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“Awaam ki Awaaz”

Lt Governor dedicates this month’s episode to Unsung Heroes, Nari Shakti of Jammu Kashmir

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 18

During this month’s Awaam ki Awaaz programme, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha highlighted efforts to provide social justice to build an Atmanirbhar Jammu Kashmir. He also shared the stories of beneficiaries and inspiring unsung heroes that have become embodiment of transformation in Naya Jammu Kashmir.

“After more than seven decades of India’s independence, Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji established Social Justice in J&K, which ensured everyone has access to equal opportunities and the resources to well-being and prosperity of marginalised sections of society,” the Lt Governor said.

He said the vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas and Sabka



Prayas has removed developmental imbalances and put J&K on the path of accelerated and inclusive development.

“No future-oriented society can progress without people-centered governance. Our vision is to ensure that growth must reach all sections of society and measures for equitable access to opportunities is further strengthened,” the Lt Governor

observed. The historic decision of the inclusion of Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli and Gadda Brahmin in Scheduled Tribes list, while safeguarding the interest of Gujjar, Bakarwals and other listed tribes is a testimony to our commitment towards the empowerment of all, he said.

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Dedicating the 35th edition of Awaam ki Awaaz programme to Unsung Heroes and Nari Shakti of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor lauded Bandipora’s Ms Shabnam Bashir for her significant contribution to the society and standout efforts for the revival of tribal culture.

He made a special mention of Ms Waheeda Akhtar from Budgam who overcame immense challenges and serves as an inspiration to women in the area and helping in their economic empowerment.

Ms. Reva Raina from Jammu is promoting values-based education using sports in different schools. Her vision

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Security stepped up in Kashmir ahead of PM’s visit to J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 18

Security forces have been put on an alert in Kashmir ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu on Tuesday.

Police and paramilitary forces are conducting random checking of vehicles at dozens of places in the city and elsewhere, officials said here on Sunday.

Special checking points, including entry and exit points have been set up at various places in the city as a precautionary measure, the officials said.

Although the prime minister will be visiting the Jammu region, the security forces in the valley have been put on an alert to ensure that terrorists do not carry out any subversive activities during the high-profile visit to the Union Territory, they said.

This will be Modi’s second visit to Jammu and Kashmir during his second term in office.



The Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate various development projects during his visit to Jammu which include the AIIMS hospital Jammu, world’s highest railway bridge over Chenab river and Devika river project in Udhampur.

Modi is likely to remotely flag off the first train in Sangaldan-Baramulla rail link and also address a public rally in Jammu later in the day.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi, reviewed the security in the valley

in a meeting at PCR Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of various security agencies including police, Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, CISF and state and central intelligence agencies, a police spokesman said.

He said the objective of the meeting was to undertake a comprehensive review and strengthening of the security arrangements “in anticipation of visits by VVIPs to the Union Territory of J&K, as well as other events

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Not seeking 3rd term for political gains, but for benefit of India: PM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked the BJP cadre to work with renewed vigour and confidence for the next 100 days to reach out to new voters and win their confidence to ensure the party’s return to power in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing the BJP national convention here, Modi said the nation will now have to dream big and make big resolutions to make India a developed country by 2047.

“The next five years are going to be crucial. We have to take a big leap towards ‘Viksit Bharat’. The first imperative is to ensure the return of the BJP to power in strong numbers,” the prime minister said.

Dreams of crores of women, poor and youths are Modi’s dream, he said. “We rid the country of mega scams and terror attacks, and made efforts



to improve living standards of the poor and the middle class,” the prime minister said.

Modi said he was not seeking a third term to enjoy power, but to work for the nation. “If I had thought of my home, it would not have been possible to build homes for crores of people,” he said.

He said 10 years of unblemished governance and pulling 25 crore people out of poverty were no ordinary feats.

“A senior leader once told me I had done enough as PM and CM, I should rest. But I am working for ‘rashtraniiti’,

not ‘rajneeti’,” he said. The prime minister said he lives by the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and takes inspiration from him. “I am not someone who lives for his own happiness. I am advocating for a third term for the BJP not for political gains, but for the benefit of India. My efforts are dedicated to the people of India. The dreams of Indians are my commitments,” Modi said.

He said he was the first prime minister to raise the issue of toilets and speak about dignity for women from the Red Fort. The BJP is bringing

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Srinagar-Leh highway closed following fresh Snowfall

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 18

Authorities have closed the Srinagar-Leh Highway for vehicular movement due to snow accumulation at Baltal in Jammu and Kashmir’s Ganderbal District.

Baltal is a camping ground for pilgrims, 75 km from Ganderbal and 93 km from Srinagar. It is located 15 kilometres to the north of Sonmarg.

The Border Roads Organisation, which develops and maintains road networks in border areas, also shared a video of the fresh snowfall.

Meanwhile, the Pir Panjal range in Poonch district witnessed fresh snowfall on Sunday, as seen in the visuals.

Meanwhile, Gurez Valley, in north Kashmir’s Bandipora district, received fresh snowfall on Sunday morning, with the Srinagar weather department predicting heavy to very heavy snow over the higher reaches of the



Kashmir division over the next three days, starting today.

Visuals showed, upper reaches of Gurez Valley, including Tulail Valley and Dawar village, received fresh snowfall on Sunday morning.

Gurez Valley is located in the high Himalayas, about 86 kilometres from Bandipora and 123 kilometres from Srinagar.

Following the snowfall, the authorities have reportedly closed the Gurez-Bandipora road for traffic movement.

As per the seven-day forecast from the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the minimum temperature

in Srinagar city will reach 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday, while the maximum temperature will reach 8 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature will hover around one degree Celsius over the next five days, starting February 19, while the maximum temperature will be 5-8 degrees Celsius over the same period of time.

Gulmarg, the ski resort in Kashmir, witnessed a minimum temperature of minus 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

In a post on X on February 17, Meteorological Centre Srinagar said, “18-20 Feb: Light to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG addresses Convocation Ceremony of Khardiha Mahavidyalaya at Ghazipur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIPUR, UP, FEB 18

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the Convocation Ceremony of Khardiha Mahavidyalaya, Ghazipur today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the graduating students and their parents on the momentous occasion and extended his best wishes to them for all the success in the future.

He also paid homage to the great educationist and freedom fighter Shri Brijmang Rai.

The Lt Governor exhorted the students to imbibe the values of self-

less service, compassion, social harmony, sacrifice, truth, non-violence and work for the betterment of the society. Your strong character, courage and self-confidence will lead you to overcome the challenges in life, he added.

Youth are engine of nation’s growth and development. They will be the flag bearers of our knowledge and cultural heritage. Under the guidance of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the progressive educational reforms have paved the way for the bright future of the younger

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Low-Danger level Avalanche warning issued for Anantnag, Kulgam for next 24 hrs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 18

Jammu and Kashmir State Disaster Management Authority (JK DMA) issued a low-danger level avalanche warning on Sunday for Anantnag and Kulgam districts of Jammu and Kashmir for the next 24 hours.

The warning said that the avalanche is likely above 2500 metres over the Anantnag and Kulgam districts.

JK DMA also issued a warning of an avalanche with a medium danger level over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban Bandipore, Baramulla, Kupwara and Ganderbal districts in

the next 24 hours.

Taking to the microblogging site, X, JK DMA posted, “Avalanche with *LOW Danger Level* is likely to occur above *2500 metres* over *ANANTNAG & KULGAM* districts in the next 24 hours. Avalanche with *MEDIUM Danger Level* is likely to occur above *2200 metres* over *DODA, KISHTWAR, POONCH, RAMBAN BANDIPORE BARAMULLA, KUPWARA & GANDERBAL* districts in next 24 hours.”

People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing into the avalanche-prone areas.

Country has made up its mind that PM Modi will be at helm for 3rd term: Shah at BJP meet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 18

Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday likened the upcoming Lok Sabha polls to the Mahabharata war, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the BJP-led camp working for the country’s development while “INDI alliance” under the Congress is full of family-run parties and corruption.

In his address at the BJP’s national convention here, Shah lashed out at the opposition INDIA bloc for its promotion of dynastic and appeasement politics.

He was speaking on the resolution “BJP: Desh ki aasha, vipaksha ki hata-



sha” (BJP: Country’s hope, opposition’s despair).

He said the opposition is full of “2G, 3G and 4G” parties, a reference to the second, third and fourth generation of families running these parties.

He said the prime minister has worked for the development of all sections of society and

enhanced the country’s global standing. Shah asserted there is no doubt in people’s mind that the prime minister will retain power for a third term.

While PM Modi thinks of the poor and the country’s development, INDIA bloc leaders think of making their children prime minister and chief ministers,

he said, referring to Sonia Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad and M K Stalin among others.

All the family “princes” have come together against Modi as they think only someone from a powerful family can occupy the top position, he said amid slogans in support of Modi at the meeting.

“On the one hand there are family-run parties and on the other is the son of a poor mother,” he said.

The government has worked to lift the living standards of 60 crore poor who earlier felt left out of the development process, he said.

Opposition parties are in denial mode,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Selfie point near LoC in Uri becomes major tourist attraction

J1 NEWS SERVICE
URI (J&K), FEB 18

A selfie point near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir has become a major attraction for tourists as it allows them to capture the mesmerising beauty of Uri’s remote border region and offers a panoramic view of the Jhelum river, officials said here.

The INDIA selfie point provides visitors with an engaging environment symbolising a sense of nationalism in the region, they said. The army had last year opened ‘Kaman Setu’, zero-point at the

LoC here, for tourists. The selfie point was opened for the public around the Republic Day this year.

The selfie point is the brainchild of artist and RNAF founder Roubale Nagi. It has been positioned strategically along the National Highway-44 and the structure offers a panoramic view of the picturesque Jhelum river, enhancing the pride of the locals as well as the tourists, the officials said.

The army thanked Nagi’s foundation which is known for its women empowerment projects. “Her gesture of gifting

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DC advocates for multifaceted strategy to combat Drug Abuse in Pulwama

JNEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 18

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom chaired a review meeting of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) with concerned officers and highlighted the urgent need for a multifaceted strategy to combat drug abuse in the region.

He called for a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach to tackle the impact of drug abuse on individuals, families, and communities in Pulwama.

The DC emphasized the importance of addressing drug abuse through a comprehensive approach that encompasses prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. "We cannot afford to address this issue with a one-size-fits-all approach. It requires a multifaceted strategy that tackles the root causes of drug abuse while also providing support and treatment for those affected," the Dr Basharat stated.

With initiatives aimed at educating young people about the dangers of drug abuse and promoting healthy lifestyle choices, the DC stressed the importance of engaging with schools, community organizations, and religious institutions to raise aware-



ness and provide support to at-risk individuals.

Education department was directed to prepare an annual Nasha-Mukt calendar of activities to be implemented across all educational institutions.

Enforcement measures, including FIRs, property attachments, and reducing areas under illicit crops, were reviewed as part of a comprehensive strategy. The chair was briefed on the lodging of 153 FIRs, 26PIT NDPS Cases registered and the attachment of 7 properties in line with prior directives against the offenders.

He gave directions and suggestions to build the capacity of the enforcement wings to have a better understanding of the provisions of COTPA 2003 to implement the

NTCP.

The chair was informed that special drives were conducted in eight villages of district Pulwama under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, 19 medical shops were disallowed for non-compliance of set SOPs besides 5 licenses were suspended.

The meeting also reviewed the status of CCTV camera installation and computerized billing in retail medical shops.

Chair directed the concerned officers for saturation in CCTV installations in both wholesale and retail drug outlets.

Agriculture and allied sectors informed that 825 kanals of land have been restricted/ cleared.

The DC emphasized the need for accessible and effective treatment options for those strug-

gling with drug abuse. Collaborating with healthcare providers and community organizations will be crucial in delivering these essential services to those in need.

He underscored the significance of robust law enforcement measures to combat the supply and trafficking of drugs in Pulwama. "We must work closely with law enforcement agencies to tackle the illegal drug trade and hold those responsible accountable for their actions," the DC emphasized. This includes enhancing surveillance and enforcement efforts to disrupt the distribution networks of illicit substances.

Dr Basharat called for a collaborative approach that involves local gov-

ernment agencies, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community organizations. "Addressing drug abuse requires a united front. By working together, we can leverage our collective expertise and resources to make a meaningful impact in our community," he stated.

The DC announced plans to convene a task force comprising representatives from various sectors to develop and implement a coordinated strategy. The task force will be responsible for developing specific initiatives and action plans tailored to the unique needs of Pulwama.

The DC has allocated resources to enhance drug abuse prevention, treatment, and law enforcement efforts in Pulwama. These resources will be directed towards implementing targeted programs, training personnel, and strengthening coordination among relevant agencies.

He also stressed the importance of raising public awareness and reducing the stigma associated with drug abuse.

Among others the meeting was also attended by the senior officers of Police and Civil Administration.

Yasha Mudgal presides public outreach programme at Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 18

Commissioner Secretary, Tourism department, Yasha Mudgal today presided over a public outreach programme at Lal Ded Auditorium of Jammu University's Bhaderwah Campus here.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh; CEO Bhaderwah Development Authority, Bal Krishan; officers of district administration, officers of line departments Sarpanchs, Panchs, PRI representatives and large number of people were also present on the occasion.

During the programme, number of issues spanning tourism industry development, adventure tourism, infrastructure maintenance, lavender farming and implementation of government schemes were brought in to the notice of Commissioner Secretary to Sarpanchs, PRI representatives and public representatives. The demands ranged from improving amenities, employment opportunities and tourism initiatives in the region for inclusive development.

The Commissioner Secretary, while addressing



the gathering, acknowledged the progress under the present UT government, emphasizing significant advancements across all sectors in the district. She assured timely resolution of raised issues, highlighting the importance of completing projects within stipulated timeframes and pledged support for initiatives to boost tourism as well as address basic infrastructure needs of the region.

Yasha Mudgal, on the occasion, urged concerned officers to prioritize the implementation of government-sponsored schemes to maximize benefits for the public. She emphasized the potential of Bhaderwah in adven-

ture tourism and called for promoting initiatives like homestays to enhance tourism and livelihood opportunities.

The Commissioner Secretary also asked the officers for creating awareness about HADP schemes for inclusive development of the sector. She also directed officers to frame a tourism calendar to promote district Doda as an agri-tourism destination.

During the programme, Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to resolving public grievances and promoting initiatives such as lavender farming and the Gandola car cable service to enhance tourism.

DC visits Mechanical Field Sub-Division Kulgam



JNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 18

To oversee preparedness for snow clearance and availability of machinery, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Mechanical Field Sub-Division Kulgam.

During the visit, the DC took a detailed stock of availability of snow clearance machines, snow clearance plan and functioning of control rooms.

AEE Mechanical Engineering Department briefed the DC about the availability of machinery and added that there are 24 machines available with the department including 2 snow cutters.

He also informed that they have established Snow clearance control rooms at Chawalgam,

Kulgam and Bathipora, and the department is clearing 554 Kilometer road length with 377 Kilometers priority 1st and 177 priority 2nd roads.

With regard to positioning of machines it was shared that 5 machines are kept at D.H Pora control room for Snow clearance in Noorabad area.

One machine is pre-positioned for Kund area and 14 machines are in ready mode for rest of Kulgam stationed at Chawalgam.

The DC instructed officers to keep all men and machinery ready to ensure timely Snow clearance from all roads to avoid any inconvenience to people.

Accompanying the DC were ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mushtaq Ahmad Lone and other officers.

2 JCBs among 09 vehicles seized for illegal mining in Kathua

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 18

As many as nine vehicles including two JCB machines involved in illegal mining were seized here today.

On a specific complaint lodged by a local person regarding illegal mining and excavation at Bhagtal areas, a team of Geology and Mining department rushed to the spot and detained all five vehicles and two JCBs.

It was found that the JCB machines were illegally excavating ordinary earth at Bhagtal for further transportation to industrial areas.

Later, two Punjab based dumpers were also seized for illegal transportation of minerals near Shree Ram stone crusher in Keedian Gandyal area as these were moving towards Gurdaspur.

The District Mineral Officer informed that the action has been initiated as per the MMDR Act of 1957 and SRO-105 of 2016 wherein powers have been delegated to officers for taking action against illegal transportation and illegal mining activities.

National Conference on SBM-G & JJM: Delegates praise J&K's Innovative IEC strategy

JNEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW (UP) FEBRUARY 18

Director General Rural Sanitation, Jammu and Kashmir, Anoo Malhotra, participated in the two-day National Conference on Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) held in Lucknow on 16th and 17th of February.

The conference aimed to discuss strategies and initiatives to further the goals of the SBM-G and JJM programs.

Anoo Malhotra gave a detailed presentation on the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating (SGLR) initiative, and information education and communication (IEC) strategies at the conference- which brought together diverse stakeholders from across States/UTs, fostering a confluence of ideas and best practices.

Swachhata Green Leaf Rating initiative is aimed at improving sanitation standards in the hospitality sector with the focus on rating hotels and other



establishments based on their sanitation practices, encouraging them to adopt best practices and improve overall sanitation standards.

Malhotra highlighted the best practices- from Swachhathon, Swachh Yodha Pratiyogita, Swachhata Bank, Waste to Wonder, War against Waste, Give Garbage Get Gold, Rural Technology Park, Swachh Samagaam, My 10 Kg Plastic and other initiatives adopted by Jammu and Kashmir to promote sanitation and hygiene practices among

the masses. These practices have been instrumental in raising awareness and encouraging behavioral change towards sanitation practices.

J&K's Innovative IEC strategy received all the praise from participants and delegates.

In her presentation, Ms. Malhotra emphasized the importance of sustainability in achieving the goals of SBM-G. She outlined the way forward to achieve these goals, stressing the need for continued efforts and innovative approaches to ensure the sustainability

of sanitation practices in rural areas.

The conference was graced by the distinguished presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, alongside other eminent personalities including Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI, Shri Swatantra Dev Singh, Cabinet Minister Jal Shakti, Uttar Pradesh, MP, Gorakhpur and Vini Mahajan, Secretary - DDWS, GOI

Day one of the workshop covered a range of

topics through panel discussions and interactive sessions. The Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, launched three impactful books from SBM-G. He spoke about the critical time of this conference which comes when both JJM and SBM-G have reached significant junctures in terms of their outputs and when the focus needs to be on sustainability. He spoke about the work we do in SBM-G and JJM which must be done in mission mode when we are addressing the concern of saturation and transformative missions- JJM & SBM.

The National Conference on SBM-G and JJM provided a platform for stakeholders from across the country to share their experiences, learn from each other, and strategize for the future. Malhotra's presentation was well-received, and her insights are expected to contribute significantly to the ongoing efforts to improve sanitation in rural J&K.

Series of special awareness camps organised across Kashmiri Migrants Camps in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 18

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K, in collaboration with the J&K Bank, organized special awareness camps at Jagti, Nagrota, Muthi, and Purkoo Camps during the week ending 17th February, 2024, under the LGS SSS(Self Employment, Skill Development, Scholarship and Social Assistance/Sports) Campaign, to aware the beneficiaries about various Government Schemes.

On the directions of District Development Commissioner, Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya officers from the Line Depart-



ments viz Industries, Social Welfare, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Employment, KVIB, Labour, Handicraft & Handloom gave awareness about various Government schemes in the Camp. The departments also enrolled beneficiaries

and gave detailed information about self employment generation schemes.

On the directions of MD & CEO of J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash, a team of J&K Bank Officers headed by the Zonal Head, Rajesh Dubey, Rohit Kumar, Incharge Advances and

concerned branch heads also attended these camps and gave awareness about the various services offered by the J&K Bank. The Jammu & Kashmir Bank also sanctioned 117 cases of self employment on spot involving an amount of Rs 2.47 crore. Further, the bank assured sanction of more cases in the coming week. A team of doctors from the Ayush Department held free health checkup in these camps and examined more than 500 persons. Free medicines were distributed to the patients. Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief & Rehabilitation Commis-

sioner (M) J&K, accompanied by Vijay Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (Relief), senior officials of Relief Organization, and officials from PWD(R&B), PDD and Jal Shakti also visited different migrant camps and took stock of the problems being faced by the camp inmates.

Director Agriculture Jammu flags off farmers group for training outside UT

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 18

A group of 48 Farmers of Marh Sub-division today left for a 6-Day Exposure cum capacity building training to CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi-Vishva Vidyalaya (CSKHVKV) Palampur.

The farmers' visit was flagged off by Director Agriculture Jammu, S. A. S. Reen here from Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan.

The six day training visit w.e.f. 18th to 23rd of February, 2024 to CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi-Vishva Vidyalaya (CSKHVKV) Palampur has been arranged under HADP Project Promotion



of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants.

The Director Agriculture Jammu, while interacting with the farmers, said that the exposure visit is being organized for acquainting the farmers to different aspects of Cultivation of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants besides Integrated Farming Systems including Organic Farming, Mushrooms Growing, Beekeeping, Animal Rearing, Vermicomposting, Vegetable Cultivation etc. He advised

the farmers to interact with the scientists and research workers to get the clarifications regarding latest techniques

being adopted in the farming. He asked the farmers to utilize the technology in their fields after learning from such trainings and also share it with fellow farmers.

Deputy Director (Central), Sanjhog Kotru, Agriculture Economist, Jog Raj Salathia, SDAO Marh, Sahil Gandotra besides other officers were present on the occasion. Two officers are also accompanying the farmers for the exposure visit to CSKHVKV, Alampur.

'Miss World Undeclared': A tale of beauty and acceptance presented by Natrang Theatre

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

'Miss World Undeclared', a play in Hindi, written by Satyendra Shrivastava and directed by Neeraj Kant, was staged here today at Natrang's Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its Weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre. Mrs Varsha Jain wife of ADG Police Jammu zone was the Chief Guest on the occasion who appreciated the performance of young artists and complemented Natrang for providing training and performance opportunities to the enthusiastic new entrants in the world of theatre.

The play 'Miss World Undeclared' presented at Natrang Studio unfolds the sad saga of all those people, particularly



Asians who reside in the developed European Countries and are subject to racial discrimination and hatred from the natives as they think their resources are shared and reduced by them. This was shown from the point of view of a school going girl, 'Noorie' who was regularly bullied by her classmates who have fair complexion.

They tease her for not being as beautiful as them to the extent that she decides to discontinue her education. But her mother, a very wise lady, makes her realize that the criteria for being beautiful is not being fair or having external beauty, the real beauty is internal beauty and anyone with a good heart and calm mind is

much more beautiful than those people who are just externally good looking. Motivated by her mother, she goes to the school and comes back very happy as on that day the result of the Miss World pageant gets declared and the winner was an Indian girl. The play ends with a positive and inspirational note that "it does not matter how we look but it really matters what we are" and that is the key to real and eternal happiness.

Natrang's young artists who presented a remarkable performance included Mehak Chib as 'Noorie' and Vandana Thakur as 'Mother'. Lights were designed and operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the music was scored by Chaitanya Shekhar. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Under PM Modi's leadership J&K has flourished, become 1st state to have IIT, IIM, and 2 AIIMS: Rohiin Chandan

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

India has emerged as a beacon of progress globally under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the union territory of J&K has a model of good governance this was stated by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary, Jammu South Rohiin Chandan. He said the credit for the change in the ground situation in the union territory of J&K goes to PM Narendra Modi who has achieved targets that were considered impossible. Rohiin asserted that Modi led government public friendly multiple schemes benefit all citizens of J&K. He informed that Prime Minister Modi always considered Jammu and Kashmir as his family and did not discriminate with the people and gave whatever benefit he could. He said



the Modi government took a multisectoral approach to restore normalcy to the state.

Rohiin Chandan highlights that the work which was not done in the last 70 years, was only done by the Modi Sarkar in just 10 years of magical tenure, which no one had even imagined and the real definition of developed India was shown to the citizens of all domains. He elaborates that J&K has achieved what was considered unthinkable, fulfilling the long-standing wishes and aspirations of the people. Rohiin added that now under the vibrant

leadership of PM Modi, the discrimination has ended and so has terrorism in J&K. He emphasized the change happened because of the sacrifice of (Jana Sangh founder) Syama Prasad Mookerjee, devotion, inspiration of others and the strong political will of PM Modi who overcame a challenge as big as the "Himalayas" and made J&K a permanent part of India, which is historic, Rohiin said.

Rohiin Chandan expressed, honoring the profound legacies of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and realizing the aspirations of Sardar Patel also known as Iron Man, and Babasaheb Ambedkar Ji, he added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed peerless courage in abrogating Article 370. This historic move, affirmed by the Supreme Court of India, stands as an irreversible transformation, heralding

the reinstatement of an era of peace and progress in J&K.

Rohiin Chandan educates that the infrastructure of J&K is another key area of focus that has seen substantial investment from the Modi-led government in just ten years of successful good, governance. He furthermore added that the abrogation of article 370 is a "Gamechanger" and a turning point for the yuva shakti of J&K. He said in the last 70 years, there were only 4 medical colleges, but 7 new medical colleges have been built by the Modi government along with 28 nursing colleges, and 19 paramedic colleges, 800 more medical seats have been added taking the total to 1300 today. Rohiin highlights remarkably, that under PM Modi, J&K has flourished and become the 1st state to have IIT, IIM, and 2 AIIMS.

Jammu Sanskriti School Jammu Advocates Sustainable Development Goals by pioneering Global Sustainability Fest 2024- One of the kind

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu hosted first of its kind a groundbreaking Global Sustainability Fest aimed at raising awareness and promoting action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event brought together students, educators, community leaders, and sustainability experts to discuss and collaborate on solutions to global challenges.

The Fest marked the commencement in the benign presence of Dr Ashok Pandey - An education leader and Innovator who was the Keynote speaker of the day, deliberated on how can we bring SDG Goals into action and thereby bringing them into reality, Khalid Jhangir (JKAS) - Managing Director, J&K Trade Organisation, Prof Yashpal Sharma - Professor in department of Botany, JU, Dr Amandeep Kour Anand-MD, MAMS, FICOG, FICS, CIMP, RCOG Associate Consultant Gynecologist & HOD DNB OBGYN Gov-



ernment Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, Dr Roopali Slathia- Physical Director - GDC RS Pura, Dr Alka Sharma - Educationist, State Anchor were the panelists who promulgated the sustainability in different aspects of life. Principals from different schools were also the part of this Fest.

The Global Sustainability Fest served as a platform to engage participants in meaningful dialogue surrounding the 17 SDGs established by the United Nations to address pressing environmental, social, and economic issues. The Fest marked its beginning

with traditional lamp lighting ceremony, followed by myriad cultural events on theme sustainability ensued by panel discussion. The exhibition put up by different schools was inaugurated by watering 17 potted plants representing 17 SDG goals by the dignitaries. Students from Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu and other CBSE schools of Jammu namely Model Academy, APS BD Bari, APS Miran Sahib, APS Jammu Cantt., IDPS Jammu, KC International, Jammu Sanskriti School Kathua, Kartar Public School, Kathua, exhibited and portrayed how well sustainability can be

achieved by showcasing their 17 SDG goals in a diligent manner which was appreciated by keynote speaker and other panelists.

Rohini Aima - Principal Cum Vice-Chairperson of Jammu Sanskriti School, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, stating, "The Global Sustainability Fest underscores our school's commitment to nurturing responsible global citizens who are passionate about creating positive change. By empowering our students to understand and act upon the SDGs, we are fostering a culture of sustainability and social responsibility."

The management of the school conveyed their best wishes and appreciation to students and faculty. The notion was conceived by Rohini Aima - Principal Cum Vice-Chairperson of Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu to create a mass awareness about how our youth can play a crucial role in achieving sustainability. The vote of thanks was delivered by Avneet Kour Budhraja - the Vice principal of the school.

Cardiovascular Consequences of Metabolic Syndrome-Unforeseen circumstances: Dr. Sushil

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

With pandemic of metabolic syndrome looming over urban as well as rural population Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac Awareness cum health Check up camp at Shiv Mandir, Muthi village Block Bhalwal, Jammu with main motto of educating people about the ill consequences of metabolic syndrome and remedies there off so as to adopt a cardiac friendly diet and lifestyle and prevent cardiac complications at early stage.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil Stated that metabolic syndrome is defined as the concurrence of obesity-associated cardiovascular risk factors including abdominal obesity, impaired glucose tolerance, hypertriglyceridemia, decreased HDL cholesterol, and/or hypertension. Earlier conceptualizations of the MetS focused on insulin resistance as a core feature, and it is clearly coincident with the above list of features. Each component of the syndrome is an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease and the combination of these risk factors elevates rates and severity of cardiovascular disease, related to a spectrum of cardiovascular



lar conditions including microvascular dysfunction, coronary atherosclerosis and calcification, cardiac dysfunction, myocardial infarction, and heart failure. While advances in understanding the etiology and consequences of this complex disorder have been made, the underlying pathophysiologic mechanisms remain incompletely understood, and it is unclear how these concurrent risk factors conspire to produce the variety of obesity-associated adverse cardiovascular diseases.

He elaborated that the predominant underlying risk factors of the metabolic syndrome appear to be abdominal obesity and insulin resistance; other associated conditions can be physical inactivity, aging and hormonal imbalance. An atherogenic diet (e.g., a diet rich in saturated fat and cholesterol) although not listed specifically as an underlying risk factor for the condition can enhance risk in people with the syndrome for developing cardiovascular

disease. One theory states that insulin resistance is the essential cause of metabolic syndrome. Multiple metabolic pathways have also been proposed to link insulin resistance and compensatory hyperinsulinemia to the other metabolic risk factors. Finally, considerable individual and ethnic variation exists in the clinical pattern of metabolic risk factors in obese/insulin-resistant subjects. It is likely that the expression of each metabolic risk factor falls partially under its own genetic control which influences the response to different environmental exposures.

Dr Sushil Sharma in his concluding remarks told that despite significant advances made to date, the physiological and molecular mechanisms of metabolic, functional and vascular disease in obesity/MetS remain poorly understood. The most obvious hurdle is the complicated, inter-dependent multi-factorial nature of the syndrome itself, making it difficult to dis-

entangle relevant factors or specific combinations of factors. There is a clear need for ongoing exploration of issues, to better understand and better treat obesity and MetS-associated cardiovascular disease, in order to better address the considerable public health implications of these conditions. Further he explained that there may be value in diagnosing the metabolic syndrome, not just for specific treatment of insulin resistance but to identify persons (even with only modestly elevated risk factors) with an extremely adverse metabolic state that warrants aggressive intervention for specific traits, He Said.

Prominent members of the area Brig. Dr Vijay Sagar Dhiman, Pandit Pyare Mohan Shastri, Balwant Kataria, Raman Chaitra and Dharam Chand Shastri appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health checkup camp in their locality.

Others who were part of this Camp includes Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor and Dr Devinder Singh. Paramedics and volunteers includes Paramveer Singh, Vinay Kumar, Jatin Bhasin, Amish Jamwal, Rahul Vaid, Sunil Pandit, Mukesh Kumar, Gourav Sharma, Amnish Dutta, Ranjeet Singh and Rajkumar.

Gurmeet Singh criticizes BJP Government's policies on unemployment and inflation, calls for nationwide protest

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Gurmeet Singh General Secretary JKPCC & President Beopar Mandal conveyed to everyone that the Congress's ongoing protest as 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'-led by MP Rahul Gandhi was not for any political gain. It is to raise voice against issues like specially inflation corruption, irregular raised taxes by center and State BJP led Governments, and wrong policies of the BJP led NDA Govt. at the Centre & unemployment of youth in the country.

Gurmeet Singh said that People are feeling harassed by tax terror and unprecedented price hike, at the same time, they realize that BJP Govt. is looting them to recover the losses it has done to the Country economy by misrule and mismanagement of things since the day one as a result there is a restlessness across the country. Every section of the society including youth, students, employees are up in arms due to wrong policies of BJP and this is the reason Congress party under the leadership of Shri Rahul Gandhi has launched Nationwide 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' against the wrong policies



of the BJP led NDA Govt. at the Centre. He said that our dynamic leader Rahul Gandhi is fearlessly fighting for the cause of every Indian against the oppressive policies of the Modi Govt. and the entire Congress cadre is solidly behind the Congress leadership.

Gurmeet Singh Addressing largely attended Congress protesters at jammu east, against price rise, rising unemployment today lashed out at Centre Govt. for the unprecedented price hike and record unemployment besides failing to address the grievances of people of J&K on every count after promising massive development post August 5, 2019. He said that developmental process started by UPA in J&K received a major setback, as the NDA Govt. failed to carry forward the massive developments started by UPA.

Gurmeet Singh said In

the protest it was highlighted that only by getting LPG Gas Cylinder @ Rs. 950/- which is not at all tolerable by the poor people and beyond the capacity of purchasing the cylinder at very high rate. Speaking on the occasion Gurmeet Singh Distt. General Sect. Congress stress the BJP Govt. to issued LPG cylinder FREE OF COST to the BPL and poor families so that they may be able to pull on their daily life peacefully.

It is also added that the poor peoples should get kerosene oil as was earlier issue to them it is not known why it has been stopped by the BJP Govt it is strongly stress that the kerosene oil be issued on regular basis to the poor families.

Gurmeet Singh General Secretary JKPCC & President Beopar Mandal strongly attacked the BJP Govt at centre for the incessant price hike of

essential commodities including LPG Cylinder and continue hike in price of petrol and diesel making life miserable for all sections of societies in the county.

Gurmeet Singh has said that Modi Govt. has imposed heavy taxes on the people, as its economic policies have been total failure leading to worst ever economic situation and lowest ever growth of the Country leading to unprecedented price rise of all commodities.

Gurmeet Singh criticized the BJP Govt. for plight of common poor man and unemployed youth as well as the sufferings of different sections of the society and said that Congress would continue to highlight the problems of the people.

Prominent among those who accompanied :- Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal, include ward no 3, President Harvinder Singh, Santosh Devi, Shanti devi, Reena Devi, Asha Rani, Asha Devi, Sandya Kumari, Jyoti Sevi, Pooja, Poly Devi, Bimla, Rita Devi, Suman Devi, Sushma Devi, Kavita Kumari, Vishal Singh, Ram Lal, Kasholya Devi, Pooja Devi, Amarpreet Singh, Apu Singh, and beside others.

Police arrests drug peddler in Baramulla

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEB 18

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested a drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party headed by SHO PS Tangmarg at a checkpoint established at Bus Stand Tangmarg intercepted a person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactful-



ly. He has been identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir son of Ab Hameed Mir resident of Ferozpora Tangmarg. During search, officers was able to recover 35 grams of Charas from his posses-

sion. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station Tangmarg where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at

Police Station Tangmarg and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

Director I&C calls for renewed trust and confidence between MSMEs and Govt

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

While regretting the negative perceptions, the Director of Industries and Commerce Kashmir Khalid Majid has called for renewed trust and confidence between the MSMEs and government in order to bring a revolution in industrial development in UT of J&K under newly launched ambitious schemes and policies.

Speaking as the chief guest over an impressive oath ceremony function organised by Industrialists Association Khunmoh, the director said that the

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor was personally monitoring the industrial progress and was deadly against creation of unnecessary hurdles by any official in the facilitation of MSMEs.

He said that difficulties encountered by the entrepreneurs in pursuing their cases at various levels were being ascertained to plug these with industry-friendly procedures under the guidelines of "ease of doing business".

"While grasping the contours of existing policies and schemes, I have also been interacting with leaders of the industry to

take their feedback", said Khalid Majid, adding that appropriate recommendations were being made on various demands put forth by FCIK in their memorandum to the incumbent Chief Secretary.

While FCIK was well equipped to take up bigger matters with relevant authorities, the Director sought cooperation from its constituent associations in collection of data required for various existing and upcoming schemes.

Replying to the question of regional discrimination in disbursement of incentives, Khalid regretted

that very less number of MSMEs in Kashmir applied for various incentives which would obviously result in lower share.

He also overruled the claim that 'Delayed Payments Act' was not being implemented. He informed that only 195 claims of delayed payments had been received by his department since 2013 out of which 36 claims had been disposed and 57 claims were under disposal. He, however, assured that the facilitation in disposal of cases pertaining to delayed payments would be expedited in coming months.

Empowering Partnerships: Servokon System limited hosts dynamic channel partner meet in Jammu, unveils future growth strategies

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Servokon Systems Limited, a leading player in the power conditioning equipment and transformer manufacturing sector and India's No. 1 Servo Voltage Stabilizer Manufacturer, made a significant announcement during its Channel Partner Meet at Hotel KC's Orchids Banquet and Convention Center in Jammu. The event unfolded with a comprehensive display of Servokon's extensive product portfolio, including the most demanding Automatic Voltage Stabilizer, underscoring the company's unwavering commitment to innovation and customer-centric solutions. Among the key announcements made was the introduction of new solar rooftop solutions tailored for the Jammu region in response to the burgeoning demand for Servokon's products. This strategic move underscores



the company's dedication to providing cutting-edge solutions that cater to evolving customer needs while contributing to a sustainable future. Servokon's new solar product offerings include panels, inverters, and batteries, aligning with its vision for a greener planet.

Mr Haji Kamruddin, Founder and Managing Director of Servokon Systems Limited, expressed his enthusiasm for the expansion, stating, "Our Channel Partner Meet in Jammu underscores our steadfast commitment to excellence and our

unwavering dedication to meeting the needs of both our valued customers and esteemed distributors and channel partners. This event represents a significant milestone in our journey, and we are delighted to announce its resounding success. We are thrilled to introduce our enhanced product offerings, reflecting our ongoing efforts to deliver innovative solutions that resonate with our customers. The active participation of our partners, who play a pivotal role in Servokon's success, has added immense value to the event. Their insights

and our shared dedication to innovation have propelled us forward in our quest for excellence."

Highlighting the company's responsiveness to market demands, Mr Kamruddin noted, "The growing demand for our products in Jammu has spurred us to enhance our manufacturing capabilities to meet this surge. This strategic initiative underscores our agility in adapting to market dynamics and reaffirms our commitment to serving the region effectively."

Servokon Systems Limited remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering robust partnerships, driving innovation, and contributing to the development of the power sector in Jammu. The expanded product portfolio is poised to empower individuals and businesses alike with advanced technological solutions for their power conditioning requirements.

Take One hosts 1st edition of 'Open Mic Hub' in Jammu; 15 performers showcase talent



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 18

Take One hosted the first edition of 'Open Mic Hub' at its studios in Channi Himmat, Jammu on Sunday. 15 participants took the stage to showcase a wide variety of talent including poetry, rap, mimicry, acting, singing, and tabla playing.

Those who performed include - Yogeshwar Singh (poet), Sushant Singh Rajput (singer), Siloni Sharma (singer), Arti Bhagat (actor), Sidhant Panotra (singer), Rashi (singer), Kanha

(rapper), Malvika Kalra (poet & writer), Rageesh Sharma (singer), Sahaj Sabarwal (poet & writer), Param Sagar (actor), Sukhleen Kour (singer), Vijay Bhaskaran (writer), Ishveen Kour (singer) and Rajveer Singh (Tabla player).

The spectacular performances of the artists mesmerized the audience and they appreciated the artists and their talents. The audience also hailed the initiative by Take One adding that it will help artists to explore their talent and showcase it in a public setting.

The first edition of 'Open Mic Hub' was sponsored by Amul, Rayat Bahra University, Dewan Devi Playway and Higher Secondary School, Daksh Institute and Walker's Shoes.

All participants were felicitated with gift hampers presented by Take One Operations Coordinator Capt Subash Chander.

'Open Mic Hub' is an open-to-public talent showcase initiative by Take One to provide a stage to upto 15 talented performers every month and propel their talent

onto a national and international level via its vast digital reach. The 'Open Mic Hub' performances will be broadcast across Take One Television, Take One Digital Network website and Take One's latest social media vertical 'Take One Originals'.

The second edition of 'Open Mic Hub' will be held on 17th March 2024 at the Take One Studios at Channi Himmat in Jammu. The opening of registrations was announced during the event with several audience members registering to perform on the spot.

Jammu Computer Dealers Association elects new Executive Body

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Jammu Computer Dealers Association (JCDA) held elections for the various positions and elected its new executive body, here today. JCDA is the apex body representing business owners dealing in computers, office automation, and other IT products and services.

As per the certificate issued by the two election commissioners Dr. Adit Gupta and Mr. Rakesh Badyal, the new team includes Mr. Sandeep Malhotra of L.S. Technologies as President, Mr. R C Sharma of Aar Gee Tradeters as Vice President, Dr. Gopal Parthasarathi Sharma



of Arya Technology Ventures as General Secretary, S. Jatinder Singh of Royal Infotech as Organizing Secretary and S. Gurpreet Singh of Duke Computers as Treasurer of JCDA. It is worth mentioning here that all the five office bearers have been elected unopposed.

In an impressive AGM of the association, the

election commissioners wished great future for the IT fraternity and offered their continued support to the association.

In his address, the new President, Mr. Sandeep Malhotra thanked all the members of the association for their unconditional support and promised to work tirelessly for the common goals of the association. He expressed hope that during his tenure more business owners will join JCDA and help the community manage its affairs in a better manner. All other newly elected office bearers in their respective addresses sought support from the members to run the association in a more meaningful manner.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor dedicates...

and selflessness have helped revolutionize and shape the young minds, the Lt Governor said.

Udhampur's Anita Sharma and Shahnaz Bano; Sunita Devi from Kathua; Medhavi Sharma; Saras Bharti; Baramulla's Nazish Rashid, Mehbooba Akhtar of Ganderbal and Lakshmi, a resident of Samba also received a special mention from Lt Governor for their inspirational journeys in fields like entrepreneurship, promotion of Dogri Folk, Basohli art & painting; mushroom cultivation and establishment of Polygreen house unit.

The Lt Governor shared the valuable suggestions received from Dr. Syed Saileem from Srinagar, Priya Varma from Reasi and Insha Manzoor from Pulwama on women's health, well-being and safety and issued necessary directions to the concerned departments for appropriate action.

He also voiced the inspiring thoughts of Rishu Gupta from Samba, Kupwara's Neelofar Bukhari, Chanchal Kumari from Udhampur and Arifa Ara from Budgam pertaining to financial literacy among women, entrepreneurship and leadership roles for women.

In this month's episode, the Lt Governor paid homage to Thakur Raghunath Singh, a nationalist thinker-writer and recalled his significant contribution to the promotion of Dogri language and culture.

He also congratulated and commended Padma Shri recipients Dogri folk singer Sh Romalo Ram and master craftsman Sh Ghulam Nabi Dar of Srinagar for preserving and promoting the rich art and heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

Security stepped up...

in offing". Stressing the need for maintaining a balance between security needs and the smooth conduct of events, the IGP Kashmir directed officers to ensure heightened vigilance, particularly during night hours, to mitigate the risk of terrorist threats.

Birdi underlined the need to bolster intelligence gathering and anti-terror operations and urged officers to minimize the risk of untoward incidents by strengthening security at vulnerable points, especially during significant events.

"Special attention was given to enhancing security along the National Highway, tunnels, minority pickets and other critical pockets," the spokesman said. The IGP issued specific directives to intensify secu-

city and surprise naka measures in both uptown and downtown areas of Srinagar, with round-the-clock patrolling and increased presence at entry and exit points of the district.

The IGP also underscored the importance of following the SOPs, considering the heightened security concerns during events.

"Special instructions were given to border district heads to maintain strict vigilance along the LoC and hinterland to prevent the potential terror activities," he added. (Agencies)

Not seeking 3rd...

together the power of youths, women, farmers and the youth in building a "Viksit Bharat", Modi said. "We asked those who were not acknowledged by anyone, and not just that, we have also worshipped them," he said.

In the times to come, there will be plenty of opportunities for "our mothers, sisters and daughters", the prime minister said.

He said Mission Shakti will create a complete ecosystem for the protection and empowerment of women in the country and added that 15,000 women self help groups will get drones.

"Now, 'Drone Didi' will bring scientific temperament and modernity to farming. Now, three crore women in the country will be made 'Lakhpati Didis'," the prime minister said.

He also said that the BJP ended the five-century wait of people and constructed the Ram temple in Ayodhya. "The religious flag has been hoisted in Pavagadh, Gujarat, after 500 years. After seven decades, we opened the Kartarpur Sahib Highway. After waiting for seven decades, the country has got freedom from Article 370," the prime minister said. (Agencies)

Srinagar-Leh highway...

moderate Snow/Rain over plains with heavy to very heavy snow over higher reaches of KMR Division & Pir Panjal Range of JMU Division," it said.

The India Meteorological Department predicted heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh on February 18 and 20, and over Uttarakhand on February 19 and 20. (Agencies)

LG addresses Convocation...

generation, he said.

He asked the youth to take full advantage of the enormous opportunities available in diverse fields and contribute in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

A publication on Human Values and Human Rights was also released on the occasion.

Prof. Vandana Singh, Vice Chancellor, Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur; Prof. Prem Narayan Singh, Director IUCTE Varanasi; Dr. Shashikant Rai, Administrator and Dr. Kunwarbhanu Pratap Singh, Principal Khardiha Mahavidyalaya; Heads of various institutions, teachers and students were present.

Country has made...

he said, adding they oppose everything for the sake of it, be it the repeal of Article 370, ban on triple talaq, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or the construction of the new Parliament building.

The Congress, he said, turned down the invite for the Ram temple consecration ceremony due to its appeasement politics.

If family-run politics existed in the BJP, then son of a tea seller would not have become the country's prime minister, he asserted. (Agencies)

Selfie point near...

the structure stands as a testimony to rising nationalism in the valley. The selfie point was conceptualised with an aim to provide a unique engaging environment for individuals and groups alike," the army said.

Nagi said sculpting the name of the nation through her art installation is a tribute to the sacrifices made by various sections of society for the country's freedom.

"Nothing feels better than sculpting the name of my nation through my art. Proud to install my sculpture #INDIA at Uri, a remote border region," Nagi, daughter of a retired army officer, said.

"How blessed we are to be free. Our children need to know the sacrifices that were made by so many to protect the freedom we enjoy today," she said, urging people to include Uri as their tourist destination.

Nagi has been instrumental in making selfie points in Kashmir which included one at the revamped Polo view market, Rajbagh and Dal Lake.

Lt Governor attends the Annual college festival of Shri Jagjivan Ram Inter College at Ghazipur



JNEWS SERVICE
GHAZIPUR, UP, FEB 18

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the Annual college festival of Shri Jagjivan Ram Inter College, Nagsar, Ghazipur, today. The Lt Governor congratulated the college management, teachers and students on the occasion.

"Educational institutions are the centers of social transformation. It is a matter of immense satisfaction that teachers, students and college administration are working with single-minded pursuit of knowledge and vocational training," he said.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the teaching community to

nurture leadership qualities among the students and create a conducive environment to develop lifelong learning skills.

Dedication, discipline and determination of youth will help the society to grow from strength to strength, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also honoured the prominent citizens for their significant contribution in diverse fields. He said, their felicitation on the occasion will inspire the youth to selflessly serve the society.

Members of the Shri Jagjivan Ram Inter College management, teachers, students, prominent citizens and people in large number were present.

Freezing of Congress bank accounts an assault on democracy: Bhalla

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Sunday strongly condemned the freezing of bank accounts belonging to the Congress and the Youth Congress by the Income Tax department, just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. Terming the move as an assault on democracy, Bhalla stated, "I think this is very unfortunate and a direct attempt to influence the elections in democracy. Elections are going to be announced any time in a week or two and freezing the bank account of the primary opposition party before that is completely illegal and undemocratic. "A pattern is visible, a design is visible that the Central Government is using each and every one of its agencies against the opposition," he asserted. Bhalla speculated on the BJP's motives, implying a nefarious plan to undermine democracy. "This conspiracy is not against opposition parties, it is a conspiracy against democracy, it is against elections." Congress stands for 'patriotism and sacrifice', 'service and dedication', 'loyalty and inspiration', for 'prosperity and happiness', 'compassion and justice', 'fearlessness and discipline' and Congress stands for 'Indianness'. This was stated by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla while addressing huge gathering of people of RS Pura Jammu South constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said every Congress leader and worker is a symbol of this spirit. They have to go ahead and do more work.



We must remember that the Indian National Congress not only liberated the country but also laid the foundation of a prosperous India. We have created such an India, which is the largest and strongest democracy in the world, added Bhalla.

Bhalla termed the "10 years of BJP regime as an era of great economic, social and political injustice in the country in which the rate of unemployment increased three times." "During this period, the economic condition of the people remained at the lowest level. He alleged that there had been severe assault on the economic, social and democratic rights of the people and the constitutional institutions in the country in 10 years of BJP regime. "The record unemployment has frustrated the youth as the number of unemployed has increased to 4 crores in 2022 from one crore in 2012 and the unemployment rate is the highest in 45 years. The unprecedented price rise in petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG, flour, pulses, rice and other essential commodities, imposition of GST on them has reduced the domestic savings to the lowest of

and inadequate facilities to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. He emphasized the need for timely payments to meet their essential needs without undue financial strain. Bhalla said that Congress has launched campaign to apprise the people of the kind of hatred which is seen in society and the prevailing situation in J&K. We have presented certain facts against the government on issues such as farmer suicides, betrayal of the youth, and how their dreams were shattered by the central and the J&K governments," he said. Bhalla regretted that since the 2014, BJP-led Government at the Centre is brazenly ditching the helpless people in one way or another. "Instead of addressing their long pending just and genuine demands, the present Government has adopted a 'callous approach' on this human issue. Pointing out that democracy is in decline, he conveyed that the Congress party will stand for truth and continue to fight for the people. "BJP's failure to deal with issues like unemployment, price rise and the overall prosperity and security of the country is clearly visi-

ble in the current situation of the common people. Their hardships are piling up as BJP continues to favour the rich and neglect the poor," they said. They further said that the Congress party is determined to expose the hypocrisy of the BJP Government.

Bhalla further said that electoral contests will continue to happen, but no matter how long it takes and how much struggle it takes, we are ready to fight unitedly. We got the same guidance from 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' as well. Increasing economic disparities, reckless privatization of public properties, rising unemployment and inflation are our biggest economic challenges. Farmers and farm laborers should be the priority of our economic policy. Green Revolution and White Revolution were made possible by the Congress governments.

Today, we have many challenges before us, but there is no such challenge that Congress cannot manage. What is needed is - unity, discipline and determination. Our strength lies in the strength of the Party. The ideology of party should go to crores of our comrades at every level, district and village. That's why I especially want to appeal to young friends that the future belongs to you. If the Congress is strong, then the future of this country will be prosperous. It is the biggest responsibility of all of us to take forward the atmosphere created by Rahul Ji, by treading the most difficult of paths. The biggest challenge is to save the Constitution and democracy created by Babasaheb Ambedkar, added Bhalla.

Manjit Singh demands proprietary rights to DPs/Refugees, local allottees of Custodian Land in Jammu Region

JI NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, FEB 18

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh on Sunday demanded proprietary rights for the Displaced Persons, and local allottees in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua Districts.

As per the press release, Manjit Singh chaired a meeting of the Displaced Persons (DPs) at Vijaypur and reviewed the issues of the pending package, and proprietary rights to them.

During the threadbare discussion, he was informed about the delayed process of distribution of packages amounting Rs 25 lakhs to each family of DPs / Refugees that was sanctioned by the then Govt of India. However, only Rs 5.5 lakhs were released in their favour whereas the rest of the package amount was not released.



"The DPs/Refugees faced migration in 1965 and 1971 after they were forced to abandon their fertile agricultural land. Hence, they were settled by the then Govts in border areas of Jammu, Kathua and Samba Districts, and parts of Pirpanjal," he added.

He said that these people lived life in huge economic distress, and poverty in absence of any support from the Govt. Keeping in view their financial condition and to support for sustainable survival, he said that the then Govt of India had sanctioned Rs 25 lakhs per family to the DPs/Refugees. However, the release of the package amount was delayed first, and then the Govt only

released Rs 5.5 lakhs to the DPs/Refugee families. However, the rest of the amount was not released till date, he said, while asking the Govt to look into the demands of the DPs/Refugees in a humanitarian manner so that they can be helped to uplift their living standard.

He also condemned the casual approach of the authorities towards the suffering of the DPs/Refugees and demanded that their demands should be accepted.

He also referred to the property right to the DPs/Refugees and local allottees on Custodian Land in Jammu Division. He said that these families of DPs/Refugees and local allottees have been living in the Custodian Land/Property for decades and constructed their houses, yet the Govt has not given them property rights.

These local allottees as

well as the DPs/Refugees should be given property rights on the Custodian Land so that a sense of security can be provided to these hundreds of families, he said.

Referring to the political reservation, he said that the Govt should enhance their assembly seats up to eight seats for the DPs in legislative assembly.

"The DPs/Refugees have remained ignored for decades politically. Although the Govt has reserved one assembly seat for them, the representation is insufficient in comparison to their population and the vast area of their dominance across the Jammu region," he said.

He said that in the wake of aspiration, the Govt should enhance the reservation for DPs/Refugees up to eight seats in the legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Central Govt's betrayal dashed hopes of refugees, unemployed youths: Rattan Lal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre for its betrayal and misdeeds, which have shattered the hopes of refugees and left unemployed youths in despair as promises remained unfulfilled. He emphasized that the Central government has callously disregarded the trust of refugees in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, plunging the youth into an unemployment abyss due to its failure in honoring commitments made to the people, especially refugees.

In a fiercely worded statement released to the media today, the senior National Conference leader highlighted the glaring disparity between promises and actions, citing the meager compensation provided to PoK refugees despite earlier recommendations. He pointed out that the then Omar Abdullah Government had recommended Rs. 25 lakhs as a comprehensive package to PoK refugees, and later, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs had recommended Rs. 30 lakhs as a comprehensive/one-time settlement package for refugee families. He lamented that



till date, only one installment of Rs. 5 lakhs has been paid to them.

He underscored the pressing need for the immediate release of the pending compensation in a single installment, labeling it as a genuine and justified demand that has been neglected for far too long.

Expressing unwavering support for the welfare of refugees, Gupta reaffirmed the National Conference's commitment to championing the cause of PoK Refugees. He urged the Central Government to heed the long-standing plea of refugees and promptly disburse the remaining compensation as recommended by the then Omar Government.

The Provincial President further castigated the BJP for its hollow promise of creating 2 crore jobs per year in the country, highlighting the stark reality of rampant unemployment plaguing the nation, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. With Prime Minister Modi's scheduled visit to J&K on 20th February, he stressed the urgent need for tangible action, urging the Prime Minister

to prioritize the release of pending compensation to refugees and jobs to the unemployed youth of J&K as promised during his visit.

Furthermore, Rattan Lal Gupta said that the highest-ever inflation has plunged the general public into a state of financial strain, as they grapple with the soaring costs of essential commodities and services, rendering it increasingly challenging to maintain a decent standard of living. He also underscored the pressing concerns echoed by farmers through their ongoing protests, emphasizing the pivotal need for the government to address the underlying grievances and ensure the implementation of fair and supportive policies for the agricultural sector. He emphasized the imperative for the Central Government to honor its commitments made to farmers regarding the implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Rattan Lal asserted that the people of J&K have grown disillusioned with the BJP's rule, citing its failure to address crucial issues such as refugee compensation and unemployment, despite grandiose campaign promises. He warned that the electorate is poised to deliver a resounding verdict against the BJP in the upcoming Parliamentary elections, reflecting widespread discontent and disillusionment with the party's governance.

Fulfill demand of protesting farming community: Sadhotra

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 18

Ajay Sadhotra, a senior leader of the National Conference, has vehemently accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre of stifling the voices of the nation's food producers. He highlighted the plight of farmers who have been protesting against contentious agricultural laws.

Speaking at the meeting held here today, Sadhotra strongly condemned the government's handling of the ongoing farmer protests and expressed solidarity with the farmers who have marched to Delhi to demand the fulfillment of their legitimate demands. He underscored the critical role of farmers in ensuring food security and national prosperity, emphasizing that



their concerns should be addressed with empathy and urgency.

Sadhotra called upon the BJP government to engage in constructive dialogue with farmers' representatives to find equitable solutions that safeguard the interests of agricultural communities across the country. He also urged citizens to stand in solidarity with the farmers and demanded accountability from the government for its failure to uphold the democratic rights and welfare of the farming community.

The former minister urged party workers to gear up for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He emphasized the importance of highlighting the misdeeds of the BJP government in failing to provide basic amenities to the people. He stressed the need for active participation in the democratic process to hold the government accountable and work towards addressing the grievances of the public.

The senior NC leader urged party members to mobilize effectively, focus-

ing on raising awareness about the failures of the current administration and advocating for positive change in the interest of the people.

Today's meeting was organized by Sunil Verma, District President, JKNC, Udhampur, in which Ajay Sadhotra, Additional Secretary, JKNC, and former minister was the Chief Guest.

During the meeting, Sunil Verma announced the formation of Party's City Block Committee, Udhampur, by appointing Om Prakash as City Block President, Ram Paul Sharma as Senior Vice President, Pir Gulam Hassan as Vice President, Bachan Lal as Block Secretary and Ravi Kumar was appointed as Joint Secretary.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Verma congrat-

ulated the newly appointed members of City Block Committee, Udhampur. He expressed his confidence in their abilities to effectively fulfill their responsibilities and work tirelessly towards the goals and vision of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference. Emphasizing the importance of unity and dedication, he urged the committee members to collaborate closely and strive for the betterment of the party and the welfare of the people.

Among those who were present include Manmohan Verma, K.D Sharma Advocate, Amarnath, Bishan Dass, Attar Chand (KAS) Retd SDM, Sham Lal Sharma, Mishambar Dass, Savitry Devi, Sunita Mehra, Radhey Rani, Simran Devi, Shakti Devi, and senior youth leader Akash Verma.

PM Modi's Feb 20 visit to boost morale of party cadre ahead of Lok Sabha polls: Dr Parneesh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Dr Parneesh Mahajan, senior BJP leader and Convener of Department of Training, BJP, J&K, said that the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the City of Temples on February 20 will boost the morale of the party cadre which holds much significance because of upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior BJP leader said that party cadre will get the much needed boost with the visit



of Pradhan Sewak which in turn will become a major factor in rejuvenating the mood of the ground level workers who are the real soldiers of the party as they help in mobilizing the people to vote in favour of the party.

Dr Parneesh asked the workers to disseminate information about BJP achievements among the people of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that opposition parties do not sway them by deception and false promises. He said that J&K has witnessed the next level of development

after the abrogation of Article 370 and to continue the momentum of development it is quite important that the BJP government should be elected for a third term at the Centre.

The senior BJP leader said that the onus of thumping victory of the party in upcoming Lok Sabha elections in J&K fully lies on the shoulders of ground level workers as they are the ambassadors of the party. He said that only BJP can satiate the aspirations of people and for this party's victory is a must in the elections which are due in the coming time.

EDITORIAL

Make timely payments to get uninterrupted power supply

The government has initiated several power reforms to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the reforms, the Power Development Department (PDD) has made it mandatory for all government employees in Jammu and Kashmir to clear their electricity bills to get salaries in the next month. The decision has been taken given the huge Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Not only government employees, but contractors also have to clear their electricity bills to get payments for their developmental work. Taking a lead in this regard, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) urged the district magistrates of the Kashmir division to disburse the salaries of government employees after the clearance of electricity dues. It thinks that the electricity due lying pending with the government employees and contractors needs to be cleared before the disbursement of the salaries of government employees and before the release of funds in favor of the contractors for development works. There is no denying in fact that any default on power bills always leads to serious consequences for both employees and employers. It reflects poorly on the financial management skills of individuals, and for departments, it can be a sign of financial instability or irresponsibility. This issue can arise due to various reasons such as financial difficulties, oversight, or lack of awareness. As per the letter, the KPDCL says it is entrusted with the responsibility of collecting revenue on account of electricity charges from all categories of consumers, including government employees and contractors executing various development works, in the Kashmir division. The government has fixed revenue targets for KPDCL for the current financial year. Regular review meetings are being chaired at the highest level, and information is shared weekly. The Finance Department has from time to time issued directions for the timely recovery of government money deposited instead of power and energy dues from government employees. The move seems to be a well-thought-out strategy. For government employees, defaulting on power bills despite getting handsome salaries, can lead to disconnection of services, which can disrupt their daily lives. It can also result in additional fees and penalties, further exacerbating their financial burden. From an employer's (department's) perspective, this behavior can indicate potential issues with employee morale, financial stress, or lack of communication. Having said this, government employees and departments as well as contractors need to recognize the importance of timely payment of power bills. By fostering a culture of financial responsibility and providing support where needed, departments can help in achieving the power department's set target of revenue. In light of these directives and to ensure government revenue realization recovery is fixed for the current financial year, all district magistrates of Kashmir division as per past practice are now requested to issue circular directions to all DDOs, District Treasury Officers, and Treasury Officers in their jurisdiction to draw and disburse the salary of government employees working in the districts only after the clearance of electricity dues. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has recorded huge Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses during the last few years. After Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir recorded huge AT&C losses during the last few years. Nagaland has the highest number of 60.69 percent AT&C losses followed by Jammu and Kashmir with 59.28 percent AT&C losses. The need of the hour is that the district magistrate in coordination with various departments should ensure strict implementation of the directive.

Skill development: Key to India's shifting job market

DINESH SOOD

In today's rapidly changing job market, skills development is of paramount importance. The job market is constantly evolving due to technological advancements, economic developments, and shifting client preferences. To excel in this dynamic environment, people must adapt and develop new abilities.

The future of work will not only revolve around hard skills but also encompass holistic skills. India, with over 808 million young workers below the age of 35, needs to reflect seriously on the correlation between skills and employability, potential versus realization, and ambition versus support. The current skill deficit of only 5% being formally skilled, and a focus on formal learning, leaves graduates unprepared for the competitive job market. Therefore, the shift towards holistic skill-based education, as outlined in National Education Policy 2020, is imperative for success.

The primary goal of skill development is to enhance sustainable employability, transition unskilled workers into formal employment, and improve job

quality and livelihoods. The evolving job market demands skills that align with business productivity. The impending job landscape in India requires a blend of advanced technical skills and softer, transferable skills. It is crucial to provide early exposure to these skills during high school to ensure that young individuals are adequately prepared for the future job market.

According to a World Economic Forum report, by 2027, 69 million new jobs will be created, while 83 million will be eliminated. The era of generalists is giving way to an era of specialists. The next few years will witness significant demand for Artificial Intelligence (AI) professionals, sustainability specialists, business intelligence analysts, and information security specialists.

In today's highly competitive job market, there are still plenty of opportunities for those with the right skills. To stay ahead of the competition, even many traditional skill-based businesses are now actively seeking out AI and automation experts.

Professionals are being transformed by automation and artificial intelligence, with certain jobs becoming obsolete and

new opportunities emerging in growing industries. As machines take over repetitive tasks, there is now a greater demand for specialized technical skills. Currently, data science, artificial intelligence, robotics, and machine learning are the leading job creators. This means that job seekers must possess a different set of skills to remain competitive.

Today, technology and digital literacy skills are essential for most employment roles. Programming languages, data analysis, cloud computing, and cyber security expertise are critical as data-driven businesses must protect their data from cyber threats.

Moreover, in this digital age, soft skills are more crucial than ever. Communication skills, problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking are all essential to navigating an automated world successfully.

Those who can combine technical skills with these soft skills will have a significant advantage in today's job market.

In the current Asian job market, candidates with adaptable skills are the most sought-after. Employers demand individuals who can rapidly acquire

new skills and apply them effectively in a dynamic work environment. Given the dynamic nature of the job market, many job roles become obsolete over time, and new ones emerge.

Therefore, adaptability and the ability to reskill and upskill have become highly valued and critical for both employees and employers to remain competitive and relevant.

As technology continues to reshape job creation and the implementation of AI and automation, deep data analytics across functions are driving these changes. The introduction of new technologies has compelled businesses to reskill their workforce. With over 54% of India's workforce requiring reskilling, traditional jobs in manufacturing, administration, and retail become obsolete due to automation, and the workforce in these fields must reskill to find new opportunities.

Upskilling, on the other hand, is the process of enhancing existing abilities to meet the changing needs of a job function to be more effective and reliable. Hence, a salesperson, for example, may need to upskill in digital marketing to remain competitive.

Sustainable Employability: Lifelong learning is an absolute necessity for adapting to the ever-evolving job market. It is imperative to understand that learning should not be confined to formal education, as it holds greater significance than ever before. Continuous learning is the key to remaining employable and excelling in a career.

Furthermore, businesses highly value individuals who can embrace change and seek out new learning opportunities. Adopting a mindset of constant improvement is an invaluable asset in a job market that values adaptation and creativity. Additionally, lifelong learning can significantly improve an individual's job satisfaction and overall well-being. It is the prime responsibility of individuals to take charge of their skill development and always adapt to the changing landscape of today's job market.

As India approaches a transformative era, rethinking education and prioritizing on-the-job training are crucial.

Embracing apprenticeships can shape a workforce equipped not only with theoretical knowledge but also practical tech-based skills, essential

for gaining a competitive edge and thriving in the dynamic economic landscape. Lifelong learning is paramount in adapting to the evolving job market, where adaptability and creativity are highly valued. Individuals must take charge of their skill development to remain employable and excel in their careers. The future of work demands a blend of technical proficiency and soft skills, underscoring the necessity for continuous self-improvement and adaptation.

In conclusion, as India stands on the brink of an era of transformation, it is vital to rethink education, give priority to on-the-job training, and embrace apprenticeships to shape a workforce that not only possesses theoretical knowledge but also has the practical tech-based skills necessary to gain a competitive advantage and thrive in the dynamic landscape of the country's economy.

(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill Centres (an initiative of GoI). Views are personal)

Siddaramaiah vs Modi: The 'cess-y' mess in fiscal federalism

PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

Something unique and rare in Indian political history happened recently. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, and many senior cabinet ministers went to Delhi and sat in a dharna for a "My State My Tax" protest. They were joined by ministers and leaders from the other southern states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and supported in spirit by Telangana. It was an extraordinary development where democratically elected heads of India's states were forced to go to Delhi to demand their share of tax revenues and taxation rights. "No taxation without representation" was the slogan for the American independence struggle against the British. Southern states in India are now protesting against "Representation without taxation".

With the southern states' protests and the Supreme Court's recent ruling, the late BJP finance minister Arun Jaitley's contribution of the phrases "cooperative

federalism" and "electoral bonds" to India's political lexicon have been rendered dubious and hollow by the Modi government.

Elected governments across the world rely on direct and indirect taxes for revenues to implement schemes and fulfil their electoral promises. As per the Constitution, state governments in India do not have powers to levy direct income and corporate taxes, unlike in other federal nations. After GST, state governments lost their exclusive powers for indirect taxes, too. They are only left with powers to tax sin goods, fuel, property, electricity, and agriculture, which constitute a small slice of overall tax revenues. To put it simply, post-GST, democratically elected state governments in India are forced to be almost entirely dependent on the Union government for resources.

To make matters worse, the Modi government, true to its governance style, has politicised India's federalism through duplicitous means of cesses and surcharges to garner greater share of tax revenues for itself and mini-

mise states' share.

When a Karnataka resident buys a certain good or service and pays Rs 100 as central taxes on it, the Union government keeps Rs 58 of it and shares Rs 42 with the states. But for the same transaction, if Rs 100 is charged as cess by the Union government, then it gets to keep all of it and not have to share it with the states. This is a quirk and a relic of India's historical taxation laws. So, a "cooperative federalism"-minded Union government will try to minimise cess and maximise tax revenues which can be shared with state governments for their governance. Unsurprisingly, the Modi government did the exact opposite in its decade-long tenure.

Cesses and surcharges have nearly doubled as a share of revenues from 12% to 20% of overall tax revenues during Modi's tenure. In 2014, overall tax revenues collected by both the Union and state governments was Rs 18 lakh crore, which rose to about Rs 46 lakh crore by 2023. But a whopping 10% of this increase came from cesses and surcharges,

depriving state governments of nearly Rs 3 lakh crore. This is a huge amount, and hence state governments are crying foul. This has impacted every state government but because of the extreme high-command culture and imposition of their will on BJP-ruled states, BJP Chief Ministers can only grumble in private rather than join Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bengal and Telangana in an overt protest. The Modi government's "cess mess" has stained India's fabric of federalism.

This deceit by the Modi government is what has angered the high tax-contributing southern states and prompted them to question the transfer of their tax revenues to poorer northern states. The average person in Karnataka or Tamil Nadu pays Rs 20,000 annually in taxes while the average person in Madhya Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh pays just Rs 4,500. But the average person in Bihar, UP or Madhya Pradesh get back Rs 260 for every Rs 100 they pay in taxes, while the average Kannadiga gets back only Rs 40. Over the

course of Modi's tenure, this gap has only widened, and little progress has been made in bridging either the fiscal or the development gap between the richer and poorer states. Now, the contributing states are questioning the need for such an extreme skew in the distribution of tax revenues.

The very idea of India as a 'Union of states' is now precarious. There is a complete breakdown of trust and trustworthiness between the Union and states. This growing banyan tree of distrust between states was sown by the duplicitous fiscal approach of the Modi government, watered by the imposition of a 'one nation one policy' framework, branched by the extreme politicisation of institutions such as ED, CBI, Income Tax, Election Commission, and tended by 'governor' politics. It is no secret that most states harbour deep disenchantment with the Modi government's anti-federal style of governance. It so happens that the more developed southern states, which are not ruled by the BJP, are able to express their

resentment more freely than their Maharashtra, Haryana and Gujarat counterparts.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman exemplifies this disdain for states, especially those that are governed by non-BJP parties, with her scornful public rebukes and shallow pomposity, evident in the "white paper" she released in parliament recently. It claimed that India's economy and infrastructure have grown in the last decade, all due to the untiring efforts and the inordinate skills of Narendra Modi. It was like parents celebrating the growth in age of their child from 5 to 15 after a decade. Even if cricketer Ravindra Jadeja or actor Akshay Kumar had been Prime Minister in this period, GDP would have grown, more toilets and houses constructed, more airports, ports and highways built, and India would have been the Chair of the G-20. The real question is not whether the child has grown in age, which is largely inevitable, but how tall, healthy, and happy is the child for her age. Ask the states!

Embracing the Wisdom of the Dawn

SWAMI CHARANASHRIT

In the serene hours before dawn, when the world is enveloped in a tranquil embrace, Hindu scriptures whisper the profound significance of rising early. Rooted in the ancient wisdom of the Vedas and echoed through the teachings of saints and sages, the practice of waking at dawn holds profound importance in Hindu culture, offering a pathway to spiritual growth, physical vitality, and mental clarity.

In Hinduism, the day is divided into various segments called "Yamas" and "Nakshatras," with each having its own unique energies and influences. The pre-dawn period, known as "Brahma Muhurta," is considered especially auspicious for spiritual practices and self-reflection. It is believed that during this time, the atmosphere is charged with

divine energy, making it conducive for meditation, prayer, and introspection.

One of the primary scriptures in Hinduism, the Bhagavad Gita, emphasizes the importance of disciplined living and self-mastery. Lord Krishna advises Arjuna, "One who is disciplined in his habits, including eating and sleeping, can mitigate all material pains by practicing the yoga system." (Bhagavad Gita 6.16). Waking early is seen as a foundational aspect of this discipline, setting the tone for the day and allowing individuals to align their actions with higher principles.

Furthermore, the concept of "Brahmacharya," often translated as celibacy or chastity, encompasses more than mere abstinence from physical indulgence. It entails the conservation and channeling of vital energies towards spiritual growth and self-realization. Waking early



aids in this endeavor by providing precious moments for focused sadhana (spiritual practice), fostering a deeper connection with one's inner self and the divine.

The ancient seers and rishis, who delved into the mysteries of existence, recognized the profound relationship between the rhythm of nature and

human consciousness. By synchronizing with the natural cycles, individuals can attune themselves to the harmonious flow of life, experiencing enhanced well-being and clarity of mind.

From a practical standpoint, waking early offers numerous benefits for physical and mental health.

Ayurveda, the ancient system of medicine, advocates for a daily routine ("Dinacharya") that aligns with nature's rhythms to promote balance and vitality. Rising with the sun allows for exposure to natural light, which regulates the body's internal clock and promotes healthy sleep-wake cycles.

Moreover, the early

morning hours provide an opportunity for solitude and reflection, free from the distractions of the bustling world. It is a time for setting intentions, planning the day ahead, and cultivating a sense of inner peace. By starting the day mindfully, individuals can navigate life's challenges with greater resilience and clarity.

In the Hindu tradition, waking early is not merely a ritualistic practice but a sacred endeavor that encompasses physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions. It is a testament to the reverence for life and the pursuit of higher truths. As the world awakens to the gentle embrace of dawn, may we heed the timeless wisdom of Hindu scriptures and embrace the transformative power of rising with the sun.

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

IIM Jammu: Pioneering Excellence

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Nestled amidst the breathtaking Himalayas, the Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) stands as a beacon of excellence, shaping the future of management education, business, and society. With a strong dedication to nurturing leaders and fostering innovation, IIM Jammu has consistently set benchmarks in management education while making significant contributions to the society.

Established in 2016, by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, IIM Jammu began its journey from transit campus at Canal Road. From its modest beginnings with just 47 students in 2016, the Institute has grown exponentially, currently catering to over 1200 students across various programs.

Under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, the Institute embarked on a journey with the construction of its new campus in Jagti. Spanning 200 acres and built at a project cost of Rs. 500.91 crores, the new campus reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to providing world-class infrastructure conducive to holistic development of student. The new campus has been completed in record time, boasting state-of-the-art facilities, including smart class-



rooms and the "Nalanda", a modern library, fostering an environment of academic pursuit and innovation.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the New Campus, Prof. Sahay, mentioned "IIM Jammu's vision is to develop leaders and entrepreneurs, aiming to motivate students from job seekers to job creators through practical exposure and industry collaborations. Despite being the youngest of IIMs, IIM Jammu has earned recognition, ranking 15th overall among all IIMs in the NIRF Rankings 2023. The Institute offers MBA, Executive MBA, Ph.D, MBA in Hospital Administration and Healthcare Management jointly with AIIMS Jammu and IIT Jammu, Dual Degree Programme (B. Tech +MBA) with IIT Jammu. Driven by its vision to develop global leaders and entrepreneurs, IIM Jammu is com-

mitted to serving as a catalyst for positive change in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The inauguration of the new campus by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi signifies the Institute's unwavering commitment to excellence, societal impact, and economic development."

Adding further, he mentioned, "The Centre for Diversity and Inclusion reflects IIM Jammu's dedication to providing a safe environment for marginalized communities to explore entrepreneurship. In a short span the Institute has been spearheading impactful programs like the Community Leadership Program, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme, and the establishment of Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development, IIM Jammu aims to foster socio-economic development and empow-

er communities. Through Initiatives such as the Community Leadership Program aimed at empowering youth with essential leadership skills, while collaborations like the STEM program with SIDBI promote grassroots entrepreneurship. The Education Leadership Training Programme for College Principals of Jammu and Kashmir enhances educational quality in Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing IIM Jammu's holistic approach to education and societal impact."

As IIM Jammu continues its journey, it remains dedicated to fostering leadership, innovation, and societal transformation. With a focus on excellence, inclusivity, with state-of-the-art facilities, IIM Jammu is poised to emerge as one of the top business schools in India with a global outlook and a commitment to nation-building.

Unifying people, ending discrimination & insecurity will be priority of my govt: Azad

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 18

Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad today addressed a significant public meeting in Paloura, Jammu, emphasizing the importance of voting for development and rejecting parties that sow division in the name of religion. The public meeting was organized by Provincial Gen Secretary Adv Maheshwar Singh. Mr Azad highlighted the necessity of prioritizing development agendas over divisive politics. He acknowledged the government's efforts in certain areas but criticized the revocation of Article 370 and Article 35A, labeling it as a blunder. Furthermore, he pledged that if DPAP comes to power, they will work towards reinstating job and land rights, ensuring that no outsider can purchase land or secure jobs in J&K. Azad emphasized the importance of working for the welfare



of all people, stating, 'As CM, I never discriminated based on religion or caste.' He highlighted his track record of initiating projects in both Jammu and Kashmir regions, underscoring his commitment to equitable development. He affirmed that if DPAP comes to power, they will reinstate the Roshni scheme, emphasizing its importance for equitable land distribution and development in the region. Azad asserted that after experiencing the performance of various other

parties, people should now shift to DPAP's track record and his tenure. He reiterated his commitment to prioritizing development and employment opportunities above all else. Among others who were present on the occasion were, Vice chairman Mr. GM Saroori, General secretary RS Chib, Anita Thakur, Provincial president Jugal Kishore Sharma, Gen secretary Vinod Mishra, Chief, spokesperson Salman Nizami, Adv Maheshwar Singh Provincial Gen Secretary, state

secretary Sunita Arora, Zonal president Choudhary Gharu Ram, Secretary Hira Lal Abrol, Zonal president PR Manhas, Subash Gupta Provincial VP, Ashok Sharma Provincial VP, District president Gourav Chopra, Ashok Bhagat, Sobat Ali, Prabha Salathia, Anoop Khajuria, Vishal Chopra, Prabha Salathia, Kirtan Singh, Fatima farooq, Sheikh Zafarullah and Kulwant Singh Chib, Rajinder singh pinky, Ashutosh raina, kamalpreet singh, Sanjay Manhas, others.

Rajesh Kesri reviews ongoing construction of temple at Sainiya De Kotha

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today organized meeting at Sainiya De Kotha to review progress of ongoing construction of temple being built in the area under the supervision of Mahant Rajendra Saini. Kesri was told that every villager is very happy and enthusiastic over the construction of temple and that temple is being constructed in an atmosphere of great happiness and priest Rajendra Saini is fully contributing to it. Kesri on the occasion also thanked Member Parliament Jugal Kishore ji who helped in



the construction of the temple by providing assistance of 500000 donations for the construction of temple at some distance in the area and demanded same amount for ongoing construction of temple along with contribution of villagers and also contribution made by devotees from adjoining areas. These

small contributions so collected will be used for the construction of grand temple in the area. Kesri while thanking all those who have contributed for the construction of grand temple also appealed Shiv Sena Hindustan workers for donating generously and wholeheartedly for the construction of temple. Kesri meanwhile

observed that since the start of construction in the area those who were earlier trying to spoil peaceful environment in the area have now mended their ways and now there is congenial environment and everyone is working together to build the temple. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Block Bishna Pradhan, Rajkumar Baba General Secretary Sanjeev Sharma Deputy Chief Deshray ji Rakesh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Suresh Kumar, Dheeraj Kumar, Darshana Devi ,Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi, Poli Devi besides dozens of other Shiv Sainiks.

Grand Gurmat samagam in memory of Sant Gurbaksh Singh Ji Dana held at Domana

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

A grand 'Gurmat Samagam' in the memory of Sant Gurbaksh Singh Dana was held today at Gurudwara Sri Guru Arjun Dev Ji, Akhnoor Road Domana, under the patronage of Sant Tejwant Singh Ji, 'Dera Mukhi' Sant Pura Dana.



The programme was organized with the active cooperation of Joginder Singh Bali and Updesh Kour Bali (Hongkong Waley), Baldev Singh CEO Peaks, Adv Surinder Kour, Bhagri family from USA and Jeet Singh of Holand and others followers of Dera Sant Pura Dana.

Besides local Ragi jathas Prominent Ragi Jatha of Bhai Sahib Bhai Shub Deep Singh, Hazuri Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar was the main attraction of the Samagam, another prominent Ragi Jatha of Bhai Sahib Bhai Tavneet Singh of

Chandigarh also graced the occasion by reciting Shabad Kirtan. Local prominent Ragi Jathas who recited Shabad Kirtan were Bhai Sahib Davinder Singh ji, Bhai Sahib Bhai Kulwant Singh ji, Bhai Sahib Bhai Jagjir Singh ji Hazuri Ragi Gurudwara Sant Pura Dana, , Bhai Sahib Bhai Bahadur Singh, Bhai Sahib Charanpreet Singh , Bhai Sahib Bhai Gian Singh Ji, Bhai Sahib Bhai Gurmit Singh, Bhai Sahib Bhai Suraj Singh Hazuri Ragi Gurudwara Shaheed Bunga Srinagar, Bhai Sahib Bhai Surinder

p[al Singh, Bhai Sahib Bhai Ramneek Singh & Bhai Sahib Bhai Paramvir Singh. Bhai Harpinder Singh Ji Incharge Sikh SGPC Sikh Mission Jammu & Kashmir, Bhai Balwant Singh Parcharak & Bhai Kulwant Singh Ji Parcharak Mission J&K.

The programme was organised with the cooperation of various Sikh organisations, Noujwan Sabhas and Sikh Sangat of JKUT. Sikh Devotees from Rajasthan especially came to attend the Samagam and paid rich tributes of Sant Gurbaksh Singh Ji Dana.

Eminent personalities who also participated the samagam included S Charanjit Singh Khalsa former MLC, S J.P Singh retd. Inspector general of Police J&K., Sh Raman Bhalla Ex- Minister, S Taranjit Singh Tony DDC member, Balvinder Singh renowned Social Activist and Vice president DGPC Jammu, S Avtar Singh Member DGPC Jammu, S Paramjit ex-Corporator etc.

The Stage was coordinated by S Manjit Singh ji Bali Administrator SGSD International School Domana.

Open district Speedball Championship conclude APS Dhar Road wins over all Champion-24

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Today Open District Speedball Championship Conclude Organized By J&K Sports Speedball Association At Dogra Hr.sec school On 18 feb.2024. Around 200 Players From Various Schools of jammu province Districts Are Taking Part In This Fabulous Event. Schools Namely Aps Dhar Road Udampur, Dogra Hr.sec School, S.D Tara Puri High School, Shiksha Niketen High School, R.N Tagore Hr.Sec School, May Fair International School, Jammu Sankriti School , Crescent Sports Club Janipur,Jammu.



In The Evening Was The Chief Guest DR.Arvind Karwani JKAS (Relief & Rehabilitation Commission (M) J&K), Mrs Pooja Malhotra (Founder Patron) Presiding Over The Function, Ms. Devinder kour (Principal dhss) was the Guest. Mr. Munish gupta (Vice president Jksba), Mr.Sucha Singh (Retd.HOD Sports SMVDU) Were the special

guests on this occasion. The Event Host By RENU Nanda (Secretary, J&K Sports Speed Ball Association) The Matches Were Officiated By Sahil Janjua, Jagdeep Janjua, Gurvansh Choudhary ,Vishal Kumar, Taniya, Sanvi,Pallvi,Suryansh ,Sahil Kaith,Suchit Kumar , Under The Supervision of Event Organizers Mr.Sunny Nanda (General Secretary J&K Sports

Gave A Brief Presentation Regarding National And International Achievements

Speedball Association) In this championship APS DHAR ROAD Win Overall Champion, S.D TARA PURI HIGHS CHOOOL ,1st Runner Up And SHIKSHA NIKETAN HIGH SCHOOL 2nd Runner Up. Master Shivang Nargotra Student Of Dhss Wins today Title of Champion of The Day Cash Awarded 2500 By J&K Sports Speed Ball Association. At the vote of thanks by Vanshika Manhas.

Mahant Rohit Shastri meets Sarbananda Sonowal in Delhi

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU/DELHI

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Shri Kaliakh Jyotish evam Vedic Sanathan Trust, had a meeting with the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, in Delhi, during which he presented to the minister an idol of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and books published by the trust. Discussions were held on issues related to the preservation, promotion, and propagation of Sanskrit, besides the welfare of students and scholars of Sanskrit in Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the unique Indian heritage and culture on the occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that Sanskrit is the thread that ensures the unity in the diversity of Indian culture and civilization. He also stated the commitment of the Trust towards the protection and development of Sanskrit and said that the glorious heritage of ancient Indian knowledge and



wisdom is embedded in the Sanskrit language and literature. Mahant Rohit Shastri mentioned that under the leadership of Shri Manoj Sinha, the current Lieutenant Governor of the centrally governed union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Sanskrit is receiving adequate protection, and his efforts in the promotion and propagation of Sanskrit are being warmly appreciated. He

expressed heartfelt gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Sinha for his efforts.

During this event, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, commended the work being done in the field of Sanskrit by the Shri Kaliakh Jyotish evam Vedic Sansthan Trust. Jagdev Singh Chib, a member of the Trust, was also present at the event.

Indian Army Organised Village Defence Committee Meet at Reasi

JINews SERVICE
REASI, FEB 18

Indian Army organised an interactive workshop with Village Defence Committee (VDC) members of Reasi. During the workshop, the members displayed their training prowess and skills in weapon handling. The Army unit assisted all the members of VDC in further improving their self defence capabilities and laid emphasis on the role of Village Defence Committee. A lecture cum demonstration on weapon handling and cleaning, musketry and minor repairs of weapons was conducted as part of the workshop. The event was also utilized to exchange views on role of VDC members including motivating youngsters for joining defence services & stay away from Narcotics. A total of 30 VDC members were present during the workshop.

YV Sharma hails the visit of Narendra Modi to Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

YV Sharma, spokesperson BJP, expressed great delight at the scheduled visit of Sh. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 20th of February to Jammu, the city of temples, on behalf of the people of J&K & the BJP party. This is the first visit of Sh. Modi to Jammu city after the abrogation of article 370 & 35A of the Indian constitution & comes close on the heels of the PM's successful visit to UAE & Oman. It may be mentioned that the Govt of Narendra Modi was able to bring back home the 8 Navy veterans who were sentenced to death by the Oman Govt. because of some misunderstanding.

The visit also comes at a time when the Prime Minister was involved in the "Pranpratishtha" of Ram Lalla temple at Ayodhya after the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India paved the way for resolution of the long-standing issue. He also inaugurated the Swami Narayan temple of BAPS in Dubai & the close relationship between the authorities of UAE & Indian government was visible for all the viewers of the inauguration ceremony. This clearly shows that the PM of India is not only pursuing his goal of cultural



renaissance of India but is also ensuring close political & economic relationship with the neighbouring middle eastern countries as well as the nations beyond.

The slogan of the PM "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" is bearing fruit & this, he said, will be visible in J&K during his visit where he is slated to inaugurate projects worth thousands of crores that have seen their operationalisation in the recent times. These projects include the AIIMS, IIT, IIM several roads & road segments, road bridges, railway & power sector infrastructure. Foundation stone for a modern & state of the art petroleum terminal at Bajalta is also expected to be laid by the PM that will ensure year-long & hassle-free availability of petroleum products for the people of the Union Territory. YV Sharma said that the work on 8 lan-

ning of Delhi - Amritsar - Katra express way & Jammu ring road is going to be a game changer for the economic upliftment of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The thrust on development of road infrastructure, under the leadership of the Hon'ble PM, in several districts of J&K is a welcome step that will ease the living condition of the people living in remote areas & will also improve the ease of doing business.

YV Sharma said that the UT of J&K is the only place in India where every citizen is provided with the "Ayushman Bharat Card" thus enabling its people to avail best medical facilities as per their requirement. For this the people of J&K shall always remain thankful to the Hon'ble PM.

YV Sharma said that under the PM's leadership several steps have been taken for upliftment of the hitherto forgotten people be they the refugees from 1947, reservation for the Paharis & other tribals & reservation of seats in the legislature & PRIs for women. These steps, he said, are going to substantially improve the condition of the people of J&K & will have an everlasting positive impact on the political, social & economic well-being of J&K for which the initiatives of the Hon'ble PM & his government will always

be remembered.

YV Sharma said that the spectacular hosting of G20 summit in India by the PM & involving the entire country in many of its programmes underpins the desire of Narendra Modi to involve the entire nation in such big events & showcase the strength of cultural diversity of the country to rest of the world. His stress on the policy of "India First" has ensured that the country steers clear of the Russia - Ukraine & Israel - Hamas war & has minimal impact on the economy of the country. These wars have wrecked havoc on the economies of several other countries including those in the developed world causing spiralling inflation.

He emphasised that Jammu is not only welcoming Narendra Modi the Prime Minister but also a statesman who is steering the country to new heights of development & cultural renaissance & at the same time ensuring respectable place for India in the comity of nations. Given the respect, love & affection bestowed by the people of the country on our Prime Minister & the position he has created for the nation & himself on the world stage it is our sacred duty to give Sh. Narendra Modi a rousing reception during his visit to Jammu.

Reasi District Mountaineering Association elects leadership and outlines promotional plans

J I NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB 18

Ashwani Katoch, Principal of Amba Kids Home, Panthal (distt. Reasi) who has been in the forefront to promote sports especially sport climbing in the district, has been unanimously elected as the President of District Mountaineering Association, Reasi in an election meeting held at Press Club of Jammu. Sumit Khajuria, a prominent mountaineer and a sport climbing judge of J&K was elected as General Secretary of the Association.

Whereas Abhi Sharma of Katra, an adventure sports promoter was unanimously elected as Vice President, Ms. Tania Thakur of Reasi, a sport climber and Ashwani Sharma of Katra were elected as Joint Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the district association.

Five members of the Executive body which included Sumaiya Kousar of Mohore, a north zone sport climbing medalist, Ramnik Nowadha of Katra, Mohd Asif of Mohore, Akul Sharma of Reasi and Bandhu of village Panthal



were also unanimously elected.

It was also resolved by the elected body to nominate Shiv Kumar Sharma, President of J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association and a former Joint Secretary of J&K Sports Council, as Advisor of the District Mountaineering Association. Shiv Kumar Sharma humbly accepted the offer and assured to take up all the matters regarding promotion of adventure activities in the district to the highest govt level.

Whereas Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K,

was the Observer Sonam Sidharth, an executive member, was the Returning Officer for the elections.

After the conclusion of the election Ram Khajuria, founder President of Mountaineering Association of J&K and Shivani Charak, the top ranked sport climber of India who were special invitees in the meeting interacted with the newly elected members and gave them concrete suggestions for the promotion of adventure activities especially sport climbing in Reasi district.

Sumit Khajuria, the newly elected General Secretary who has been

a successful organiser of many trekking and mountaineering expeditions, while addressing the members thanked them for the trust they had imposed in him and announced that very soon a meeting of the Association shall be held to devise ways and means to promote trekking in the Trikuta hills especially Devi Pindian shrine for the local as well as trekkers from outside the district. Concerted efforts shall also be made to create climbing infrastructure in the district for organising climbing competitions so as to produce more champion sport climbers, he added.

Will ensure PM Modi's Feb 20 rally becomes his biggest-ever in J&K: Jasrotia

J I NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu & Kashmir on February 20 and inaugurate several mega development projects besides addressing a mega public rally at MAM Stadium here.

"PM Modi will lay foundation stones for many new projects to give boost to the development in Jammu & Kashmir," former Minister Rajiv Jasrotia said while addressing a press conference here. He said PM Modi will address a massive public rally at MAM Stadium in Jammu at 11:00 am, to be organised by the BJP. The party has geared up to make sure that the rally becomes the biggest-ever being addressed by PM Modi in J&K so far, he



added. This would be the second public rally of PM Modi at MAM Stadium in Jammu City. Earlier, Modi addressed the 'Lalkar Rally' at MAM Stadium during the BJP's election campaign for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Jasrotia said the people of Jammu & Kashmir have always remained enthusiastic to attend the rally of PM in massive numbers. "This time too, lakhs of people from across J&K

will come to listen to their popular leader," he said. Jasrotia said that PM Modi has given a new direction to the peace and prosperity here.

Today, one can witness many new projects, rails, roads, highways, medical colleges, AIIMS, higher education institutes, etc in J&K, he said. He appealed to all the residents of Jammu & Kashmir to join the rally and listen to the

Prime Minister who has put J&K on the "development map". "PM Modi has led the all-round development in J&K, which is the reason that whole of J&K residents including Dogras, Kashmiris, WPRs, PoJK, Valmikis, Gujjar-Bakerwals, Pahadi, women, OBCs and other communities got their due rights," Jasrotia said, adding, "Modi government has ensured justice to everyone."

Indian Army Organised Celebration of Guru Ravidas Jayanti at Kishtwar

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEB 18

Indian Army in its continuous efforts to motivate the youth has undertaken a variety of programmes. In continuing with the same spirit, the Army organised a lecture on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti motivating the resident youth to join Indian Armed Forces at Shergwari and Gahan. It was highlighted during the lecture that students having passion for adventure, excitement and a temperament for challenges can fulfill their desires and expectations by espousing a career in the Defence Services. The School Children also proved their physical as well as painting skills by participating



in Inter School Painting Competition on the theme of "Unity". The populace especially the civil dignitaries school children and the teachers applauded the efforts of the Indian Army and expressed their gratitude for organising an event of such magni-

PM deep grief as Jain seer Acharya Shri 108 Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj attains Samadhi

PIB
NEW DELHI, FEB 18

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi expressed deep grief as Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj attains Samadhi.

Modi said that the demise of Acharya Shri 108 Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj is an irreparable loss for the country.

The Prime Minister also said that Acharya Ji's valuable efforts for spiritual awakening among the people will always be remembered. Throughout his life he remained engaged in poverty alleviation as well as promoting health and education in the society, Modi further added.

Dr. Preeti Bhagat organised free medical camp, distributed medicines



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat organized a free medical camp in Mottien village of Kaloen Panchayat of Suchetgarh assembly constituency. During the camp, Dr. Preeti Bhagat and her team conducted free checkups of more than 100 patients and distributed medicines to them. People who came to the camp for checkup said that usually social organizations organize medical camps only once or twice a year, but the passion of Dr. Preeti Bhagat takes out time from her busy schedule and organizes camps in some village every week. The villagers said that by getting checkups done in such camps,

they remain aware of their health. Otherwise they do not have the facilities to get their health checkup done. Dr. Preeti Bhagat said that the passion for social service has been in her mind since the beginning. She wants to do something for the society. This was the purpose of joining the medical profession and now she is serving people through this profession. Such camps will be continued in future also. Dr. Preeti Bhagat also gave many tips to the people who came to the camp for checkup to stay healthy without medicines. He said that if you follow a good routine and maintain proper eating habits, you can stay safe from diseases to a great extent.

Mohit Manas becomes president of GDC Ramgarh, will work for betterment of students



J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH, FEB 18

Mohit Manas has been appointed for the post of President of Student Union of Government Degree College, Ramgarh. Mohit Manas has been unanimously declared the President of Government Degree College, Ramgarh. After which the students congratulated the newly appointed president by garlanding him with flowers. Talking to the media, newly appointed President GDC Ramgarh Mohit Manas said that the process of selecting the President was done under the supervision of the Principal and College Committee of GDC

Ramgarh. A total of two candidates were standing for the post of President, but at the last moment the second candidate withdrew his nomination and I have been unanimously appointed as the President of Government Degree College, Ramgarh, for which I thank everyone. Mohit Manas told that college students have many problems. I will act as a bridge between the college administration and the students. Whatever problems the students have, I will put them before the college administration and get them resolved. Along with this, I will also work with the students for the betterment of the college.

VNKM JK organizes Multilingual Mushaira at Trikuta

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Vrisht Nagrik Kavya Manch, JK (UT) organized a multilingual Mushaira at residence of Sh. R S Baroka, Trikuta Nagar today. The poets of different languages presented their poetry in different languages. S. Jang S. Verman, a senior artist, journalist & writer was the chief guest whereas Sh. R S Baroka was the special guest on this occasion. S. Harjit Singh Uppal, Senior poet & President, Punjabi Sahitak Sabha, R S Pura presided over the programme.

Smt. Amarjeet Kour, President VNKM-JK extended a formal welcome to the guests and participants of the programme. In her welcome address she gave a brief of the monthly activities of the Manch.

While expressing his



views on the presentation and conduct of the one programme S. Harjit Singh Uppal said that the poetry needs many aspects to be observed to shape it. He appreciated the quality poetry recited by the poets of different languages. Jang S. Verman in his address said that the efforts made by the Manch are appreciable as such activities promote communal harmony by sharing different languages

on one platform. He congratulated the poets for presenting highly appreciable & quality poetry in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu languages. S. R S Baroka also expressed his views on this occasion.

The poets who recited their poetry in the programme included JPS Azad, Ratan Singh Kanwal, Devinder Singh Dhanjal, M S Kaamra, T S Preme, Bhupinder Singh Bhargav, Amarjeet Kour

Neer, Sudesh Kumar Jangral, Suraj Ratan Bakshi, Bachan Bharti, Jang S. Verman, Jagjeet Singh Sudan, Harjit Singh Uppal. These poets presented poems of different genres on different topics & themes.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by T S Preme, Secretary, Manoranjan Kala Kendra. He also extended the vote of thanks.

International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Phytopharmaceuticals concludes at IIM

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU,

A three day International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Phytopharmaceuticals and the 11th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology from 16.02.2024 to 18.02.2024 concluded here today at CSIR-IIM. The event, first of its kind, deliberating and brainstorming on the advances and cutting edge research in the traditional medicines and phytopharmaceuticals was organized by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu in collaboration with Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (Jammu Chapter). The conference was inaugurated on 16th February by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology and Vice President, CSIR, the Chief Guest, in presence of Dr N Kalaiselvi, DG CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, GOI, Padma Shri Prof. Vinod K Singh, Chair Professor, Gautam & Namita Chair, Deptt. of Chemistry, IIT Kanpur & Chairman, CSIR-RAB, Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director IBSD and Chairman, Scientific Services, SFEC-2024, Dr. DS Reddy, Director CSIR-IICT, Dr. CK Katiyar, CEO Emami Healthcare Ltd., Dr. RN Acharya, Director General CCRAS, Dr. Subhra Chakraborty, Director NIPGR, Dr. Lal Hingorani, Managing Director, Pharamanza Herbal Pvt Ltd., Dr.

UV Babu, Director R&D Himalaya Wellness Company, Dr. Marco Leonti, Secretary, International Society of Ethnopharmacology besides more than 100 distinguished scientists of eminence, technologists, policy makers, industrialists, academicians, clinicians, researchers, from India and abroad including USA, Malaysia, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Australia, Italy and Ghana.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal Govt. Medical College, Jammu, the Chief Guest while delivering the valedictory lecture said that the conference organised by CSIR-IIM Jammu and SFE featuring the deliberations and meetings among traditional healers, researchers, scientists, industrialists and policy makers would have far reaching impact on the global positioning of the traditional and phytopharmaceutical drugs. He further asserted that we would enhance the research collaborations with the organisations like CSIR-IIM and also mentioned that the IIM, Jammu has beacons research and developmental pursuits and accomplishments in the area of discovery of novel drug molecules sourced from plants. While commending the scientists of the Institute, Dr. Gupta, said that the conduct of the conference on traditional medicine and ethnopharmacology at CSIR IIM Jammu assumes much sig-

nificance due to the abundant plant biodiversity found in the region that possess multiple phytopharmaceutical properties and offer huge opportunities for researchers, startups and industries to explore for the new frontiers in pharmacology and discovery of novel phytopharmaceuticals.

Dr. Amarjeet Singh Bhatia, Principal and Dean, Govt. Medical College, Rajouri, guest of honour at the session said that there are huge challenges and constraints in ensuring the delivery of optimal healthcare services, plant-based medicines and phytopharmaceuticals have found a unique niche in the national and global healthcare arena owing to their efficacy, safety in use and predominantly increased consumer consciousness for using drugs derived from non-synthetic sources and manufacturing processes.

Earlier, in his address, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIM, said that the Institute has a very robust system for scientific study, validation, and legalization of phytopharmaceuticals and organizing a conference on the futuristic theme "Ethnopharmacology for Development of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs," symbolises our strong desire and effort to push for the new frontiers of knowledge and innovation in the field of traditional healthcare and drug development using phytopharmaceuticals.

The recommendations on the different approaches to sustainably leverage the traditional knowledge and methodologies in medical systems and ethnopharmacology made by the policy makers, industry, scientific fraternity and societies participating in around 20 intriguing scientific sessions at the conference since last three days are going to define the future discourse in planning and execution of the novel and tangible research methodologies to touch the new heights in ethnopharmacological research and development, he said.

Pertinently around 700 delegates participated in the conference that besides I-Connect program: Business Meet, included scientific sessions on the theme's "Development of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs: Tradition to Translational", "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", "Ethnomedicine: 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", "Young Ethnopharmacologist Award Function", "American Chemical Society (ACS) Best Oral Presentation Award Session", "SFE Best Poster Presentation Session".

The ACS Poster presentation award was given to Srijon Gayen, Rubina Chowdhary, Sheetal Bhat and the ACS oral presentation award was given to Norein Khantwal, Mahir Bhadwaj and Priyamvada Gupta. The RSC best poster presentation award was given to Laetitia Meuyou Yombi, Mandeeep Kour and Haseena Shafeeq and the RSC best oral presentation award was given to Lokesh Dev, Dhivya Dheer and Nagma Banjare. The Himalayan awards were given to Tusharika Kotra, Suhail Maqbool, Shweta Sharma and Anita Kumari Rai. The ACD Best Research Awards were given to V Badireenath Konkimalla, Bashir Ahmed and Kapil Dev.

Dr. Gurleen Kour, Scientist conducting the proceedings while as Dr. Parsoon Gupta presented the formal vote of thanks.

37th Convocation of IGNOU to be held in University of Kashmir

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 18

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the world's largest Open University, is delighted to announce the Date, Venue and Distinguished Chief Guest for its upcoming 37th Convocation. The grand event is scheduled to take place on 20th February 2024 at the IGNOU Campus New Delhi. We are honored to share that Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Hon'ble Vice President of India, has graciously accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest for this momentous occasion, adding an extra layer of significance to the event. The proceedings of the Convocation will be telecast live on IGNOU's Gyan Darshan Channel, Swayam Prabha Channels for Higher Education Managed by IGNOU and streamed live through Facebook Page of IGNOU (<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPageIGNOU>).

All the Learners who have completed their programme in the Term End Examination December 2022 and June 2023 are eligible to apply for receiving the degree. Online Portal for registration for the 37th convocation and remitting the requisite fee is open. The eligible students, who have not paid the requisite registration fee of Rs. 600/- per certificate online so far, may pay the requisite fee through <https://onlineservices.ignou.ac.in/convocation/>

informed Dr. Shahnawaz Ahmad Dar, the Regional Director of IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar.

Dr. Shahnawaz said that the university is also going to distribute the degrees through the Blockchain Technology. Blockchain-supported distribution of degrees ensures faster submission of degrees through the DigiLocker, he said. Students pursuing different programmes from the IGNOU will be able to access and download their degree certificates from their DigiLocker accounts. The step for blockchain supported degree distribution has been taken to ensure faster submission and authentication of degrees through DigiLocker. Dr. Shahnawaz said that the students are informed to create an account in the DigiLocker so as to swiftly access the degree on the day of convocation when Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar will click the button for the distribution of degrees through blockchain technology. The eligible students are informed to "Sign up now for a streamlined process, making your academic achievements easily and conveniently accessible.

DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India programme. DigiLocker aims at 'Digital Empowerment' of citizen by providing

access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet. DigiLocker is a secure cloud based platform for storage, sharing and verification of documents & certificates.

The Regional Director also informed that the 37th Convocation function will also be simultaneously held at some selected Regional Centre of IGNOU. The IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar has also been selected as one of the Regional Centres to organize the Convocation function. The function will be organized by the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar for the Learners of the Kashmir and Ladakh region and the venue for the function is Gandhi Bhawan, University of Kashmir. The students who have opted to receive the degrees during convocation in Srinagar are informed to reach the venue by 9.00 a.m.

Dr. Shahnawaz further added that for the 37th convocation of IGNOU under IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar, 9616 Learners belonging to 126 different programmes are eligible for receiving degrees on the convocation. Among which 1266 have registered for receiving their degrees on the convocation and 214 Learners have opted to receive the degree in person during the Regional Convocation of RC Srinagar.

Muslim Rashtriya Manch Kishtwar Unit celebrated the birthday of MRM Patron Dr Indresh ji in Kishtwar J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEB 18

Birthday of the founder of Muslim Rashtriya Manch Dr Indresh ji celebrated with great joy in the district Kishtwar today, wishing him a long life while working on a large scale and saying that we will organize the get-together of Muslim Rashtriya Manch in the district Kishtwar. Will try to strengthen in different parts also. MRM Kishtwar said that at present every possible effort is being made to connect people with the Muslim Rashtriya Manch within Chanderbhaga. today the birthday of Shri Indresh ji



celebrated with great joy in the district Kishtwar and an attempt was made to emphasize on the youth by bringing them on one platform. While issuing a statement to the press, Muslim Rashtriya Manch

said we are working for the unity of the country, integrity of the country and success of the country and in the coming time, every possible effort will be made to strengthen the MRM not only in

Jammu and Kashmir but also in other places. In its press statement, District Kishtwar Unit of Muslim Rashtriya manch has said that soon such campaigns will be started inside District Kishtwar, in which the youth will be involved. there is a need to strengthen the strength of the youth within the country and for this the Muslim Rashtriya Manch has gather all the youth on one platform and efforts will be made to boost the morale of the youth. workers of Muslim Rashtriya Manch have always been trying to make people aware to end the spread of drugs in the country

Jaya Ekadashi Vrat on 20th February Tuesday: Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

The fast of Ekadashi of Shukla Paksha of Magh month is on Tuesday, 20th February 2024. Regarding the Ekadashi fast, Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya, the head of Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sanathan Trust, explained that there are 24 Ekadashis in a year, but when an extra month (Adhikamasa) comes once in three years, then their number increases to 26.

The beginning of the date of Jaya Ekadashi of Magh Shukla Paksha will be on Monday, 19th February at 08:51 AM and the end of the date of Jaya Ekadashi will be on Tuesday, 20th February at 09:56 AM. The sunrise will occur on 20th February Tuesday, hence the fast of Jaya Ekadashi will be observed on Tuesday, 20th February. The fast of Jaya Ekadashi can be broken on



21st February, Wednesday, Dwadashi date, from 07:11 AM to 09:20 AM. The Ekadashi of Magh month Shukla Paksha is known as Jaya Ekadashi. According to religious scriptures, by observing this Ekadashi fast, a person becomes free from lower births such as ghosts, spirits, and demons. Jaya Ekadashi fast is considered superior because on this day, King Harishchandra got rid of all difficulties

by observing the fast. Observing the fast of Ekadashi not only brings religious merit equivalent to performing Ashwamedha Yajna, chanting, austerity, and bathing in pilgrimage places but also teaches one how to maintain balance in life. The person observing the Ekadashi fast must control his mind, senses, and behavior. The fast of Ekadashi elevates a person above material and worldly desires towards the path of righteousness, leading to salvation. Both men and women can observe this fast.

On this day, whoever donates annihilates all sins and attains the supreme state. On this day, Brahmins and needy people should donate gold, land, fruits, clothes, sweets, food, education, donation of Dakshina, and donation of cows according to their capacity.

On this day, worship of Lord Ganesha, Lord

Lakshminarayana, Lord Shri Krishna, and Lord Mahadev is also done. The story and Aarti of Lord Lakshminarayana must be performed or heard. The significance of Ekadashi fast is not only religious but also very important from a mental and physical health perspective. The fast of Ekadashi is dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu. Fasting teaches discipline to the mind and provides new energy to the body. Whoever worships Lord Lakshminarayana on this day surely attains Vaikuntha.

According to religious scriptures, on the auspicious day of Ekadashi, one should not consume rice and any kind of tamasic substances, and should stay away from alcohol and other intoxicants. Not only on the body but also on your future, adverse effects can occur, hence only sattvic items are consumed on this day.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION SATWARI SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short-NIT No. 72 of 2023-24 Dated 16-02-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on a percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of parking at Bhour Garden and Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu	37.14	600	(2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Months	24/02/2024	"A","B"

Position of AAA :- Accorded

Position of TS :- Accorded

Major Head of Account :- Under Capex budget 4406 (Maintenance & upgradation) for the Year 2023-24

Position of funds :- Partially available

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract, and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice:	16/02/2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents:	From 16/02/2024
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting:	17/02/2024 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari
4.	Bid submission Start Date:	16/02/2024 at 1800 Hrs.
5.	Bid Submission End Date:	23/02/2024 up to 1800 Hrs.
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online):	24/02/2024 on or after 14:00 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online):	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari and upload the same i.e. treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari. The CDR/ FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Satwari The date for same shall be intimated separately

No:- XEN/SAT/PWD/2023-24/72-24
Dated:- 16/02/2024

DIP/J-15139/23
Date: 18-2-24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Satwari

3rd Test: Jaiswal's double ton, Jadeja's 5-wicket haul help India hammer England by 434 runs

AGENCIES
RAJKOT, FEB 18

Yashasvi Jaiswal scored a phenomenal unbeaten double-century while local lad Ravindra Jadeja followed up his first-innings century with a five-wicket haul in the fourth innings as India hammered England by 434 runs in the third Test at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here on Sunday.

Jaiswal, who retired hurt on 104 due to back cramps on Day Three, remained unbeaten on a career-best score of 214 off 236 balls. He hit 14 fours and 12 sixes and levelled with Wasim Akram for the world record for most sixes in a Test innings. Jaiswal is also the first Test player to hit 20 sixes in a series. With his smooth power game enthralled fans under bright sunshine, Jaiswal is now the leading run-getter in the ongoing series and also became the third-youngest player to smash two double-centuries in Tests, behind Vinod Kamble and Don Bradman.

On the other hand, Gill made a fine 91 while Sarfaraz piled on the misery for England's inexperienced spin bowlers by making 68 - his second fifty on Test debut, becoming the fourth Indian batter to do so. Sarfaraz and Jaiswal, who come from the same school in Mumbai, produced plenty of fireworks in their entertaining 172-run partnership for the fifth wicket in just 26.2 overs as India declared on 430/4, showing that the future of Indian Test cricket batting is indeed very bright. Given a mammoth 557 to chase, England crumbled under the pressure of runs and were



skittled out for 122 in 39.4 overs, with Jadeja taking 5-41. The result gave India their biggest win by runs in Tests to go 2-1 up in the five-match series.

From 33/3 on the opening day, India have now gone to win at Rajkot with a day to spare. It is also England's second-biggest defeat in Tests, with their implosion coming under bright sunshine, leaving them a lot to ponder ahead of the fourth Test at Ranchi starting on February 23. Resuming from 196/2 and the lead at 322 runs, nightwatchman Kuldeep danced down the pitch to hit Tom Hartley for a delightful six over mid-on, also his first maximum in international cricket. He then slapped a short ball from the left-arm spinner over extra cover for four.

Gill joined the boundary-hitting spree with a trademark short-arm jab and sumptuous drive, even as Kuldeep grew in confidence by drilling Hartley over the bowler's head and bringing in a deft late cut off Wood to bring the fifty up of his stand with Gill. England's frustra-

tion was summed up when they burnt a review on Kuldeep off Wood and failed to take one when the batter was trapped plumb LBW on the sweep. Luck deserted India when Kuldeep didn't time the ball well to mid-on and set out for a non-existent single.

He took a couple of steps but sent Gill back, who was too late to get back into the crease and was run out by a direct hit from mid-on despite the batter making a full-length dive, ending his knock at 91, which was coincidentally the same score he made in the 2021 Gabba Test chase. Shortly later, Kuldeep fell when his drive sent an outside edge to slip off Rehan Ahmed. From there on, Jaiswal and Sarfaraz, the Mumbai lads, took a six each off Root over long-on fence, while entertaining the fans with sweeps, flicks, slog-sweeps and lofts till lunch came.

Post lunch, Jaiswal took a single to get his 150 and then scooped James Anderson over fine leg for a boundary. If this wasn't enough, Jaiswal treated Anderson with absolute

disdain -- smashing sixes over fine leg, cover, and straight down the ground to take 21 runs off the over. Sarfaraz continued to get boundaries by picking the leg-side gaps with ease, and eventually got back-to-back fifties on debut. Jaiswal's carnage had no stopping as he reached his 200, leaping in joy, kissing the helmet and raising his hands to soak in the applause from the crowd.

He celebrated the landmark in style by slicing and slog-sweeping Root for back-to-back sixes. Sarfaraz then crunched Rehan for two leg-side sixes and a four lofted over extra cover, before Rohit Sharma declared the innings, leaving England with a mountain to climb. Chasing 557, England were off to a watchful start, in complete opposite of their aggressive nature. Zak Crawley took two boundaries but was involved in a horrible mix-up as Ben Duckett went in pursuit of a single after pushing the ball to mid-wicket.

Crawley sent Duckett back, but it was too late as Mohammed Siraj fired

in a throw and wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel rushed towards the stumps and collected the ball in motion to break the stumps quickly. At the stroke of tea, Crawley was trapped lbw by Jasprit Bumrah by a sharp nip-backer, which England couldn't overturn on review.

Post tea, England fell like nine pins. Ollie Pope tried a cut shot off Jadeja but was caught at first slip. Jonny Bairstow tried a sweep off Jadeja but was trapped plumb lbw. Root battled for 40 balls before missing Jadeja on the sweep and was trapped lbw.

Capitan Ben Stokes was beaten on the sweep against Kuldeep and became the third batter in the innings to be trapped LBW. Rehan Ahmed went for a big shot down the ground off Kuldeep but found long-on. Ben Foakes and Hartley put some resistance with a 32-run standoff 67 balls for the eighth wicket, but the former gave a thick edge on a cut to an impressive Jurel behind the stumps.

Ravichandran Ashwin, who left the match midway due to a family medical emergency, came back to take Hartley's inside edge to the stumps and Jadeja ended the match by ending Wood's cameo of 33 off 15 balls when the batter holed out to long-off to complete a dominating win for India.

Brief scores:

India 445 & 430/4 dec in 98 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 214 not out, Shubman Gill 91, Sarfaraz Khan 68 not out; Tom Hartley 1-78, Rehan Ahmed 1-108) beat England 319 & 122 all out in 39.4 overs (Mark Wood 3-33; Ravindra Jadeja 5-41) by 434 runs

Anmol seals historic win as India clinch maiden Badminton Asia Team Championships title



AGENCIES
SHAH ALAM, FEB 18

17-year-old Anmol Kharb on Sunday proved to be India's trump card yet again and sealed a historic win as the Indian women's team clinched its first-ever Badminton Asia Team Championships title after beating Thailand 3-2 in the final, here on Sunday.

Anmol, who is ranked 472 in the world, beat 42nd-ranked Pornpicha Choeikeewong in the deciding rubber to hand India a thrilling victory. It was the two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who kicked off the Indian title charge in style, beating the 17th-ranked Supanida Katethong 21-12, 21-12.

Sindhu thoroughly outperformed her opponent, securing victory in just 39 minutes. This marked Sindhu's fifth triumph in eight encounters against Katethong.

The women's duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who had consistently delivered outstanding performances throughout the tournament, once again rose to

the occasion and doubled the lead for India.

The Indian pair, ranked 23rd, caused an upset by defeating the 10th-ranked Jongkolphan Kittharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai with a score of 21-16, 18-21, 21-16.

Treesa-Gayatri began with a clear game plan of pinning their opponents to the back court and attacking at every opportunity they got to clinch the opening game. But it was the superior defence of the Thai pairing that helped them claw their way back in the match and it led to the Indians making some uncharacteristic errors.

But to their credit, Treesa and Gayatri hung in when things weren't really going their way and managed to turn around a 6-10 deficit in the decider to draw level at 14-14. They then won five straight points from 15-all to earn five match-point opportunity. They converted the second one to finish with an all-win record in the competition.

Then, the Thai team staged a fightback when Busanan Ongbam-

runphan trounced Ashmita Chaliha 21-11, 21-14 in the second singles rubber. Later, women's doubles national champions Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra went down 11-21, 9-21 against Benyapa and Nuntakarn Aimsaard sister and the match went into the deciding rubber.

It again came down to Anmol to win the deciding point for the team and the 17-year-old once again delivered in style. She took time to get used to Pornpicha Choeikeewong's power game and trailed 4-6 in the opening game but once she started controlling the rallies there was no stopping her.

She ultimately wrapped up the match 21-14, 21-9 to send the entire team in frenzied celebrations.

Congratulating the team on the title triumph, Badminton Association of India secretary Sanjay Mishra said: "It is a proud moment for all of us. It also underlined the depth of badminton talent in India and we are confident that this bunch of players will win many more titles in the coming years."

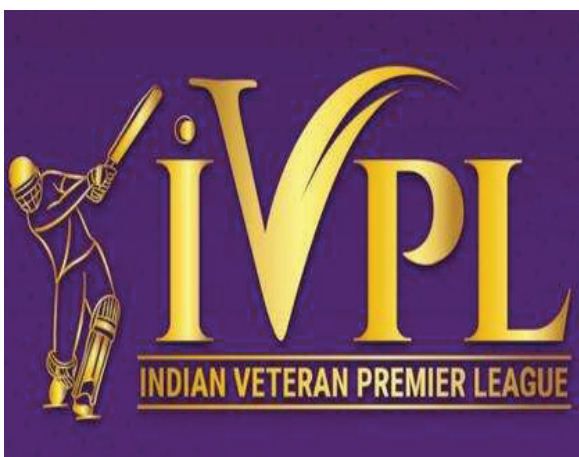
Indian Veteran Premier League moved from Dehradun to Greater Noida, set to debut on Feb 23

AGENCIES
GREATER NOIDA (UP), FEB 18

Just a few days before it would kickoff, the organisers of the Indian Veteran Premier League (IVPL) have moved the event from the original venue Dehradun to Greater Noida and will now start on February 23.

Six strong teams comprising some of the legends of the game will be fighting for honours in the first edition of the Indian Veteran Premier League (IVPL) at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida from February 23 to March 3. The field includes VVIP Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Legends, Red Carpet Delhi, Chhattisgarh Warriors, Telangana Tigers, and Mumbai Champions in the event being organized by the Board for Veteran Cricket in India (BVCI) and managed by 100 Sports.

The announcement was made on Sunday by Praveen Tyagi, Acting President, Board of Veteran Cricket in India and Sudhir Kulkarni, Secretary, Board of Veteran Cricket in India during a press conference at Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida. "We are delighted to announce the new venue for the Indian Veteran Premier League, that is Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex



in Greater Noida. This decision aims to ensure the seamless staging and smooth execution of the league, providing an enhanced experience for both players and fans," said Praveen Tyagi, the Acting President of BVCI and Chairman of IVPL.

An International Cricket stadium with a pavilion having facilities of two dressing rooms for playing teams, Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex is sure to enthrall fans with its captivating beauty. The Stadium was also the home ground for the Afghanistan cricket team a few years ago. "We are excited for the first edition of the Indian Veteran Premier League. As Secretary of the Board of Veteran Cricket in India, I believe in honouring the veterans of the past while inspiring the stars of the future. Today we are here to celebrate not just the skill, but the enduring spirit that

defines our cricketing veterans," Sudhir Kulkarni, Secretary, BVCI said.

The IVPL promises an extraordinary showcase of cricketing talent, bringing together veterans such as Virender Sehwag, Suresh Raina, Chris Gayle, Praveen Kumar, Herschelle Gibbs, Rajat Bhatia and many more. The players are excited to be playing in the league in Greater Noida.

The IVPL will witness fierce competition among six formidable teams, including VVIP Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Legends, Red Carpet Delhi, Chhattisgarh Warriors, Telangana Tigers, and Mumbai Champions. Each team boasts a roster of iconic players from around the globe, enhancing the league's allure and competitiveness. The matches will be broadcast live in India on the Eurosport channel, DD Sports, and Fancode.

Indian men's team keen to take on Spain in the FIH Hockey Pro League

AGENCIES
ROURKELA, FEB 18

The Indian men's team are set to face Spain in the first match of the Rourkela leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 on Monday at Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium. India emerged victorious 4-1 the last time they faced Spain in the Bhubaneswar leg. India have thus far played four matches in the Pro League. They won their games against Spain and Ireland by a 4-1 and 1-0 margin respectively and registered a 4-6 loss to Australia. Meanwhile, their clash against Netherlands ended as a 2-2 draw,



with India claiming the bonus point after a penalty shootout which ended with a 4-2 score line.

Reflecting on the team's performance in the Pro League so far, India captain Harmanpreet Singh said: "Spain and all the other teams here are hard to play against. In addi-

tion to our first match with Spain, we learned a lot from our matches against Australia and the Netherlands and the game against Ireland was tough as well. For us, these are major matches before the Paris 2024 Olympics, the team has performed well so far and we are keen to take on Spain again in Rourkela to further test ourselves."

After their contest against Spain, India will battle the Netherlands on February 21, Australia on February 24 and Ireland on February 25.

Spain on the other hand, lost their matches against India, Australia,

and the Netherlands by 1-4, 3-4, and 0-3 respectively. In the last match of the Bhubaneswar leg they registered a 4-2 victory against Ireland.

"We want to win every game and the game against India is no different. This time we will aim to improve on our penalty corners and our movement in the attacking circle, the game was closer than the score line suggests and we just need to be focused in and around the circle and I'm sure we will give India a tough contest," said Spain's captain Marc Miralles ahead of their clash against India.

Mustafizur Rahman taken to hospital after blow to head during training session

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 18

Bangladesh Fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman has been rushed to the hospital in Chattogram after being hit on his head during a training session with Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) franchise Comilla Victorians at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Mustafizur was positioned close to his bowling mark when he was struck by a shot from Litton Das, who was batting in a nearby net. The left-arm pacesman suf-



fered a bleeding injury and was promptly provided with initial medical assistance at the venue before being transported to the hospital for further treatment, according to

Cricbuzz.

The incident took place on Sunday morning when Comilla were preparing for their next BPL game against Sylhet Strikers, which is scheduled on

Monday.

"During practice a ball hit directly at the left parietal area (head) of Mustafizur Rahman. There was an open wound at his parietal area and we have worked with compression bandage to stop bleeding and immediately had shifted him to Imperial hospital," Zahidul Islam, the team physio said, as quoted by Cricbuzz.

"After CT scan we are satisfied that he had only external injury. There is no intracranial bleeding. Now surgical team has given him stitches on the open wound," he added.

Johnson replaces Stoinis in Australian squad for NZ T20Is

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 18

Just a day after Aaron Hardie was enlisted as a replacement for injured all-rounder Marcus Stoinis for a three-match T20I series against New Zealand, Spencer Johnson has been named as Stoinis's replacement in the Australian squad.

"Stoinis, who missed the last match against the West Indies in Perth, has been replaced in the squad by Spencer Johnson," a statement from Cricket Australia read.

Stoinis tweaked his back in the warm-up of the second T20I against West Indies in Adelaide last Sunday but was still able to play. He made 16 off 15 with the bat before picking up 3 for 36 to continue his bowling form.

In Stoinis's absence, Hardie has earned a call-up as a replacement but the 25-year-old batter suffered an injury scare during a Sheffield Shield match for West Australia. WA coach Adam Voges said, as quoted by cricket.com.au, "Aaron Hardie (calf injury) was sent from the field and unable to bowl as a precaution but would bat on Monday if required."

Meanwhile, Matthew Wade, who will miss the first T20I, will join the squad in Auckland for the second and third games of the series having stayed home for the birth of his family's third child.

Sarmad Hafeez reviews preparations for Khelo India Winter Games

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 18

Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafiz, today chaired a review meeting at Gulmarg to review preparations being put in place for the 4th Khelo India Winter Games, slated to be held in the world famous ski resort Gulmarg from 21st to 25th of this month.

Sarmad Hafeez expressed satisfaction over the progress made, so far and directed the officials to ensure that the roads leading to Gulmarg are cleared of the snow and maintained properly for smooth traffic movement.

He instructed the officers to ensure adequate accommodation, transport and other facilities for the athletes and delegates expected to participate in the event. He extolled that Gulmarg has potential to become a world class winter sports destination and no stone should be left unturned to make the event a grand success.

The Secretary emphasised that Khelo India Winter Games is an opportunity for J&K to showcase the beauty of the venue which has one of the finest slopes and the best quality snow otherwise also known to skiers who travel from other parts of



the world.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority, Waseem Raja and other officials from various departments.

Earlier in the day, Nuzhat Gull chaired a meeting during which it was briefed that 4th edition of winter games will exclusively focus on the

snow related winter sports events. She informed that competition has been segregated into four snow related sports events which included Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding and Nordic Skiing.

Divulging further on the event, Nuzhat Gull said that the preparations for the games are complete and the venue is ready to welcome the athletes and

other participants.

Expressing gratitude to Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India and Winter Games Association of J&K for their support and cooperation, Gull said that this is going to be one of experience rich collaboration which shall foster new bonds and enable the sports in J&K to grow.

Among others present in the meeting included

country's famed winter sports and Olympic athlete Shiva Keshavan, Sachin, Under Secretary SAI; Nusrat Gazala, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir, nodal officer of the event and other officials from the Sports Authority of India and J&K Sports Council.

Pertinently, the Khelo India Winter Games are part of the flagship Khelo India scheme of the central government, which aims to promote mass participation and excellence in sports. The first chapter of the 4th edition of KIWG featuring two ice sports events including Ice Hockey and Ice Skating were held in Leh earlier this month.

The live streaming of the games apart from being aired on multiple platforms of DD Sports shall also be carried out by various portals giving a wider coverage to the event providing the bigger audience with an opportunity to watch the athletes in action and cheer for them. The games are also expected to boost tourism and economy of the region, as well as inspire more youngsters to take up winter sports.

The games are slated to be inaugurated on 21st of this month and the fun filled excitement shall conclude on the 5th day.

Congress expect PM to announce his commitment on floor of the house: Tarachand

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Facilitating the newly appointed office bearers of Chaamb and Akhnoor Constituency including block presidents in mammoth gathering in border town khour today. Former Deputy Chief Minister and chairman Campaign Committee J&K Congress, Sh Tarachand expected prime minister to announce his commitment on the floor of the house Jammu and Kashmir as full fledged state from Union territory during his tour to Jammu in Coming days. While speaking to party delegates gathered in khour, Tarachand stressed upon the party line to strengthen Congress at grass root level and ready to face any challenge with iron hands. He said every Congressman will fight as the spirit we are feeling in party leaders like Rahul Gandhi ji who is nowadays on Bharat Jodo nyay Yatra. Criticizing present Central Government led by BJP to initiate schemes like Agniveer for unemployed youths, Tarachand named this as



mockery against youth of rural and border belt who always remain on foot to serve the country by volunteering themselves for Army and other paramilitary forces. Employment for meagre 4 years is nothing but a lollipop for youth of the country. He said our leader promised to reverse this scheme on previous lines if INDIA block came in Power.

Former Dy CM said that Congress will fight every election against BJP government on local issues as Jammu and Kashmir was degraded to Union territory and our special status was also snatched from us. Garlanded the newly

appointed office bearers, Tarachand said in this areq our local leaders remained our strength as in odd days also Congress got best share and representation too.

Others who also spoke on this were General Secretary (Org) Narinder Gupta, General Secretary S. Gurmeet Singh, Narinder Sharma, District President Shamsheer Singh Chib, Sahil Sharma, Vijay Singh Chib, Varun Magotra, Jagatter Singh, Daljeet Singh, Madan Sharma, Devinder Singh Bittu, Jagdish Raj Sharma, Capt kalidass, lala Bansilal Gupta, Kewal Sharma, Romesh Verma and others.

Sonamarg hosts first-ever National Snowshoe Championship

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 18

The picturesque Sonamarg is making history by hosting its first-ever national-level event in winter sports, the 8th National Snowshoe Championship-2024.

This event marks a significant milestone for the mountain resort, as previous editions of the championship were traditionally held at the renowned Ski-resort Gulmarg.

The 8th edition of the championship is being organized by the J&K SnowShoe Federation in collaboration with the Sonamarg Development Authority and key stakeholders viz. the Hoteliers Association of Sonamarg.

The event was inaugurated by Shyambir, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, in the presence of Farooq Ahmad Baba, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sonamarg Development Authority and General Secretary Snow Shoe Association J&K, Dr. Altaf-Rehman.

Over 200 athletes representing 13 states across India are participating in various events throughout the three-day championship. This gathering of athletes from different



regions further emphasizes the national significance of the championship and underscores its role in promoting winter sports in Sonamarg.

The DC expressed his delight at the hosting of the championship in Sonamarg, highlighting its potential to catalyze development and enhance the health resort's prospects for a brighter future.

He further said that the district administration is committed to providing all necessary facilities to enhance the experience of tourists visiting Sonamarg during the winter months.

CEO Sonamarg Development Authority extended his gratitude towards the Hoteliers Association of Sonamarg for making this event possible by

providing boarding and lodging facilities for both visiting athletes and other tourists.

He further urged tourists to consider visiting Sonamarg during winter, emphasizing the unparalleled and picturesque experience it offers.

As the competition progresses against the backdrop of Sonmarg's snow-covered terrain, spectators are treated to a spectacle of skill and athleticism. With its stunning scenery and the thrill of competition, the National Snowshoe Championship in Sonamarg truly embodies the essence of winter sports, making it a dream come true for enthusiasts and participants alike.

Successful Conclusion of Educational Tour for Kashmir University Students by Chinar Corps

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 18

The Chinar Corps & HQ 31 Sub Area is pleased to announce the Successful conclusion of an enriching educational tour for Students from Kashmir University. The tour was meant to broaden the horizons of the students and foster cross-culture understanding. From February 17, the students embarked on a transformative journey, engaging in insightful interactions, exploring historical landmarks, and forging lasting connections with press from Delhi University.

The educational tour, organized by the Chinar Corps, provided students with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in a diverse array of experiential



es, ranging from academic engagements to cultural excursions. Throughout the tour, students had the privilege of visiting iconic landmark such as Rashtrapati Bhavan, India gate, National War Memorial, PM Sangrahalay & historic places like Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Jama Masjid & thereby gained first-hand insights into India's rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels.

A highlight of the tour was the interaction with

students from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University, where participants engaged in vibrant discussions on topics ranging from academia to current affairs. This exchange of ideas and perspectives served as a catalyst for intellectual growth and mutual learning, transcending boundaries and fostering camaraderie among students from different backgrounds.

Furthermore, the students had the distinct

honor of engaging in a thought-provoking dialogue with Lieutenant General M. V. Suchindra Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff.

Lieutenant General M. V. Suchindra Kumar commended the students for their enthusiasm, intellect, and curiosity, emphasizing the importance of youth empowerment and academic excellence in nation building. He encouraged the students to leverage their experiences from the

tour to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond.

The success of the educational tour, highlighting its significance in nurturing talent and promoting cross-cultural exchange remains Indian Army's commitment to empowering youth through education, leadership development, and community engagement initiatives. As the students returned to Kashmir University, they brought along cherished memories and newfound sense of purpose, perspective, and camaraderie. The Chinar Corps remains dedicated to supporting the academic aspirations and holistic development of the youth in the region, recognizing their potential as future leaders and change-makers.

IGP Kashmir revisits security in a joint meeting at PCR Kashmir

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 18

Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, Shri V K Birdi, convened a meeting today at PCR Kashmir, which was attended by senior officers of various security agencies including police, Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, CISF besides state and Central intelligence agencies. The meeting aimed to comprehensively review and strengthen security arrangements in anticipation of visits by VVIPs to the UT of J&K, as well as other events in offing.

Among the participants were IG CRPF (SOS) Srinagar, IG BSF Ftr, DD IB Kmr, DIsG of CKR, SSB, BSF, Armed, IRP, CRPF, ITBP, SSSP Srinagar, PCR Kashmir, CID CIK, Traffic,



Security & PC & Telecom, DC SB Sgr, and CSO (I) 15 corps whereas those who joined virtually were DIsG NKR, SKR Baramulla, CRPF Bla & South and all SSSP/SP's of Districts and PDs.

During the meeting, comprehensive briefing was given by participating officers on the security plans devised in the backdrop of coming events. Recognizing the importance of maintain-

ing a delicate balance between security needs and the smooth conduct of events, IGP Kashmir directed officers to ensure heightened vigilance, particularly during night hours, to mitigate the risk of terrorist threats.

Emphasizing the imperative to bolster intelligence gathering and anti-terror operations, IGP Kashmir urged officers to minimize the risk of untoward incidents by strengthen-

ing security at vulnerable points, especially during significant events. Special attention was given to enhancing security along the National Highway, tunnels, minority pickets, and other critical pockets.

Furthermore, specific directives were issued to intensify security/surprise naka measures in both uptown and downtown areas of Srinagar, with 24x7 patrolling and increased presence at

entry and exit points of the district. The IGP also stressed the importance of briefing personnel to take care of SOP, considering the heightened security concerns during events. Additionally, IGP Kashmir Zone emphasized the critical need for thorough monitoring of vulnerable areas and prompt action against suspicious activities. Special instructions were given to border district heads to maintain strict vigilance along the LoC and hinterland to prevent the potential terror activities.

In conclusion, the Inspector General of Police Kashmir reiterated the importance of collective vigilance and proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of all residents and visitors to the Kashmir valley.

Police reunites missing lady with family in Samba

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

Police have traced the missing girl and reunited it with the family in Bari Brahmana area of Samba district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Vinay Kumar on Sunday said that a missing lady has been reunited with her family whose missing report was lodged at Police Station Bari Brah-

mana. He said that on February 7, a written report was lodged at Police Station Bari Brahmana by the mother of missing lady, resident of Kala Gate, Bari Brahmana stating therein that her daughter went to ESIC Hospital Bari Brahman but did not return home.

"All efforts were made out by the family members but the whereabouts of the missing lady could not be ascertained," said

the SSP adding that acting on complaint, a missing report was entered and search started to trace out the missing lady.

With strenuous efforts, the SSP said that a police team has traced out the missing lady and handed over to her legal heirs after completing all legal formalities.

"The family members expressed gratitude towards Police in reuniting their missing member with the family," they said.