



# JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 38 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## My biggest principle has been minimum government, maximum governance: PM Modi at World Governments Summit

AGENCIES  
DUBAI [UAE], FEB 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday emphasised that his biggest principle has been "minimum government, maximum governance" and noted that it is the government's job to ensure minimal government interference in people's lives.

Addressing the World Governments Summit 2024 in Dubai, PM Modi called for reform in the Global Governance Institutions and said there is a need to promote the concerns of the developing world and the participa-



tion of the Global South in global decision-making. "My biggest principle has been 'Minimum government, maximum governance'. I have always emphasised creating an environment in which a sense of enterprise and

energy in citizens grows. I believe that it is the job of the government to ensure that government interference in people's lives is minimal," he said. PM Modi also referred to challenges which were posed by COVID-19.

"We have been hearing a lot from the experts that, after COVID, people have been not trusting governments. However, in India, we have seen the complete opposite. In the past years, it has been seen that people's trust has strengthened in the Indian government," he said.

The Prime Minister said people have trust in his government's intent and commitment.

"This happened because we have given priority to people's aspirations. We are sensitive to people's needs. We have focused on fulfilling people's needs and dreams.

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## Pulwama Terror Attack

### PM Modi, HM Shah, Rahul Gandhi, J&K LG; BJP leaders pay rich tributes to fallen CRPF men

J&K DGP, IGP Kashmir remember sacrifices offered by CRPF men'

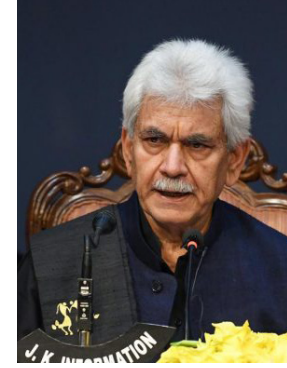
JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 14

Rich tributes were paid to 40 CRPF men who laid their lives in a deadly suicide attack on this day five years ago at Lethpora Pulwama.

According to the news agency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and beyond the realm of politics, the cricketing fraternity, and others joined in paying respects to the fallen soldiers.



"I pay homage to the brave heroes who were martyred in Pulwama. Their service and sacrifice for our nation will always be remembered," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X, formerly



known as twitter. Home Minister Amit Shah wrote on X that "I bow to the valorous martyrs of Pulwama, who laid down their lives for our motherland. Their supreme sacrifice will

always be remembered. Nation will forever remain indebted to our bravehearts."

"Humble tributes to the bravehearts who sacrificed their lives in 2019 Pulwama terror attack. The nation will forever remain indebted to their exemplary courage, supreme sacrifice, and selfless service to the motherland," the office of LG Manoj Sinha wrote on X.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi stated that "Hundreds of salutes and humble tribute to the brave martyrs of Pulwama terrorist attack.

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## Nine unexploded shells found in Ladakh



AGENCIES  
LEH, FEB 14

Nine unexploded shells were found and subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion in Ladakh, an official said on

Wednesday. The information about the presence of shells at Chulitse Kulum in Kharu was conveyed by Councillor Sonam Thardos to the Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM), an

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## Dr Jitendra meets devotees reaching Ayodhya by special train from Katra

AGENCIES  
AYODHYA, FEB 14

As a very solemn gesture, Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh was personally present here today to meet and welcome the devotees travelling in Special "Aastha" Train from Katra-Vaishnodevi who reached the holy city this morning to pay obeisance at the newly constructed Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir.

The first Special Train of pilgrims from Katra reached Ayodhya this morning and carried devotees mostly from Udhampur and Reasi besides



Jammu. This is the first of the special 'Aastha' trains originating from Katra station, operated by the Northern Railways to facilitate this sacred journey. "Aastha Specials" trains, each comprising

22 coaches, have been announced by the Indian Railways connecting 66 locations across the country, to facilitate pilgrimage to Ayodhya following the inauguration of the

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## PM Modi to address a mega public rally in Jammu: Ravinder Raina

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu & Kashmir on 20th February 2024. He will inaugurate a number of big development projects as well as lay down foundation stones for many new projects to boost the development in Jammu & Kashmir during his visit.

During this visit, the PM will address a massive rally at MAM Stadium in Jammu at morning 11:00 am, stated Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir. J&K



BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma and General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta and flanked by party Secretary Arvind Gupta and office secretary Tilak Raj Gupta was addressing a Press Conference at BJP

Headquarters, Jammu. Ravinder Raina, while addressing the media persons, shared that the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will visit Jammu & Kashmir. During his visit, BJP J&K has organized a massive rally

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## PM Modi participates in World Governments Summit 2024

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, FEB 14

At the invitation of Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Defence Minister, and the Ruler of Dubai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the World Governments Summit in Dubai as Guest of Honour, on Wednesday. He delivered the special keynote address on the theme of the Summit - "Shaping the Future Governments". Prime Minister had attended the World Governments Summit in 2018, also as Guest of Honour.

The Summit this time

saw participation of 20 world leaders, including 10 Presidents and 10 Prime Ministers. Governments and delegates from over 120 countries were represented at the global gathering.

In his address, Prime Minister shared his thoughts on the changing nature of governance.

He highlighted India's transformative reforms based on the mantra of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance". Sharing Indian experience on how the country had leveraged digital technology to further welfare, inclusivity and sustainability, he called for a

human-centric approach to governance.

He also underlined India's focus on people's participation, last-mile delivery and women-led development to achieve an inclusive society.

Prime Minister emphasised that given the interconnected nature of the world, governments must collaborate and learn from each other to address future challenges.

He highlighted that it was the need of the hour for governance to be Inclusive, Tech-smart, Clean and Transparent, and Green. In this context, he further emphasised

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## WD likely to trigger moderate rain, snowfall from Saturday over J&K: Met

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 14

A couple of moderate to intense Western Disturbances most likely to trigger rain and snow over the J&K and its adjoining areas from Saturday afternoon onwards, officials said.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar said under the influence of WD an extended wet spell from February 17 (night) onwards till February 21 (Afternoon) most likely to cause moderate rain and snow at many places over J&K and adjoining areas.

The weather will remain partly to generally cloudy with the pos-



sibility of light Snow at isolated higher reaches towards late night on February 17, while on February 18 it would be generally cloudy with possibility of light to moderate rain/Snow at many places.

During the February

19-20 there is a possibility of light to moderate rain/Snow at most places (Plains & Lower reaches) with the possibility of heavy snowfall over middle & higher reaches of Kupwara,

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## ED arrests 3 persons in money laundering case in Kashmir

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, FEB 14

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested three Kashmir residents, including a separatist leader, in a money laundering case related to the MBBS admissions in Pakistan, officials said.

Hurriyat leader Mohammad Akbar Bhat alias Zaffar Akbar Bhat, Fatima Shah, both residents of Srinagar and Sabzgar Ahmad Shaikh, Anantnag were formally arrested by ED under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with money laundering case. All the

three are already in jail from the last over three years.

Bhat was a top commander of militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen when the group declared a ceasefire in July 2000, which was reciprocated by the Centre.

In May 2022, the court of Special Judge designated under NIA Act Srinagar framed charges against the separatist leader and seven others for allegedly procuring medical seats in Pakistan for Kashmiri students in lieu of money which was "partly used" to "support and fund terrorism and separatism

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## Action against recently appointed MTS staff possessing higher qualification

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 14

The Jammu and Kashmir government has sought details from its offices across the Union Territory about the reported higher qualification being possessed by the Multi Tasking Staff appointed in the year 2022.

Reports inform that it has come to the notice of the LG administration that several complaints have been received wherein it has been alleged that a portion of selected/appointed

candidates were in possession of qualification higher than the prescribed one as on the relevant cut-off date. The government has asked the Departments to initiate urgent appropriate action in all such cases and also act against the delinquent candidates under norms.

As per the news agency, the Minimum and Maximum qualification prescribed for appointment to Class-IV/MTS posts, as per the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV (Special Recruitment)

Rules, 2020 notified vide S.O 184 of 2020 dated 04.06.2020, is "Matric and 10+2" respectively.

Pursuant to the indent placed by the General Administration Department on 22.06.2020, the J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB) advertised 8575 Class-IV/MTS posts vide Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated 26.06.2020 and prescribed 28.08.2020 as the last date for applying in online mode for the posts advertised.

According to the JKSSB, candidates, while filling

the application forms, submitted "Self-Declaration" that they are in possession of the prescribed qualification as per the advertisement/notification issued by the Board and also submitted an "Affidavit" to the Board at the time of verification of documents, affirming therein, that they were not in possession of qualification higher than the one prescribed for the post as on cut-off date of 28.08.2020 i.e. the last date for applying in online mode for the

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## IIT Jammu develops Anti-Drone system

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Dr Karan Nathwani, professor in the Electrical Engineering department of IIT Jammu, has constructed an anti-drone system that works mainly on sound technology.

"It is the first of its kind, and we have developed an entirely new technology called sound-based detection. This system detects the sound emitted by drones, producing a unique signature that helps in their identification. We compare this signature with the system's database, and if a match is found, the drone

is detected. The cost of this system is about Rs 4 lakh," he said.

"Not only is it cost-effective, but it is also user-friendly, making it accessible to the general public. It is easy to operate, and there are no issues with cameras or radar. The system was designed considering various challenges," making it versatile, he added.

Sound-based drone detection systems will detect even drones and birds coming from Pakistan.

Along with dealing with terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the biggest challenge for the security forces

at present is drones. Arms, ammunition, cash and drugs are being sent from Pakistan through drones. In such a situation, different technologies are being developed for the security forces to deal with the increasing trend of drones. In this series, IIT Jammu has prepared a sound-based drone detection system.

When asked about the development time, it took between 6 months to 1 year to create this technology. The primary challenge we faced was related to data.

He further said that our security forces need a foolproof anti-drone Grid system on IB and LOC and

many anti-drone technologies have already been installed and are being developed.

"We can provide this system to the army only when they provide us with data from similar environments, allowing our AI technology to incorporate and adapt," Dr Nathwani said.

With the help of this sound-based drone detection system, this device will be able to easily detect drones, aircraft, multiple drones or birds flying up to 300 meters by their sound. The cost of making this drone ranges from Rs 25 to 40 thousand.



## Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri addresses public issues at border block Doongi

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 14

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

During the event, local residents raised various concerns which encompassed the inclusion of eligible beneficiaries under the BPL category, upgrading the transformer at Kallar, initiating work on the road from Kallar Sawani to HS Kallar, addressing water scarcity, resolving forest clearance issue on the Kallar Chowk to Jabbran road, enrolling eligible beneficiaries under PMAY-G, allocating funds for the road from the main road to the Shamshan Ghat at Sasal Kote, blacktopping the road leading to GDC Doongi, repairing and renovating the Panchayat Ghar in Sasal Kote, upgrading the

Kallar to Veer Vadeshwar road, addressing the dilapidated condition of the Sasal Kote to Challas road, and constructing the main road to Prat.

Some more pressing issues in the area included improving the main road from Doongi Nalla ward No.02 to Ward No. 05, ensuring additional hand-pumps, establishing a JK Bank Branch, repairing old handpumps, expediting JJM schemes, addressing the fund shortage for the bridge at Tandwal, fixing the dilapidated Pathan Mohra to Gai road and Nagoon to Keri road, providing land passbooks, addressing staff shortages at PS Dhara Sawanla, constructing a road from Shahpur to Khanka Dhara, constructing building for KV school at Doongi block, and rationalization of staff in educational institutions.

Additional issues included addressing the scarcity of electricity poles, constructing roads from Chitti

Bakri to Namblan and from Thathayali to Bai, resolving pending payments for border bunkers, addressing the shortage of electricity poles in Ward No. 04 Sasal Kote, and initiating work on a borewell at Dherian.

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

The DC assured the public that all their concerns had been meticulously documented and that each genuine issue would be addressed through the intervention of the respective departments in a time-bound manner.

During the public outreach camp, the Deputy Commissioner assured that the focus of the Government is ensuring all essential facilities reach the doorstep



of the general public. He assured attendees that the most robust measures are actively being pursued to achieve this ambitious goal.

The DC issued on the spot directives to the concerned departments to prioritize and resolve the issues flagged by the public. Remarkably, several issues found resolution right there with the prompt intervention of the dedicated departments. Regarding the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, he assured that the district administration is working tirelessly to ensure the speedy implementation of the schemes in order to provide tapped

water connection to all the rural households of the district. Regarding the upgradation of the BRO road from Kallar to Veer Vadeshwar, the DC assured that he would take up the matter with the concerned quarters. He also directed the Assistant Commissioner Development to swiftly compile a thorough list of Panchayat Ghars which are in dilapidated condition and to take effective measures for their urgent repair and renovation.

Regarding the shortage of the electricity poles, the Deputy Commissioner assured that an adequate number of poles would be

provided under the RDSS scheme of the PDD sector. Regarding the shortage of staff in educational institutions, he directed the CEO Education to rationalize the staff at the earliest to address the issue. Concerning the construction of the border bunkers, he directed the concerned officers to expedite the construction of border bunkers and ensure they are completed as soon as possible.

Regarding the ongoing developmental projects, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri took a hands-on approach, directing officers to expedite progress and ensure timely completion. Recognizing the importance of the role these projects play in the growth of the region, he stressed the significance of efficient execution to bring tangible improvements to the community. Regarding curbing the menace of drug abuse from the district, he appealed to the public, emphasizing the importance

of their support in collaboration with the administration to effectively combat the issue of drug abuse within the district. As for the implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes, the DC also instructed the concerned officers to ensure the saturation of all centrally sponsored schemes by March 31st, 2024.

At the Block Diwas event, the Deputy Commissioner issued a pivotal directive for seamless collaboration among the concerned departments. Emphasizing the imperative of swift resolution, the Deputy Commissioner called for a united effort to eliminate bottlenecks hindering the timely execution of developmental projects. Later, as a mark of respect and to raise awareness under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, the Deputy Commissioner also distributed baby care kits to the mothers of newborn babies. Among others, DDC Member Doongi, Khalid Chowdhary; CPO, Moham-

mad Khurshid; ACD Vijay Kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; DDE, Zaheer Kaifi; EXEN REW, Zahir Khan; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid; EXEN PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan; EXEN Jal Shakti Mechanical, Manoj Gupta, besides other district and sectoral officers attended the public outreach camp.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited the KGBV school at Doongi, engaging with the students to encourage them to strive dedicatedly to reach their aspirations. Furthermore, he inspected the Agrati water supply scheme under JJM, assessing its progress. The scheme, estimated at Rs 478.50 lakh, aims to benefit 565 households, with ongoing work currently underway. Moreover, the DC also visited the Sasal Kote to Mehari road, where earthwork and retaining wall construction are in progress. This project, spanning a length of 4.25 kilometers, is estimated at Rs 532 lakh.

## DDC Reasi chairs weekly Block Diwas meeting at Dharmari

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, FEBRUARY 14

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today chaired the weekly Block Diwas meeting to address the grievances of the local public here at Dharmari. The event was part of the administration's ongoing efforts to connect with the people at the grassroots level and to ensure the speedy redressal of their issues.

The residents of Dharmari, during the Block Diwas event, brought to light several pressing issues affecting their locality. They demanded construction of roads in unconnected areas, completion of PMGSY roads, meeting shortage of staff in health and education departments, construction of the Hydro Power Project over the Hans River, renovation of the Dak Bungalow, installation of electric poles where needed, up-

gradation of the Primary Health Centre (PHC), and a fresh survey for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Various stalls were set up by different departments to provide on-spot services to the public. These stalls included those of the Revenue, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare department.

DDC Mahajan instructed the Chief Horticulture Officer to organize an awareness camp in Kanthi, Thillu and adjoining areas to educate the residents about the departmental schemes and initiatives so that they can avail themselves of the benefits.

During the Block Diwas, General Manager District Industries Centre Reasi, Mohammad Anwar Banday briefed residents about the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Scheme. He encouraged them to register themselves for the scheme to avail its ben-



efits.

The DDC interacted with the residents of Dharmari and surrounding areas, listening to their grievances patiently. He assured them of prompt action on the issues raised and directed the concerned departments to take necessary steps to resolve the same at the earliest.

During the interaction with the public, the residents of Dharmari and surrounding areas expressed their desire for a railway station in the Khori to improve connectivity and facilitate easier transportation of goods and people.

Responding to their demands, DDC Mahajan assured the residents that the administration

has already taken up the issue with the Chairperson Railway Board during his recent visit who assured to assess the feasibility of constructing a railway station at Khori.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC highlighted the role of road connectivity in the overall development of the area. He emphasized that the construction of roads has not only provide improved connectivity but also led to the overall development of the region. He informed the gathering about the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), under which every left-out household will be provided with electricity connections. Additionally, the

scheme includes the repair of electric poles and wires to ensure a reliable electricity supply to the residents.

The DDC also directed the Block Development Officer (BDO) to identify suitable areas for the installation of solar power stations.

Regarding the shortage of staff in schools, DDC Mahajan assured that the vacancies would be filled soon to ensure smooth functioning. He also announced plans for the upgrade of all school buildings in the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25.

Furthermore, he directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to organize health checkup camps in Dharmari and adjoining areas, to ensure the health and well-being of the residents and to address any health issues in a timely manner.

He encouraged residents to take optimal benefits of the various

online services provided by the Central and Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory (UT) governments. He highlighted the convenience and efficiency of these services, especially in the current digital era.

DDC distributed five appointment orders to Sanginis recently engaged in the Poshan project. He congratulated the appointees and encouraged them to work diligently towards the project's objectives.

Later, DDC Mahajan conducted a thorough inspection of the newly constructed Government Degree College Dharmari. During the inspection, he ensured that all pending works will be swiftly completed, directed the authorities to expedite work and best efforts.

ACD Pardeep Kumar, SDM Dharmari, XEN PWD, CMO, DSWO, Chief Horticulture and Agriculture officer, Tehsildar, BDO, SDPO and other district officers were present.

## Road Safety Month campaign concludes with mega awareness events in Banihal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 14

The Motor Vehicle Department Ramban has initiated numerous impactful initiatives aimed at promoting road safety awareness among the citizens.

Under the esteemed guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, the department has been actively engaged in fostering a culture of safe driving practices throughout the district.

Marking the concluding day of the Road Safety Month campaign, a significant step was taken by Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Samrinder Singh, by organising road safety pledges and awareness at the Navayuga Tunnel and Railway station Banihal.

Speaking on the occasion, the ARTO reiterated the commitment of the department to ensure the safety of every road user in Ramban. He emphasized the need for collective action and cooperation from the community to mitigate road accidents and fatalities.

Throughout the Road Safety Month awareness campaign, a series of activities including awareness drives, workshops, and interactive sessions were organized across the region, with a focus on educating both drivers and pedestrians about the risks associated with negligent behavior on the roads.

The Motor Vehicle Department in Ramban has extended its gratitude to all stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and the public, for their unwavering support in promoting road safety.

## Dr Piyush Singla holds Public Darbar at Banquet Hall, Srinagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 14

Secretary School Education, Dr. Piyush Singla presided over a mega Public Darbar at Banquet Hall in Srinagar today, taking stock of the issues and demands of the people.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director School Education, Heads of Departments, and other senior officers from the District Administration of Srinagar were present at the occasion. Vice Chairman of DDC, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, along with other PRI representatives and various delegations, also participated in the Public Outreach programme.

The Public Darbar received an overwhelming response from the public, with people apprising the Secretary about their developmental issues and demands, seeking his intervention for redressal.

Delegations expressed satisfaction with the outreach programme, stating that it provided them with an opportunity to voice their grievances and urged the government to expedite resolutions through appropriate channels.

The Secretary issued on-the-spot directions



to concerned officers to address all issues raised by the delegations and individuals, initiating action for their early redressal.

People mainly approached him with civic problems related to bad roads, intermittent power supply, inadequate health facilities, and infrastructure augmentation in public health institutions.

A delegation led by DDC member Harwan raised concerns about power cuts in their areas, emphasizing the need for electricity availability as per schedule.

The Private Schools Parent Association del-

egation highlighted issues regarding fee fixation and transport fees in private schools, urging strict enforcement of Fee Fixation and Regulatory Committee orders.

Delegations from Eidgah and Ahmednagar raised issues related to roads, water treatment plants, power pipe leakages, and health infrastructure upgradation in their respective localities.

Similarly, a delegation from Habak Naseembagh emphasized road widening due to frequent traffic jams, while another from Tenggpora area demanded irrigation facilities, better

healthcare services, and improved drainage systems. Dr Singla assured all individuals and delegations that their issues and genuine demands would be redressed on a merit basis, giving on-the-spot directions to concerned officials for time-bound resolutions.

He emphasized the importance of immediate redressal of people's grievances through the unique initiative of Public Darbar.

Furthermore, he directed HoDs to promote government initiatives and schemes to ensure maximum benefit for the public.

## DC Kathua presides over Block Diwas programme at Loundi- Hiranagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 14

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, today presided over a Public Outreach programme as part of weekly Block Diwas here at Loundi Panchayat of Hiranagar to redress the grievances of local populace.

On the occasion, ex-PRIS, Social activists, individuals projected the issues of public importance and sought immediate redress of the same.

The major issues highlighted during the proceedings of block diwas included desilting of irrigation Canals and Kuhls, early completion of PMGSY and JJM projects, repair of Community bunkers, repair of GMS Chhan Khatrian and Chhan Morian, refurbishing of Health Sub-Centre Sura and Sub-Centre Saad etc.

After giving a patient hearing, the DC Kathua assured people that all of their genuine issues will be redressed with the active intervention of the concerned departments.

Responding to the demand of desilting of irrigation assets, the DC directed the Irrigation department to complete



the task at the earliest. On the issue of repair of community bunkers, the DC directed concerned Tehsildar and BDO to inspect the bunkers so as to ascertain the reason of the damages.

The DC also directed Chief Education Officer and Chief Medical Officer to start necessary repair work of the projected buildings of the School Education and Health Departments on priority basis.

The DC called for optimum utilization of available funds in line with popular aspirations viz a viz the civil amenities like lanes, roads, schools, hospitals, public library and community halls etc while formulating CAPEX plan for next fiscal.

Among others present were Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, SDM Hiranagar and other district and sectoral officers.

Later, the DC convened a meeting of PRIS and officers of different departments to finalise the identified villages in the border belt of Kathua district to be upgraded the same as Model Villages on Pilot Basis.

After detailed deliberations, the meeting unanimously finalised Loundi, Kattal Brahmana, Kanthal, Shuba Chack and Jandi Villages to be elevated as Model Border Villages.



## Block Diwas: DC Kulgam holds public grievance redressal camp at Yaripora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 14

To listen to the public at their door steps, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Yaripora area and presided over a mega public grievance redressal camp as part of weekly Block Diwas.

The programme witnessed overwhelming participation of people from HomeShalibug, Yaripora, Nunmai, Yamrach, Dasen, Kokergund Munadguffan and other adjoining areas. ACD Mohammad Imran, Tehsildar, BDO, Ex. Engineers from various executing agencies, CEO, CMO and other officers were also present in the grievance redressal camp.

On the occasion, public delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues before DC and demanded



fencing of graveyard at Home Shalibug, repairs of street lights in Yaripora, establishment of girls degree college, establishment of public library at Yaripora, augmentation of staff at SDH, establishment of ATM near hospital, repairs of Dasen-Nunmai road, installation of street lights at Nunmai, etc.

The other demands including augmentation of drinking water supply, desilting of irrigation canals, repairs and mac-

adamization of roads and other demands of the area were also flagged-off by the people.

All the issues were listened to by the DC and some of the issues of immediate nature were redressed on the spot.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that the purpose of holding such grievance redressal camps is to take appraisal of issues from the general public for their time bound redressal. He

added that all the issues and demands were noted for further action as per feasibility and norms.

The DC encouraged people to participate in Gram Sabhas to prioritize developmental works of their areas for the larger interest of the public.

He also instructed concerned to identify any vacant building for establishment of the Public Library in Yaripora.

Earlier, officers presented a brief about the status of works under execution of these executing agencies and the DC directed them to ensure timely completion of all works. He also instructed officers to ensure prompt and time-bound redressal of issues and grievances of people.

Meanwhile, grievances redressal camps were also held at D.H.Pora and Devsar.

## Public grievances redressal camp held at Block Majalta

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 14

As part of Weekly Block Diwas, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a public outreach program in Block Majalta, addressing numerous issues and demands raised by the local community.

Local DDC Councilor Amit Sharma, along with District Officers from across line departments, ex-PRI members and general public participated in the event.

Additional District Development Commissioner Ghan Sham Singh, CEO MDA, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umesh Shan, and other senior officers attended the program.

The locals projected a range of demands and



problems seeking provision of electric poles, installation of hand pumps, road maintenance, blacktopping, addressing low voltage issues, installation of transformers, meeting water scarcity, tree plantation, housing schemes, speedy completion of projects etc.

Responding to the demands, the DC issued on-the-spot directives to the concerned departments to address the grievances raised by ex-PRI members and the general public, emphasizing their resolution on pri-

ority. The DC assured the public of further outreach programs to tackle genuine issues directly.

The DC instructed officers to conduct awareness campaigns on government schemes and stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation. The community expressed gratitude to the DC for the initiative.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected ongoing developmental works in Mansar and urged executing agencies to expedite progress for timely completion.

## Suresh Gupta chairs Public Darbar at Sports Stadium, Purmandal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 14

Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, chaired a Public Darbar at the Sports Stadium Purmandal here, aimed at addressing community grievances and evaluating the developmental landscape of the district. The event witnessed active participation from various delegations, including representatives from the District Development Council (DDC), local residents, social workers, former Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and members of Block Development Councils (BDCs).

Among the key concerns voiced by the locals were issues pertaining to road connectivity in Purmandal and Paddal areas, the need for the upgradation of health-care facilities at PHC Purmandal, increased availability of bus services, establishment of vegetable markets, mitigation of monkey menace causing crop damage, irregular power supply, water scarcity in Deon and Purmandal areas, demand for Aadhar enrollment



camp, and restoration of historical sites such as old havelis and baulis, along with addressing concerns related to illegal mining activities.

Various delegations, social workers etc also submitted a memorandum outlining their demands to the Principal Secretary.

In his address, Principal Secretary emphasized the profound religious and cultural significance of Purmandal. He stated that the restoration of cultural heritage as a paramount priority of the government, reflecting a deep-seated commitment to preserving the essence of our heritage.

He underscored that the restoration efforts extend far beyond mere buildings; they encapsulate the very soul of the region,

servicing as a beacon of its identity and cherished traditions. Suresh Gupta urged sectoral officers to conduct thorough ground assessments before planning and incorporating community feedback into development plans. He highlighted initiatives such as "Back to Village" and public darbars as essential tools for understanding the actual needs of the people. Additionally, effective measures to control the monkey menace were discussed and suggested to the local community.

DC Samba Abhishek Sharma, ADDC Samba Rajinder Singh, PO ICDS Dr. Subhash, DDC Purmandal Avtar Singh and other senior officers of the district administration were also present at the occasion.

## JK Judicial Academy conducts one-day training programme on 'eCourts' for advocates in Jammu Province

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 14

The J&K Judicial Academy, in collaboration with the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India, organized a One-Day Training Programme on "eCourts" for Advocates in Jammu Province at the J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

The training programme was inaugurated by Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Member of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, in the presence of Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computers, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and U.K. Jalali, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who served as resource persons in the training programme.

In his inaugural address, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani highlighted that the e-Courts Project is a Mission Mode Project of the Government of India aimed at transforming the Indian Judiciary by implementing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in its functioning. The eCourts project aims to provide a litigant-centric, afford-



able, accessible, efficient, cost-effective, transparent, and accountable justice delivery system in a time-bound manner. The services under the project cater to all key stakeholders, including the High Courts, the District and Subordinate Courts, and the citizens, litigants, lawyers, and advocates. The automation of Case Management has increased visibility and helps courts in the speedier disposal of cases.

Y.P. Bourney, Director of J&K Judicial Academy, presented the welcome address and gave an overview of the programme. He stated that technology has proven to be a significant accelerator in almost

reshaping access to justice and enhancing efficiency, transparency, and fairness.

The first technical session was chaired by Anoop Sharma, who introduced the e-Courts Project and educated advocates about e-initiatives and management tools under e-Courts for advocates. The session covered topics such as e-filing, e-Filing Portal, registration of advocates on the e-filing portal, and the process of e-filing.

In the second technical session, U.K. Jalali emphasized the importance of strong advocacy skills and adherence to professional ethics for advocates to effectively represent their clients and uphold the justice system. He encouraged continuous improvement in both skills and ethical conduct through training programs, feedback from peers, and reflection on practice.

Advocates actively participated in all sessions, sharing experiences, discussing various aspects of the subject topics, and raising queries, which were satisfactorily addressed by the resource persons.

## One-day Sensitisation/ Training programme on Implementation of JJ Act 2015 & Mission Vatsalya held at Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 14

A one day Sensitisation/ Training programme on 'Implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015 and Mission Vatsalya Scheme' was today held at Institute of Hotel Management Rajbagh, here.

The programme, organized by the Department of Social Welfare, Mission Vatsalya Srinagar, witnessed the participation of an important target group viz. Anganwadi Workers (Front line workers) of Mission Poshan Srinagar, functionaries of Child line and other field functionaries of the Social Welfare Department. The target group were sensitized that they are very crucial to uphold child rights vis-a-vis development in their jurisdiction.

Speaking on the occasion, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Srinagar Hafiz

Abdul Bari explained the importance of the programme and gave a detailed description of the topic and its working mechanism at the government level.

The speakers shared their expertise and professional knowledge with the participants. Among them, Misba -Member Child Welfare Committee discussed and explained that if any Frontline worker needs to share details of a child who seems to be in need of any welfare schemes, for that purpose the concerned worker can directly contact the Child Welfare Committee members through various means viz. Child line number (1098), Social Media Sites or through phone calls.

She well explained the role of the Child Welfare Committee and Children in need of Care and Protection.

Advocate Zulfikar Khan- Member Juvenile

Justice Board, explained Role and responsibilities of Juvenile Justice Board regarding Child in Conflict with law. He added the importance of incorporation of new skills and exploring the participatory nature of these Children for incorporating them in the mainstream society, and urged the target audience to take an active role in this regard for the welfare of the societies in general and child in particular.

Mansha, Project Coordinator Child line gave a detailed presentation on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice System and described Adversities of Childhood Experiences and its impact in shaping the future of these Children.

She further shared some immediate counseling skills which need to be used at the ground level by the frontline workers for the benefit of such children.

## Road Safety Month campaign concludes at Kishtwar with Felicitation, Awareness Program

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 14

The month-long awareness activities dedicated to month long Road Safety campaign reached a successful conclusion today under the close guidance of ARTO, Mohammad Saleem Manhas, and the overall supervision of Chairman District Road Safety Committee, Dr. Devansh Yadav (Deputy Commissioner).

To mark the culmination of the Road Safety Awareness Month, a Felicitation and Awareness Program was organized by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) in collaboration with Government Degree College Kishtwar.

Principal GDC Kishtwar, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, staff and students of GDC Kishtwar besides MVD officials remained present on the occasion.

The highlight of the event was the Road Safety pledge ceremony, followed by a spirited rally led by students of Degree College Kishtwar. The rally



commenced from GDC Kishtwar and traversed to Dak Banglow Kishtwar, symbolizing the commitment to fostering a culture of road safety.

The ARTO expressed satisfaction over the active participation and enthusiasm displayed by the community throughout the month. He emphasized the importance of continued efforts to promote road safety awareness for the well-being of all road users.

He commended the collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders besides the

officials of Government Degree College Kishtwar in organizing impactful awareness programs on the concluding day. He highlighted the crucial role of education institutions in shaping responsible road behavior among the youth.

The successful conclusion of the National Road Safety Month 2024 activities in Kishtwar reflects the commitment of the district administration, MVD Kishtwar, and educational institutions towards creating a safer road environment.

## DC Kathua reviews progress under District Capex Budget 2023-24



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 14

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing development projects under the District Capex Budget 2023-24 at a meeting held in the DC office complex, here today. The review aimed to assess the performance and status of the in progress projects across different sectors. Dr. Minhas meticulously examined the progress of each sector and solicited feedback on the current status of developmental works. During the department-wise review, he underscored the importance of expediting the completion of pending projects within the district, emphasizing the need for quality asset

## Road Safety Month: Blood Donation Camp organized at DPL Sopore

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SOPORE, FEBRUARY 14

In a collaborative effort aimed at fostering road safety awareness and community engagement, the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Baramulla, in collaboration with the Police and Health departments, orchestrated a blood donation camp at the District Police Lines (DPL) in Sopore.

The event witnessed the participation of various dignitaries including Superintendent of Police Sopore, Divya Dev; Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Muazzam Ali; Dy SP Sopore, officers from the Health Department, police personnel, and members of the driver community.

The primary objective of the blood donation camp was to raise awareness about traffic rules, particularly among the driver community. By bringing together stakeholders from different sectors, the event aimed to underscore the importance of responsible driving practices for ensuring road safety.

During her address, SP Sopore emphasized the crucial role of the driver community in upholding traffic rules and ensuring road safety. She urged drivers to adhere strictly to traffic regulations and to exercise caution on the roads, thereby contributing to the overall safety of the community.

The Assistant Regional Transport Officer also addressed the gathering, highlighting the collective responsibility of drivers to prioritize safety and adhere to traffic rules for the well-being of the entire community.

The blood donation camp received overwhelming support and participation from the community, reflecting a shared commitment to both road safety and humanitarian causes.



## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## My biggest principle...

Along with the top-down and bottom-up approaches, we have also moved with the whole of society approach," he said.

Noting that challenges of the previous century, including food, health, water and energy security, are increasing despite the progress in technology, he said that the world needs governments that are inclusive and take everyone along.

PM Modi arrived in UAE on Tuesday on the first leg of his two-day visit. Later in the day, he will inaugurate the BAPS temple in Abu Dhabi.

## PM Modi, HM Shah...

The country will always be indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice dedicated to the defence of India."

"Today we stand in solemn remembrance of our nation's brave hearts who we lost in the #Pulwama-TerrorAttack. Their valour and sacrifice will always be remembered and their legacy of selfless courage will inspire generations of proud Indians," Tweeted Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh.

"Honouring the memory of the brave souls who lost their lives in the Pulwama attack. Their courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten," Indian Cricket K L Rahul Tweeted. J&K DGP RR Swain and IGP Kashmir V K Bhirdi also paid rich tributes to the fallen bravehearts. The sacrifices of CRPF personnel will forever be etched in our hearts. As we remember these heroes, let's renew our commitment to securing peace, "DGP said in a statement.

While quoting IGP Kashmir, Kashmir Zone Police posted on X, "Today, we solemnly remember the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2019 Pulwama terror attack. Their bravery echoes through time, inspiring us to renew our commitment for establishing peace. Let's honor their valour & sacrifice by striving for violence free nation."

BJP leader Altaf Thakur and others visited the incident site at Lethpora to pay floral tributes to the fallen CRPF men.

On February 14, 2019, CRPF convoy was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethpora in the Pulwama district resulting in the death of 40 CRPF men. KNO

## Nine unexploded...

official spokesman said.

He said the SDM took up the matter with the Trishul Division of the Army and subsequently its engineers ensured the swift disposal of the shells in the presence of the local police.

Officials said the shells were destroyed in a controlled explosion by army experts.

## Dr Jitendra meets...

Ram Temple on 22nd January 2024.

Devotees from Udhampur, Reasi and Jammu districts were pleased to have among them the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who also accompanied the pilgrims to offer prayers at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir.

"It is a divine coincidence under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that it has been possible to connect the holy cities of Katra-Vaisnovevi and Ayodhya because of Ram Lalla," said Dr Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

While the whole world is lauding the consecration of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that Prime Minister Modi has a special bond with Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

Soon after being named as Prime Ministerial candidate for the 2014 general election, Shri Narendra Modi had kicked off his election campaign after paying obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi temple, revealed Dr Jitendra Singh.

And again, after being sworn in as the Prime Minister in May, 2014, one of the first major programmes attended by him was the inauguration of the Katra-Vaishno Devi Railway Station.

Soon after, on the directions of PM Modi, Katra Railway Station was converted to solar-power because of the rich sunshine that it receives, said Dr Jitendra Singh, adding that several other railway stations of the country also followed the same precedent.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who represents Udhampur constituency in the Lok Sabha, said, similarly, under Prime Minister Modi, Katra Vaishno Devi got Express road corridor from New Delhi, two instead of one Vande Bharat Express trains and Katra was included in the PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) scheme.

While the devotees will have an opportunity to pay obeisance at Ayodhya, they will be also carrying the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi all the way to the Ram Lalla Temple in Ayodhya, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

## PM Modi to address...

to be attended by lakhs of people at MAM Stadium in Jammu on 20th February 2024.

Raina said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have always remained enthusiastic to attend the rally of PM in massive numbers and this time too, lakhs of people will become a party of massive rally in order to listen to their popular leader PM Modi.

Raina said that PM Modi has given a new direction to the peace and prosperity here. He said that today, one can witness many new projects, rails, roads, highways, medical colleges, AIIMS, higher education institutes etc. He, on the occasion, appealed to all the residents of Jammu & Kashmir to come, join the rally, and listen to the PM, who has put the J&K on the development map.

He said that PM Modi has led the all-round development in J&K, which is the reason that whole of J&K residents including Dogras, Kashmiris, WPRs, PoJK, Valmikis, Gujjar-Bakerwals, Pahadi, women, OBCs and other communities have today got their due rights. PM Modi-led government has ensured justice to everyone and this is the greatest reason why the people from every single area of J&K have started loving PM Narendra Modi.

Raina further said that with the high esteem, love,

and faith of people in PM Modi, massive crowds of common masses from all the areas of J&K will reach the rally site to listen to PM Modi and to know how the PM is giving a new shape and vision to the nation and the Jammu & Kashmir.

## PM Modi participates...

that governments must prioritise - Ease of Living, Ease of Justice, Ease of Mobility, Ease of Innovation and Ease of Doing Business in their approach to public service.

Elaborating on India's steadfast commitment to Climate Change action, he called for people to join Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) to create a sustainable world.

Prime Minister elaborated on the leadership role played by India as the chair of G-20 last year, on a wide range of issues and challenges facing the world. In this context, he highlighted the efforts made by India to bring development concerns facing the Global South to the centre-stage of global discourse.

Calling for reform of multilateral institutions, he pushed for greater voice for the Global South in its decision making. India, he stressed, will continue to contribute to global progress based on its role as a "Vishwa Bandhu". KNO

## WD likely to trigger...

Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam, Shopian and Kulgam districts during February 19 late afternoon/evening to February 20 late night in Kashmir valley, the MeT office said.

It said that there is a possibility of light to moderate Snow at many places till afternoon/late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter on February 21.

MeT also predicted light rain snow at many places over Jammu division on February 18 while on February 19-20 intermittent light to moderate rain with thunder, lightning in plains with light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Ramban, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar, the MeT office said.

Light to moderate snow, rain, thunder and lightning over many places till late afternoon/evening and gradual improvement thereafter on February 21.

The weatherman has also issued an advisory stating that the weather system may lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes of Sinthan pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna & Razdan pass, Zojila etc.

Travellers are advised to Plan accordingly while the farmers are advised to withheld irrigation and fertilizer application & drain out excess water from Orchards and fields during the above period.

There is a possibility of significant drop in day temperature during the above period, it said.

The MeT office said the minimum temperature during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday slipped down by a few notches as Srinagar recorded a low of -3.0°C against the -2.5°C against the previous night. It was 3.2°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national had a low of -2.0°C against the -1.2°C while the picnic spot of Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of -0.2°C against the -0.3°C the previous day.

Tourist hot spot of Pahalgam remained the coldest place in Kashmir valley, although there was a further improvement in minimum temperature by a few notches. Pahalgam recorded -5.2°C against the -5.4°C. It was 0.2°C below normal for the valley of shepherds in south Kashmir.

Kupwara recorded a low of -3.4°C against the -3.6°C and it was 2.2°C below normal for the frontier north Kashmir district.

The minimum temperature at Gulmarg settled at -4.2°C against the -4.5°C recorded on Tuesday and it was 2.0°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

## ED arrests 3 persons...

in different ways".

A spokesman of the ED on Wednesday said the three were arrested in connection with money laundering case wherein accused persons involved in terror financing were hand-in-glove with Pakistani handlers Manzoor Ahmad Shah and Altaf Ahmad Bhat, who arranged admissions in MBBS & other courses in the colleges of Pakistan for students from Jammu & Kashmir.

The trio have been remanded to ED custody till February 20.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered by J&K Police for offences under various sections of Unlawful Activity (Prevention) Act and IPC, 1860 against Mohammad Akbar Bhat, Fatima Shah, Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Qazi Yasir, Syed Khalid Geelani alias Khalid Andrabli & others involved in terrorist activity in Jammu & Kashmir.

The ED investigation revealed that the arrested accused persons were hand in glove with Pakistani handlers in the guise of admissions in MBBS & other courses in the colleges of Pakistan for students from Jammu & Kashmir.

"They had received money in their personal accounts and in the bank accounts of Al-Jabar Trust which was a charitable trust," the ED said. "But it was being used for the purpose of receiving funds from students, which were further being ploughed into the terrorist activity in India in various ways such as given money to stone pelters, providing money to the persons/terrorist based in Jammu & Kashmir as per instructions of Pakistan handlers such as Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Altaf Ahmad Bhat etc."

Earlier, ED had provisionally attached properties worth Rs. 5 Crore under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 in the form of various bank accounts, immovable properties etc.

## Action against recently...

posts advertised by the Board.

The J&K SSB, while forwarding the recommendations of the selected candidates, also advised the concerned appointing authorities that they shall satisfy themselves

## DPS Kathua celebrates Vasant Panchami with Enthusiasm, Devotion

JINNEWSERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 14

Delhi Public School Kathua marked the auspicious occasion of Vasant Panchami with a spectacular assembly, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of India and the spirit of springtime festivities.

The day commenced with a serene Saraswati Bandhana, a traditional invocation to the goddess of knowledge and wisdom, Saraswati.

Following the Saraswati Vandana, the school resonated with the melodies of music and the rhythmic beats of dance performances, reflecting the vibrancy and dynamism of Indian culture. The talented students of DPS Kathua captivated the audience with their stellar performances, showcasing their artistic prowess and dedication to the arts.

As the sun reached



its zenith, the festivities soared to new heights with an exhilarating kite flying activity. Under the guidance of teachers and staff, students took to the skies, their colorful kites dancing against the azure backdrop, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and the arrival of spring.

Mr. Vivek Arora, the esteemed Principal of DPS Kathua, extended warm wishes to all on the occasion of Vasant Panchami, emphasizing the importance of embracing knowledge, creativity, and unity.

"Vasant Panchami is a celebration of new beginnings and the pursuit of knowledge. May this auspicious day inspire us all to reach greater heights and spread joy and harmony in our community," remarked Mr. Arora.

The Vasant Panchami celebration at DPS Kathua exemplifies the school's commitment to holistic education and cultural enrichment, nurturing the talents and values of its students while fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie within the school community.

## Anurag Singh Thakur hands over Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 14

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, Hungary, the official host of the 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad today in New Delhi.

The handoff ceremony took place at Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, where the minister, along with Indian Grand Master Vishwanathan Anand played also a friendly game of Chess against FIDE President, Arkady Dvorkovich and Hungarian Grand Master Judit Polgar before handing over the Olympiad torch to the FIDE President and Budapest.

## AAP Jammu, remembers Pulwama Martyrs, pays homage



JINNEWSERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 14

The Aam Aadmi Party Jammu Province activists, while paying homage to PULWAMA Martyrs, assembled in Party office Laxmipuram-Chinore, Jammu and paid their respect to the 40 Jawans who laid their lives for the sake of Nation on 14th February, 2019. On the occasion, the speakers, highlighted the sacrifices of our Jawans to keep our TRINGA high and said that whole Nation is proud of our valiant Jawans, the bravery of whom is known to the world.

They further expressed great dismay and regret that till date the culprits have remained at large and nothing is being heard as to how around 300 kgs of RDX was smuggled in our territory and

under what circumstances a private vehicle loaded with deadly smuggled RDX managed its entry in between the Convoy and caused the human loss by detonating the RDX? It is really sad that our well knit network of investigating agencies have chosen to remain silent they said and added that real Nationalism is made known to the world when Israelites sneaked into Pak territory and affected surgical strike to pullout their two soldiers from their Jail. This is the real Nationalism who acted instead of gaining mileage, they claimed. Prominent among those who attended and spoke on the occasion include S/ Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Gulam Nabi Khan, Ranjodh Singh, Sham Lal Thakur, Harsh Dev Singh & others.

## 16th Finance Commission holds first meeting under Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya in New Delhi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 14

The 16th Finance Commission (XVI-FC) held its first meeting under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya in Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi. The Chairman and Members were welcomed by Secretary, XVI-FC, Shri Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey and other officials of the Finance Commission. A group of people in front of

a signDescription automatically generated The XVI-FC discussed its Terms of Reference, as per the order made by the President of India and notified by the Ministry of Finance vide Notification S.O. 5533(E), dated 31st December, 2023. The XVI-FC acknowledged the need for wide ranging consultations with various stakeholders, including State Governments, Local Bodies, Ministries of Government of India, and experts.

about the fact that the candidates are in possession of the 'prescribed minimum (10th) and maximum qualification (12th) as on the said cut-off date before issuing the appointment orders and in case it is found that any candidate is possessing qualification higher than the prescribed one as on the said cut-off date, the Board may be intimated so that criminal proceedings against such candidate(s) can be initiated by the Board.

However, reads an official communication in this regard, several complaints have been received wherein it has been alleged that a few selected/appointed candidates were in possession of qualification higher than the prescribed one as on the relevant cut-off date.

"In view of the above, it is enjoined upon all the

concerned Administrative Departments to immediately examine all such cases to ensure that the candidates appointed as Class-IV (MTS) on the recommendations of the J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB) were not in possession of qualification higher than the one prescribed in the relevant rules as on the above cut-off date as prescribed by the Board while advertising the Class-IV (MTS) vacancies vide Notification No. 01 of 2020 (dated 26.06.2020) and, if there are cases in which appointment orders have been issued in violation of the relevant rules, the Departments shall initiate urgent appropriate action in all such cases and also act against the delinquent candidates under norms," reads an official order. KNO



## SVEEP Programme spreads Electoral Awareness among students in Basohli

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 14

Government Model Higher Secondary School Basohli hosted a SVEEP programme today to enhance awareness about electoral processes among the students.

The event, held within the school premises, was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Basohli, Anil Kumar Thakur as the chief guest. Alongside him, Naib Tehsildar Jagdish Singh, staff members of the higher secondary school and enthusiastic students added fervor to the occasion.

Students showcased their talent through cultural presentations that delved into the intricacies of electoral procedures.

The cultural performances served not only as a means of expression but also as a platform for students to deepen their



understanding of democratic principles.

Highlights of the event were the insightful speeches delivered by Priya Devi, Gungun, and Pallavi Pathania, students of 11th and 12th classes respectively. Their articulate discourse on electoral processes reflected a keen awareness of civic responsibilities and the significance of participation in democratic processes.

Speaking at the event, ADC Basohli Anil Kumar Thakur, applauded the students for their proactive engagement with electoral issues. He encouraged them to take an active role

in the electoral process, stressing the importance of registering to vote and staying informed about electoral modifications through platforms like NVSP. He expressed optimism that Basohli would set new records in voter turnout in the upcoming elections. He reaffirmed the commitment of Basohli administration, under the guidance of the District Election Officer, to intensify SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) activities, ensuring inclusivity in the electoral process.

Principal Lalit Kumar

Sharma extended his gratitude to the chief guest, for his gracious presence and support. In his address, Principal Sharma commended the students for their insightful reflections on the electoral system, emphasizing the importance of informed citizenship. He urged the students to become ambassadors for civic engagement, spreading the message of responsible citizenship within their communities.

Earlier Voters pledge was also administered to all the participants to affirm the resolve for active participation in the democratic process.

## One-Week Workshop on Basic Office Tools concludes at GDCW Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 14

Department of Computer Applications of Government Degree College for Women, Kathua, organised a One-Week Workshop on "Basic Office Tools," under the patronage of IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell).

The workshop, which commenced on February 5, 2024, garnered significant enthusiasm from 40 students who actively participated in the program.

The inaugural ceremony, held on February 5, was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including College Principal Dr. Inderjeet Kour, Dr. Babita Mahajan, Dr. Ashwani Kumar Khajuria, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, and other esteemed faculty members.

Over the span of 7 days, the workshop provided hands-on training to the participants on essential office tools such as MS Word, MS Excel, and MS PowerPoint. The meticulously designed schedule covered both fundamental and advanced features of each application, ensuring a thorough understanding.

The credit for workshop's success goes to the invaluable contribution of resource persons Sachinjeet Singh (HoD),



and Surbhi Gupta from the Department of Computer Science. Their expertise in delivering theoretical insights and practical knowledge greatly enriched the learning experience for the participants.

The concluding day, today, featured a quiz to assess participants' understanding, followed by a feedback session and the distribution of e-certificates to acknowledge the successful completion of the workshop. The valedictory function, led by Dr. Amita Dua and Dr. Kamini Kapoor, marked the culmination of a week dedicated to enhancing students' proficiency in essential office tools.

During the closing ceremony, Ms. Surbhi Gupta presented a comprehensive summary report on the workshop, highlighting key takeaways and insights gained. Mr. Sachinjeet Singh, the workshop facilitator,

emphasized the significance of the workshop's outcomes, reflecting on the participants' progress and skill development.

Dr. Inderjeet Kour commended the efforts of the Department of Computer Applications, lauding the workshop as a resounding success. She extended her heartfelt congratulations to the entire team, emphasizing the collaborative efforts that contributed to the workshop's effectiveness.

The presence of distinguished faculty members including Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Rachna Devi, Dr. Romika Basin, Dr. Amita Dua, Dr. Ambika, Karam Chand, Dr. Renu, Manjot Singh, Dr. Ritu Kumar, Dr. Sonika Jasrotia, Dr. Mukesh Kumari, Dr. Satish Khajuria, Dr. Surekha, Ambika, Jyoti, Dr. Naseer, Saurabh Dutta, along with all the non-teaching staff, added prestige to the closing ceremony.

## GDC Vijaypur hosts lecture on Voting Rights

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 14

Department of Political Science in collaboration with NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur, under the banner of Voting Awareness Campaign, on Wednesday organised a lecture on 'Voting Rights' to create awareness among the young college students/citizens about the importance of their participation in the upcoming elections.

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Anita Jamwal, Head Department of Political Science to impart knowledge to students regarding voting rights and its importance for electing a healthy and competent government. She also elaborated upon the initiatives of the government like launching of a new portal for registration of citizens so that they can prepare their voter cards online and also briefed them regarding the process of voting, electoral process, including the role of the Election Commission of India, the process of voter registration, the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and the importance of ethical voting. She also interacted with students and also answered the questions raised by them. The program was attended by faculty members, college students and NSS volunteers of the college.

## National Road Safety Month concludes with a grand Valedictory function at Warehouse Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 14

A Valedictory function of National Road Safety Month-2024 (15th January, 2024 to 14th February, 2024) was today organized by the Motor Vehicles Department in association with All J&K Transporters Welfare Association Jammu here at Warehouse.

Transport Commissioner, J&K Rajinder Singh Tara, Paramveer Singh, Additional Secretary, Road Safety Council, J&K, Pankaj Bhagotra, RTO Jammu, S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, All J&K Transport Welfare Association were present on the occasion.

Besides Rehana Tabasum, ARTO (Headquarters), Esha Chib, ARTO

Board of Inspection (Goods), Kuldeep Singh, ARTO, Board of Inspection (Passengers), Neeraj Sharma, ARTO Flying Squad, Teams from Red Cross and Health Department, Jammu and other heads of all Transport Associations (Truck/Bus/Bus/Mini Bus) were also present.

Addressing the huge gathering, the Transport Commissioner urged the participants/Drivers and conductors to adhere to the road safety rules. He said that the main objective behind observing countrywide National Road Safety Month by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways was to generate mass awareness about safety and security of road users and to minimize the number of

deaths and injuries caused due to the road accidents in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir and the whole Country.

The Transport Commissioner also congratulated the whole team of Motor Vehicles Department and Transport Associations for their efforts for holding maximum awareness/events not only in the Road Safety Month but also during the entire year. The RTO Jammu impressed upon all the transporters, Vehicle Owners, drivers, Conductors, travelers and road users to strictly follow road safety and traffic rules to minimise the number of road accidents.

S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, All J&K Transport Welfare Association emphasized upon all the concerned

persons to strictly follow the rules so that safety of passengers can be ensured.

ARTOs also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the achievements of the Motor Vehicles Department in different fields and initiatives of Government of India. Earlier a pledge on road safety was also administered to the participants.

A Medical Health Check-up camp was also organized in association with Health Department and Red Cross

Earlier, the Regional Transport Officer presented the welcome address and formally welcomed all the participants and Transport associations, while the vote of Thanks was presented by ARTO, (Headquarters).

## MVD Organises Bike Rally to Promote Road Safety Awareness in Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 14

To promote road safety awareness and foster a culture of responsible biking/ driving, Motor Vehicle Department Rajouri organized a bike rally on the final day of National Road Safety Month 2024.

The event, which started from PWD Dak-Bungalow and culminated at the New Bus Stand Salani, saw the enthusiastic participation of about 100 bikers from the region.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rajeev Khajuria flagged off the rally as the chief guest. Addressing the event, the ADC said that road safety

is among the top priorities to ensure an efficient and safe traffic management in the district. He 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.

One of the highlights of the rally was the distribution of helmets among the participants, emphasizing the importance of wearing protective gears while riding. Furthermore, bikers were enlightened about various road safety measures, reinforcing the significance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations. The event not only

served as a platform for promoting road safety but also fostered camaraderie among biking enthusiasts. Refreshments were distributed to all participants, ensuring an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone involved.

After holding this rally, the message of road safety is expected to resonate strongly within the community, inspiring a collective commitment towards safer roads and responsible biking practices.

Among the others who were present on the occasion were ARTO, Pawan Kumar; DySP Traffic Nawaz Chouhan, DTI Ajaz Parvez and MVD Inspectors.

## Capacity Building Programme concludes at DIET Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 14

The 10 day capacity building programme initiated by DIET Kishtwar reached its successful conclusion today with a valedictory function held under the supervision of DIET Principal, R K Vasheshtha.

Around 50 Masters/Teachers underwent comprehensive training facilitated by different resource persons. The DIET academic officers and faculty members were present at the valedictory function.

The content enrichment programme, skillfully coordinated by Dr. Nadeem-UI Hassan, Senior Lecturer and Riaz Ahmad Butt, Senior Lecturer, aimed at enhancing understanding of content/curriculum and developing languages to improve students' concentration and make learning more meaningful, valuable, and rewarding.

Resource persons from DIET Kishtwar and other distinguished experts, including Humira Ayoub, Farooq Ahmad Giri, Irfan Ahmad, Sanjay Sharma, Mehboob Oazi and Ajaz Hussain Zargar, delivered enriching and impactful lectures to the participating Masters/Teachers.

## Awareness Rally to save Girl Child flagged-off in Kangan



JI NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 14

A mega awareness rally was today organized to champion the cause of gender equality and saving the girl child through the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme from Girls Higher Secondary School Kangan which passed through its adjacent areas.

The rally, organized by the District Social Welfare Officer Ganderbal, Sahir Majeed in collaboration with DHEW Mission Shakti Ganderbal and the School Education Department Ganderbal, witnessed enthusiastic participation of almost 150 students from different schools, teachers, social activist Bilal Bhat, project coordinator of Women Helpline, and the team of DHEW Mission Shakti.

The BBBP scheme, which translates to 'Save the girl child, educate the girl child,' underscores the commitment of the Government to address gender discrimination and advance women's

empowerment across the nation.

The rally sought to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the girl child and highlight the significance of education in fostering a more equitable society. During the rally, the team emphasized the multifaceted objectives of the BBBP scheme, which extend beyond education to challenge ingrained gender biases.

The initiative aims to catalyze a societal shift by fostering awareness about the inherent value of the girl child and promoting gender-neutral opportunities for growth and development.

Furthermore, the team drew attention to the comprehensive approach of the BBBP scheme in improving the efficacy of welfare services for girls. By creating a supportive environment and dismantling systemic barriers, the initiative strives to ensure that every girl has access to education, healthcare, and opportunities for a brighter future.

## Weekly Block Diwas Public Grievances Redressal Camp held at Chatroo

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 14

To address the public issues at their doorstep, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ghulam Rasool today presided over a Public Grievances Redressal Camp here at Chatroo as part of weekly Block Diwas Program.

The camp witnessed the active participation of district and sectoral officers, including ACD Phulail Singh, SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rehman, BDO Inderwal Hitesh Singh, CDPO Inderwal Dr Kuldeep Kumar, CAO Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik, CAHO Sajjid Mustafa, EXENs among others.

Local residents and delegations projected a wide range of demands including upgrading of local infrastructure and the streamlining of the public delivery system in the area.

Key grievances revolved around the replacement of wooden poles, timely payments under RDD, and expediting the developmental

projects in the region. ADDC Kishtwar, after patiently hearing, assured the community that their grievances would be addressed in a time-bound manner. Notably, a significant number of issues were resolved on the spot through consultations with the concerned officers, including ACD, BDO, and relevant Executive Engineers.

In his address, ADDC Kishtwar emphasized the core objective of Block Diwas - to redress people's grievances at their doorstep. He urged district officers to act stringently against dereliction of duty by officials, executing agencies, and contractors.

This proactive engagement signifies the administration's commitment to ensuring effective governance and addressing the needs of the people directly. The success of the Public Grievance Redressal Camp reflects the collaborative efforts of the community and administration in building a responsive and accountable governance structure.

## Empowering Electorates: Awareness on EVMs, VVPATs imparted to citizens at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, FEBRUARY 14

In consonance with the directives of District Election Officer, Harvinder Singh and under the supervision of Deputy District Election Officer Om Prakash, the District Election Office Doda orchestrated an impactful awareness camp, here today.

The initiative, aligned with the guidelines stipulated by the Election Commission of India, aimed to familiarize citizens with the intricacies of casting votes using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper

Audit Trail (VVPAT) system.

The training camp unfolded at the District Election Office, nestled within the DC Office Complex. A multitude of local inhabitants, hailing from diverse corners of the district, congregated to partake in the daylong session. Their collective presence underscored a palpable eagerness to engage with and understand the electoral process more comprehensively.

At the helm of the training session was Ashok Kumar, a distinguished master trainer from the District Election Office.



## EDITORIAL

## Ladakh agitation makes BJP worried

The Ministry of Home Affairs has called a meeting of the High Powered Committee (HPC) constituted to address the 'genuine' concerns of Ladakhi people on February 20. Despite the invitation extended by the Government of India, the agitating groups in Ladakh are not ready to budge from their stand and want a conclusive assurance from the Centre. The ongoing agitation against the alleged "non-seriousness" of the government towards four major 'legitimate' demands of Ladakhi people, however, has put the BJP on a sticky wicket in Ladakh, with the Saffron party finding it difficult to soothe the frayed nerves. The second meeting of the High Powered Committee, comprising seven members each of Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)—two organisations spearheading the movement, inter-alia, for Statehood and constitutional safeguards under Sixth Schedule—in New Delhi will be a decisive moment for the party ahead of Lok Sabha elections. The BJP is unhappy with its local unit as the agitation for a four-point agenda outlining major demands of Ladakhi people has gathered steam and the local leadership of the party has failed to convince the agitating groups over the measures being taken to address the genuine issues of the region. The party leadership is worried over the spreading of protests to different parts of the region. The massive participation of the people in 'Leh Chalo' rally on February 3 was a clear message for the BJP that things have not been going in its way as being perceived at the time of the grant of UT status to the region. The party is feeling that even the announcement of more administration ahead of Lok Sabha elections may not be sufficient to curtail the ongoing agitation. What worries the party high command is the 'hijacking' of the ongoing agitation in Ladakh by the National Conference and the Congress party, two alliance partners in the INDIA bloc, in two districts—Leh and Kargil. Security agencies have told the central government that the Congress and the National Conference leaders in Leh and Kargil districts have virtually hijacked ongoing agitation in Ladakh. Instead of using their influence to counter the influence of NC and Congress leaders in the ongoing agitation, the local BJP leaders are functioning as mute spectators. The party's high command has taken serious note of the "casual approach" being maintained by the local BJP leaders who, according to the sources, have failed to establish contact with the masses and convince them about the various welfare measures being taken by the Union government. Ladakhi leaders have threatened to launch fast-unto-death in case the February 19 High Powered Committee (HPC) meeting called by Union MoS Home Nityanand Rai failed to produce any positive outcome. The warning has been issued by LAB chairman and former MP, Ladakh, Thupstan Chewang and Sonam Wangchuk, an environmentalist and key campaigner for Constitutional safeguards for Ladakh. Four major demands of the two organisations include statehood for Ladakh, the inclusion of Ladakh in the sixth schedule of the Constitution giving it a tribal status, job reservation for locals, and a parliamentary seat each for Leh and Kargil to ensure separate representation in Parliament for two districts. After the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, Ladakh was made a Union territory without any legislature and is governed by the Lieutenant Governor. Given the sensitivity involved in the matter, the BJP cannot afford to take things unfolding in the region lightly. It has to take some remedial measures to win over the hearts of Ladakhi people once again.

ASMITAL

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced to rationalize the indirect tax system in India, thereby creating a common national market for goods and services. This "one nation-one tax" initiative aimed at price rationalisation, promotes ease of doing business and economic growth. The success of this reform is evident from the fact that the number of GST filers has increased by 32% from 10.6 million in April 2018 to 14 million in April 2023, and record revenue collection of Rs 1,87,035 crore in April 2023, the highest ever, and Rs 1,72,129 crore in January 2024, the second-highest since GST rollout. However, to further strengthen this reform, a time-bound and robust dispute resolution mechanism needs to be put in place in the GST. Delay in setting up of Appellate Tribunals: It has been noticed that even after six and half years of the GST law coming into effect on July 1st, 2017, still the formation of GST Appellate Tribunals is awaited, which is a significant gap in the GST administration. This absence of a tribunal has forced businesses to approach high courts, which is usually a long and expensive process, and it also adds pressure on already overburdened high courts. According to various estimates, over one lakh appeals involving more than Rupees one lakh crore are expected to approach the

GST Appeals Tribunals once they become functional.

Although the government notified the creation of GST Appellate Tribunals on October 25, 2023, they are yet to become operational. The tribunal will help to efficiently dispose of disputes, and keep litigation in less time, and at a lower cost. From the taxpayer's point of view, even for completely justified tax positions, they have no option but to wait for a remedy.

Moreover, the delay in the formation of the Tribunal is leading to an increase in interest burden, delay in genuine refunds, pre-deposit of taxes leading to cash flow challenges, and repetitive show cause notice to cascade disputes. Thus, the immediate formation of GST Appellate Tribunals and expeditious resolution of disputes is the need of the hour.

Disputes on an interpretation of the law, unsatisfactory advance ruling mechanism, and revenue-centric approach by tax authorities have led to an increase in litigation. Under GST, disputes arise from differences in tax paid by the assessee and the computation of tax liability by authorities. Such tax disputes can arise due to various reasons during assessment, audit, and/or scrutiny of records/accounts. For example, the rate of tax, a claim of tax exemption, the claim of an input tax credit, incorrect determination of the place of supply, the

## GST needs ADR for dispute resolution



nature of supply (composite or mixed supply), classification of goods and services, etc. While GST is touted to remedy the proliferation of tax disputes and simplify tax administration, early experiences point to the contrary.

Revenue-centric approach dented the confidence of taxpayers: The dispute resolution schemes formulated with the revenue-centric approach, have certain limitations. For example, the 'Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme 2019' resolved around 49,534 Pre-GST and GST cases, involving an amount of Rs 24,970 crores, thousands of appeals are still pending, leading to lakhs of rupees being locked. The backlog of around 38,000 Pre-GST, VAT dispute settlement cases in Punjab alone is a matter of concern and the OTS offered in November 2023, to settle these cases, valid until March 31, 2024, is not sufficient.

The 'Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2020' for Income taxpayers was expected to

resolve a significant part of direct tax litigations worth about Rs 4.8 lakh crore by remitting and waiving interest and penalty for pending disputes. The fact that the scheme ended on December 31, 2023, is disappointing, and the announcement of a one-time disputed direct tax demands settlement of up to Rs 25,000 and in total of Rs 3500 crore in the interim budget is inadequate.

It is high time that a robust one-time GST Amnesty Scheme is introduced to assist bona fide taxpayers who may have committed inadvertent errors during the initial phase of GST. The GST being one of the largest tax reforms, had its gestational issues, and taxpayers and authorities struggled to understand the complexity of the law, aligning internal systems and training personnel. These issues resulted in numerous inadvertent slippages, which are now under departmental audits/scrutiny, leading to a flurry of tax demands, interest and penalties. The government

needs to take immediate action to address these concerns and ensure that the taxpayers are not burdened with unnecessary litigations and penalties.

Effectiveness missing in earlier efforts: The Authority of Advance Ruling (AAR) was established to provide certainty in tax positions in advance, and to reduce litigation. AAR and the Appellate Authority of Advance Ruling (AAAR) are established under the respective State GST Acts. However, it is important to note that the rulings given by the AAR or AAAR may not be accepted by authorities in other states. Additionally, the AAR does not have the power to deal with every aspect of the GST law, such as issues related to 'place of supply', which has been a cause of doubt for many.

It is worth noting that the rulings of the AAR or AAAR are only binding on the applicant who has sought the advance ruling and on the concerned/jurisdictional officer in respect of the applicant. Nevertheless, divergent rulings in different states on the same matters have led to increased litigation. Therefore, the government and the GST Council should establish a central authority for AAR, which could address the issues related to 'place of supply' and resolve conflicting views of State-level AAR. The revenue-centric approach of the AAR has negatively impacted the confidence of taxpayers. Even in situations where a reasonable interpreta-

tion is evident, the ruling has been unfavourable to the taxpayer. Hence, it is essential to restore confidence in AAR, to serve the object and purpose of this progressive move.

The Way Forward: The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism provides a way to resolve disputes between taxpayers and the government without having to go through formal litigation. While Advance Rulings can be a form of ADR, the limitations of The Authority of Advance Ruling may result in reducing unnecessary litigation. Additionally, the introduction of the Settlement Commission aims to quickly collect taxes that are unpaid and also offers delinquents a one-time opportunity to come clean, which can substantially reduce the time and cost involved in unproductive litigation. The concept of centralized audit/investigation should be introduced. Moving forward, once GST Appellate Tribunals become operational, will help to seamless flow of input tax credit for businesses with minimum blockages, efficiently dispose of disputes, reduce litigation time, and lower costs, further strengthening the country's revenue reform and economic growth.

(The author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council; Views expressed are personal)

## Tamil politics: The rise of Thalapathy Vijay

KALYANI SHANKAR

Thalapathy Vijay, a prominent Tamil actor, has ventured into politics with the formation of his party, Thamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam. Can he make a difference in Tamil politics?

Tamil superstar Thalapathy Vijay launched his political party, Thamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam, last week. He declared that his party will only contest the 2026 Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu, not the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The question is whether he will succeed.

After the launch of his party, Vijay said, "I have one more film I have signed, and I will finish it and ultimately involve myself in politics. I have been preparing myself for my political journey for

a long time. I will devote myself to the people of Tamil Nadu. This is the only way I can give back to my people." This is a typical argument that many politicians use to present themselves as genuine do-gooders.

Successful actor-turned-politicians in Tamil Nadu included M.G. Ramachandran, J. Jayalalithaa, M. Karunanidhi, C.N. Annadurai, and Captain Vijayakanth. Shivaji Ganesan, Sarathkumar, Napoleon, and S.S. Rajendran was unsuccessful.

MGR had a strong base in the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and got the party votes till he launched AIADMK in 1972. Jayalalithaa, on the other hand, was known for her anti-DMK stance and gained popularity on that

platform.

Kamal Haasan founded his political party, Makkal Needhi Maiam, in 2018. Unfortunately, his party won no seats in the 2019 and 2021 elections. On the other hand, Vijaykant showed promise at the start of his political career in 2005 but could not sustain it. He passed away recently.

Thalapathy (General) Vijay is a well-known actor from the Udayar community and a Christian. He is rumoured to earn around 150 crores per film and faces little competition from famous actors like Ajith. Rajnikant has declined his political entry after three decades of speculation. Kamal Hassan's party has not picked up. Vijay plans to run for the position of chief minister

in the 2026 Assembly elections. He has sufficient time to gain the public's trust as an alternative to the ruling DMK and

AIADMK. His primary opponent in the generational shift is Udayanidhi, a minister and the son of the current chief minister, M.K. Stalin.

Vijay's political party plans to adopt a political philosophy incorporating the ideas of three significant figures. While B.R. Ambedkar advocated for Dalits' rights, Periyar was a well-known social reformer. Kamaraj was an advocate for the backward class. Notably, Vijay has decided not to use the term "Dravida" in his party's name. Vijay aims to win voters' support from different political parties, including the ruling DMK and the pri-

mary opposition AIADMK. The others in the race are Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), PMK, Makkal Needhi Maiam, and VCK. He must lure voters from all these parties to win the election.

In the past, Vijay's political support included the India Against Corruption movement in 2011. He also backed the pro-jallikattu protests in 2017. He met with the families of the victims of the Thoothukudi incident in 2018. On the other hand, despite public expectations for decades, Rajnikant is now out of the picture.

Vijay has an advantage in Tamil Nadu, a state obsessed with films. He is young, a crowd-puller, and his timing is right. Additionally, his Tamil iden-

tity gives him an edge over Rajinikanth, whose Marathi roots and BJP/RSS ties have sparked controversy in the Dravidian-dominated state.

Vijay's success hinges on his communication skills and how he defines his party's ideology. He must effectively contrast it with the Dravidian doctrine of DMK and AIADMK parties and adopt an aggressive posture.

Vijay must declare which political party he is contesting against. Is it the DMK, AIADMK, or is it the? As a newcomer, his best bet is to oppose the ruling government, the DMK. This strategy worked for J. Jayalalithaa, who positioned herself against the DMK and its leader, Karunanidhi. This ultimately led to her success as a politician.

## A silent revolution in today's workplace

SAKSHI SETHI

Today, many of us often stress the importance of leisure but that isn't to downplay the value of earned success and being fully present in the professional world. The workplace is changing due to employees' demands for more freedom and responsibility and a better work-life balance. As a result, many of us have witnessed a surge in concepts like "Bare Minimum Mondays," "Quiet Quitting," "Lazy Girl Jobs," and "The Great Resignation." Nonetheless, these developments have sparked extensive discussion about the ethical implications for the workplace.

Several factors such as lack of trust, lack of consistency, lack of feeling valued, lack of feeling neglected and not being communicated create a sense of disconnection

and frustration among employees resulting in a sense of numbness and discontentment in career and eventually seep into personal lives, just as burnout.

The term Quiet Quitting or intense dissatisfaction has taken the world by storm, due to the impact of the pandemic, with many workers beginning to reconsider their priorities and boundaries in the workplace. In the early 2020s, driven largely by social media, the term 'quiet quitting' emerged as a much-publicized trend in the United States and elsewhere.

The term refers to a situation where employees disengage from their jobs or the organization without openly expressing their dissatisfaction or resignation. Instead, they become emotionally detached and disinterested, which leads to reduced productivity, decreased



morale and ultimately a decision to leave the company quietly. It is not always a coordinated or planned move conducted by a group of workers to express their displeasure with the organization's policy rather a subtle form of withdrawal, often overlooked but with significant implications for organizations and individuals alike. There are multifaceted root causes of quitting. Some feel a lack of recog-

nition and reward is the cause, while some blame poor management.

Nowadays, the occurrence has amassed a sizable following on social media and is now seen as a movement. Studies and research have shown that around 59% of workers worldwide are 'quite quitting' estimated to be costing the global economy \$8.8 trillion. Employers must build relationships with their employees so

that they can be treated fairly. Being valued at work can prevent employees from experiencing burnout and various health issues arising from being unhappy at their jobs. Employees need to see a clear path to advancement, they may lose motivation and engagement.

Remember every worker, every employee working in the organization has a different circumstance within their work-

place. Quiet quitting can lead a few to decreased productivity and creativity and at the same time can also impact mental health, causing stress and dissatisfaction. Addressing these factors requires fostering a workplace culture built on trust, consistency, appreciation, a sense of belonging and effective communication. Only when these psychological needs are met, employees will be more likely to engage with their work, thereby reducing the risk of quitting and turnover. When an employee feels motivated, happy, challenged and optimistic, will they be much more likely to expend additional efforts, work a little harder, stay a little longer and above all carry a positive attitude. People do matter. Don't let them quit.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)



### Horticulture Department organises farmers' training tour to ACHR Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 14

As part of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), a significant initiative has been undertaken to enhance the agricultural landscape in Ramban district.

Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, Chief Horticulture Officer, Anil Gorka, today flagged off a group of fifteen orchardists for a day long exposure tour to the Advanced Centre for Horticulture Research (ACHR) in Udaiwala, Jammu.

The objective of this initiative is to empower farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance fruit production and subsequently augment their income levels.

Speaking on the occasion, the CHO emphasized the significance of equipping farmers with contemporary agricultural practices, stating that this training program will play a crucial role in catalyzing the socio-economic growth of the farming community in Ramban.



He expressed confidence that the acquired knowledge and expertise will enable farmers to significantly improve their yield and financial well-being.

The enthusiasm among the farmers participating in the training tour is clear, as they eagerly anticipate the opportunity to learn and implement innovative horticultural techniques.

The Training Pro-

gramme tour to the ACHR, Udaiwala, Jammu, among other such initiatives is the part of the concerted efforts of the government to support and uplift the farming community. It is also envisioned as a step towards realizing the potential of horticulture in Ramban, thereby contributing to the overall development of the sector in the district.

### DC Pulwama convenes HADP meeting; 170 cases approved

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom Wednesday convened a pivotal meeting to advance the district's holistic agriculture development program (HADP), approving 170 crucial cases aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices and boosting the rural economy.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders including representatives from the agriculture department, local farmers, and experts in the field. It underscored the district's commitment to fostering agricultural innovation and empowering farmers with the resources necessary to thrive in the evolving landscape of modern agriculture.

During the meeting, the assembled panel comprehensively reviewed 170 cases encompassing an array of initiatives designed to harness the potential of agriculture as a driver of economic growth. These initiatives spanned diverse areas such as modern irrigation techniques, crop diversi-



fication, livestock management, and technology adoption, with a focus on empowering farmers to achieve sustainable and profitable agricultural practices.

Dr Basharat emphasized the significance of advancing a holistic approach to agriculture, emphasizing that the program's initiatives are tailored to address the multifaceted needs of the farming community. By championing sustainable agriculture, the district aims to enhance productivity, optimize resource utilization, and create avenues for farmers to maximize their yields and income, he added.

The approved cases reflect a strategic blend of short-term and long-term interventions, encompassing support for small and

marginal farmers, promotion of organic farming, capacity building efforts, and access to agricultural credit and insurance. These measures signify the district's unwavering commitment to ensuring the prosperity of agricultural communities while fortifying the agricultural sector as a linchpin of the local economy.

The approval of 170 cases signifies a pivotal milestone in the district's ambitious journey to rejuvenate and revitalize its agrarian ecosystem. The DC underscored the district's commitment to continued engagement with stakeholders, proactive implementation of initiatives, and persistent monitoring and evaluation to ensure the effective realization of the program's objectives.

### DC Ramban inspects landslide site on Gandhri Road, asks to intensify restoration work



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 14

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today inspected the site of a massive landslide on the Kanga-Bathni road. As the area lacks vehicular access, the Deputy Commissioner traveled on foot to assess the extent of the damage.

Accompanied by a team of senior officers, including ADC Harbans Sharam, ACR S. Harpal Singh, ACD Shreenath Suman, Executive Engineer Abhishek Gupta, Executive Engineer PMGSY Arvind Kumar, DFO Batote Abinav Romitra, Tehsildar Deep Kumar and other officials, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive inspection of the affected area.

Discussions were held during the inspection with senior officers, public rep-

representatives, including DDC Councillor Shamim Akther and prominent citizens, to evaluate the situation and strategize immediate restoration of road connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the deployment of adequate manpower and machinery, including 4 excavators and other equipment, as per his directive, to clear the landslides.

Following the deliberations, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer of PMGSY to commence round-the-clock efforts to ensure the road's traffic-worthiness at the earliest. Emphasizing the importance of seamless connectivity between Gandhari block and the district headquarters, he underscored the priority of public convenience and safety.

### Road Safety Month: MVD B'la enhances Driver Safety with Eye Checkup & First Aid Training

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 14

As part of Road Safety Month, 2024 and the ongoing efforts to enhance road safety and prioritize driver well-being, Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Baramulla today organized an eye checkup and first aid training session for the driver community at the Sumo Stand, Baramulla.

Recognizing the importance of ensuring drivers are both physically fit and equipped with essential skills to handle emergencies on the road, MVD Baramulla collaborated with the health department to conduct the eye checkup and first aid training session. The event aimed to address two critical aspects of driver safety: visual health and emergency response.

The eye checkup provided drivers with the opportunity to assess their vision and address any potential issues that could impact their ability to operate vehicles safely. Additionally, the first aid training equipped drivers with essential knowledge and skills to respond effectively to emergencies, thereby enhancing overall road safety.

On the occasion, Assistant Regional Transport officer (ARTO) Muazzam Ali said that promoting driver safety is a top priority for us, and initiatives like the eye checkup and first aid training are integral to achieving this goal. By addressing both physical health and emergency preparedness, our aim is to create safer roads and reduce the risk of accidents, he added.

The event received positive feedback from the driver community, with participants expressing appreciation for the opportunity to prioritize their health and safety.

### Weekly Block Diwas camp addresses public grievances at Marmat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 14

The District Administration Doda, led by District Development Commissioner, Harvinder Singh organized the weekly Block Diwas public outreach program here today at Goha Marmat aiming to address public grievances.

District Development Council Chairman Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal, along with DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani and DDC Councillor Mushtaq Ahmed also graced the occasion. The dignitaries engaged with PRIs and citizens to address their concerns directly.

The officials actively listened to a plethora of demands ranging from infrastructure development like water supply, electricity, and healthcare facilities to educational and tourism initiatives. Additionally, demand for banking facilities, sports infrastructure, and employment opportunities were also projected.

The DDC promptly addressed several grievances on-spot by instructing concerned officers. He conducted thorough inspection, starting with a visit to the Primary

Health Center in Goha Marmat. This proactive approach demonstrates the administration's commitment to ensure the quality and efficiency of essential services.

The DDC further inspected the progress of ongoing projects, underscoring the importance of infrastructure development in the region. This hands-on involvement reinforces accountability and transparency in project execution.

Later, the DDC distributed KCC (Kisan Credit Card) sanction letters to beneficiaries, highlighting the government's support for agricultural initiatives and rural livelihoods. By facilitating access to financial resources, the administration aims to empower farmers and stimulate economic growth in the district.

The Block Diwas program not only served as a platform for citizens to voice their concerns but also underscored the administration's commitment to inclusive development. Through cooperation between the public and local authorities, the aim is to collectively address challenges and pave the way for a brighter future for the district of Doda.

### DC B'la holds Block Diwas at Chijhama Rafiabad

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today presided over a Block Diwas programme organized by the District Administration Baramulla at Chijhama Rafiabad, to actively engage with the community, address their grievances, and listen to their demands firsthand.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; officers from the concerned departments, public representatives and a large number of people from villages of Rohama and Dangiawacha blocks participated in the Block Diwas.

Throughout the programme, community members and their representatives voiced their grievances and demands concerning development and administrative matters, emphasizing the need for immediate attention from the DC and district administration to facilitate necessary resolutions. The primary demands included, establishment of a Kisan Ghar at Dangiawacha, prompt filling of vacant positions for BDOs and Tehsildars, deployment of Hoppers



for a comprehensive Swachhata Drive across villages within the blocks, and provision of science and other crucial streams at GDC Hadipora.

Additionally, the representatives called for the upgradation of the library facilities at Watergam, installation of solar street lights in the Hadipora market area, establishment of an indoor stadium within the block to foster youth sports, organization of snow festivals and provision of basic amenities like washrooms, shelter sites etc at designated tourist spots.

Speaking during the event, the DC highlighted the importance of conducting such outreach programmes that bring administration directly to the doorsteps of the community to listen to their pressing demands and grievances.

He promptly addressed numerous issues raised during the Block Diwas,

offering immediate solutions on-site while instructing officers from concerned departments to prioritize the remaining issues and ensure swift resolution.

The DC further emphasized the untapped potential of the upper belt of Rafiabad for adventure tourism, particularly trekking and skiing. He assured that the district administration would incorporate this into the Capex budget for the coming Financial Year, prioritizing the establishment of essential facilities such as washrooms, canteens, shelter sheds, and benches to enhance the overall tourist experience.

Earlier, Minha Sherpa inspected multiple stalls set up by various departments, including Horticulture, Health, NRLM, Jal Shakti among others showcasing a range of government schemes, services, and facilities aimed at benefiting the public.

### Over Rs 8 lakh penalty imposed on perpetrators of illegal mining

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 14

The Geology and Mining Department Kathua has imposed Over Rs. 8 lakh penalty on an excavator and 04 vehicles for unauthorized mining and massive digging in Ujh River, here today.

On receiving complaint of illegal mining in Ujh River, District Mineral Officer Kathua along with officials of revenue department and police rushed to the spot and seized the machinery involved in illegal mining.

Meanwhile, the dugout area was measured by the officials of mining department and the perpetrators were subjected



to penalty as per the MM (DR) Act of 1957 and SRO-105 of 2016.

The DMO Kathua informed that the material was excavated from private land by crusher owner after making a deal with the Owner and dumped in the premises of crusher unit for processing and selling the same in Punjab area.

The DMO further informed that there are

four mineral leases in the Ujh River for supplying material at fixed rates but instead of purchasing material from the lease, the violators lift mineral from unidentified locations where mining is strictly banned or prohibited.

The action has been initiated under overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas.

### 76th CRPF Battalion pays tributes to Pulwama Martyrs



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 14

The 76th Bn, CRPF today organised Shradh-hajali Programme" to pay Tributes to soldiers who attained martyrdom in Pulwama Bomb Blast on this day, five years back.

Under the guidance of T H Khan, Commandant, the Officers and Jawans paid rich tributes on the Fifth death anniversary of the Martyrs of Pulwama,

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 40 Brave soldiers laid down their lives at the altar of Duty when a Vehicle borne suicide bomber hit the CRPF vehicle carrying CRPF personnel in convoy on the Jammu-Srinagar National high-

way near Lethapora in Pulwama.

During this cowardly incident, the bus that was blasted was of 76th Bn CRPF Jammu. The martyrs included five brave soldiers of 76th battalion namely Shaheed HC/GD Naseer Ahmed, Shaheed, HC/DVR Jaimal Singh, Shaheed CT/GD Rohtash Lamba, Shaheed CT/GD Sukhjinder and Shaheed CT/BUG Tilak Raj. During this programme, Mahinder Singh, Second in Command, Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Second in Command, Girish Chandra Singh Sontiyal, Parveen Kumar, Asst Commandant and other Subordinate Officers / personnel of 76 Bn were present.

### KVIB organises awareness camp at ITI Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 14

Khadi Village & Industries Board, today organized a seminar cum awareness camp at Industrial Training Institute Ramban to create awareness among trainees regarding PMEGP, JKREGP scheme being implemented by KVIB, Ramban.

At the outset, Senior Supervisor KVIB, Ghulam Qadir welcomed Chief Guest, Lead District Manager Abdul Rashid Sofi, District Officer, KVIB, Farooq Ahmed Baba and highlighted the schemes being implemented by the KVIB to encourage the youth to become job creators instead of job seekers.

Block investigator, DIC, Ravi Danaishwar Singh, also

elaborated the PMEGP and PM Vishwakarma scheme and sensitized the participants about procedure and uploading of application forms for seeking the benefits of the scheme besides the importance of enrolment with DIC. The students of ITI were told about various benefits / subsidies they can get to start their own ventures by financial assistance under the PMEGP Scheme in manufacturing and service sectors.

The aspiring students were motivated by the scheme and they were willing to step ahead to avail benefit after completion of their courses under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and JKREGP implemented by the KVIB, Ramban.



## Shreyansh Kumar Jain felicitates Son of Soil Dr Kailash Nath Sharma

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 13

State Yoga Commissioner & State Chairman Indian Yoga Association Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, felicitated Dr Kailash Nath Sharma, who do not want to come out of the veil of anonymity. He is a philon-therapist par excellence having made significant contribution for the Society, country and mankind, a leader and source of inspiration for the student community and youth of the Nation and the world.

The honor will motivate the said soldier, poet and scholar to inspire the future generations. His life and works are a source of inspiration, motivation and encouragements for the generations to come. He has done extremely well throughout his life in different fields.

Dr Kailash Nath "Georgian" is a dynamic, verifiable and all-round creative genius. He is a warrior

having participated in the 1971 Indo Pak war as a bay. He is son of a great infantry Commandar of Ref grous of Indian Army. His falte was a war veteren having won the 1962, 1965 & 1971 wars. He is also a Singer, Actor, dancer, Pol Analysts and strategist.

Dr Sharma has served in the Indian Army for 06 years in the most terrific Battalion 62 cavalry of Indian Army. He has participated in largest exercise "1986" Brasstacles in the world. He has brought the concept of surgical strikes in India and is a man of revolution.

He is known for the English oratory and multi skills. As a motivational speaker he has delivered many brain storming lectures on various life skills and language skills. He has the honor of streamlining more than 30, 10+2 institutions in Chenab Valley and Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr Kailash Sharma is a terrific Indo Russian Tank



commander of Indian Army. He is the badgemate of the Indian Army Commanders having the rails of Brigs and above.

As an author he has authored 21 Books: 7 books on English Grammar and composition, 07 books on English Poetry & 07 books on Post Pandeme times.

He is the first teacher to top the list of M. Phil

scholar from the University of Jammu. He worked on the Topic "MIND AND ART OF TAGORE" for M.Phil theses. He completed PhD in English from the University of Jammu on the Toic "Nature in the poetry of Tagore & Words worth A comparative Study.

He belongs to a remote village Dusset "Doda" in Chenab Valley. Having

marched in more than 25 states in billaped condition. Dr Kailash has earned BA (Hon) degree from SD SC Ambala Cantt, MA in English Literature from Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar Punjab, B Ed from University of Jammu. His biography in manuscript "Win We Must" is very interesting and inspiring. He is the most popular alumine from the No 1 Military School in the World King George Royal Indian Military College-Chail- Shimla (Himachal Pardesh). He is possession of more than 200 Wards in different fields.

It is a proud privilege for Vichar Kranti Manch International to honor such a great Personality through its President Dr Jain, A Social Activist, Faculty in Jammu University and Central University Jammu. He assured that Dr Kailash Nath Sharma will be honored with "LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" publicly in a function.

## Bachpan, a play school Kathua celebrates Basant Panchami

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEB 14

Bachpan, a renowned play school celebrated the vibrant occasion of Basant Panchami with great enthusiasm and excitement. Known for its innovative and engaging events, the school organized a competition for the title of Miss Bachpan and Mr. Bachpan, adding a delightful touch to the festivities.

To mark the significance of the day, students were encouraged to wear beautiful yellow attire, symbolizing the arrival of spring and the golden hue of mustard fields. The little ones from Nursery, KG, and UKG were bestowed with the titles Ms. Basant and Miss Basant, further enriching the spirit of the celebration.

The competition for Miss Bachpan and Mr. Bachpan showcased the



innate talent and creativity of the students, as they showcased their skills in various activities.

Bachpan Play School continues to set new benchmarks in early childhood education, ensuring that every child receives the best possible start to their learning journey. The school's commitment to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment is evident in the success of events like the Miss and Mr. Bachpan competition.

In conclusion, Bachpan Play School's celebration

of Basant Panchami was a resounding success, with students, parents, and teachers coming together to create unforgettable memories. The event was a testament to the school's dedication to fostering creativity, self-expression, and a love for learning among its young students. Principal of Bachpan a play school Mrs Manisha Gupta congratulated all the students, winners, teachers and parents for their efforts to make this day successful.

## Col Mahan advocates for inculcation of time-honored values, traditions among budding children

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BILLAWAR, FEB 14

Col Mahan Singh, Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC), Kathua, emphasized the urgent necessity to instill 'Sanskar', embodying time-honored values and traditions, alongside fostering a sense of 'Swadeshi' among budding children.

He made these remarks while attending the 'Matri-Pitri' Diwas function as Chief Guest at Sant Bal Yogeshwar Bhartiya Vidhya Mandir Vidhyalay, Dadwara, Billawar (Kathua), upon the invitation of School President Chander Bhushan and the School Management Committee. The event, celebrated by the Bhartiya Vidya Mandir chain of schools across the country every year on February 14, 2024, aims to promote Bhartiya culture and values among budding children.



Events like "Matri-Pitri Pujan," paying obeisance to parents, "Vidhya Arambh Sanskar," performing Havan, and carrying out the first-ever writing practice by Tiny Tots, as well as observing "Samarpan Diwas" and motivating children and parents to donate for the cause of the needy, were held on the occasion. Parents and relatives of more than 1000 children enrolled in the school were present.

In his address, Col Mahan Singh underscored the importance of pre-

serving and passing down the rich cultural heritage of India to the next generation. He stated, "It is imperative that we imbue our children with the values and traditions that have stood the test of time. Inculcating 'Sanskar' fosters a sense of identity and belonging, grounding them in the essence of our diverse and vibrant culture."

Furthermore, the DDC Chairman highlighted the significance of embracing 'Swadeshi,' which entails promoting indigenous

products and practices. He emphasized, "Encouraging children to embrace 'Swadeshi' not only supports local industries and artisans but also instills a sense of pride in our heritage and fosters economic self-reliance." He also urged parents, educators, and community members to collaborate in cultivating an environment where children can thrive while staying connected to their roots.

Col Mahan Singh also appreciated the curriculum being followed by the Vidhya Mandir Schools to inculcate knowledge, skills, Sanskars, and the feeling of Swadeshi among children. He appreciated the cultural program performed by children on the occasion and presented certificates of appreciation to Savita Sharma, Pardhana Acharya, and the best-performing faculty members and staff.

## JKRCEA to conduct career counselling, mock interviews for community students

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 13

JKRCEA, as frontal organization of SC, ST, OBC communities had been raising concerns about the plight of SC, ST, OBCs and in view of its commitment to work for the welfare of marginalized sections of the society. Now the organizational network have decided to focus on education and employment guidance for the youth belonging to SC, ST, OBCs and people belonging to economically weaker sections of the society. Prof. G. L. Thapa, while further elaborating further told that JKRCEA on 6th August 2023 started a "Career Counselling" free of cost to the marginalized and in this regard called eminent personalities from Delhi to guide at least 89 students for their career progression that included students who were aspiring to take civil services (IAS, JKAS) exams. Thereafter, small scale programs for career counselling were also conducted in between. He said that this shall be a regular feature from now onwards are



JKRCEA through various experts in different fields shall hold such sessions for the benefit of students. Even the school or college drop outs shall be sensitized to undertake some skill development courses and enter into micro and small scale industry to become self-sufficient and self-reliant as an individual and for the overall growth of family. Mohinder Bhagat while addressing the media said that although they shall be providing free of cost career counselling to all SC, ST, OBCs but preference shall be given to more poor amongst these communities but doors for unreserved category students are also open for guidance and counselling. He said that this time

'Mock Interview Program' shall be organized once in a week till middle of the March 2024 and the schedule for the same shall be further shared on Whatsapp, Facebook and other modes of communication to the interested candidates. Sham Basson; appealed to all the Parents and all the SC, ST, OBCs, EWS who have qualified for civil services to take benefit of this 'Mock Interview Program' that shall be done on the pattern of interview held by UPSC for IAS, IFS, IPS & allied civil services. Eminent and experienced faculty, experts from outside J&K and within J&K shall be called for taking Mock Interviews that shall in fact add to the confidence of all the candidates who are

appearing for interview for IAS, IPS etc starting from 18th Feb 2024 at New Delhi. He further said that MIP will start on 17th Feb 2024 in the premises of Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj Bahu Fort Jammu and it will continue on every Saturday and Sunday for one month. Main Advantages:- MIP In UPSC Like Environment, DAF Analysis, Individual Feedback, Subject Specific Guidance, Etiquettes & Grooming Sessions, One to one Mentoring by experts and Practical Sessions with selected candidates. It is Free of Cost irrespective of caste, creed and color.

Others who participated in the press conference includes Er. Joginder Pal, Prof. Kali Dass, M. R. Bangotra, Er. R. C. Bhasin, Er. Surinder Dewgoda, Er. Pawan Bhagat, Bodh Raj Bhagat, T. C. Bavouria, Er. Darshan Kalsotra, Er. Madan Lal, G. L. Rahi, M. L. Banalia, B. R. Banalia, Abdul Majid Malik, Kewal Potra, Raj Kumar Bhagat, Sardari Lal, Romesh Kumar, Manoj Kumar, Sohan Badgal, Baldev Raj, Des Raj and Bahdur Lal.

## Congress always stands for rights of J&K people: Bhalla

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla today said that his party will always stand for the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that development, dignity and peace in J&K top priorities of Congress. He said that both Jammu and Kashmir are equal in every respect and Congress will also fight for the rights of the people of Jammu. He assured the people of J&K that his party will always fight for the restoration of statehood to J&K. Expressing disappointment over the statehood issue, he stressed upon the need for restoring a popular government in J&K as soon as possible.

Bhalla said Congress is always for the welfare of the people of J&K and thus will always be committed to the goal of serving the people. "Congress agenda has always been the restoration of statehood, development, dignity and peace in J&K," he added. He said that any laws which do not safeguard the interests and rights of people of J&K would be unacceptable to Congress. "Better would have been such laws of urgent nature should have been left to or dealt with in consultation with the



duly elected government in Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked.

Urging people to vote for Congress in the upcoming elections, Bhalla said, "You have witnessed how BJP and their leaders have deceived you with false promises and empty slogans over the last ten years. But Congress has a straightforward and transparent agenda. We do not make pretentious statements but instead commit to working towards achieving peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir. Give us a fair chance to serve you. I, again promise that Congress will not let you down," he added. He said his party is committed to ensuring a shining future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and its people. He vowed that if the Congress receives the

public mandate through the democratic process, it will ensure the social, political, and economic empowerment of the J&K people and protect their constitutional rights.

Bhalla urged people to value their votes and not misuse them by falling into the trap of emotional sloganeering and fake promises made by political parties. He said, "Power lies with you, as it is said that people are the fountainhead of power. Don't undermine the power of your vote by giving it away to political parties who only wanted to attain and retain power to create empires for themselves. Enough is enough; now you must use your vote wisely and not allow these parties to allure you with fake promises anymore."

## BJP pays tribute to Pulwama attack martyrs

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

BJP District Jammu led by its President Parmod Kapahi accompanying BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra, District General Secretaries Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Kuldeep Kandhari, Ex Councillor Suneet Raina, Karan Singh, Anu Gupta, Manav Mahajan and other leaders paid rich tribute to the 40 CRPF Martyrs who lost their lives in the Pulwama terror attack on 14th Feb 2019.

While remembering the heroes Parmod Kapahi said that the sacrifices of our bravehearts will never be forgotten and they will always remain in our hearts.

Keshav Chopra paid homage to the brave heroes martyred in Pulwama and said that we are always Proud on our Jawans sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Nation.

Arun Dubey, Rajinder Tiku, Rajan Gupta, Chaman Lal Bhagat, Deepak Kumar, Rajinder Gupta, Kushant Daffara, Nipun Malhotra and others also paid their tribute.

## Basant Panchami celebrated at GDCW Kathua



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Government Degree College for Women Kathua, celebrated Basant panchami festival in the college campus with a lot of exuberance and funfair. The mood of the campus was upbeat and the students were totally absorbed in the festive spirit. The program started with lightning of lamp by Incharge-Principal of the college Dr Inderjeet Kaur, which was followed by Saraswati Vandana by

students. Dr. Rachna Devi (DSW) in her welcome speech threw light on the importance of different festivals in India. Chief guest in her address appreciated the initiative taken by Students Welfare committee for awarding students about their culture on this special day. She said that by organising such programs, students get acquainted with the rich tradition of the India and she encouraged the committee to celebrate such programs in future as well. Students pre-

sented colourful cultural program on the theme of Basant panchami. Program was organised by students Welfare committee and all senior faculty members Dr. Babita Mahajan, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma along with members of student welfare committee Dr Amita Dua, Dr Renu, Dr Mukesh Kumar, Dr Surekha, Dr Deepthi Salotra and all the faculty members were present in the function. The celebration concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr Amita Dua.

## Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre to hold free diabetes check-up camp on Feb 16

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Udhewwala, Jammu, is organizing a free diabetes check-up camp on February 16, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This initiative aims to raise awareness about diabetes and provide essential healthcare services to the community.

Led by Dr. Sanjay Raina, MBBS, MD Medicine, PG in Diabetology, MRCP (UK), currently serving at Amrita Hospital, Delhi, the camp will offer free check-ups for blood sugar, HbA1c, blood pressure, and a full-body checkup comprising 65 parameters at a nominal fee of Rs 700, reduced from Rs 1400. In addition to diabetes screenings, the camp will offer free consultations with physicians specializing in both allopathic and Ayurvedic medicine, as well as services from ENT specialists, dentists, gynecologists, orthopedic surgeons, ophthalmologists, and physiotherapists.



## Sham Sharma leads Memorial Initiative in Pulwama: A Commitment to Honor, Serve

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA/ANANTNAG

Sham Lal Sharma, State Vice President of BJP and State Convenor of Beneficiary Sampark Abhiyan, alongside esteemed party colleagues, including National Executive Member Jenab Bilal Parey, State Spokesperson Jenab Altaf Thakur, and District President Pulwama Jenab Latif Ahmed Bhut, paid heartfelt tributes at the Pulwama memorial. Flowers were placed at the exact spot of the unfortunate incident, honoring the bravery of those who sacrificed their lives for our nation.

In a poignant moment, Sh. Sham Lal Sharma announced the party's commitment to building a memorial at the same location. This initiative, supported by the State organization, aims to ensure that the sacrifice of our heroes



is forever remembered. Sh. Sham Lal Sharma, State Vice President of BJP, personally contributed Rs 1,00,000 towards this noble cause.

Following the tributes, a workshop of Anantnag Parliamentary Constituency regarding Beneficiary Sampark Abhiyan was conducted at DAK Bungalow, Anantnag. The meeting was headed by National Executive

Member/Co-Convenor J&K: Bilal Parrey.

A detailed description regarding the ngo Labharti Abhiyan was presented in the meeting. Sh. Sham Lal Sharma, as the State Convenor, emphasized the importance of connecting with the people at the grassroots level, addressing their concerns, and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach

every deserving individual. Sham Lal Sharma expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support received during the memorial tribute and encouraged party members to actively participate in the Beneficiary Sampark Abhiyan. The commitment to both honoring the sacrifice of our armed forces and serving the community reflects the party's unwavering dedication to the welfare of the people. State Spokesperson/Parbhari PC Anantnag/Rajouri: Altaf Thakur

Sangathan Mantri/Incharge Anantnag/Rajouri: Veer Saraf, District President Anantnag: Adv Wajahat Hussain, District President Kulgam: Zubair Ahmed Ganie

District President Shopian: Mohd Yousuf Bhat, District IT Team and Convenor and Co-Convenor of all the mandal were present in the meeting.

## People with vested interests are misleading farmers: Kavinder

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday said that the people having vested interests are misleading farmers to satiate their own cause.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior functionary of the party accused the so-called farmers unions of swaying the naive tiller community to fulfill their vested political aspirations. He asked the farmers to revisit their decision to support such entities which are forcing the Anndattas to confront against the dispensation which is standing tall in support of farmers as it has envisaged, conceived and crafted a number of welfare schemes for the tiller community to bail out the this section from



poverty and has been rolling out initiatives from time to time to double their income besides providing exclusive support apart from the centrally sponsored schemes meant for one and all in the country.

Kavinder said that the farmers' issues have been best addressed by PM Modi led Govt at the Centre. He mentioned that the schemes and initiatives by the government like Kissan Sammaan Nidhi, Kissan Credit Card, Kissan

Fasal Bima, Soil Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), SVAMITVA Yojana, and many more such schemes have been providing benefits to all the farmers of the nation.

The former deputy Chief Minister said that the melancholy among the farmers is only because of propaganda by the entities having political vested interests because they have somehow spread a wrong narrative against the Modi Government on unfounded grounds. He said that instead of becoming part of an unruly mob in the so-called protests, the need of time is that every single farmer should mull over the issues and himself or herself decide whether supporting so-called farmers unions is right or not.

## 'Border Youth Helping Hand', an NGO donates Bicycle to Girl Students

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMGARHI, FEB 14

"Border Youth Helping Hand", an NGO working in district Samba, has taken a unique initiative and distributed bicycles to poor girls studying. Due to this, girls will not face any problem in coming to school and their studies will also not be affected. NGO President Santy Choudhary told that he had come to know that girls coming from poor families study in a government school in Chhowani village of Ramgarh area of Samba district. Those who neither have fare for a auto nor have a bicycle. Due to which she is not able to reach school on time. Due to which he is having a lot of trouble in studies. After which our NGO took the initiative that we will gift bicycles to as many poor girls as possible so that their education does not get spoiled.

## Raina releases Neha Lahotra's Short Film 'Pulwama' to honour CRPF Martyrs

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 14:

Ravinder Raina, BJP state president, released 'Pulwama,' a short film dedicated to paying tribute to the CRPF martyrs of the Pulwama attack in 2019 on Wednesday.

The film, directed and produced by renowned actress and director Neha Lahotra from Jammu, revolves around the story of a newly wedded couple. The CRPF Jawan in the convoy heading towards Kashmir was attacked in 2019 while his wife was planning to celebrate their first Valentine's Day on February 14.

The film, available on Neha Lahotra's YouTube channel here ( [https://youtu.be/rqmTAG1-SYA?si=Cm00Jf9PwgEm\\_UK](https://youtu.be/rqmTAG1-SYA?si=Cm00Jf9PwgEm_UK) ), serves as a poignant reminder of the tragic Pulwama attack orchestrated by a Pakistan-sponsored terror organization. Ravinder Raina expressed his condolences to the Martyrs stating, "This film has reminded us about the barbaric attack on our



CRPF Jawans by Pakistan sponsored terror organization. We pay our sincere tribute to the soldiers and assured their families that the entire country is standing with them." He also commended Neha Lahotra for her selfless efforts in creating this short film, emphasizing that she not only paid tribute to the CRPF martyrs but also set an example for the youth to contribute to nation-building in their respective fields.

The film received high praise from those present in the auditorium. Neha Lahotra, in her address,

shared, "That incident touched me a lot, and by this movie, I tried to present the part of the women whose life was affected by this incident." She expressed that the film is her way of paying tribute to the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

Other contributors to the film include Ashish Sharma & Sonika Jamwal as actors, video shoot and editing by Vikran Mehta of Trinetra Production, concept by Amit Khajuria, and costume & makeup by Sunita Chopra, with management by Sahil Chopra.

## Hardeep Singh Puri formally launching Jio-bp 'You-Deserve-More' campaign

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, 14 FEB

Jio-bp (the operating brand of Reliance BP Mobility Limited, fuel and retailing joint venture of Reliance Industries and bp), a leading mobility solution provider, launched their You-Deserve-More campaign showcasing their unique customer propositions to elevate India's fuelling experience. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri formally launching Jio-bp campaign. Offering "More" to India, the You-Deserve-More (YDM) campaign highlights the unique customer propositions on offer from Jio-bp, focusing on three pillars of performance, service, and cutting-edge technology. The YDM campaign touches upon diesel delivering up to 4.3% higher mileage and



petrol that keeps engines up to 10X cleaner through internationally developed bespoke 'ACTIVE' technology at no extra cost along with a rapidly growing Jio-bp pulse EV charging point network. Also highlighted is the 24x7 shop for snacks, confectionery and travel need items, along with signature coffee under an international on-the-move brand Wild Bean Café, amongst other propositions at the country-wide network of Jio-bp Mobility

Stations. In line with their vision of reimagining mobility for the country with low carbon solutions, Jio-bp also retails a bouquet of energy offerings including compressed biogas, ethanol based E20 petrol, and EV battery charging and swapping. In lower carbon EV solutions, Jio-bp's hassle free Jio-bp pulse app, dynamic load sharing and auto-charge features are helping to accelerate EV adoption in the country.

## VKMI celebrates Basant Panchmi in HLF HSS, Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Today, VKMI celebrated Basant Panchmi in HLF HR Sec School, Jammu. Togetherness and harmony, Indian festivals, and of course, religious rituals are all about. All the fun and frolic goes hand in hand with delicious food, new clothes, and a small get-together.

The spring season is the season of happiness for all and this call for Basant Panchmi celebrations. It is also known and celebrated as Saraswati Pooja in Eastern part of India. Panchmi marks the beginning of Basant or Spring, according to Hindu calendar. It is celebrated on the fifth day of Magha Maas (month).

Basant Panchmi was celebrated with great fervor in Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School, Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President Vichar Kranti Manch International & President HLF Managing Committee was the chief Guest on the occasion, Ashok Gupta, state vice president Bharat Vikas Parishad & Managing Trustee Sarv Uthan Trust Presided over the function. Indu Sharma, Principal welcomed Guest and Participants, also threw light on



the importance of Basant Panchmi. Dr Jain, Main speaker of the function said as per Hindu beliefs, Maa Saraswati, the deity of Learning, Music & Art was born on this day and thus to achieve wisdom and art from her, people celebrate Basant Panchmi as Saraswati Pooja. This is very auspicious day to start new work, get married, enterence newly constructed houses or start anything new on this day. Basant Panchmi symbolizes by the colour yellow, which is Maa Saraswati's favorite color. Therefore yellow attire is worn by the devotees of Maa Saraswati, also signifies the harvest time for the mustered crop. The color symbolizes peace, prosperity and energy.

Saraswati Pooja was arranged and get done with the students and staff

by the principal Mam. It was celebrated with utmost energy, as it is said to be Maa Saraswati's day & she is goddess of Knowledge & wisdom. Students of 9th class namely Chameli Chandra, Sandhya & Krishma Sharma presented a colorful song of Maa Saraswati. Jasmeet Kour, Sujata Suri, Kamins, Pooja Sharma, Parveen Akhtar, Rimpri, Diksha Bhagar & Ajay Kumar, Staff members associated in presenting this function with great spirits. Sajni Gupta sung a song of Maa Saraswati in her melodious sound. Ashok Gupta also gave advisory on Moral Values besides some activities on Hasya Yoga were performed and practiced. Chander Mohan Sharma, Institution Chairman conducted the proceedings and Presented Vote of Thanks.

## HDFC Bank branches in Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh among 800 across North India to witness 'Mega Two Wheeler Loan Mela'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, will be organizing a 'Mega Two Wheeler Loan Mela' across its branches in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on 15th and 16th February 2024. Over 800 branches across these states will host the massive loan drive in partnership with leading two wheeler brands and regional dealerships which will be present at the branches to showcase vehicles to customers. For eligible customers, the bank will provide on-the-spot loan sanctions.

HDFC Bank provides a host of loans to its customers at affordable interest rates. The 'Mega Two Wheeler Loan Mela' drive is envisioned to provide customers easy access

to two wheeler finance especially in the SURU (semi-urban and rural) locations.

The Bank will provide an end-to-end solution for processing loan requests with a variety of repayment configurations and minimal paperwork.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Dinesh Luthra, Branch Banking Head - North 2 said, "The Mega Two-Wheeler Loan Mela offers a great opportunity for customers to avail finance with ease for their favourite vehicles. We have invited leading two wheeler manufacturers and auto dealers to display their latest models at our branches. We are confident that customers will benefit from this Mela." For the quarter ending December 31, 2023, HDFC Bank's two-wheeler loan book size was Rs 11,300 crore.

## FFMA pays tributes to martyred CRPF jawans



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

To pay homage to the CRPF martyrs, who were martyred in a Fidayeen attack at Pulwama in 2019, the Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) held a function at Maheshpura Chowk, here on Wednesday.

Rajiv Mahajan Chairman of the Association organized the function.

Floral and candlelight tributes were paid by showering petals, candles were lit in the honour of the Martyrs and a two-minute silence was observed in their honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the members said that Pakistan has become a "soar" in the civilized world, a country for breeding deadly terrorists a safe haven for international ter-

rorists. R.C Puri (Vice Chairman, Retd. K.A.S) said that our jawans were very much prepared to counter the terrorist activities by Pakistan and we the whole "Nation" were very much proud of Jawans.

Rajiv Mahajan said that the Army and para-military forces were the backbone of the country and this was the activeness and vigilance by our Jawans, that the whole of India sleeps comfortably they added the whole of India was with the army and para-military Jawans and were always with them in their happiness and sorrows.

The prominent who spoke on the occasion were Ved Gandotra, Karnail Chand, Pritam Sharma, Nirmal Kishore, K.L Varma, Parbhat Kapahi and others.

## Return of PoK will be true tribute to martyrdom: Shiv Sena



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit Paid heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Pulwama attack and burnt the effigy of terrorism active in Jammu and Kashmir. Along with this, a demand was made to strong striker on Pakistan and make POK a part of India.

A tribute program was organized at the party state office in Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu. The present state leaders including Chief Manish Sahni paid heartfelt tribute to the Indian soldiers martyred in the suicide terrorist attack in Pulwama on February 14, 2019. After this,

Shiv Sainiks hold placards written "Return of PoK is the true tribute to the martyrs" and Demanded the same, raised slogans against terrorism and Pakistan and burnt effigies of terrorists operating in the state. Sahni said in his address that this cowardly act was carried out on 14 February 2019 at the behest of Pakistan. However, soon after this, Indian soldiers gave a befitting reply to Pakistan by conducting a surgical strike. But Pakistan continues its nefarious and cowardly activities. In the last five years, around 200 Indian soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the terrorists. 78 Indian soldiers were mar-

tyred in 2019, 56 in 2020, 45 in 2021, 30 in 2022 and 31 in 2023. Sahni said that for how long will we tolerate the martyrdom of our soldiers. The time has come to teach Pakistan a lesson by striking strongly and making Pakistan's illegally occupied PoK a part of India.

It will be a true tribute to the martyrdom of Indian soldiers. On this occasion vice president Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, president Kamghar Raj Singh, secretary Mangu Ram, Teetu Sehgal, Organizer Imran Shekh, Bituji Bhat, SK Raina, Prem Kumar, Raju, Nitin Chib, Ashok Chib, Rinku and many others were present.



## Modi Govt trying to suppress voice of farmers: Rattan Lal

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), today launched a scathing attack on the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre, accusing it of attempting to stifle the voices of the farmers amidst ongoing protests. He denounced the government's actions, alleging a betrayal of promises made to farmers over the past decade.

In a hard hitting statement issued here today, the senior NC leader vigorously condemned the use of tear gas and the detention of farmers instead of addressing their legitimate grievances, particularly regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He criticized the deployment of barbed wires and iron nails at protest sites, equating it to an authoritarian attempt to suppress dissenting voices.

Gupta emphasized that instead of engaging in meaningful dialogue and addressing the concerns raised by the agricultural community, the govern-

ment has resorted to repression and coercion.

"The actions taken by the BJP-led Central government against farmers exercising their democratic right to protest are reprehensible and unacceptable. Using tear gas and incarcerating peaceful demonstrators is a clear violation of their fundamental rights and undermines the democratic fabric of our nation," he added.

The Provincial President anguished that more than 700 farmers lost their lives, yet despite this harrowing toll, the government remains unwilling to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers. He asserted that this stark reality underscores the deep-seated injustices and neglect faced by the agricultural community, whose livelihoods are at stake. Highlighting broken promises, Rattan Lal Gupta cited the government's failure to fulfill commitments such as doubling farmers' income by 2022 and granting legal status to the Minimum Support Price. He lamented the lack of dialogue between the gov-

ernment and farmers, stressing the need for the Central Government to engage with farmers and address their concerns earnestly.

"The Modi government's decade-long tenure will be remembered as a period of relentless hardship inflicted upon farmers. The transformation of Delhi into a fortress to silence the voices of our food providers reflects the cruelty of the BJP government," he said.

Gupta reiterated the National Conference's unwavering support for the farmers' demand for fair MSP and urged the government to engage in sincere dialogue to resolve this serious issue otherwise ready to face the consequences in the upcoming Parliamentary polls in the country.

"J&K National Conference stand in solidarity with the farmers in their struggle for justice and dignity. It is incumbent upon the government to heed their demands and work towards a constructive resolution that upholds the principles of fairness and equity," he added.

## Modi Govt is committed to empower marginalized section of society: Rekha



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Modi Sarkar is committed to empowering marginalized sections of society by taking central government schemes to the last person this was stated by Rekha Mahajan District President Jammu South, addressed the ST community at Booth no 54, Bhatindi of Bahu Constituency drops under District Jammu South. The program was organized by Booth President Mohd Yaqoob which was attended the large number of common masses belonging to ST community included Sarpanch Bashir Ahmed khatana, Panch Mushtaq, District Secretary Sadeeq Choudhary, ST Morcha District President Rafiq Choudhary. During this meeting, Rekha Mahajan highlighted, that the welfare schemes for the Scheduled Tribes have risen by five times and the scholarship for tribal students has grown by two-and-a-half times in the last 10 years under the Modi government.

Rekha emphasized that the Modi Sarkar has exerted its full force to ensure that the extreme-

ly backward among the tribal population benefit from its every scheme. More than four crore pucca houses have been built for the poor by the Modi government. She asserted that those who were always ignored earlier have not only been reached out by him but also worshipped. During the event, Rekha Mahajan interacted with some beneficiaries of PM-JANMAN as they highlighted the positive changes in their lives after they availed of government schemes. It is the endeavor of our government that no one is left out of its welfare schemes.

Rekha Mahajan stressed that the Modi government initiative is for the welfare of the people. By offering the loan amount to people, the Stand Up Loan scheme promotes entrepreneurship among SC, ST communities, and women. As it helps people to become financially stable, this scheme has come under the financial inclusion agenda. During the discussions made at the meeting, the people of the ST community have contended to talk about the benefits which are provided by the Government which

includes, including the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, now called the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), which aims to be one of the world's largest health insurance schemes. It aims to offer a health insurance plan of Rs. 5 lacks annually per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. Expressing her belief regarding the benefits and schemes provided by the government, discussions regarding Ujjwala 2.0, yojana were made in which eligible beneficiaries will receive financial help to get an LPG connection along with a gas stove and a cylinder. The scheme prioritizes the inclusion of women from below the poverty line (BPL) families. Ujjwala 2.0 aims to improve the health and well-being of households by reducing indoor air pollution. Rekha Mahajan also interacted with youth playing cricket in the playground, visited the Madrasa took selfies with beneficiaries drew lotus flowers on the five walls, and wrote the slogan "Ek bar Phir Modi Sarkar, Rekha added.

## 250 specially abled children of J&K visits Delhi and Agra under 'Watan Ko Jano' Programme

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

250 specially abled children of Jammu and Kashmir visited Delhi and Agra under 'Watan Ko Jano' Programme organized by Social Welfare Department of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in coordination with Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Government of Jammu and Kashmir have been conducting Youth Exchange programme

with the objective to give an exposure of the social and cultural diversity of our country to the youth and children of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, MHA is committed to such initiatives for development and progress of the youth and children of Jammu & Kashmir. The 250 specially abled children, out of which 62 girls and

188 boys, in the age group of 6-18 years, visited Agra and Delhi. The children interacted with the Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla and other senior officers in New Delhi today.

Under the initiative of Watan Ko Jano, children of terrorism affected families and/or weaker sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir identified by Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Council are taken for exposure trip.

## 37th Convocation of IGNOU to be held on Feb 20, 2024

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 13

The 37th Convocation ceremony of IGNOU will be held on 20th February, 2024. The Convocation ceremony is being organised at 39 Regional Centres across the Country including the Regional Centre Jammu. The main function will be held at the New Delhi Headquarters of IGNOU. The LIVE coverage of the Convocation ceremony will be broadcast through YouTube, Facebook, Gyandhara and Gyandarshan channels. The students who have completed their respective programmes successfully and are eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates under the 37th Convocation. The programme wise break up of qualified students includes 5694 students of Master Degree programmes, 6232 students of Bachelor Degree programmes, 416 students of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 105 students of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes. In the 37th Convocation, the Degrees/Diplomas are also available through NAD/DigiLocker.

"As per the details provided by New Delhi HQ of IGNOU, as many as 310



Card/Net Banking, etc.

A total of Twelve Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Seven (12447) students from Regional Centre Jammu have qualified their respective programmes successfully and are eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates under the 37th Convocation. The programme wise break up of qualified students includes 5694 students of Master Degree programmes, 6232 students of Bachelor Degree programmes, 416 students of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 105 students of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes. In the 37th Convocation, the Degrees/Diplomas are also available through NAD/DigiLocker.

"As per the details provided by New Delhi HQ of IGNOU, as many as 310

qualified students have submitted the requisite fee and consent to receive their respective Degree/Diploma certificates in person in the Convocation function at Regional Centre Jammu. The Convocation ceremony of Jammu region is going to be organized at the Convention Centre, Circuit House, Canal Road, Jammu from 9AM onwards on 20th February, 2024 in which Degrees will be conferred upon the qualified candidates", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

The Press Note issued by the IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu stated that the participating students need to reach the venue by 8:30AM and register themselves at the registration counter well in time in order to avoid chaos. The male students should wear White / Off white or cream coloured Bharatiya Paridhan (Indian Dress) preferably made of Handloom / Khadi and female students should wear White / Off white or cream coloured Bharatiya Paridhan (Indian Dress) Sari or Salwar Kurta or Salwar Kameez, etc. preferably made of Handloom / Khadi.

## GDC Kathua concludes one month long 'National Road Safety Campaign'



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Road safety Club GDC Kathua in collaboration with NSS units GDC Kathua today concluded One Month long National Road Safety Campaign which was observed from 15th January - 14 February 2024 in and outside the college premises. This campaign was concluded by organising a Road Safety Pledge in the college premises wherein numbers of faculty members, students and volunteers took pledge to follow

the traffic rules and road safety measures in their day to day life. Pledge was read out by senior most NSS Volunteer Meenakshi Bakshi. Under this one month long campaign numbers of activities like Slogan Writing competition, Poster Making competition, Door to door campaign, lectures on Road safety in and outside the college premises particularly at Shaheedi Chowk, Shyama Parsad Mukherji Chowk, Main bazaar Kathua and Main gate of the college were organised. Principal

Gdc Kathua Prof Seema Mir congratulated and appreciated the efforts of Road safety Club and NSS Units for observing this One Month long road safety campaign. This One month long Road safety Awareness Campaign was 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, Prof Pinkey and Dr Arvind Kumar.

## KEC Trust distributes stationery, food articles among students of GPS Gandli

JNEWS SERVICE  
RS PURA, FEB 14

Today marked a significant milestone in the pursuit of empowering young minds as Kohinoor Education Charitable Trust, in collaboration with local stakeholders, distributed stationery and food articles among the students of Government Primary School, Panchayat Gandli, RS Pura.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of S. Gurdeep Saini, Ex-Sarpanch of the Panchayat and Co-Convenor of Panchayat Raj Cell, BJP, J&K, who honored the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In his address, Gurdeep Saini underscored the pivotal role of education in shaping the destiny of our nation. He emphasized, "Children are the future of our country,



and education stands as the most potent tool to sculpt a bright tomorrow." He urged the students to dedicate themselves to their studies, recognizing education as the cornerstone of progress and prosperity.

Furthermore, Gurdeep Saini called upon the School teachers to nurture and guide these young minds, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the challenges of the modern world.

Acknowledging the commendable efforts of Kohinoor Education Charitable Trust and other NGOs in the community, Gurdeep Saini lauded their contributions towards uplifting society and championing the cause of education for all. The event concluded on a note of optimism and determination, with a collective resolve to continue fostering an environment where every child has access to quality education and essential resources.

## In Poonch, Azad vows to revitalize neglected regions of J&K



JNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEB 14

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, addressed a massive public gathering in Mandi, Poonch, where he outlined robust commitments to job creation and infrastructural growth. Azad appealed for peace and unity among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Azad criticized other political parties for misleading the public through divisive strategies that have resulted in the fragmentation of communities. He emphasized his commitment to honesty and dedicated work, asserting that his actions will always align with his words. Azad reiterated the importance

of maintaining solidarity as a singular community, urging people not to succumb to the influences of divisive politics propagated by certain parties. He reaffirmed his mission to uplift the underprivileged, outlining plans to establish more schools, colleges, roads, and districts to enhance the overall socio-economic landscape of the region. He vehemently condemned the recent acts of violence perpetrated by Pakistan, resulting in the loss of innocent lives in Jammu and Kashmir. In a resolute stance against such heinous acts, Azad emphasized the need for concerted efforts to counter terrorism and maintain peace in the region.

## GDC Vijaypur organizes Lecture on 'Career Counselling'

JNEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYPUR, FEB 14

Career Counselling Cell of GDC Vijaypur in collaboration with Department of Commerce organized a highly successful career counselling session aimed at guiding students towards informed and confident career choices. Students of the college including students of commerce department attended the lecture enthusiastically with great fervor and zeal.

Principal of the college Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta addressed the students and emphasized that career counselling helps to overcome the obstacles and chalk out the path to career success by providing relevant knowledge and further added that the students should adopt the best practices that will pave the way to career success. The right knowledge will build the confidence, boost the morale and overcomes barriers easily.

Convenor of the Career Counselling Cell and HOD Commerce, Prof. Mamta Gupta welcomed the students and impressed upon

that career counselling is particularly important for students. She further stated that students are at a critical juncture in their lives when they need to make decisions that can significantly impact their future. Career Counselling for students significantly impact their educational and professional trajectories.

Resource Person, Mr. Aryan Verma, Centre Head of T.I.M.E Jammu, started the lecture by throwing light on career counselling options and discussed in detail about career jobs and aspirations; networking strategies; assessment of skills advancement; work values and references; entrepreneurship exploration and global perspectives.

Nearabout hundred students attended the lecture. The lecture was coordinated by Prof. Mamta Gupta, Convenor, Career Counselling Cell and Head, Department of Commerce. It was coordinated by Dr. Pooja Gupta and Dr. Tisha Singh both Lectures in the Department of Commerce.

## GDC Billawar pays tributes to Pulwama Martyrs of 2019



JNEWS SERVICE  
BILLAWAR, FEB 14

GDC Billawar paid tributes to the Pulwama Martyrs of 2019. Under the direction of Principal Dr. Alka Sharma, NCC Cadets,

students and staff of GDC Billawar observed Martyr's Day in the memory of those brave CRPF soldiers who lost their lives in the massive terror attack in Pulwama on 14th February 2019. The candles were lighted and

floral tributes were paid. The students and staff also observed silence for a few minutes and remembered the 40 soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Pulwama attack.

Cadet Shivang, Cadet Sunil and Cadet Kulveer presented their speeches on the occasion were Prof. Raj Kiran, Prof. Rajesh, Prof. Shamsheer, Dr. Manu, Dr. Sunita, Dr. Kanchan Mala, and ANO Akshay Sharma.



## Nxtra to procure 140,208 MWh renewable energy for its data centres

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Nxtra by Airtel, one of India's leading data centre companies, today, announced a power-wheeling agreement with Ampln and Amplus Energy to procure an additional 140,208 MWh of renewable energy. With this, Nxtra has enhanced its existing commitment of reducing its carbon footprint through renewable energy sources annually by - 99,547 tCO2e.

As per the agreement, Ampln Energy and Amplus Energy will set up captive solar and wind power plants of 48 MWdc and 24.3 MW, respectively for Nxtra's data centres in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. The 25-year agreements are in line with Nxtra's commitment to achieving its net-zero target of 2031 and further

strengthen its credentials as India's largest chain of green data centres in the country.

This is in addition to Nxtra's multiple other interventions to reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across its operations by 100% by FY2031. As part of these interventions, Nxtra has accelerated the adoption of green energy across all its operations, put in place energy efficient infrastructure and processes and implemented sustainable business practices at its workplaces.

Ashish Arora, CEO - Nxtra by Airtel, said, "These new partnerships reflect our commitment to lead India's green data centre space and fulfill our commitment to achieve Net Zero emission by 2031. The

# nxtra

by 

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

tCO2e annual carbon reduction  
Power plant in Uttar Pradesh in partnership with Ampln Energy Transition - 12 MWdc Solar | 17,880 MWh | -12,694 tCO2e annual carbon reduction

Power plant in Odisha in partnership with Ampln Energy Transition - 08 MWdc Solar | 12,530 MWh | 8,896 tCO2e annual carbon reduction

Nxtra by Airtel has the largest network of data centres in India with 12 large and 120 edge data centres across the country. It will invest over Rs 5000 crores over the next few years to build six new hyperscale data centres across key metro cities in India and expand its capacity by 2X to over 400 MW. For more details, visit [www.nxtra.in](http://www.nxtra.in)

additional clean energy supply will increase our renewable energy share to approximately 70% in the overall energy mix for our core data centers. As we work towards building more capacity in coming years and gear up for Generative AI powered loads, we are fully cognizant of our responsibility towards environment and are prepared to mitigate the impact on climate".

The details of the agreement are as under:

Power plant in Tamil Nadu in partnership with Amplus Energy - 24.3 MW Wind + 28 MWdc Solar | 109,798 MWh | -77,957

## Reasi Police arrests three absconders of 299 Cr. PC

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

A drive against underground criminals & absconders continue in district Reasi. In round of chase, raids and searches 03 absconding criminals evading arrests since years traced and arrested by teams of district police Reasi.

Absconding Criminal Jamat Ali S/o Siraj Din R/o Maralian, Jammu absconding in case FIR No 51/2022 US 307/353/34 IPC of P/S Pouni is arrested by team of P/S Pouni after 02 years of commission of crime in a case proven against him during the investigation. A general warrant of arrest was issued against him by Hon'ble Court of CJM Reasi U/S 299 Cr.PC.

Absconding Mohd Muqeem S/O Jamil Ahmed R/O Khawas Keri, Teh-Kotranka, Dist.-Rajouri A/P Migrant Camp Talwara Age-21 Years evaded trial proceedings in 04 cases, 1) Case FIR No. 261/17 U/S 457/380 RPC, 2) Case FIR No.121/2020 U/S 457/380 IPC, 3) Case FIR No. 69/2021 U/S 379 IPC, 4) Case FIR No. 138/2021 U/S 457/380 IPC has been arrested by team of P/S Reasi after 05 years of commission of crime. A general warrant of arrest was issued against him by Hon'ble Court of CJM Reasi U/S 299 Cr.PC in 02 cases. The whole operation was led by \*SHO REASI Ranjeet Rao and SHO Pouni Purab Singh under the supervision of DySP headquarter Reasi Neeraj Padyar -JKPS\*

Absconding Criminal Pawan Kumar Age 37 years S/O Kuldeep Kumar R/O Purana Daroor, Banganga Teh. Katra Distt. Reasi absconding in case FIR No. 116/2022 U/S 376, 506 IPC, 3/4 Posco Act P/S Katra of Police Station Katra got arrested by team of Police Post Banganga after developing a specific information.

Under this drive Reasi Police remained successful in nabbing hardcore, notorious & habitual criminals who were evading the due process of law for years and against whom General Warrants of Arrest were issued by Hon'ble Courts were pending execution.

Mohita Sharma-IPS, SSP Reasi conveyed that arrests of these criminals is important police work to maintain peace and tranquility in the area and Police will leave no stone unturned to arrest and produce them in concerned trial courts of law.

## BJP pays homage to Martyrs of Pulwama Terror attack at Jammu, distributes Bhandara

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

On 5th anniversary of Pulwama terror attack, Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha JK-UT) along with BJP workers paid Homage to Martyrs of Pulwama terror attack at Shiv Nagar Chowk, Shakti Nagar Jammu. We all know that 40 Indian soldiers attained Martyrdom in a cowardly attack by pak sponsored militants on 14 February 2019.

The Program was organised by Ravi Mehra (State vice president OBC Morcha)

Ajay Gupta (Social Activists), Surinder Choudhary (EX Councillor), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President OBC), Parveen Badyal (District vice president OBC), Rekha Sharma (Mandal Media Secretary), Renu Choudhary (Mandal Secretary), Sudeh Sharma (Mahila Morcha President Rehari Bakshi Nagar Mandal), Som Raj (state executive sc morcha), Kamal kishor (Booth president) and others were present on the occasion.

In the program they observed 2 minutes of silence and paid floral tribute to the sons of soil and slogans in favour of the martyred were aroused. After that they organised



Bhandara in the remembrance of Martyrs and distributed among the general public.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot said that our forces are our pride and three years ago on this day of 14 February more than our 40 soldiers attained Martyrdom in a cowardly attack by pak sponsored militants.

He said BJP is full of patriots and 14 February is a black day for India and BJP always stands for the dignity and respect of India and never tolerates acts against our motherland India.

He said our forces are well able to give befitting replies to anti national elements and India avenged the sacrifice of brave hearts by bombing several terror camps on Pakistani soil. The terror attack ignited a

series of events, including India's surgical strikes on a terrorist training camp in Balakot.

He said unfortunately some of our young people are running out of track and celebrating valentines, he appeals to all youth to support our forces because youth is the future of our Nation. He said BJP stands with every segment of society and if anyone needs any kind of help can contact us we will provide appropriate help to him.

Surinder Choudhary thanked all public for positive response and said we can't forget the sacrifices of our forces and our martyrs lives in heart.

He said India is blessed to have PM like Narendra Modi who works for more than 18 hours a day for the upliftment of all segments of the society.

## Cong pays tributes to brave heroes martyred in Pulwama

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, FEB 14

Congress party workers, headed by Indian National Congress District Samba President Sanjeev Sharma, paid tribute to the soldiers martyred in the terrorist attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Pulwama in the year 2019. Paying tribute, Congress leaders said that the country will always remember his sacrifice. Congress State SC Department Vice Chairman Vinay Bhushan ji, District Vice President Balram Kundal ji, Avinash Attri youth leader, Monu Rajput and other workers were present in the tribute ceremony. Congress leaders raised slogans of 'Shahid Jawan Amar Rahe' and paid tribute to the 40 soldiers martyred in the Pulwama attack. On this occasion, District President Sanjeev Sharma said that 'I pay tribute to the



brave soldiers martyred in Pulwama. His service and sacrifice for the country will always be remembered. Sanjeev Sharma said that we salute the brave martyrs of Pulwama, who sacrificed their lives for our motherland. His supreme sacrifice will always be remembered. The nation will always be indebted to our brave men. Let it be known that

on 14 February 2019, 40 CRPF soldiers were martyred in a terrorist attack sponsored by Pakistan in Pulwama, South Kashmir. A suicide bomber hit a CRPF bus with a vehicle laden with explosives, following which 40 force personnel were martyred in the blast. This bus was part of a convoy going from Jammu to Srinagar.

## Gaurav calls on Dulloo, submits memo; advocates for devp of Jammu Region

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, today held a constructive meeting with Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, to advocate for much-needed attention and development in the Jammu region.

During the meeting, Gupta presented a comprehensive memorandum, outlining key areas where development initiatives are essential to unlock the region's full potential.

Recognizing the significant strides in development and progress under Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo's leadership, Gaurav underscored the importance of extending these efforts to ensure equitable growth across all parts of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Gupta emphasized the historical neglect faced by Jammu Province in favor of focusing on other regions, particularly Kashmir. He highlighted the dire need to prioritize and promote tourism sites across the Jammu region, particularly in areas with untapped potential such as Dudu, Basantgarh, Patnitop, Bani, Basholi, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Bhadarwah, among others. He proposed leveraging successful initiatives, such as hosting international events like the G20 Summit, in Patnitop with an aim to pro-



mote picturesque areas of Jammu Province.

In his memorandum, Gupta also highlighted the rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and economic potential of the Jammu region, calling for global recognition to attract investments, tourists, and collaborations. He sought involvement of major private players in the tourism industry to invest in the development of these areas, citing their expertise and resources as invaluable assets in enhancing infrastructure and amenities.

Additionally, Gupta expressed his appreciation for the intensified efforts towards the ongoing Artificial Lake project on River Tawi, highlight-

ing its immense promise in enhancing the aesthetic appeal and recreational opportunities in the region. He also commended the Chief Secretary for his leadership and dedication to the advancement of Jammu and Kashmir, expressing optimism about the region's bright future under his guidance. The Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by Gaurav Gupta, acknowledging the importance of addressing the developmental needs of the Jammu region. He assured Gaurav of the administration's commitment to fostering inclusive growth and prosperity in all parts of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

## CUJ solemnly observes Pulwama Balidan Diwas

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Central University of Jammu solemnly observed Pulwama Balidan Diwas, commemorating the supreme sacrifice of our brave hearts who laid down their lives in the line of duty. The event, held under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, was a poignant tribute to the martyrs of the Pulwama attack.

Prof. Jain, along with faculty members, staff, and students, paid solemn floral tributes to the martyrs, honoring their indomitable courage, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to the



nation. The event served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our armed forces and security personnel in ensuring the safety and security of our nation. As part of the commemoration, floral tributes were offered and moments of silence, to honor the

memory of the fallen heroes. The Vice Chancellor expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs and reaffirmed the university's commitment to preserving their legacy and upholding the values for which they sacrificed their lives.

## Founder of Hackers Pathshala "Risheek Kumar Sharma" honoured at Future Crime Summit

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Risheek Kumar Sharma, a 17-year-old from Jammu and Kashmir, was honored as Future Crime Researcher of the Year at the prestigious Future Crime Summit, renowned as one of India's largest cyber security conferences. Felicitated by retired IPS officer Arun Kumar, Risheek Kumar Sharma is the founder of Jammu and Kashmir's first Cyber security company.

Retired IPS officer Arun Kumar, renowned for establishing a special task force in Uttar Pradesh and cracking high-profile cases like the Nithari killings and the Aarushi Talwar murder case, bestowed the honour upon Risheek for his groundbreaking contributions to the field of cyber security.

Risheek, aged 17, hails from a modest village in



Jammu and Kashmir, yet his passion for cyber security has propelled him to remarkable heights. As the proud founder of Jammu and Kashmir's first Cyber security company, he demonstrates an entrepreneurial spirit dedicated to fortifying digital defenses and combating cyber threats. Additionally, his role as a cyber security trainer at the Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy underscores his commitment to empowering law

enforcement professionals. With international recognition as the world's youngest Cyber security entrepreneur and trainer, Risheek's relentless dedication to advancing cyber security awareness cements his status as a trailblazer in the field.

Future Crime Organization recognized Risheek for his outstanding contributions and potential, acknowledging his exemplary past work in the field of cyber security.

## NYK is going to host 5th Nat'l Youth Parliament Festival at District Level

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu, J&K, 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. The young boys and girls belonging to districts Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch 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, and third prize is Rs. 1 lakh and 2 consolation prizes of Rs. 50000/- each. Winners from earlier National Youth Parliament Festivals at National Level are not eligible to take part in this event. To participate the interested youth may contact at 0191-2435063 or their respective district office. Applications can be accepted through MyBharat portal only and application must be submitted well before 18th February, 2024. To Register for event follow these steps-Login/Register on MyBharat Portal-Events-Search Event-Join Event.

## SSP Pulwama flags off a group of students for Bharat Darshan Tour

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, FEB 14

As a part of Civic Action Programme of J&K police, SSP Pulwama, Ms. PD Nitya-IPS flagged off a group of students comprising of 65 students of district Pulwama/ Police district Awantipora for five-day long Bharat Darshan Tour from DPL Pulwama. DySP Hqrs Pulwama, DySP DAR Pulwama, Addl. SP Awantipora and DySP DAR Awantipora were also present on the occasion. The tour is being organized by J&K police and all boarding and lodging facilities, to and fro air tickets including all other logistic facilities are being provided to the touring students by police. SSP Pulwama, while interacting with the touring students said that Bharat Darshan tour is primarily aimed at providing opportunity to the youth to understand the togetherness of India in spite of immense diversity.



## Dr Andrabi inspected Waqf properties at Akhnoor

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, FEBRUARY 14

Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today inspected many Waqf managed properties at Akhnoor area in Jammu.

She paid obeisance at several shrines and took stock of the facilities at these shrines. Dr Andrabi met some devotees at the shrine of Baba Ghulam Shah and Balla Da Bagh to get the on the spot feedback regarding facilities and arrangements and improvements required.

During her tour, Dr Andrabi said that Waqf Board has upgraded facilities at all major shrine throughout J&K where many works are still going on, but now we are planning to reach out to remote places also & formulate a work plan for upgrading facilities



there also.

"Now the properties of Waqf Board are being looked after in every area by the Board and streamlining of records and the usages are being ensured strictly as per the Waqf Act in vogue", said Waqf Chairperson.

She said that all abandoned vacant spaces

will be rented out soon through public auctions.

Dr Andrabi also met some public delegations at Jiya Pota Ghat, Hari Ghat & Hari Mandir Park.

She was accompanied by the Administrator Aabid Hussain, Tehsildar Waqf Board Fareed Ahmad and other concerned.

## DC Ganderbal chairs mega Block Diwas at Zazna

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 14

In a proactive move to address the concerns of the local population at their door steps, the District Administration Ganderbal Wednesday organized a mega Block Diwas at Zazna. The event, presided over by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shyambir and Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, aimed at fostering direct communication with the citizens and ensuring swift redressal of their grievances.

The event witnessed active participation from civil society members and prominent citizens of block Wakura, who voiced various issues, including the need for inner road maintenance, de-silting of Dub canal, repair of defunct bore wells, upgradation of Middle School Zazna, improved medical facilities, additional playgrounds, installation of solar lights and others.

DDC, responding to the concerns raised, instructed officers to expedite the resolution of genuine issues. On the matter of repairing the Dub canal, he directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to prioritize urgent



repair spots and initiate work promptly, including de-silting.

Regarding defunct borewells, the DDC informed that the list has been forwarded to the Ground Water Division, and repair work will commence based on their final assessment. He also assured that the installation of solar lights is in progress and will soon cover Block Wakura among others.

During the Block Diwas, DDC emphasized the prioritization of demands raised in the previous year's Block Diwas and Back to Village programs in the formulation of the 2024-2025 development plan.

Moreover, officials from

the J&K Bank and the District Horticulture Development Office apprised participants of various beneficiary-oriented schemes, such as the Area Expansion Scheme, Revised Modified High-Density Plantation Scheme, and Kisan Credit Card. Citizens were encouraged to take advantage of these initiatives designed to enhance the socio-economic conditions of the local population.

Among others, the event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr. Bashir Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Wakura, District Sports Officer, and other district and sectoral officers.

## GDC Marh celebrates Basant Panchmi



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 14

Government Degree College Marh celebrated Basant Panchmi, an occasion that marks the advent of the spring season.

The celebration was marked by worship of Goddess Saraswati with great fervor and enthusiasm to make the day.

The whole college worshipped the Goddess of

Knowledge and wisdom and sought blessings. The celebration commenced with the lighting of traditional lamp of learning and offering yellow flowers to Goddess Saraswati amid enchanting of Mantras and shlokas which created a pious aura in the college premises.

The Principal of the college, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul appraised the students about the importance of the festival.

## Effective service delivery key component of Block Diwas: ADDC



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 14

To ensure effective service delivery to the public by different departments, and evolving a vibrant mechanism for on spot redress of public grievances, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today presided over a mega Block Diwas programme at block Imam Sahib, here.

On the occasion, locals of Hendew, Wadipora, Kadigam, Aadakharan, Wasohalan, DK Pora and Losedenow apprised the ADDC of their issues which include road connectivity, cleanliness of irrigation Khuls, portable drinking water facility, uninterrupted power supply, repairs

of lanes, drains and dumping site for wastage, etc.

The ADDC patiently listened to all the issues and demands put forth by the locals and directed the concerned officers to redress the genuine grievances in a time bound manner.

Earlier, the ADDC sought feedback from the line departments to check their performance vis a vis developmental scenarios to benefit the general masses.

While interacting with the people and other representatives, ADDC said that the block diwas is being organised with the sole objective to provide more transparent, accountable, public-friendly and responsive administration to the people. This initiative of

the Government is contributing immensely to good governance, he said.

Dr Nasir said that the purpose of organising such programmes is to reach out to the unreached habitations, listen to their genuine issues and resolve them on the spot at their doorsteps. He further added that no stone shall be left unturned in meeting the expectations of the public and fulfilling their genuine issues within a time bound manner. He stated that the officers should be accessible to the public so that they can fully avail the benefits of schemes.

Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Tehsildar Barbugh, Block Development Officer Imamsahib and officers and officials were present on the occasion.

## Secretary Sports Council meets officers at Srinagar Airport ahead of the Khelo India Winter Games-2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 14

With the Khelo India Winter Games just a week away, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull called upon Javed Anjum, Director Airports Authority, Srinagar International Airport; Ravi Kumar, Deputy Commandant CISF and other senior officials here today.

The meeting was conducted to ensure necessary steps are taken to proactively implement all possible measures to facilitate a smooth and time-saving travel experience for athletes, dignitaries and other guests, and their onward journey to

the Winter Games venue at the Gulmarg.

Nuzhat Gull apprised the authorities that with the upcoming Khelo India Winter Games peak travel period approaching, a hassle-free arrival, luggage collection and boarding of transport facilities for onward journey by the participants be ensured by adopting all possible measures besides optimal operations for the convenience of other routine passengers as well.

She also requested the authorities to allocate separate check-ins and entry gates for swift participant movement during the games period besides allocation of the

designated parking lots for the participant pick-up and vehicles to which authorities responded in affirmative.

A traditional Kashmiri welcome drink shall be also served on the arrival to all the participants, the Secretary added.

Even as the scheduled date of one of the most exciting sports events is approaching, the J&K Sports Council has geared up for the event with almost all the officials glued to their tasks 24/7.

Several road shows are being organised on a daily basis to inform the public about a sports extravaganza slated to be held next week.

## Awareness camp on PMFME scheme held at Baarji Harwan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 14

A one-day awareness program on centrally sponsored 'Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises' (PMFME) scheme was today held at Baarji Harwan, Srinagar.

The camp, organized by Area Marketing Officer, District Nodal Officer PMFME scheme district Srinagar, was attended by PRIs, Bakery Unit Holders of the area, educated unemployed youth, progressive farmers entrepreneurs interested in upgrading their existing units/setting up of new units etc.

Members of (DLSC) of the PMFME Scheme also attended the awareness camp. The experts from different allied departments deliberated upon



the schemes pertaining to the Horticulture Sector in detail.

Area Marketing Officer Srinagar, Satya Bhushan apprised the participants about the departmental activities.

Marketing Inspector, Shabir Mufti raised awareness among the audience about Micro-food Processing Sector in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and need to integrate the existing unorganized Micro-food Processing Units of

the district in order to accomplish the objective of Self-Reliant India (Aatmanirbar Bharat).

He apprised that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched the PMFME scheme to provide financial, technical and marketing support to upgrade the existing micro-food processing units/ establish new units thereby integrating around 2 lac micro-food processing enterprises in the unorganized sector

with formal supply chain.

The different requirements/formalities of the project under the said scheme like financial assistance, technical knowledge and preparation of DPRS were discussed threadbare with the participants. The educated unemployed youth were urged to set up their own micro-food processing units and avail credit linked subsidy of 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs 10 lac per unit and interest subvention of 3% available under the scheme.

The District Resource Person PMFME Scheme Srinagar requested the interested applicants to contact him for assistance in the submission of application, DPR preparation, follow up of cases at bank level etc.

## Mission Vatsalya organises Capacity Building Programme at Bandipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 14

The District Protection Unit, Mission Vatsalya Bandipora today organized Training cum Capacity Building programme on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, Adoption Regulations, and child rights at HSS Kaloosa Bandipora.

The program presided over by Chairman District Development Council Ab. Gani Bhat was attended by Vice Chairperson DDC Kousar Shafeeq, DDC Arin Gh. Mohi Ud Din, DDC Hajin Gh. Mustafa, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Members from CWC, JJB and DCPU officials, General Secretary J&K Specially-abled Persons Welfare Society, Nazir Ahmad, representatives from DLSA, NGO, Civil



Society Members, Traders, Transporters, Asha Workers and Anganwadi workers.

The programme was conducted under the overall supervision of District Child Protection Officer Bandipora, Mir Hidayatullah and facilitated by Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Aasima Hassan.

During the program, various speakers highlighted the crucial role and

were held on topics such as the rescue and rehabilitation operations for vulnerable child labourers, and the process of age determination.

The facilitators employed case studies, group work and role playing to make the program engaging and enriching for the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Sofi Gowhar Mehmood, Protection Officer NIC highlighted working of DPU- Mission Vatsalya and role of various line Departments.

On the occasion, Chief Functionary HWVO (NGO) Feroz Ahmad as Resource person highlighted Family Based Alternative Care.

The certificates of participation were also distributed to acknowledge the active involvement of the participants in the programme.