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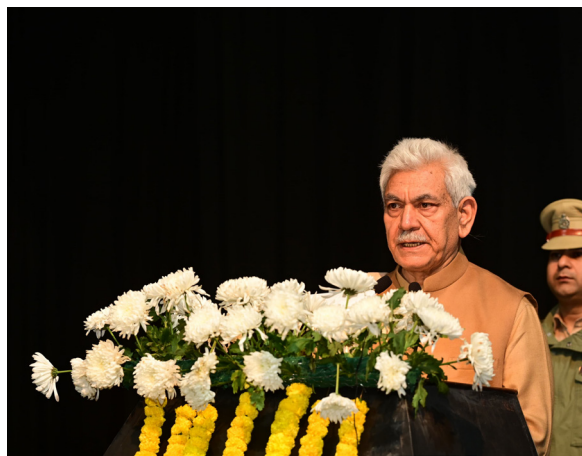
LG inaugurates 'New J&K-New Hope' Cultural Festival in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the two-day Cultural Festival 'New J&K-New Hope' at Abhinav Theatre Jammu on Thursday.

The Lt Governor lauded the joint endeavour of All J&K Folk Artists' Association, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala to showcase the rich musical heritage and folk art legacy of Jammu Kashmir Union Territory.

Jammu Kashmir is the confluence of art, literature, wisdom and culture. This land is blessed with



extremely talented people who have united the society and made tremendous contribution in national integration through their art, the Lt Governor observed.

We are proud of our art-

the UT Administration to provide the platform and necessary handholding to the young and budding artists of the Union Territory.

He also congratulated the artists for their enthralling performances on the occasion.

A total of 450 artists from different parts of Jammu Kashmir are participating in the Cultural Festival.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL; Gulzar Bhat, Chairman All J&K Folk Artists' Association, senior officials, renowned artists and youth in large number were present. KNO

LS Poll: PM Modi to kickstart election campaign at M A Stadium on Feb 20

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Ahead of Lok Sabha poll scheduled for April-May this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kickstart the election campaign with a public rally at Maulana Azad Stadium here on February 20.

The venue for the rally however, is put under siege and tight security arrangements are made around it.

All sports activities are also temporarily suspended in the Stadium.

Sources in the BJP said that the Prime Minister will be addressing a mega public rally on February 20 at Jammu's M A Stadium having a seating capac-



ity of around 25,000 spectators.

Sources revealed that the Modi will also be inaugurating a series of development projects including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Vijaypur in Samba, the

highest Railway Bridge, linking Kashmir with rest of the country this year, in Reasi district, Devika Rejuvenation project at Udhampur, IIM Jammu and Shahpur Kandi Redevelopment Plan in Kathua.

"The Prime Minister

will be e-inaugurating these projects," adding party sources said that e-foundation stones of various other development works in Jammu and Kashmir will also be laid by the Prime Minister.

They said that before his scheduled Jammu rally and other programmes, Modi is also expected to meet the party's J&K cadre at New Delhi on February 17-18 during a two-day Working Group meeting.

"A Two-day national convention is to be convened in Bharat Mandapam on February 17-18, coinciding with the upcoming Lok Sabha election which will be inaugurated by BJP

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ECI likely to visit J&K on March 12, 13

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 15

The full-Election Commission of India (ECI) is likely to visit Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory on March 12 and 13, sources disclosed.

Sources told news agency that the EC comprising Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners would visit J&K, likely on March 12 and 13, to review preparedness for Lok Sabha polls to be held in April and May.

During its visit to J&K, the poll panel is expected to meet different stake-

holders including political parties and officials from civil administration and police.

The poll-panel would also assess feasibility for holding Assembly polls in J&K in view of the deadline set-up by the Supreme Court.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission of India to hold J&K Assembly polls by September 30, 2024.

Jammu & Kashmir is without any elected government since June 19, 2018 when BJP withdrew support to

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SIA raids multiple locations in Srinagar in trans-national human trafficking case

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 15

The State Investigation Agency Kashmir, conducted extensive searches at 18 locations in Srinagar city today, as part of its investigation into a trans-national human trafficking case.

In a statement, issued to the news agency, a spokesperson said that special teams of the SIA, aided by the Srinagar police, started the searches in the early hours.

The statement reads that during the operation, incriminating material and documents such as

identity cards, bank documents, identity cards, and registers besides digital devices like mobile phones and computers were seized from various HR consultancies.

"The case pertains to the illegal trafficking of foreign nationals into Indian Territory, particularly from Myanmar and Bangladesh. Investigations reveal that vulnerable foreign nationals are trafficked to India under the guise of employment opportunities. Upon their transportation to Jammu and Kashmir, they are sold to fake and illegal human resource agencies/con-

sultancies, who further exploit them under the garb of job opportunities such as domestic helpers, maids, and babysitters, often leading to sexual exploitation," it reads.

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DGP RR Swain to hear public grievances at Baramulla on Feb 17

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

This is to notify the public that the DGP's Public Grievances Redressal/Interaction programme is scheduled to be held on February 17, 2024 (Saturday) 3 p.m. at District Police Lines, Baramulla. The grievance/interaction programme is exclusively for the residents of Baramulla District.

To participate in the programme, individuals with grievances related to police services should visit the District Police Line (DPL) to register at the help desk established for

the purpose. People who wish to bring their griev-



ances to the attention of DGP J&K should submit a written application containing complete details including that of a working mobile number.

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It is reiterated that the DGP's Public Grievance Redressal programme is exclusively for addressing concerns related to Police services. It does not include matters concerning the recruitment of Special Police Officers (SPOs) or general transfers so please be informed that grievances pertaining to these specific areas will not be entertained during the grievance redressal programme.

ADGP CRPF takes stock of operational preparedness in Poonch, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 15

ADGP CRPF Nalin Prabhat has reached the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri to take the stock of operational preparedness amid massive fire near the Line of Control in Poonch sector. This is the third visit of CRPF's top officer to Poonch, Rajouri after the recent terrorist attack on the army in Dera Ki Gali range.

An official told the news agency, ADGP CRPF after reaching the Poonch district visited several areas in the hinterland and interacted with the troops on ground. He directed them



to maintain extraordinary vigil over the situation while maintaining people friendly bond between the public and security forces operating on the ground.

The ADGP also visited the LoC and border areas

of the district and interacted with security forces, police and army posted on the ground. ADGP also took stock of the situation at LoC areas when the massive fire has been

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LG attends Annual-day function of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School, Mandal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Annual-day function of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School at Mandal on Thursday.

The Lt Governor appreciated the school run by Shri Shiv Mandir Nyas Trust for its significant contribution in education, society's welfare, integration and solidarity. He congratulated the school administration, teachers and students on the occasion.

The Lt Governor impressed upon

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Terrorist associate arrested in Kupwara, arms, ammunition recovered: Police

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 15

A terrorist associate has been arrested along with arms and ammunition in Lalpora area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said on Thursday.

In a statement, issued to the news agency, a spokesperson said that a joint naka was laid by Kupwara Police, 28 RR and CRPF 162Bn at Gundmacher Bridge.

The statement reads that during checking, a suspicious movement of one person carrying a white colored bag who

was coming from Lalpora towards Gundmacher was observed. "Acting swiftly, the police party and security forces apprehended him tactfully as he tried to flee from the spot.

During preliminary questioning, the arrested disclosed his name as Rafeeq Ahmad Ganie S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie of Lalpora," it reads. It added that during the search of the bag, a pistol, pistol magazine, 10 rounds, two hand grenades and a mobile phone were recovered. It further reads that a case FIR No. 03/2024 U/S 7/25 A Act, 13,18, 23, 39

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Modi's governance reforms helped Indian economy through huge savings: Dr Jitendra

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 15

Governance reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi have helped the Indian economy through huge savings.

Technology is being widely used to result in savings and in delivery of utilities as well as services to the public.

This was stated by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pen-



sions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing the par-

ticipants of the 'Special Capacity Building Programme for Senior Civil

Servants of Sri Lanka' here today.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, adopting Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has resulted in saving of Rs.1 lakh crore by removing middlemen and also saved millions of poor households from starvation during the Covid Pandemic.

Besides, the Government also saved Rs.65,000 crore through the Government e-marketplace (GeM) portal.

Quoting PM Modi's recent speech where

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PM's ensuing visit momentous: Jugal, Rana

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 15

Member of Parliament Mr Jugal Kishore Sharma and Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today described the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Yashasvi Narendra Modi to Jammu and Kashmir as momentous, exuding confidence that this will prove yet another transformative milestone for the Union Territory and the people are very enthusiastically waiting to receive the Prime Minister after his glorious ten years of relentless pursuit leading to a Viksit Bharat which is



on the verge of becoming a Vishvaguru in his third term.

Interacting with the party colleagues from Nagrota constituency here today Mr Sharma hoped that the visit will witness satisfaction of urges and

aspirations of the people on socio-economic and developmental fronts in the regions and their sub-regions, irrespective caste or religion. The visit also reflects the Prime Minister's unwavering commitment towards Naya Jammu

Kashmir with all segments getting equal opportunities to progress and prosper.

Mr Sharma referred to the landmark initiatives taken during the past four years to encourage

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Secretary Tribal Affairs conducts public darbar at border Panchayat Khamba, Nowshera

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 15

Secretary Tribal Affairs, Shiv Anant Tayal, today held a Public Darbar at border panchayat Khamba in Nowshera block as a sequel to government's ambitious public outreach initiative.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat besides other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The event provided a platform to the community to raise their issues and concerns seeking redressal of the same. These included upgradation of Middle School Khamba, ambulance services in the area, inclusion of eligible left out beneficiaries under PMAY-G, re-rendering of borewell construction at Sarya and sanctioning of additional border bunkers besides shortage of staff in healthcare and educational



institutions, poor internet connectivity, widening of Nowshera Jhanger road, compensation to families affected due to construction of Bhawani Qila Darhal road, recruitment drive for border area youth, construction of an overhead bridge at HSS Bhawani, dilapidated state of HS Kalsian and expeditious completion of filtration plant at Handan. The Secretary also visited and inspected the stalls established by various departments showcasing their respective schemes meant for public welfare

and development. He interacted with the officials and the visitors as well to know on ground status of implementation of these vital development programmes of the government. He also instructed the concerned departments for early resolution of all issues projected by the public.

The Secretary, while addressing on the occasion, assured all help in addressing the urgent issues raised by the local community. He emphasized that the top priority of the government is

to efficiently and promptly deliver basic facilities and services to the general public. He highlighted a substantial investment of Rs 150 crore in augmenting the power infrastructure in the district. He reiterated the commitment of Jal Jeevan Mission in providing tapped water connections to all households, ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water for every resident besides constructing all-weather roads to improve transportation and accessibility for the public.

Addressing concerns regarding staff shortage in educational institutions, Shiv Anant Tayal assured swift action in this regard. He assured the people that he would take up the matter of sanctioning additional border bunkers with the concerned quarters.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted achievements and accomplishments

recorded in the district under different schemes including availability of 165 MVA power against a total requirement of 135 MVA, completion of 135,962 works during the current financial year and extension of tap water connections to 64 percent of the population under Jal Jeevan Mission. Besides, other milestones in infrastructure development included construction of 2,632 kilometer of roads by the Public Works Department and completion of four WSSs under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Among others who attended the event were ADC Nowshera, DFO Nowshera, CPO, ACP, DMO, DPO, CEO Education, CMO, LDM, Executive Engineer PDD Rajouri, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Nowshera, Executive Engineer REW, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mechanical besides other district and sectoral officers.

Div Com Kashmir for comprehensive transport plan for City

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

For the convenience of general public, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today directed Officers of Smart City, SRTC and RTO Kashmir besides private transporters to chalk out a comprehensive plan for city to facilitate general public and to frame timetable so the buses shall be available on time at Bus-stops.

The Div Com passed these directions in a meeting convened to listen to the demands/ issues/ grievances of transporters of Kashmir, here.

The meeting was attended by CEO, Smart City Limited/VC SDA/ Commissioner SMC, Dr Owais Ahmad; MD SRTC; RTO Kashmir; SSP Traffic City; SSP Rural and Representatives of various Transport Associations.



Speaking on the occasion, Div Com asked transporters to upgrade their services and coordinate with the officers of Smart City, SRTC & RTO Kashmir and ensure their vehicles ply till late in evening on all routes.

The transporters apprised the meeting about different grievances and issues faced by them. They demanded a comprehensive Transport Policy for UT and regulation of unregistered service providers and a policy

for E-Rickshaw Autos.

On the occasion, Div Com enjoined RTO Kashmir to take lead to frame a detailed plan and a timetable in consultation with other stakeholders. He said that passengers should be aware about the time of arrival and departure of buses at any stop in City.

He emphasized on private transporters to come forward and take part in water transportation which shall help in minimizing traffic congestion.

DC Kulgam reviews status of various works projects

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 15

In order to review status of various work projects including newly approved work projects of Kawaki Bazar Bridge, Hallan Chiranbal Road, Brazloo NH444 bridge etc, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of officers at mini-secretariat, here.

During the meeting, the DC was informed that Bid opening date for Kawaki Bazar is 19th of this month and the estimated cost of the project is 16.20 crore.

Keeping in view the importance of the bridge the DC instructed the concerned officers to reduce the completion timeline of Kawaki Bazar Bridge to 6 months and start work on it from 1st of March 2024.

The chair was also informed that Hallan-



Chiranbal road has been approved under NABARD RIDF with an approved cost of 8.88 crore and TS is pending.

Status of Brazloo bridge and other newly works was also reviewed by the DC and he instructed to start work on all these works projects from March 1st, and mobilize men and machinery in double shift mode to ensure time-

bound completion of all these works

The DC during the meeting also reviewed progress made in development of industrial estates at Ashmuji, Chekpora Bemidora. The meeting was attended by JD-Planning, Zahid Sajjad, GM DIC Bashir Ahmad and Executive Engineers from R&B, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

Custodian General inspects evacuee properties in Kashmir division; Asks officers to act swiftly against encroachments

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

Custodian General J&K, Rishpal Singh, conducted extensive tour of evacuee property assets and land situated at Peerbagh, Hyderpora, Sanath Nagar, Panthachowk, Boulevard, Kathidarwaza Rainawari and other places of Kashmir division.

Deputy Custodian (HQ), Custodian Evacuee Property Kashmir, Assistant Engineer E P Department Kashmir along with field staff accompanied the Custodian General J&K.

During the visit of Evacuee property flats, Convention Centres and marriage halls and shopping complex Hyderpora Srinagar, various delegations of tenants met the Custodian General with their demands and issues.

The Custodian General redressed some of the issues on the spot while



directing the Custodian Kashmir for redressal of other genuine demands of the tenants within shortest possible time.

The Custodian General also convened a review meeting with officers of Evacuee Property Department Kashmir.

The Custodian General assessed different aspects of functioning of Evacuee Property Department Kashmir besides reviewing the action taken on deci-

sions taken in the previous meetings. He expressed satisfaction over remarkable achievements including reconciliation of figures of notified evacuee land in due consultation with Revenue Department in Kashmir division and retrieval of big chunk of evacuee land.

He asked the officers and officials to act swiftly on receiving reports of encroachment of evacuee land in collaboration

with Revenue and Police departments.

The Custodian General also asked the Deputy Custodians to liaise up with district administration for proper management and safeguarding of the evacuee property. He asked for identifying the evacuee land which is potentially viable for commercial purposes including other lands which can be fenced with installation of sign boards to avoid any further encroachment. He said that the land not viable for departmental use should put to e-auction for which the department has already developed e-auction portal and subsequent constitution of auction committee by the government for auction of Evacuee Property.

Meanwhile, a group of employees met the Custodian General and demanded conduct of Departmental Promotion

Committee meeting which has not been conducted since 2017.

The Custodian General assured them that he will take up the matter with the administrative department for early finalization of recruitment rules of the department, so that the genuine demands of the employees for promotion to the next higher grade are accorded to keeping in view their seniority, integrity and performance.

Later, the Custodian General emphasized the need of scanning of all records pertaining to the department up to ending February 2024 besides asking for completion of geo tagging of all the Evacuee Property within 15 days. He also emphasized skill development of the employees on priority through skill enhancement sessions and other orientation programmes.

Babila Rakwal conducts public outreach programme in Dradhu, Bhaderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 15

Secretary, Cooperative, Babila Rakwal, conducted a mega public outreach program at Dradhu, here today.

ADDC Doda, Pran Singh, ADC Bhaderwah, Choudhary Dil Mir and DDC Councillor West, Yudhvir Thakur, besides other concerned were present on the occasion.

During the public darbar, several issues ranging from infrastructure development to employment opportunities and government schemes were highlighted by Sarpanchs, PRI and public representatives. These issues inter alia included improved water supply, electricity, healthcare, educational facilities, road connectivity, and tourism initiatives.

The Secretary, acknowledging the pace of development under the present UT government, emphasized the significant progress being recorded across all sectors in the district.

Responding to public concerns, she assured timely resolution of their grievances and demands while emphasizing the involvement of common masses in all development endeavors of the govern-



ment.

She highlighted the importance of completing projects within stipulated timeframe to achieve the desired results. She assured complete support for initiatives like road connectivity to boost tourism, completion of NABARD projects, and the establishment of receiving stations.

Babila Rakwal directed the officials to initiate establishment sports facilities to encourage youth engagement in games for their overall development.

She emphasized on promotion of 'Home Stay' concept to enhance tourism and livelihood opportunities in the area.

She encouraged youth engagement in cooperative sector and applauded women participation in self help groups.

Babila Rakwal reaffirmed administration's commitment towards inclusive development through collaboration between authorities and the public.

Earlier, the Secretary inspected the departmental stalls established during the event to raise awareness among the public regarding various Centre and UT sponsored welfare and development schemes.

DDC Councillor West, Yudhvir Thakur, highlighted several issues

including cable car project and road connectivity from Pul Doda to Pathankot and Chamba. He mentioned that 90 percent of road works in the area have already been completed. He commended the district administration and the tourism department for promoting and providing infrastructure and other facilities to boost tourism in the district.

Later, the Secretary convened a meeting with all officers and officials of concerned departments to ensure that the issues and grievances raised during the event are targeted for redressal on priority basis. She also assessed the progress on execution of development works under various schemes in the district.

During the meeting, Babila Rakwal had a thorough discussion with district officers about various ongoing development projects. She directed the concerned officers and officials to prioritize important works for early completion to benefit the public.

DC Ramban chairs DLCC and DTFC meeting, reviews measures for implementation of COTPA-2003 & Pulse Polio Preparedness

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 15

Deputy Commissioner of Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a crucial meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee for the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP).

The primary focus was to thoroughly review the measures for the implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) -2003.

In addition to addressing tobacco control measures, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed preparedness for the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) programme, 2024, in a session convened by the District Task Force Committee.

Additional SP, Gaurav Mahajan, SDMs, CEO, CEO MC Ramban, BDOs, Designated Officer Food Safety, ARTO, MS DH Ramban, BMOs, ITI Superintendent and various other senior officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized strict adherence to the provisions of



the COTPA Act, stressing the elimination of tobacco product usage, particularly in public spaces throughout the district. He directed concerned officials to install mandatory signage at educational and health institutions, as well as prominent public areas like bus stands and government offices, to enhance awareness regarding the prohibition and detrimental effects of tobacco use.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner asked CEOs and institutional heads to escalate anti-tobacco campaigns and administer anti-tobacco pledges to students during morning assemblies. He also tasked SDMs and Tehsildars with actively participating in

enforcement drives to ensure all educational and health institutions in the district become tobacco-free zones.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed progress made by all stakeholder departments in implementing the directives issued by the Chair.

Earlier, in a detailed presentation, CMO, Kamal Ji Zadoo and Divisional Coordinator of NTCP, Shiveta Raina, shed light on the prevailing tobacco usage landscape in Jammu and Kashmir UT.

Raina also provided insights into the penal and enforcement provisions of COTPA-2003, along with an overview of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), Article

5.3, MPOWER, and strategies for effective COTPA-2003 implementation.

In yet another meeting convened today, the Deputy Commissioner, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary issued directions to ensure 100% coverage within the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) program.

Emphasizing the significance of collaboration among different stakeholders, the Deputy Commissioner urged concerted efforts to educate the populace about the IPPI initiative.

The Deputy Commissioner also issued directives for the launch of a comprehensive awareness campaign across print, electronic, and social media platforms with an aim to inform and engage the public on both the execution of IPPI on March 3, 2024 and the implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) -2003. By leveraging various media channels, the initiative seeks to maximize outreach and ensure widespread understanding and participation in these critical public health endeavors, he added.

Forest Department hosts One Day Round Table Conference on Natural Climate Solutions

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15

The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department, in collaboration with Nature Conservancy and TERI School of Advanced Studies, today organised a One day Knowledge & Training programme for promoting Natural Climate Solutions in India.

The Round Table Conference was held in the Government Convection Centre Jammu. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF Roshan Jaggi, attended the function as the Chief Guest and Prof. Dr. Deep Narayan Panday (Former PCCF/HoFF, Rajasthan) was the Guest of Honour.

During the Round Table Conference Natural Climate Solutions which involves - ecosystem services approach, challenges of climate change vulnerability, land degradation and ways to mitigate climate change through natu-

ral solutions were deliberated upon.

The Round Table at Jammu was one of the series of such conferences organised by TERI School of Advanced Studies in last few months, with the support of "The Nature Conservancy" and in collaboration with MoEFCC and Forest Departments across different States and UTs to devise strategy to put in place action plans to promote nature based solutions to deal with the environmental emergency caused by the rise in earth's temperature due to climate change.

The main focus was on promoting capacities of Natural Climate Solutions to strengthen and promote capacity of the policy makers for climate change mitigation. It also aimed to enhance the effectiveness of strategies for achieving climate goals and sustainable development at local level.

Roshan Jaggi, Pr. Chief



Conservator of Forests & HoFF, in his address complimented TERI School of Advanced Studies for taking lead for organising the program aiming at Carbon Neutrality. He spoke about the reality of climate change and the extreme events being experienced as a result of climate change. The PCCF (HoFF) also highlighted the report on climate change issued by UNEP

Nature" which stresses on the reconstruction of the planet earth.

He laid special focus on implementation of specific plans at the UT Level and promotion of a lifestyle in which all the activities which are detrimental to the environment are reduced. He highlighted the series of mitigation measures taken by the Forest Department through massive plantation drives, soil & water

conservation works, restoration of water bodies, creation of Nagar Vans, catchment area treatment plans, and prevention of forest fires and securing of forest boundaries. He advised all the officers to put in extra efforts to combat effects of climate change and frame the mitigation plans in a way so that peoples can connect to it and contribute significantly for achieving the targets.

Prof. Dr. Deep Narayan Panday (Former PCCF & HoFF, Rajasthan) who was the expert on the subject spoke in detail about the "Natural Climate Change Solutions" and gave a background of the climate changes taking places in the present times which has led to degradation of Air quality and other extreme events in world we live in. He expressed concern on the unprecedented

glacial retreats, rise in Sea level, frequent Forest fires, increase in intensity of heatwave as well as the acidification of the oceans. During the Round Table discussion with the participants the various reasons resulting in increased concentration of Co2 in the atmosphere were deliberated upon. He highlighted the appropriation of Net Primary production and the increased intensity of pressure on the natural resources and stressed on the Natural solutions like Forest Management, Fire Management, Restoration of wetland, rain water harvesting, protection of grasslands and restoration other ecosystems which would enable India to live upto the Commitments made to reduce the carbon footprints. Mr. Panday advised the Forest Department to improve the quality of forests by laying emphasis on plantation of indigenous plant species, rain water conserva-

tion, preventing growth of alien invasive species and improving quality of degraded forests.

The Conference was attended by Seniors Officers of the Forest and other allied wings besides prominent retired Senior Forest officers especially. Ravi Kesar, former PCCF & HoFF, Sh. O.P Sharma, former PCCF besides Asaf Mehmood Sagar, IFS Pr. CCF / CEO CAMPA / Director Soil & Water Conservation, Sanjay Kumar Sinha, IFS Pr. CCF Central, Director Forest Research Institute J&K, S, Senthil Kumar, IFS APCCF Nodal Officer FCA, Ramesh Kumar, IFS CCF, Jammu, M.Kumar, IFS Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Jammu and the Divisional level officers of Jammu Representatives from Environment Department, Jammu University, eco-clubs, Paryaran Mitras & other stakeholders were also present. Participants from Kashmir valley attended in virtual mode.

DM Udhampur orders closure of Hotels, Banquet Hall under prevention & Control of Pollution Act



JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 15

District Magistrate Udhampur Saloni Rai, has ordered closure of 4 hotels and a Banquet Halls for violation of pollution control norms.

In accordance to the directive from the J&K PCB, and with the approval of the competent authority, the DM invoked section 33(A) of the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974, and

section 31(A) of the Air Prevention and control of pollution Act 1981 Act, read with section 5 of environment protection Act, 1986 against 5 hotels and a banquet hall, including Hotel Singh Axis, Hotel Singh Shine, Banquet Hall Sangam Palace Chopra Shop, Hotel Oasis and Hotel Devika within the jurisdiction of Udhampur District.

A team of officials involving the Revenue, Police, and PCB led by

Tehsildar Udhampur, Jai Singh and Tehsildar Chenani, Pankaj Singh Bahu enforced the closure of the identified establishments.

The joint team not only facilitated the shutdown of the mentioned establishments but also provided guidance to the hotel owners, urging strict adherence to the guidelines outlined by the PCB. This action aims to ensure environmental compliance and control pollution in the region.

DC Kupwara presides over Valedictory function of National Road Safety Month-2024

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 15

A valedictory function of National Road safety Month-2024 was today organized by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) in collaboration with Transporters Welfare Associations at Town Hall Kupwara.

The function was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan.

District Information Officer Kupwara, Ifikhar Naseem, ARTO Kupwara, Anees Ahmad Wani, District Transport Incharge Kupwara, Chairman, Western Bus Association Kashmir, Mohammad Shafi Mir, President Sumo Stand, Showkat Ahmad Mir and other heads of Transport associations were present on the occasion.

Addressing the impressive gathering,

the DC, who is also Chairperson, District Road Safety Committee, urged drivers to adhere to the road safety rules. She said that the main objective behind observing Road Safety Month is to raise mass awareness about safety and security of road users and to minimize the numbers of death and injuries caused due to various road accidents.

The DC congratulated the Motor Vehicles Department and Transport Associations for their efforts for holding maximum awareness/events during the Road Safety Month.

She said that the transport sector is a vibrant sector which plays a crucial role in providing employment opportunities and generating revenue. It serves as a cornerstone for economic activity and development.

Elaborating on road safety aspects, DC said that drivers and commuters have to make behavior changes and adopt safety measures in driving which encompass a range of practices and technologies aimed at ensuring safety on the road.

Ayushi advised that road safety should be a priority every single day. It is important for everyone to practice safe driving habits, follow traffic laws, and stay vigilant on the roads to help prevent accidents and keep everyone safe.

The DC directed ARTO Kupwara to organize awareness camps for the drivers who are not insured and asked presidents of transport associations to get all drivers insured under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantra

Surakhsha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

ARTO Kupwara, while addressing the gathering, impressed upon all the transporters, vehicle owners, drivers, conductors, travelers and road users to strictly follow road safety and traffic rules. He said that the only way to decrease the number of road accidents is adherence to traffic laws and behavior change.

Chairman, Western Bus Association Kashmir, Mohammad Shafi Mir also spoke on the occasion and urged drivers to adopt a passenger-friendly approach and drive with utmost responsibility.

On the occasion, officials of the motor vehicles department and members of transport associations were felicitated with mementoes and trophies.

Bilal Mukhtar assumes charge as General Manager DIC Ganderbal

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 15

Bilal Mukhtar (JKAS) Thursday officially assumed the charge as General Manager (GM) District Industries Centre (DIC) Ganderbal.

He received a vibrant welcome from the Officers and officials of the DIC Ganderbal upon his joining.

Soon after taking over the charge, the incumbent GM chaired an introductory meeting with the field staff of the department; he took overview of ongoing work of the Department.

He emphasised on punctuality, transparency, timely and effective public service delivery, and ease of doing things so that the benefits reach to the people.

NHM Mission Director visits 108 Emergency Response Center



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15

Mission Director NHM, Nazim Zai Khan, today visited the Emergency Response Centre of 108 Jammu and Kashmir Emergency Medical Services, established by BVG India in Channi Himmat.

During the visit, the Mission Director was apprised that a total of 203 fully equipped ambulances are operating under the 108 service, ensuring prompt health-care services at doorsteps of the general public. He was informed that the 108 ambulance service has served 2,77,798 patients

since its inception in the UT while 56055 patients have been served through 102 service.

The Mission Director assessed the functioning of the 108 emergency response centre and interacted with the employees seeking feedback on services being extended to the public there. He commended the centre for providing round the clock ambulance services to the people of UT Jammu and Kashmir. He was also shown an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance and was briefed about the functioning of the biomedical equipments retrofitted in the utility.

Coordination meeting of Civil Admin & Police held at Ganderbal

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 15

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, today presided over a coordination meeting involving the civil administration and Police officers at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The DC emphasized on ensuring proactive coordination between the police and civil administration for implementing the whole of government approach to both development and law and order issues.

Earlier, the meeting began with an in-depth discussion on various pressing matters, including illegal construction, illicit mining, encroachments, drug de-addiction activities, and the installation of CCTV cameras.

Shyambir underscored the importance of a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to tackle these issues effectively. In a joint effort to combat illegal construction activities, Tehsildars received firm directives to enhance field inspections. The SSP sought police assistance during encroachment drives to ensure the enforcement of regulations.

The status of CCTV camera installation in the district was reviewed, with

the DC instructing Tehsildars and police to conduct joint surveys to ensure comprehensive coverage.

To address the issue of illegal mining, the District Mineral officer was directed to seize vehicles engaged in such activities. Additionally, Tehsildars and police officials were tasked with closely monitoring illegal mining by obtaining permission details, route maps, and dumping yard information.

The DC urged Tehsildars to engage with Civil Society members, including senior citizens and eminent individuals, to gather regular feedback on any unlawful matters within their jurisdictions.

The meeting also delved into election preparations, covering the nomination of Sector Magistrates, Zonal Magistrates, Flying Squads, and vulnerability assessments of polling stations. Discussions included the SVEEP Plan and other related arrangements to ensure a smooth and transparent electoral process.

The coordination meeting exemplified the commitment of the Ganderbal administration and police force to work together proactively, fostering a safer and more developed environment for the people of the district.

Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT organizes series of activities

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15

Indian Red Cross Society, JK is a prominent and reputable organization that carries out a wide range of initiatives and activities to support the different sections of the society under the leadership of Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha (Hon'ble President, IRCS, J&K-UT) and supervision of Sh. Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary, IRCS, MK-UT.

Today, a drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme, in collaboration with Office of the Excise Commissioner, Jammu, was held at "Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu. The camp was inaugurated by Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Principal in presence of Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Vice Principal, GGM Science College, Dr. Aasia Noor, Medical Officer and Kanchan Devi, Sup. Pharmacist IRCS, J&K-UT.

The main aim behind the programme was to discourage the use of drugs among the youth and inspire students to utilize their energies and other resources for social development. IRCS is planning to organize extensive programs to curb this menace.

During the session, Kanchan Devi educated the students about the ill



effects of drug addiction while outlining the present scenario of substance abuse, its impact on physical and mental health, and avenues for seeking help. Through this interactive session, students gained insights into the physiological, psychological, and legal implications of drug use.

Besides this, a first-Aid awareness session was also organized for the students in which the main focus was on the life saving event i.e. Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Overall, initiatives like the one organized by the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT is vital for creating a healthier and more supportive society, especially in areas facing socio-economic challenges.

The camp was coordinated by Vironica Marwah, Field Officer, IRCS, J&K-UT.

Further, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K in collaboration with the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Jammu organized a First-Aid awareness programme for the com-

mercial vehicle drivers at Warehouse, Jammu. This initiative was launched on the occasion of Road Safety Month, with the aim of equipping drivers with essential first aid skills to respond effectively to emergencies on the road.

Road accidents can happen unexpectedly, and the immediate response of individuals at the scene can often make a significant difference in saving lives. The partnership between IRCS and RTO seeks to empower drivers with the knowledge and skills needed to provide timely and effective first aid until professional help

arrives. The team of Red Cross includes Dr. Kavita Nijhon, Medical Officer and Smt. Kanchan Devi, Sup. Pharmacist imparted the awareness and covered topics like basic first aid techniques such as CPR, wound care, and handling emergencies.

Similarly an eight day First-Aid training programme w.e.f 5th to 14th Feb, 2024 was organized for the Commercial Vehicle drivers and the youth of the society at Red Cross Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu. During the 8 day training, different topics were covered like various techniques of Disaster Management during Earthquakes, Fires, Floods, First-Aid Kit, wounds, bandages, types of fractures, bleeding emergencies, burns etc. Emergency technique of handling bleeding patients, Fracture/accident victims was also emphasized.

NOTICE

I Dinesh magotra S/o Sh Narinder Nath Magotra R/o ward no 2 jammu road katra v.devi j&k applied in the office of Astt director katra Tourism Deptt. for change of ownership of our Guest house in the name of vatika guest house jammu road katra which is on the of my father Narendra Nath ji if any body have any objections he/she may concern the same Deptt within 7 days.

Dinesh magotra S/o Narendra Nath magotra r/o ward no 2 jammu road katra v.devi j&k contact no. 9858923211 9596373211

Unveiling the Chinar NAU Jawan club a digital gateway to youth empowerment

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEB 15

In a historic moment for youth engagement and empowerment, the Chinar Nau Jawan Club proudly inaugurated its official website and Google page, under the esteemed leadership of Mrs. Paramjeet Sethi, President, FWO Dagger Division. This digital initiative marks a significant leap towards connecting, inspiring, and empowering the vibrant youth community, providing a centralized platform for information, collaboration, and participation.

A Digital Hub for Youth Development: The Chinar Nau Jawan Club's meticulously designed and user-friendly website serves as a virtual hub, offering a seamless navigation experience. It features dedicated sections that delve into various aspects of the club's initiatives, programs, and opportunities, providing a comprehensive resource for the youth interested in personal and professional development.

In the Website, visitors can explore the club's mis-



sion, vision, and objectives, gaining insight into the team's commitment to youth development. The website provides detailed information on various programs and initiatives focused on skill development, mentorship, and community engagement. Simultaneously, the Chinar Nau Jawan Club's Google page has been launched to enhance its online presence and community reach.

The page serves as a central hub for real-time updates, announcements, and community interac-

tions. Through the Google page, users can engage in discussions, share ideas, and connect with like-minded individuals, fostering a vibrant online community.

The inauguration of the Chinar Nau Jawan Club's website and Google page was led by President, FWO Dagger Division further emphasizing the commitment to empowering youth. This represents a significant step towards harnessing the power of the digital realm for youth empowerment, promising to be catalysts for positive change.

NYK Doda organizes HIV awareness programme at district HQs Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEB 15

Under "Out of School Youth Programme" of J&K AIDS Control Society, H&ME Department. Nehru Yuva Kendra Doda in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organized a Sensitization/Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS for Youth Clubs of Block Ghat on 15-02-2024. In this programme, resource persons were Dr. Azhar Saleem, Dr. Saboor Naik and Dr. Puneet Kotwal. The programme organised under the supervision of District Youth Officer, Khushal Gupta witnessed participation of 50 youth from across the block. Other prominent citizens present in the programme included Mr. Ankush Rana (DACYP Member), Mr. Akash Parihar (Chairman TEPP), Mr. Sohail Tak and Mr. Haseeb Khurwani (Social workers).

At the outset, Mr. Jugnu Bhagat (President Shine Youth Club) welcomed the guests and participants and briefed them about the sensitization programme, its objectives



and benefits for the rural youth. Dr. Azhar Saleem delivered a lecture on the causes of HIV, precautions that should be taken and importance of its awareness in the present era. He added that millions have lost their lives due to this deadly virus and the only way to save ourselves is to take precautions. He said that the reusing needles had been the biggest cause of its spread in addition to unprotected sex and coming in contact with infected bodily fluids through any means. Dr. Saboor Naik also made the people aware of the Human immunodeficiency Virus adding that it attacks immune cells called CD4 cells, which are a type of T cell. These are white blood

cells that move around the body, detecting faults and anomalies in cells as well as infections. When HIV targets and infiltrates these cells, it reduces the body's ability to combat other diseases. Dr. Puneet Kotwal delivered an awareness lecture on Drug-deaddiction citing that it is one of the biggest physical as well as social challenges that need to be repressed at an earliest. It not only affects the person but the entire family and even generations. He said that it is the youth only who can take initiative this evil from the society. At the end, certificates and refreshment were distributed among the participants with vote of thanks by Mr. Jugnu Bhagat.

Camp held to provide Aid, Assistive devices to 49 Sr. Citizens in Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15



Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar Virtually inaugurated the Distribution camp for free distribution of Aid & Assistive devices to Sr. Citizens under Rashtriya Vyoshri Yojna (RVY) scheme of Govt. of India at CRC Jammu.

Addressing on the occasion Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister department has done unprecedented work for welfare of Sr. Citizens consistently during the years. Speaking about the need of conducting such distribution camps, Minister said that organizing such camps helps in spreading the awareness about

the welfare schemes run by central government for Sr. Citizens as also to empower them.

Total 49 number of Sr. Citizens of Jammu were pre identified with 103 number of assistive appliances of different categories valuing worth of Rs. 03.07 Lakh. The identification and registration of

Sr. Citizens beneficiaries was done in the month of July 2019 by ALIMCO in association with District administration Jammu.

The distribution camp was organized by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), from Mohali (Punjab) Unit, working under the aegis of Department of Empowerment of Person with Disability (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India in association with District administration Jammu as per new approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Ministry.

Total number of Aids and appliances distributed in different blocks include 01 Wheel Chair, 02 Crutches, 12 Walking Sticks, 86 Hearing Aid, 02 Walker.

Prominent among others Sh. Sher Singh, ADDC Jammu, Ms Mamta Rajput, District Social Welfare Officer, Jammu, representative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, officials from ALIMCO and officials of Social Welfare were also present during the occasion.

Govt should fulfill legitimate demands of farmers through talks: Dr. Preeti

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Supporting the farmers' movement, social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has said that the farmers want to go to Delhi to remind the Central Government of the promise of Minimum Support Price (MSP). But the govern-

ment is adamant in crushing the farmers' march to Delhi. He said that there has been a deadlock between the farmers and the government for the past few days. Farmers are on protest regarding their old demands. The government is not ready to even listen to them. To prevent Annadata from entering Delhi,

spikes have been placed on the border. Farmers pool their blood and water to produce food grains that feed 140 crore people of the country. Everyone has the right to demonstrate peacefully in a democracy. Whenever farmers have raised their voice for their rights, work has been done to suppress them. Even in the

previous movement, the government had tried its best to stop the farmers, but failed. After a long movement, the central government had withdrawn all three laws and promised that MSP would be implemented on the crops. Farmers were waiting for the implementation of this order for a long time.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LS Poll: PM Modi...

National President J P Nadda and concludes with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's closing address," they said.

The sources said that Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir could boost BJP's prospects in the Union Territory ahead of Lok Sabha election as the party is eyeing three seats.

BJP for two consecutive terms in 2014 and 2019 won two Lok Sabha seats from Jammu region.

Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh won the Udhampur-Kathua seat and Jugal Kishore Sharma won Jammu-Poonch seat in the last two Lok Sabha polls.

"The party this time is eyeing third seat Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri which has a large number of Pahari votes to whom the Government accorded ST status in the just concluded Parliament session," said a BJP leader.

Meanwhile tight security is in place for the smooth conduct of the Prime Minister's rally.

All vehicles passing nearby the venue-located in the heart of Jammu city-are being frisked and special check posts are installed along the River Tawi bank-adjacent to the M A Stadium.

"Security forces are on alert and are maintaining vigil around the venue while barricades are also erected and the entrants at the venue are being allowed to move only after complete frisking," said a senior police official. (Agencies)

ECI likely to...

Mehbooba Multi-led government, citing deteriorating security situation in the erstwhile state.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Election Commission of India has approved 635 companies of paramilitary forces in Jammu and Kashmir and 57 in Ladakh for conduct of polls for six Lok Sabha seats in the two Union Territories carved out of the erstwhile state of J&K. KNO

SIA raids multiple...

documents with an ultimate aim to establish sleeper cells to aid, execute, or facilitate terrorist acts in J&K."

It added that the SIA affirms that the seized material will be meticulously examined so that all the accused persons are identified and brought to book. "Today's search operation marks the continuous pursuit of SIA in dismantling the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and unfurling the sinister agendas of international terrorist organizations operating in the region." KNO

ADGP CRPF takes...

triggered near the LOC.

ADGP Nalin Prabhat while directing the ways to control the further spread of fire, alerted the forces on ground about the nefarious plans of terrorists. He is scheduled to visit Rajouri area as well and take review of security situation and challenges before the forces in the twin border districts. KNO

LG attends Annual-day...

the teaching community to promote the values and ideals of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and mentor the younger genera-

tion to discharge their duty towards the society and the nation.

He said the educational reforms, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, have upgraded the teaching methodologies and provided more freedom to nurture young generation.

It is also our shared responsibility to ensure the implementation of National Education Policy in true letter and spirit, the Lt Governor further added.

Shri Hare Ram Dass ji Maharaj, while speaking on the occasion, reiterated the commitment of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School and Shri Shiv Mandir Nyas Trust to provide values-based education to the students for their holistic development.

The Lt Governor felicitated the students who excelled in academics and diverse fields, and also planted a tree sapling in the school premises to mark the occasion.

Former Legislators; ex-PRI members; religious heads, members of school management and Shri Shiv Mandir Nyas Trust, teachers, students and parents were present. KNO

Terrorist associate arrested...

ULA (P) has been registered in Police Station Lalpora and investigation set into motion. KNO

Modi's governance...

he stated that Governance is his government's top priority, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the governance reforms of the last 10 years under PM Modi have gone beyond the realms of mere governance by improving the work culture as well as providing an optimum working environment, while at the same time resulting in far reaching socio-economic benefits in the long run.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Neighbours First" policy and similarities in culture as well as the people to people ties that both the countries share.

The hallmark of 10 years of Governance transformation under PM Modi has been Transparency, Accountability, and time-bound Delivery of services with the use of technology wherever required, he said.

The Union Minister reiterated PM Modi's vision of 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance' highlighting the government's women centric initiatives such as giving Maternity leave even in case of a Still Birth. Referring to the recent amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the union minister said the Government under PM Modi has zero tolerance on Corruption and Terrorism.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the 'Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances' (DARPG) has emerged as a nodal department.

As reforms evolved over the years, the best practices and success stories have been followed by other countries such as South Africa and the United Kingdom, he said.

Highlighting progress of DARPG, the DoPT Minister said that CPGRAMS is among the best grievance redressal mechanisms across the world, having over 95 percent redressal. Human Interface has been introduced for public feedback after disposal of grievances and reduced litigations through technology means. Besides, Face Recognition Technology is being used for the first time in issuing Digital Life Certificates to ensure Pensions to genuine beneficiaries, he said.

Secretary DARPG and Director General NCGG, V. Shrinivas, while giving opening remarks, highlighted that NCGG has conducted several capacity building programmes for Sri Lankan Civil servants but this is the 1st high-level CBI programme of senior level civil servants of Sri Lanka.

Head of Sri Lankan delegation, Anura Dissanayake, who is Secretary to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, recalled the official visit of Sri Lankan President on 21st July last year and expressed their interest in inspiration from India's economic growth under PM Modi and help revive Sri Lanka's public sector by learning and adopting India's best practices and success stories. The delegation also appreciated India's progress in implementation of Digital services and institutions such as Lokpal and Central Vigilance Corruption in curbing corruption.

PM's ensuing...

investments and undertake infrastructural projects on a massive scale. This has got further boost with people putting in their best in heralding peace by foiling the machinations of the disruptive forces. And, peace dividends are now manifesting in the influx of record tourists, giving much needed boost to the tourism, mainstay of the large populace, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Devender Rana underscored the crucial importance of the Prime Minister's visit that reflects his government's sincere intention towards the welfare and development of every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir in consonance with Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayas. By personally engaging with all segments of society and stakeholders, Yashasvi Modiji is not only reaffirming his dedication has not only instilled hope but also generated the future of a robust progressive J&K. This visit will certainly open vistas of opportunities for infrastructural development and productive engagement for realizing the vision of making the Union Territory pivotal component of the country's growth engine for which his visionary leadership has already set the path by taking a bold initiative by repealing the Article 370 & 35A and equitably empowering all in J&K.

"The visit will manifest in Modi's Guarantee for Jammu and Kashmir's transformative journey towards progress and prosperity", Mr Devender Rana said, hoping that this will set a developmental agenda for the Union Territory for next five years. It will be a step forward from stability to consolidation of the gains of peace that has put this part of the country in top developmental gear. He said peaceful, prosperous and progressive Jammu and Kashmir is BJP's national political discourse and achievements registered post Article 370 abrogation has vindicated the commitments made by the top leadership. He said the people are enthused to welcome the Prime Minister as the visit will also foster unity and understanding among different segments of inclusive society.

The meeting was attended by the prominent party members from all the four blocks of Nagrota constituency viz Mathwar, Nagrota, Amb-Gharota and Dansal led by their respective Mandal Presidents Mr. Bhagwan Dass, Harish Sharma (Ashu), Ashok Kerni and Shamsher Singh Beloria.

Public aware of BJP's designs, deceit, intimidation of opponents: Monga



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR FEB 15

Public is aware of BJP's designs, political exploitation and intimidation aiming to silence opposition in the country to hide failures on all fronts. The politics of lies and deceit shall no longer work, it (BJP) stands fully exposed and is set to face public wrath in the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Senior Vice President (Former MLC) and AICC appointed Lok Sabha Coordinator for Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency Ghulam Nabi Monga on Thursday made these comments while addressing an election preparatory cum organizational review meeting in Kupwara district of North Kashmir, where he (Monga) urged the Party workers to vigorously launch door to door campaign against the BJP's misadventures and failures to address genuine public needs even after promising development, employment, justice and restoration of democratic rights to people in the Parliament. The Party leaders and workers present in the meeting briefed Monga about the political activities in the district. Monga expressed confidence that Congress Party is fully capable to deal with

the challenges and defeat the falsehood of BJP and other political parties, who are out to benefit BJP by dividing people on various lines.

Monga told the Party workers that Congress won't be cowed down by the challenges and the coercion unleashed by the BJP against the opposition leaders before the parliamentary elections, we will fight against all odds to the best of our ability and won't compromise on our struggle to safeguard public rights, Monga added and laid strong emphasis over highlighting the anti-people measures of the BJP Govt, which has not only done away with special status of J&K but downgraded it into two UTs amounting to demean, demoralize and assault on democratic and constitutional rights of J&K people He blamed BJP for leaving people unheard and unrepresented by not paving the way for Assembly election in J&K aiming to hide behind its failure and the falsehood being perpetuated by it (BJP) for the lust of power.

JKPCC District Coordinator for Kupwara Master Mohd Maqbool, DCC President Nazir Ahmad Lone, Gh.Hassan Dar, Javed Ahmad Mir and various other leaders also addressed the meeting.

Saurabh Bhagat chairs meeting on solarization of govt buildings

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

Commissioner Secretary Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to discuss strategy regarding saturation of Solar Rooftop on Government Buildings of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Executive Director, NHPC, Managing Director, JPDCL, Managing Director, KPDCL, Managing Director, JKSPDC, CEO, JAKEDA, Managing Director, Regional Electrification Corporation J&K, Nodal Officers nominated by the Administrative Departments and other senior officers.

Emphasizing the importance of maximizing adoption and utilisation of solar energy in the Union Territory, the Commissioner



Secretary said that all the allied departments and agencies should provide full support in successful implementation of this flagship programme. He said that all the departments have to be fully integrated into this initiative and explore the possibilities besides assessing the feasibility and potential of each government building. He further said that the solar energy, being both

clean and cost-effective, aligns perfectly with J&K's energy goals.

He asked the officers to immediately start survey of central government buildings in both the divisions and share the data with the NHPC. He further asked them to identify all the buildings fit for installation of the solar rooftops

It was informed in the meeting that it is envisaged that 100% govern-

ment buildings in the UT are to be covered under the rooftop Solar Programme. Regarding the number of government buildings department wise, it was apprised that the department has identified 10 large departments.

Among them education department has 14000 buildings followed by Rural Development Department, Home, Health & Medical Educa-

tion, PDD Jal Shakti, Social Welfare Tourism and Higher education.

Addressing the nodal officers of the respective departments, the Commissioner Secretary said that they should frame a clear roadmap and action plan regarding adoption of the system to ensure implementation of the scheme as per its guidelines. He asked each of the department to provide the information like list of their buildings along with sanctioned connected load, shadow free rooftop space, geo-coordinates and other relevant details about such structures here.

The Commissioner Secretary said that all the newly constructed government buildings should have mandatory solar rooftops and the same should reflect in the DPRs.

Dental hygiene Awareness Camp held in District Jail Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 15

A Dental hygiene Awareness Camp was held today in the District Jail Kishtwar. The camp was organized by Indira Gandhi Government Dental College Jammu, in collaboration with JK Legal Services Authority, Prison Department J&K, and Health Department.

The program was inaugurated by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Kishtwar, Manjeet Singh Manhas in the presence of Secretary (Sub-Judge) DLSA Kishtwar, Ramesh Lal Incharge Jail Superintendent, Yograj Bhagotra; Dr. Azar Malik, HOD, Department of Conser-



ervative Dentistry & Endodontics, Government Indira Gandhi Dental College and Hospital Jammu, along with his team; Dr. Suhail Amin and Dr. Amir Zargar from District Hospital Kishtwar; Naveed Khurshid (Dy. Chief LADC); Sanveer Singh (Assistant LADC); Panel lawyers; PLVs; and other staff members of the jail for the inmates/prisoners of District Jail Kishtwar.

During the program, the jail inmates were educated about the importance of dental hygiene and its

significance for a healthy life. The inmates were examined by experts, and immediate treatment was given to some of them.

Medicines were also distributed to inmates suffering from any kind of dental ailment or disease.

Additionally, the Principal District & Sessions Judge Kishtwar listened patiently to the grievances faced by the jail inmates. The inmates expressed their problems during their trials, and they were assured that all their grievances would be addressed.

GCOE, Jammu organises Intra-college Men & Women Badminton Championship

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15

Department of Physical Education and Sports, Government College of Education, Jammu organised a one day Intra mural Badminton competition for Men and Women on College campus, today.

The competition aimed to promote competitive spirit among students. The program started with the welcome address by Prof. Raman-deep Kralia, HOD, Physical Education.

Dr. Zubair, Dean, School of Teacher Education, Cluster University of Jammu was the chief guest, Prof. Satish Sharma, In-charge Principal GCOE, Jammu was the Guest of Honour Dr. Rajinder Kour, Coordinator B.Ed-M.Ed was the Special Guest. Around 80 students participated in the event.

The event was organized in two phases. In the first phase, the women's team exhibited remarkable prowess, with Kavita emerging as the winner, showcasing outstanding skills and determination. Following closely behind,

Rumla Khan secured the runner-up position.

Transitioning to the second phase, the boys' team delivered an exhilarating display of athleticism and skill. Akash Bhatt emerged as the ultimate victor, whereas Ajay Singh secured the runner-up position, reflecting outstanding sportsmanship and dedication to excellence. The whole event was organised by the students of Health and Physical Education, GCOE, Jammu under the supervision of Prof. Ramandeep Kralia. Ms. Shubharti, student of B.Ed. Sem 3 acted as the anchor for the event. The winners of the event are facilitated by trophy and medals whereas all the participating students received certificates of participation.

The programme concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Rakesh Bharti. The faculty members who were present at the event are Dr. Shalini Rana, Dr. Balwan Singh, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Chanchal Singh, Prof. Priyanka Mahajan, Dr. Suraj Prakash, Prof. Roopa Kumari and Dr. Sonam Gandotra.

DDC Reasi flags off Farmers' exposure tour to Mega Fruit Plant Nursery in R S Pura



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 15

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, along with Chief Horticulture Officer, Rajinder Kumar on Thursday flagged off a group of thirty farmers for a day-long exposure tour to the Mega Fruit Plant Nursery in R S Pura, Jammu.

The aimed to empower farmers with the latest knowledge and skills essential for enhancing fruit production and, subsequently, augmenting their income levels. This training program is part of a broader strategy to equip farmers with contemporary horticulture practices, catalyzing the socio-economic growth of the farming community in Reasi.

DDC Mahajan highlighted the significance of such training programs, expressing confidence that the acquired knowledge and expertise will enable farmers to significantly improve their yield and financial well-being. The enthusiasm among the participating farmers is palpable, reflecting their eagerness to learn and implement innovative horticultural techniques.

This tour to the Mega Fruit Plant Nursery in R S Pura, Jammu, is one of many initiatives undertaken by the government to support and uplift the farming community. It is envisioned as a crucial step towards realizing the potential of horticulture in Reasi, thereby contributing to the overall development of the sector in the district.

Department of Social Welfare Kishtwar hosts special awareness camp for Senior Citizens

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 15

To promote welfare of senior citizens, the Department of Social Welfare Kishtwar orchestrated a comprehensive awareness camp, addressing critical aspects of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, in conjunction with Rule 3 of J&K Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens.

Attended by distinguished guests and prominent figures from the legal, social, and youth sectors, the event featured Mahmud Anwar Alnisar, Chairman of the Tehsil Legal Services Authority (Chief Judicial Magistrate) Kishtwar; Zubair Ahmed Lone, District Social Welfare Officer Kishtwar; Members from the Senior Citizens Council; Chairman of the Social Reforms and Charitable Organiza-



tion Sanjeev Parihar; and the President of the Senior Citizens Forum Roshan Lal, among others.

Also present were Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar, TSWO Paddar Chetna Sharma, and TSWO Chattroo Shah Nawaz Ahmed besides senior citizens and Youths (First time Voters).

The primary focus of the awareness campaign was to educate the senior citizens about their rights under the aforementioned legal provisions. Furthermore, Persons with Disabilities (PwD) voters and senior voters above the age of 80 received targeted awareness during the

event.

Key speakers, including the DSWO, representatives from DLSA and TSWOs, elucidated the nuances of citizens' rights and highlighted the role of appellate tribunals at the district level, along with Maintenance Tribunals at the sub-divisional level. Students actively participated as speakers, contributing insightful information, and were duly felicitated for their valuable contributions.

Notably, the Social Welfare Department tailored the awareness camp to encompass a holistic understanding of the issues faced by senior citizens, emphasizing the

significance of their well-being within the legal framework.

Simultaneously, a separate awareness team from 49-Kishtwar conducted a demonstration of EVM/VVPAT. This initiative aimed to inform senior citizens about their voting rights and familiarize them with the facilities provided by the Election Commission of India during the voting process. Practical demonstrations on how to verify votes were also provided. In conclusion, the Department of Social Welfare Kishtwar, through this special awareness camp, underscores its commitment to the welfare and rights of senior citizens. The collaborative effort involving legal luminaries, social activists, and youth representatives reinforces the importance of collective action in addressing the diverse needs of this crucial segment of our society.

Principal Secretary pitches for making 'Kala Kendra' a hub of promoting, preserving J&K's rich cultural heritage

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15

Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today pitched for developing Kala Kendra, Jammu, as a vibrant centre for preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir by putting in place the requisite infrastructure and logistics.

Chairing a review meeting on functioning of Kala Kendra here today, the Principal Secretary stressed that all possible sources are being tapped so that the functioning of this Kendra progressively catches up with its aims and objectives.

Principal Secretary, while deliberating on initiatives need to be launched for developing Kala Kendra as center of excellence, asked the concerned officers for proper landscaping, repairing and renovation of different sections of the building.

The Principal Secretary was given a detailed brief-



ing on the activities and programs being conducted by Kala Kendra for the promotion and preservation of art and culture in the region.

While inspecting different sections of the institution, the Principal Secretary praised the staff and artists for their hard work and dedication in promoting the diverse cultural heritage of the region. He emphasized on the importance of preserving the traditional art forms for larger interest of the posterity.

Interacting with the officers, Suresh Kumar Gupta highlighted that

Kala Kendra is a prestigious institution entrusted with the task of promoting the rich and diverse culture of Jammu region. He impressed upon the management of Kala Kendra for optimal utilization of this prestigious institution by holding handicrafts, handloom and photo exhibitions on regular basis.

Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Bharat Singh, Director Libraries and Research J&K, Mohammad Rafi, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Raj Kumar Katoch, Additional Secretary

JKAACL Sanjeev Rana, staff of Kala Kendra were also present in the meeting. Speaking on other aspects of the institution, the Principal Secretary asked the Secretary JKAACL, Director Libraries and Director archives to further intensify activities being conducted in the Academy.

Earlier, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra Society, briefed the Principal Secretary about the functioning of the institution and highlighted its role in preserving and promoting age old art and pristine cultural heritage of Jammu region.

SVEEP campaign: Live Demonstration of EVM held at Basohli Billawar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 15

As part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, a live demonstration of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) was conducted at Sub District Hospitals (SDH) Basohli and Billawar, aimed at raising awareness about civic responsibility and democratic processes among the public and staff of the Health Department.

The event, organized by the respective Electoral Registration Officer under the supervision of District Election Officer Kathua, witnessed an enthusiastic participation from the local community and



health department personnel. The demonstration served to acquaint attendees with the functioning of the EVM machine, providing step-by-step practical demonstrations of all three components: the Control Unit, Ballot Unit, and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

The demonstration was conducted under the supervision of a dedicated

team of Election Cell, who explained the significance of each component and demonstrated its usage in the electoral process. Participants were given hands-on experience to understand the procedures involved in casting votes using EVMs and verifying their choices through the VVPAT system.

Commenting on the initiative, DEO Kathua

Dr Rakesh Minhas (DC Kathua) stated, "Our aim with this live demonstration was to empower citizens with knowledge about the voting process and encourage their active participation in democratic processes. By familiarizing them with the functioning of EVMs and VVPATs, we aim to enhance transparency and trust in the electoral system."

The event also served as an opportunity to address any doubts or queries regarding the electoral process and voting machines, ensuring that participants left with a clear understanding of their role in shaping the nation's future through their votes.

NIESBUD concludes 21-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Program at Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 15

The National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Bank today concluded a highly successful 21-day training program on entrepreneurship development in Pulwama.

On the occasion, all 50 participants were awarded certificates in recognition of their completion of the program.

The comprehensive training program, aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and equipping participants with essential skills and knowledge, covered a wide range of topics including business planning, marketing strategies, financial management, and legal aspects of entrepreneurship. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, practical exercises, and case studies, gaining valuable insights and practical tools to embark on their entrepreneurial

journey.

Following a rigorous evaluation process, 21 participants have been selected on the basis of their outstanding performance to proceed to the next stage of handholding. This further course will provide personalized guidance and support to help these budding entrepreneurs translate their ideas into successful ventures. The handholding process will focus on refining business plans, providing mentorship, facilitating access to

resources, and addressing specific challenges faced by the participants.

"We are thrilled to witness the culmination of the 21-day training program and congratulate all participants on their dedication and commitment," said Aijaz Ahmad Mir, Coordinator NIESBUD. "The overwhelming response and enthusiasm displayed by the participants reaffirm our belief in the power of entrepreneurship to drive socio-economic development."

EDITORIAL

INDIA bloc in complete disarray?

Uncertainty continues to prevail over any possibility of alliance among three key political players in J&K politics—Congress, National Conference and PDP, which are the part of INDIA bloc and vowed to fight unitedly against the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The suspense has deepened further with the National Conference making a fluctuating stand on being part of the INDIA bloc. The NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah has ruled out any pre-poll alliance for the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir, saying "I want to make it clear that the NC is not going to enter into any alliance before the polls and will contest independently". Farooq Abdullah's statement virtually ended the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance bloc's efforts to stitch a pre-poll alliance in J&K. However, a twist in the tale was reported when his son and former chief minister Omar Abdullah sought to clarify Farooq's comments on seat-sharing with the Congress-led INDIA bloc and the NC's stance of going solo in the upcoming Parliament elections and said the statement was misinterpreted. "Our party president simply expressed the sentiment of our cadre that the NC should contest the polls independently. Regarding seat-sharing, our stance has been clear from the start. Out of the six Lok Sabha seats in the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, three belong to the NC and three to the BJP. We are willing to discuss seat-sharing with the Congress for the three seats currently held by the BJP," Omar said. After Congress received a severe setback on seat-sharing in two important states of West Bengal and Punjab, the NC has started showing teeth to the "Grand Old Party" in Jammu and Kashmir where talks are going on for seat-sharing in the coming Lok Sabha elections. Senior National Conference leader and Lok Sabha member from Anantnag Parliamentary constituency Hasnain Masoodi had asked Congress leaders to learn lessons from West Bengal and Punjab. "Developments in West Bengal and Punjab are an eye-opener for the Congress party. Instead of behaving arrogantly with the coalition partners, Congress leadership must give due respect to the constituents of the INDIA bloc", Masoodi said. On January 16, the National Conference staked its claim on the majority of the six Lok Sabha seats in the Union Territories (UTs) of J&K and Ladakh. General secretary of the National Conference and former minister Ali Mohammad Sagar had also asserted that there was no reason for any constituents of the INDIA alliance in J&K to stake a claim on any of the three Parliamentary seats of Kashmir Valley. "In the 2019 general elections the National Conference won all the three seats of Kashmir Valley so the question of leaving these seats for constituents of the INDIA alliance does not arise", Sagar had said and asserted that the National Conference has a genuine claim on one seat of Jammu province. Three political parties should sit together and formulate a well-planned strategy to give a tough fight to the rising BJP which has now spread its footprints in remote parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

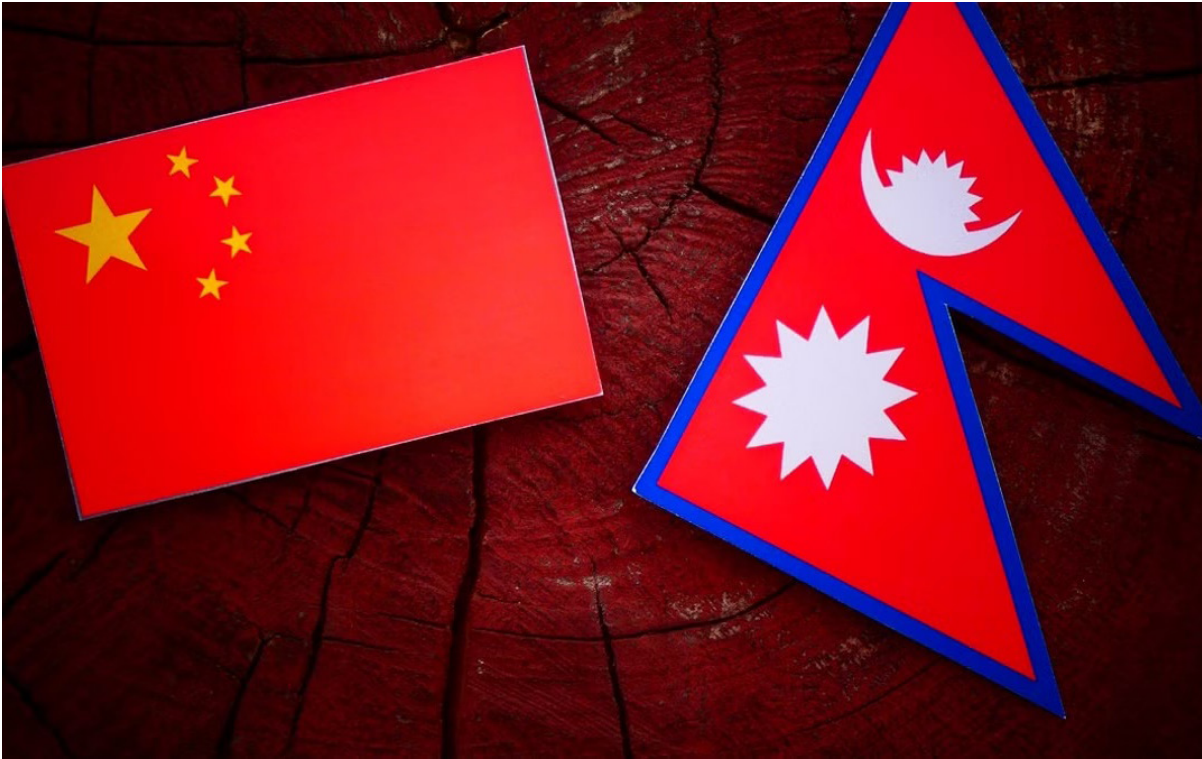
Pokhara airport creates an air pocket in Nepal-China ties

GUNJAN SINGH

The warmth in Nepal-China ties seems to be dissipating, the recent being the debates surrounding the Pokhara International Airport (PIA). The airport, built by China, is the focal point of recent civil society protests in Nepal. The rallying point is that Beijing may develop an opportunity with the pretext of non-repayment of loans to place its military at the airport, and, thus, by extension on Nepalese soil, and challenging Nepal's sovereignty.

The Pokhara airport is a symbol of national pride for the people of Nepal, and its completion is a dream come true for many Nepalese, as this has been in the works since the 1970s. The high cost which resulted in the delay was addressed when China agreed to meet a substantial part of the monetary and technology part of the project. An agreement between Nepal and China was signed in 2016 and Nepal is expected to start the repayments in 2026.

However, Nepal is slowly waking up to the reality of China's 'help'. Reports have emerged of mismanagement on the Chinese side, corruption, and inflated costs. Adding to the woes, to date no



major international flights are passing through the airport, adding to Kathmandu's fears that this is proving to be a financial fiasco.

By the looks of it, the Pokhara airport could become the next Hambantota in the region. The Hambantota port in Sri Lanka was built with China's help and is often cited as a prime example of Beijing's debt-trap diplomacy. With mounting losses, and shoddy construction, Kathmandu will find it hard to service the debt incurred for the

PIA. Some reports claim that during his last visit to Beijing in September, Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal wanted the \$216 million loan associated with the Pokhara airport to be converted to a grant. No statement concerning this was released by China.

Kathmandu joined China's President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2017. Since then, it is estimated that China has invested heavily in the landlocked nation in various infrastructure projects. In

addition to airports, China has built many roads and railways. The BRI was an attractive opportunity for a small nation which was cash-strapped and looking for ways to boost infrastructure and growth.

The Pokhara story seems to be unfolding on similar lines to Hambantota, and far from a win-win situation as was expected by sections of the Nepalese government. The airport has so far had one international flight come in, in June – six months after it was inaugurated in January 2023 – and that too

it was a chartered flight from Chengdu, in China, carrying Chinese athletes and officials for a 'goodwill boat tour'.

The Pokhara International Airport is situated in the second-largest city in Nepal with the potential to become a tourist hub. Given such projections, if China decided to take over the day-to-day operating of the airport in lieu of payments, it again be in possession of a crucial infrastructure in South Asia, and closer to India's border. For now, it appears to be yet another geopo-

litical win for Beijing. With its deep pockets, China has managed to gain another foothold in the region.

The feasibility of the airport is further constrained as New Delhi will not be keen to look for bilateral flights if the airport falls under the BRI. Indians are one of the largest tourists to Nepal, with around 314,000 Indians visiting Nepal in 2023, compared to 60,000 Chinese. Nepal also needs India to extend access to its air space for more flights to land in Pokhara, for which New Delhi seems reluctant. The airport is too close to the Indian border and has clear geopolitical and strategic implications since it is a China-run project. All these factors will hamper Nepal's prospects of making the PIA profitable.

India and Nepal are closely co-operating under the HIT formula (Highways, Iways, and Transways). Among many projects, India has also signed an electricity trade deal under which Nepal will export 10,000 megawatts of electricity to India in the next decade.

That said, it is not clear when the turbulence over the Pokhara International Airport will lift.

(Gunjan Singh is Assistant Professor, OP Jindal Global University)

Interim Budget: Propelling green initiatives for climate action

KAVIRAJ SINGH

In the serene village of Gauripur, whispers of change floated in the air. Priya arrived with news that the sun was set to become the villagers' steadfast companion. The Interim Budget 2024 promised to solarise rooftops, bringing free electricity to every home. The village, once accustomed to dimly lit evenings, now stood at the threshold of a solar symphony that would illuminate lives and usher in a sustainable dawn.

In a groundbreaking move towards a net-zero carbon economy by 2070, Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled key initiatives during the Interim Budget 2024, outlining a comprehensive strategy to combat climate change. The budget emphasises solar energy adoption, offshore wind potential, and other sustainable practices, marking a signifi-

cant milestone in India's journey towards a greener future. One of the flagship announcements involves the solarisation of rooftops for ten million households, aiming to provide up to 300 units of free electricity each month. The Finance Minister highlighted that this initiative would not only empower households but also contribute to significant savings, estimated at Rs 18,000 annually, by selling surplus solar electricity to distribution companies. The Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) suggests that this effort could support the installation of 20-25 gigawatts of rooftop solar capacity.

With India standing fourth globally in renewable energy installed capacity, this move is poised to leverage the country's extensive coastline of about 7,600 km, especially off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, where an estimated 70 gigawatts of offshore

wind potential has been identified. Similarly, to address emissions from the transport sector, the Government announced a phased blending of compressed biogas (CBG) in compressed natural gas (CNG) for transportation and natural gas (PNG) for domestic purposes. In this respect, a new scheme for bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry aims to promote eco-friendly alternatives. The government further aims to strengthen the electric vehicle ecosystem by supporting manufacturing and charging infrastructure, thereby encouraging the adoption of e-buses in public transport networks. This strategic move aligns with India's commitment to achieving 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources by 2030. The budget therefore places a strong focus on electric mobility, with plans to expand and strengthen the electric vehicle (EV)

ecosystem. The large-scale rollout of e-buses, supported by payment security mechanisms, is set to decarbonise the mobility sector and position India as a potential hub for EV manufacturing. The announcement of a significant INR 1 lakh crore corpus is expected to attract private investment in clean energy innovation and research.

Moreover, introducing the Blue Economy 2.0 scheme, the budget focuses on climate-resilient activities and sustainable development in coastal areas. Prioritising restoration, adaptation measures, and expanding coastal aquaculture and mariculture through an integrated approach, this initiative underscores India's commitment to holistic environmental management.

Finally, while controversial, the budget also allocates resources to set up a coal gasification and liquefaction capacity of 100 million metric

tons by 2030. This move aims to reduce imports of natural gas, methanol, and ammonia, providing India with energy security amid global shifts towards cleaner energy sources.

In this respect, while applauding the budget's green initiatives, experts urge an increase in allocation to the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MOEFCC) to reflect the expanding mandate for environmental and climate change initiatives. Advocacy for Green Budgeting as the third pillar of issue-based budgeting processes is emphasised to ensure the alignment of financial allocations with environmental goals. Moody's Investors Service has also praised the interim budget for its fiscal restraint and commitment to fiscal consolidation goals. The rooftop solar scheme, offshore wind energy projects, and emphasis on electric mobility position India as a key player in sustainable

development.

The global recognition of India's achievements in renewable energy capacity, as highlighted by the International Renewable Energy Agency's statistics, reinforces the country's commitment to a cleaner, greener future. In conclusion, India's Interim Budget 2024 emerges as a landmark in the nation's quest for a net-zero economy.

With a holistic approach encompassing solar energy, offshore wind potential, sustainable transportation, and environmental conservation, the budget lays the foundation for a resilient and environmentally responsible future. The initiatives outlined are not only crucial for mitigating climate change but also position India as a leader in the global transition towards sustainable development.

(The writer is the founder of Earthhood views are personal)

Finding Divine Support

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God has to help in this. Why? The odds are heavily stacked against us. Why? Sample these. Our entire being will oppose it, even if we, souls, wish to do so using our free will. First of all, we must develop a deep desire to pursue this ultimate goal for a human being, which brings everything desirable in our lives. Briefly, we qualify for opulence, victory, wealth and morality, as indicated by Sanjay of the Mahabharata fame in the Bhagavad-Geeta verse # 18.78. This is nothing compared to what we qualify for, which is, "We will cross all impediments by God's 'kripa' (grace)." (18.58) Can you imagine being able to successfully negotiate all kinds of troubles we all face throughout our lives? God even promises help in getting what one does not have and provides

security of what one has if we make progress. (9.22) We get the elusive peace also. (18.62) To top it all, we will get liberated in a few births of practising God-consciousness. (6.45) Taking shelter from God is that wonderful.

What are our hindrances in achieving this noble goal? Beginning with the mind, 'kama' (lust) is seated on it. (3.40) This is not all, this faculty of ours shows us fearful dreams if we try to control them. Our intelligence is no better. It is also a seat of lust. (3.40) To make things worse it is mostly material, whereas it should ideally be spiritual. Surely, our consciousness is almost entirely material. Senses, which are also seats of lust, keep on troubling us with thoughts of a sense of enjoyment. Our 'ahan-kar' (ego) never tries to tell us that it is I who is all-important; who else? All these tendencies are from



time immemorial, deeply embedded in our psyche. Finally, shelter-taking is a 'tapastya' (austerity), not easily acceptable to us.

So, are we lost? No, we are not. God is too kind to leave us helpless. We just have to get started. We should be determined that we are going ahead, period. I will practice even though I don't see much benefit. We must

take inspiration from great people, who also struggled at the beginning of their spiritual journey. Once God is convinced that we are sincere, He steps in. This is the inflexion point; we are on our way. God begins to provide hints of His involvement. These hints though subtle, cannot be missed. In creation, nothing happens by chance or coincidence.

Every occurrence is destined. The mind will not be so obstinate. Because God, sitting in our hearts, will give us intelligence to control the mind. (15.15)

With the mind and intelligence under some control, the senses will begin to behave better too. Habits will gradually become simple and steeped in goodness. Groundwork will be getting prepared for serious shelter-taking under God's supervision. Troubles will come and mysteriously disappear. We might feel that suddenly we have become great. We didn't in the real sense but did because we have come under God's protection. We will be inclined to do simple spiritual processes like spending time in God's presence, i.e. in front of a photo of God or a Deity in a temple. We will be inclined to sing a bhajan or chant a mantra. These are most important because

God can only reward us if we become deserving. Just like there are pious acts, there are spiritual acts also. Fortunately for us, God will somehow manage to make us do them. I will cite a simple example. I teach my two granddaughters. Through constant encouragement, I have brought them to a stage where they are no longer afraid of studying. What is the conclusion? Let me refer to a popular saying, which is: "What man has done; man can do." This is very inspiring. Now consider: "What a devotee has done; a devotee can do." A non-devotee is extremely limited being one in eight billion. And a devotee? He will be helped by the unlimited God if we get started in shelter-taking. I have already started and gathering speed.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

Monitor progress on River Morphology studies on daily basis: CEO ERA asks officers

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA), Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar, today asked the officers to effectively monitor progress on Jhelum and Tawi river basin morphological studies being undertaken as part of World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project on daily basis to ensure earliest completion of critical studies.

Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar said this while chairing a meeting held to review progress on ongoing World Bank funded JTRFP at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar here today.

She gave instructions for close monitoring of progress of work on all the remaining under execution sub-projects under JTRFP particularly the flagship sub-projects of construction of Emergency Operations Centre at Ompura, Budgam, construction of Additional Hospital block at Bone and Joints Hospital, Barzulla and construction of extension block at Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar.

Director, Technical, JTRFP, Gurcharan Singh, while giving details regarding preparation of feasibility and detailed project report for flood mitigation and comprehensive river management measures for Jhelum river

basin, informed that the concerned stakeholders had asked for some clarifications which have been incorporated in the model and final observations from Central Water Commission are awaited. With regard to preparation of feasibility and detailed project report for flood mitigation and comprehensive river management of Tawi basin, he said that some clarifications have been raised by the concerned stakeholders which have been incorporated and further a joint site visit was conducted with the I&FC Jammu for on spot inspection.

The CEO asked the Director Technical, JTRFP, to closely follow up both the studies with the I&FC Department so that both the studies are finalised and completed at earliest.

Dr. Sehrish was informed that progress of work on upgradation in Srinagar city is in progress with work already completed on 40 stations while as work on remaining stations is underway.

She asked the Director, Technical, JTRFP to follow-up all impediments hindering progress of work on the sub-project and concerned PIU be asked to give firm date for the completion of the sub-project.

Nodal officer for construction of additional hospital building at Bone

and Joints hospital, Barzulla informed that work on the sub-project is at the advanced stage. He said that estimates for construction of corridor from existing hospital to new block and other additional works has been submitted to World Bank for approval.

Dr. Sehrish asked Director, Technical, and JTRFP to personally follow-up the matter with World Bank and other stakeholders to ensure the work on the sub-project is not affected and continues unhindered. It was also informed that work on construction of state of art EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) at Ompura Budgam is underway and designs for some mechanical components have been submitted to World bank for approval.

Nodal officer for various sub-projects being executed by J&KERA as PIU (project implementation unit) in Kashmir Division informed that work on Hamray-Sultanpora road sub-project has been completed and project handed over to R&B. Besides, work on the construction of Waghama-Bijbehara road subproject is underway with excavation and construction of diversion in progress.

The CEO directed the concerned nodal officer to ensure that work on the said sub-project is completed by June, 2024.

With regard to progress on various bridge sub-projects being executed by J&KERA in Kashmir division, it was informed by the concerned nodal officer that work on construction of Rohmoobridge in Pulwama, is in full swing with one deck slab already laid and preparation for laying of 2nd deck slab presently underway alongwith the construction of approaches. Further, work on construction of approaches and pedestal for the bearings on Trenz bridge is in progress.

It was also informed that R&B, which is PIU (project implementation unit) for the sub-projects, has conveyed that estimates for construction of Waza Mohalla, Shrakawara, Wahdina and Wagila bridges are in the final stages and shall be tendered as soon as technical sanction from the Chief Engineer, (R&B) is obtained and works will be tendered out within 10 days.

Further, it was informed that final drawings for construction of extension block at Lal Ded Hospital are being reviewed by R&B and tenders for the sub-project will be issued in March, 2023.

The CEO asked the Director, Technical JTRFP to take up the matter of the constitution of a committee for procurement of medical equipments

for the new facility with the principal Government Medical College on priority.

Nodal Officers for various road upgradation sub-projects being executed by J&KERA in Jammu division, informed that work on Devi Mai Ohli-Mandir road sub-project has been completed and road thrown open for traffic and handover takeover process of the sub-project is in process. Besides, road upgradation for Gulati-Shahdra Sharief road sub-project has been upgraded except for laying of B.T which will be taken up during the forthcoming working season. It was also informed that DPR and estimates for Tutan Di Khuie road sub-project have been prepared and submitted to World bank and tenders for the work will be floated as soon as approval from the World Bank is obtained.

Among others the meeting was attended by Chief Accounts Officer, J&KERA/JTRFP, Additional Secretary legal, ERA, Project Manager, Transport, ERA, Jammu, Deputy Project Manager, Transport, ERA, Kashmir, Deputy Project Manager, ERA Transport, Deputy Project Manager, ERA Transport, Deputy Project Manager, ERA Transport and other senior officers of ERA and JTRFP.

Deepak Sharma, Teacher pioneers CCRT sponsored Cultural Club in UPS Rajbagh

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 15

Deepak Sharma, a dedicated teacher posted in Upper Primary School (UPS) Rajbagh, Kathua, has secured sponsorship from the Centre for Cultural Resources and Trainings (CCRT), Delhi, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to establish a Cultural Club in his school.

The Cultural Club, sponsored by CCRT, is the first of its kind in Kathua district and only the second in the entire Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, highlighting its exceptional significance.

The landmark Cultural Club was formally inaugurated today by Chief Education Officer (CEO), Kishor Kumar, marking a significant milestone in the cultural and educational landscape of Kathua district.

Deepak Sharma's relentless efforts and dedication have borne fruit, as his school now boasts the privilege of hosting this Cultural Club. This initiative will serve as a platform for students to explore and enhance their understanding of various artistic and cultural expressions within the realm of education.

The CEO commended Deepak Sharma's initiative in bringing this unique



opportunity to the students.

Acknowledging the significance of this endeavor, CEO Kathua emphasized its alignment with the objectives of the New Education Policy 2020, emphasizing the importance of holistic development through co-curricular activities alongside academics.

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Kathua Karamjeet Singh, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Kathua, Aradhana Devi, along with the respective staff members. Also in attendance were Monika Khosla from

District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Kathua, Rishi Tangri from Zonal Institute of Education and Training (ZIET) Kathua, and all staff members of UPS Rajbagh.

The Head of the Institution Tilak Raj, expressed his gratitude through a Vote of Thanks, acknowledging the collaborative efforts that made this initiative possible. He said that this Cultural Club will not only enrich the educational experience of students but also contribute significantly to their cultural development, fostering a well-rounded learning environment at UPS Rajbagh.

Zubair chairs public darbar at Kangan

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 15

Commissioner Secretary, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Zubair Ahmad today presided over a public darbar held in Kangan to take stock of issues and demands of the people.

Emphasizing a direct engagement with the public, the Commissioner Secretary interacted with the attendees, listening to their grievances and demands. He assured speedy redressal of issues as per merit, in coordination with relevant departments. The event witnessed participation of local residents, PRI representatives and other stakeholders, who projected various issues and demands seeking an early redressal of the same. They demanded commissioning of Akhal bridge, removal



of encroachments along nallah Sindh, completion of Thune Branwari road, completion of Surraw water supply scheme, settlement of forest rights cases, repair of Thune Hayan bridge, development of inner roads and other issues of public importance.

Expressing satisfaction over the outreach program, the locals appreciated the opportunity to voice their grievances and demands. They urged upon

the government to expedite redressal of their issues through appropriate channels.

Zubair reiterated the government's commitment towards enhancing public services and ensuring an effective and responsive administration. He underscored the importance of grievance redressal programs in institutionalizing an output mechanism, directing district heads to promptly sort out the

public issues and demands besides informing them about the status of ongoing projects.

On-the-spot directions were issued to concerned officers to attend all issues raised during the public darbar, with emphasis on settling genuine cases of forest rights in consultation with relevant stakeholder departments.

Highlighting government initiatives for generating self-employment opportunities, the Commissioner Secretary instructed line departments to promote these schemes for maximum benefit of the public.

Among others Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, CEO SDA, Assistant Commissioner Development, SDM Kangan, along with other district officers besides DDC members of Kangan and Lar were present on the occasion.

Registration Deptt organizes CBP/ Training session on e-Stamping

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

In order to educate stakeholders on e-stamping system, its security features, and enhance understanding and promote efficient use of e-stamping system, the Registration Department today organized training and interactive sessions for its staff in collaboration with Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL).

The training programme was organized at Revenue Training Institute, Bemina Srinagar on the directions of the IGR, J&K, and was attended by AIGR Kashmir, Sub Registrars of Kashmir Division and their staff.

The e-stamping aims to enhance transparency, prevent paper and process related fraudulent practices, provide secure and reliable collection mecha-



nism, stop the leakage of government revenues and store information in electronic form.

The technical experts from SCHIL gave detailed presentations on the steps involved in operation/usage of the e-stamping system, dos and don'ts of the process and troubleshooting tips to ensure on-spot resolution of any technical glitches and errors.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, AIGR Kashmir, Reyaz Ahrnad Wani, specifically stressed upon the participants to make use of this opportunity to clear all their doubts and misconceptions for a hassle-free, easy and efficient registration process.

He also threw light on the initiatives which have either been taken or are in the pipeline for a more transparent and citizen-friendly registration.

Awareness program on PM Vishwakarma Scheme held

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 15

A seminar cum awareness program on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme was held today, here in the conference hall of the DC Office, Samba.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, was the Chief Guest. The program commenced with a Welcome Address and Coordination by Rajesh Kumar.

DK Tyagi elucidated the Scheme Guidelines, highlighting that registration will be facilitated through Common Service Centers (CSC)/Atal Seva Kendras, as well as via the PM Online application, requiring Aadhaar-based biometric authentication on the Vishwakarma portal.

The necessary documentation includes Aadhaar, Mobile Number, Bank Details, and Ration Card information.

Subsequently, Sanjay Dhar, Lead District Manager, delineated the Role of Banks in the Scheme, emphasizing Concessional interest rates and the absence of collateral requirements for loan eligibility. Further discussions encompassed Training Programs, including skill verification followed by 5 day basic training, 15 day or more advanced skills training, and a training allowance of Rs 500 per day. Concluding the program, the DC Samba and Chairman of the PM Vishwakarma District Implementation Committee highlighted the scheme's benefits in generating livelihoods and urged attendees to register.

The event culminated with a Vote of Thanks presented by Gurpreet Singh, General Manager DIC, and Member Secretary of the PM Vishwakarma District Implementation Committee.

GCW Parade celebrates Basant Panchami



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15

P.G Department of Music and Cultural Committee of Government College for Women Parade Ground organizes a special program to mark the celebration of Basant Panchami, the Other Day. The event organized to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami featured a plethora of activities aimed at generating awareness among

students about the rich culture of India. On the occasion, the College Principal Dr S.P Sarswat congratulated all the staff and students and emphasized the importance of festivals. The Students of the Music Department presented compositions in Raag Bahar and Basant evoking spiritual ambience. Students also recited poems. The event hosted by Dr Jasmeet Kour, HOD Music was attended by the staff and students.

One-day J&K Apple Conclave on 'Sustainable Innovations for Apple Growers of Kashmir' held at Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

A one day J&K Apple Conclave was today organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on the theme of 'Sustainable Innovations for Apple Growers of Kashmir,' here.

Joint Director Horticulture Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat participated in the conclave. During the proceedings of the programme various vital and important deliberations were made in technical sections on supply chain, food processing, integrated nutrition practices, crop protection, use of high ended technology as a tool to enhance the yield manifold and to take the quality to national and international standards.

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat in his session deliberated upon the profitable high-end yield-oriented farming practices and the conservation of traditional varieties of Apple being cultivated in Kashmir for decades. Present day farming is technological driven, therefore use of modern-day techniques in our farm field has become imperative and indispensable, he said.

The Department of Horticulture has introduced game changing schemes and policies to take the fruit industry to newer heights, added Bhat.

He said the farming community must come forward to avail benefits being available with the department under various programmes.

Horticulture Deptt organizes Farmers Awareness/ Training programme under ATMA at Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 15

Horticulture Department Budgam today organized one day farmers awareness cum training programme under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme.

The event witnessed active participation from farmers across the district, reflecting their keen interest in adopting modern agricultural practices and enhancing their farming capabilities.

The programme was meticulously designed to empower farmers with



the latest insights and techniques, featuring a comprehensive agenda aimed at addressing various aspects of Horticulture sustainability and productivity.

Horticulture Development Officers and experts from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Budgam delivered enlightening sessions covering a wide array of topics, including crop management, inte-

grated pest management, soil health enhancement, and the adoption of innovative technologies.

During the programme, interactive field visit was also facilitated for the farmers to give them practical demonstrations and hands-on training, enabling them to gain firsthand experience in implementing advanced agricultural techniques effectively.

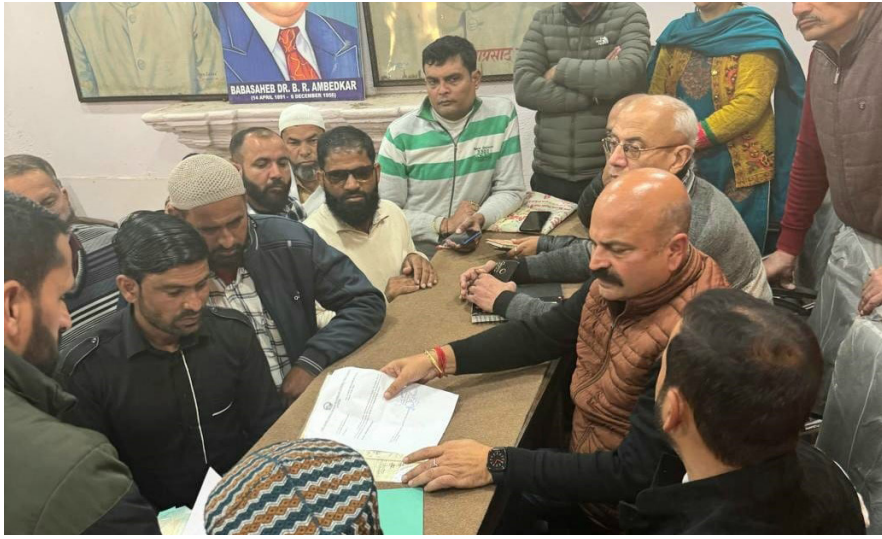
Modi Govt committed to address people's issues: Yudhvir

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President, spearheaded a highly successful public grievances camp today at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan in Kacchi Chawni, Jammu.

The camp was organized by Yudhvir Sethi with the primary objective of addressing the problems faced by the general public. The camp showcased the unwavering commitment of the Modi government to promptly resolve issues faced by the citizens.

Yudhvir Sethi, along with his dedicated team including Parveen Kermi, East Mandal President, State Vice President ST Morcha, BJP, Abdul Mehmood, Abdul Ghani Ex Naib Sarpanch, Arun Sethi and Vipin Sharma General Secretaries of East Mandal and Anuradha Sharma, President Mahila Morcha East Mandal, listened attentively to the griev-



ances raised by the attendees and assured them that their concerns would be addressed with utmost priority.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders. Various deputations, including individual persons—most of whom were women—vis-

ited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on

the phone. He assured the visiting people that he will take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon. Speaking during the camp, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the Modi government's unwavering dedication to serving the people. He stated, "Our government is firmly committed to addressing the issues faced by the general

public on a priority basis. These public grievances camps serve as a direct channel for citizens to voice their concerns, and we are determined to ensure that their problems are resolved promptly."

Sethi said that the Party has been at the forefront of organizing such camps on regular basis, demonstrating its commitment to fostering a responsive and accountable government. Through these initiatives, the party aims to bridge the gap between the government and the people, ensuring that citizens' concerns are heard and resolved effectively, he added. The senior BJP leader asserted that the Party is committed to addressing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people in general and Jammu City in particular and that the party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people.

Week Long Skill Devp Program on 3D Printing concludes at SMVDU

JNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEB 15

Technology Innovation Hub, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) hosted a comprehensive 5-day workshop on "3D printing and new product development", funded by Higher Education Department, Govt of UT of J&K, which commenced with an inauguration program chaired by VC SMVDU Prof. Dr. Pragati Kumar. With Dr. K.R. Jha from the Faculty of Engineering (FOE) serving as the coordinator, Dr. Sanjay Mohan, Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Dr. Ankush Raina, and as the co-coordinators the program offered a diverse content delivered by experts from academia and industry.

The first day of the workshop featured enlightening lectures. In the morning sessions, Dr. S. Anand Kumar from IIT Jammu



discussed "Embracing 3D Printing to Contribute to the Goals of Make in India, Make for the World." The afternoon session featured Dr. Ravi Pratap from NIT Kurukshetra, who delved into the "Evolution of 4D Printing from 3D Printing of Polymeric Materials." Additionally, Dr. Narendra Kumar from NIT Jalandhar enlightened participants on "Open Source Softwares for 3D Printing."

On the second day, Dr. Ankush Raina from SMVDU, Katra, unraveled the "3D Printing Technology: Fundamentals and Applications" during the morning session. Simultaneously, Dr. Varun Sharma from IIT Roorkee focused on "Additive Manufacturing Techniques for Product Development."

Direct Energy Deposition - Fundamentals to Applications." Lab sessions by experts from industry were scheduled for the afternoons of 2nd, 3rd and 4th day. Day 3 featured Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq from SMVDU, Katra, exploring "Unleashing the Potential of 3D Printing in New Product Development," while Dr. Sanjay Mohan from SMVDU, Katra, shared insights. The fourth day kicked off with Dr. Ankush Anand from SMVDU, Katra, discussing "Sustainability and 3D Printing" in the morning. Simultaneously, Dr. S. Shiva from IIT Jammu delved into "The Art of Wire Arc

Master Sansar Chand Baru Trust's Nat'l Art Workshop concludes successfully

JNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 15

The Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust concluded its highly successful week-long National Art Workshop titled 'Triakuta - The Maharanis of Mountains' on the picturesque banks of the River Chenab in Akhnoor.

Led by Anuradha Rishi, President of the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust, the workshop aimed to nurture artistic talent and foster a deeper appreciation for the arts among students and participants.

The concluding day of the workshop saw esteemed dignitaries gracing the occasion, including Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Principal Secretary of the Cultural Department; Mohd. Rafi, Director of Libraries; Raj Kumar Katoch, Director of Archaeology & Museum; Sanjeev Rana, Additional Secretary of J&K Academy of Art, Cul-

ture and Languages; Sangeeta Sharma, Assistant Director of Srinagar Circle; Brigadier Dr. Vijay Sagar; Akshay Garu, Secretary of Rising Athlete of Jammu and Kashmir; Dr. Romila Malawat, Principal of GDC Akhnoor; and Dr. Krishan Lal Bhagat, Ex MLA and social activist.

The workshop brought together a distinguished panel of ten nationally renowned artists from various corners of the country, including Ashok Kumar, Gopal K Samant, Gouri Vemula, Jiban Biswas, Nilesh Vede, Rahul J Mhetra, Ranjeeta Kumar, Sanju Das, Suman Dongre, and Vijay Kumar.

Local government school students actively participated in the workshop, showcasing their budding artistic talents.

The senior artists actively engaged with students, imparting invaluable artistic skills and insights. They also conducted demonstrations, inspiring and guiding



the young minds towards artistic excellence. Refreshments and gifts were distributed among the participating students, fostering a sense of camaraderie and appreciation for their efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Gupta lauded the Trust for its commendable efforts in spreading art education to the far-flung regions of Jammu. He emphasized the importance of such workshops in nurturing creativity and cultural understanding among students.

In her vote of thanks,

Anuradha Rishi reiterated the Trust's commitment to promoting art and nurturing artistic talent across Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted the overwhelming enthusiasm shown by the students and emphasized the urgent need to enhance art education in the region.

The Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust has previously organized similar workshops in Patnitop, Chenani, Gulmarg, and other districts of the union territory, reaffirming its dedication to enriching the cultural landscape of

Jammu and Kashmir.

While presenting vote of thanks, Anuradha Rishi expressed the profound significance of organizing workshops that aimed to promote art and nurture the artistic abilities of students. She acknowledged that these workshops served as a platform for students to explore and develop their creativity, allowing them to express themselves through various art forms.

She highlighted the genuine interest displayed by the students during the workshop. Their eagerness to learn and embrace

the world of art was truly inspiring. She emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for students to enhance their artistic skills, recognizing that art not only fosters self-expression but also nurtures critical thinking, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence.

Anuradha Rishi also mentioned that the Trust had taken proactive steps to organize similar workshops in various locations across Jammu and Kashmir. These workshops were conducted in Patnitop, Chenani, Gulmarg, and other districts of the Union Territory with an aim to empower students with artistic knowledge and skills through their efforts to reach out to different regions and provide equal opportunities for creative growth.

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

GDC Akhnoor hosts successful One-Day Medical Health Checkup Camp



JNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 15

The NSS unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor, in collaboration with GAMC Akhnoor, successfully organized a one-day medical health checkup camp. Under the esteemed patronage of Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, the event aimed to promote community health and well-being. Led by NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Sanjay Kapoor, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, the camp provided an opportunity for students and staff of the college to

undergo comprehensive medical examinations. Senior doctors from GAMC Akhnoor, including Dr. Karishma Kapoor, Gynea Medical Officer, and Dr. Monika Gupta, Assistant Professor in Pathology, alongside paramedical staff, diligently attended to approximately 100 individuals.

The camp not only facilitated medical consultations but also ensured the distribution of essential medications to those in need. This collaborative effort underscores the commitment of both institutions towards fostering a healthier community.

Congress is another name for devp, harmony: Vikar Rasool Wani

JNEWS SERVICE
BANIHAL, FEB 15

JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani delivered a compelling speech at a grand public gathering in village Chaknarwaw, panchayat lavelle of Banihal Segment. The event witnessed the presence of prominent personalities like General Secretary Imtayaz Ahmad Khanday DCC Banihal B, Sarpanch Muneer Ahmed, Block Presidents Mushtaq Ahmed and Abdul Rashid Naik, among others.

During his address, Wani expressed immense delight and gratitude towards the overwhelming response from the people. Their unwavering support for the Congress Party was a testament to the party's dedicated efforts towards the overall development, harmony and progress of Banihal, ensuring a better future for its residents.

Wani took this opportunity to extend his heartfelt congratulations to the people for their recognition of the Congress Party's proactive role in bringing about positive change. Their trust and confidence in the party's initiatives and pro-people policies were deeply appreciated. The Congress Party, on its part,



remains resolute in its determination to emerge triumphantly and become even stronger in the forthcoming Lok Sabha and other upcoming elections. The party wholeheartedly pledges to fiercely safeguard the fundamental rights of the people, as it steadfastly believes in creating an environment where every citizen can thrive and flourish, he added. By acknowledging the people's appreciation, Wani emphasized the importance of their involvement in shaping the future of Banihal. Their active participation

and support in the Congress Party's endeavors would play a significant role in materializing the vision of a prosperous and inclusive society.

Overall, this event served as a platform for Wani to express his gratitude and reinforce the party's commitment to the people of Banihal. By recognizing the achievements and appreciating the people's trust, the Congress Party would continue working tirelessly to bring about holistic development and welfare for the betterment of the community.

IIM Jammu, ICSSR host insightful workshop on Govt Initiative: Assessment of Year of Millets 2023

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR), organized a thought-provoking workshop centered on the "Assessment of Year of Millets 2023 Government Initiative" on 15th Feb 2024 at its Jagti Campus. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a warm welcome address by Dr. Kulwinder Kaur, setting the tone for the day's discussions.

This workshop was a pivotal component of the ICSSR-sponsored short-term empirical research project, that delved into the theme of "Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition through Millet Promotion: A study of selected areas of North-west. Dr. Kulwinder Kaur, Project Director and Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu stated that the primary objective of the workshop was to analyse the impact of the Government Initiative on sustainable agriculture and nutrition, and its role in shaping the future of food security and nutrition.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, provided a comprehensive overview of



IIM Jammu's initiatives and underscored the strategic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in emphasizing the importance of millets. He emphasized the significance of shifting dietary patterns towards millets, citing their medicinal, nutritional, and anti-inflammatory properties. He stressed the need to leverage branding and marketing strategies to popularize millets as a superfood and promote its consumption. As a proactive measure, he announced that IIM Jammu promotes increased millet consumption by providing a full-day meal made of millet once a week to students and faculty, promoting a healthier lifestyle on campus. He urged farmers to contribute to this endeavour and join hands in making the new campus of IIM Jammu environmentally friendly. He underlined the profound significance of the workshop and the collaborative

efforts aimed at fostering sustainable development in the region. He articulated how initiatives such as the Year of Millets 2023 Government Initiative serve as catalysts for positive change, not only in promoting sustainable agriculture but also in enhancing nutritional security and fostering economic prosperity in the region. He extended an invitation to farmers, academia, and industry stakeholders to collaborate with IIM Jammu in initiatives related to millet marketing, branding, and pricing. He assured support from IIM Jammu in facilitating farmers and entrepreneurs in their endeavours.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST, delivered a compelling address highlighting the significance of millets in achieving food security and nutrition goals. He shed light on the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India, spearheaded

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to declare 2023 as the "International Year of Millets" (IYoM). He emphasized the government's efforts to incorporate millets into the public distribution system, aiming to raise awareness about their nutritional benefits along with the inclusion of Millet delicacy in the recently concluded G20 Summit. Drawing attention to inspiring examples, he shared the stories of Raimati Ghiuria, a tribal farmer from Odisha's Koraput district, who has preserved 30 varieties of millets, and Dr. Khader Vali, also known as the Millet Man of India, a Padma Shri awardee renowned for his sustainable agricultural practices. He underscored the importance of reviving millet consumption, emphasizing that millets were widely consumed before the Green Revolution. He urged farmers to collaborate with institutions such as IIM Jammu, ICSSR, and SKUAST to promote millet cultivation and consumption. He emphasized the value of workshops like the one hosted by IIM Jammu, providing a platform for experts to share insights and create a healthy ecosystem for millet promotion.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation

Officer, IIM Jammu extended heartfelt gratitude to all participants, speakers, and collaborators for their invaluable contributions to the workshop's success, reaffirming IIM Jammu's commitment to advancing research and fostering sustainable development. The inaugural ceremony culminated with the National Anthem. The workshop proceeded with insightful sessions by esteemed speakers, including Prof. Vinod Gupta, Professor, Agricultural Extension Education, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor (Agricultural Economics) at SKUAST-Jammu, who presented on "Dynamics of Improving farmers livelihood through millets cultivation," and Dr. Meenakshi, Professor (Agronomy) at SKUAST-Jammu, who assessed the impact of millets cultivation on farmers' prosperity. Ms. Swati Basotra, Founder of Shakti Maa Agriculture and Skills Development Co-op Society Ltd., Jammu, provided valuable insights into consumer perceptions surrounding millets promotion. The workshop concluded with a stimulating panel discussion and interactive Q&A session, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among participants.

PM Modi has given a new all-around direction to J&K: Rekha Mahajan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan conducted a series of meetings of Mandals in different locations, fall under District Jammu South in connection with PM Narendra Modi's upcoming mega public rally on 20 February at Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu in J&K. Rekha Mahajan stated that the visit, PM Modi's second to J&K in his second term, assumes significance in view of the coming Lok Sabha polls. During the meeting Rekha Mahajan along with State Vice President and Former Minister Sham Choudhary, Former Deputy CM Kavinder Gupta, State Secretary and District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, DDC Prof Garu Ram



Bhagat, Baldev Billowaria, Satpal Pappi, Mandal Presidents Neeraj Puri, Vikram Sandhu, Bharat Bhushan and Ranjit Singh. Rekha Mahajan said that PM Modi in the upcoming mega public rally inaugurates, several mega development projects in J&K and addresses a mega public rally at MAM Stadium in Jammu at 11 AM on 20 Feb. She educates that PM Modi will lay the foundation stones for many new projects to give a boost to the development in Jammu & Kashmir. Modi

has given a new direction to peace, prosperity, and all-round development of Jammu & Kashmir. Sham Choudhary emphasized that the people of Jammu South have always remained enthusiastic about attending the rally of PM Modi in massive numbers and this time too, lakhs of people from across J&K will come to listen to their popular clairvoyant leader. Kavinder appeals to the BJP cadres to gear up to make sure that the public rally becomes the biggest-

ever being addressed by PM Modi in J&K so far. She encourages party breadwinners to involve the common masses of all domains of society to participate in the mega public rally. While interacting with media correspondents Ayodhya Gupta, Baldev Billowaria said, that people of all religions, castes, and communities are excited and waiting to watch PM Modi, eagerly to welcome him in the city of temples and the number of people also join Bharatiya Janata party in the presence of senior leaders. District General Secretaries Akash Chopra and Pushpinder Charak, Narinder Gupta, Karuna Chetri, Shalu Gupta, Vikram Sharma Shakti Kendra Pramukh and Booth Presidents were present in the meeting.

Benediction ceremony for class XII held at DPS Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 15

DPS Udhampur celebrated a grand and fervent Graduation Ceremony the outgoing class XII batch on the 14th of February 2024. The celebration began with the Hawan and Blessing ceremony in the beautiful premises of Delhi Public School Udhampur for the board classes of ongoing session. It was followed by the benediction ceremony where students were all set to put their foot forward to meet the new challenges in their graduation outfits. The ceremony opened with Lighting of Ceremonial Torch to evoke goddess Saraswati to seek blessings. The Chief Guest for the program was Mr. Baljeet Singh (KAS) ADDL SP Udhampur whereas Hon'ble Pro Vice Chairman of the School Dr. J. C. Gupta was the guest of honor. Worthy MD of the School, Mr. Vivek Gupta, Dynamic Director Aca-



demics Ms. Sucheta Gupta and Propitious Principal of the School Dr. Kunal Anand were also present in the occasion to bless the class of 2023. Aspiring Students of the batch 2023 cherished their fond memories in experience sharing session in this remarkable institute. They added how this institute and the core faculty played a crucial role in transforming them into a confident and promising human being who is ready for outside challenges. All the students of the outgoing class XII were dressed

in their Graduation gowns and given certificate of completing their school journey by the revered Chief Guest Sh. Baljeet Singh ji. The chief guest in his address wished the students for their board exams and also appealed students and parents for checking unconventional careers after class 12th and not just focus on traditional career choices. He highly appreciated the school management and principal for their hard work and dedication towards the students. He said that the such kind of

Benediction Ceremony he has witnessed for the first time. Principal of the School, Dr. Kunal Anand, gave them the last message on the coming challenges from the Podium and gave them Mantras to meet these challenges. He further added that moral values imbibed in DPSU will help them enshrined in the crowd. Pro Vice Chairman of the School, Dr. J. C. Gupta Sir showered his consecration upon the students and wished them good luck. Worthy MD of the School, Mr. Vivek Gupta Sir and Dynamic Director Academics of the School, Ms. Sucheta Gupta mam bid them goodbye with chosen blessings. Chief guest for the day, Add. Sp Udhampur, KPS, Mr. Baljeet Singh ji blessed the students. With a commitment to uphold the values of service before self. The program came to an end with the felicitation of the chief guest.

Weeklong Skill Development workshop on fencing concluded at University of Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15

The weeklong Skill Development Workshop on Fencing concluded at University of Jammu here today organized by Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu under the aegis of SIIEDC and RUSA. More than 100 participants from different departments of University of Jammu, GCW Parade, DD&OE, Trikuta College of Physical Education, Dogra Law College, GDC Sidhra, Dogra Degree College, etc have participated in the workshop. During this workshop, During this weeklong workshop, Sh. Rashid Ahmed Choudhary Coordinator of this workshop and his team of technical experts conducted theoretical and practical sessions on different topics like Basic Introduction of Epee, Sabre, Foil, Footwork, holding of weapon, targeting, pattern of competitions, weapon control, etc were conducted for imparting skills of fencing on these young minds. The ceremony commenced with the arrival of guests, followed by



welcome address delivered by Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba. Participants of the workshop demonstrated their prowess in fencing with their grace and precision. Prof. Alka Sharma Director SIIEDC, University of Jammu was chief guest on the occasion while as Dr. Sumita Sharma, President JUOWA and DySP in J&K Police Sh. Rashid Ahmed Choudhary International Referee in Fencing were the guests of honour. Appreciating the efforts of Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, Prof. Alka Sharma said that Since Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba have taken over the charge of the department,

there has been scores of activities to explore the hidden talent of the youths. Prof. Alka Sharma in her address said that the workshop SIIEDC and Directorate of Sports has organized, the outcome of the work shop is very encouraging. "Such programs will be organized in future also to involve more youths in sports". Dr. Sumita Sharma also lauded the efforts and initiatives of the Directorate of Sports & Physical Education for organizing these types of workshops and involving the young minds towards the spirit of Sports inspiring, children to believe in the power of hard work and perseverance. These types of activities also encour-

age the students to help the society in a better way. Sh. Rashid Ahmed Choudhary also highlighted the key aspects of the workshop. This workshop will definitely encourage the participation of players in the coming competitions of state as well as national level, he added. Earlier, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu presented the detailed report about the workshop. He said all kindness and efforts to participate in this workshop and getting along with the tough training with the tough schedule. "I am convinced that the most valuable outcome of this training workshop is getting together with

each participant," he said adding that several important insights and action items were accomplished through this workshop. Certification were awarded to the participants recognizing their hard work and commitment to mastering the art of fencing. "The basic idea of organising this workshop is to create awareness among the students with this sport in and around Jammu province under the jurisdiction of University of Jammu" Dr. Daud added. Participants expressed their views about the seminar and thanked the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education for organising such events. Those present were Dr. Mandeep Singh, Mr. Raj Kumar Bakshi, Mr. Ravish Vaid, Mr. Vikas Karlopiya, Sh. Gagan Kumar, Sh. Padam Dev Singh, Mr. Harinderpal Singh. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Mr. Hritik Khullar and Ms. Komal and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Komal Nagar Assistant Director, Directorate of sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu.

Govt. PG College Rajouri organizes "Series of Activities under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abiyan"

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Nasha-Mukt committee, NSS Unit of PG college in collaboration with IQAC today organized a series of activities under the flagship programme of Govt. of INDIA "NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAN". The event was started with the welcome address by the convener Nasha Mukht Committee of the college Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, he along with the welcome address also throw light on the importance of organizing such activities. Principal Govt. P.G college Dr Shamim Ahmed Azad Presided over the event. The event was divided into three different activities viz 1 student seminar 2 extension lecture 3 pledge ceremony. A number of students participated in seminar and presented their views on the theme "Role of higher education institutions in spreading awareness against Substance abuse". After student seminar an extension lecture was delivered by Prof Khaleeq Ahmed NSS Programme Officer on the topic KNOW DRUGS NO DRUGS. In his detailed lecture he very lucidly highlighted the ill effects



of substance abuse and he also shed light on how we all together can protect ourselves and our future generations from this menace. Prof Iqbal Raina HoD Physics and District Nodal Officer SVEEP also spoke on the occasion he in his talk insisted the young learners to be rational in life and denounce all ill practices and also to fight against all social evils. Principal of the institution Prof Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad in his presidential address impressed upon all the students the role they have to perform in the society in fight against Nasha (substance abuse). He deliberated how students can play the role of ambassadors in the society and he once again uttered the commitment of college admin-

istration to fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking in and around campus. Dr lateef Mir, Dr. Riaz Ahmed, Prof Ayaz Ahmed, Prof Mohd Khaliq, Prof Joginder Singh, Prof Paras Ram, Prof D.Nath, Prof Khalid Rayaz, Prof Naveen Sharma, Prof. Altaf Ahmed, Prof. Azhar Javed, Prof. Murtaza, Prof. Amjed Khan, Prof Shoket, Prof Makhdoom, Prof Harshal Sharma were presented on the occasion. Programme ended with formal vote of thanks by Dr. Riaz Ahmed Coordinator IQAC. A pledge ceremony was organized in college play ground where all the faculty members and students took pledge to fight against Drug Abuse. The pledge was administered by Prof Khaleeq Ahmed.

GDC R S Pura organised extension lecture on armed forces



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Career Counseling Committee, Institution Innovation Council, IIC and NCC Unit of GDC R S Pura organised an extension lecture under the patronship of Principal Dr Rajni and supervision of Dr Rakesh Choudhary ANO, NCC and Prof Shelly Kalsi Convener, Career Counseling Committee today on 15th February 2024. The extension lecture was based on the theme of Career opportunities in Indian Armed Forces. Major Rohit Vidhyarthi from Recruitment Office Jammu was the resource person for the lecture. The

extension begins with the introduction of resource person by Dr Rajinder Sharma, HOD Botany & IQAC Coordinator. Major Rohit Vidhyarthi started with the emerging opportunities in the Indian Army and highlighted the significance of Agniveer scheme and its benefits for the student cadets. Apart from this, he highlighted other schemes and different modes of recruitment through which one could be part of defense forces. Also, he spoke at length on the need to focus on the essence of character building and personality development in Defence forces. In this lecture, 120-130

participants including NCC cadets attended the lecture. The lecture was an effort for students to guide them about the opportunities in Defence particularly for women and for them to acknowledge the correspondent and obligation to our mother nation. Major Rohit broadened our perspective and knowledge about life and Defence by sharing us the insights of fauj. Worthy Principal Dr Rajni also motivated the students to work hard and be part of Indian Armed forces and serve the nation. The extension lecture ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD Dogri.

Traders Federation felicitates Padma Shri Romalo Ram

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

A grand ceremony was held at Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market' office on Thursday under the leadership of Deepak Gupta, President in which Renowned Dogri Folk Singer and Dancer Romalo Ram was felicitated. Federation President Deepak Gupta honored Romalo Ram by presenting him a memento and chunri. On this occasion, Romalo Ram's daughter Saras Bharti was also honored by presenting her a chunri. "We all thank Romalo Ram ji that he struggled for a long time to take our mother Boli Dogri forward. He took Dogri forward with his songs and today, in recognition of his contribution, the Government of India gave him the Padma Shri Award. I believe that this Padma Shri Award was not only given to Romalo Ram ji, but our mother Boli Dogri language gets respect at the National Level. Romalo Ram ji's



years of hard work have been honored". Deepak Gupta said. Government of India has recently announced Padma Shri Awards for Romalo Ram of Jammu for his contribution in the field of Art and music. Romalo Ram hails from village Amroh in Ramnagar tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district. Deepak Gupta on this occasion said that Romalo

is well known for Pioneering Dogri Folk Art. He is renowned for his contribution to Dogri Folk Art, earning him the prestigious Padma Shri Award in recognition of his efforts to rejuvenate this traditional form. He is inventor of the "Geetru" music style, a distinctive and innovative genre within the Dogri Music and has composed an impressive repertoire of over 300 songs, enrich-

ing the cultural landscape with his artistic endeavors. Romalo Ram on this occasion expressed his gratitude to the President of Traders Federation and his team. Dogri folk singer Romalo Ram also expresses gratitude to Centre for being conferred Padma Shri Award. He said, "I am grateful to the government. For the past 40 years, I have been associated with this art. We have preserved our heritage and worked with renowned people". He further said that he is very thankful to the government for honouring "Maa Boli Dogri". "This is not only my achievement but also that of my friends who used to sing with me. We have preserved the heritage of Dogri Folk Music," he added. On this occasion Sr. Vc President of Federation Munish Mahajan, Vc. President Abhimanyu Gupta, General Secretary Sham Lal Langer and Secretary Vishal Gupta were also present.

Unemployed artistes in J&K get work in short film industry: Jogi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Chhamb Assembly Khour NC Secretary Devidayal Jogi said that competition is not the solution, there is no dearth of artists in Jammu and Kashmir, even the best artists are worried, they do not have any employment, the central government is organizing competitions among them, this is a matter of concern for All India. Devotional song competition is organized every year but only Dogra artists are deliberately excluded from the competition. Artists from outside Jammu and Kashmir are recognized. Today, there is a dire need for a film industry in Jammu and Kashmir on the lines of the Mumbai film industry so that the young artists here can get employment. Remember, as the elections approach, many more competitions of the Modi government will start.

Manjit Singh demands release of full package in favour of DPs/Refugees

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH, FEB 15

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has demanded release of full package in favour of the Displaced Persons/Refugees in Jammu and Kashmir that was sanctioned by the then Govt of India.

"The DPs/Refugees have been waiting for the release of their package that was sanctioned by the then Govt of India i.e., Rs 25 lakhs per family. However, the total sanctioned amount was not released, but hollow promises were made," said Manjit Singh, addressing a meeting of Apni Party Workers in Ramgarh.



released even to some of the left-out families citing reasons of formalities.

"The revenue officials have made the formalities to claim the package amount difficult that is why many families could not even get Rs 5.5 lakhs despite repeated appearances before the concerned authorities," he said.

He also expressed his concern over the delay in releasing the sanctioned amount i.e., Rs 25 lakhs in total for each DP/Refugee family. These families have poor financial background after they left their agricultural land and houses in 1947, 1965 and 1971 and were compelled to migrate to safer areas.

Thereafter, the Govt allotted them land in border areas. These lands belong to the Custodian Department. For decades, these DPs/Refugees cultivated and protected the land, but they were not given any kind of property right on the land which they protected for decades, he reminded while asking the Govt to consider his plea on humanitarian grounds.

He said that the Govt should consider the long standing demands of the thousands of families who lived on the custodian land for three to four generations and give them legal / proprietary rights on the Custodian land in Jammu region.

He said that the families

are unable to get any kind of benefit because their claims are not settled or accepted by the authorities. At the same time, he also highlighted demand for compensation to the farmers whose agricultural land has come under the fence on the International Border, and these farmers were unable to cultivate their land again.

"As the land is being used for defence purposes, the Govt of India should give adequate compensation to the concerned farmers," he demanded.

He also demanded improvement in development in villages in Ramgarh while chairing the meeting of the Party workers.

GDC Marheen starts Seven Day Long Winter Camp at adopted village Marheen

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

NSS unit Government Degree College, Marheen started a 7 Day Long Winter Camp at adopted village Marheen under the aegis of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 which was inaugurated by Dr. Anupama Gupta, esteemed Principal of the College in presence of Mrs Ritu Verma respected Ex-Sarpanch of the village, Sh Sumit Singh Naib Saroanch, Ward members of the Panchayat Marheen, the local People, children, NSS Volunteers and Staff members of the college. The function was started with the welcome address of the welcome address of Dr Arun Dev Singh NSS Programme Officer. On this Occasion, the Principal of the College was Chief Guest and Ex-Sarpanch of the village was Guest of Honour. The chief guest encouraged and appreciated the efforts



of NSS volunteers, NSS Programme Officer and NSS Organizing team for organizing the informative Camp for local people in the adopted Village which would open many opportunities to the masses. She said that through this camp much information is to be conveyed among the people of the village pertaining to various schemes which are launched by Government of India as well as Govt of Jammu and Kashmir (U,T). Sh Shiv

Dev Singh also spoke on the occasion and extended his special thanks to the college administration and the entire NSS organizing team which always organizes such programmes to aware the people of the village time to time and he appreciated the NSS Volunteers of the College and added they are the future of the country and doing remarkable work for the Community. Dr Arun Dev Singh NSS Programme Officer of the College

disclosed with our correspondent that a proper Action Plan of Seven Day Long Winter Camp has been Prepared from Day one to Day seven and each day shall be devoted by the NSS volunteers to render Community Services in the Village and would aware the people regarding various schemes of the Govt, awareness rally, civil-defence training, Lecture on Health and Hygiene, door to door campaign, swacchata awareness and Plantation drive are to be conducted in the village so that the people may have much benefits for uplifting their living standards and he also added that NSS organizing team: Prof Anoop Sharma, Dr Munisha, Dr Shalun and Dr Imran who supported the volunteers to use their talent for guiding the People in the adopted village during the camp.

Principal Secy Finance lays foundation stone of building block for JU's Dept of Journalism & Media Studies

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department and Financial Advisor Universities, Sh. Santosh D Vaidya, IAS, today laid the foundation stone for Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Jammu, marking a significant moment in the infrastructural enhancement of the University.



professionals. He highlighted the importance of fostering a learning environment that encourages boldness and transparency together with a constructive and progressive approach to ensure overall development of the nation.

Sh. Vaidya specifically urged the Department of Journalism and Media Studies to cultivate the observers of tomorrow. He emphasized the essential role of journalists, saying they have to be keen observers to evaluate the obtaining trends in an objective manner and contribute towards the harmonious growth of the society. He stressed that journalists should articulate change and possess the crucial skills of boldness and confidence, qualities that should be nurtured by the institution.

The event was graced

by the Vice-Chancellor University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai.

Speaking on the occasion the Vice Chancellor expressed sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir UT and Chancellor, University of Jammu Shri Manoj Sinha for his unwavering support in realizing this crucial initiative.

In her welcome address, the Dean, Planning and Development Prof. Meena Sharma gave a comprehensive overview of the project, highlighting its significance and the positive impact it is expected to have on the academic landscape of the university. She said that the G+2 building designated for the Department of Journalism and Media Studies is designed to encompass a total area of 17719 sqft (1646.74 m²) and the estimated cost of building is

Rs 4.26 crores.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu announced the institution of Gold Medal (One Boys and one Girls) in the fond memory of her father Sh. S.D.Rohmetra, a renowned journalist of Jammu and Kashmir.

Registrar, University of Jammu Prof. Rahul Gupta extended a formal vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all attendees and emphasizing the collaborative efforts that have made this milestone possible.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Garima Gupta, Head, Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

Among others present on the occasion included Deans, Directors, Rectors, Heads of the teaching Departments, XEN University Works Department and other officials of the Works Department, Office bearers of various associations of the University, officers, staff and faculty & students of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister has asserted that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented developmental transformation since Narendra Modi assumed the charge of Union Govt as the Prime Minister in 2014.

He expressed this in his address during a meeting of party workers in con-

nection with upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The senior BJP leader said that people can themselves witness the reflections of good governance across this Union Territory with a large number of developmental works completed till date and works going on at a great pace on still larger number of current development works. Moreover multiple novel projects are in the pipeline. He said that not only good governance is reflected in terms of devel-

opment but the situation in every other sector is the same. He said that the people across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are fully satisfied with the BJP Govt led by Modi at the Centre as well as the UT Administration led by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha here. He said that having full faith in the incumbent Govt the people of J&K favour the third consecutive term for Modi led BJP Govt.

Kavinder Gupta said that the success of the party lies

in the hands of its workers who are the foot soldiers and the BJP workers not only in J&K but across the nation have been performing tremendously at the grassroots level. He urged the workers to remain present among the people at the grassroots level and make them aware about the about the key achievements of Modi Govt as the opposition parties are hell bent upon creating false narratives against the Bharatiya Janata Party and its Govt.

Increased days of retreat ceremony on IB will boost tourism: Suri

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri, while hailing the display of valour, patriotism, and ceremonial lowering of the Indian flag by Border Security Force (BSF) in the evening Retreat Ceremony on International Border (IB) at Suchetgarh, said that the decision of BSF to increase the ceremonial parade from two to four days is a welcome step that will boost tourism.



patriotism and lowering of the Indian flag besides closing border gates in the evening as part of the ceremony. This increase will ensure that the tourists stay put in Jammu for more days. Earlier, many tourists during their visit to the International Border at Suchetgarh, used to return without seeing any activity or ceremony, but this increased

number of days of the Retreat Ceremony will rejuvenate them and they will return with good memories. The BJP leader said, considering the increasing number of tourists visiting the international border, the BSF officials took the right decision. During the parade, when people see jawans and officers marching in their uniforms or watch the Indian Tricolour being lowered, their enthusiasm touches new heights and the environment reverberates with the slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', which rejuvenates the visitors.

Raman Suri urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to build bigger pavilions at location of the Retreat Ceremony on IB in Suchetgarh, so that the capacity can be increased and more people can be accommodated there. He said that the tourism department must also be roped in and asked to put in more facilities there to help tourists enjoy in the air of patriotism. The Lieutenant Governor had, in 2021, inaugurated the Retreat Ceremony on International Border - structured parade by BSF personnel - that is attracting tourists in a big way. Suchetgarh is about 27 km from Jammu and had served as a route to Sialkot (now in Pakistan) during the pre-Partition era.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVT. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, UDHAMPUR											
Provisional selection List of Data Entry Operator trade (Six months) for session February, 2024 to July, 2024											
S.No	Name of candidates	Father Name	Mother Name	Address	DOB	Gender	Category	Qualification	MAX MARKS	OBTAIN MARKS	%
1	SHIVANI SHARMA	VED PARKASH	SUNITA DEVI	RAKH JAGANOO UDHAMPUR	13-09-1996	FEMALE	GEN	10TH		9.4	89.30
2	TANIA ANTHAL	RAMESH CHAND	SUSHMA KUMARI	PAPRYAL, udh.	05-11-2006	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	430	86.00
3	BHARTI DEVI ANTHAL	GOPAL CHAND	VASHNU DEVI	GHANTWAL CHENANI	16-12-2004	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	389	77.80
4	ISHANI SHARMA	KRISHAN LAL	NEELAM KUMARI	JIB FANTHYAL UDHAMPUR	16-08-2000	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	379	75.80
5	PARUL MAHAJAN	ASHOK KUMAR	RENU GUPTA	THALORA MANWAL	03-03-2003	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	364	72.80
6	VISHALEE DEVI KATOCH	TEERATH SINGH KATOCH	RAKHA DEVI	SUJMATNA RAMSOO	15-03-2006	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	360	72.00
7	TANIYA DEVI	BAL KRISHAN	SUSHMA DEVI	UDHAMPUR	06-05-2006	FEMALE	SC	10TH	500	352	70.40
8	SUBITA DEVI	SHERU RAM	RANO DEVI	CHHATTARARI MAJOURI	09-04-1995	FEMALE	ST	10TH		7.4	70.30
9	KIRAN DEVI	MANGAL DASS	NEELAM DEVI	NADORE JAMMU	14-01-2006	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	343	68.60
10	SUHANI SHARMA	VIJAY KUMAR	NEELAM DEVI	MARORE JAGANOO	17-10-2005	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	334	66.80
11	KIRAN DEVI	ASHOK KUMAR	KALASHO DEVI	NARSOO SAMROLI	16-07-2005	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	328	65.60
12	AYUSHI SHARMA	TILAK RAJ	SANTOSH KUMARI	GHANTWAL CHENANI	27-03-2003	FEAMLE	GEN	10TH	500	327	65.40
13	PANVI DEVI	ARJUN SINGH	SONU DEVI	BHATYARI RAMNAGAR	29-09-2004	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	314	62.80
14	PRIYA SHARMA	CHARAN DASS	SUSHMA DEVI	CHOWKI JANDRAH GHORDI	15-02-2001	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	305	61.00
15	AKSHITA PROCH	JAGDISH CHANDER	ANJU DEVI	KANYALA DALSAL	18-11-2004	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	303	60.60
16	ANJALI SHARMA	AJIT SHARMA	SHARDA SHARMA	PATHWAR MAJALTA	02-02-1999	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	302	60.40
17	NEELAM BHARDWAJ	L SUBASH CHANDER	GUDDI DEVI	BASANT GARH	15-03-2000	FEMALE	SC	10TH	500	296	59.20
18	ANJANA SHARMA	RAJINDER KUMAR	VIDHYA DEVI	SEEN BRAHAMANA UDH	20-09-2003	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	296	59.20
19	SHALANI DEVI	RAJU	NEELAM DEVI	BARMEEN, RAMNAGAR	21-08-2003	FEMALE	OBC	10TH	500	286	57.20
20	NEEMA DEVI	KRISHAN CHAND	KAMLESH DEVI	CHULLANA JAMMU	04-06-2004	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	286	57.20
21	SIMRAN THAKUR	RAJ KUMAR	BIMLA DEVI	CHOUNDIRI BHATOLI DODA	01-12-2005	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	285	57.00
22	PRIYANKA BHAT	MANMOHAN RAJ	ANITA BHAT	W.NO.7 MAITRA RAMSAR	21-03-1997	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	267	53.40
23	SIMRAN BHAGAT	PAPI KUMAR	KOSHAL DEVI	KAWA UDHAMPUR	06-12-2005	FEMALE	SC	10TH	500	225	45.00

Waiting List											
S.No	Name of candidates	Father Name	Mother Name	Address	DOB	Gender	Category	Qualification	MAX MARKS	OBTAIN MARKS	%
1	RAKSHA DEVI	RAJINDER KUMAR	ROHINI DEVI	SAMROLI	13-02-2004	FEMALE	OBC	10TH	500	264	52.80
2	BANDHANA SHARMA	RAJINDER KUMAR	VIDHYA DEVI	SEEN BRAHAMANA UDH.	05-06-2002	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	262	52.40
3	SIMRAN DEVI	BALBIR SINGH	SHAKTI DEVI	MANEH KATHAR	16-04-2002	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	249	49.80
4	POONAM SHARMA	VIJAY KUMAR	NIRMILA DEVI	HARTYAN RAMNAGAR	22-03-2004	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	239	47.80
5	NIVEDIKA SHARMA	KARTAR CHAND	KOUSHYIA DEVI	LADDAN POWER HOUSE UDHAMPUR	13-08-1992	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	228	45.60
6	TANIA SHARMA	RAJNEESH KUMAR	ANU RADHA	BARRIAN UDHAMPUR	05-08-1999	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	223	44.60
7	SHASHI PRABHA	KARTAR CHAND	KOUSHYIA DEVI	W.NO.2 OPP DAKBANGLOW UDHAMPUR	02-02-1986	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	220	44.00
8	BABLI DEVI	BISHAN DASS	SOMA DEVI	THIAL BHARNARA MAJALTA	19-03-2000	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	219	43.80
9	SAPNA DEVI	MADAN LAL	CHANCHLA DEVI	KARAL DALSAL	27-11-1999	FEMALE	SC	10TH	500	217	43.40
10	POOJA THAKUR	BHIM SINGH	CHANCHLA DEVI	GHORDI JAGIR	25-04-2002	FEMALE	GEN	10TH	500	216	43.20
11	RAJNI KUMARI	KISHORI LAL	NEELAM DEVI	KAWA UDHAMPUR	26-03-2006	FEMALE	SC	10TH	500	212	42.40

NOTE: Candidates are advised to get admission upto 21-2-2024 failing which the waiting list will be opted in first come first serve basis. Selected candidates are advised to bring their certificates in original for verification, prescribed fee and affidavit duly attested by the notary declaring that the candidate has not taken admission in any other Institute.

No. - ITI/UDH/2024/444-48
Date: - 14-02-2024

DIP/J-15073/23
DATE: 15-2-24

Sd/ Superintendent Govt. ITI Udhampur

HDFC Bank's Home Loan business demonstrates strong performance

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, today shared an update on its Home Loan Business which has witnessed healthy growth post the merger of HDFC Ltd with itself.

The Bank's market share has grown approximately by 18% to 20% on incremental disbursements, post the merger. It has exhibited robust and consistent higher double-digit, year-on-year growth across its Home Loan Business for the first six months, post the merger. On a sequential basis, the Bank has gained a leading position as it recorded a growth of 3.6% which was the highest amongst its peers in home loans.

The Bank's fundamental strategy has been to improve the turnaround time of processing at front end. Post-merger turnaround time has reduced to almost one third. This

coupled with the erstwhile HDFC Ltd.'s strength of connecting with customers in person is a potential game changer in terms of both sales turnover and cross-sell.

Added to this strategy is a renewed focus on the self-employed segment which will further increase opportunity size. Post-merger, the Bank has already launched and expanded its product basket through banking surrogates as well as GST programmes for better assessment of such profiles.

By mid-March, the Bank will be launching a seamless straight through journey for Home Refurbishment Loans which can become a strong product offering for customers. Also, by April 2024, the Bank proposes to launch a Home Saver product. This will lay a robust foundation for a lucrative offering to the existing and prospective home buyers. Despite a substantially larger book than peers, the Bank's model is generating

huge benefits on a monthly basis and its differentiated strengths are expected to generate substantial value for customers and the Bank in the future.

"One of the biggest opportunities was to generate CASA and initial signs are encouraging. Pre-merger about 30% to 35% of incremental disbursements were to customers with an HDFC Bank savings account. This has reached about 80% of incremental disbursements, post-merger. The Home Loan Business for the Bank has become both an asset and liability generator and is growing sizeably. This leads to a higher stickiness quotient and a stronger customer connect with the Bank for a longer duration." says Mr. Arvind Kapil, Country Head - Mortgage Banking, Home Loan, LAP, HDFC Bank.

All this has been done without compromising on the Bank's traditional underwriting standards. The foundation is now in

place and the Home Loan Business is on its way to becoming a springboard for larger customer engagements. Current trends indicate interesting and encouraging signs that the Bank seems to be emerging as a preferred option for customers with higher credit scores which has exhibited a 10% growth, post merger.

On the operational front, the Bank will convert all erstwhile HDFC Ltd.'s service centres to branches in a phased manner and its entire mortgage team will also become relationship managers. The Bank has already commenced cross selling its products/services through these service centres from February 01, 2024. As a part of enhancing the cross-sell strategy, home loan customers will be able to avail of a wide range of products/services like Consumer Durable Loans, Credit Cards, Wealth Advisory Product, Unsecured Loans and Home Refurbishment

Loans. Going forward, cross-sell will be a continuing focus for both existing as well as new customers. The strength of this team is expected to be able to cross-sell at no incremental acquisition cost thanks to digital journeys.

The Bank believes that structural demand for housing will continue to be strong in the long run in India, due to a conducive environment. India is expected to have the largest working population by 2050, estimated at 900 million which is likely to give a major fillip to urbanisation in the country. This is projected to go up to 40% by 2030 from 34% today. Approximately, 80 million families are likely to move from rural areas to urban centres in the country increasing the need for housing. This is clearly an opportunity for the industry and HDFC Bank is well positioned to help fulfil the housing dreams of millions.

Scores of people join PDP in R S Pura

JI NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA

Senior PDP Leader Narinder Sharma on Thursday said more and more people joining his party would further strengthen it at the grassroots levels and also strengthen the struggle for the rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He also appealed for unity in view of the present difficult situation and for mitigating the sufferings of the people. Narinder was addressing scores of political and social activists who joined PDP under his leadership. On this occasion PDP District Jammu rural President KK Sharma was felicitated for his sincere efforts to strengthen party in rural areas.

Reiterating the party's unwavering commitment to the principle of "People over Power" drawing inspiration from the founding ethos laid down by Mufti Muhammad Syed, Narinder emphasized that Mufti Sahab has laid down a clear path to be adhered to by the party and anyone who has compassion for the people of J&K. Narinder pondered over the philosophy of Mufti Muhammad Syed, emphasizing his belief that prioritizing people's interests over power was paramount.

This philosophy manifested in the strategic political alliances he



crafted based on Pro-People commitments, such as the common minimum programme of the PDP-Congress coalition and the agenda of alliance between PDP and BJP. These alliances, rooted in principled governance, aimed to ease the challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir by prioritising and executing a roadmap to bring peace with dignity to the lives of J&K. Narinder added and asserted that Mufti Sahab's roadmap remained the ultimate solution, rejecting the notion of lasting majoritarianism and hegemony in constitutional democracies.

Narinder highlighted the visionary leadership of Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, acknowledging the PDP's role in providing a crucial alternative political platform. He commended Mufti's dedication, noting the significant strides

made towards lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He further stressed on how in these testing times for region of J&K particularly for Kashmir it is imperative to strengthen the party that Mufti Sayeed laid the foundation to shape a better future.

Narinder stressed and appealed the gathering to work in unison and not loose hope in the aftermath of the recent decisions with regards to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the party leaders to work towards strengthening party at the gross root level. Narinder reiterated his party's commitment to address grievances of the depressed and marginalized lot of the society. He said that policies and programmes of PDP were formulated by incorporating wishes and aspirations of all sections of the society in general and weaker sections in particular.

Yasar Choudhary concerned over shortage of specialized docs, paramedical staff in Bani Hospital

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANI, FEB 14

Apni Party President Kandi (Bani-Basohli), and Spokesperson, Yasar Choudhary today demanded medical equipment, paramedical staff, and specialized doctors in Govt Hospital, Bani. As per a press release, Yasar Choudhary expressed his concern over the worsening health condition in the Govt hospital that has angered the locals against the authorities for their failure to make the hospital fully functional.

"The hospital is working without adequate staff, and doctors that are required to deal with day-to-day situations in any hospital in rural areas. Therefore, the patients have to travel to Kathua or GMC Jammu for their treatment," he said.

Bahujan Samaj Party holds workers meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
HIRANAGAR, FEB 15

Keeping in mind the Lok Sabha elections, a meeting was organized by the State Bahujan Samaj Party on Thursday in village Sanjhi Morh of Hiranagar assembly constituency of district Kathua, in which Jammu and Kashmir President of Bahujan Samaj Party Darshan Rana was Chief Guest on this occasion. Apart from this the party General Secretary of BSP Sunil Majotra, Senior Leader Hari Chand Thapa, District President Raman Kumar, Senior party leaders Satpal Bhaboria and Purna Chand along with a large number of Bahujan Samaj Party workers attended the meeting. On this occasion, Bahujan Samaj Party President Darshan Rana said that Lok Sabha elections can be held any time in the country, hence the party workers should be fully prepared. He said that Bahujan Samaj Party



has decided to field its candidates on all the Lok Sabha seats of Jammu division and continuous discussions are being held with the party workers regarding the announcement of the names of the candidates. He said that Bahujan Samaj Party has been winning in district Kathua in the past too and it is expected that the party will contest the elections with strength in the

upcoming Lok Sabha elections as well as assembly elections. Not only this, the party's performance in the District Development Council elections was also much better. Rana said that Bahujan Samaj Party is continuously running a public relations campaign with the party workers. On this occasion, District President of Bahujan Samaj Party Raman Kumar welcomed all the party lead-

ers and said that Bahujan Samaj Party will contest the Lok Sabha elections as well as the Assembly elections with strength in district Kathua. He said that soon new units will be formed by the party and new faces will be given responsibilities. During the meeting, other party leaders and workers also expressed their views and gave suggestions to strengthen the party.

In Mendhar, Azad calls for unity among Pahari, Gujar Communities



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 15

DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressed a public meeting in Mendhar today. Azad emphasized the crucial need for unity among the Pahari and Gujar communities. He urged both communities to stand together and resist any attempts by political parties to sow division among them. He stressed that maintaining this unity is essential for the progress and development of the region. Furthermore, Azad greeted Pahari community for getting the ST status, he emphasized that this quota to Gujar Community should remain intact and not be tampered with, as it is vital for the empowerment and socio-economic upliftment of the Gujar community. He cautioned against divi-

sive tactics employed by other political parties and urged a steadfast focus on addressing public issues. He criticized the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for their opportunistic alliances and power-hungry politics. Azad pointed out the instances where NC and PDP collaborated with the BJP to gain power. He highlighted that while he was not made a Member of Parliament or a Minister by the BJP, leaders like Omar Abdullah held ministerial positions in previous BJP-led governments. Furthermore, Azad accused both NC and PDP of prioritizing power over the interests of the people. He warned of potential future alliances between NC and BJP, citing their power-hungry motives. Azad reiterated his commitment to fostering development, peace,

and prosperity. He highlighted the importance of bringing back schemes like the Roshni Scheme to address issues of land ownership and to combat corruption effectively. Azad pledged to work tirelessly to eradicate corruption and promote transparency in governance. He affirmed that his focus remains on improving the socio-economic landscape of the region and creating opportunities for all. Among others who were present in the meeting were Vice chairman Mr. GM Saroori, General secretary RS Chib, general secretary Anita Thakur, Chief spokesperson, Spokesperson Ch Imran zafar, state secretary Riyaz Naz, Adv Masood Choudhary WC Member, Salman Nizami, state secretary Sunita Arora, Zonal president Zahid Malik, Ishfaq mirza & others.

Reasi Police organizes 'Thana Diwas' in District Reasi



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, 15 FEB 2024

As a part of public outreach programme, "Thana Diwas" an initiative of Government of J&K UT to bridge the gap between Police and Public and also to listen and redress the grievances of common masses organised at P/S Reasi, Kouri, Panchayat Dadoora, Ransoo Town and at Tuli Banna by District Police Reasi.

The programme was chaired by Sh. Neeraj Padyar, JKPS, Dy.SP Hqrs. Reasi along with SHO P/S Reasi Insp. Ranjeet Singh Rao at P/S Reasi, SDPO Arnas Sh. Irfan Khan, JKPS alongwith SHO P/S Arnas Insp. Jeet Singh at Kouri, SDPO Katra Sh. Surinder Singh Baloria alongwith SHO P/S Katra Insp. Nishant Gupta at Panchayat Dadoora, SHO P/S Ransoo Insp. Rakesh Kumar at Ransoo Town and SI Rajinder Singh of P/S Chassana at Tuli Banna.

Civil Society members and respectable persons of the areas remained present on the occasions.

During the Programme, participants highlighted

various issues of public importance, and they were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of Civil Administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal. While speaking on the occasion, it was reiterated that policing at grass root level in the District would be revamped to enhance proficiencies of the cops and to develop confidence among the people.

"Community policing is mandatory to boost public confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils". Referring to the criminal activities in the area, it was stressed upon the officers to brace up with a missionary spirit to fight against drug abuse and other social evils from the society and to take a pledge for serving the society with missionary spirit and maintain the dignity of force. While urging for better policing, it was exhorted that public grievances at grass root level would be dealt on priority and patiently.

CUJ eSports Team Secures Second Position at IIT Roorkee



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

The eSports team representing Central University of Jammu (CUJ) demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship by securing the second position in the highly competitive battlegrounds mobile India tournament in the National Summer Summit Esports championship held at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

With over 730 teams participating in this prestigious event, Central University of Jammu eSports squad showcased their prowess, battling it out in the virtual arena. The

team's stellar performance not only brought home the recognition but also highlighted the university's growing presence in the eSports domain.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor Central University Jammu, expressed delight in the team's achievement and stated that "This accomplishment signifies not only the individual talents within our eSports team but also the collective dedication and growth of the eSports culture at Central University of Jammu". The journey to the runner-up position was marked by intense competition, strategic gameplay, and a display of skill that reflects the

university's commitment to encouraging a competitive eSports environment.

As the eSports community continues to thrive globally, CUJ remains at the forefront, embracing the digital realm of competitive gaming. The university acknowledges the importance of eSports in promoting teamwork, strategic thinking, and adaptability- skills that extend beyond the gaming arena.

Central University Jammu eSports team plans to leverage this success as a stepping stone for future competitions and aims to further establish itself as a force to be reckoned with in the eSports landscape.

AAP Jammu, welcomes SC verdict on electoral bonds

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

The Aam Aadmi Party Jammu welcomes the Supreme Court's decision on electoral bonds, saying it is an important step in ensuring transparency in election funding. The Sr. AAP leaders Mr. Ram Singh Chauhan & Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, observed that it was an hidden corruption through corporate houses, diverting the attention of common countrymen from the real act of corruption & in fact it was an open attempt to turn black money in to

white & added that this is an important step in the transparency of election funding, otherwise through electoral bonds, it was not known which person was giving funds to which Party. It is important for country's democracy that it is known which person is giving how much money to which political party.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud directed that the SBI must disclose details of each electoral bond en-cashed by Political Parties. The information should include the date of encashment and

the denomination of the bonds and be submitted to the poll panel by March 6. The Election Commission should publish the information shared by SBI on its official website by March 13, the bench said. It is important for the citizens of the country to know the source of funds of the parties that are ruling at the centre or in states. It is important for them to know that whether the decisions of the government are driven by voter choice or those who are funding them. It is an important step for the country's democracy, the AAP leaders said.

GDC Kulgam organizes Webinar on 'Major reforms in Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 15

An illustrative and enlightening webinar covering the recently released "Major reforms in Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions" by NAAC was conducted by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam under the aegis of VIKSIT BHARAT @2024.

The webinar was organised for the colleges of UT of J&K to understand the importance of NAAC accreditation for colleges and newly introduced Binary and Maturity Based Graded Accreditation systems.

More than 150 participants from diverse Higher Education Institutes from UT of Jammu and Kashmir besides other institutes from across the country attended the event. Amongst the participants from all over the country included the noted luminaries, academicians, principals of various colleges, faculty members,



Scientists, Research scholars and students.

Principal of the college, Prof. Syed Eazaz Hussain Rizvi in his address highlighted the significance of NAAC accreditation for colleges and unveiled the steps taken by the institution in this direction.

The invited speaker on the occasion, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Director, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance, University of Kashmir

gave a detailed presentation on the theme with his outlook and considerable knowledge on the theme covering all aspects of the NAAC accreditation.

His presentation focused on the importance of NAAC accreditation for colleges, besides presenting a detailed analysis of the new NAAC reforms in Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions. Coordinator IQAC, GDC Kulgam, Dr.

Gowhar Hamid Dar highlighted the achievements of the institution since its establishment in 2004. He further put in the picture of progress made by the college and IQAC cell post accreditation and also detailed out the plan of action to be carried for the future. The theme was discussed in detail by the attendees and all the issues and aspects related to the theme were talked through in depth.

DC Srinagar reviews progress and implementation of different schemes under Agriculture and allied sectors

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 14

In order to review the implementation of different schemes and progress achieved in Agriculture and allied sectors meant for overall development of farmers in District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here today at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the achievements made by Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries in implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the District.

During the meeting, the DC was given first hand appraisal by the concerned District/Sectoral Officers through PowerPoint presentations highlighting the progress made and targets achieved so far in implementation of different Centrally sponsored schemes under Agriculture and allied sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC asked the officers to work with added zeal and dedication to ensure the benefits of all



schemes under agriculture and allied sectors are percolated to the target population. He enjoined upon them to reach out to the target population by activating field functionaries to complete the process of identification of beneficiaries in their respective zones. The DC further asked the Officers to set a baseline for targets so that achievements are evaluated periodically for overall betterment of farm operating families in the District. The DC laid emphasis on efficient and effective functioning of the portals designated for registration of beneficiaries to ensure proper implementation of schemes. With regard to the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development

Programme (HADP) in the District, the DC asked the officers to give special focus on HADP. He said that the HADP initiative is a major step towards creating a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem. He said the programme aims to empower farmers with knowledge and tools that can help them enhance their productivity and profitability while also contributing to the overall growth of the agriculture sector.

The DC further said that the programme also provides a platform to the farmers to interact with experts from the Agricultural and allied Departments and seek their advice on various aspects of farming, besides enhancing agricultural

productivity, improve livelihoods, and contribute to the overall economic growth. Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, DFO Urban, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Assistant Director Fisheries, Lead District Manager and Officers from Cooperatives, SKUAST, HP&MC, KVK, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture.

Aspire to achieve 25% of orchards as High density in Kashmir: VC SKUAST-K at CII J&K Apple Conclave

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) J&K Council today organized the first edition of CII J&K Apple Conclave in Srinagar to empower and enlighten progressive farmers of Kashmir on sustainable practices in apple cultivation.

The conclave, themed 'Sustainable Innovations for Apple Growers of Kashmir', brought together leading experts, farmers, and industry representatives to explore innovative approaches towards enhancing the sustainability and productivity of the apple farming sector in the region.

The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including the Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ah Ganai; Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, Joint Director, Horticulture; Syed Junaid Altaf Bukhari, Vice Chairman, CII J&K; Anil Arora, Chief Manager (Lubes), Indian Oil; Dr. Rahul Mirchandani, Chairman & MD, Aries Agro Limited and Izhan Javeed, from Orchardly. The conclave delved into discussions on leveraging technology for sustainable practices and enhancing productivity in apple cultivation.



Sharing valuable perspectives at the Apple Conclave, Prof Ganai said, "This Conclave serves as a platform for farmers to gain practical insights and knowledge from experts in the field. Industry stakeholders, academia and progressive farmers must come together to take ahead of the Apple industry and aspire to achieve 25% of orchards as High density."

Highlighting the pivotal role of technology, Syed Junaid Altaf underscored the significance of latest technological interventions and its potential impact on the apple industry in Kashmir. He said, "The Apple Conclave exemplifies CII J&K's commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem".

Anil Arora, said "Apple are grown on 55% of the

total cultivation land in Kashmir. It contributes 10% of the GDP of the UT; he highlighted the role of IOCL in the apple ecosystem and its commitment towards apple growers of Kashmir".

Dr. Rahul Mirchandani, said, "Innovation within the apple ecosystem, such as the utilization of drones, has the potential to significantly transform the industry. These technological advancements can indeed serve as a game changer, revolutionizing the way we approach apple cultivation and management practices."

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Izhan Javeed from Orchardly emphasized, "Our dedication lies in empowering growers in the region with cutting-edge tools and insights, aimed at optimizing orchard management practices, mitigating risks, and ultimately boosting

both the quality and quantity of yield."

Other speakers who spoke during technical sessions were Zahoor Ahmad Bhatt, Shama Zaidi from Aries Agro, Ramnik Sharma from FIL Industries and Rakesh Kumar, Chief Manager Indian Oil. Technical sessions focused on a diverse range of topics, including advanced cultivation techniques, eco-friendly pest management strategies, efficient water and resource utilization, and market trends in sustainable agriculture.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage with industry leaders and explore solutions designed to optimize productivity while minimizing environmental impact. The session was attended by more than 70 progressive farmers, Industry Representatives, academicians and Government officials.

Social Welfare Dept. B'la organizes mega Awareness Camp on Drug Abuse

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 15

In an endeavour to empower the community against drug abuse menace, a mega awareness camp/workshop was today organized by District Social Welfare Department under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDR) at Dak Bunglow Baramulla.

The workshop was presided by District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Sajad Ahmad and was attended by Deputy Chief Education Officer, Senior Professor GDC Baramulla, Prof. Tariq Ahamd Chalko, Project Coordinator Child Protection Helpline, Nazir Ahmad, other officers, senior citizens, members from civil society, students from Govt. Polytechnic Baramulla and children



from orphanage homes. Speaking on the occasion, the DSWO underscored that the purpose of organizing these events is to generate awareness among the masses, especially youth about the ill effects of drug abuse so that they can live drug free lives and contribute meaningfully for the betterment of the society.

He further emphasized the critical need for seamless collaboration among various departments,

including health, social welfare, police, legal, and others, to effectively combat the drug menace in society. Project Coordinator, in his speech highlighted that drug abuse is like any other addiction and it is important to not stigmatize taking help for substance abuse and make rehabilitation easy, accessible and comforting towards the patients.

The speakers further stressed the need for extensive grassroots level

awareness campaigns to address drug abuse menace at its core, ensuring proactive measures are being taken to effectively limit its spread and impact within local communities.

Meanwhile, the District Social Welfare Department organised a health camp for senior citizens during the event, offering comprehensive health check-ups while distributing free medication for the health issues detected.

Complete project works at critical junctions for optimization of traffic mobility: Div Com to SSCL

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of officers to explore ways for ensuring continuous traffic mobility at critical junctions to avoid time consuming Traffic Jams at Jehangir Chowk, Batamaloo, Sangar Mall and Ram Munshi Bagh Srinagar.

The meeting was

attended by CEO, Srinagar Smart City Limited; Dr Owais Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi ud Din Bhat; SSP Traffic Srinagar; Chief Engineer SSCL; SE, PWD (R&B) and other officers.

The meeting held threadbare discussion for reducing the traffic jam at Jehangir Chowk by optimizing traffic mobility at the junction.

The meeting also held discussion to remove the encroachment on the road

by three wheelers at road curvatures and measures to address the same issue.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed the concerned to complete the beautification and developmental work at Jehangir Chowk. He also instructed for usage of traffic signals at roundabouts for pedestrian crossings.

He also directed the concerned executing department to expedite the work at Batamaloo, besides he instructed

usage of bollard barriers for traffic diversion at Batamaloo Junction.

Similarly, regarding Sangar Mall, Div Com issued the direction for free-left movement of vehicles and widening of narrow corner sides.

Moreover, the meeting discussed operation of Intelligent Multimodal Traffic Surveillance (IMTS) cameras, traffic lights at Maisuma, width of road at U-Turn points and other developmental projects.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 15

In recognition to valuable contribution of Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) towards education, Secretary Education Department, Dr. Piyush Singla, today presented 70 regularization orders to these workers at Government Boys Higher Secondary Pulwama during his visit to the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

These regularization orders are a formal acknowledgment of the hard work and dedication exhibited by the contin-



gent paid workers of the district. With this regularization, the government aims to provide job security and stability to these individuals, fostering a conducive and supportive work environment for them.

"This regularization is a testament to government's commitment towards valuing the contribution of all staff members within the education sector," stated Dr. Piyush Singla.

The initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of improving the working conditions and opportunities for all individuals involved in the education sector. By prioritizing the welfare of contingent paid workers, the government aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages excellence and commitment", maintained the Secretary.

Dr. Singla emphasised

Earlier, Dr. Singla accompanied by Director School Education Kashmir, Dr Tasaduq Hussain Mir, visited the synthetic hockey turf and took stock of infrastructural and other related facilities there. The recipients of the regularization orders expressed gratitude to the government's decision, while hoping for a positive impact it will have on their professional and personal lives.