



# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## SC tags plea challenging validity of Triple Talaq law with pending petitions

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered clubbing a fresh plea challenging the validity of certain provisions of the 2019 law, which make the practice of instant divorce through Triple Talaq a punishable offence, with those already pending with the court. Violation of the law entails imprisonment up to three years.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra agreed to hear the plea along with pending petitions on which notices were issued to the Centre in 2019.

The fresh plea has been filed by Amir

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## LG pays obeisance at Shri Martand Surya Temple, Paloura, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

On the holy occasion of Surya Saptami, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance to Lord Shri Martand at Shri Martand Surya Temple, Paloura, Jammu on Friday.

He participated in the Mahayagya organised by Shri Martand Tirath Trust and prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of one and all. The Lt Governor interacted with the people and extended his hearty greetings on the auspicious occasion.

Since time immemorial Jammu Kashmir is known as the land of spirituality and one of the main centres of learning and knowledge in the country. It has always promoted inclusive cultural ecosystem and kept alive time-tested traditional wisdom, the Lt Governor said.



He said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the vision of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi' has been transformed into a peoples' movement.

He called upon the people to rededicate themselves to promote social

harmony and collectively work for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society.

AK Sidha, President, Shri Martand Tirath Trust; Avtar Krishan, Chairman; TK Tickoo, General Secretary, other members of

Shri Martand Tirath Trust and people from different walks of life were present.

Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K and senior officials of UT Administration were also present.

## Congress people used to call Lord Ram imaginary, are chanting 'Jai Siya Ram' Now: PM Modi

AGENCIES  
HARYANA, FEB 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flayed the Congress on Friday over its stand on the Ram temple in Ayodhya, saying those who used to call Lord Ram imaginary and did not want a temple to be constructed are also chanting 'Jai Siya Ram' now.

Addressing a public gathering after he laid the foundation of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and inaugurated several projects in Rewari in Haryana, he said India has touched new heights in the world today and that it has been possible because of people's blessings.

Referring to his visit to the UAE and Qatar this week, he said the respect that India now gets from every corner is not of Modi alone, but of every Indian. Targeting the opposition

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## Congress is corrupt, India failed to thrive under its rule: PM

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

In a sharp attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India failed to deliver under the "corrupt" rule of the grand old party while asserting that the "country is moving forward with confidence."

"Congress is corrupt; it can't think of a future; India failed to thrive under Congress," the PM said ahead of the Lok Sabha elections due in April-May this year.

PM Modi was addressing a 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Rajasthan' programme via video conferencing.

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## Ayodhya's Ram temple to remain closed for an hour every day

AGENCIES  
AYODHYA (UP), FEB 16

Ayodhya's Ram temple will remain closed for an hour in the afternoon every day from Friday onwards, the chief priest of the Ram temple said here.

Considering the flood of devotees to the temple following the consecration ceremony, the temple trust has increased the time of 'darshan' from 6 am to 10 pm.

Since January 23, the deity was woken up at 4 am for morning rituals. It takes around two hours before devotees are allowed to have 'darshan' and it continues till 10 pm.

## Law commission recommends comprehensive law to deal with NRIs, OCIs marrying Indian Citizens

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Describing as a "worrisome trend" the "rising" cases of fraudulent marriages between NRIs and Indian citizens, the Law Commission has recommended a comprehensive law to deal with the situation and compulsory registration of such alliances.

While presenting the report "Law on Matrimonial Issues Relating to Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Citizens of India" to the law ministry, panel chairman Justice (Retd) Ritu Raj Awasthi said the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed central legislation should be comprehensive enough to cater to all facets involving marriages of NRIs as well as foreign citizens of

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## Weatherman predicts heavy snowfall, says 5-day wet spell to begin tomorrow

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 16

Amid the rising day temperature, the Jammu and Kashmir would likely experience a fresh wet-spell as the weatherman here has forecasted light to moderate snowfall from February 17 to 20th.

In the meantime, the government has also started readying arrangements to avert disruption of utilities due to snow.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told the news agency that there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy snowfall over middle and higher reaches



of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Budgam and South Kashmir districts from February 19-20.

In Kashmir, Ahmad said on Feb 17, weather conditions are expected

to remain partly to generally cloudy with possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches towards late night.

On Feb 18, he said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow

at most places with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of North, Northwestern, Central and South Kashmir.

On February 19-20, Ahmad said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places of plains & lower reaches while the middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Budgam and South Kashmir districts would experience heavy to very heavy snowfall.

On Feb 21, he said there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate snowfall at many places

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## Farooq misses 3 parliament sessions, asks mere eleven questions in Lok Sabha

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 16

The three-time chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir and National Conference (NC) president, Dr Farooq Abdullah might have been vocal against the incumbent central government but he has asked 11 questions to the government in the

parliament during the 17th Lok Sabha.

The NC president in his fourth term as Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar parliamentary constituency missed three sessions completely out of total 15 in the last five years.

According to PRS Legislative Research, a non-profit organization track-

ing performance of parliamentarians and legislators, the average number of questions asked by an MP during this period is 210 and from the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir is 103.

Abdullah as per the research accessed by the news agency has overall attendance of 61 per cent while the octogenarian

leader has 100 per cent attendance in only one session—Special Session 2023 and 92 per cent and 90 per cent in Winter Session 2022 and Monsoon Session 2020 respectively.

However, Abdullah has missed three sessions including Winter Session 2019, Budget

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## Pakistani quadcopters found hovering near LoC in Poonch; Army opens fire

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

"Army troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) on February 16 opened fire to bring down Pakistani quadcopters at two different places in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district," officials said.

"However, the flying objects returned to the Pakistan side after briefly hovering over the Indian territory in Balnoi-Mendhar and Gulpur sectors," they said.

They said a search operation was launched in both the sectors to



ensure there was no dropping of weapons or narcotics by the quadcopters. Officials said troops noticed two quadcopters entering the Balnoi area of Mendhar, around 6.30 a.m., and opened fire but the remotely controlled machines returned.

"Similarly, a couple of quadcopters hover-

ing over Gulpur sector around the same time returned in the face of firing by Indian troops," they said.

Earlier on February 12, Army troops had fired on an enemy drone after picking up its movement in Mankote area of Mendhar sector.

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## Highway toll collector IHMCL removes Paytm payments bank from list of banks authorised to issue FASTag

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL), toll collecting arm of state-owned NHAI, has advised highway users to buy FASTags from 32 authorised banks sans Paytm Payments Bank for hassle-free travel. In a post on X, IHMCL said for

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## RTO Jammu discloses revenue figures, vehicle registrations from Aug 2019-Aug 2022

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

The Regional Transport Office (RTO) Jammu has disclosed its revenue figures from August 2019 to August 2022, in response to an RTI filed by a person M.M. Shuja.

During this period, the RTO generated a total revenue of Rs 747,394,266 from various fees, including registration, driving license, fitness, route permit, fines/challans, and miscellaneous charges, it reveals.

The breakdown of revenue generation is as: Registration fee: Rs 379,062,516; Driving License fee: Rs 217,650,392; Fitness fee: Rs 383,262,607; Route permit fee: Rs 41,597,601; Fine/Challan: Rs 68,646,290; and Misc.: Rs 2,074,860.

The RTO collected Rs 4,324,633,844 from token tax, Rs 83,351,600 from passenger tax, and Rs 1,714,400 from accidental

welfare funds during the same period.

The data also reveals the number of new vehicle registrations and route permits issued by the RTO.

From August 2019 to March 2020, the Region Transport Office Jammu registered 35,633 new vehicles. From April 2020 to March 2021, over 39,174 new vehicles were registered by the Regional Transport Office Jammu. From April 2021 to March 2022, over 46,221 new vehicles were registered by the Regional Transport Office Jammu. From April 2022 to August 2022, as many as 20,026 new vehicles were registered by the Regional Transport Office Jammu.

From August 2019 to March 2020, the Region Transport Office Jammu issued 42 new route permits, which included 12 State Carriages, 26 Goods Carriages, and 4 PSV (School Vehicles). From

April 2020 to March 2021, 92 new permit routes were issued, which included 3 State Carriages and 89 Goods Carriages.

From April 2021 to March 2023, the Region Transport Office Jammu issued 473 new route permits, which included 116 State Carriages, 345 Goods Carriages, and 12 PSV (School Vehicles). From April 2022 to August 2022, 381 new permit routes were issued, which included 2 State Carriages, 314 Goods Carriages, and 65 PSV (School Vehicles).

Five trucks were transferred to Ladakh after the creation of a separate Union Territory.

Additionally, from 2020-21, the Regional Transport Office Jammu purchased 185 ordinary buses with a seating capacity of 43. In the fiscal year 2021-22, 41 AC buses with a seating capacity of 19 were purchased, and

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## J&K has opportunity to be torchbearer of 'Viksit Bharat': Dr Jitendra Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

"Jammu and Kashmir has an opportunity to be the torchbearer of Viksit Bharat", said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today.

The Minister was delivering the inaugural address at the first-ever 3-day International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Phytopharmaceuticals, and the 11th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology at CSIR-IIIM here.



Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is for the first time since independence that J&K's unexplored resources

like Aroma and lithium are being tapped to boost India's economy. It is evidenced in the Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution which were born in J&K, with the cultivation of lavender in the townships of Baderwah in Doda and Gulmarg in the Kashmir Valley. He said

bio Himalayan resources like these will add hugely to the country's economy in the next two decades.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had spoken extensively on the significance of lavender farming in Baderwah in his Mann Ki Baat programme to encourage its cultivation. The Union Minister said

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## DC Rajouri inaugurates 10 day Digital Awareness Program for students of Parisha & Palaash

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 16

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today inaugurated a transformative ten-day digital awareness program for a group of fifty students of Parisha and Palaash-Child Care Institutions.

The initiative has been taken under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan, a visionary scheme aimed to empower rural populace across the States and Union Territories of the country by enhancing their digital literacy.

The core objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan is to equip citizens in rural regions with essential digital skills, enabling them to proficiently operate computers and digital access devices such as tablets and smart phones.



Through comprehensive training, participants will learn to navigate the digital landscape, enabling them to perform tasks like sending and receiving emails, browsing the internet, accessing government services, seeking information, and conducting digital payments.

The scheme's inclusive approach targets rural populations, including Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), minorities, individuals below the poverty line (BPL), women, and persons with disabilities. By using the Information Technology and its appli-

cations, especially digital payment mechanisms, the scheme endeavors to foster active participation from rural communities in the nation-building process.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of embracing digital literacy as a catalyst for socio-economic advancement. He underscored the pivotal role of the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan in bridging the digital divide, particularly among marginalized segments of society. The DC urged partici-

pants to wholeheartedly engage with the training program, recognizing its potential to uplift communities and facilitate greater access to opportunities in the digital age. By equipping individuals with essential digital skills, the initiative not only empowers them to use the digital platforms but also fosters their active participation in the socio-economic fabric of the nation.

The inauguration of the ten-day digital awareness program marks a pivotal milestone in the journey towards a digitally empowered society. Through sustained efforts and collaboration, initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan are realizing the vision of a digitally inclusive India.

DSWO, Abdul Raheem, TSWO and officials of the Social Welfare Department were present.

## Deputy Commissioner leads inspection team to combat encroachment in Main Market Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 16

In continuation to the proactive move of district administration Kishtwar towards reclaiming public spaces, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted a comprehensive inspection in the Kishtwar town. The focus of the inspection was on monitoring the progress of the ongoing anti-encroachment drive targeting the Main Bus Stand and Market areas along the National Highway.

Accompanied by authorities from Revenue and the Municipal Council, the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar underscored the importance of removing illegally installed stalls, reharis, and the unauthorized extension of shops in public spaces.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner



issued firm directives to Municipal and Revenue officers, urging them to implement stringent actions. This includes the

issuance of challans and notices, accompanied by a stern warning against encroaching on footpaths and roads. The emphasis

was on creating a clear and obstruction-free environment for pedestrians and commuters.

In a bid to streamline traffic, auto-rickshaw operators were specifically advised to park only at authorized stands. This measure aims to enhance the flow of traffic and ensure a more organized public space.

Furthermore, street vendors, hawkers, and rehadi walas were encouraged to utilize designated Market and Vendor spaces. The goal is to contribute to a revitalized market landscape, free from congestion and encroachments along footpaths. Deputy Commissioner expressed optimism that the collective efforts of the administration, coupled with cooperation from stakeholders, would lead to a more orderly and aesthetically pleasing urban environment in Kishtwar.

## ADDC Shopian inaugurates Sensitization/ Training programme on 'Implementation of Child Rights'

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 16

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today inaugurated one day sensitisation cum training programme of Child Protection Committee under Mission Vatsalya on the 'Implementation of Child Rights' at Government Degree College Shopian.

ADDC graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Principal Government Degree College, Shopian, Prof. Mohammad Shafiq was the Guest of Honour.

During his address, ADDC highlighted the significance of such training programmes in creating awareness and fostering a collective approach. He underscored the essential role played by collaborative efforts in ensuring the safety and wellbeing



of children within the community. The ADDC emphasised that the primary objective of the programme was to enlighten stakeholders about the Mission Vatsalya guidelines, ensuring a comprehensive understanding and implementation of child. He appealed to the stakeholders to exhibit their best to implement the juvenile justice for child protection in the district. He laid emphasis on child protection to stop the child abuse prevailing in the society in different manifestations. He said that the aim of

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

Speaking at the event, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Shopian, Farhana Tak explained the importance of the programme and gave a detailed description of the topic and its working mechanism at the district level. Chairperson, CWC, Farooq Ahmed also highlighted that under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), the department focuses on providing preventive,

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

He said that District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), are actively working to ensure the implementation of child rights and juvenile justice acts, while also combating child labour and violations of relates laws." He also focused on understanding child rights.

Various stakeholders, including, DDC Member, Raja Waheed, Administrator, OSC, Sumaira Gulzar, Members CWC, Representatives from DLSA, Police, Teachers, Media, Asha Workers and Anganwadi workers attended the programme.

## DDC inaugurates first batch of training under PM Vishwakarma Scheme at Govt. ITI Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 16

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary inaugurated the first batch of training under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, here today.

The inaugural ceremony took place at Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Poonch and witnessed the commencement of Tailoring (Darzi) training, providing an invaluable source of skilled enhancement for aspiring Vishwakarma candidates.

The Superintendent Government ITI Poonch, Er. Jawaid Ahmed, extended warm welcome to Deputy Commissioner and members of District Level implementing Committee members including the General Manager District Industries Centre Poonch, Khalid Hussain Wafa, District Treasury Officer, Rashid Dostum and staff



members of Govt. ITI Poonch.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner shed light on the Vishwakarma Scheme and various other government initiatives. He informed that the training program would

span six days, with participants receiving a daily stipend of Rs 500, amounting to Rs 3000 in total.

Additionally, a sum of Rs 15000 would be granted for procuring a toolkit. Furthermore, the government would extend a loan

of 100000, accompanied by a 5% interest subsidy on first tranche.

Deputy Commissioner encouraged the trainees to leverage their skills and open their own businesses in the market, such as carpentry, boutique, plumbing, among others, in order to seize opportunities, earn a livelihood, and lead fulfilling lives.

The General Manager of DIC, Khalid Hussain Wafa also addressed the gathering and provided further insights into the Vishwakarma Scheme and its associated benefits. His informative speech highlighted the scheme's potential to empower individuals and foster entrepreneurship, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic growth of the region.

## GDC Marh organises 2 day workshop on 'Campus Bird Count'

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

NSS unit joined hands with Bird watching club of Government Degree College Marh organised two day workshop on 'Campus Bird Count, here on the college campus.

The college is registered on e-bird world's largest citizen Science Project. The programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest Prof Rakesh Kumar Koul (College Principal) along with Dr Parmil Kumar.

The workshop was conducted by Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Assistant Prof. in Political Science, a famous bird lover of Jammu and Kashmir under the overall supervision of Prof. Rakesh Kumar Koul Principal, GDC Marh who explained the mystic connection between birds and humans.

The invited speakers of the event Dr Parmil Kumar, HOD, Department of Statistics, Uni-



versity of Jammu and Dr. Pankaj Chandan, a wildlife biologist and an expert on Himalayan ecology inspired students to pursue higher studies in ornithology and also stressed on the importance of wetlands and birds species. They also highlighted the role of birds for conservation of humanity.

Dr Parmil Kumar No. 1 birder of J&K who has 482 bird species of J&K and 800 bird species of India to his credit and is a well-known bird reviewer of India donated reading material to the college

for knowledge sharing among the students. He explained the importance of J&K for having 50% of birds found in India in comparison to the area of other states and shared that bird ROOK is the bird found in R S Pura jammu only in whole of India.

There was an interactive session between faculty, students and the invited speaker wherein the students raised various queries concerning birds and were replied satisfactorily. During the programme a photographic exhibition/ book exhibition showcasing

birds of J&K along with equipments required for bird watching was also displayed.

The invited speakers were felicitated with Letter of Appreciation and Mementos. In the end, students shared their feedback and experience about the programme that how such type of programmes inspire, motivate them to connect with nature and choose their career. Refreshment was served to the participants.

Prof Anita Kumari, Prof Intiaz Shahid, Prof Madhvi Parasher, Dr Ashu Jolly Prof Asha Kumari, Dr Balwinder Saini, Prof Shalhu Gupta, Dr Shakun Sharma, Prof Anjana Chib, Dr Sheetal Devi, Ravi Kumar(Incharge Tourism club), were also present during the event. Dr Ram Dayal presented formal vote of thanks. Technical support was provided by Mohit Kalotra and Rachhpal Lal.

## SDM reviews functioning of Forest, Social Forestry Departments in Ramnagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 16

In accordance with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, Sub Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral today presided over a comprehensive review meeting with officers and officials of Forest and Social Forestry departments in his office chamber.

In attendance were Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Ramnagar, Naresh Majotra, Rang Officer Avtar Singh and other officials. The meeting commenced with the Divisional Forest Officer providing an overview of various schemes and initiatives implemented in the Sub Division.

The Discussion also encompassed the challenges encountered by the department during the summer season, particularly in tackling the forest

fire incidents and demarcation of forest land.

The SDM asked the DFO to constitute a committee of officials of Forest, Fire and Emergency services and police departments to manage forest fires and other related incidents effectively. "The meeting of Committee shall be convened in the month of March 2024 to formulate a plan to tackle the forest fire incidents effectively" he said.

Further, the SDM directed to monitor the demarcation of forest land, for which a Committee of revenue and forest officials has already been constituted by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur. He asked the Committee to



complete the task by 15th March 2024.

The SDM emphasized the importance of raising awareness among local communities about the Forest Rights Act and protection of forest.

It was decided that concerned Naib Tehsildars

and Range officers shall strive to get registered 5 Van Mitras from each village within one month, who shall work for the protection, conservation and development of forests on volunteer basis and promote community plantation by roping in local people. They will also be an effective source of information at the times of disaster and emergent situation like forest fire and will help the forest department in fire fighting.

He further directed the Department to identify two locations for forest trails - one around Ramnagar town and one at RC Peak for community training and promotion of tourism in the Sub Division.

## Special Training on NMBA program held at different blocks of Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 16

The District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Budgam and One Stop Centre Budgam held a series of training pro-

grammes under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) at Block Budgam, Beerwah, B.K.Pora and Chadoora

The events, held from 10th to 15th February, brought together a diverse group of participants,

including supervisors, SHG (NRLM) members, and health workers. This collaborative initiative aimed to build capacity and enhance awareness regarding the vital Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Participants were

engaged in meaningful discussions and interactive sessions, fostering a deep understanding of the initiative's goals. The focus was on equipping supervisors, AWWs ASHA Workers, community Mobilizers (SHG-

NRLM) with the necessary knowledge and skills to actively contribute to the success of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. Resource persons, including Afroza Bhat (DMC DHEW) delivered a speech on NMBA, providing major informa-

tion regarding the rise of drug abuse and steps to combat such abuse through rehabilitation centres and ATFs available in the district. DHEW-Mission Shakti Budgam remains steadfast in its commitment to positively impact wom-

en's lives. This sensitization program serves as a testament to their dedication. By empowering key stakeholders, the mission seeks to amplify the reach and effectiveness of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan initiative.



## Grand Shobha Yatra will be organized by SGRDSS Trust J&K on Sunday, Feb 18

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

A grand Shobha Yatra will be organised by Shri Guru Ravi Dass S S Trust/ Society J&K on 18th Feb 2024(Sunday) under the aegis of Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri ji Maharaj. The Shobha Yatra will start from Bari Brahmana at 11.00 AM and will culminate at Sukhsagar Bhawan Sikanderpur Kothey, Jammu via Bishnah. While addressing the media persons C L Banal (Retd IGP), chairman Shri Guru Ravi Dass S S Trust appealed to sangat to participate in the 'Shobha Yatra' along with colourful Jhankies. and advised to Sewadars to maintain discipline during Shobha Yatra. The stalls of eatables, water etc will be arranged by different sabha's/sangat on the route of Shobha Yatra.



Beautiful welcome gates will be established/ prepared by different sabha's on the way of yatra. He also informed that whosoever wants to prepare welcome gate, stalls of eatables or for any other information can contact mob nos:- 9419000438, 9419104480 and 9797433003.

It is worthwhile to mention here that renowned Singer Priya Banga is also participating in the Shobha Yatra and she will sing bhajans giving message of Amritvani of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj.

Guru ka Langer will be distributed among sangat and Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri ji Maharaj will delivered spiritual sermons.

Er Ramesh Bhasin, chairman Shri Guru Ravi Dass sabha Bishnah, Sh Sham Lal Kundal, president Shri Guru Ravi Dass sabha R S Pura, Sh Devi Dass , general secretary Shri Guru Ravi Dass Trust Sikanderpur, M L Banalia general secretary Shri Guru Ravi Dass Satsang Society(J&K), Er Natha Ram vice chairman Shri

Guru Ravi Dass S S Trust Sikanderpur appealed to participate in the Shobha Yatra and during Sant Sammelan to be organised by Shri Guru Ravi Dass S S Trust on 10th March(Sunday) 2024 at Sukhsagar Bhawan Sikanderpur Kothey Jammu.

Programe:- Amritvani Path--from 10.00AM to 11.00 AM.

Sant pravachan :- From 11.00 AM onwards. Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri ji Maharaj will deliver spiritual sermons on this occasion.

Those who participated/ addressed press conference included Kesar Singh, Er Joginder Pal, Er Surinder Devgoda, Er Baldev Chadgal, Parshotam Thapa, Capt Manohar Lal, Sham Lal Basson, Ramesh Bali, Devi Dass(Nitu) Mohan Lal and others.

## KVIB organises one-day awareness programme at Panchayat Ghar Kamble Danga Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 16

A one-day awareness programme was today organized by J&K KVIB at Panchayat Ghar Kamble Danga to encourage local youth to avail self employment opportunities provided under different government schemes.

DDC Councillor Ashu Sharma chaired the event aimed to sensitize the unemployed youth in the area about different schemes offered by KVIB.

The DDC Councillor encouraged budding entrepreneurs to seize the opportunities provided by government schemes to establish self-employment ventures. They were informed that the J&K KVIB implements schemes like the Prime Minister's Employment Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation



Programme (JKREGP).

The event also witnessed the presence of Balwan Singh, Ex Chairman BDC Block Udhampur, who motivated participants and unemployed youth to take advantage of the schemes.

LDM SBI Udhampur Rahul Rana, Director RSETI Udhampur Rajan Khatak, along with Ex

Sarpanches/Panches and a large number of unemployed youths, actively participated in the event.

Earlier, District Officer KVIB, Surinder Paul Sharma, extended warm welcome to all participants, providing a detailed overview of KVIB schemes. He guided budding entrepreneurs on how to apply for financial

assistance under PMEGP and JKREGP, outlining the necessary modalities.

The program concluded with the distribution of sanction letters and EDP certificates to new entrepreneurs whose financial assistance had been sanctioned by the banks, marking a positive step towards fostering self-employment in the region.

## KVK-Anantnag launches Training program on 'Organic Fruit Production for Sustainable Agriculture'

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 16

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, affiliated with SKUAST-Kashmir today inaugurated a 4-day training program titled 'Organic Fruit Production - A Way Forward' as part of the HADP project, which focuses on 'Alternate System of Agriculture for Sustainability.'

Dr. I. A. Mir, in his opening remarks, welcomed the participants, signaling the commencement of this significant initiative.

This training program aligns with the broader efforts of SKUAST-Kashmir, guided by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makdoomi, Director Extension & Education, Prof. H. R. Naik, Director Research, and Prof. Parmet Singh, the Principal Investigator of the project.



Dr. Ishtiyahq A. Khan, Head of KVK-Anantnag and Training Coordinator, emphasized the growing global demand for organic food and underscored the importance of embracing organic practices.

During his address, Dr. Khan shed light on the scope and various aspects of organic fruit production, with a special focus on Jammu & Kashmir and the entire nation. The

training program aims to equip participants with knowledge and skills related to sustainable agriculture practices, specifically in the context of organic fruit production.

This initiative is a step forward in promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices, aligning with the increasing global trend towards organic farming. The KVK Anantnag's efforts, under

the umbrella of SKUAST-Kashmir, are geared towards fostering awareness and expertise in organic fruit production, contributing to both local and national agricultural sustainability goals. The strong emphasis on organic practices is expected to have a positive impact on the agricultural landscape, enhancing productivity while preserving the environment.

## Secy RDD advocates enhanced convergence for amplified impact in Udhampur's development

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 16

In a concerted effort to assess and accelerate rural development initiatives, Secretary Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Friday made a comprehensive tour of Udhampur, signalling a robust push towards accelerating rural development initiatives in the district.

Dr Shahid emphasized the critical need for heightened convergence with various departments to amplify the impact of developmental efforts.

Secretary RDD delved into a plethora of pivotal aspects concerning development works, flagship schemes, and centrally sponsored initiatives earmarked for the fiscal year 2023-24 in Udhampur.

Chairing a meeting, he scrutinized various initiatives and projects aimed at fortifying rural infrastructure and nurturing livelihood opportunities through sectoral convergence.

The agenda of the meeting spanned a broad spectrum of issues, including progress under flagship schemes like MGNREGA, advancements in Local Body (LB) projects, prompt payment of wages, meticulous monitoring of delays, the UNNATI project's trajectory, agricultural expenditures, status updates on ongoing projects, and strategies for social audits.

During the deliberations, Block Development Officers (BDOs) were unequivocally instructed to marshal resources with precision, ensuring the seamless execution of schemes while leaving no eligible beneficiary overlooked.

Secretary underscored the need for transparency, accountability, and the unwavering pursuit of set targets in all developmental endeavors.

Dr Shahid enjoined BDOs to harness innovative methodologies to expedite project execution without compromising



ing on quality or adherence to timelines.

Reaffirming the pivotal role of officers in driving effective scheme implementation for public welfare, he stressed the imperative of achieving 100% Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries.

Secretary also emphasized the vital importance of livelihood generation and the sustainable operation and maintenance of assets, urging concerted efforts in these spheres.

Moreover, he emphasized the urgency of forward linkages in door-to-door waste collection and underscored the need for expediting the construction of Panchayat Ghars.

During the deliberations, Block Development

Officers (BDOs) received clear directives to mobilize resources effectively for the implementation of schemes, ensuring the comprehensive coverage of all eligible beneficiaries.

A detailed proposal for the establishment of Community Sanitary Complexes along the National Highway was also deliberated upon, with Dr Shahid highlighting the potential synergies between MGNREGA and other developmental programs.

Emphasizing the importance of livelihood generation and sustainable operation and maintenance of assets, the Secretary called for concerted efforts in these areas.

Earlier, a detailed presentation was made by the Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai, highlighting performance of the district on key performance indicators of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Rural Development department.

Director RDD Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, ADDC Ghan Sham Singh, Additional Secretary RDD, Waseem Raja, ADC Joginder Singh Jasrotia, ACD Dr Ranjit Singh Kotwal, BDOs and field functionaries of RDD along with other senior officers attended the meeting.

## National Campaign on "Ashwagandha: A Medicinal Plant" organised by J&K Ayush

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

J&K State Medicinal Plant Board, Directorate of Ayush, J&K in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammu organized a one day National Campaign cum Training Programme on "Ashwagandha: A Medicinal Plant" under National Campaign on Ashwagandha.

Dr. Mohan Singh, Director Ayush J&K/CEO J&K Medicinal Plants Board and Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu, were chief guests on the occasion.

The training programme was attended by 80 medicinal plant growers of Jammu District.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Amrish Vaid appreciated the efforts of KVK Jammu for conducting this National Level campaign on medicinal plants particularly focusing on Ashwagandha for the medicinal plant growers of Jammu District. He also asked the farmers to grow other medicinal plants also because of their high market demand and price as compared to other crops. He apprised them that medicinal plants are less prone to Insect and Disease attack.



Dr. Mohan Singh in his address explained different initiatives of Ayush department in promoting the medicinal plant based medicines. He also apprised that Directorate of Ayush has opened number of wellness centres at different locations in J&K state. He also assured them that J&K State Medicinal Board would help them in marketing of their produce to industry.

At the outset, Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Jammu welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries in this National Campaign cum Training Programme. Dr. Rakesh Kumar

Raina, Assistant Director, Directorate of Ayush, J&K gave a brief description of the various medical camps conducted by the Ayush Directorate for the awareness and popularization of ayurvedic medicines in J & K.

Expert lecture was delivered by Dr Wahid Ul Hassan, Technical Officer, State Medicinal Board J&K. He gave a brief description and outline of the training Programme. He also explained the different projects, programmes and schemes of State Medicinal Plant Board of J & K for the medicinal plant growers.

Dr. Lalit Mohan Gupta Prof. & Head,

Div. of Medicinal Plants, SKUAST-Jammu delivered an expert lecture on the "Care and Management of Ashwagandha and other medicinal plants".

Dr. Ravneet Kour, Chief Scientist Horticulture, Dr. Prem Kumar, Scientist Fisheries, Dr. Muneeshwar Sharma, Scientist Plant Protection, Dr. Amitesh Sharma, Scientist Plant Breeding conducted a farmer Scientist interaction cum Kisan ghosthi. S. Satbir Singh, Programme Assistant Trainings also helped in the smooth conductance of the Programme.

Dr. Prem Kumar presented the vote of thanks.

## DC Kathua chairs District NCORD meeting to review Anti-Drug Measures

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 16

Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss and review measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and the narcotics trade in the district.

During the meeting, extensive deliberations were held on issues pertaining to drug addiction, identification of areas of concern, and hotspots of drug abuse. Additionally, measures undertaken by law enforcement agencies to combat this menace were thoroughly examined.

The Assistant Drug Controller provided an update on the installation of CCTV



cameras in pharmacies, with a total of 638 out of 692 cameras already operational. These cameras are crucial in monitoring the sale of psychotropic drugs over the counter.

Furthermore, it was highlighted that 50 pharmacy licenses were revoked due to non-compliance with guidelines and directives.

Instructing ADCs and SDMs to maintain a stringent vigilance on the sale of over-the-counter drugs,

the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for random inspections of pharmaceutical establishments to ensure the efficacy of CCTV surveillance systems. SDM Bani was specifically directed to prevent the cultivation of narcotics and psychotropic substances in the hilly terrains known for such activities.

The DC urged concerned authorities to take action against unregistered de-addiction cen-

ters operating within Kathua. Reviewing the Nasha Mukat Panchayat campaign, the DC directed ADC Basohli, ADC Billawar, SDM Hiranagar, and SDM Bani to identify and declare five panchayats each in their respective jurisdictions as Nasha Mukat Panchayats.

Chief Education Officer was tasked with launching an extensive awareness campaign in schools to educate students about the perils of drug abuse. Lastly, the DC instructed the Chief Medical Officer to compile a comprehensive list of de-addiction centers and clinics operating in the district.

Among others, SSP Kathua, ADC Kathua, ACD, CMO, CEO, Officers from BSF and other departments were also present.



## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## Congress people used...

Congress, Modi said those who used to call Lord Ram imaginary and did not want a temple to be built in Ayodhya are also chanting 'Jai Siya Ram' now.

For decades, the Congress had created obstacles in the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He said he had given a guarantee and fulfilled it by scrapping Article 370.

The Congress' track record is to keep the interest of one family above that of the country and its people, he charged.

The Congress' track record is of biggest scams in history, he said.

Modi said his first event after the BJP declared him as its prime ministerial candidate in the run-up to the 2014 general elections was in Rewari in September 2013.

"As prime ministerial candidate, I had given some guarantees." The country wanted a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya and it has been fulfilled, he said.

The consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the temple in Ayodhya was conducted last month in the presence of the prime minister. Top Congress leaders had stayed away from the consecration ceremony, accusing the BJP of making it into a "political project" for electoral gains and asserting that religion is a "personal matter".

Modi said people are now saying that since he has come to Rewari again, the BJP-led NDA will win more than 400 seats this time – 'Abki Baar NDA Sarkar 400 Paar' – with people's blessings. The Lok Sabha polls are due in April-May.

Seats are important in a democracy, "but for me people's blessings are the biggest asset", he added.

India could successfully host the G-20 summit last year because of people's blessings, he told the gathering.

In the 10 years of his government, India rose from the eleventh spot to become the fifth largest economy in the world and it was due to people's blessings, he further said.

"I need your blessings to make India the third largest economy in my third term, in coming years," he said.

Nowadays, there is a lot of talk in the country and across the world about "Modi's guarantee", he said, adding "Rewari was the first witness to Modi's guarantee."

During his visit, Modi inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 9,770 crore related to urban transport, health, rail and tourism.

To be built at a cost of about Rs 1,650 crore, the AIIMS-Rewari will be developed on 203 acres of land in Majra Bhalkhi village.

The AIIMS-Rewari will have a hospital complex with 720 beds, a medical college with 100 seats, a nursing college with 60 seats, an AYUSH block with 30 beds, residential accommodation for the faculty and staff members, hostel accommodation for undergraduate and postgraduate students, a night shelter, a guesthouse, etc.

Established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), the AIIMS-Rewari will provide comprehensive, quality and holistic tertiary-care health services to the people of Haryana and some of the neighbouring states.

The prime minister also laid the foundation stone of Gurugram Metro Rail project, which will be developed at a cost of about Rs 5,450 crore.

The project, with a total length of 28.5 km, will connect Millennium City Centre to Udyog Vihar Phase-5 and merge in the existing network of Rapid Metro Rail Gurugram at Mousari Avenue station near Cyber City.

On the occasion, the prime minister also inaugurated a newly built Anubhav Kendra Jyotisar, Kurukshetra. This experiential museum has been built at a cost of around Rs 240 crore.

Jyotisar, Kurukshetra is the sacred site where Lord Krishna imparted the eternal wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna.

He laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple railway projects. The projects whose foundation stone was laid include doubling of Rewari-Kathuwas rail line (27.73 km); doubling of Kathuwas-Narnaul rail line (24.12 km); doubling of Bhiwani-Dobh Bhal rail line (42.30 km); and doubling of Manheru-Bawani Khera rail line (31.50 km).

He also dedicated to the nation the Rohtak-Meham-Hansi rail line (68 km), which will reduce the travel time between Rohtak and Hisar.

He also flagged off a train service in the Rohtak-Meham-Hansi section. (Agencies)

## Congress is corrupt...

Lashing out at Congress, the PM further said, "After independence, today this golden period has come. India has this opportunity to leave behind all the disappointments from 10 years ago. India is moving forward now with confidence. Before 2014, there used to be only discussions of scams and bombings. People in India used to wonder what would happen to them and to the country. During the Congress regime, this was the atmosphere..."

"Congress has only one agenda, anti-Modi, extreme anti-Modi. They spread such things against Modi, which divide the society. When a party gets trapped in the vicious circle of nepotism and dynasty politics, the same thing happens to it. Today everyone is leaving Congress, only one family is seen there" PM Modi added.

He also expressed gratitude to the people of Rajasthan for giving a grand welcome to the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, who was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

Hitting at the previous Congress government in Rajasthan, the PM said, "During the regime of the previous government in Rajasthan, there used to be frequent paper leaks, and youth used to get affected by this. To investigate this, an Special Investigation Team was formed as soon as the BJP came to power. The Central Government has formed a stringent law against those who indulge in paper leaks..."

"Several people from every Assembly of Rajasthan have joined this important program, I congratulate all of you... A few days ago, the grand welcome you gave to the President of France in Jaipur echoed throughout India and France..." PM said.

During the programme, Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 17,000 crore.

The projects cater to several important sectors including Roads, Railways, Solar Energy, Power Transmission, Drinking water and Petroleum and Natural Gas, as per a statement from Prime Minister's Office.

The programme was organised at about 200 places across all districts of Rajasthan, with the main programme held at Jaipur. The state-wide programme witnessed the participation of lakhs of beneficiaries of various government schemes. The programme was also joined by Chief Minister Rajasthan, other Ministers of Rajasthan Government, MPs, MLAs and local-level representatives. (Agencies)

## Weatherman predicts...

till afternoon, late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter.

In Jammu region, he said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow over higher reaches with thunder, lightning at many places on February 18.

On February 19 and 20, Director MeT said that there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain with thunder, lightning in plains of Jammu with light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Ramban, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar

"Intermittent light to moderate snow and rain is expected over many places till late afternoon, evening and gradual improvement thereafter on February 21," he said.

The weatherman has, however, issued an advisory, saying that the system may lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes like Sinthan pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna & Razdan pass, Zojila and others.

He advised the travellers to plan accordingly.

Moreover, the Director MeT advised the farmers to withheld irrigation and fertilizer application & drain out excess water from Orchards and fields during the above period.

Significant drop in day temperature during the above period is expected, he said.

Meanwhile, the Mechanical Engineering Department (MED) Kashmir has urged people not to park their vehicles on the roadsides.

Kaplesh Pandita, a senior officer at MED Kashmir told KNO that the department is all geared up and has made all arrangements to ensure smooth snow clearance from the roads.

"A mock drill has already been done, all men and machinery are ready. We urge people not to park their vehicles on the road sides during the snowfall," he said.

Another senior official looking into the functioning of the provincial control room said that they have activated 22 control and sub control rooms across the valley and that all men and machinery are on standby mode.

"There are around 300 machines available with the mechanical and hospital engineering department and they are already stationed in all districts," officials said.

He said that in district Srinagar alone, they have stationed over 40 machines to address any issues arising from the forecast weather conditions.

The official also said that in order to ensure no or least damage chances to the roads during snow clearance they have procured high tech snow clearance machines with plastic cartilage snow blades.

Moreover, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners & Head of Civil Departments wherein he directed all the departments to keep men, material and machinery ready to tackle any exigency that may emerge from the expected snowfall.

He also directed officers to mobilize their field staff for effective & timely response to any emergency—(KNO)

## RTO Jammu discloses...

from 2022-23, 56 Deluxe buses with a seating capacity of 34 were acquired by the Regional Transport Office Jammu.

The RTO Jammu currently has a fleet of 1,160 JKSRTC vehicles, including both old and new. According to the RTI, there are over 282 new and 329 SRTC buses under the RTO Jammu. Additionally, the RTO Jammu possesses a fleet of 373 old vehicles and 176 trucks/trollers. Furthermore, it is revealed that the revenue generated by newly purchased passenger vehicles amounts to Rs 5423.51 lakh—(KNO)

## Farooq misses 3 parliament...

Session 2020 and Monsoon Session 2021. He has participated in just 11 debates which include the need to restore Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir in Special Mention on 22-09-2020.

The eleven questions asked by the parliamentarian from Srinagar mostly focus on development in Jammu & Kashmir and also the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

It is pertinent to mention that Tariq Hamid Karra represented the same constituency for the period of just two years from 2014-2016. His performance was a bit better than Farooq Abdullah as he had asked 20 questions and participated in four debates with 34 per cent attendance in two years tenure.

Notably, KNO in its earlier reports mentioned the performance of other two NC MPs from Kashmir including Muhammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi. Masoodi is the top performer among the three parliamentarians from Kashmir, who has an overall attendance of 85 per cent and participated in 126 debates and asked 73 questions from 2019-2024—(KNO)

## Highway toll collector...

hassle-free travel, buy your FASTag from 32 authorised banks.

The 32 authorised banks include Airtel Payments Bank, Allahabad Bank, Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, and Yes Bank, among others.

A senior NHAI official told PTI that India has over 8 crore FASTag users and Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) has around 30 per cent market share.

Earlier, IHMCL in a letter dated January 19, 2024 had barred Paytm Payments Bank from issuing fresh FASTags.

On January 31, the Reserve Bank directed Paytm Pay-

ments Bank (PPBL) to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29.

However, any interest, cashbacks, or refunds may be credited back to customers anytime.

"No further deposits or credit transactions or top-ups shall be allowed in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, NCMC cards, etc. after February 29, 2024, other than any interest, cashbacks, or refunds which may be credited anytime," the RBI said.

Further, withdrawal or utilisation of balances by its customers from their accounts, including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards are to be permitted without any restrictions, up to their available balance.

"No other banking services, other than those ...like fund transfers (irrespective of name and nature of services like AEPS, IMPS, etc), BBPOU and UPI facility should be provided by the bank after February 29, 2024," it had added.

The direction followed persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns, the central bank had said in a statement.

IHMCL has said it is encouraging FASTag users to complete the 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) process of their latest FASTag as per RBI guidelines.

The banks authorised for issuing FASTags also include Union Bank of India, Thrissur District Cooperative Bank, South Indian Bank, Saraswat Bank, Nagpur Nagrik Sahkari Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Karur Vyasya Bank, J&K Bank, Indusind Bank, Indian Bank, IDFC First Bank, FINO Bank, Equitable Small Finance Bank, Cosmos Bank, City Union Bank Ltd, Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, AU Small Finance Bank, and Axis Bank.

FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India operated by the NHAI. It employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for allowing toll payments directly from the linked bank accounts. (Agencies)

## J&amp;K has opportunity to...

following the Prime Minister's call, States such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Nagaland have also adopted the model of lavender cultivation, which shows that J&K is proving to be an example whose innovations and best practices are being emulated by other States of the country.

In the same way, India has made a name for itself the world over, with its success stories in the form of the indigenously developed COVID vaccine and much-talked about Chandrayaan Mission, Dr Singh stated. When the whole world was calamity-hit by the pandemic, Dr Jitendra Singh explained that it provided India an opportunity to emerge as a messiah for the global community as India-made vaccines saved lakhs of lives across the world. He said India is no more a country to be led by others, rather, it is a nation which has taken the mantle to lead the world.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has earned recognition as a propagator and a brand ambassador, with its traditional medicines and practices like Yoga becoming a panacea, adding that oriental methods of disease management and prevention are no more the only way for cure.

The Union Minister said, at the recent G20 Summit held in India, Prime Minister Modi proposed establishing a Global bio alliance to promote collaboration and sharing of best practices among the nations.

PM Modi is India's brand ambassador who has popularised Yoga, millets and traditional Indian remedies across the world, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that it was the initiative of the Prime Minister to have the UN declare the International Day of Yoga and the International Year of Millets. He said India has shed the tag of a fragile economy, and has now emerged as a fertile economy, adding that it is on its course to become a third largest economy in the world.

Calling for collaboration among the emerging agri-start-ups and the industry, Dr Jitendra Singh said now is the time for greater integration, adding that the era of silos is over. He reasoned that India success stories, including Covid vaccine, Chandrayaan Mission and Aroha Mission, are the by-products of collaborative efforts between the StartUps and the industry, producers and the market. The Union Minister said the government has created an enabling ecosystem which must be optimised, he suggested.

## Pakistani quadcopters...

Pakistan is using drones to drop narcotics and weapons in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police recently announced a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh to anyone providing information about drones flown from across the border with a purpose to drop weapons and narcotics.

## SC tags plea challenging...

Rashadi Madani, a resident of Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh.

During the brief hearing, the CJI asked as to how the provisions violate the rights of men.

The counsel for Madani said the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 criminalise instant Triple Talaq and provide for punishment to men.

Sections 3 and 4 of the law are contrary to each other, the lawyer claimed.

Section 3 terms Triple Talaq as illegal and section 4 provides for three years jail term and fine for husbands for granting instant divorce through this mode.

The bench then ordered tagging of the pleas filed earlier on the issue by two Muslim organisations- Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and 'Samastha Kerala Jamiaathul Ulema', a religious organisation of Sunni Muslim scholars and clerics in Kerala.

On August 23, 2019, the top court had agreed to examine the validity of the Act.

Both Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and 'Samastha Kerala Jamiaathul Ulema' have urged the court to declare the law "unconstitutional".

Jamiat claimed in its petition that "criminalising a mode of divorce in one particular religion while keeping

## Tony urges PM to accept demands of protesting farmers



J I NEWS SERVICE  
SUCHETGARI, FEB 16

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh, while reiterating the Congress party's support to the farmers who marched to Delhi protesting for fulfilling their demands, has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of muzzling the voice of the nation's food producers.

He expressed this in his address during a function organized to commence the development work of support roads in village Sae Tengawali of Suchetgarh constituency in RS Pura today. The work was kick-started by him amidst a gathering of a large number of the village and its adjacent areas.

The senior Congress leader stated that it is an irony of the nation that the incumbent BJP Govt instead of accepting the genuine demands of the farmers is showering the tear gas and bullets on the members of farming community. He urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accept the protesting farmers' pending

demands before it is too late and the situation goes out of control.

Meanwhile after kick-starting the developmental work at village Sae Tengawali, Tony said that nearly ten years ago a bridge was constructed but its utility remained elusive as the authorities failed to construct the approach cum support roads leading to the bridge. He asserted that this reflects the poor planning on the part of successive representatives of the area. He said that the construction of the bridge and the supporting roads should have been executed simultaneously, but that did not happen for years together and the roads could not qualify to be called roads in true sense. The senior Congress leader said that realizing his duty as the representative of the area, he took up the matter with the concerned authorities and finally got the long pending demand of the people of the area fulfilled. Prominent among others present on the occasion were Sarpanch Sham Lal Bhagat, Kissan Neta Mandeep Choudhary, Sonu Randhawa, Ramesh Choudhary and Baldev Singh Bedu.

the subject of marriage and divorce in other religions only within the purview of civil law, leads to discrimination, which is not in conformity with the mandate of Article 15".

Article 15 of the Constitution deals with prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Jamiat has claimed since the pronouncement of Triple Talaq by a Muslim husband upon his wife had already been declared "void and illegal", there was no requirement to enact the law.

"However, the impugned Act criminalises the act of pronouncement of talaq by a Muslim husband and makes it a cognizable offence, without appreciating that such pronouncement had already been declared unconstitutional and amounted to nullity in the eyes of law," Jamiat has said in its plea.

Referring to the provision of the Act which stipulates punishment of up to three years jail along with fine, the plea said it is an "ill-conceived provision which imposes excessive and disproportionate punishment". (Agencies)

## Law commission...

Indian origin with that of Indian citizens. "The rising occurrence of fraudulent marriages involving Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) marrying Indian partners is a worrisome trend. Several reports highlight an increasing pattern where these marriages turn out to be deceptive, putting Indian spouses, especially women, in precarious situations," Justice Awasthi said in his covering letter to Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday.

Such a legislation, the panel said, should be made applicable not only to the NRIs but also to those individuals who come within the definition of 'Overseas Citizens of India' (OCIs) as laid down in the Citizenship Act, 1955.

"It is further recommended that all marriages between the NRIs/OCIs and Indian citizens should be made compulsorily registered in India," Justice Awasthi said.

He said the comprehensive central legislation should also include provisions on divorce, maintenance of spouse, custody and maintenance of children, serving of summons, warrants, or judicial documents on the NRIs and OCIs.

"Further, it is recommended that requisite amendments need to be introduced in the Passports Act, 1967 in order to mandate the declaration of marital status, the linking of a spouse's passport with the other and mentioning of the marriage registration number on the passports of both the spouses," he told the government.

The commission recalled that in order to deal with the emerging situation, the Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indians Bill, 2019, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on February 11, 2019.

Initially, the 16th (previous) Lok Sabha referred the bill to the Committee on External Affairs. Subsequently, the same bill was again referred to the Committee on External Affairs after the 17th (present) Lok Sabha was constituted, for further examination.

As deliberations continued, the Law Commission received a reference on the NRI Bill, 2019 from the Ministry of External Affairs, conveyed through the Law Ministry in April last. (Agencies)



## Drug Control Authorities close down 06 medical shops at Kulgam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 16

Drug Control Authorities today closed down 06 medical shops in Kalam, Agroo, Devsar, Brinal and Lammar of district Kulgam after they were found violating the conditions of licenses besides other mandatory Govt. directive regarding CCTV and Computerized Billing System and issuance of cash memos/invoices.

Moreover, many other pharmacies were also inspected and statutory drug samples were lifted for analysis purposes to ascertain their quality



parameters.

The team of officers headed by Assistant Drug Controller Anantnag informed that such inspections are routinely carried out as mandated under law. He added that our organisation has already

sensitized chemists to adopt a robust system for maintenance of records and CCTV Surveillance to plug in gaps to avoid misuse of essential life saving scheduled formulations along with observing conditions of licenses.

## Pariksha Pe Charcha

### DC B'la presides an event to promote Stress Free Examinations programme

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 16

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with School Education department Baramulla today held a day-long event at Govt. Boys' Higher Secondary School Baramulla to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 7th edition of envisaged program, 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 6.0'.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa was the chief guest on the occasion. The event was attended by CEO Baramulla, Balbir Singh Raina, Deputy CEO, HoD DIET, representative from NCPCR, teachers, parents and school children.

During his address, the DC emphasized the crucial role that both teachers and parents play in creating a supportive and stress-free environment for students as they prepare for their upcoming exams.

Minga Sherpa further urged parents to relinquish the burdensome "make it or break it" mentality regarding their children's exam results and encouraged them to view this period as an opportunity for their wards to



learn and develop regardless of the outcome.

The CEO highlighted that under the guidance of DC Baramulla, the Education department has been conducting Pariksha Pe Charcha Programs across the five sub-divisions, zones, and cluster heads of the district to promote a stress free environment for the students appearing in the exams.

Meanwhile, representative from NCPCR discussed in length about Exam Warriors, a book by PM, Narendra Modi aiming to empower students with the tools and

strategies to navigate the exam season with confidence, resilience, and a sense of purpose, ultimately shaping them into well-rounded individuals capable of facing life's challenges with grace and determination.

It is worth mentioning here that 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is a nationwide program started by the PM in 2018 to create a stress free atmosphere for students appearing in the yearly board exams. The PM held an interactive session with the students across the country on 29th of January.

## Div Com reviews preparation of departments in view of expected change in weather

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 16

In view of the change in weather & forecast of heavy snowfall in the Valley in coming days, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners & Head of Civil Departments wherein he directed all the departments to keep men, material and machinery ready to tackle any exigency that may emerge out of the expected snowfall.

He also directed officers to mobilize their field staff for effective & timely response to any emergency.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners; Commissioner SMC; Director ULB and officers of line departments including PWD, PHE, KPDC, KPTCL, PMGSY and Telecommunication Service providers.

He instructed Mechanical Engineering Department, PWD (R&B) and PMGSY for simultaneous snow clearance to ensure all roads remain open for connectivity



and transportation.

Similarly, Div Com enjoined on KPDC for making workshops functional to repair damaged transformers within stipulated time besides instructed to ensure restoration of power supply lines in case snow causes any disruption.

While addressing the meeting, Div Com enjoined all the officers to remain available in the field to ensure timely

restoration of services for the convenience of general public.

He also directed them to keep citizens informed through social media regarding the maintenance works being executed to restore services.

For smooth execution of plans, Div Com asked all the concerned departments to work in close coordination and synergy with District Administrations.

## Rs 18 lakh penalty imposed on stone crusher for illegal mining in Ravi River



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 16

Acting tough, Mining and Geology Department has imposed Rs. 18 lakh penalty on Vasudev stone crusher for illegal digging and mining by using two heavy excavators in Taraf Tajwal area of Ravi River here today.

During surprise late night checking alongside Ravi River, the team of Mining Department, led by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Rajinder Singh seized both excavators along with loaded and unloaded dumpers from the mining site.

The huge machinery of stone crusher including two heavy chain machines

and two dumpers were brought to police post Bhagtal for safe custody. The drivers of other four dumpers and one JCB fled from the mining site.

The DMO informed that after seizing the vehicles including excavators, the mineral raised on the site and dug pits were also measured and accordingly penalty was imposed as per the MM(DR) Act of 1957 and SRO-105 of 2016 and also in the light of NGT and other orders of courts.

It is pertinent to mention here that one lease has been sanctioned in private land on the bank of Ravi but the stone crusher was excavating mineral one km away

from the lease out areas, besides dispatching dumpers towards Punjab side without e-challans.

Meanwhile, a notice has also been served upon the owner of stone crusher to show cause for bringing massive mineral as well as environmental degradation in the Ravi River where replenishment of mineral is not possible during rainy season.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas already instructed the mining department for taking stringent measures to curb the menace of illegal mining and illegal digging anywhere in the River beds or other areas of government as well as private land.

## Secretary Planning chairs public grievances redressal camp at Bhambla panchayat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, FEBRUARY 16

Secretary Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a public grievances redressal camp at Bhambla panchayat in Pouni block to assess and address public issues and concerns. District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, besides other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The locals apprised the Secretary of their grievances and demands seeking an early redressal to the same. The issues raised inter alia included infrastructure development, healthcare facilities, staff shortage in health department, construction of bridge near Kalidhar temple, completion of pending roads, school upgradation, fresh survey of PMAY, monkey menace, ambulance availability, school building repairs, low voltage in certain areas and construction of a playground in the area.

Various government departments, including Agriculture, Health, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and Social Welfare, set up their stalls to raise awareness among the people about the central and Jammu and Kashmir government schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary emphasized the government's commitment towards addressing the needs of



the people on priority basis while highlighting the importance of holding these grievance camps for resolving public issues at their doorsteps.

He mentioned the LG Mulakat programme as an effective platform for people to directly raise grievances with the Lieutenant Governor, encouraging the public to use the platform to get their genuine concerns redressed. This unique initiative is one of his many programs aimed to infuse accountability and transparency in the system making the governance more people centric, he added.

Secretary said that the Sports department and the J&K Sports Council would soon conduct a survey to identify suitable land for playgrounds.

Regarding the issue of water scarcity, Secretary informed that the Border Roads Organization (BRO) is regularly supplying water tankers to the affected areas. He said that a team of engineers

would soon visit the area to resolve the water problems.

Aijaz Asad urged upon the youth to take advantage of various government schemes tailored for their socio-economic empowerment. He specifically encouraged local artisans to register themselves under the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

While addressing the residents of Bhambla, Vishesh Paul Mahajan assured the residents that all their genuine demands would be fulfilled in a timely manner. He highlighted that the administration is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability.

ADDC, Sukhdev Singh Sambyal, PO Poshan Mohammad Anwar Bandy, Joint Director Planning Sunita Kanchan, ACD Pardeep Kumar, CEO, Chief Agriculture and Horticulture Officers, Tehsildar, BMO, BDO Pouni, and other senior district officers were present on the occasion.

## JKAACL showcases 'Ek Shaam Veeroon Ke Naam'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBHA, FEBRUARY 16

To pay tributes to the martyrs and to show solidarity with the brave soldiers, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages today presented a mesmerising Music & Dance programme titled 'Ek Shaam Veeroon Ke Naam', here at Veer Bhoomi Park, Samba.

Addressing the gathering, Sanjeev Gupta, SOCA, Kathua of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages stated that

JKAACL always tries to showcase a variety of events in the samba district. Today's event 'Ek Shaam Veeroon Ke Naam' is the bouquet of different forms of culture of Jammu region. The programme was conducted under able guidance of Bharat Singh, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. The programme was started with the vibrant Dogri folk by Amit Kumar & Party followed by folk dogri singing by Rakesh Kumar & Party. The stage was further

taken by Raman Salathia who left everyone stunned with his power packed singing skills. The programme was further culminated with the presentations by Milan Cultural and Social Organisation who presented Punjabi songs, Rakesh Kona & Party who showcased Dogri Dance Form 'Phumniyaan' and Razia Akhtar & Party who staged Dogri folk Dance. All the artists received repeated applause from the august gathering.

## Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan GDC Ramgarh organises Nukkad Natak



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBHA, FEBRUARY 16

NSS unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College, Ramgarh today organised a Nukkad Natak on the theme "Nasha Mukti" under the aegis of NMBA.

The nukkad natak was organised under able guidance and supervision of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

Speaking on the occasion, she threw light on existing challenges associated with drug abuse and the urgent need of the hour to curb this issue. She also informed the students about the role of parents, teachers and society in stopping the menace of drug abuse in the society.

Nukkad Natak was performed by NSS Volunteers

of the College and the whole natak was directed by Prof. Brham Dutt, HoD, Dogri & NSS Program Officer. The natak was performed to spread the important message among the masses, especially the youth about the menace of drug abuse and how it spoils the life of young and old alike.

Students of the College enthusiastically witnessed the performance and promised to stay away & abstain from Drug Abuse.

The faculty members who were present Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Bram Dutt, Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Dr. Ekta Rani, Dr. Imityaz, Priya Sharma, Akanksha, Ram Murti, Fayaz Ahmed, Arpana Devi, Sonali Dutta and Sunil Kumar.

## GDC Vijaypur organises Symposium on "Voting is Everyone's Right and We Must Vote During Elections"



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBHA, FEBRUARY 16

Department of Sociology in collaboration with NSS unit of Government Degree College Vijaypur under the banner of Voting Awareness Campaign organised a symposium on the theme, "Voting is Everyone's Right and We Must Vote During Elections" under the supervision and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the college. The main objective of the event was to increase the enrolment of the voters, especially the eligible ones and was to create awareness among the students about their voting rights and how they can enrol themselves in the voter list. More than 15 college students participated in the activity with great enthusiasm, fervour and zeal. The event commenced with the welcome

address by Prof. (Dr.) Anoop Kumar Bhagat, HOD Sociology.

He briefed the students about the importance of voting in a democracy and explained in detail how to register in the electoral rolls through online mode and also enlightened the students about the history of election commission of India. The terms and conditions of the competition were informed by Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Lecturer, Department of Sociology. The certificate of appreciation was given to all the participants. The refreshment was also distributed to all the participants. The event was coordinated by Dr Anoop Kumar Bhagat (Convener) and co-coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Dr. Manoj Heer, Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS), Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr. Radhika Rasyal and Dr. Neelam Kumari.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM**

Tender Notice No. 13/2023-24 Dated: 13.02.2024  
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N. Rly. Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender N. No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
1	94245099A	AIR COMPRESSOR DIESEL DRIVEN 450 CFM PRESSURE 10 KG/CM2	02 NOS	07.03.2024
2	94245044A	AIR PLASMA CUTTING EQUIPMENT	11 NOS	07.03.2024

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

516/24  
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## EDITORIAL

## Scourge of Unemployment needs immediate solution

Unemployment remains a pressing issue plaguing societies worldwide, with far-reaching consequences that extend beyond mere economic concerns. It is a multifaceted problem that demands urgent attention and concerted efforts from governments, businesses, and civil society. As we navigate the complexities of the modern economy, it is imperative to recognize the profound social, psychological, and economic impacts of unemployment and to devise comprehensive strategies to combat it.

First and foremost, unemployment erodes the very fabric of society, leading to feelings of disenfranchisement, despair, and social unrest. When individuals are unable to find meaningful employment despite their best efforts, it can result in a sense of worthlessness and alienation, exacerbating mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Furthermore, prolonged unemployment can fracture communities, deepen inequalities, and undermine social cohesion, creating fertile ground for polarization and discord.

From an economic perspective, unemployment represents a significant waste of human capital and potential. When individuals are sidelined from the workforce, valuable skills and talents go untapped, hindering innovation and productivity growth. Moreover, the economic costs of unemployment are staggering, encompassing lost output, reduced consumer spending, and increased social welfare expenditures. Left unchecked, high levels of unemployment can cripple economies and perpetuate cycles of poverty and underdevelopment.

To address the scourge of unemployment effectively, policymakers must adopt a multifaceted approach that combines short-term interventions with long-term structural reforms. In the immediate term, targeted measures such as job training programs, wage subsidies, and unemployment benefits can provide much-needed relief to those struggling to find work. These initiatives not only alleviate immediate financial hardships but also equip individuals with the skills and resources needed to reenter the workforce successfully.

However, it is equally crucial to address the underlying structural factors that contribute to unemployment, such as technological displacement, globalization, and inadequate education and training systems. Governments must invest in education and vocational training programs that equip individuals with the skills demanded by emerging industries. Additionally, efforts to promote entrepreneurship, small business development, and innovation can create new job opportunities and foster a culture of economic dynamism and resilience.

Furthermore, fostering a supportive business environment is essential to stimulate job creation and economic growth. This entails reducing bureaucratic red tape, streamlining regulatory processes, and providing incentives for businesses to invest in job creation and expansion. Moreover, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation can empower individuals to create their own employment opportunities, thereby reducing reliance on traditional employment models.

Beyond government intervention, businesses also have a critical role to play in addressing unemployment. By prioritizing investments in workforce development, employee training, and job creation, businesses can contribute to the creation of sustainable employment opportunities and foster inclusive growth. Moreover, adopting flexible work arrangements, promoting diversity and inclusion, and embracing technological advancements can help businesses adapt to evolving market dynamics while ensuring that no one is left behind.

In conclusion, addressing the scourge of unemployment requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach that engages governments, businesses, and civil society. By investing in education, training, and innovation, fostering a supportive business environment, and prioritizing job creation and inclusive growth, we can build a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous society for all. Now is the time for bold and decisive action to tackle unemployment head-on and unlock the full potential of our economies and societies.

## Tamil Nadu: The power struggle intensifies

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu, a Governor refused to read the speech prepared by the State Government at the beginning of the 2024-2025 session of the Legislative Assembly and this has opened yet another battlefield in the ongoing war of nerves between the Chief Minister and the Raj Bhavan.

Every year, the parliament as well as the legislative assemblies begin their budget sessions with speeches to be delivered by the President and the respective Governors of the States concerned. The speech to be delivered by the President is prepared by the Government of India in the case of the joint session of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha while it is the State Governments that prepare the speeches of the Governors. By and large, these speeches do not evoke much controversy though the State Government may be administered by the party rival to the one that governs the Centre.

This year saw Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan skipping the speech prepared by the CPI(M) led Government and just reading out the last two sentences which left Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan



and his comrades flabbergasted. The reasons behind the Governor's action are explanatory. The speech prepared by the Chief Minister's Office was a charge sheet against the Centre. The LDF Government blamed the Centre for all the economic woes faced by the State and indicted the union finance minister for "throttling" the funds meant for the State.

The speech prepared by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin's office went one step further. While "blaming" the Centre for not allowing the State to raise finance from non-governmental agencies, the Tamil Nadu Government had incorporated the declaration that the State would not implement the Citizenship Amendment Act enacted by the Centre. There is a ridiculous statement that the granting of citizenship to anybody

is the prerogative of the Centre while the State administration has no role in it.

The speech also blamed the Centre for not giving enough financial package to the State to address the problems arising out of rains and hailstorms in the months of November and December. But what we saw during the floods was the soldiers of the Disaster Relief Forces deployed by the Centre working round the clock to save the victims from flood and waterlogging. The sailors and aviators of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard too were pressed into service by the Centre to help the people from floods.

Though it is known to all policymakers and politicians in Tamil Nadu that the State has to bear the brunt of recurring floods, the State Government has failed to take proper action

to avoid such disasters. The stormwater drains in all cities like Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem, Madurai etc are in a pathetic state. The State administrations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala have left it to the Centre to take whatever solution is needed to address this issue which happens to be the prerogative of the State.

The white paper presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gives a lie to all the charges made by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The summer of 2024 is going to be severe and the Tamil Nadu Government is getting ready to wage a "war" against Karnataka for more water from Kaveri. If the water level in Karnataka's reservoirs is low, what that State should do is anybody's guess. Stalin has done nothing to resolve the perpetual water scar-

city in Tamil Nadu though the State has a more than 1,000 km long coastline. It is possible to build desalination plants along the East Coast with which the entire water requirements of Tamil Nadu could be met. But the Dravidian major has done nothing other than get some resolutions passed in the legislative assembly and sent the same to the Centre.

A Governor who profoundly disagrees with the State government should not stay in office," says a pro-CPI (M) newspaper. The issue is should the Governor read out any trash material given to him by the State Government? The Governor is the representative of the Centre and he has work to do. The only drawback against R N Ravi is that he was appointed by the BJP Government at the Centre. The designs and intentions of the DMK as well as the Left are very clear.

The Constitution has not said that the Governor should be servile to the Chief Minister and the members of his council of ministers. Articles 153 to 164 deal with the appointment of the Governor and his responsibilities. If the Governor feels that the legislation enacted by the State Legislature is not in synchronization with the Constitution, he will send it back to the Government

for review/reconsideration. If the Government is adamant that it would not budge, then the Governor has every right to withhold the Bill and seek legal advice from his lawyers at the Centre. This is what Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said when the ruling CPI(M) wanted to appoint party cadres as vice-chancellors and faculties in the State's universities. The Supreme Court verdict declaring null and void the appointment of the vice-chancellors has vindicated the Governor's contention that the selection was in violation of all norms specified by the UGC.

Interestingly, a book "Indian Constitution" by Dr M V Pylee, constitutional expert and former vice chancellor of Cochin University says that if a difference of opinion erupts between the Governor and the council of ministers, the Governor's decision would prevail. Moreover, the ministry does not have the power to decide what the Governor should or should not do. This book was published by the Kerala Government's own State Institute of Languages! This is the 17th revised edition published in 2020!

(The writer is a special correspondent for National Newspaper; views are personal)

## Electoral bonds verdict a moral defeat for Modi government

NILANJAN MUKHOPADHYAY

The Supreme Court of India's judgment declaring the Electoral Bonds scheme "unconstitutional" is undeniably a substantial setback for the Centre and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The apex court's accompanying directive to the State Bank of India (SBI) to furnish to the Election Commission of India (ECI) details of donations, including donor names and details of the political parties that have received the contributions, and for the ECI to publish these, is double trouble for the Narendra Modi government.

Any suggestion, from overzealous party leaders and supporters, to brazen out this setback and restart the scheme after papering over objectionable clauses via the ordinance route before

the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, would expose the Union government's claims of fighting black money and corruption.

Also, efforts to restore electoral bonds to fund political parties would make the BJP vulnerable to the accusation that it closely associates with crony companies and select industrialists. As it is, the BJP stands accused of parliamentary subterfuge because it circumvented the Rajya Sabha, where it did not have a majority then, by getting wide-ranging amendments to necessary Acts like The Representation of Peoples Act, 1951, The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, The Income Tax Act, 1961 and The Companies Act, passed solely by Lok Sabha as part of a 'Money Bill'.

The BJP and the Modi government are not the first to be accused of close ties with select corporates. However, Modi's connection with a hand-

ful of corporates since his Gujarat days has come in for far greater scrutiny. None of this has ever stuck on the BJP or Modi. But, efforts to bring back the bonds through another route will make him and the party vulnerable to this allegation.

While the landmark verdict, although much delayed, is a victory for democracy, it would be naïve to see it as a great game-changer insofar as the impending general elections are concerned.

Numerous media reports highlight the huge advantage that the BJP has had in securing corporate donations, and that it has secured much above 50 per cent of the total worth of electoral bonds. That said, the Congress and regional parties – especially those running state governments – too have received significantly higher donations, much more than what regional parties in the opposition in various

states have received.

Given that the apex court reserved its judgment in November, it can be safely presumed that the BJP would have been prepared for various scenarios, including the worst – as it eventually turned out.

The BJP might be politically prepared for the situation, but the unanimous verdict by the five judges is a moral defeat for the Modi-led BJP because the scheme was introduced in 2018. This is perhaps the first time that an initiative by the Prime Minister has been called out for being a quid pro quo arrangement.

The court stated that there was a "possibility" that donors could make contributions in return for beneficial policies. But, the judges did not go beyond this and suggest anything more substantive. However, the apex court's observation is a victory for the Opposition, particularly

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is undeniably the most vocal critic of Modi's corporate connections.

For decades now the public has been aware of the influence of money in politics and elections. What the electoral bond changed was that it institutionalised this influence and gave a huge advantage to the ruling party, both at the Centre and states. The February 15 judgment is likely to influence undecided voters, who form a crucial percentage across many constituencies – and this should be a matter of concern for the BJP.

If the Opposition intends to make the most of this judgment and make it an election issue, innovative campaigns and effective communication highlighting how these bonds have not provided a level playing field must be highlighted.

The Opposition must effectively communicate

to the people that the Modi government went ahead with the electoral bonds because it did not wish the public or its adversaries to know which companies were funding it. For the Opposition to do so, it must be above reproach. While battling for more transparency, the Opposition must also demand that the RTI mechanism be reinvigorated by filling in vacancies, etc.

The political impact of the judgment is unclear at this stage, and one cannot rule out the possibility of efforts to overturn or reduce the impact and transparency this judgment promises to bring. Only an attentive civil society can prevent this from happening again.

(Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a Delhi-based journalist, is author of 'Narendra Modi: The Man, The Times'. X: @NilanjanUdwin.)

## Modi's tour signals a geopolitical shift

KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in UAE and Qatar earlier this week, underscoring the importance of the region in India's growing interests in the geo-political strategic outcomes from Arabia. This land masses west of the India ocean, and, especially UAE hadn't seen a visit by an Indian Prime Minister in more than three decades, till Narendra Modi decided to refocus. For nearly three decades before 2015, these nations on the other end of the Arabian Sea had been a distant place for Indian political leadership, occasionally grabbing domestic headlines for the wrong reasons, even though a sizeable chunk of the Indian diaspora was toiling away mostly in labour intensive jobs, sending precious hard foreign currency back to their villages in India. However, the

importance of the region especially strategically important countries such as UAE as a key balancing power in West Asia was lost to the foreign policy makers of the time. The Indian prime minister's seven official visits to the UAE in a decade and reciprocal visits by UAE president Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in a similar timeline, underscore the seriousness both sides have attributed to nurturing, this relationship.

It was in August 2015 when PM Modi visited UAE on the invitation of then crown prince Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which was the foundation of this ever-greening relationship. The joint statement released, stated "The visit of an Indian Prime Minister to UAE after 34 years marks the beginning of a new and comprehensive strategic partnership between India and UAE in a world



of multiple transitions and changing opportunities and challenges."

In recent decades, UAE's economic progress has been one of the global success stories, transforming the nation into a regional leader and a thriving international centre.

India's rapid growth, modernization, and skilled workforce position it as a key player in the global economy. The

robust economic partnership between India and the UAE, upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2015, culminated in the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

This was one of the first CEPAs or bilateral trade agreements India entered with any country with significant economic clout, in decades and a state-

ment released last year on the first anniversary of the CEPA implementation highlighted the positive impact it had on exports in labour-intensive sectors such as 'Mineral Fuels; Electrical Machinery (particularly telephone equipment); Gems & Jewellery; Automobiles; Essential Oils; Other Machinery; Cereals; Other Agri Products; and Chemical Products. The CEPA with UAE proved to be a template for a similar trade agreement India managed to sign with Australia in the same year.

However, another key element of the strategic partnership between India and UAE was the close cooperation on defence, security, and counter-terrorism measures outlined during the 2015 visit. The two sides had in 2015 pledged to "Coordinate efforts to counter radicalization and misuse of religion by groups and countries for inciting hatred,

perpetrating and justifying terrorism or pursuing political aims. Denounce and oppose terrorism in all forms and manifestations, wherever committed and by whomever, calling on all states to reject and abandon the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorism infrastructures where they exist, and bring perpetrators of terrorism to justice. And Work together to control, regulate and share information on the flow of funds that could have a bearing on radicalization activities cooperate in interdicting illegal flows and take action against concerned organizations.

Prime minister's visit this week which could be his last during his current tenure, signifies the importance of West Asia in India's geo-political and geo-economic approach for the 21st Century.

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



## SWD Samba organises Sensitization, Capacity Building Training Program on Juvenile Justice Act, 2015



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 16

The Social Welfare Department Samba today hosted a sensitization and training program here in the conference hall of DDC office Complex as part of Mission Vatsalya to boost child protection efforts.

The aim was to educate everyone about Mission Vatsalya Guidelines, the role of CWC, JJB and CCI, ensuring better child protection measures.

Superintendent of Child Care Institute Parisha pre-

sided over the function.

The event witnessed participation of more than 300 individuals from various stakeholders departments, including representative from the ICDS Samba, Medical professionals, Labour authorities, Education specialists and officers/ officials from DDCPU, CHL, OSC Samba.

Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Neemisha Rajput delivered lecture on functioning of Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board through power point presentation.

Later, Advocate Hitesh Sharma from District Legal Service Authority Samba highlighted the provision of various legislations like Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. Further, Advocate Tania Pargal from District Legal Service Authority highlighted the provision of free legal aid.

This is followed by an in-depth orientation of the program by District Social Welfare Officer Samba, Nawaz Sharief.

Vote of thanks was presented by Sonika Devi CWC Member.

## J&K Resident Commission inks MoU with NYHT



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

Aimed at facilitating the stay of residents of J&K in Delhi, the Jammu and Kashmir today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Youth Hostel Trust (NYHT).

The MoU, which has been inked as part of ongoing endeavours of Resident Commission of J&K under "SAMBHAUV UTSAV", was formally signed by Principal Resident Commissioner, Dr. Rashmi Singh and NYHT's OSD and Officiating Secretary, J S Walia in presence of Chairman NYHT, Mohammad Shafi Pandit, at Chanakya Puri.

The initiative would help the stay of residents of J&K in Delhi who visit the capital city due to various reasons like entrepreneurship, education and medical. Mohammad Shafi Pandit, who has recently been elected as the new Chairman of

National Youth Hostel Trust, welcomed the proposal from J&K House to meet the growing demand for accommodation and also for sharing the catering arrangement.

With signing of this MOU, the National Youth Hostel Trust shall give preference to requests from J&K House for boarding and lodging facility. The infrastructure of 190 beds (including dormitories and individual rooms) with facilities like TV and fridge in AC rooms with attached bathroom, complimentary breakfast shall be available for J&K House as part of this MOU.

The Principal Resident Commissioner mentioned that this initiative has been undertaken as a part of "Hello J&K" component which was launched by Lieutenant Governor of J&K on 13th, February, 2024 while inaugurating "SAMBHAUV UTSAV" at Jammu & Kashmir Resident Commission, New Delhi.

## Director Agriculture visits Khanmoh & Balhama areas of Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 16

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Kanmoh, Balhama areas of Srinagar district and inspected Vermicompost Units, Borewell and Packhouse units established under Holistic Agriculture development programme (HADP) in these areas.

Speaking to the farmers at different places, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of HADP and said that it will have a long term impact on agriculture and allied sectors in the region.

Director Agriculture asked the farmers to take advantage of all the projects under HADP. He underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among the agriculture and allied departments for the successful implementation of all the projects under HADP.

Iqbal impressed upon the officers of the department to organise farmers awareness programs and to accelerate the frequency of field visits so that the farmers could remain updated regarding the benefits of different programmes by the department.

## Guldasta-E-Jammu Wa Kashmir concludes, over 450 artists participate in cultural festival

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

A two-day Jammu and Kashmir cultural Festival "Guldasta-E- Jammu Wa Kashmir, Naya daur Nayi Umeed" concluded here today at Abhinav Theatre Jammu.

The Festival was inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K yesterday in presence of Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture and Bharat Singh, Secretary, JKAACL.

The festival was organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and North Zone Cultural Center, Patiala.

More than 450 artists participated in the Festival which featured various folk traditions of Jammu and Kashmir like Kud Dance, Kashmiri Rouf, Dhambali Dance, Bhand Pather, besides Dogri, Gojri and Pahari Dances. The Secretary, JKAACL



said that these festivals help in preserving the rich cultural traditions of Jammu and Kashmir and help in reviving these age old traditions. He added that JKAACL is very devoted for the promotion of art and culture in the entire length & breadth of the Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir and JKAACL is giving its best to take the culture to every household so that the younger generation gets known by its roots.

While addressing the students of Bishnah Degree College, Govt. College For Women, Parade and MAM College, Jammu, he stated that it's everybody's moral responsibility to let youngsters know about their art, culture and history and this kind

of events helps the student to remain stress free and to keep distance from drug abuse.

The students were enthralled by the splendid performance by the artists. One of the student, Shriya, said that she has seen such performances for the first time. Another student Romi said that we came to know about rich culture of Jammu.

One can easily find the representation of JKAACL in almost every event happening in J&K. This two day Jammu and Kashmir Festival was one such example where we tried to showcase our dying culture tradition of Jammu region.

The programme was conducted by Pankaj Sharma.

## GDC Vijaypur organises workshop on Communication Skills



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 16

IQAC of Government Degree College Vijaypur in collaboration with Department of Commerce and Department of English organized a highly successful workshop on "Communication Skills" that aimed at guiding students towards career ambitions and developing personality.

Students of the college attended the lecture with great fervor and zeal.

Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Convener, IQAC) welcomed

the guest.

The speaker of the event was Kiran Kurwade, Director- Strategic Initiatives, Chitkara University, Chandigarh. He focused on the importance of holistic development for improving the Intelligent quotient among the students. He also stressed that for achieving higher IQ there is an important role of Emotional quotient (EQ). More than 100 students and all the faculty members participated in the workshop.

Prof Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce) concluded the

session by motivating the students towards improving their communication skills for the better future perspective. The whole event was conducted under able guidance of Principal of the college Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta.

The proceedings of the program was done by Dr. Tisha Singh (Lecturer, Dept of Commerce) and Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer, Dept of Education) presented formal vote of thanks. Pens were distributed to all the students who attended the workshop.

## J&K KVIB Reasi organises district level awareness programme at Dera Baba Kanjli

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, FEBRUARY 16

J&K KVIB Reasi organised a District Level Awareness Programme at Dera Baba Kanjli, Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) & Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) Schemes to aware general public about the benefits of both the schemes. Secretary/CEO J&K KVIB, Jagdish Chander Mehra was the Chief Guest in the awareness programme.

Jagdish Chander Mehra enjoined upon the budding entrepreneurs to harvest the opportunities being provided by the government schemes by establishing self employment ventures. Ashwani Kumar, District Officer KVIB Reasi, while addressing the public informed that in subsidized and technical environment new ventures of manufacturing, service and trading sectors can be opened



under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) which provides financial assistance up to fifty lacs in manufacturing sector and twenty lacs under Service sector to beneficiaries having qualification of 8th pass to establish their self-employment generating units. District Officer KVIB Reasi, further elaborated in detail the schemes of KVIB. The officer informed the budding entrepreneurs about the procedure to be adopted to apply for financial assistance under

PMEGP and JKREGP and other modalities required in the process.

The camp was also attended by Manoj Raina BDO Katra, Sukhdev Singh Sarpanch Panchayat halqa Kanjli, Bodh Raj Sarpanch Panchayat halqa Baber Brahmana, Rattan Lal Naib Sarpanch Panchayat halqa Kanjli, Kamal Singh Naib Sarpanch Panchayat halqa Dera Baba, Saleem Khan Panch Kanjli, Pritam Singh Panch Kanjli, Ram Rattan Panch Kanjli, Anita Sharma Panch Kanjli, Punjab Singh Panch Kanjli and large number of general public and unemployed youth of the area.

## DC Kulgam reviews status of various work projects of Health sector

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 16

To review the status of various health sector work projects including NTPHC Chowgam, MCH Kulgam, PHC Devsar and other buildings of health department, a meeting of officers was Friday held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan at mini-secretariat, here.

During the meeting, the chair was informed about the status of all aforementioned work projects.

After reviewing the status of NTPHC building Chowgam and Devsar, DC directed the concerned officers of the executing



agency to finish incomplete work at both the buildings and handover the same to the health department within the stipulated time frame.

He also instructed Chief Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam to make MCH building operational within days.

It was informed that the Maternity and Child Care Hospital building was constructed with an estimated cost of Rs. 7.96 crore.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Bashir Ahmad Wani; JDP, Zahid Sajjad; SE R&B, CMO, MS-Distrait Hospital and other officers.

## Nazim Zai reviews implementation of NTEP, adult BCG vaccination trial in J&K



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Nazim Zai Khan, today chaired a meeting held to review implementation of National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), Sub National Certification Claims and Adult BCG Vaccination Trial in Jammu and Kashmir.

Nazim Zai directed the concerned officers and officials of Health Department to work diligently to achieve the targets set for elimination of tuberculosis from the UT by 2025 as per National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2017-2025. He instructed them to expedite procurement of pending lab equipment in the Intermediate Reference Laboratory (IRL) of Jammu division for making it operational at the earliest.

He exhorted upon the concerned to conduct

external death audit of TB patients and Contact Tracing of active pulmonary TB cases. He also asked for mapping of all Ayushman Arogya Mandirs with Nikshay Portal for providing TB drugs as per the mandate of Central TB division, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Emphasizing the importance of Nikshay Poshan Yojana, the MD directed the officers to bring all the eligible beneficiaries under the ambit of NPY without any fail.

Among others the meeting was attended by the Director Health, Services Kashmir, Director Family Welfare and Immunization, J&K, State Tuberculosis Officer Kashmir, State Immunization Officer J&K besides Chief Medical Officers, District TB Officers and other officers and officials from NHM and Health Department.

## DC Kishtwar flags off JKRTC Bus to Bimal Naag of Block Drabshalla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav today flagged off a newly allotted JKRTC Bus to Bimal Naag of Block Drabshalla.

Present on the occasion were DDC member Drabshalla-A Ashok Kumar, ACR Mohammad Idrees, Tehsildar Drabshalla Irshad Ahmed, EO Municipal Council Ninad Sen, RTC official Mohammad Iqbal Bakshi and Ajaz Ahmed, besides MVD Officials and other dignitaries.

It's noteworthy that Bimal Naag holds the distinction of being a serene spiritual tourist destination with.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the District Administration's unwavering commitment to augment transport provisions for the residents of Kishtwar district. He stressed upon

JKRTC, private transporters, drivers, and the MVD department to strictly adhere to road safety measures, ensuring the utmost safety of commuters.

The bus has been furnished with adequate seating and safety features, ensuring a comfortable journey for the local commuters.

JKRTC officials highlighted that the bus service will commence from the Main Bus Stand Kishtwar at 2 PM daily, accommodating an overnight stay at Bimal Naag and returning the following morning to the Kishtwar Bus Stand.

DDC member conveyed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the people of the area towards the District Administration and JKRTC for facilitating convenient and hassle-free travel. He urged the community to embrace and support the JKRTC services, ensuring the success of this initiative.

## Mandeep Kaur inspects ongoing works, assets of Jammu Municipal Corporation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today conducted an extensive tour of Jammu City visiting various locations to assess progress on ongoing works and assets of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

She was accompanied by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rahul Yadav and senior officers of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

During the visit, Mandeep Kaur inspected the Bandu-Rakh 5 TPD Material recovery facility (MRF) and upcoming 5 TPD Material Recovery Center (MRC) being managed by CEE. She was informed that the upcoming MRC will be

first of its kind facility in Jammu and Kashmir with inhouse recycling. She instructed the officers to increase the capacity of MRF.

Emphasizing the importance and need of proper waste management, She asked the concerned officials to start composting at the earliest to manage wet waste as well.

The Commissioner Secretary visited the commercial complex at Jeevan Nagar, the first phase of which has been completed. She issued instructions to expedite pace of progress on the remaining work ensure its timely completion.

Mandeep Kaur also visited the slaughterhouse at Gujjar Nagar and Dogra Hall. She instructed the officials to prioritize completion of pending works there.



## Role of women in Self-Help Groups key to rural development: Ritika Trehan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BISHNAH, FEB 16

Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan today participated in a 'Gaon Chalo campaign' at village Ismailpur Kothey in Bishnah constituency and highlighted BJP's achievements, plans. Addressing rural women present in good number, Ritika highlighted the benefits provided to citizens under the Ujjawala Yojana scheme, Har Ghar Nal Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat Yojana, and the vaccination programme under the BJP regime. Ritika said "Gaon Chalo campaign is an initiative to deliver the schemes of the BJP in villages.

Under Prime Minister's leadership, the villages have grown and developed, the poor have benefited, and 25 crore poor have come out of the poverty



line in the last 10 years, she said. "In the future too, the BJP will reach out to the villages and the public with such schemes. When PM Modi will be elected for the third time, India will become the third largest economy, and Bharat will become a 'Viksit Bharat again," she added. Ritika said the increase in vote share was a result of the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the success of schemes, notably

the construction of izzat ghar (toilets), houses for the poor (PM Awas Yojna), Har Ghar Nal (piped water supply), which were given to people across castes and religions," she said.

Ritika also shared strategy to reach out to NGOs and self-help groups. She also strategised on how women's self-help groups and NGO outreach programs will be conducted. She said the party aims to make direct contact

with more than 10 crore women through this campaign. She said financially empowered women are a "bulwark against societal evils." For women empowerment financial independence is necessary. Women are enterprising, they don't need to be taught, only need to be given opportunities to perform," she said. Underlining the importance of women empowerment especially in rural areas for overall development of the society, Ritika said women in the country have huge potential in them and need to realise their capabilities "Financial independence makes a woman assertive and empowered," Ritika said. On this occasion, Ritika offered free makeup training to fifty rural women at her Looks Saloon at Hotel Ritz Manor, Channi Himmat to make them self-reliant economically.

## Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust provides cleaning tools, materials to GH Gandhi Nagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust (Regd.) provided cleaning tools & materials to Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar. The distribution of cleaning tools & materials were carried out in the presence of Former Deputy Mayor Jammu & BJP senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria.

On the occasion, Medical Superintendent of Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Dr Hamid Zargar, Geetanjali Jasrotia and officers and employees of Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust has been doing a great job in helping out the needy. He said that the Trust is also doing excellent work regarding cleanliness, an example of which was that today



they provided cleanliness equipment to Gandhi Nagar Hospital. He also mentioned that the Trust has been providing help to the poor, destitute and needy people in the form of food, clothes, medicines and other necessary items. Billawaria appealed to the family members of the patients who visit the hospital and said that

they should cooperate with the administration in keeping the hospital clean and use the dustbin. He called upon all the people to ensure their participation regularly to make the cleaning campaign launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi a success. He also urged citizens to come forward and contribute to this noble

cause. He added that such charitable initiatives should be encouraged in order to provide a better life to the needy and poor people.

The members of the Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust also expressed their gratitude to Baldev Singh Billawaria for his support and appreciated his efforts in providing assistance to the people. They mentioned that the Trust will continue

to do its best in helping the needy and destitute people. They also said that the Trust is always open to receive donations in kind or in cash. Prominent among others who were present during the program included- Rachit Khosla, Lovisha Gupta, Isher Singh Noni, Arvind Gupta and Bhushan Verma.

## Mridhu, Satish pay obseciance at Tirupati Temple, participate in Abhishek ceremony

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Today Mridhu Slathia Additional Mission Director JKRLM Along With Satish Sharma SDM, RC Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple And Ramesh Babu Today paid obseciance at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed.

Mridhu Slathia expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. She appealed people to visit the



temple and pay obseciance here.

Satish Sharma said that is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees. He said the temple is beautifully made in the Majeen area. He Said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic

development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

On this occasion Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the

Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector, RC Subramanyam, Superintendent Ramesh Babu Office incharge, Pradhana Pandit, Amit Shukla, Veda Pandit.

## SSP Jammu inaugurates Free Health Checkup Camp at DPO

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 14

Samvedna Society Jammu organises 80th Free Heart check up camp at District Police Office Jammu. The camp was organised by Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra and was inaugurated by Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Vinod Kumar IPS. The Camp was also attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Kulbir Handa JKPS and Deputy Superintendent of Police Hqrs Jammu Ashok Kumar.

A medical team of experts, including a Cardiologist & Physician from Medanta Hospital Gurgaon examined the Police Personnels of DPO Jammu, PFT (Pulmonary Function Test), ECG, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and other tests were also done.

The motive of the



camp was to provide the best health care services to the Police Personnels who are always busy in performing their duties. Samvedna Organises this Health camp at their doorstep. More than 102 Police Personnels were examined by Cardiologists and Physicians.

Speaking on the Occasion SSP Jammu Vinod Kumar IPS highlighted the importance of routine health check-ups and praised the society's initiative to provide voluntary services to the Police Personnels at their doorstep.

Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra said that Samvedna Society is committed to Provide Best Health care Facilities to all and assured that he along with his team will continue conduct free medical camps in the future also..

Dr Arvind Sharma (Physician), Dr Shantanu Singla (Cardiologist), Sandeep Singh Jamwal (Assistant Manager Marketing), Manshu Skolia, Saniya Sharma, Muneet, Riya, Pearl, Romeel, Nand Kishore, Ikhlqaq, Gazzanfar, Azhar, Shameem, Sushil Gupta, Manoj, Divyansh and Others were also Present.

## Police seizes 2 vehicles, arrests 2 drivers in Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, FEB 16

Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have seized 2 vehicles and arrested 2 drivers in Baramulla.

A police party under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg assisted by SHO PS Tangmarg & PS Kunzer seized two vehicles and arrested two drivers, involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Perozpora Tangmarg & Pinjoora Kunzer Baramulla. The accused drivers have been identified as Mehraj-ud-din Beigh son of Mohammad Shafi resident of Bichipira & Irshad Ahmad Malik son of Ali Mohd resident of Pariswani.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated.

## Empowering Women: AIIMS Jammu Leads Way with Steps Taken, Initiatives Shine, Visionary Display, Unwavering Commitment

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

The evolving role of women in India is gradually moving towards equality, buoyed by governmental initiatives like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Mission Shakti', necessitating that organizations, particularly Medical Institutions, offer equal opportunities and roles for women. The "Government of India" under the visionary leadership of esteemed Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, has emphasized various programs (Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram JSSK, Janani Suraksha Yojna JSY, etc.) targeting women's health and well-being under the National Health Mission.

The Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, started his conversation saying, "I, being born and brought up in Jammu, a city renowned worldwide for the sacred Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, hold deep respect and gratitude towards the women section, a sentiment that will always remain sincere and unwavering."

He emphasized the role of women at AIIMS Jammu and stated that "The



imperative for women's empowerment is evident as approximately half of the country's population comprises women, yet a significant portion remain dependent due to limited educational and employment opportunities. AIIMS Jammu is taking a catalytic role in creating an ecosystem for women empowerment."

Prof Gupta added that "AIIMS Jammu, with nearly 55% of Doctors and 80% of nursing staff as women, has created a wealth of opportunities for women, both in terms of employment and representation." This strategic approach is not only breaking traditional gender norms (Caregiving and Household responsibilities) but also ensures that women have equal opportunities to excel in the field of medicine.

He further elaborated that beyond mere representation; AIIMS Jammu has proven its commitment of promoting women's leadership by offering key administrative positions within the institute, serving as Principal, Associate Dean, Department Heads, and Chairpersons of various committees. They also play leadership roles in research activities, contributing to the institute's academic and scientific achievements.

AIIMS Jammu organized "Healthcare Leadership Management Development Programmes" (Nov, 2022 and Sep, 2023), for female staff, ensuring their holistic development and empowerment. AIIMS Jammu had also conducted awareness sessions on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) to promote a positive and safe

workplace environment.

As part of community outreach programs focused on women's health initiatives, Prof Gupta remarked that AIIMS Jammu is actively engaged by organising Awareness sessions on Cervical and Breast Cancer (two leading causes of cancer-related deaths among women), in schools and colleges across the region. Moreover, sessions on Anaemia and Preconception Care (a prevalent health challenge for women), have also been organized to promote preventive care and well-being. Training in "Basic Life Support" skills and campaigns raising awareness about Burns will greatly empower women, equipping them with the ability to save lives and protect them from harm. Moreover, AIIMS Jammu is actively utilizing Social

Media platforms, Blogs and YouTube talks as avenues to disseminate information, thereby playing a vital role in enhancing awareness and women's well-being across various domains. As a future action plan, he added, AIIMS Jammu plans to set up a creche facility to assist female staff in managing work and caregiving duties, fostering a supportive environment for working mothers. AIIMS Jammu, through proactive integration of various initiatives taken Government of India under National Health Mission, is dedicated to playing a central role in advancing a healthier, more joyful, and economically prosperous India.

Dr Gupta concluded saying, "Dear Sisters and Daughters, in our shared journey of health and well-being, your vitality and happiness hold immense significance. Your health is not just your individual concern but a vital thread woven into the fabric of your family's well-being. We understand the pivotal role you play, not only as nurturers but as the very heartbeat of our communities. With unwavering commitment, we stand by you, advocating for your health and the well-being of your family."

Your health is not a solitary endeavour but a collective responsibility, we are deeply committed to. Beyond ensuring your health, I strongly advocate for inclusive policies, fair wages, safe spaces, and amplifying women's voices. These factors can drive systemic change towards gender equality and empowerment, fostering a more equitable society".

On a personal level, he also expressed his appreciation for the women in his family, mentioning, "I'm deeply grateful for the unwavering support and love of my mother, wife, and daughter. Their encouragement and sacrifices have shaped my journey, bringing boundless joy and fulfillment. As a proud grandfather to two granddaughters, I'm humbled by the opportunity to see the world through their innocent eyes, filled with hope for an emerging New India, brimming with hope, equality, inclusivity and possibility."

It is worthwhile remembering the golden words of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam "Empowering women is a prerequisite for creating a Good Nation. When women are empowered, a society with stability is assured".

## NABARD organised exposure cum training visit for farmers of Samba to Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, HP



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) organised four days Exposure cum Training visit for farmers of district Samba, UT of J&K to Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. A group of twenty-five progressive farmers representing different Farmers Clubs & FPO participated in the exposure visit. The programme was implemented by Mahila Welfare Committee Trust, represented by Shri Madan Lal Chauhan.

The exposure visit was designed to provide practical demonstrations and trainings pertaining to adoption of latest technology and innovative projects implemented by Agriculture University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh

in agriculture sector which could also be replicated in the fields of farmers of district Samba, UT of J&K thereby benefiting through increase in production following new methods of cultivation, adopting practices suitable for dry areas etc.

During the visit, training and exposure to demonstration units were undertaken by the farmers with special focus on practices and models of Integrated Farming Systems, Dry Land Farming & Technology which is very much needed for kandi areas of the district, Soil Science laboratory, Mushroom production under control climatic condition and value addition, as Samba is one of major producers of Mushroom in UT of J&K, Vermi Compost demonstration units and other various extension services in the field of Agriculture.



## JKAACL showcases 'Ek Shaam Veeroon Ke Naam'

JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, FEB 16

To give tributes to the martyrs and to show solitary to the brave soldiers, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages presented a mesmerising Music & Dance programme titled 'Ek Shaam Veeroon Ke Naam' here today at Veer Bhoomi Park, Samba. Sh. Gulshan Singh Charak, President Dogra Sadar Sabha was the chief guest and Sh. Mahinder Singh, Former Chairman, Jammu Central Co-operative Bank was the guest of honour. Retd. Lt. Gen R K Sharma was the special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Gulshan Singh Charak, President Dogra Sadar Sabha while speaking described the professionalism, competency and courage of soldiers as unparalleled and congratulated JKAACL for presenting a world class presentation. He further shares that this kind of



programme shows patriotism for our country and shows great love to our brave soldiers.

Addressing the august gathering, Sanjeev Gupta, SOCA, Kathua of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages stated that JKAACL always tries to showcase a variety of events in the samba district. Today's event 'Ek Shaam Veeroon Ke Naam' is the bouquet of different forms of culture of Jammu region. The programme was conducted under the able guidance

of Sh. Bharat Singh, JKAS, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

The programme was started with the vibrant Dogri folk by Amit Kumar & Party followed by folk dogri singing by Rakesh Kumar & Party. The stage was further taken by Raman Salathia who left everyone stunned with his power packed singing skills. The programme was further culminated with the presentations by Milan Cultural and Social Organisation who present-

ed Punjabi songs, Rakesh Kona & Party who showcased Dogri Dance Form 'Phumniyaan' and Razia Akhtar & Party who staged Dogri folk Dance. All the artists received repeated applause from the august gathering.

A localite namely Ramesh Kumar while unanimously came on the stage appreciated and lauded the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages for bringing cultural events to Kathua and Samba district. Every day I got to know that JKAACL has done programme at this place or that place of Samba & Kathua from Newspapers and sometimes from handmade newspaper bags used by shopkeepers & vendors, he added

The programme was ably conducted by Megha Choudhary and coordinated by Sanjeev Gupta, SOCA Kathua.

## Apni Party will regularize daily wagers if it forms next Govt in J&K, says Manjit Singh

JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, FEB 16

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh on Friday said that they will regularize the daily wagers, if they form the next Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Over 61, 000 daily wagers have been serving in various Govt Departments for the last more than two decades and working as back bone in many Departments. However, their services were not regularized, which is a violation of labour laws as well as human rights," said Manjit Singh in his address in Udhampur.

He was addressing a worker's meeting in Udhampur which was organized by J&K President of Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, and Adil Shah. On this occasion,



dozens of people joined the Party in presence of Manjit Singh. While welcoming the new entrants into the Party fold, the Former Minister hoped that their joining would help the Party to expand its roots in Udhampur, and its rural areas where the people require an unbiased voice as their representatives.

Appreciating the Udhampur Unit of the Party, Manjit Singh expressed satisfaction over the working of the Party and explained how President of the Party,

Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari braved all odds and laid the foundation of the Party when no one was ready to come forward to represent the voiceless people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his address, he referred to the plight of more than 61, 000 daily wagers who have been engaged for the last two decades in various Departments, yet they were not regularized.

"These daily wagers are working more than permanent employees and facing harassment from

their respective department regarding release of their monthly wages, and release of pending dues," he recalled.

He said that the daily wagers have become an inseparable part and parcel of the Govt and hence, it becomes the duty of the Govt to resolve their genuine demands.

Condemning the Govt for delay in accepting the demands of the daily wagers, he said that if the Apni Party forms Govt in Jammu and Kashmir, they will regularize all the daily wagers.

"We will not tolerate any kind of discrimination with any worker/employee who serves people honestly. The Party acknowledges the hard work of the daily wagers," he said, while paying tributes to those daily wagers who died while performing their duties.

## BJP's Gaon Chalo Abhiyan receives massive Public response: Rekha

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan stated that "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" directly interacted with the common masses, received massive Public response in the union territory of J&K. Rekha Mahajan held an interactive session, under the ongoing vibrant Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan (Public outreach) with the residents of Bhatindi of Bahu Constituency as an important part District Jammu South. Rekha Mahajan while speaking on the occasion said, It's a wonderful initiative launched by the BJP party to connect and reach out to every citizen who resides in India's more than seven lakh villages. She elaborates that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, India has been growing at an impressive



rate and the people from villages, as well as urban areas, have benefitted from the multiple welfare schemes launched by the Modi government.

Rekha Mahajan underlined that due to Modiji's untiring effort and efficient management, successful ten years of good governance the people of India are enjoying the fruits of development to reach their homes. She asserted that unlike in the dark age of Congress governments when

middlemen reign terror, the cancer of corruption is rooted out. Rekha enlightened the citizens of Bhatindi and its adjoining areas that today, the beneficiaries receive their dues in their bank accounts, or the medical expenses have become completely cashless under Ayushman Bharat, bringing a great sense of relief to people. Basic issues like cleanliness, which was looked down upon by Congress as unimportant, have been taken up on a mis-

sion mode under Swacha Bharat Abhiyaan, allowing the people to have a cleaner village or town and live their lives with dignity. She furthermore added that our mothers, who toil hard for the well-being of their family, have access to foodgrains via PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), energy via Ujjwala, home via PM Awas Yojana (PMAY), toilets via Swacha Bharat and education via many schemes of Modi government like Eklavya Model

Residential Schools. Every household in India is being empowered with Jan Dhan Yojana to become an active member of an inclusive economy and reap the fruits of development," Rekha counted.

Rekha Mahajan educates that under the leadership of PM Modi, India has truly broken the shackles of poverty when 25 crores of fellow countrymen came out of abject poverty in the last 10 years. This is the "Modi Ki Guarantee" that has given the people of India hope and to work during this "Amrit Kaal" for a prosperous, strong, ambitious, healthy Atmanirbhar Bharat," she said.

Booth President Mohd Yaqoob, District Secretary Sadiq Choudhary, ST Morcha President Rafiq Choudhary, Sarpanch Bashir Ahmed, Mushtaq, Lambardar and other prominent persons were present on the occasion.

## Last date for online admission and re-registration for January 2024 session extended till 29th Feb, 2024

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission as well as re-registration for the January 2024 session till 29th of February, 2024.

To enroll in the next year or semester, learners need to register on the Portal and click the "New Registration" button to proceed and provide the correct mobile number and e-mail ID so that the University is able to send confirmation and other important updates only if the correct mobile number and e-mail ID are entered.

In case the learners face difficulty in registering on the portal (not getting OTP/ forgot Username/Password or

any other difficulty), they need to approach Regional Centre Jammu for re-setting of their account/ updating email ID or mobile number. They can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2024 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in). The direct link for online re-registration is <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in/> which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online" on IGNOU website.

"The desirous candidates who wish to seek admission or re-register themselves for next year/semester can avail this opportunity of date extension and apply for any of the programmes of their choice well before the last date", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

For filling the admission form online, candidates need to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/ Net Banking for payment of fee. Applicants can access the IGNOU admission portal 2024 at IGNOU website [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) or by directly following the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in>.

"The desirous candidates who wish to seek admission must avail this opportunity of date extension and apply for any of the programmes of their choice well before the last date", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

# Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates International Conference on Plant-Based Medicines at CSIR-IIIM

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space and Vice President CSIR inaugurated the "International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Phytopharmaceuticals" and the "11th International Congress of Society of Ethnopharmacology (SFEC2024) today at CSIR Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu. The Conference is organized by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, in collaboration with the Society of Ethnopharmacology (SFE), Kolkata from 16th to 18th February, 2024, on the theme "Ethnopharmacology in Development of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs"

The inaugural session of the conference was presided over by Dr. Jitendra Singh who was the Chief Guest at the event. Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General CSIR and Secretary DSIR and Padma Shri Prof. Vinod K. Singh, IIT Kanpur were the Guests of Honour. Present at the session were also Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director IBSD and Chairman, Scientific Services, SFEC-2024, Dr. DS Reddy, Director CSIR-IIC, Dr. CK Katiyar, CEO Emami Healthcare Ltd., Dr. RN Acharya, Director General CCRAS, Dr. Subhra

Chakraborty, Director NIPGR, Dr. Lal Hingorani, Managing Director, Pharmanza Herbal Pvt Ltd., Dr. UV Babu, Director R&D Himalaya Wellness Company, Dr. Marco Leonti, Secretary, International Society of Ethnopharmacology besides several other eminent scientific dignitaries.

Speaking at the event Dr Jitendra Singh informed that CSIR IIIM Jammu assumes a historical significance in light of its services to the society and the pioneering research being conducted in this unique geography by the Institute since last more than seven decades. The Institute under the visionary founding Director Col. Ram Nath Chopra achieved several milestones in modern pharmacopoeia that were furthered and amplified by successive leaders of the Institute and since last more than one year Dr. Zabeer Ahmed has led his scientist and technologists team at the Institute efficiently in the development of the innovative and novel technologies utilizing the rich bio diversity under a multi-faceted approach to further translate them for societal good and industrial development with multi-institutional convergence. The Institute has expanded its mandate and outreach with very successfully implemented various mission programmes like CSIR Phytopharma Mission, CSIR Aroma Mission, CSIR Floriculture Mis-

sion and various other ambitious projects to leverage the plant based pharmaceuticals in drug development, he added. The Institute under pursuing a concerted research on Cannabis to exploit its potential in drug development, also. Dr N Kalaiselvi, DG CSIR while complimenting the organizers of the three day conference informed that the present day need in health care systems and drug formulations demand an integrated approach wherein the manufacturing of the drugs should be in integration with utilization of the natural sources of drug molecules derived from plants. She emphasized that the conduct of the conference assumes much interest in light of the increased global alignment for use of phytopharmaceuticals. Earlier, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM in his welcome address informed that the Institute has been spearheading the scientific study, validation, and legalization of phytopharmaceuticals and organizing a conference on the futuristic theme "Ethnopharmacology for Development of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs," represents our collective aspiration to push the boundaries of knowledge and innovation in the realm of research on traditional methods of healthcare and drug development from phytopharmaceuticals. The conference is being held in conjunction with "11th Interna-

tional Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology", and we reaffirm our determination to take a giant leap forward in our pursuit of transformative breakthroughs that will define the future of healthcare, he said.

The conference will have more than 20 scientific sessions, including and IConnect program: Business Meet, on the theme "Development of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs: Tradition to Translational", "Young Ethnopharmacologist Award Function", "American Chemical Society (ACS) Best Oral Presentation Award Session", "SFE Best Poster Presentation Session", Panel Discussion on "Opportunities and Challenges in Cannabis Research" and Traditional Healers Meet. Other scientific sessions would include talks on the themes "Phytopharmaceuticals: Drug Development from Traditional Medicine", "Evidence-Based Validation of Traditional Medicine", "Traditional Ethnopharmacology Inspired Drug Discovery and Development", "Development of Botanical/Herbal Drugs: Global Perspective", "Global Positioning of AYUSH Products: Standardization and Validation", "Natural Products Inspired Modern Drug Discovery", "Network/Reverse Pharmacology in Herbal Drug Discovery", "New Approaches for Phytopharmaceutical Drugs Development", "Ethnomedi-

cine: an Invaluable Source of Novel Drug", "Regulatory Aspects of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs (US FDA/EMA)", "Opportunities and Challenges in Cannabis Research", "Bioprospecting Plants and Microbes for Development of Therapeutics", "New Approaches in Natural Product Drug Discovery", etc.

More than 100 distinguished invited speakers, from nearly 20 different countries, including the United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Ghana and India would be delivering their talks. Prominent among them are Prof. Domenico V. Delfino, Università Degli Studi di Perugia Italy, Dr. Veeranoot Nissapatorn, School of Allied Science, Thailand, Dr. Alexander Shikov, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Formulation, St. Petersburg State Chemical University, Russia, Prof. Rainer W. Bussmann, Department of Ethnobotany, Iliia Sate University, Tbilisi Georgia, Dr. Julieta Z. Dunga, Dean, School of Science and Technology, CEU, Manila Philippines, Dr. Marco Leonti, Dept of Biomedical Sciences, University of Cagliari, Italy, Dr. Liyaqat Ali, Pothkrit Institute of Health Science, Dhaka Dr. Kofi Busia, Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Herbal Medicine, Ghana, South Africa Prof. Sitesh C. Bachar, Dept. Of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Dr. Ashutosh Tripathi,

Director, NPS Discovery Core, University of Michigan, USA Prof. Md. Abdur Rashid, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Prof. Samuel Bertrand, University of Nantes, Cedex, France Dr. Prof JN Eloff, University of Pretoria, South African, Prof. Michael Heinrich, UCL School of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, London, Prof. Thomas Efferth, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, Prof. Mogna S Rajagopal, Dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Malasiya Eden Joy P. Alata, School of Science and Technology, University Manila, Filipino. Nearly 700 participants from all over India have registered for this mega event.

The international conference is being organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM and the organizing Chairman for this International Conference with assistance from Dr. Prasson K. Gupta and Dr. Naveed Qazi as organizing secretaries for the conference. Other members of the functional committee for this event are: Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Chairman, Scientific Services SFEC-2024, Dr. Subhash C Mandal, Secretary SFE, Mr. Birendra Kumar Sarkar, President SFE, Dr. CK Katiyar, Vice President SFE, Mr. Indraneel Das, Vice President, SFE, Dr. Amit Kar, Treasurer SFE, Dr. Vikash Babu, Treasurer.

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## Police facilitates PCPG meetings in Kulgam

JNEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, FEB 16

In order to bridge the gap between Police and public, Police in Kulgam on the directions of SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS facilitated PCPG meetings at Police Station Yaripora, Police Station Manzgam, Police Station Devsar and Police Station Behibagh.

These meetings were chaired by concerned jurisdictional officers in which citizens of respective areas participated.

During the meetings, participants raised various issues. The chairing officers present at these meetings gave a patient hearing to their issues and assured them that their issues which are pertaining to other departments will be taken up immediately with the concerned officers for appropriate action besides issues related to Police would be resolved on priority.

The participants were stressed to cooperate with Police in maintaining L&O and curbing the drug menace in the areas and identification of anti-national/anti-social elements who try to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere. The participants commended the police initiative, expressing full support in addressing the social issues.



## CUJ Students visit NABARD HQs for Insightful Outreach Program

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Department of Economics at Central University of Jammu post graduate students had the privilege of visiting the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu & Kashmir Regional Office, Jammu.

The highlight of the programme was an enlightening address by Sh. Bhallamudi Sridhar, NABARD Chief General Manager, who shared valuable insights into the organization's mission, vision, and ongoing initiatives. His words resonated deeply with the students, offering them a first-hand glimpse into the challenges and opportunities in the realm of rural development. Moreover, an engaging presentation by Ms. Anamika, General Manager at NABARD, provided an in-depth overview of NABARD's genesis, organizational structure, as well as its multifaceted roles and functions. Her presentation shed light on NABARD's pivotal role in promoting sustainable agriculture, rural infrastructure, and inclusive financial services across the country. Following



the presentations, an interactive question and answer session ensued, allowing the students to delve deeper into the intricacies of NABARD's initiatives. Sh. Bhallamudi Sridhar, expressed his delight at the keen interest displayed by the students and emphasized the importance of youth participation in shaping the future of rural economy. Students gained valuable insights and engaged in meaningful discussions with NABARD's esteemed leadership team.

The outreach programme not only provided students with a unique learning opportunity but also strengthened the bond between academia and industry, promoting

collaboration and knowledge exchange. Such support was visible because of patronage by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and support by Shri Bhallamudi Sridhar, CGM NABARD.

The event was impeccably coordinated by Sh. Sohan Lal, Assistant General Manager, whose meticulous planning ensured a seamless and enriching experience for all participants. Dr. Shaveta Kohli, Associate Professor and Mr. Anil Kumar Bharti, Assistant Professor led the team and introduced the scope of the visit besides thanking NABARD for agreeing to such an educative visit at the conclusion of the trip.

## CUJ Students gets Hands-On Training in Latest CGH Microarrays Technologies

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU FEB 16



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU FEB 16

Centre for Molecular Biology (CMB), Central University of Jammu: Post Graduation students namely Aditri Dixit, Shalini Rai and Abhishek Kumar, attended a 2-day hands on training session on CGH Microarray analysis, organised by Agilent Technologies Inc, a multinational organization that specializes in scientific, diagnostics, and application markets. The workshop was held on at one of the company's facilities in Manesar, Haryana and was aimed

to motivate and assist trainees in developing novel technologies and undertaking research initiatives to tackle national health issues. The workshop showcased practical training on array based comparative genomic hybridization technologies and its application in Cytogenomics. The curriculum gave the students' knowledge and hands-on experience with the technology. The students attended the event in the ongoing efforts of Centre for Molecular Biology to provide scientific exposure of International stan-

dards to the students through various reach out programmes. Centre for Molecular Biology in CUJ runs M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biotechnology programme and is supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor Central University Jammu appreciated the efforts of Director CMB, Dr.Swarkar Sharma, in facilitating students and Agilent Technologies Inc., for providing their students opportunity to gain insight and hands-on training in the latest technologies.

## Shaikshik Mahasangh Jammu and Kashmir calls on DSE Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

A delegation of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh J&K led by Rattan Sharma (State President) and Gulshan Raina (State Gen.Secretary) calls on by Director School Education Jammu to discuss some important issues pertaining to the teaching fraternity.

ABRSM J&K demanded conduct of DPC of Teacher's to Masters and Master's to Lecturers as soon as possible and shows concern over delay in release of promotion list.As the Teacher's are anguished over delay in DPC of Teacher's to Master's pending since 2014. The delegation members also discussed about ATD-2024 which has not yet started by the concerned department.The delegation members emphasize for transfer of Teacher's under ATD-2024.ABRSM also urged for regularisation of In-Charge Teacher's pending since 2018.

The delegation members also discussed some important issues pertaining to RET Teacher's such as Transfer policy in favor of RET Teacher's, Conversion of Grade-III Teacher's to Grade-II in a time bound



manner as the files are still pending at the Directorate level, RET'S who are still working on Supernumerary posts and has not converted to Substantive posts is still pending in Jammu division except district Poonch which has already allotted Substantive posts to RET'S.

Moreover an important issue of mutual transfer of Female Teacher's on marriage and medical grounds was also discussed with the worthy Director sir.

However after giving patient hearing to the delegation members worthy

Director sir assured the members that DPC of Teacher's to Masters is on the cards and the list will be out in couple of days .He also apprised the members that all other issues will be addressed one by one.

The other members of delegation are Sanjeev Dutta (State Secretary),Rahul(State Seh-Media Prabhar), Rakesh (State Executive member),Pawan ( President District Jammu),Ved (Gen.Secretary District Jammu), Amit ,Puran Chand , Vijay ,Raj Kumar.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Camp at Chhowa Panchayat

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

In a remarkable display of community service, the Indian Army organized a comprehensive medical camp at Chhowa Panchayat, targeting the Bakarwal and Gujjar communities. The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout with approximately 150 civilians, including esteemed personalities such as Sarpanch Mumtaj, local politician Mohd Yusuf, and 20 children from the Ranjan Madarasa. The medical camp, held under the auspices of the Indian Army, aimed to address the healthcare needs of these marginalized communities, providing them with access to essential medical services and consultations. From general check-ups to specialized care, the camp offered a wide array of services tailored to meet the diverse healthcare requirements of the attendees. Sarpanch Mumtaj lauded the efforts of the Indian Army, emphasizing the significance of such initiatives in bridging healthcare disparities and fostering community well-being. Local politician Mohd Yusuf echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the collaborative spirit exhibited by all stakeholders involved in organizing the camp. Furthermore, the presence of 20 children from the Ranjan Madarasa underlined the inclusive nature of the event, ensuring that even the younger members of the community received necessary medical attention and guidance. The Indian Army remains committed to serving the nation and its people, extending its outreach beyond conventional duties to address the holistic needs of communities across the country. Through initiatives like the medical camp at Chhowa Panchayat, the Indian Army continues to uphold its ethos of selfless service and solidarity with the citizens of India.

## National Workshop on Renewable Energy: Current Affairs, Job Prospects, Future Research organized at SMVDU



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organised a National Workshop on Renewable Energy: Current Affairs, Job Prospects, and Future Research, on 16/02/2024. The workshop brought together experts, professionals, and students to deliberate on the crucial aspects of renewable energy in India and its implementation. Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering and Coordinator of the programme in his welcome address explained about the schedule of the awareness programme and stressed upon the need for the same. Dr.

Vineet Veer Tyagi, Head, School of Energy Management and Dean R&D highlighted the initiatives taken by the School of Energy Management for climate change mitigation. In his address, Prof. Ashutosh Vaishstha, Dean, Faculty of Management, SMVDU highlighted the steps taken by SMVDU in organizing such events. He stressed that such events help in broadening the knowledge base of the participants. Prof. Ashutosh stressed on the theme of the workshop. He said that this workshop will make all of us understand the need for renewable energy and sustainable development. In-depth discussions were held on the current scenario of renewable energy in

India, including policies, initiatives, challenges, and achievements. Mr. Saswat Sourav Panda, Program Manager RE100 India at The Climate Group, shed light on the latest advancements in solar and biomass energy. With the renewable energy sector emerging as a significant contributor to India's energy mix, the workshop focused on exploring the diverse career opportunities available. Participants gained insights into various job roles, skill requirements, and career pathways in this rapidly growing sector. The workshop provided a platform for researchers to present their innovative ideas, ongoing projects, and future research directions in renewable energy.

Discussions revolved around technological innovations, sustainable practices, and potential solutions to address the evolving challenges in the field. Mr. Panda shared his expertise through his address. Participants had the opportunity to engage in meaningful exchanges, network with peers, and gain valuable insights to shape their careers and contribute to the advancement of renewable energy. The workshop concluded with a consensus on the importance of collaborative efforts among academia, industry, and policymakers to foster innovation, promote sustainable practices, and accelerate the transition towards a greener and more resilient energy future.

## GDC Thathri organizes pledge-taking ceremony regarding voters awareness

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Today On the eve of Voters week on 16 Feb 2024 the NSS unit in collaboration with the voter literacy club of GDC Thathri organised a Pledge-taking ceremony regarding voters awareness. The programme was organised under the banner of voter awareness campaign for the youth and the overall supervision and patronage of the college Principal Dr Basharat Iqbal. All the staff and NSS volunteers of the college took pledge regarding voter awareness with zeal and patriotic fervour. The



college principal in his address highlighted the significance of a vote and motivated the students and local youth to participate fully in various electoral processes. The pledge was administered to the students and the faculty (teaching and non teaching) by Prof.Arshad Ayoub

HOD Political science.The program was concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by NSS PO of the college Dr Sanjay Kumar, HoD Urdu. HODs of different departments viz., Economics,EVS, Education, Dogri, English and Sociology were also present in the pledge.

# Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION Jammu,  
J & K SPORTS COUNCIL, Jammu  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

**Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 29YSS of 2023-24 DATED: 13.02.2024**

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from the registered contractor with PWD(R&B), CPWD, railways, MES etc. class of which is mention below for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs in lacs)	Class of contract	Cost of Tender documents	Time of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	Construction of Seating Tiers At Khel Gaon Nagrota Cricket Ground.	Rs.55.98 lacs	2%/-	A, & B,	1100/-	180 DAYS

Position of AAA:- **Accorded Position of TS Accorded**  
Major Head of Accounts:- Under Capex Budget 2023-24

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q),Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental Website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) w.e.f. 13.02.2024 to 29.02.2024 upto 5:00 PM.

SD/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Construction Division Jammu,  
J&K Sports Council.

DIP/J-5376-P/23  
Date: 16-2-23

No.-:SC/CDJ/4255-58  
Dated:-13.02.2024



# Dr. Rubia Bukhari, earns International recognition for Cocoon Artistry

JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEB 16

Dr. Rubia Bukhari, lecturer in the Department of Sericulture at Poonch Campus, University of Jammu, has brought honor to the University of Jammu by showcasing her remarkable Cocoon Artistry at the recently concluded International Conference of the "Essential Oil Association of India" in Chennai.

Dr. Bukhari's innovative Cocoon Artistry initiative has not only captivated the audience but has also been hailed as a significant contribution to the field. Her expertise in sericulture has propelled her work to the forefront, turning heads at the prestigious international event.

With a passion for cocoon artistry, she is com-

mitted to reshaping the landscape of sericulture practices and contributing to the "White Revolution" in the industry.

The momentous presentation of Dr. Rubia Bukhari's Cocoon Artistry at the conference underscores her commitment to advancing sericulture practices and exploring new frontiers in the field. The intricacy and creativity displayed in her work have positioned her as a trailblazer in the "White Revolution."

Dr. Bukhari expressed her gratitude for the platform provided by the Essential Oil Association of India, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts to revolutionize sericulture practices.

The initiative by Dr. Rubia Bukhari is not just a local triumph but a tale of



"White Revolution" echoing from Poonch to Kanyakumari. Her dedication to advancing the artistry of sericulture promises to inspire a new wave of innovation in the industry.

In addition to her exemplary contributions to sericulture, Dr. Rubia Bukhari expresses her ardent desire to serve as an ambassador for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "nari-shakti" initiatives.

Dr. Bukhari envisions aligning her passion for

cocoon artistry with the national agenda of self-reliance, contributing to the empowerment of women in the industry. By embracing and embodying the spirit of these initiatives, she aspires to play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, resilience, and women's empowerment within the sericulture sector. Dr. Bukhari's dedication not only extends to artistic excellence but also to becoming a catalyst for positive change, echoing the transformative vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives on a national scale.

Expressing her gratitude, Dr. Bukhari thanked Director Poonch Campus Prof. Rakesh Vaid for his unwavering support and guidance, which played a pivotal role in her jour-

ney. She emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in revolutionizing sericulture practices and acknowledged the platform provided by the Essential Oil Association of India.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari extends her heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Touqeer Bagban, MD of JK Aroma and Essential Oil, for providing a global platform to showcase her groundbreaking Cocoon Artistry. The opportunity to present her work at an international level is a testament to the support and encouragement she has received from Mr. Bagban and his esteemed organization.

Dr. Bukhari acknowledges this collaboration as a significant step forward in promoting innovation and excellence in the field of Sericulture.

## DPS Kathua hosts Enthralling Prize Distribution Ceremony for Pre-Primary Wing



JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEB 16

Delhi Public School Kathua proudly hosted a vibrant Prize Distribution Ceremony to honor the young achievers of its Pre-Primary Wing for their outstanding performance in various co-scholastic activities during the academic session 2023-2024.

The event, held at the school premises, witnessed the jubilation of little students from Nursery to UKG as they were felicitated for their remarkable accomplishments. From academic achievements to extra-curricular excellence, the students showcased their talents and efforts, leaving an indelible mark on the audience. One of the highlights of the ceremony was a mesmerizing dance performance by Class I students, which

enthralled everyone present. Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the students for their achievements and commended the dedication and hard work of the teachers and the Pre-Primary Coordinator in nurturing and guiding the young minds.

Kanta Andotra, Former MLA and Founder Chairperson of DPS Kathua, and Ms. Gauri Thakur, Director, congratulated the students on their success and emphasized the significance of co-scholastic education in holistic development.

Rishu Sharma, on behalf of the school, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, parents, and staff members for their unwavering support and contribution to the success of the event.

# Congress lashes out at Modi Govt for betraying farmers

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee today came down heavily on the BJP Govt. at the Centre for 'betraying the farmers on the Prime Minister Narinder Modi's guarantee and promise of 2014 to provide legal guarantee on MSP as per Swaminathan recommendations and extended full support to them reiterating the congress assurance to fulfill their demands on coming to power.

Expressing grave concern over the atrocities being made on the agitating farmers seeking fulfillment of Modi Ji's guarantee to them before 2014 general elections and again three years back, the congress party strongly condemned the government for the brutal way of drone attack on the farmers to prevent their march, as if the Govt. at war with the farmers who are Anndatas of the country.

Addressing media persons at the PCC HQ here today JKPC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani said that the entire country has seen the horrible visuals as how the BJP ruled Haryana state police has been resorting to brutal and inhuman

ways of preventing farmers' march. Teargas shells are being lobbed using the drones.

It is surprising as to why the BJP governments at the centre and Haryana needed to do all this when farmers were marching on, quite peacefully. Besides, they have a record of having remained peaceful two years ago when not a single untoward incident took place despite all provocations during their one year long sit-in in the outskirts of Delhi.

Flanked by PCC Senior Vice President Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Vice President Vinod Sharma, General Secretaries Narinder Gupta (Org), T.S. Tony and Narinder Sharma, JKPC President said that the Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Modi are backing out from what they promised repeatedly before 2014. Modi, while campaigning during the run up to the 2014 General Elections as the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate had himself promised to provide the MSP based on the recommendations of late MS Swaminathan, whom the BJP government very recently awarded with Bharat Ratna. BJP should have implemented his recommendations as that would be an equally



great tribute to him.

When the country's farmers staged a protest dharna for about one year in the outskirts of Delhi two years ago, the Prime Minister promised to consider legal guarantee for the MSP. Two years have passed but nothing has happened. The same farmers, in order to remind Mr Modi of his promise, decided to march towards the national capital. But they are being prevented and barred from moving towards the national capital.

Narendra Modi promised moon to the countrymen ahead of the 2014 General Elections. His speeches are reverberating fresh in public memory. He said let us refer to just a few of his promises he made to the countrymen, only to forget the moment he became the Prime Minister.

Modi said he will bring back entire black money stashed in foreign banks, for which he blamed Congress, and deposit Rs 15 lakhs each in every

Indian's bank account. He did not stop there. After assuming power he orchestrated a campaign prompting every Indian to open a "Zero-Balance" bank account suggesting that they will soon get Rs 15 lakhs each. Ten years have passed and the "bank transfers" are yet to take place.

Modi said he will create two crore jobs every year. From that count, twenty crore jobs should have been created and provided to the youth of the country. But nothing of that sort has happened. Rather, the rate of unemployment in the country is the highest in the last 45 years. There are 30 lakh vacancies in various central government departments, corporations/PSUs alone, which the Modi government is not filling.

Modi promised to double the farmers' income by year 2022. Ten years have passed and farmers' income has dwindled after taking into account various factors like inflation and other input costs. More farmers have been committing suicide during the Modi's regime than in the past.

The price rise is at a historic high. The gas cylinder prices have more than doubled. The prices of diesel and petrol have also

doubled despite the fact that the crude prices in the international market today are far less than what they were before 2014.

The BJP government fiddled with the established and well proved recruitment system for the defence forces of the country by launching the Agnipath scheme. To put it simply and straightway, it means, now the defence services and country's defence has now been left to the "contract labourers".

Country's debt during the last ten years has multiplied three times from about Rs 55 lakh crores in 2014 to Rs 185 lakh crores now.

Wani said that all earlier guarantees of Modi ji have proved to be election Jumla's and now again he giving similar guarantees to the country men before the general elections.

He said that the people of J&K will never forget Modi Ji's election guarantees to them which destroyed the jobs of the youth and land & job rights snatching our statehood and democratic rights for the last 10 years. The J&K Congress shall continue to fight against the wrong policies of the Modi Govt. and BJP with regard to J&K and for the restoration of democratic rights.

## Shiv Sena resolves to become voice of players, medal winners waiting for jobs for decade



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 16

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) has resolved to raise its voice for the betterment of sports and sportspersons, terming the current sports policy as mere lip service. In a press conference held today at the Press Club, Jammu, State Chief Manish Sahni said that under 'Khelo India' and 'Center of Excellence', exaggerated claims are being made for the betterment of sports and players in Jammu and Kashmir, proved to be hollow at the grassroots level. The reality is that we do not have as many participants in interstate sports competitions as medal winners from other states. Sahni said that under 'Khelo India', the figures are only being compensated by marking sports grounds in remote areas and in deserted fields. Whereas there is nothing in the name of facilities including trainers.

The main Mullana Azad Stadium in Jammu and Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar are also facing severe shortage of sports facilities as well as trainers.

At the same time, medal winners in sports at national and international level are becoming victims of neglect regarding government jobs. With the claims of betterment of the

players, in 2021, SRO 349 (under which there was a provision to give government jobs to 25 players every year) was amended to SO 12, under which there was a provision to appoint players on five gazetted and 25 non-gazetted posts every year. But for the last 10 years, Champion has been growing older waiting to get a job.

Sahni said that 'Sports Cell' has been formed by Shiv Sena with the resolve to improve sports and become the voice of players. Under which players and parents can give complaints and suggestions related to sports by calling 9419182952, WhatsApp or emailing "shivsenasahni@gmail.com" or give information to the party office. We assure every possible effort to raise these issues before the Sports Department and higher administrative officials and find a solution. Sahni also assured that the names of the complainants will be kept secret. Sahni said that Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to address the rally at MA Stadium in Jammu on 20th February. It is expected that the Prime Minister will take care of sports, end the wait for champions and distribute appointment letters. On this occasion president female wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Vice president Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh were present.

# Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India expands its Road Safety Awareness Campaign at Jammu

A campaign that left a notable imprint on over 2800 school students and staff members!!

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 15

Ensuring road safety is the topmost priority of HMSI. To promote responsible behavior on the roads and to aid in creating a more conscientious and safety-oriented society, the company frequently conducts Road Safety Awareness Campaigns across various regions of the country. HMSI firmly believes that such campaigns encourage individuals to adopt safe driving practices, fostering a culture of caution and consideration on the roads. One such campaign was recently held in the city of Jammu which left an indelible mark on the participants. On the premises of Army Public School, HMSI saw an enthusiastic participation of more than 2800 school students and staff members. HMSI firmly believes that imparting road

safety awareness at an early age is imperative, and thus, promotes the inclusion of road safety educational curricula at both school and college levels. Understanding that young minds are receptive to learning, the company aims to empower the next generation with the knowledge and skills necessary for navigating roads responsibly. The road safety awareness campaign consists of highly interactive and engaging activities such as Road Safety Games, Safe Road Theory Session, Road Signage and Riding posture training.

Since inception, in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, HMSI has imparted education to nearly 3 lakh adults and children, focusing on promoting responsible road usage and cultivating safe riding habits.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India's CSR commit-

ment towards Road Safety: In 2021, Honda globally made a vision statement for the year 2050 where it will strive for zero traffic collision fatalities involving Honda motorcycles and automobiles. In India HMSI is working in line with this vision and the Government of India direction of reducing fatalities to half by 2030.

One critical aspect of achieving this goal is inculcating a positive mindset towards road safety in our children by the year 2030 and continuing to educate them thereafter. Road safety education at schools and Colleges is not only to create awareness but to inculcate a safety culture in young minds and turn them to be the safety ambassador. It empowers future generations to become responsible and significantly contribute to a safer society.

HMSI wants to be a com-

pany that Society wants to exist and is strongly focusing on Road safety awareness to all sections of society with unique ideas catering to each segment from school kids to Corporates and society at large.

HMSI's set of skilled safety instructors conducts daily programs at our 10 adopted traffic training parks (TTP) across India and 6 Safety Driving Education Centers (SDEC) to make road safety education accessible to every part of society, and the initiative has already reached over 5.7 million Indians. HMSI's National Road Safety Awareness program made learning fun yet scientific through:

SCIENTIFICALLY DEvised LEARNING MODULE:

Honda's skilled instructors set the foundation with theory sessions on road signs & markings, driver's

duties on road, riding gear & posture explanation and safe riding etiquettes.

- PRACTICAL LEARNING:** A special training activity on Honda's virtual riding simulator was executed for all to experience over 100 possible dangers on road before actual riding.
- INTERACTIVE SESSION:** Participants were given danger prediction training known as Kiken Yosoku Training (KYT) which helps in enhancing rider/driver's sensitivity to danger and ensures safe driving behaviour on roads.
- EXISTING DRIVERS HONING RIDING SKILLS** Students & school staff members who are already existing riders tested & honed their riding skills through slow riding activities and riding on narrow planks.

duties on road, riding gear & posture explanation and safe riding etiquettes.



# Secretary Health chairs STF meeting on Pulse Polio Immunization 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 16

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today underscored that every child under 5 years of age must be administered Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) on National Immunization Day (Pulse Polio) on March 3.

He said that India maintains polio free status since 2011 and to ensure that the country stays free of polio, all stakeholders must redouble their efforts. He called upon all stakeholders, including the general public to wholeheartedly participate in the National Immunization Day (NID) to ensure maintenance of polio free status of the country and Jammu & Kashmir.

He made these remarks during the State Task Force meeting regarding National Immunization Day to discuss the planning & implementation of activities for Pulse Polio scheduled on the 3rd of March 2024 across Jammu & Kashmir.

The health department will administer OPV to all children in the age group of 0-5 in the arranged booths throughout the UT on 3rd March followed by house to house activity on 4th and 5th March while transit sites and special areas will be covered throughout the three days of immunization programme. In Jammu and Kashmir, around 19 lakh children will be inoculated during the three days from March 3 - 5.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, District Development Commissioners of J&K, Director School Education Kashmir, Director School Education Jammu, Director AYUSH J&K, Director



Health Services, Jammu, Director Health Services, Kashmir, Chief Medical Officers, State Immunization Officer, J&K, Deputy CMO's of J&K, District Immunization Officers (DIOs) of J&K. All outstanding officers attended the meeting via video conference.

Dr Abid Rasheed took a detailed review from every district about the preparations made and the steps taken by them for the NID activities among the target population, including the details of number of booths, vaccine availability in far-off places.

While chairing the meeting, Secretary Health & Medical Education said that maintaining polio free status is a prime responsibility for all stakeholders. He said that effective implementation of pulse

polio immunization programme is necessary to safeguard our future generations from this disease.

He called upon all the concerned departments to ensure active indulgence and take leadership roles in making this immunization programme successful so that no eligible child is left behind without vaccination. He said that some districts have peculiar geographical challenges and they should put in place a meticulous and in-depth plan in this regard. He said that slum areas brick kilns, construction sites, hard to reach areas and other vulnerable areas should be given utmost attention during the immunization day and proper surveillance must be maintained in such areas.

Secretary Health also directed the DIOs to

maintain adequate supply of vaccine at all locations while emphasising the criticality of cold chain maintenance.

He said that Chief Medical Officers/District Immunization Officers shall ensure all vaccinators and supervisors have undergone orientation as and when required. He said that they should make supervisory visits to sub district levels to review preparedness and monitor implementation.

He called upon the health department to continue to maintain a highly sensitive surveillance system for polio and any case of Acute Flaccid Paralysis in children are picked up by the polio surveillance network and properly investigated.

Secretary Health also highlighted the role of

DCs in setting up transit booths at airport, bus stands, railway stations and other required locations in their respective districts. He asked DCs to conduct District Task Force meetings to ensure effective implementation of Polio round in the districts. They should also provide support of all departments in identifying and providing manpower at their disposal who can be trained as vaccinators, he said.

Secretary Health said that Intensive IEC and IPC regarding the campaign would be needed to create awareness and acceptance in the community for Polio round and posters, banners, pamphlets should be displayed at prominent places prior to pulse polio day. He said that there should be a massive social media buzz and playing of FM jingles

regarding the immunization programme. He also said that involvement of religious leaders will provide a value addition to our efforts and will go a long way in sending messages to masses.

He also asked the Municipal Commissioners of both the divisions to providing space of hoardings for display of IEC at prominent locations in the twin cities and playing of jingles on all routes covered by municipal vans well in advance of the round describing the importance of polio vaccination to generate awareness amongst the masses.

He further said that health care workers who put in their efforts especially hilly terrain or hard to reach areas during the immunization programme will be felicitated.

# DC Bandipora launches Mobile Milk ATM Initiative



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 16

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Friday launched the Mobile Milk dispenser Van initiative at Animal Husbandry Complex, here. This innovative project aims to bring locally sourced, farm-fresh milk directly to the doorsteps of residents in the surrounding areas.

Milk dispensers commonly known as milk ATM, equipped with refrigeration and storage facilities, will traverse neighborhoods and communities, offering residents convenient access to high-quality milk.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed upon concerned officers from the Animal Husbandry Department to identify more youth to be engaged

under Govt sponsored schemes of the Department.

He said the schemes provided by the Government are meant for sustainable business and profitable enterprise and emphasized on more awareness in the upper reaches of the district.

The DC said schemes under the Animal Husbandry Department have the potential to provide self-employment in addition to providing direct or indirect sources of income to others.

Earlier, the DC inspected various units of animal husbandry, including Mobile Veterinary Unit, Pet care unit, stray animal shed, laboratory, milk analyzer, hematology analyzer and other blocks.

He also handed over keys of milk distributing vans among beneficiaries

under IDDS Scheme. Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Gh. Ahmad Lone informed the DC that Bandipora is self-sufficient in milk production with per capita availability of 1000ml, which is double the National Average.

He informed that in value addition, the department has sponsored milk processing units involving local youth at Papchan Bandipora besides engaging around 2000 youth under different schemes.

Dr. Lone informed the department also succeeded in establishing a first of its kind broiler farm and started artificial insemination in remote areas of Gurez.

He said the department also achieved a 100 per cent target of establishing dairy and poultry units in the district.

# ADC chairs STF meeting on Pulse Polio Immunization at Ganderbal



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 15

In a proactive move to enhance public health initiatives, a District Task Force (DTF) meeting for Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) was today held in the VC Room of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal (ADC), Gulzar Ahmad and was attended by key stakeholders to strategize and coordinate efforts for the upcoming immunization program.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Afroza Shah, Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal; Mirza Asif Ali Beigh, Executive Officer of Municipal Council Ganderbal; Muzamil Akhter, Chief Education Officer Ganderbal; Dr.

Nighat Yasmeen, Dy. CMO Ganderbal and Dr. Bushra Yousuf, District Immunization Officer Ganderbal.

Representatives from the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) were also present.

During the deliberations, the ADC emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and dedicated efforts to ensure the success of the IPPI program covering the set target Population of 46,689.

The ADC emphasized that the hilly and hard-to-reach areas, where accessibility and adverse weather conditions pose significant challenges, need special and extra attention to ensure no one is left out.

On-the-spot instructions were issued to concerned departments to streamline their opera-

tions and enhance coordination for effective implementation of the program scheduled on 3rd, 4th and 5th of March 2024.

As the IPPI program gears up for implementation, the District Task Force remains steadfast in its resolve to achieve maximum immunization coverage, safeguarding the health and well-being of the community, especially the vulnerable segments residing in remote areas.

The District Task Force Meeting for IPPI in Ganderbal concluded on a promising note, with a renewed sense of determination and collaboration among stakeholders.

With concerted efforts and proactive measures, the district aims to achieve its goal of a polio-free future, ensuring the health and safety of its citizens.

# DC Bandipora reviews functioning of Revenue Department



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 16

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Friday today chaired a meeting of revenue officers at mini Secretariat to review the status of various revenue matters.

The DC took a review of digitization of Jamabandis, encroachment, PSGA services, e-Office in revenue offices, pending Mutations, allotment of land to landless, encroachment and other related issues.

He said that revenue officers/officials are custodian of government land, and we must take care of it with added responsibility.

While reviewing the status of encroachment, the DC asked the concerned revenue officers

to take strict action in cases of encroachment of Government Land(s) and ensure that no government land is encroached.

Rather stressed upon revenue officials to meet the timeline of online services as per the Public Service Guarantee Act and ensure that no service is provided in offline mode, which is available on the online portal. He also warned that strict action shall be taken against officers and officials not adhering to the PSGA timelines.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandit, ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani, Sub Divisional Magistrates in virtual mode, Tehsildars and other concerned.

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 16

In order to review the functioning of Revenue Department and take Tehsil wise appraisal about Revenue related public services delivery system in the District, a meeting was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex. Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Khalid Hussain, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Assistant Commissioner Nazool, SDM East, SDM West and all Tehsildars of the District. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review about the working and functioning of the Revenue Department at grass root level and coordination of Tehsildars with the field Revenue staff.

The DC also reviewed the progress of all Tehsils of the District on various Revenue matters including progress on digitization of Jamabandis/Girdawari, Reconstruction of damaged Masavies, Status of Migrant offline/online grievances



and Online public services delivery system.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all the Tehsildars to pay focused attention to the complaints registered on the portal/offline to ensure quality redressal to the best satisfaction of the complainants. He further asked the officers to work with added zeal and dedication while redressing the grievances to ensure their time bound, prompt and quality disposal.

The DC also reviewed the process of online public services delivery mechanism. He said not a

single application should be beyond the stipulated period under PSGA.

The DC also asked the Revenue Officers to monitor the process of revenue related activities in respective jurisdiction on a daily basis so that people do not face any inconvenience while availing revenue related services. The DC stressed all the Tehsildars to pay special thrust on ensuring efficient and prompt delivery of public services to their best satisfaction as envisaged under Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).