-2024 in virtual mode. It is a golden opportunity for the youth to showcase their talent and put forth their views in this virtual event. The participating youth must lie in the age group 18-25 years as on 01st February, 2024.

The theme of National Youth Parliament Festival 2024 is Young Voices - Engage and Empower For Nation's Transformation which will be deliberated on three topics i.e. Making India a global leader - The role of young entrepreneurs in boosting India's economic power, From Atmanirbhar to Viksit Bharat - Charting India's Growth Trajectory powered by youth and Empowering the Future - Youth led initiatives paving the way for a responsible community. It is pertinent to mention that all the participants will be given the certificate of participation at district as well as state level whereas at National Level, the first prize is Rs. 2 lakh, second prize is Rs. 1.5 lakh, third prize is Rs. 1 lakh and 2 consolation prizes of Rs. 50000/- each. To participate the interested youth may contact at 9906249020, 9592289025, 9622979104 and application must be submitted well before 18th February, 2024.

Altaf Bukhari asks Govt to explore new tourist destinations across J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEB 13

Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday asked the Govt to explore new tourist destinations in both the Regions of Jammu and Kashmir to boost local economy, improve infrastructure as well as provide employment to the youth at their doorstep.

"The situation in Kashmir has improved and the peaceful situation has attracted tourists from across the country and abroad. However, there is a need to explore new tourist destination in rural and remote areas that would help in generating a source of permanent income at the village level and infrastructure development," said Altaf Bukhari, while addressing a public rally that was organized in Samba by SC Wing Provincial President, Adv Lovely Singh Mangol.

Bukhari said that the situation needs to be made favorable for the people to stop their migration from the villages to the urban areas in search of employment by providing jobs / self-employment opportunities at their doorstep.

"This is possible when the tourists are attracted to the areas which are still to be explored and promoted on tourism maps by the authorities in Jammu region as well as in

Kashmir region," he said.

Expressing dismay over the ignorant attitude of the authorities towards the development of infrastructure in various religious as well as border tourist places, he said that religious tourists come to Jammu because of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine whereas the authorities have not made any efforts to explore the unexplored tourist potential.

He said that the development of Samba, Jammu, Kathua and other places is must to attract tourists for religious or tourism purposes in both Jammu as well as in Kashmir Regions because it would generate employment and help the local economy to grow.

Besides, he said that the local population vote and support the Apni Party candidates in the upcoming elections so that their areas can be represented by the deserving candidate to resolve their issues and that representative could be answerable to his voters.

He asked the people to become ambassadors of the Apni Party to bring equitable development, end discrimination and protect the rights of the local population.

He also criticized the poor infrastructure in educational and health institutions and shabby condition of roads in Samba's

rural belt and other areas of Jammu.

He said that these institutions are working without adequate teaching staff in schools, paramedical / doctors, structures, and improper equipment.

"Unfortunately, people prefer private schools where infrastructure is available but quality and highly qualified teachers are available only in Govt schools that can impart quality education to the children. However, the Apni Party, if forms Govt, will focus on these areas for the upgradation and improving the quality of health care and education system in J&K," he said, while expressing dismay over the poor basic amenities in villages, roads, unscheduled electricity cuts, irregular drinking water supply system and other infrastructure related issues.

He said that his Party has no personal issues with any political party in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Apni Party wants that they shall have focused on developing and protecting the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. But these parties for the last seven decades worked for themselves, not for the people.

"The NC and PDP had their alliance Govt with BJP. The Govt in Delhi addresses developmental issues of Jammu and



Kashmir. However, these parties only focused on resolving their personal issues instead of taking Jammu and Kashmir on the path of development in the last seven decades," he added.

He sought support of the people for the Party candidates in Ramgarh, Vijaypur and Samba and assured the people that their concerns will be resolved.

Meanwhile, he pledged to protect the rights of the local population in Jammu and Kashmir while saying that the liquor and mining mafia will be thrown out of Lakhampur once his Party forms the Govt in J&K.

He said that the local traders, miners and workers have suffered in all these years due to the non-local mining and liquor mafia in J&K.

He also raised concern over the sidelining of J&K

Administrative Service (JKAS) and J&K Police Service (JKPS) officers because the administration has been taken over by bureaucrats from outside J&K.

"We have capable JKAS/ JKPS officers who have been cornered by the present Govt and no one is listening to them. The officers from outside J&K have no connection with the people. Therefore, it has multiplied the issues in the erstwhile state that need to be addressed and the Apni Party will take a call on the burning issue," he added.

He also recalled the impact of stopping annual Darbar Move practice in Jammu and Kashmir that had a positive effect on the business.

He said that his Party will restore the annual Darbar Move practice that had brought the people of

two regions together and encouraged brotherhood among the people from different faiths.

He also raised the question how the local youth are discouraged whenever they approach to start an industrial unit.

"The local youth are face hurdles in the shape of formalities, bank loan, pollution certificates, allotment of industrial land and other hardships whereas the outsiders are helped by the administration by granting them land lease, bank loan and fulfilling formalities within no time," he said, while seeking accountability on the issue.

Regarding unemployment and underdevelopment in Samba, Jammu, Kathua, he appealed to the people of Jammu plains to get united and support the Party so that their issues can be resolved by the

local leadership.

Meanwhile, Provincial President of the Party, S. Manjit Singh recalled how the historic state of J&K was downgraded into two Union Territories and appealed to the people to raise their voice for the restoration of statehood and holding of assembly elections in J&K.

He demanded development of infrastructure and development of religious tourism sites i.e., Parmandal, Uttarbani, Baba Sidh Gorla, Chamlayal along the Indo-Pak Border in Samba, Goran Devta, Mansar Lake, and other places.

"The tourism in these places can be promoted if the infrastructure is developed with the proper road, electricity, water, canteens/restaurants, resorts and promotion by the tourist department," he said, and the promotion of tourism can help in generating employment.

He also expressed concern over the denial of jobs at the higher level to the local youth in the industrial sector and influence of outsiders.

"The local youth are provided lower grade jobs in the industrial sector in Samba, Kathua and Jammu whereas the outsiders are provided employment at the skilled/manager level that is highly objectionable, and the authorities must protect the rights of

the locals," he added.

On this occasion, organizer of the public rally, Lovely Mangol also addressed the gathering and highlighted the local issues.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Additional General Secretary, Arun Kumar Chibber, District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, ST Wing State President, Saleem Alam, State President, Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, Vice President Youth/Media Coordinator/Spokesperson, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, State General Secretary Youth / Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya, Adil Wani, Provincial President Women Wing, Pavneet Kour, Provincial President Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Neelam Gupta, Sheetal Sharma, Vikram Rathore, Rafiq Balute, Balbir Singh Bawa, Joginder Singh, Vishal Naraina, District President, Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Kulvinder Singh, Adv Sahil Bharti, Raj Kumar Bhagat, Darbar Chand, Bachan Choudhary, Raman Sharma, Capt Mohan Lal Sharma, Babu Ram, Brij Mohan Dutta, Amrit Singh, Awaran Singh, Sunny Sambyal, Irshan Choudhary, Satpal, Ravi Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Tara Chand, Joginder, Kamal Kumar, Ashwani Bhagat, Ravi Kumar and others.

Another Astha Train flagged off from holy town Katra to Ayodhya

JNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEB 13

Amidst religious fervor and devotion, yet another Astha Train, carrying 1375 devotees of Shree Ram, was flagged off from the Shree Mata Vaishno Railway Station in Katra towards the Holy City Ayodhya.

The Astha Train was flagged off by senior BJP leaders including Rohit Dubey, District President, Arvind Gupta, State Secretary and Prabhari Reasi, Shashi Sharma, Ex-chairman Municipal Committee Katra, and Ex-MLA Baldev Sharma, at the Shree Mata Vaishno Railway Station in Katra.

Upon its arrival at Udampur, the Astha train was warmly received and flagged off by Arun Gupta, District President Udampur, alongside dedicated party workers who added to the spirit of the event.

Similarly in Jammu, Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP



Vice President, who is also a Convenor of Ram Darshan Ayodhya Committee along with his Co-Convenors Aseem Gupta and Reema Padha received the Astha Train at Railway Station Jammu. Sethi has also reviewed arrangements for the devotees travelling in the Astha Train, ensuring everything was in place for the seamless journey of the devotees. Later, they flagged off the Astha Train

from the Railway Station in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi expressed that this sacred journey to Ayodhya will not only deepen spiritual bonds but also reinforce the spirit of nationalism among devotees across the country. Emphasizing the significance of pilgrimage, he highlighted its role in fostering unity and solidarity. Additionally,

he extended gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling the dreams of crores of people of the country with the historic construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya after a gap of nearly 500 years.

He mentioned that the District Offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party across the Union Territory facilitating the devotees by assisting them in train

ticket bookings, arranging accommodations, providing local conveniences, and facilitating their Darshan at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

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

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

GDC Kathua organizes fifth awareness campaign regarding road safety measures

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

In continuation to its activities under National Road Safety Month campaign, Road Safety Club Gdc Kathua in collaboration with NSS Units organised fifth awareness campaign regarding road safety measures at Sheedi Chowk, Shyama Parsad Mukherji chowk and main bazaar in Kathua city. Volunteers interacted with shopkeepers and the people in the market and aware them about Road Safety and Traffic rules. Volunteers holding placard in their hands containing messages on road safety measures and rules started this campaign. Volunteers appealed the people to Wear Helmet while driving Two wheelers, Dont Drink and Drive, Wear seat belt while driving four wheelers, Dont use mobile while driving, Follow



traffic signals, Avoid Modified Silencer bikes, Avoid wrong parking of vehicles, Drive within speed limit, Don't Drive without licence, Avoid tripping on two wheelers, Pillion rider also use helmet, Overtake from the right, Maintain a safe distance, Give way for emergency vehicles, maintain lane discipline, Avoid distractions etc. Volunteers also appealed the people to carry forward this campaign in their respective localities also. This campaign is being observed for one month w.e.f 15.01.2024 to 14.02 2024. In its earlier activities Road Safety Club Govt Degree College Kathua organised Slogan Writing competition, Poster

Making competition and door to door campaign on Road Safety measures in which more than two hundred volunteers participated.

All these activities are being organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by Prof Manmohan Singh Convenor Road Safety Club Gdc Kathua and NSS Prog Officers Dr Kulbir Singh, Dr Arvind Kumar and Dr Pinky. Senior most volunteers Mahroof Chudhary, Vishal Gupta, Nikita Sharma, Jharna Sharma, Kanika Sharma, Dheeraj kumar, Iqra Kouser, Nandani Bajraita and Mansha contributing a lot in observing this one month long National campaign on Road safety.

2 students of Aakash BYJU'S from Jammu achieves 90 and above Percentile in the first session of JEE Mains 2024

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13, 2024:

Aakash BYJU'S is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of five of its students from Jammu, who scored above 90 percentile in the first session of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2024.

The notable achievers are AGAMBIR SINGH who secured 96.51 and PARTEET SINGH 93.37. Three other students from Udampur branch SUNNY, SUSHANT SINGH, PARTH GUPTA have secured high percentile amongst others. The top percentiles of the students showcase their unwavering commitment and academic excellence in one of India's most competitive exams. The National Testing Agency unveiled the results earlier



today, marking the commencement of the first of the two scheduled Joint Entrance Examinations for Engineering this year.

Enrolling in Aakash's classroom program with the aspiration of conquering the formidable IIT JEE, renowned as the most challenging entrance exam globally, The students credited their ascent to the top percentiles to their dedication to comprehending fundamental con-

cepts and maintaining a disciplined study regimen. Expressing gratitude, they remarked, "We are thankful to Aakash for aiding us in both aspects. Without the institute's comprehensive content and coaching, mastering the concepts of numerous subjects would have been unlikely."

Congratulating the students, Mr Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash BYJU'S, commended,

"The students remarkable performance exemplifies Aakash BYJU'S commitment to empowering students with comprehensive coaching and innovative learning solutions, thereby enabling them to excel in competitive examinations. We wish them all the best for the next attempt as well as for their future endeavours."

Also, in the recently declared NSE results 16 students from J&K scored above MAS and 6 students are selected for INO 2024.

JEE (Mains) is structured in two sessions to provide students with multiple opportunities to enhance their scores. While JEE Advanced exclusively facilitates admissions to the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), JEE Main serves as the gateway to numerous

National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other Centrally-aided engineering colleges across India. Participation in JEE Main is a prerequisite for appearing in JEE Advanced.

Aakash BYJU'S offers comprehensive IIT-JEE coaching through various course formats tailored for high school and higher secondary school students. Recently, Aakash has intensified its focus on developing Computer-Based Training. Its innovative iTutor platform delivers recorded video lectures, enabling students to engage in self-paced learning and catch up on missed sessions. Moreover, mock tests simulate real exam conditions, equipping students with the necessary familiarity and confidence to tackle the examination effectively.

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad, visited the revered Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah RA Shrine at Shahdara Sharief, Rajouri. As a symbol of reverence and devotion, Azad offered chadar at the shrine and fervently prayed for peace and prosperity to prevail across the nation. Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah RA Shrine serves as a beacon of spiritual solace and communal harmony, welcoming people of all regions and religions to come together in prayer. Azad emphasized the importance of spreading the message of unity and brotherhood among all communities. Later, Azad, met various delegations in Rajouri, underscoring the importance of grassroots efforts in strengthening the party. He encouraged



party members to intensify their efforts at the grassroots level, emphasizing the pivotal role they play in building robust community engagement and support. He reiterated the significance of connecting with the people on local issues and addressing their concerns effectively. Azad, has departed for Poonch, where he is scheduled to address a public meeting in Mandi

tomorrow. Among others who were present were Vice chairman Mr. GM Saroori, General secretary RS Chib, Gen Sec Anita Thakur, Chief spokesperson Salman Nizami, state secretary Sunita Arora, Masood Choudhary state secretary, Zonal President Zahid Sarfarz Malik, Lovely Gupta state secretary, Distt President Sushil Sharma, Youth President Hassan Mirza and others.

JKAACL showcases scintillating presentation at Vijaypur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR: 13-02-2024:

The dying folk forms of Jammu region witnessed immense support from the august gathering in a cultural extravaganza at BBN Institute of Intellectuals, Vijaypur. The occasion was organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages who has left no stone unturned to create a history in Samba district. The presentations by the artists of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages mesmerized audiences with its scintillating performances which include Hern, Geetru, Karkaan, Phumnyian etc. Shilpa Dubey, DDC, Samba was the chief guest on the occasion who commended the efforts of the JKAACL artists for promotion of local folk art and culture in Vijaypur. She further said such kind of initiatives always takes the Culture



to the next level of preservation of arts and more such occasions should be created so that age old traditions, which are the identities of our culture, are revived. Such festivities play a major role in promoting communal harmony, brotherhood and community participation. I hope that JKAACL will continue to come up with such kind endeavours in Vijaypur, she added.

Addressing the august gathering, Sh. Bharat

Singh, JKAS Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages stated that JKAACL is very devoted for the promotion of art and culture in the entire length & breadth of the Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir. One can easily find the representation of JKAACL in almost every corner of the state. Today's programme was one such example where we tried to showcase our dying culture tradition of Jammu region.

Barbaric treatment with farmers is strongly condemnable: Shiv Sena

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has strongly condemned the barbaric behavior by the security forces at Shambhu border of Haryana, firing hundreds of tear gas shells and fortifications on the farmers' movement.

In a press release issued from the party state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the barbaric treatment of the country's food donors is a sign of dictatorship. Farmers are marching towards Delhi to raise their voice for their legitimate rights and from the fortifications being done by Haryana and Delhi Police and deployment of security forces, it seems as the army of an enemy country is marching towards Delhi.

Sahni said that if similar promptness and strong arrangements had



been made on the India-Pakistan border adjacent to Jammu and Kashmir, then perhaps terrorism would not have flourished in Jammu and Kashmir today and hundreds of innocent people and security personnel would not have had to be martyred. Sahni said that the Indian Constitution and law gives freedom to Indian citizens to protest and raise their voice for their legitimate rights. But dictatorial arrangements are being made by the BJP ruled states and the central government to suppress the farmers' movement. Sahni said that the entire country stands with the food donors.

LG Admn neglected border dwellers on all fronts: R S Manhas

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Raghu Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A J&K National Conference, Jammu, raised serious concerns about the neglect of the border belt in the entire Jammu region by the LG-led administration. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Choudhary Mohinder Singh Block President Khour.

Raghu Singh Manhas while addressing a meeting of party workers of Block Khour in Village Dhonchak District Jammu Rural A in connection with the upcoming of Parliament elections. He highlighted the disappointment felt over the present government's failure in providing basic amenities to the border dwellers. He said people deprived of regular water, and power supply, lack of medical facilities, inadequate infrastructure



at health centres and government schools. He further said that unemployment and rising prices has made very difficult for border dwellers to live normal life. He demanded that special package be given to the youth of border dwellers so that they could earn and feed their families.

Raghu Singh Manhas asked party workers to actively engage with the public and raise awareness about the contributions of the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir in making J&K TAJ OF INDIA. He expressed confidence that the National Conference will perform

well in the upcoming Parliament elections.

Among those who were present in the meeting include:- Dr. Gafour Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Master Balder Singh Bhu Vice President Central Zone, Rakesh Kumar Sharma District President YNC Jammu Rural A, Kuldeep Khour District President Women Wing Jammu Rural A, Randhir Singh Chib Organizer District Jammu Rural A, M.k Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone, Madan Lal Block President Akhnoor, Devi Dayal Jogi Block Secretary Khour, Manga Ram and others.

BJP Govt has made common man's life difficult by current surge in essentials: BSP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

The current surge in prices of essential goods, especially food items, has made the common man's life difficult. If prices of day-to-day items keep rising like this, it's going to make surviving for common man much more difficult. This was stated by Bahujaan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta on Tuesday. Interacting with media Gupta said that BJP government seems to have done very little in terms of regulating prices. The common poor and lower middle class families are suffering badly. BJP government talks most promisingly about the "common man agenda" when it comes to lapping up votes but fails in times of real crisis. Food prices have increased by 20 per cent in the last two months and by 40

per cent compared to last year. The steady rise in prices of food items is a cause for concern. With little resources available, it is becoming difficult for the common man to manage his budget. The way things are run here, it is a case of the poor remaining poor and the rich getting richer.

BSP leader said even the tax laws favour the rich, those in the salaried class suffers the most because they pay high Income Tax and in return get little. Inflation keeps rising every day and vegetable prices are shooting up. Govt is responsible for all this. Have BJP leaders already forgotten their duty towards the people? What happened to all the promises they made during election time? It is high time they delivered what they had promised. Also, power tariff, gas, petrol and diesel prices have increased. All this

stems from the Central government's inability to curtail prices at the grassroots level.

Rajesh Gupta alleged that J&K government was doing nothing to bring down the prices of electricity tariff and other essential commodities. It is high time the government identified the reasons for such a phenomenal rise in prices of so many essential items. The retail market has never been consumer-friendly, it is ready to hike prices at the slightest opportunity.

Gupta said BJP Government should subsidize prices of indispensable items like rice, dal, sugar and oil and lessen the burden on the common man's purse. The BJP Government has totally failed to control the matter. It seems the government is working hand-in-glove with hoarders and cheating the common people, he alleged.

RNU Jammu celebrates World Radio Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13:

Regional News Unit of All India Radio, Jammu on Tuesday celebrated World Radio day, which is observed on February 13 every year across the globe to raise awareness among the public and the media about the importance of radio and to encourage access to information through radio.

The celebrations at Jammu Station were led by Ramesh Kumar Raina (IIS), Deputy Director News and Gulshan Raina (IIS), AD News, Yogesh Sagotra News Editor, Shivi Suri News Reader, DEO (Tech) Rajat, multi tasking staff, Vrinder and others staff members participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director News R K Raina said the station was set up on December 1st, 1947 and since then Radio has become prime provider of news, information and culture for the majority of the people of Jammu and

adjoining areas, including PoJK. He highlighted the role of AIR Jammu in disseminating important information. During address AD Gulshan Raina termed Radio as a true medium of information in terms of accessibility. He highlighted Radio smoothly transformation towards modern technology and embraced changes to move forward with its unprecedented reach on websites, social media platforms and other mediums.

Apart from being a major cultural center and culture content generator of the state, the Jammu Radio Station has bagged six national level Akashvani Awards for excellence in broadcasting.

Previously known as Radio Kashmir Jammu, which like other AIR stations in the country has come alive with programs like Prime Minister's 'Mann Ki Baat', is continuing with its efforts in nation building to the satisfaction of its stakeholders, i.e. the people of India and State.

CUJ conducts Educational and Industrial visits for students



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain and Mentorship of Prof. Yashwant Singh, Head, Department of Computer Science & IT, an industrial visit under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (J&K) was conducted for 100 students of Govt. Model Higher Secondary School (Boys), Samba and Govt. Higher Secondary School,

Rajpura (Samba) today.

The students visited Central University of Jammu to familiarize themselves with recent trends, developments, and innovations in the field of science and technology. The students visited the different state of the art laboratories of different science streams to acquire knowledge about future aspirations in the area of science and technology at the Central University of Jammu campus. They also visited the Kalam

Centre of Excellence, Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science, Himalayan Aerosol Research Instrumentation (HARI) facility, IoT Lab, Engineering Block and other important centres at the Central University. Dr. Bhavna Arora, Associate Professor and Co-ordinator of the visit along with Mr. Zakir, Assistant Professor briefed the students about the innovations, research centres, facilities, and initiatives by the Central University of Jammu.

Farmers' demands justified, must be fulfilled immediately: Tony

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh has come out openly in support of the farmers who marched to Delhi protesting for fulfilling their demands.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior Congress leader asserted that all the demands raised by the farmers are genuine and fully justified. He urged the Union Govt to accept these demands without any further delay before the situation goes out of control for which the Govt shall be wholly and solely responsible.

It is pertinent to mention here that the farmers' demands include legal guarantee to MSP for crops, debt waiver, implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for victims

of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act 2013, withdrawal from the World Trade Organization, and compensation for families of farmers who died during the previous agitation.

Tony said that the farmers of J&K are also united and undauntedly support the ongoing agitation under which they have marched towards the National capital. He said that the incumbent BJP Govt has betrayed the farmers' community and its promise of doubling the farmers' income continues to remain confined merely to papers and BJP speeches while the ground situation speaks the contrary. He said that the fact remains that the position of farmers has further worsened under the BJP Govt.

The senior Congress leader stated that like hoax promises of 2 crore jobs to youth, controlling inflation, bringing back black money, etc. turning out mere Jumlas, the Govt brought black laws against the farmers with the sole intension to finish them.

Shalby Hospital Mohali launches Innovative Services for Kidney Transplant, Knee Replacement

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Shalby Hospital Mohali recently inaugurated its cutting-edge kidney care unit, a significant milestone in the field of kidney transplant services within the region. Spearheaded by Dr. Priyadarshi Ranjan, former Director of the Kidney Transplant Unit at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, and Dr. KL Gupta, former HOD at PGI Chandigarh, the unit has already achieved a series of successful kidney transplants.

What sets this hospital apart is its innovative approach, allowing patients without a compatible donor to benefit from kidney transplants through ABO incompatible/swap or deceased donor procedures.

Dr. Prabhjot Singh, Deputy CEO at Shalby Hospital, Mohali, commended Dr. Ranjan's expertise and dedication. He said, "A huge number of patients from the Jammu region have already been cured by successful kidney transplant by Dr. Ranjan and he is a very familiar name here. We also follow a modern immunosuppres-



sion regime based on risk stratification for donors and recipients, resulting in a remarkable success rate of nearly 100 per cent with minimal rejection incidents. The hospital also runs a post-transplant fitness program called "Trans Care", aimed at increasing longevity, preserving muscle mass, and minimizing side effects of immunosuppression."

Revolutionary ROBO-N 3D Knee Resurfacing Technique: Dr. G.S. Natt, Senior Consultant and Head of Orthopedics & Joint Replacement at Shalby Hospitals Mohali, is an expert in the ROBO-N 3D Knee Resurfacing Technique (Robotics Assisted Natural 3D Knee Resurfacing). This innovative tech-

nique is set to revolutionize the treatment options available for knee arthritis patients.

The ROBO-N 3D Knee Resurfacing technique is a part of Shalby Hospital's 'Let's Walk Again' campaign. It combines surgical skills, artificial intelligence, and augmented reality to provide a personalized treatment plan for each patient.

"The benefits of this advanced technique are manifold. It leaves healthy bones, ligaments, and cartilage intact, ensuring minimal surgical time and physiotherapy. Patients can look forward to a fast-track recovery, natural knee motion, and there is no need for blood transfusion or ICU stay," said Dr. Natt.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M) GROUND WATER DRILLING DIVISION JAMMU

Ref:- Deep Drilling, Development and Stabilization of 200 mm dia mini Tube well (on EPC Mode) By ODEX Method at Upper Majeen NHO Mir Hussain and others Sidhra in District Jammu.

This office e-NIT No. GWD/234 of 2023-24 Dated 07.02.2024.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read "A guaranteed minimum safe discharge of 2000 gallons per hour shall have to be provided by the firm at the time of handing over of the borewell failing which no claim shall be entertained".

INSTEAD OF

A guaranteed minimum safe discharge of 2500 gallons per hour shall have to be provided by the firm at the time of handing over of the borewell failing which no claim shall be entertained.

All other terms and conditions shall remain un-changed as uploaded/advertised earlier.

Dated:-12.02.2024

DIP/J-14964/23

Date: 13-2-24

No. GWD/7690-92

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (M) G. W. D Division

Jammu

Training Prog for Police Officers on JJ Act held at Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEB 13

A one day training programme for Jammu and Kashmir police officers was held at the District Police Lines, Rajouri jointly by Department of Social Welfare, National Development Foundation and J&K Police.

The programme was inaugurated by SSP Rajouri Amritpal Singh (IPS) in presence of Rajeev Khajuria from NDF and Abdul Raheem DSWO.

During this training programme also named under Mission Vatsalya, the participating police officers were briefed on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 for implementation of JJ Act and Strengthening of Child Protection Services.



All the aspects of JJ Act and Child Protection were discussed in length. Special emphasis was laid down on procedures of handling juvenile cases, children in conflict with law, recording and reporting of Juvenile cases & roles of JJBs and CWCs.

Mentionable that the lecture delivered by resource person, Nimisha Srivastava, ED Council to Secure Justice, on

"Required Communication Skills & Do's and Don'ts for Police Officers while dealing juveniles" remained buzzword among the participating officers.

The training programme marked the presence of all senior police officers, SHOs, officers of Special Juvenile Police Units, Women Police Station Rajouri and Women Help Desks of District Rajouri.

AJBRCEAK expresses hope for redressal of genuine issues, after Ex MLAs delegation met LG



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

All Jammu based reserved category employees working in Kashmir, "Especially the commitment of LG Administration regarding Comprehensive Transfer Policy and Reservation in Promotion is deeply associated with sentiments of the Employees and community as whole," Chairman AJBRCEAK added.

Meanwhile President AJBRCEAK Mr Anil Radhey in his statement again reiterated that shortly the Employees community will get their demand fulfilled and Administration is actively considering all their issues on merit and we have high hopes now.

The leadership of the AJBRCEAK in its press brief once again extend their gratitude for LG Administration and Representatives for taking the issues of employees on priority.

AJBRCEAK always sought a possible resolution of justified demands and Definitely in coming days Employees will see more positive steps in this direction.

AJBRCEAK in one voice expressed, strong faith in the employee friendly approach of LG Administration under the dynamic leadership of Lt Governor J&K UT Sh Manoj Sinah ji, "We always believe that this is an era of peace, progress and prosperity, and definitely employees are also optimistic about their wishes "AJBRCEAK reiterated.

Knowledge Sharing Session on Monetary Policy of India held at CUJ

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

The Department of Public Policy and Public Administration (PPPA) at Central University of Jammu organized a knowledge sharing session on Monetary Policy of India. The session aimed to provide valuable insights into the functioning and significance of the country's monetary policy.



Dr. Mohd Anwar, Assistant Adviser in the Department of Statistics was invited as eminent speaker for the session. He was recognized for his knowledge and experience in the field. Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar Central University of Jammu, attended the session as a special guest.

Prof. Santap Sanhari Mishra, Head of PPPA Department, delivered the welcome address and facilitated the presence of the esteemed guests. As the host of the event, Prof. Mishra set the tone for the session and expressed gratitude for the presence of the distinguished dignitaries. He specially thanked Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University Jammu Prof. Sanjeev Jain for the encouragement for organizing this session.

Prof. Singh emphasized the importance of understanding monetary policy and the role of technology in the banking system. He highlighted how this knowledge would be beneficial for students and researchers in comprehending the finance system of the nation. Prof. Singh's insights shed light on the intersection of technology and finance, providing a broader perspective on the subject.

Dr. Anwar's presentation focused on various aspects of the monetary policy framework in India. He discussed topics such as Monetary Policy Operation, Liquidity Market Operation, Foreign Exchange Operation, Monetary Policy Transmission, Financial Stability, and Monetary Statistics. Through his presentation, Dr. Anwar

provided a comprehensive overview of the evolution and functioning of the monetary policy framework in the country. Thereafter an interactive session where students had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions with Dr. Anwar.

The knowledge sharing session witnessed a significant turnout, with students, scholars, faculty members, and deans from various departments of Central University of Jammu in attendance. The diverse audience highlighted the widespread interest and importance of understanding the monetary policy of India. The session served as a platform for knowledge exchange and promoted a deeper understanding of the subject among the participants.

Kavinder urges people to participate wholeheartedly in PM Modi's rally in Jammu on Feb 20

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEB 13

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday batted for exceptional synergy between the party activists claiming that the same is prerequisite for BJP's landslide victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP stalwart was addressing a joint samelan organized by BJP's Local Bodies' Cells from Samba, Vijaypur, Ramgarh and Bari Brahmana in wake of forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, here at Vijaypur.

Kavinder said that vibrancy of the ground level workers is the strong point of BJP and this virtue will ensure resounding victory of the party in Jammu and Kashmir as no other political outfit has such a strong base in the Union Territory. He said that there is so little time left for the poll day making it important for the party activists to utilize every minute for canvassing and convincing the electorate about bringing back Modi Government to power for



the third consecutive term as this is significant for continuing the good work accomplished by the dispensation in last over ten years.

Sharing information with regard to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming rally in Jammu on February 20, Kavinder said that people should not miss the opportunity to be part of this important event.

He asserted that the people should attend PM Modi's rally with enthusiasm to showcase their support to one of the best Prime Ministers of the country who has changed the course of life of people giving so much which many governments in past failed to dispense. He said that people of

J&K have been indebted due to bounties ensured by PM Modi in shape of peace, development and progress in the Union Territory therefore grand success of his rally in J&K is the solemn duty of each and every resident and therefore all should reach the venue of the rally with zeal and zest.

Other BJP leaders who also shared podium and spoke on the occasion include Chander Parkash Ganga, Narayan Singh, Pawan Singh, Kashmir Singh and Yogeshwar Singh. DDC Member Shilpa Dubey, Narinder Singh Bunty, Dharamvir Jamwal, Sanjay Padha, DDC S. S. Johal, Munish Khajuria and Inderjit Sharma were also present in the Sarmelan.

IIMC Students know about emerging technology by IIM Professor



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

The students of Digital Media course of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu got hands-on practice on emerging technology on Tuesday. Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Chairperson, Information Technology and Services (ITS), Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu interacted with the students of Digital Media course and talked about the marketing strategy and its process through emerging technology. He gave

practical as well as theoretical exposure about the strategy of digital media giants and how artificial intelligence (AI) helps them. Today, data and algorithms are the important factor for the market.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay also discussed the concept of review by the digital media giants and how users help them to become a four Trillion Dollar economy, such as Facebook, Amazon, Google, Microsoft. He argued that the users create contents for these platforms and on the base of users, they cap-

tured most of the market. He also explained about the merits and demerits, impact of review, psychology of the market, emotional process of market, genres and sub-genres of movies shown on Netflix, pairing products on digital marketing on Amazon with the students. The students of IIMC, Jammu participate in this lecture with great enthusiasm and know about the basics of emerging technologies. Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Course Coordinator, Digital Media also made his presence during the session.

IGNOU extends last date for admission for Jan 2024 session

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission for the January 2024 session till 15th of February, 2024.

Before filling the admission form online, a candidate needs to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit / Credit/Net Banking for payment of fee. Applicants can

access the IGNOU admission portal 2024 at IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in or by directly following the link https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in.

In case online payment made by any learner does not get updated, do not make the second payment immediately. Learners must wait for a day, check the payment status and then decide further course of action. Learners are advised not to wait for the last date for submission of re-registration form since the servers get heavily overloaded towards the last

date of online submission due to huge rush. In a press statement, Regional Director Dr. Jai Prakash Verma informed that learners must exercise due caution in making online transactions and as far as possible must use their own card/net banking to make payment and in case the learners are using third-party services (cyber cafe or some other outlet) for submission of re-registration form, they must ensure that the courses have been correctly chosen and payment of programme fee has been made successfully.

Moot Court Mock Drill held at PTTI Vijaypur



JI NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR FEB 13

Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a Moot Court Mock Drill proceedings under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case with a objective to familiarize Police personnel with regard to appearance and recording their statements before the Hon'ble Courts as prosecution witnesses. The proceedings were held at Moot Court PTTI Vijaypur under the supervision of Shri Haseeb-Ur-Rehman-IPS, DIG SIU Jammu Zone. A UAPA case of District Jammu was discussed during Mock drill in which Police witnesses of the case appeared before the Moot Court and cross examined by designated

defense counsel. Speaking on the occasion, DIG SIU Jammu Zone stated that such mock prosecution drills would definitely help Police personnel to record their statements in the Hon'ble courts in a proper manner. Earlier, Shri Dushyant Sharma-SSP, Incharge Principal PTTI Vijaypur welcomed DIG SIU Jammu Zone. Shri Manmohit Sharma (CPO), Shri Asif Iqbal (Sr. PO) and Shri Rohit Tadyal (Sr. PO) conducted the court proceedings.

Shri Khushwant Singh, (Dy.SP Admn.), Shri Surinder Paul (Dy.SP Indoor/Tech), Shri Sahil Mahajan, Dy.SP, Inspr. Ram Lal, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta and other officers/officials of PTTI Vijaypur were present on the occasion.

DPS Kathua hosts One-Day Disaster Management Awareness Program



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

DPS Kathua took a proactive step towards enhancing disaster preparedness by organizing a one-day awareness program on disaster management within its premises.

Led by DYSP Sarabjeet Singh, Dy Controller Civil Defense Kathua, a team from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) conducted an interactive session on disaster management techniques. The session provided students with practical insights into handling various emer-

gency situations effectively.

Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, expressed his appreciation for the initiative and thanked the DYSP Sarabjeet Singh and the SDRF team for their informative session. He emphasized the importance of disaster management in safeguarding lives and property during unforeseen events.

The event served as a platform for students to learn crucial skills and protocols for managing emergencies, contributing to a safer and more resilient school community.

Rashpal Singh nominated as Vice President in JKPC

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 13

Senior Congress leader from Akhnoor Rashpal Singh Jamwal has been appointed as Vice President in Pradesh Congress Committee in Jammu and Kashmir.

The appointment was made by Vikar Rasool Wani Chief JKPC.

While addressing Media Person, Rashpal Singh thanks senior leadership, chief Vikar Rasool Ji, Tara Chand ji, District President Shamsheer ji and other for giving Such a Big Responsibility and gave Assurance to Do his level best to Highlight the grievance of General public to senior leadership.

While addressing he Demanded District status for Akhnoor, High tech machinery for Sub District hospital Akhnoor, Upgradation of Electricity infrastructure, District Court



for Akhnoor and Jobs for Unemployed youth of Akhnoor.

He Added, the condition of Farmers are not good in j&k, There is no ample supply of Fertilizer during sowing period and Low MSP during procurement of agriculture Crop.

He also Criticised the requirement policy of central government in Indian Army (Agniveer) in which youth are very unhappy with scheme

Other Prominent present, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Karnail Singh, Som nath Sharma, Kali dass, etc.

Mission Vatsalya: DCPU Kishtwar leads the sensitisation cum training programme on 'Child Rights' and 'Juvenile Justice Act'

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 13

District Child Protection Unit Kishtwar under Mission Vatsalya today organized one-day Sensitisation cum training Programme on the Implementation of Child rights and Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, and Child Rights here at the Auditorium, Govt. Degree College Kishtwar under the overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer/ District Child Protection Officer, Zubair Ahmed.

The program was presided over by Chief Judicial Magistrate Kishtwar, Mahmud Anwar Alnasir.

Addressing the stakeholders, the Honorable Chief Judicial Magistrate Kishtwar enlightened the working of Legal System and religious perspective towards dealing with Care and Protection of vulnerable children.

He further stated that this sensitization/training program is crucial in raising awareness and equipping stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively protect children.

Various stakeholders, including Members CWC, JJB and DCPU officials, Representatives from DLSA, Para legal, Former Sarpanchs, local NGO, Traders, Media persons, Asha Workers, Anganwari workers attended the program.

Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Kishtwar, Rajesh Sharma delivered the introductory speech on the structure of Mission Vatsalya besides explaining the importance of the programme and gives a detailed description of



the topic and its working mechanism at the district level.

He said that the aim of the programme was to raise awareness regarding Child Rights and ensure the proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act in the district.

Key highlights of the programme included in-depth discussions, case studies, and interactive sessions designed to enhance participants' understanding of the legal framework governing child rights and juvenile justice. Participants gained valuable insights into the provisions, procedures, and mechanisms established under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 to ensure the rehabilitation, reintegration, and protection of children in conflict with the law.

Among others who spoke on the occasion

included the resource persons, Ex. Chairman CWC Kishtwar and retired Dy.SP Mohan Lal Thakur, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Kishtwar, Sheetal Nain, Special Juvenile Police Officer Kishtwar, Yudvir Sharma and Adv. Anjali Gulati.

The speakers conducted sessions on Child Rights Mechanism, overview of Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and POCSO Act 2012, Adoption regulations 2022, and the role of SSA, behaviour of police personnel towards juveniles during and after as per the Juvenile Justice Act besides giving overview of Mission Vatsalya, protection of child from sexual offences among other topics. The speakers also highlighted that under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), the department focuses on providing preventive,

statutory, care, and rehabilitation services to vulnerable children, including those from potentially vulnerable families, families at risk, orphans, child drug abusers, child beggars, trafficked or sexually exploited children.

They highlighted the sponsorship scheme during the programme in which 4000 financial support is given to the Child in need of care and protection on the recommendations of CWC and approval of the District magistrate.

They also said that District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), are actively working to ensure the implementation of child rights and juvenile justice acts, while also combating child labor and violations of related laws," they added.

DC Udhampur inaugurates skill training programme under PM VishwaKarma Scheme

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 13

In a significant step towards empowering the local workforce, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today inaugurated skill training program in carpentry and Blacksmith trade under the prestigious PM Vishwakarma scheme at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Udhampur.

The program is set to provide 5 days of Basic Skill Training, marking the commencement of a valuable initiative aimed at enhancing vocational skills and empowering individuals in the carpentry and blacksmith trades.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of General Manager DIC Udhampur, Kishore Singh, Superintendent ITI Udhampur, Ravinder Singh Bhatti; master trainers and all trainees.

Addressing the gathering, DC highlighted the collaborative efforts of different line departments in implementing the PM Vishwakarma scheme in the district. She underscored the scheme's potential to benefit artisans by empowering them with innovative



skills to earn a livelihood, ultimately contributing to the economic growth of the district.

The DC urged the trainees to utilize the most of the facilities available at ITI during their skill training to the maximum, emphasizing the importance of acquiring practical expertise

in the courses. She also elaborated on the various benefits of the scheme, emphasizing its positive impact on society, particularly on the Traditional Craftsman community. Certificates were also distributed to trainees of earlier two batches of Tailor (Darzi) Course.

Expressing gratitude,

the beneficiaries of the first two batches acknowledged the opportunity provided through the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. They pledged to dedicate themselves to acquiring skills that would not only benefit their personal careers but also contribute to the overall development of the district.

Entrepreneurship Development Program for Women's Tailors concludes at SBI RSETI Ramban

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 13

The State Bank of India, Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban marked the successful conclusion of a training program aimed at empowering women tailors.

The program, tailored specifically for women, witnessed the participation of 27 enthusiastic trainees from the Ramban region. Throughout the training program, participants learned various essential skills, including Entrepreneurship Competencies, Effective Communication Skills, Marketing Management, Problem Solving, Time Management, and Banking, among others.

Moreover, they gained practical expertise in dress designing, stitch-



ing, and measurements, covering a wide array of garments such as sarees, skirts, nightwear, school uniforms, and traditional attire.

Abdul Rashid Sofi, Lead District Manager Ramban, who the Chief Guest on the occasion. During his address, LDM enlightened the trainees about the benefits of Government Sponsored Schemes and the impor-

tance of vigilance against online banking frauds.

Additionally, he highlighted the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Scheme as a potential avenue for furthering their entrepreneurial pursuits. Senior Faculty member of RSETI Amrik Singh Raju, also interacted with the trainees, emphasizing the advantages of self-employment and educating various government-

backed insurance and loan schemes.

He wished the participants success in their future endeavors and encouraged them to leverage these opportunities for their growth. Expressing their gratitude, the trainees extended their heartfelt thanks to SBI RSETI Ramban for organizing the 30-day Entrepreneurship Development Program.

DC Ramban extends condolences to family affected by Tragic Fire Incident in Dhanmasta, Ukhraal

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 13

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, visited the grieving family at Dhanmasta today in response to the devastating fire incident that occurred on Sunday night in block Ramsoo, Tehsil Ukhraal.

Expressing profound grief over the loss of three precious lives in the fire, the Deputy Commissioner conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He directed the concerned authorities to swiftly assess the loss and process the relief case under SDRF to provide immediate assistance to



the victim's family. During his visit, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhary not only offered his sympathies but also provided tangible support by handing over financial assistance of Rs. 3 lakh from the Red Cross.

Assuring the family of the administration's unwavering commitment,

the Deputy Commissioner provided all possible assistance during this challenging time of grief and recovery. Additional Deputy Commissioner Harbans Lal Sharma, along with other senior officers and public representatives were also accompanying DC Ramban.

Power shutdown

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 09

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Vaishno Devi Bhawan, PHE Dansar, Railway Station Katra, Katra back, Katra Chintamani and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 14 and 15 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Satwari, Nai Basti, Military Hospital, Military Cantt., Nai Basti Narwal, Jawahar Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Shastri Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 14 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Chakroi, Pindi, Hansa, Satraiyan, Flora, BOP, Tanda, Kirpind, Seed Farm, Ward No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 (RS Pura), paper Mill, Dablehar, Badyal, Chowalla & its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 15 and 17 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Salehar, Khour, Biaspur, Makhanpur, Rathana, Jinder Mellu and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 9 am to 1 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Treva, Chak Shera, old Arnia, Kotli Jabawal and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 17 from 9 am to 2 pm.

GDC Vijaypur organizes Slogan-Writing Competition on "Importance of Voting"

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 13

Department of Sociology in collaboration with NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of GDC Vijaypur organised Slogan-Writing Competition on "Importance of Voting" under the banner of Voting Awareness Campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, the of Principal of the College Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta said that the slogan writing competition served as a platform for students to voice their thoughts about voting rights creatively.

Through impactful and thought-provoking slogans, participants conveyed the importance of voting. The competition invited young minds to come forward with their innovative ideas and compelling words to inspire change.



The first place were bagged by two students Rohit Angral of B.A. Sem. VI and Kavya Charak B.Com Sem-VI, Rohit Singh of B.A. Sem- VI secured the second place and the third place was bagged by Anjali Mehra of B.A. Sem II. The students were also

provided certificates for their endeavours.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (Convenor), Dr. Naseem Choudhary NSS PO, Prof. Poonam Kundan, Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Prof. Madhu Bala, Prof. Sonia and Dr. Neelam Kumari.

DLSA Reasi to hold National Lok Adalat on March 9

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 13

District Legal Services Authority Reasi, under the guidance of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Reasi is organizing National Lok Adalat on 09.03.2024 in District Reasi for Pre Litigation and Post Litigation to reduce pendency of cases in Courts.

All the litigants are hereby informed that if any of them is interested to settle his/her dispute or case in the said Lok Adalat amicably through Conciliation and Mediation he/she shall approach to the concerned Court and gets fixed his/her case in the said National Lok Adalat.

SDM reviews progress of schemes and programs in Ramnagar

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMNAGAR, FEBRUARY 13

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ramnagar, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, conducted a comprehensive review of multiple schemes and programs being executed in the Sub Division, Ramnagar by the Health, ICDS,

and Social Welfare departments. The meeting was attended by BMO, CDPO, and other sectoral officers from various departments. During the discussion on ICDS services, the CDPO, Poshan, provided insight into various schemes and activities, with a special emphasis on enhancing the nutritional quality at all Anganwadi centers. The CDPO, Poshan, was

instructed to closely monitor the quality of diets provided to children at these centers and expand the diet plans.

The SDM directed the Health and ICDS departments to mobilize village-wise and Anganwadi centers strictly to identify severely anemic women so that necessary steps can be taken for the benefit of poor women.