



Laying of Foundation Stone, Inauguration & Dedication to Nation 220 Projects | ₹32000 crore in Jammu & Kashmir

by

Shri Narendra Modi Hon'ble Prime Minister

- AIIMS, Jammu
- IIT, Jammu
- IIM, Jammu
- New Terminal Building Jammu Airport
- 206 Developmental Projects of UT
- Common User Petroleum Terminal, Jammu
- MoRTH Projects -Expressway, bridges, tunnels and other infrastructure projects
- New Railway Line between Banihal -Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section
- Electrification of Baramulla-Sangaldan Railway line
- Distribution of 1748 appointment letters

- **Specialised Health Services** ● **Quality Education** ● **Better connectivity**
- **Employment Generation** ● **Economic Growth & Tourism**

February 20, 2024 | 11:00 AM | M A Stadium, Jammu



JKTPO pavilion draws thousands of craft enthusiasts, generates sales worth Rs 1.3 cr at 37th Surajkund Intl mela

JJ NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD (HARYANA), FEBRUARY 19

Jammu and Kashmir pavilion received overwhelming response at the 37th Surajkund International Mela, held at Faridabad, Haryana while serving as a dazzling canvas displaying the grandeur of J&K's unique art and cultural heritage in various forms.

Under the aegis of Industries and Commerce Department, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) curated a spectacular display with 21 stalls dedicated to exceptional and world famous Handloom and Handicraft products of the UT. These stalls showcased the essence of J&K through major attractions such as pashmina shawls, Kani shawls and sozni artwork, hand-embroidered garments including pheran, colourful paper mache products, handmade silk carpets adorned with intricate patterns and other unique products. The visitors not only had the chance to witness these exquisite products



but also engaged with the artisans themselves.

The JKTPO stalls became a hub of storytelling, where the dedication of craftspeople and the narratives behind each creation were shared with enthusiasm, creating an immersive experience for the attendees.

The Surajkund International Mela is a prestigious event on the international tourist calendar, attracting over a million visitors, including thousands of foreign tourists. It is renowned as the largest crafts fair globally, showcasing the richness and diversity of India's handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric.

Organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism, in collaboration with

Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs, the 37th edition had the State of Gujarat as the Theme State. With participation from at least 20 countries and all states of India, the mela celebrated cultural exchange on a grand scale.

Highlighting the importance of preserving heritage crafts, the mela dedicated a special section to showcase traditional skills that are fading away due to machine-made imitations. Renowned national and international folk artists and cultural groups graced the open-air theatres, providing captivating performances throughout the event.

The JKTPO pavilion drew thousands of craft enthusiasts, generat-

ing sales worth Rs. 1.3 crore and 450 number of leads. The sales and leads together will facilitate generation of regular and ever expanding annual business for the artisans and entrepreneurs, thus creating a positive impact on economy of Jammu and Kashmir on long term basis. Riding on such successes, and recent astounding culmination of Jammu Trade Fair 2024, the JKTPO is gearing up for the mega JK Trade Show 2024, scheduled to take place in Srinagar in the coming months at scenic Government Arts Emporium Garden.

JKTPO has been at the forefront of advocating for local products, assisting artisans and nurturing business initiatives in J&K. It has actively participated in 15 exhibitions and trade fairs during the current financial year. Additionally, JKTPO has taken a leading role in arranging Buyer-Seller Meets, Business conclaves, and other initiatives to enhance market connections and opportunities for business entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Shopian chairs DTF meeting on Pulse Polio Immunization-2024



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today chaired a meeting of District Task Force at Mini-Secretariat, here to review the strategies and execution of initiatives pertaining to the Pulse Polio agenda slated for March 3, 2024, encompassing the entire district.

The meeting deliberated upon the scheduled undertakings for National Immunization Day, with a focal point on propagating the theme 'Vaccines Work for All' for India's National Immunization Day.

Throughout the deliberation, DC directed the health department functionaries to ensure optimal dissemination and consciousness-raising regarding the imminent National Pulse Polio.

He implored the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora to synchronize efforts with health department personnel to arrange all requisite arrangements for the occasion. He assured

full support from the district administration and urged all to coordinate with health department officials to make all necessary arrangements for the event.

The DC underscored the imperative of instigating targeted publicity forthwith and instructed the Chief Education Officer Shopian to ready the educational faculty and pupils for the impending Pulse Polio commemoration. The chair was apprised that 241 vaccination booths have been set up across the district, inclusive of 4 transit hubs, 20 places of worship, and 35 remote locales earmarked as centers for the Pulse Polio initiative.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Programme Officer, ICDS; SDM Zainapora, ACR, CMO, District Nodal Officer for Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM), Dy. CMO, District Immunization Officer, BMO and representatives from other departments.

DC Kulgam chairs DTF meeting on Pulse Polio Immunization-2024



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of District Task Force (DTF) on Pulse Polio Immunization 2024 to discuss the planning and implementation of activities for pulse polio immunization-2024 scheduled to be held on 3rd March 2024. The meeting discussed various parameters, including human resources planning, vaccine and cold chain planning, logistics and transport planning, transit points, hard to reach areas, and social mobilization plan. The meeting was informed that Kulgam

has 88381 estimated population of children below 5 years. It was also informed that the department has taken advance measures to cover all the areas including the hard to reach areas.

The DC stressed upon all the stakeholders to work as a team and ensure that no children below the age of 5 is left without pulse polio immunization.

He assured assistance and support from the District Administration at every level for more improvement in the health sector.

The meeting was attended by DPO, Abdul Rasheed; Dy CMO, BMO, DNO AYUSH and other concerned.

Gulmarg all set to host 4th edition of Khelo India from Wednesday

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

The famous winter destination of Gulmarg is yet again all set to host the 4th edition of Khelo India beginning February 21.

Around a thousand athletes, officials, and support staff shall participate in various winter sporting events including Snowboarding, Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski and Snow Mountaineering. Twenty states and Union Territories are competing in the Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski, and Snowboarding while ten states are competing in the Ski Mountaineering competitions.

The event, which is being organized by Department of Youth Services & Sports & J&K Sports Council in collaboration with Tourism Department, Gulmarg Development Authority and other stakeholder Departments, will kick-start with the launch of the mascot while the anthem and the customised apparels of the 4th edition of Khelo India Winter Games will be on the similar lines of the Khelo India Games held in the other parts of the country.

The idea behind choosing Snow Leopard as the mascot of Khelo India Winter Games by the J&K Sports Council is to address the high[1]mountain development issues of the natives, its fragile environment as well as to highlight the importance of conservation efforts to protect the natural habitat of this beautiful big cat and ensure its survival for future.

Meanwhile, all logistic

arrangements like accommodation, transport, etc for the athletes and officials have been worked out by the organizers and final touches are being given on the spot.

Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez held a series of meetings in this regard in the past few days with representatives of Line Departments while Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull has been overseeing the finalization of arrangements at the spot.

Cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar who was on a visit to Kashmir conveyed his best wishes to J&K Sports Council for organizing the sporting event. In his message, he advised the participant athletes to enjoy the game and make their stay here memorable.

The inaugural and closing ceremonies will be marked by scintillating cultural performances by local artists depicting the cultural tapestry of the region. On February 20, a special cultural evening has been planned which shall be attended by the participating athletes and officials and visiting tourists besides local people.

It may be mentioned here that J&K so far has hosted all three editions of Khelo India here with the number of participants swelling considerably as athletes from across the country are now thronging the snow-clad Gulmarg to participate in sports extravaganza. The yearly event has given a major push to winter tourism in J&K besides promoting the local culture and cuisine.

Awareness Camp on HADP, eNAM, PMFME scheme & CSSs held at Fruit Mandi Parimpora Srinagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

A one-day awareness program on Holistic Agricultural Development Program (HADP), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), eNAM and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) was today held at Fruit Mandi Parimpora, Srinagar.

The camp, organized by Area Marketing Office Horticulture Planning & Marketing Parimpora Srinagar was attended by Farmers, Traders, PRIs, multiple Business Unit Holders of the area interested in upgrading their existing units/setting up of new units etc.

Besides, Officers of Horticulture Production Department, Agriculture Department, Manager J&K Bank Parimpora, District Resource Person etc were also present at the event.

The experts from different allied departments deliberated on the



schemes pertaining to the Horticulture Sector in detail.

Area Marketing Officer Srinagar, Shamma Manzor in her speech apprised the participants about the Departmental Activities.

Marketing Inspector, Shabir Mufti apprised the audience about HADP, PMFME, eNAM and other CSSs pertaining to Food Processing Sector in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and need to integrate the existing unorganized Micro-food Processing Units of the district.

In order to accomplish the objective of self-reliant India (AtmaNirbar Bharat), the Officer

apprised that the Govt. is providing 50% subsidy under HADP program and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial, technical and marketing support to upgrade the existing micro-food processing units/establish new units under PMFME thereby integrating around two lac micro-food processing enterprises in the unorganized sector with formal supply chain.

The Manager J&K Bank Branch Fruit Mandi Parimpora, Nisar Ahmad Shah explained to the participants about the financial assistance and subsidy disbursement process at

Bank level.

The District Resource Person, PMFME, Wali Mohammad apprised the participants about different requirements/formalities of the project under the said scheme like financial assistance, technical knowledge and preparation of DPRs were discussed threadbare with the participants.

The educated unemployed youth were urged to set up their own micro-food processing units and avail credit linked subsidy of 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs 10.00 lac per unit and interest subvention of 3% available under the scheme.

He requested the interested applicants to contact him for assistance in the submission of application, DPR preparation, follow up of cases at bank level etc.

In the end on spot assistance was provided to the beneficiaries to register them under the different schemes.

SLEC discusses RGSA Annual Action Plan for FY 2024-25

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

The State Level Executive Committee (SLEC) headed by Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Monday reviewed the progress made during current financial year under RGSA and also discussed the Annual Action Plan under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for FY 2024-25.

Secretary RDD emphasized the critical need to expand the Panchayat infrastructure and enhance the quality of capacity and training programs, ensuring tangible outcomes.

Dr Shahid directed the formulation of a robust framework involving line department Heads of Department (HODs) to facilitate capacity-build-



ing initiatives aimed at comprehensively understanding RGSA schemes.

He also emphasized the imperative need to develop the governance capabilities of PRIs, highlighting the pivotal role of elected representatives in driving SDG-oriented initiatives. Secretary RDD also stressed the need to enhance the capabilities of Panchayats for inclusive local governance, emphasizing the optimal utilization of resources and alignment with complementary

schemes.

Underlining the significance of Gram Sabha as a cornerstone of participatory democracy, Dr Shahid underscored the importance of empowering this forum within the Panchayat system.

He called for strengthening institutions dedicated to capacity enhancement of PRIs across different tiers.

Dr Shahid also emphasized collaborative efforts with other departments and stakeholders to leverage training

infrastructure effectively, ensuring quality standards in training outcomes.

Secretary RDD also advocated for the promotion of e-Governance and technology-driven solutions to enhance governance efficiency within Panchayats.

Secretary RDD highlighted the need to incentivize PRIs towards achieving SDGs, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging their contributions towards sustainable development.

A detailed presentation by Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, highlighted the progress of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and suggested measures for further improvement. These measures included training programs, ISO certification of Panchayats, and the use of e-applications.

Director Panchayati Raj also outlined plans for the construction of infrastructure facilities and ensuring the functionality of existing cen-

tres.

The meeting was also attended by Director RDD, Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali; Director, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Subhash Chandra Chibber; Director, Social Welfare Department Jammu/Kashmir; Director School Education Department, Kashmir, Tassaduq Hussain Mir; Director School Education Department, Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma; Director Health Services Kashmir, Mush-taq Ahmad Rather; Director Health Services, Jammu, Additional Secretary Animal Husbandry, Latif Choudhary, Joint Director Planning Kamal Kumar Sharma; Deputy Secretary RDD, Sheetal Pandita, representatives from IMPARD and others also present on the occasion.

Outgoing CPO accorded farewell at Doda



JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, FEBRUARY 19

The officers and officials of the planning section of the DC office Doda organised a function here today to bid farewell to outgoing Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Suresh Kumar Sharma.

The event was graced by the presence of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, along with other officers including ADC and ADC Baderwah.

During the ceremony, the officials of the planning section presented a beautiful gift to Sharma as a token of their appreciation and love. Deputy Commissioner Doda, in his speech, commended the outgoing officer for his unwavering commitment, dedication, and honesty towards his duties. He also highlighted Sharma's sociable nature and praised him for shouldering his responsibilities with utmost sincerity.



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J&K govt restores waiting list for recruitments

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Administrative Council in its meeting, held on 19th of February, 2024, under the Chairmanship of LG Manoj Sinha, approved re-consideration of its earlier Decision dated 07-09-2023 and restored enabling provisions for drawing up of wait lists in recruitment to public services in the Government.

The Administrative Council decided to withdraw amendments made out in the J&K Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment Rules, 2010 in terms of S.O 496 of 2023, J&K, Appointment of Class-IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020 vide S.O. 497 of 2023, J&K Combined Competitive Examination Rules, 2018 vide S.O.498 of 2023 and also in the Business Regulations of JKPS/JKSSB, and other rules/regulations in any other department/ service ab-initio.

It was also decided to grant one time exemption to recruiting agencies to draw up wait list within six months, for those select lists, which have been issued since earlier decision.

However this shall be subject to the condition that such wait list(s) are drawn within validity period of the select list and resultant vacancies on account of non-joining of selected candidates have not been

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Trafficked Bihar woman rescued in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 19

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has rescued a woman trafficked from Bihar in the Union Territory's Bandipora district, officials said on Monday.

"Bandipora police rescued a lady victim of human trafficking belonging to Bihar, illegally sold to one person namely Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh s/o Nazir Ahmad t/o Banayari Ajas," the district's police said in a post on X.

Cognisance has been taken under relevant sections of the law, it said.

JKDMA issues avalanche warning for 10 districts in next 24 hours

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, FEB 19

Amid inclement weather with rain and snow, the authorities on Monday issued an avalanche warning in the higher reaches of ten districts of Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours, officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) said a "low danger" level avalanche is likely to occur at 2500 metres above sea level in the higher reaches of Anantnag and Kulgam districts of south Kashmir in the next 24 hours.

PM Modi to arrive in J&K today

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is arriving in Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday to address a massive rally and inaugurate development projects worth Rs 30500.

According to a press release issued from the Prime Minister's office, Modi will inaugurate projects worth over Rs 30,500 crore during his visit, which include various sectors such as health, education, rail, road, aviation and petroleum. Notable among these projects is the inauguration of three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), including one in Jammu.

The PM will lay the foundation stone for the new terminal building of Jammu Airport and a Common User Facility Petroleum depot in Jammu, among others.



He will also distribute appointment orders to about 1500 new government recruits of Jammu & Kashmir besides interacting with beneficiaries of various government schemes as part of the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu' programme.

The new terminal building at Jammu Airport, spread over an expansive area of 40,000 square metres, will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 865 crore and is designed to accommodate up to 2000

passengers during peak hours. Showcasing the local culture, the building will reflect the vibrant spirit of the region while boosting tourism, trade, air connectivity and economic growth, as per the press release.

Union Minister in Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday visited the rally spot and reviewed arrangements at the Maulana Azad Stadium. He was accompanied by senior officials of the Government of

India and a team of J&K UT administration led by Divisional Commissioner Jammu. Dr Singh said adequate arrangements about accommodation, provision of refreshments and sanitation facilities for the invitees have been made.

He informed that the projects, which the Prime Minister will inaugurate, have been executed by the four ministries of the Government of India - Education, Civil Aviation, Railways and Petroleum.

Meanwhile, stringent security measures have been implemented across Jammu in anticipation of PM Modi's visit.

Police have declared Jammu district a no-fly zone (temporary Red Zone) for drones and quadcopters with effect from Monday 6 pm until Tuesday 11 pm while the vigil has been increased on borders and

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Congress believes only one family has right over Bharat Ratna: PM Modi

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, FEB 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday targeted the Congress and said the party believes that members of only one family has the right over the Bharat Ratna.

Modi was addressing a gathering at a groundbreaking ceremony here for about 14,000 projects across the state worth more than Rs 10 lakh crore.

"Just a few days ago, our government had the privilege of awarding Bharat Ratna to Chaudhary Charan Singh, the messiah of farmers. Honouring Chaudhary Saheb,



the son of the soil of Uttar Pradesh, is an honour for crores of farmers and labourers of the country. But unfortunately, the Congress and its allies do not understand this," he said.

"You must have seen that when (name of) Chaudhary Charan Singh was being discussed in the Parliament, how the Congress people made it difficult to even speak about Chaudhary Saheb. Con-

gress people believe that the members of only one family has the right over Bharat Ratna," the prime minister said.

He further said that the Congress did not confer Bharat Ratna even on Baba Saheb Ambedkar for decades as they kept giving it to their own family members.

Ambedkar was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, posthumously in 1990.

"The Congress does not want to respect the poor, Dalits, backward classes, farmers and labourers because they do not exist in its thinking," Modi said.

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BJP govt will be formed for the third time, Modi will again become PM: Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Addressing the second day of the BJP's national convention at Bharat Mandap in Delhi, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah said, "The country has decided that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will once again be the PM of the country,



there is no doubt about it.' Wherever you go in the world today, people will ask if you are coming from Modi's India. "In 75 years, this country has seen 17 Lok Sabha elections, 22 governments, and 15 Prime Ministers. Every government in the country has tried to develop in a timely manner,

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People of J&K have natural connect with Modi: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

"People of Jammu & Kashmir have a natural connect with PM Modi".

This was stated here today by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while speaking to media during the on-the-spot final review of arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme at Maulana Azad Stadium here tomorrow.

The Minister was accompanied by senior officials of Govt of India and a team of J&K UT administration led by



Divisional Commissioner Jammu.

"There is a huge amount of excitement on the eve of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu tomorrow, with

the people eagerly awaiting his arrival", said Dr Jitendra Singh here. He said virtually every citizen of the Union Territory of Jammu and

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Whiteout in higher reaches, rains lash plains for 2nd day in Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 19

Amidst the forecast of the three-day wet spell, several areas of Kashmir including the famous ski resort, Gulmarg and other places experienced fresh snowfall while rains lashed plains for the second straight day on Monday, leading to the closure of Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. However, the gusty winds caused damage to three residential houses in Srinagar.

According to the news agency, a fresh Western Disturbance (WD) started affecting J&K on February 18 and under its influence, many areas received fresh snowfall for the second consecutive day on Monday.

As per the reports, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Hachmarg and Machil areas recorded heavy snowfall.

Machil has recorded a snowfall of 3.5 feet while Hachmarg has received a snowfall of 2 feet in the last two days.

As per reports, nearly



4 feet of snowfall was recorded in Sonamarg while Gulmarg recorded a snowfall of 2.5 ft.

Meanwhile, rains lashed the plains of Kashmir including the summer capital, Srinagar, thereby bringing down the mercury further.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSES DAMAGED

During the rains on Monday, gusty winds were reported in some areas, causing damage to three residential houses in Srinagar.

The rooftop of two residential houses belonging to Firdous Ahmad

and Inayat Ahmad, both sons of Ghulam Mohd of Gada Mohalla and Manzoor Ahmad Sofi, son of Late Mohd Qasim of Lati Mohalla Rainawari.

A house belonging to Mohd Aslam Phamda, son of Raj Mohd Phamda of Faqeer Gajree Dara Harwan. was damaged completely in the gusty winds.

Other than Srinagar, around one dozen houses got damaged in south Kashmir's Kulgam and Anantnag districts due to gusty winds.

Sources told KNO that most of the houses

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Govt, Ladakh delegation meet on issues of UT

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 19

The Centre is holding a meeting with a delegation from Ladakh here on Monday on their key demands, including statehood for the high-altitude region, two Lok Sabha seats and bringing the area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

A 14-member delegation of the Apex Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) is meeting the High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

"We are going to discuss our demands, including statehood for Ladakh and two Lok Sabha seats," Apex Body Leh member Chering Dorjay Lakrook told PTI.

The demands of the delegation are statehood for Ladakh, two Lok Sabha seats (one for Kargil and

one for Leh), job opportunities for the residents of the Union Territory and constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule, sources said.

Ladakh currently has one Lok Sabha constituency. Ladakh, which no longer has any MLA constituency, was part of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The erstwhile state was bifurcated on August 5, 2019, into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was also abrogated on that day.

As per the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, Jammu and Kashmir has been made a UT with a legislative assembly and Ladakh has been made a UT without any assembly.

There were four representatives from Ladakh in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

The Centre had assured the delegation from Ladakh in December last year that it was committed to fast-track the development of the UT and to meet the aspirations of the people there.

The assurance was given at a meeting held with the High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh headed by minister Rai.

Sources said the 14-member delegation will on Monday press for their four-point demands before Rai and seek an early resolution of their issues.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted the High Powered Committee for Ladakh under Rai's chairmanship with a mandate to discuss measures to protect the Ladakh region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical

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Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi takes over as new Army Vice Chief

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 19

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday took over as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff.

After assuming the appointment of Vice Chief of Army Staff, the General laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in Delhi.

Lt Gen Dwivedi is an alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa (MP) and was commissioned into the 18 JAK RIF on December 15, 1984, which he later commanded in the Kashmir valley and the deserts of Rajasthan. He has had the unique distinction of having balanced exposure of both Northern and Western theatre.

He has also held the



important appointments of Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) and Sector Commander Assam Rifles in intense counter terrorist operations and held various other staff and command appointments in the North East.

After commanding the Rising Star Corps, the Gen-

eral was given the command of the most prestigious Northern Army from 2022-2024 in an extremely challenging operational environment.

During his command, he provided guidance and operational oversight for the planning and

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

PM Modi to arrive...

internal routes.

A security official said that the restrictions have been imposed on the operation of drones, remote-controlled micro-light aircraft, para-gliders, para-motors, hand gliders and hot air balloons within the (Jammu) district. Roads have been barricaded to prevent unauthorised parking, and thorough security checks are being conducted at various points, he said.

In light of the high-profile event, SSP Traffic Jammu issued a detailed advisory, outlining traffic diversions and parking arrangements. Approximately 4000 buses have been deployed to ferry participants to the rally venue to ensure smooth movement and minimal disruption to public services.

The Headquarters Central Pool Security, Jammu, in coordination with the SSP Security Jammu, has released a detailed list of prohibited items that attendees are advised not to carry to the venue. These include bags, tiffin boxes, cameras, weapons, ammunition, sharp-edged articles, cigarettes, lighters, umbrellas, objectionable flags, and electronic gadgets. Mobile phones are to be kept in silent mode throughout the event.

The participants have been instructed to park their vehicles in designated parking slots identified by the Civil Administration and Traffic Police. Entry to the venue is expected to commence before 9:30 am, and attendees have been urged to cooperate during security checks.

As per the advisory, it is mandatory for the visitors to carry valid identity proof such as an Aadhar card, Election card, or PAN card.

In a communique, the SSP Traffic Jammu has outlined traffic diversions and restrictions to facilitate the smooth movement of vehicles on the day of the rally.

Vehicles coming from Bikram Chowk towards Dogra Chowk will be diverted via Vivekananda Chowk and JP Chowk, while those approaching from Canal Head towards Dogra Chowk will be redirected through Jewel Chowk, St. Peter's School, Bus Stand, K.C Crossing, Indira Chowk, and JP Chowk. Additionally, attendees are advised to use the Fourth Tawi Bridge or Gujjar Nagar Bridge for north-to-south and vice versa movement.

For any traffic-related assistance, the Traffic Control Unit (TCU) Jammu has provided contact numbers - 0191-2459048, 94191-47732 & 103 - for the convenience of the public.

President of the All J&K Transport Association, Vijay Singh Chib, confirmed the deployment of 4000 buses to ferry participants to the rally venue. He said that due to the shortage of buses, additional support has been sought from some transporters from Punjab.

ABOUT PROJECTS

Major boost to education sector

In a significant step towards upgrading and developing education and skilling infrastructure across the country, the Prime Minister will inaugurate, dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of several projects worth about Rs 13,375 crore. The projects which are dedicated to the nation include a permanent campus of IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Tirupati, IIT Jammu, IIITDM Kurnool; Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) - a pioneer skill training institute on advanced technologies - located at Kanpur; and two campuses of Central Sanskrit University - at Devprayag (Uttarakhand) and at Agartala (Tripura).

Prime Minister will inaugurate three new IIMs in the country viz IIM Jammu, IIM Bodh Gaya and IIM Visakhapatnam. He will also inaugurate 20 new buildings for Kendriya Vidyalaya (KVs) and 13 new Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs) buildings across the country. Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of five Kendriya Vidyalaya campuses, one Navodaya Vidyalaya campus and five Multipurpose Hall for Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country. These newly constructed KVs and NVs buildings will play an important role in meeting the educational needs of students across the country.

AIIMS Jammu

In a step that will provide comprehensive, quality and holistic tertiary care health services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu. The institute, whose foundation stone was also laid by the Prime Minister in February 2019, is being established under the Central sector scheme Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

Established at a cost of over 1660 crore and in an area spanning over 227 acres, the hospital is equipped with facilities like 720 beds, a Medical College with 125 seats, Nursing College with 60 seats, AYUSH Block with 30 beds, residential accommodation for faculty and staff, hostel accommodation for UG and PG students, Night Shelter, Guest House, Auditorium, Shopping Complex etc. The state-of-the-art hospital will provide high-quality patient care services in 18 Specialities and 17 Super Specialities including Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, Urology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Endocrinology, Burns & Plastic Surgery. The Institute will have an Intensive Care Unit, Emergency & Trauma Unit, 20 Modular Operation Theatres, Diagnostic Laboratories, Blood Bank, Pharmacy etc. The Hospital will also leverage Digital Health Infrastructure to reach out to far-flung areas of the region.

New terminal building at Jammu airport

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for a new terminal building at Jammu Airport. To be spread over a 40,000 sqm area, the new terminal building will be equipped with modern facilities catering to about 2000 passengers during peak hours. The new terminal building will be environment friendly and will be built such that it showcases the local culture of the region. It will strengthen air connectivity, boost tourism and trade and accelerate economic growth of the region.

Rail projects

Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation various rail projects in Jammu & Kashmir including the new rail line between Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan (48 Km) and the newly electrified Baramulla-Sringar-Banihal-Sangaldan section (185.66 Km). Prime Minister will also flag off the first Electric Train in the valley and also train service between Sangaldan station & Baramulla station.

The commissioning of the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section is significant as it features the usage of Ballast Less Track (BLT) all along the route providing a better riding experience to the passengers. Also, India's longest

transportation tunnel T-50 (12.77 Km) lies in this portion between Khari-Sumber. The rail projects will improve connectivity, ensure environmental sustainability and boost the overall economic development of the region.

Road projects

During the programme, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of important road projects including two packages (44.22 KM) of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway connecting Jammu to Katra; Phase two for four-laning of Srinagar Ring Road; five packages for upgrading the 161 km long Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri stretch of NH-01; and the construction of Kulgam Bypass & Pulwama bypass on NH-444.

The two packages of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, once completed will facilitate the visit of pilgrims to the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, and will also boost economic development in the region; Phase two for four-laning of the Srinagar Ring Road involves upgrading the existing Sumbal-Wayul NH-1. This brownfield project of length 24.7 Km, will reduce the traffic congestion in and around Srinagar city. It will improve connectivity to popular tourist destinations like Manasbal Lake and Kheer Bhawani Temple, and also reduce travel time to Leh, Ladakh; The project for the upgradation of the 161 km long Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri stretch of NH-01, is of strategic importance. It will also boost the economic development of Baramulla & Uri; Kulgam Bypass & Pulwama bypass on NH-444 connecting Qazigund - Kulgam - Shopian - Pulwama - Badgam - Srinagar will also boost road infrastructure in the region.

CUF petroleum depot

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for a project to develop the CUF (Common User Facility) Petroleum depot at Jammu. The state-of-the-art fully automated depot which will be developed at a cost of about Rs 677 crore, will have a storage capacity of about 100000 KL for storing Motor Spirit (MS), High-Speed Diesel (HSD), Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), Aviation Turbine fuel (ATF), Ethanol, Biodiesel and winter grade HSD.

Other projects

Prime Minister will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several development projects worth more than Rs 3150 crore for strengthening the civic infrastructure and provisioning of public facilities across Jammu and Kashmir. The projects to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister include Road projects & Bridges; Grid Stations, receiving stations transmission line Projects; Common Effluent Treatment Plants and Sewage Treatment Plants; Several Degree College buildings; an Intelligent Traffic Management system in Srinagar city; Modern Narwal Fruit Mandi; Drug Testing Laboratory at Kathua; and Transit accommodation - 224 flats at Ganderbal and Kupwara. The projects whose foundation stone will be laid include the development of five new Industrial Estates across Jammu and Kashmir; Data Centre/ Disaster Recovery Centre for Integrated Command and Control Centre of Jammu Smart City; Up-gradation of Transport Nagar at Parimpora Srinagar; Up-gradation of 62 road projects and 42 bridges and project for development of transit accommodation - 2816 flats at nine locations in districts Anantnag, Kulgam, Kupwara, Shopian & Pulwama, among others--(KNO)

Whiteout in higher...

have got damaged in the Qazigund belt.

MAJOR ROADS CLOSED

The fresh precipitation has also led to the closure of several bustling roads including Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, Mughal Road, Bandipora-Gurez Road and others.

The officials said that heavy rains triggered landslides and shooting stones along NH-44. The landslides blocked the road at Dalwas, Mehad-Cafeteria, Ramban, Chamlwas and Gangroo while the shooting stones occurred at T2, Jaiswal bridge, Gangro, Marog and other places along NH-44 on Monday.

"The highway is still closed for vehicular movement and people are advised to avoid journeys on NH-44 till the weather improves and the road is clear," the officials said.

EXAMS POSTPONED

Amid the fresh spell of rain and snow, the University of Kashmir postponed all the examinations scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.

Due to the prevailing weather situation, all the examinations of the University of Kashmir scheduled for today, the 19th, and 20th of February, 2024, are postponed, officials said, adding that the fresh dates for the conduct of postponed papers shall be communicated separately.

TOURIST RESCUED

Officials in the Jammu & Kashmir State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) informed KNO that dozens of tourists mostly in Dal Lake areas were rescued on Monday during the gusty winds amidst the rains.

FORECAST

Light to moderate rains and snow are expected at most places of plains and lower reaches with the possibility of heavy to very heavy snowfall over the middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam and districts of south Kashmir, said Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad.

He said that on February 21, Wednesday, there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate snow at many places till afternoon and late afternoon. There will be gradual improvement thereafter following which no significant weather activity is expected till February 27, he said.

About Jammu division, he said there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain with thunder, lightning in plains with light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Ramban, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar.

"On February 21, intermittent light to moderate snow and rain is expected over many places till late afternoon, evening and gradual improvement thereafter following which no significant weather activity till February 27," he added.

ADVISORY

In its advisory, the local meteorological department said the system may lead to a temporary closure of roads

of higher reaches and important passes like Sinthan Pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna & Razdan passes, Zojila and others. It advised the travellers to plan accordingly.

However, farmers are advised to withhold irrigation and fertilizer application and drain out excess water from orchards and fields during this period.

"Significant drop in day temperature is expected for the next few days," the MeT said--(KNO)

Congress believes...

Even during the lifetime of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh ji, the Congress had tried hard to bargain with him, he said. "Chaudhary Saheb left the post of PM but did not compromise with his principles."

Modi said Chaudhary Charan Singh hated political bargaining, but it is sad that the parties in Uttar Pradesh doing politics in his name did not follow Chaudhary Saheb's principles.

The prime minister said the country can never forget what Choudhary Saheb did for small farmers. "Today, taking inspiration from Chaudhary Saheb, we are continuously empowering the farmers of the country."

Govt, Ladakh delegation...

location and strategic importance.

Also to ensure protection of land and employment, measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region, measures related to empowerment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil and Constitutional safeguards that could be provided to ensure the measures and protection as mentioned above.

Several organisations of Ladakh were demanding a separate Union Territory for the region for decades and the demand was fulfilled on August 5, 2019, with the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The KDA and the ABL, however, in the recent past protested at different locations, including New Delhi, Jammu and Ladakh, highlighting the four demands.(Agencies)

BJP govt will be...

but it can be said today without any confusion that comprehensive development, development of every sector, and development of every individual has only happened in the 10 years of Narendra Modi."

In his 10-year tenure, Modi has abolished nepotism, casteism, and appeasement and established 'Politics of Performance' within the country. He has worked to remove the symbols of slavery from the country. Shah, the Chanakya of Indian politics, said that these actions should have been taken immediately after independence. However, Congress never tried to do so.

"Just as the Pandavas and Kauravas were divided in two camps in the past. Similarly, today there are two camps. On one side is the NDA coalition under the leadership of Modi, and on the other side is the arrogant coalition of all family-based parties under the leadership of Congress. This arrogant coalition is the supporter of corruption, nepotism, and appeasement politics, while the BJP and NDA coalition are based on the principle of 'Nation First.' The foundation of our coalition is 'Nation First.' On the other hand, there are parties that are concerned about their own families."

Just as the Congress party committed many scams, similarly, today the Aam Aadmi Party is also escaping from the court after committing scams like the liquor scam and the Mohalla Clinic scam. There has been a Mahadev scam in Chhattisgarh, Lalu Ji is convicted, the entire I.N.D.I Alliance is tainted with corruption. The people of the country must decide whether to give a mandate to Modi or to the I.N.D.I Alliance.

In addition, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Modi is working for the poor of the country, while parties in the I.N.D.I Alliance are concerned about their own families. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the country with the goal of a great India, but what is the purpose of the I.N.D.I Alliance in politics?"

"Sonia Gandhi's goal is to make Rahul Gandhi the PM, Pawar Sahab's goal is to make his daughter the CM. Mamata Banerjee's goal is to make her nephew the CM. Whereas Stalin, Lalu Yadav, Uddhav Thackeray also aim to make their sons the CM. Mulyam Singh Yadav has already made his son the CM. The goal of all these is only to gain power. Will these parties ever think about the welfare of the poor? Never."

Lt Gen Upendra...

execution of sustained operations along the northern borders with China and the Western Front with Pakistan, besides orchestrating the dynamic counterterrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

He was also involved in the modernization and equipping of the largest Army Command of the Indian Army, where he steered the induction of indigenous equipment as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

He has also worked towards creating synergy with the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh for convergent nation-building outcomes and infrastructure development.

The General officer, during his illustrious career spanning across 39 years, has held various staff appointments in the headquarters of the Armoured Brigade, Mountain Division, Strike Corps and Integrated HQ (Army). As an instructor at the Indian Military Academy and the Army War College (Higher Command), he shaped the future generations of tri-services and Friendly Foreign Countries. The appointment of DG Infantry empowered him to steer and fast-track capital procurement cases of weapons for all three services, leading to significant and visible capability enhancement for our Armed Forces.

As Dy Chief (IS&C), the officer gave impetus towards automation and the absorption of niche tech in the Indian Army. Being a tech enthusiast, he worked towards enhancing the tech threshold of all ranks in Northern Command and pushed for Critical and Emerging Techs like Big Data Analytics, AI, Quantum and blockchain-based solutions.

The General officer's two overseas tenures include Somalia, as pwlart of HQ United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) II and Seychelles, as Military Advisor to the Government of Seychelles.

Besides attending Staff College, Wellington and the

Rajesh Bittu inaugurates shooting of film Truck Driver in Narwal, Jammu



J NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 19

The shooting of a film Truck Driver in Narwal Yard area of Jammu was inaugurated by Chairman Religious Tourism and Heritage Cultural Mahant Rajush Bittu And Jasvinder Singh Kuku on Monday. This film will be directed by Meet (Gurmeet) and Surendra Singh, Randhir Sindhu, Rakesh Chalotra, Gurmeet Kaur (female artiste) and Ashwini Gupta will play lead roles in this film. Addressing the occasion, Mahant Rajesh Bittu congratulated

the entire production house and the artists that he is going to produce a family film. He said that today we are seeing that the situation has become normal in Jammu and Kashmir and it was our dream that a better industry should come in Jammu and before this Surendra and director Gurmeet have done that such a film should be made in Jammu. , whose shooting has started in Narwal, Jammu and the name of the film is very beautiful Truck Driver which is a family film and today is the first day of shooting.

Higher Command Course at Army War College (AWC), Mhow, the officer was conferred 'Distinguished Fellow' in the coveted NDC equivalent course at USAWC, Carlisle, USA. Complementing his illustrious military career, are an M Phil in Defence & Management Studies, in addition to two Master's degrees in Strategic Studies and Military Science, including one from USAWC, USA. The officer has also authored / presented articles in various professional forums / Journals. He has pioneered the first ever compendium on Indo - Myanmar Border Management. The General officer is a skilled Yoga practitioner.

He is married to Sunita Dwivedi, a science graduate, who is a homemaker. Sunita Dwivedi has been associated with Aarushi, an institute for special-ability children at Bhopal. The couple is blessed with two daughters. (Agencies)

JKDMA issues avalanche...

the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Upper reaches of the Jammu and Kashmir experiencing a fresh snowfall for the past two days prompting authorities to issue a fresh avalanche warning as a precautionary measure for the people today.

The authorities have also asked the people living in these districts to dial 112 for help in case of any emergency. (Agencies)

People of J&K have...

Kashmir wants to be a part of the programme.

The Union Minister was speaking after reviewing arrangements for the Prime Minister's programme being held at M.A. Stadium in the city. Dr Jitendra Singh was briefed by the officials of the civil administration and security agencies about the elaborate and necessary arrangements being made for Sh Modi's public programme. "I am glad that both the society and the administration have got together to make adequate arrangements for it", he said.

The Minister said people from all over the UT are coming to participate in the event, particularly from ten districts of Jammu region. He informed that the people hailing from far flung districts, including Poonch, Kishtwar and Ramban, who will attend the programme will arrive in the city either tonight, whereas those from neighbouring districts like Kathua and Samba will reach the venue tomorrow morning.

Dr Jitendra Singh said adequate arrangements with regard to accommodation, provision of refreshments and sanitation facilities for the invitees have been made so that they can attend the programme in a comfortable manner.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Prime Minister will inaugurate projects worth more than 30,000 crore rupees. He said these projects have been executed by the four ministers of the government of India, namely Ministries of Education, Civil Aviation, Railways and Petroleum. The Union Minister reiterated that Prime Minister Modi has accorded high priority to the infrastructure development of J&K. He said the establishment of two AIIMS, IIM, IIT and IIMC in the Union Territory is evidence of the huge amount of priority Prime Minister Modi gives to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that the biggest ever development package for J&K in the last 70 years was granted by Mr Modi soon after taking over as the Prime Minister. Immediately after becoming the Prime Minister, Mr Modi was confronted with flood situation in the UT, and he navigated through the calamity, Dr Singh added. He said Mr Modi has not only given a huge amount of physical and financial support to the development of the region, but has also sought to break away the mental barriers that existed by bringing about the Constitutional changes which happened on the 5th and 6th of August, 2019, helping in mainstreaming of the UT.

J&K govt restores...

re-advertised.

The decision shall help in timely filing up of vacancies, with additional benefits such as avoidance of delays in re-referral of vacancies, reduction of time consumed in subsequent selections, and allow candidates to secure employment before attainment of upper-age limit.

District Administration Kupwara ensures swift restoration efforts despite heavy snowfall

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 19

In frontier Kupwara district, hectic efforts were on, to clear the snow from the main roads and restore the essential services despite heavy snowfall which is continuing from yesterday evening.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan visited various areas to monitor snow clearance operations and restoration measures across the district.

The administration has remained steadfast in its commitment to restoring essential services and ensuring the welfare of residents in this border district. All the resources have been mobilized to prioritize the restoration of road connectivity, power supply, water supply and the distribution of essential commodities to affected areas.

Teams have been deployed round the clock



to clear snow from roads and ensure safe passage for commuters. Additionally, efforts are underway to address disruptions in power and water supply.

Despite the challenging weather conditions, the District Administration remains resolute in its efforts to mitigate the impact of the snowfall on the residents of Kupwara. Continuous coordination with relevant departments and stakeholders is being maintained to ensure swift response.

20 Control rooms have been set up across the district and helpline numbers have been published in print and electronic media including social media platforms for the convenience of the people.

The District Administration urges residents to remain cautious, cooperate with the authorities during this time. The residents of higher reaches have been sensitized to restrict outdoor activities due to the looming threat of avalanche.

Chairperson KVIB convenes performance review meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Chairperson, J&K Khadi Village and Industries Board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, today convened performance review meeting of the board at Civil Secretariat here.

Dr Jagdish Chander, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, J&K KVIB, senior officers besides district level officers of the Board of Jammu division attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed that during the current financial year, a margin money of Rs. 38.85 crore has been released by J&K KVIB for establishment of 1606 units thereby creating employment opportunities for 12260 persons. It was further informed that nearly 40% of the total cases settled during the current financial year are of women entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat



emphasised for streamlining and easing application processing so as to give fillip to entrepreneurship in UT of J&K.

Reiterating government's commitment towards providing employment opportunities to aspirant entrepreneurs/unemployed youth, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat asked the district officers to undertake awareness and sensitisation campaigns so that more and more aspirants can avail benefits of employment generation programmes being implemented by the Board. She added that employment generation programmes like PMEGP and JKREGP have been devised to

encourage entrepreneurship, empowering individuals to start their businesses and contribute towards economic diversification.

Referring to large number of cases pending at financing banks, she exhorted upon the concerned officers to follow up and ensure that the cases are processed as per timelines fixed in the guidelines.

The Chairperson emphasized the need for improved collaboration among bankers and implementing agencies to ensure that the benefits of employment generation programmes viz. PMEGP and JKREGP percolate to the target population.

Department of Fisheries signs a MoU with Open Network for Digital Commerce at New Delhi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 19

The Department of Fisheries signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in the presence of Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala, Minister of State Dr. L Murugan, Secretary (Fisheries) Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries), Shri Sagar Mehra, MD, ONDC Shri. T. Koshy and other esteemed dignitaries today at New Delhi. Shri Parshottam Rupala also released a booklet "From Catch to Commerce, Increasing Market Access through Digital Transformation".

The objective of the collaboration of Department of Fisheries with ONDC is to provide a digital platform and empower all stakeholders including traditional fishermen, fish farmers producer organization, entrepreneurs from fisheries sector to buy and sell their products through e-market place. ONDC is a unique platform of e-marketing that will play a significant role in fisheries sector by connecting fishermen,

fish farmers, FFPOs, self-help groups and other fishermen cooperatives in a structured manner.

Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala interacted with representatives of FFPOs, who shared their experiences of before and after getting onboarded at ONDC platform. Further, FFPOs shared about their success stories like development of live fish transport unit. Shri Rupala appreciated the efforts from FFPOs and encouraged to adopt further automation in future in the processing of fish products.

Parshottam Rupala emphasized on the need for automation in the value chain and fish processing units while interacting with fishermen and FFPOs during MoU signing ceremony. He informed that this collaboration of Department of Fisheries with ONDC will not only address these challenges but catalyze the unlocking of the potential of digital commerce in the field of Indian Fisheries sector. He emphasized that collaboration would serve numerous benefits for fisheries industries like reduced transaction costs, increased market reach, improved

transparency, increased competition & competitiveness, innovation, and employment generation etc. Further, he expressed his happiness over providing digital platform to the traditional fishermen, FFPOs and other stakeholders for buying and selling fish and fish products through e-market. Union Minister also highlighted that, this is a historical MoU signed between DoF and ONDC towards fulfillment of Digital India initiative.

Dr. L Murugan shared that collaboration of Department of Fisheries with ONDC shall be a groundbreaking initiative to revolutionize and this initiative will also provide a platform for promoting value-added fisheries related products which will allow producers to capture higher margins and diversify their product offerings. He highlighted the need to enhance the domestic fish consumption and this initiative of DoF to connect all traditional fishermen, FFPOs on Digital platform for buying and selling fish products will help to encourage the domestic fish consumption.

Dr Abhilaksh Likhi high

One day awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma held at Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 19

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Development Facilitation Centre, Jammu, in collaboration with District Administration Ramban, on Monday organized an awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma .

Awareness programme was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary for the Panchayat Secretaries, and other stakeholders including beneficiaries of the scheme.

Highlighting the key features and benefits of the PM Vishwakarma scheme, Chief Planning Officer Shakeeb Ahmed asked all stakeholders to implement the scheme to cover the eligible beneficiaries across the district under all identified trades.

He stressed upon the officers and officials of concerned departments to adopt a people friendly approach to implement the scheme in letter and spirit on the ground to strengthen local job avenues at local level.

Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant Director IEDS DK Tyagi,



informed that, PM Vishwakarma scheme has been launched on 17th Sep 2023 by the Prime Minister under which 18 categories of artisans have been covered.

He informed that after the registration at CSC and step wise verifications by the authorities, the artisans will be eligible for various benefits of the scheme including a toolkit of Rs. 15000 and collateral free loan up to Rs. 3 lakh on just 5% interest rate.

Earlier, Assistant Director IEDS Rajesh Kumar presented the resume of the programme besides

extending his gratitude to the District Administration and District Industries Centre Ramban for their contribution in organizing the event. Other officers also sensitized the participants regarding the registration process and training.

Among other General Manager, DIC, Ravinder Anand, ACP, Mohd Ishfaq Kanji, LDM, Rashid Sofi, Superintendent ITI, Parvez Ahmed, CEO, MC Ramban, Sudarshan Singh, BDOs, Bankers, Representatives of CSC Centre and various concerned officers attended the programme.

NSS Winter Camp begins at GDC Ramgarh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 19

The National Service Scheme unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College Ramgarh today inaugurated the 7-Day NSS Winter Camp.

The Camp was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, the Principal of the College, in the presence of the NSS Programme Officer Prof. Brahm Dutt Sharma, Former Programme Officer Dr. Shamsheer Lal, Staff members and Volunteers of the College with the lighting of the traditional lamp.

In her address, the Principal of the College highlighted the important role that the NSS as an organization plays towards social and national development. She said that the NSS understands the community in which they work and understands its relation to the community. It identifies the needs and problems of the community and involves itself in problem-solving. It helps in developing a sense of social and civic responsibility amongst the NSS volunteers. She congratulated the organizing committee and the volunteers for organizing this Camp.

Dr. Shamsheer Lal, Head Dept. of Dogri, GDC Billawar and former NSS Programme Officer of



GDC Ramgarh, was the resource person in the inaugural session and he informed students about the role of the NSS organisation and the services it provides both inside and outside the college campus. He highlighted that NSS volunteers can develop the competence required for group living and sharing of responsibilities, and they acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitudes. These volunteers develop the capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters and practice national integration and social harmony.

On the first day, a symposium competition on the theme of "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan" was held. Many students enthusiastically spoke on the issue.

In the end Brahm Dutt Sharma, NSS Programme Officer, gave a detailed account of the activities to be covered during the Camp's tenure. He also motivated the NSS volunteers to participate in the activities to be carried out during the Camp with zeal and enthusiasm. He encouraged them to learn new things and skills that would help them in their lives to overcome various situations.

The faculty members who were present in the programme were Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Bram Dutt, PTI Ashok Kumar, Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Dr. Ekta Rani, Dr. Imityaz, Ms. Priya Sharma, Ms. Priya Bhagat, Mr. Fayaz Ahmed, Ms. Sonali Dutta and Mr. Anil Kumar.

Shailendra Kumar reviews annual plan for HADP projects, pilot projects of SKUAST



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, today chaired a meeting to review annual plan 2024-25 for HADP projects and pilot projects of SKUAST Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

Mission Director, HADP, Yasha Mudgal, Director Finance APD, Director Agriculture Jammu and Kashmir, Director Finance Technical Officers of HADP/APD and Chairmen of Project grounding and monitoring committee from SKUAST Jammu and Kashmir attended the meeting in person and virtually.

The Principal Secretary had a threadbare discussion on standardization of sensor based smart agriculture practices for automation of operation for increasing profitability, minimizing pesticide use for sustainable agriculture

production system and developing J&K Soil and Land Resources Information System (JKSLRI). He also reviewed various components of Innovative Extension Approaches for promoting agriculture and support Human Resource Development for technological backstop for sustainable and accelerated transformation of agriculture.

The Principal Secretary directed the concerned to ensure that end of project targets of ensuring flow of technology from lab to land is ensured through these projects.

He asked the PGMC Chairmen of these projects to submit the action plans for 2024-25 through Mission Director HADP.

Director, Agriculture Kashmir and senior officers of SKUAST briefed about various components of implementation of action plan for HADP projects besides other physical and financial activities.

Police facilitates Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meetings in Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEB 19

In order to bridge the gap between police & public, Police in Kulgam facilitated Police Community Partnership Group meetings (PCPG) at Police Station Devsar, Police Station Yaripora, Police Station Kund, Police station DH Pora, and Police Post Frisal.

These meetings were organised on the directions of SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS. At Police station Devsar, meeting was chaired by Addl SP Kulgam Shri Tanveer Ahmad Dar-JKPS, meeting at Police Station DH Pora was chaired by SHO Police Station DH Pora, at police station Yaripora, the meeting was chaired by SHO Police Station Kund, the meeting was chaired by SHO Police Station Kund and similarly, the meeting at Police Post Frisal was chaired by IC PP Frisal.

The meetings were attended by respectable including members of Auqaf Committees, Numberdars, Chowkidars, Traders Federation, Fruit associations and youth of the said areas.

During these meetings, participants raised various issues of public importance including drinking water, traffic jams and especially requested for the counselling of the youth of the areas. Referring to the issues highlighted by the participants, the chairing officers assured them that genuine issues will be taken up with the concerned authorities for their immediate redressal besides issues related to Police will be resolved in shortest possible time. The participants were stressed to co-operate with police in maintaining law and order in the area and in identifying anti-national elements who try to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere.

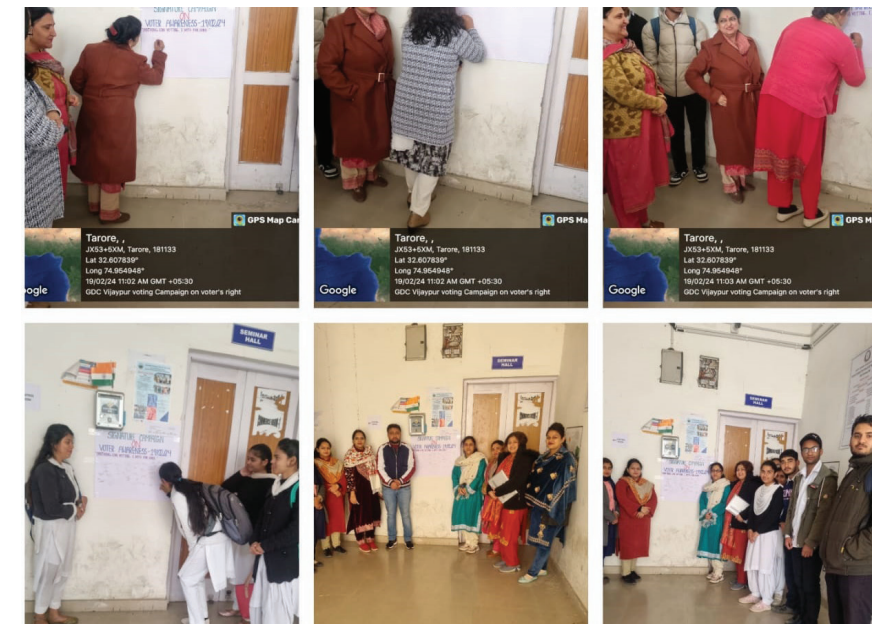
Addressing the gatherings, officers said that police is making all out efforts in wiping out the curse of drug abuse. Officers also exhorted the participants to come forward and support the Police in making Kulgam a drug free district, for which participants in the meeting assured their full co-operation to Police and Administration in tackling social evils and also appreciated the efforts of Police in facilitating community interaction meets where participants express their opinions freely.

GDC Vijaypur organises signature campaign on voting rights

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 19

In continuation to the sequel of events organized under the banner of Voter Awareness Campaign" Department of Education of Government Degree College Vijaypur and NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) organised a signature campaign on voting rights with the aim to make the staff and students aware that the right to vote is a fundamental right in any democratic society.

It is the cornerstone of our democracy, allowing citizens to have a say in



who governs them and how they are governed.

The event was organised under the guidance of the College Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta and coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Coordinator NSS) and co-ordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO). Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Sciences), Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce), Prof. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Dr. Jan Mohd. Wani, Dr. Tisha Singh also supported the event.

EDITORIAL

LS polls: Blame-game abuzz in political circles

In the run-up to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, political activity is heating up in Jammu and Kashmir with every passing day. Politicians have started making attacks and counter-attacks to make political scores to influence the voters. The former chief minister and veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad's startling disclosure that Abdullahs used to seek meetings with central leadership during night time triggered a major political controversy in Jammu and Kashmir. As anticipated, his claims received a sharp and strong reaction from the National Conference leadership including former chief minister Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah who went on calling Azad a BJP agent. Azad's claims have brought a major embarrassment for the NC leadership which believed it was a deliberate attempt to defame the party and further divide the people of Kashmir ahead of Lok Sabha elections. Azad's, who is also the chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), statement has come barely two days after senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana, a former key aide of the NC vice president and ex-chief minister Omar Abdullah, made sensational disclosures about the NC's alleged desperate attempts to stitch an alliance with the Saffron Party in 2014. Azad has even claimed that 'Abdullahs were taken on board while abrogating articles 370 and 35-A and also referred to rumours that the Abdullahs had asked to be kept under house arrest themselves in 2019 so that they would not have to take a 'public posture' on the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. What brings more embarrassment for the NC leadership is Azad's assertion that it (NC) was in negotiations with the BJP government at the Centre to stitch an alliance after the 2014 assembly polls. Continuing the offensive against both Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, the DPAP chairman also said Abdullahs speak different languages at different places. 'They (Abdullahs) speak one thing in Srinagar, another thing in Jammu, and something in Delhi', he said and mentioned that the NC leadership was not honest to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Reacting acerbically, both Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah exposed DPAP's chairman for "begging" for a Rajya Sabha seat in 2014. Omar even blasted Azad saying, 'Wah bhai wah Ghulam Nabi Azad, so much bile today. Where is the Ghulam that was begging us for Rajya Sabha seats in J&K as recently as 2015? 'Abdullahs knew about 370' yet we were detained for more than 8 months including under PSA & you were free, the only ex-CM in J&K free after 5th Aug (sic):' The political process of engaging in a "blame game" before elections in any democratic system is not new. This is done to shift responsibility for problems or failures onto their opponents, rather than focusing on policy solutions or constructive debate. This tactic can be used to deflect criticism, rally support, or undermine the credibility of opponents. It can be seen as a strategy to manipulate public opinion rather than engage in genuine dialogue about governance and policy.

Farmers' demands are impractical and unrealistic

UTTAM GUPTA

After three years of hibernation, farmers mostly from Punjab are back on the roads with over a dozen demands from the Union Government. If taken on board, these are sure to spell disaster. The foremost demand is securing legal guarantees for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of their agricultural produce.

MSP is a "minimum price" for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of "support". Put into practice in the 1960s under an 'executive order', it was meant to assure farmers that they get at least MSP from selling their produce; that distress sale is avoided. It fixes MSP for 23 crops grown in Kharif and Rabi seasons based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) - a body under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

The agencies of the government, such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI), buy wheat, rice/paddy, and coarse cereals, from farmers at the MSP. The quantities thus procured are meant for giving to over 800 million beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). At present, the beneficiaries are getting their eligible quota for free. The entire

cost of purchase, handling and distribution is borne by the government as a subsidy.

The state agencies such as the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) also purchase other crops such as pulses and oilseeds. Apart from providing support to farmers, this helps maintain the stability of prices for consumers. However, not all crops for which MSP is announced are purchased. The MSP is not backed by any law. But, farmers want a legal guarantee for it. They would want it for all 23 crops for which MSP is currently fixed. The demand could be extended to cover all crops; in fact the entire agricultural produce.

Today, the bulk of farmers' produce is picked up by private traders, processors, aggregators, exporters etc even as government agencies buy only a small portion (over one-third in the case of paddy and wheat and a tiny fraction for other crops). When there is a law on MSP requiring that no purchase can be made at a price less than this minimum, they will all be scared of buying from farmers. Who will take the risk of landing in jail?

The farmers would wish that the Central government direct all the private entities to purchase their crops at MSP. Such an order would be reminiscent of the control

and license Raj that existed prior to liberalization and reform initiated in 1991, perhaps even worse than that. This is a preposterous idea.

The farmers can't obviously allow their crops to rot in the fields. So, they would expect the government/agencies to pick up their entire produce albeit at MSP - pointing at the 'legal guarantee'. This too is next to impossible.

Even if the purchase by government/agencies is restricted to 23 crops for which MSP is currently fixed, the Centre will have to spend at least Rs 10,00,000 crore which is equivalent to its capital expenditure (this is mainly on building infrastructure) and will consume over 45 per cent of its tax revenue. And, if it were to buy all of the farmers' agri-produce, that would require around Rs 40,00,000 crore out of its annual budget of Rs 45,00,000 crore (2023-24). That leaves a small Rs 5,00,000 crore for all others including defence, security, law and order, wages and salaries, infrastructure, subsidies etc.

The interest payments at around Rs 10,80,000 crore (2023-24) on the Union government's outstanding debt alone are more than double this amount. Mammoth sums are spent on subsidies for agri-inputs such as fertilizers, irrigation, seeds, credit etc. The farmers want this to continue as these help them

reduce production costs. With no money left after paying MSP, all this support would cease.

Garnering money to pay for the purchase is only one side of the nightmare. The other has to do with the wherewithal to carry out purchases on such a monumental scale. The state agencies don't have the infrastructure to handle and store even the 'limited' quantities currently procured by them leading to huge wastages. One shudder at the very thought of their having to buy the entire agri-produce. What would the state agencies do with this stuff?

They can't hang on to it forever. The stock has to be offloaded to private trade sooner rather than later. This will entail huge losses due to sales at below MSP and the cost of handling and carrying it as long as they hold. These losses will have to be paid from the taxpayer's money. And, don't forget India will be taken to task by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the produce picked up by private traders could find its way to the international market distorting trade.

Assured purchase of the bulk of paddy and wheat offered for sale by Punjab and Haryana farmers de facto, has led to indiscriminate growing of these crops to the point of excessive use of chemical fertilisers, deterioration of soil

quality, depletion of groundwater and serious environmental problems. To alleviate these, there is a dire need for crop diversification. But, providing a legal guarantee will ensure that it is business as usual; in fact, the trend will aggravate.

From the perspective of consumers also, legal backing for MSP is a bad omen. In view of a sizeable chunk of the crop produce not coming to the market (inevitable when there is no purchase/sale by private entities), there would be acute shortage resulting in an 'astronomical' rise in food prices and inflation. In such a scenario, no measure fiscal or monetary aimed at reining in price rise would work.

The farmers want the government to withdraw from the WTO and all FTAs (Free Trade Agreements). In a globally interdependent world where India depends 'substantially' and 'inevitably' on international trade and investment to sustain the momentum of its economic activities, withdrawal from these global platforms that set the multilateral rules of trade is unthinkable.

During 2022-23, India exported agri-products worth Rs 435,000 crore (US\$ 53 billion) and that goes to help farmers. They use chemical fertilizers which are mostly imported. If, India gets out of these trade agreements, none other than the farmers

will be hit.

Apart from having free access to electricity for farming operations, Punjab farmers camouflage high household consumption (including ACs/coolers etc) under use for farming. To prevent misuse, the Centre has proposed reforms such as the installation of smart meters and direct transfer of subsidy by the state government to farmers' accounts instead of the current system of asking power distribution companies or discoms, in short, to supply free of charge and latter claiming reimbursement from the former.

The protestors want the Centre not to pursue these reforms. They want debt waiver - a demand ritually mentioned every time a charter is presented. They also don't want to be held accountable for burning crop residue. They want MGNREGA workers to be deployed for farming and paid a minimum wage of Rs 700 per day. In short, protesting farmers want almost everything that can denude the state exchequer, devastate the economy, affect soil health undermine climate mitigation efforts and yet bring no relief for the majority of the poor/small and marginal farmers. One wonders whether the protestors represent farmers!

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

Rishi Sunak can't fool UK voters by faking populism

MARTIN IVENS

Sometimes there's no light at the end of the tunnel. The ruling Conservative Party's loss of two previously safe seats in by-elections on Thursday heralds likely defeat in a UK general election, expected later this year. Rishi Sunak may try to blame the low turnout and the unfavorable circumstances that prompted the contests, but the prime minister can take no comfort in his own lame excuses.

Pessimists argue that Labour's victories in Wellingborough and Kingswood may presage the worst electoral outcome in the history of the Tories—whose instinct is often to panic even at the best of times. Sunak's critics inside the party are already talking of a Canadian-style wipeout, which saw a Progressive Conservative government reduced to just two seats in 2003.

It's unlikely to come to that, but the 28.5 percentage-point swing against the Tories in Wellingborough

was the second-biggest since World War II — replicated nationally, the Tories would be reduced to four seats. The opposition Labour Party's two thumping victories also saw a right-wing challenger party, Reform, eat into the Conservatives' tally. In both by-elections, the Conservative lost twice as much in vote share as Labour gained. Many of the blue party's demoralized supporters are staying at home.

The rise of Reform, which has morphed from a single-issue Brexit party into an anti-immigration right-wing populist party, threatens electoral mayhem. Conservative candidates in dozens of seats now fear that the right-of-center vote will be split. In both of Thursday's contests, Reform's vote share rose to double figures. If Nigel Farage, Reform's former leader and star performer, were to return to the national stage, the damage to the Tories could be devastating.

The challenger parties of the left, the Greens and the

Liberal Democrats, present no such threat to Labour. Their supporters appear intent on voting for any candidate who can beat the Conservatives. The anti-Tory tactical voting that delivered Labour's Tony Blair his landslide in 1997 is back. The far-left Workers Party may attract some Muslim voters outraged by Keir Starmer's refusal to call for a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict, but the damage will be limited to a few urban seats.

Ironically, Starmer's election wins come after one of his worst weeks since becoming Labour leader. After dithering over the deselection of two Labour candidates found to have made anti-Semitic remarks, a YouGov poll published in the Times Friday revealed that only 3% percent say he's "successfully tackled" antisemitism in his party. Last week, Starmer abandoned the central plank of Labour's economic policy, a pledge to spend £28 billion (\$35 billion) a year on green investments. The voters appear not to have

noticed.

The Tories protest that mid-term by-elections offer little guidance about a general election. But these defeats come very late in the electoral cycle. Even if the smaller swing to Labour in Kingswood — 16.4 points — were repeated nationally, it would mean a 60-seat majority for Starmer. Putting a brave face on defeat, Tory strategists say that the Kingswood shift was lower than in three by-elections last year, when it averaged more than 20%.

Labour, however, has now won six by-election seats since 2019, its most ever in a single Parliamentary term; the Conservatives have lost 10 over the same period, their worst-ever performance.

Time is running out for Sunak. The prime minister needs time for the economy to recover, for inflation to tumble, for immigration numbers to fall and for tax cuts to soften the hearts of voters. The hour is getting very late. Instead, the feel-good factor is likely to dog the Tories all the way to

the election. The economy slumped into recession at the end of last year, we learned this week, with growth contracting by 0.3% in the final three months of 2023 after shrinking by 0.1% in the previous quarter.

And while wage growth is outstripping inflation, which was unchanged at 4% in January, living standards have been stagnant or in decline for more than a (Tory run) decade.

What should Sunak do? His chancellor of the exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, wants to squeeze already eye-wateringly tight public-spending budgets to pay for tax cuts at next month's budget. The prospect has the party faithful and the Tory supporting press salivating — but the voters may view his promised bounty as no more than a naked bribe at this late stage.

Sunak's authority is being undermined by splinter groups of right-wing factions within his party. Their cack-handed plots, which periodically surface in the press, increase

the likelihood that defeat, if it comes, will be disastrous. His right-wing critics demand that he sees off the threat from Reform by doubling down on anti-migration policies. The lessons from Europe suggest this strategy has pitfalls. In the Netherlands, for example, a center-right government that belatedly took a tough stance on migration to ward off the veteran populist Geert Wilders was decisively defeated by his party at the polls. In France and Germany, center-right parties have also been plunged into existential crisis by the challenge from the populists, despite making rightward shifts. The voters prefer the real thing, not pale imitations.

It's far too late for the prime minister to adopt a persona alien to him. In his campaign for his party's leadership, Sunak promised to deliver sound finances and good government. That's what he knows, and that's what he should stick to. Better to be a good technocrat than a bad populist.

The Role of Discipline in Education

SAKSHI SETHI

The term discipline can be put in different contexts. For some, it can be a way of life and for others, it can be a set of rules by which their life functions. It is one of the ways of aligning the efforts and activities of every individual. Discipline gives every individual a set of rules and regulations to work with. Discipline has always played an integral part in a student's life since they are at the stage of their life where they can be the most flexible version of themselves. Although there is no age bar to following a disciplined life, it is quite possible that a student can get in the best shape physically and mentally when disciplined. Talking about educational institutions, every school or college has a heterogeneous mix of students and teachers need a mix

of varied approaches to understand and engage all these types of students within the classrooms. This makes school discipline a robust process.

Discipline values need to be gravitated well to ensure that the teaching-learning process is seamless across the classrooms. Several studies have found that the majority of the factors influencing the learning process come from the school environment such as inadequate material from school, poor seating arrangements in the classroom, student and teacher relaxation canters, poor ventilation and many more. Nowadays, parents strive to raise competent, happy and successful children but it is not an easy task. Children of today need a loving home, but at the same time, they also need to learn boundaries and limits. One must teach their child that actions have consequences be



they good or bad.

It should be the duty of parents to always strive to give their children the emotional tools they will need to make good decisions. In today's scenario, by creating a positive learning environment and implementing fair and consistent disciplinary measures, can educational institutions nurture responsible, motivated

and successful individuals so that the young learners can or are ready to face the challenges of the future. Everyone has his/her prospect of discipline. Without discipline, the life of a person will become dull and inactive whereas being disciplined will teach them how to behave properly and become responsible adults thereby proving to be a true sign of parental

love and care.

Remember, giving a badly behaved child a moderate spanking is not the same as hitting people. Whosoever can't see the difference doesn't understand either discipline or the parent. Having control over life gives the learner a sense of relief and satisfaction that triggers immense self-confidence and affects their learning.

Being in control can give them enough time to focus on their learning. A disciplined student will never be reluctant to learn new things and is always ready to accept new routines. This opens all the gates for learning and therefore affects the learning patterns of the students. There is no guarantee that a student in discipline is going to achieve all the good things in life. However, one thing that is guaranteed is that if they stumble, they will find ways to get back up. Instead of being angry or disappointed, they will be ready to work harder and achieve their goals. Disciplined student always learns from their missteps and forget if they even happened. This gives them a better chance at trying again instead of feeling guilty about everything.

(The writer is an educator, views are personal)

IVF dedicates Free Alopathic Dispensary to Society

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

International Vasya Federation dedicated a free allopathic dispensary at Shakti Nagar by the august hands of Amrit Bansal Global Vice President, came specially all along from Delhi. Romi Aggarwal was kind enough to provide a well furnished enough space for dispensary. Mr Bansal, Chief Guest of the function, emphasized upon the Members gathered in Amar Singh Club to make strong bandage & Connectivity with Aggarwal Brothern Nationally and Internationally, Society has made significant contribution in Economic and Social development of country. 80% GDP is being managed by the community and has done commendable service to Nation with dedication, commitment & compassion. Ravinder Mittal State Gen Secy conducted the proceedings of the



program. Hardeep Agarwal (CA), Sr Vice President referring to the contribution of the community in the freedom struggle, helped the young revolutionaries of the country to fight against the British rule with their capital & helped in the freedom movement. Community has provided employment to Lakhs of people across the country in the field of industry, trade & Social welfare and has worked

to bring positive changes in the field of industry in lives of every person in the society. Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain State yoga Commissioner was appointed as State Sr Vice President, who aware about the outstanding contribution as 17000 Dharamshalas, 22000 Goushalas and 18000 Charitable Hospitals & Schools in every niche and corner of the country.

Swatantar Agarwal, State President, Parveen Mittal, Hardeep Agarwal Sr Vice presidents, Rajesh Aggarwal, Harish Aggarwal, Vipin Mittal, Anoop Mittal, Vice Presidents besides Executive members were felicitated

Under the leadership of Ashok Agarwal, global president, we have to strengthen the economic system by using new technology so that the country develops rapidly.

Lord Agrasen has given us the responsibility of changing the life of the last person of society to work for social welfare. Therefore, we have to ensure that our thoughts and actions bring positive change in society. Mr Jain presented a vote of thanks to all the Esteemed Members, Chief Guest and especially Romi Aggarwal, from M/S Kundan Lal and Sons.

Sainik Samaj Party urges PM Modi to grant separate Jammu State

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party JKUT, welcomed the visit of honourable PM Narendra Modi, to the city of temples, Jammu, scheduled for 20 Feb and urged for separate Jammu State, which will pave the way for development of Jammu region and ensure the welfare of its people. People of Jammu region have been discriminated, exploited, oppressed and subjugated for last 77 years by Kashmir centric politicians, with blessings of successive union governments, optimising the provisions contained in article 370 and 35A. Abrogation of article 370 and 35A, was truly historical and path breaking and achieved the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with union of India. This also resulted



in breaking the back bone of militancy, elimination of hurriyat and a surgical strike on terror funding infrastructure. Pathania said, managing of 42000 sq kilometres of area of JKUT, as UT cannot be a permanent feature, as it will adversely affect various Development and welfare projects. Goa, if an area of 3300 sq kilometres and population of 17 lakhs

can be given the status of a full fledged state, Jammu region with an area of 26000 sq kms with a population of almost 70 lacs people, deserve the status of a state with safeguarding provisions of article 371, considering the topography, demography, a border state and on going proxy war unleashed by Pakistan for more than 33 years. Kashmir can continue to be a union territory on the line of Ladakh UT and move on the path of development and peace, having an area of about 15000 sq kms. He urged PM Modi to consider, socio, economical, political, geographical and demographical parameters and grant a separate Jammu state to the nationalist and patriotic people of Jammu region and end their sufferings of last 77 years.

Will PM refer to commitments in 2014 Lalkar rally: Congress

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modiji visit to Jammu tomorrow, Jk Congress has alleged that tall promises made during 2014 Lalkar rally by BJP remained unfulfilled & said that people of various sections especially unemployed youth, daily wagers, army recruit aspirants, refugees, Kashmiri migrants, traders, farmers and others are wanting an answer to the promises made to them especially Jammuites ten years ago.

Congress said that Shri Narendra Modiji as a prime ministerial candidate of BJP had made big promises with people of all sections of Jammu & Kashmir besides assuring to end infiltration, eliminate terrorism, show 56 ' chest to Pakistan and show "lal Ankh" (Red Eye) to China besides ending corruption and checking price rise.

Ten years after assuming power at the centre and running Jammu and Kashmir from Delhi through LG, the prime minister should refer to the achievement s on various promises to the people who are deprived of the basic rights of democracy and lack their own elected government but at the mercy of bureaucrats after loosing their statehood and exclusive rights to land and jobs enjoyed since Maharajah rule.

Unemployment is at its peak breaking 45 years record, recruitment scams during the period also a record, price hike is unprecedented, people deprived of their vested rights under law to land and face evictions through use of bulldozers on selective basis, corruption is high and widows, old age, physically abled deprived of their pensions.

Agniveer scheme has shattered the hope of youth of border region to join army. The local traders, contractors and labourers engaged in several works like extracting sand & bajri from rivers, nallaha etc, trades and small businesses having lost livelihood since same were taken over by outside big and influential people having access to corridors of bureaucracy & power.

Where is metro city, smart cities, status of major tourism destinations in Jammu region, railway project to Poonch and similar other projects not seeing light of the day.

The daily wagers, need based, contractual and all other temporary workers and employees are awaiting regularisations and enhancement in wages, honorariums for ten years but have lost right to protest along with permanent employees too.

The refugees were promised full package of 30 lacs besides other dreams of reservations including representation through reservations of 8 seats to assembly, Kashmiri migrants were hoping a lot especially return and rehabilitation in the valley with dignity, honour & security but lost several lives and fresh migration after selective killings.

Terrorism has revived in hitherto safer areas with fresh killings of precious lives of army, security forces & civilians including minorities and non local people. Infiltration is continuing with local recruitment too.

CB Jammu files charge-sheet against drilling engineer for embezzlement of Rs. 33 lakh, arrears of employees

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Crime Branch, EOW, Jammu has filed charge sheet against Drilling Engineer, then functioning as Drawing & Disbursing Officer (DDO-1) of Geology and Mining Department J&K Jammu, for criminal breach of trust & embezzlement of rupees 33 lakh GPF & 7th pay commission arrears of employees.

Accused Drilling Engineer has been identified as Aijaz Mir, who is presently under suspension. The challan of the case has been produced in the court of law for judicial determination by the Investigating Officer Inspr Taranjeet Singh under the supervision of SSP Crime, Jammu Benam Tosh.

Complainant Mr. Shiban Lal Bhat, who

happened to be the then Drill Operator Grade-2 of Geology & Mining department, lodged a written complaint with the then Director Geology & Mining department J&K, Jammu alleging therein that his sanctioned GPF had been released as per message received from GP Fund office, but not received by him and that after enquiring from Treasury, he came to know that his GPF was credited in the account of DDO. Upon this, the then Director constituted a high level enquiry committee which unearthed that a serious fraud and financial embezzlement to the tune of rupees 33,03,447.00 pertaining to GPF and 7th pay commission arrears of several employees had been committed by the then DDO and Cashier.

The report of enquiry committee along with relevant documents was submitted by the then Director to the then Deputy Secretary to the Government, who forwarded the same to Crime Branch Jammu for action under law. Thus, Crime Branch Jammu registered a case FIR No. 4/2021 u/s 409,420,120-B IPC, read with sec 13 Prevention of Corruption Act against the said Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) and his Cashier (who is no more) for criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and fraud at Police Station Crime Branch Jammu and started in-depth investigation, which has been completed on merits, offences have been proved and charge-sheet filed today in the court of Special Judge Anti Corruption, Jammu.

Rachnakar Kala Sahitya Akademi, Udhampur releases three Dogri books of Prakash Premi

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Rachnakar Kala Sahitya Akademi Udhampur released three Dogri books entitled 'GEETEN DA BAN-JARA', 'AMAR BALIDAAAN' and 'LOK NAYAK' MIAN DIDO written by eminent veteran Dogri Writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee Prakash Premi in a simple but an impressive function organized at Old Age Home Udhampur. The function was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu and eminent Dogri writer Darshan Darshi was Chief Guest on the occasion while dais was also shared by Padmashri Prof. Shiv Nirmohi, Former Brigadier Satish Sharma, Senior JKAS officer Rashpal Singh and Prakash Premi himself.

During the function detailed papers were presented by Dr. Yash Raina



on 'GEETEN DA BAN-JARA', Surjit Hosh Badsali on 'AMAR BALIDAAAN' and Jagdeep Dubey on 'LOK NAYAK' MIAN DIDO.

While complementing Prakash Premi for having enriched Dogri literature with three more books, Darshan Darshi in his address said that Prakash Premi is a source of inspiration for many and is a living legend of dogri literature. He gave certain references to highlight his colossal contributions for enriching vocabulary and promotion of regional cultural heritage through his literary works.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, in

his presidential address said that Prakash Premi has contributed a lot to Dogri literature and dogri lovers expect more from him in future also because whatever he has written is a class that helps dogri literature to stand at par with best literature written in any language. Dogri language is blessed to have a litterateur of his caliber. He also added that the papers presented on each book were thought provoking and do open new dimensions to creative works. He complemented the writers saying that critical analysis is a welcome step in Dogri Literature.

Other speakers Rashpal Singh and Satish Sharma who were special guests also spoke at length about their association with the prolific writer and his contributions to society as a creative person. Prakash Premi also spoke on the occasion and shared his experiences with the audience. He extended his warm gratitude to all litterateurs and literature lovers for gracing the book release function with their august presence. Earlier Ashutosh Prashar welcomed all on behalf of Prakash Premi and Rachnakar Kala Sahitya Akademi Udhampur. Ramalo Ram, eminent folk artist and recipient of this year's Padmashri award was also honoured on the occasion. The function was attended by galaxy of litterateurs, literature lovers and family members of Prakash Premi.

State level declamation contest on Viksit Bharat @ 2047 organized by NYKS J&K - Ladakh

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India in collaboration with NSS unit of GCW Parade today organised State Level Declamation Contest on the theme MY Bharat Viksit Bharat @ 2047 By the Youth For the Youth. The Contest was attended by the winners of the District Level Declamation Contests from all the Districts of UTs of J&K and Ladakh. Youth Speakers from across the UTs delivered their speech on the Topic.

Sh Bharat Bhushan, Chairperson District Development Council Jammu graced the event as the Chief Guest in presence of Nisar Ahmed Butt State Director NYKS J&K Ladakh, Sh Avinash Kumar Gupta Vice Principal GCW Parade and Nitin Hangloo DYU NYKS Rajouri. The jury members of the program were Prof Jigar Mohammed Retd HoD Jammu University, Dr Rajeev Attri NSS Program Coordinator and Dr Gurpreet Kour NSS Program Officer GCW Parade Ground Jammu.

The youth speakers



presented their views on Various factors involved in the making of Viksit Bharat. They presented very insightful speeches on the topic. The jury members evaluated the performances on various diverse and important parameters. Chief Guest appreciated the initiatives taken by NYKS and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in J&K. He further said that success and failure is part of competition and programs like these provide experience to the participants. The First Prize was given to Arshpeet Kour from Jammu while Sehrish Khanam from Kathua was adjudges Second. Vanshika Sharma

from Rajouri and Basit Ali from Budgam were the runner ups.

Nitin Hangloo District Youth Officer NYK Rajouri while presenting Vote of Thanks said that Viksit Bharat is the Focus Area of the Govt and all are striving to make India Viksit Bharat by 2047. He congratulated the winners and appreciated the other participants who also gave their best. The Program was held under the supervision of Sh Nisar Ahmed Butt State Director NYKS J&K - Ladakh, Bimlesh Kaur APA, NYKS, Jammu and Anmol Bajaj APA NYK Jammu along with Volunteers of NSS Unit of GCW Parade Ground Jammu provided necessary support to the program.

Guru Ravi Dass Ji's teachings inspire generations, transform society: Lochan

J I NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB, 19

The Prakash Ustav of Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj was joyously celebrated by the Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Seela temple in Reasi.

On the occasion, Vijay Lochan, Chairman SC Cell JKNC and former President All J&K Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Jammu, Jagjeevan Lal former minister and District President Reasi JKNC; Moti Ram, President Guru Ravi Dass Ji Sabha Reasi, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Adv Deepak Attri, Jagga Ram and people from all walks of life participated in the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Vijay Lochan greeted the people on the eve of Prakash Ustav of Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti and prayed for peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the life and teachings of Guru Ravi Dass Ji have inspired the generations and helped in transforming the society, making it conducive for various communities, irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

The senior NC leader said Guruji emerged as a beacon of light at a time when the society was ridden with hate and dis-



crimination on the basis of caste and creed. He enumerated the great role played by Guruji in ensuring that all segments of the society live with honour and dignity, adding that the relevance of the teaching of the great saint and philosopher assume significance now, as never before. Lochan made a fervent appeal to all sections of society of Jammu and Kashmir to maintain peace and foil all the attempts of vitiating atmosphere by maintaining unity. His teachings are eternal and are relevant for people of all sections of society.

On the occasion, Jagjeevan Lal former minister and District President Reasi greeted the people of J&K on the eve of Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Jyanti. He called for imbuing the spirit of love, compassion, peace and harmony as professed by great saints and seers all their life, saying that striving for social justice and equality will be best tribute to Guru Ravi Dassji.

Moti Ram, President of Guru Ravi Dass Ji Sabha in Reasi, emphasized that Guru Ravidass Ji held steadfast faith in the values of harmony and

brotherhood. Rakesh Singh Raka, Vice President Central Zone, Deepak Attri Adv and Jagga Ram greeted the people on this occasion of Guru Ravidass Jayanti and said the poet-saint's message of compassion and religious harmony was relevant in the present times.

Those who were present on this occasion:- Dewan Chand Ji, Ravi Kumar Ji, Munshi Ram Ji, Thakar Dass Ji, Manga Ram Ji, Dara Singh Ji, Subash Chander Ji, Hukum Chand Ji, Om Prakash Ji, Gokul Ji, Ajay Salathia Adv and others.

International Daily Rising School, Jammu celebrates Achievers' Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

International Daily Rising School, Jammu, celebrated Achievers' Day on 19th February, 2024. Academic achievement and success lies at the heart of any educational institution. At International Daily Rising School, we have always valued excellence, be it in the area of academics or other activities. From adopting the best teaching practices, to embedding in our students perpetual curiosity, we have always strived to make learning pertinent. Over the years, with the strengthening of our systems, we have been able to support the dreams and ambitions of our students who are ready to take a leap into the world beyond school. As we commemorate the end of Academic Session 2023-24 at school, we felicitated the students who have made us proud during the session.

School focuses to recognize, foster and appreciate the talent of each and every child. The Institution takes pride in providing its students with infinite opportunities that allow them to bloom into confident and responsible individuals. This is achieved through numerous avenues that boost their knowledge, enhance their skills and develop their personality.



The awards were presented by Ms Supinder Kaur, Chairperson, International Daily Rising School. She addressed the gathering and gave ideal watch words to students and motivated them to

participate irrespective of outcomes in all the events which help in building personality.

Dr Atul Hans, Principal International Daily Rising School stressed upon the fact that everybody has potential and must explore the opportunities to exhibit that potential.

Mr Raghav Gupta, Managing Director, International Daily Rising School, advised the students to be prepared for struggle to success. He urged that there is no substitute for hard work.

Ms. Ruchi Manhas, Vice Principal, International Daily Rising School and

Ms. Ravinder Kour, Academic Manager, International Daily Rising School also attended the function.

Medals and mementos were awarded to laud the efforts of the students who had shown consistent improvement and demonstrated versatility in co-curricular activities. Outstanding performances in dance, music, arts, sports and IT were also acknowledged.

The event was a great success and inspired everyone to continue working hard and achieving their goals. Congratulations to all the achievers and their proud parents!

The Kupwara based Vajr Division as part of ongoing Operation Sadhbhavana to bridge the gap between military and civilian communities organised a unique gathering which provided a platform for the Awaan of Drugmulla block to resolve their administrative problems/issues. The local people also shared their concerns with the General Officer Commanding, 28 Infantry Division & other officers & suggested how the environment can be made conducive for peace in J&K.

A total of 90 individuals attended the event which served as a platform for population of Drugmulla block to voice their concerns with civil administration & Army share their experiences and obtain solutions to the problems and areas of concern. The Army & civil officers listened to the concerns of civilians and gained valuable insights into

Indian Army organizes Awaami Milap in Drugmulla

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 19

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the challenges faced by communities, while civilians expressed a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices and contributions of Indian Army. The event was also attended by Sarpanch, Ward Members, Teachers, Imams etc. By fostering open communication and mutual understanding, the aim was to cultivate stronger bonds between military, influential gentry and civilian populations of Drugmulla block and address issues that affects the AWAAM.



The Kupwara based Vajr Division expressed enthusiasm about the initiative, stating, "We believe in collaboration between military and civilian life. By facilitating meaningful conversations between soldiers and civilians, we can break down barriers, dispel misconceptions, and build bridges of empathy and cooperation. It is a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to support the regional population. The Indian Army believes in the transformative power of promoting dialogue, celebrating diversity, building bridges and empowering change. This pioneering effort aligns with the Indian Army's broader vision of fostering positive engagement. The local population were all praise for Indian Army for their efforts towards empowering the partnership between military and civilian society

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KJDWT expresses gratitude for getting outstanding pension Appeals to PM to increase pension from Rs 1000 to Rs 3000

JJ NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 19

On Sunday, the monthly meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Disabled Welfare Trust was held in the old hospital premises in Akhnoor under the supervision of association president Sham Lal. Many disabled people participated in the meeting and informed the Trust officials about their problems. Trust President Sham Lal and Chairman Sushil Sharma also listened to the grievances of the disabled and assured to get them resolved from the concerned department.

Chairman Sushil Kumar, present in the meeting, told the disabled people present in the meeting that one of our important demands is being fulfilled by Sheetal Nanda, Secretary of the Social Welfare Department.

He told that the department has started paying our pension dues which were pending. Expressing his gratitude to the departmental secretary, he also requested for early resolution of other pending issues.

Grand Shobha Yatra of Shri Guru Ravidass organized at Akhnoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 19

A grand Shobha Yatra of Shri Guru Ravidass ji organised by Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Akhnoor on the eve of Parkash Diwas in which a huge number of devotees from all adjoining areas took part in the procession. Devotees from different branches of the sabha took part along with the tableaux depicting the life of Shri Guru Ravidass ji and events were showcased during the Shobha Yatra. People from all biradari took part in the Yatra with great devotion.

Yatra started from the village Daskal and passed through Kameshwar Temple, main bazar, Nirdosh Chowk, Sungal morh and culminated at Shri Guru Ravidass temple Bomal. Other biradaris also contributed in the Yatra by installing their



stalls for refreshment, which includes Shri Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee, Brahaman Sabha Akhnoor, Mahajan Sabha Akhnoor, Kabir Sabha Akhnoor, Karayana Union Akhnoor, VHP, AML Lehar, Davinder Kumar (Dara) of Daskal and many more.

Many prominent personalities took part in the shobha Yatra including Ramesh Chander (Retd JKAS), SSP Mohan Lal, Sh Rattan Lal (Retd Xen), Madan Lal (Retd Xen), Kuldeep Kour, Dr Gafoor Ahmed, Dev Raj, Ram Saran, Ashok Shastri, Surinder Gupta, S Ranvir Singh, S Lakshbir Singh, Raghbir Singh,

Bishan Lal, Subash Singh, Rajinder etc. President of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Bomal Vijay Shivgotra, President of Guru Ravidass Sabha Godhan Main Mohan Lal, President of Guru Ravidass Sabha Tacharwan Ashok Kumar, President of Guru Ravidass Sabha Godhan Nallah Darshan Lal, President of Guru Ravidass Sabha Payan Subash Chander led the yatra from their areas.

President of Shri Guru Ravidass sabha Akhnoor Sh Madan Basan (Retd Xen) and management committee of Shri Guru Ravidass sabha Akhnoor thanked all those people who made the event successful.

NHM Association Doda accords welcome to new CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEB 19:

The National Health Mission (NHM) Employees under the banner of All J&K NHM Employees Association District Doda accorded a warm and rousing welcome to newly joined Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar.

On this occasion, the NHM delegation led by District President of the Association Dr Nasir Masood Indrabi on behalf of NHM Employees of the District extended warm welcome and heartfelt congratulations to Dr Om Kumar on assuming the charge of Chief Medical Officer Doda and hailed the Govt's decision for assigning him with this new task and assured that the NHM Employees of the District will work with more and more dedication and sincerity under his able guidance as they were doing it as earlier.



CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar while speaking on the occasion, thanked the NHM Employees of Doda particularly District NHM Union for organizing such an impressive welcome in his honor, added that good team work is needed among all the working field and office staff so that good results would come out with in the health department. The NHM Employees

Association Doda firmly believes that Dr Om Kumar's appointment as the CMO Doda is a significant step towards enhancing healthcare services in the region, besides the Association commended Dr Om Kumar as a highly capable and dedicated officer who has consistently demonstrated his competence and commitment to public service, prior to this posting.

Airtel strengthens its retail footprint in Jammu



JAMMU, FEB 19

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, today, announced that it has launched two new stores in the city of Jammu. The new stores that have come up in NH-1, Bari brahmana (near PNB bank) and Akhnoor Main market (Near Bus stand), will strengthen Airtel's retail presence and will offer unparalleled service experience to customers. The stores will also showcase Airtel's cutting-edge technologies across its portfolio.

Designed around the theme of creating excellence and winning customers for life, these neighborhood stores will display the entire range of Airtel's offerings including Xstream, Xsafe, 5G Plus etc. With a vision to deliver unparalleled service experience, the store staff, referred to as 'Airtel Friends' are trained to address and resolve customer queries across all of

Airtel's portfolio including mobile, broadband, and DTH.

Commenting on the expansion, Adarsh Verma - COO, Jammu and Kashmir, Bharti Airtel, said, "Customer obsession continues to be the core tenet driving us at Airtel as we embark on a massive retail expansion in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. As a one-stop-shop for all customer needs, these neighborhood stores will offer an exhaustive range of services including mobile, broadband, DTH, etc. The state of Jammu and Kashmir continues to be a big focus market for us. Hence we will be expanding with more stores in Srinagar city, Udhampur, and Leh shortly and we will continue to invest in this market."

Airtel has been ramping up its offline presence over the past couple of years, fortifying its retail presence in the country. The Company currently has 1500 stores nationally.

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

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 18

IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu will be celebrating the 37th Convocation function of the University on 20th February, 2024. This would be the 28th Convocation ceremony at the Regional Centre ever since its establishment in the year 1998. The Regional Centre Jammu started its operations in the 1998 for the entire erstwhile State of J&K on the invitation of the then Government of J&K with around 1000 students and an offering of about 40 Programmes linked to one Learner Support Centre in the University of Jammu.

Today IGNOU is the largest Open and Distance Learning platform available to a huge number of masses in India and across the world as well. IGNOU is widely acknowledged as a leader in the ODL system offering a number of academic, vocational, professional and skill based job-oriented programmes through a wide network of Regional Centres which facilitate a huge network of Learner Support Centres across the country and abroad as well.

IGNOU has been working hard for the past 39 years to accomplish its mission of

equality, inclusivity, quality, accessibility and affordability in higher education which is also the mandate for National Education Policy 2020. IGNOU offers a huge range of around 318 programmes at the Masters, Bachelors, Diploma and Certificate level through Open and Distance Learning mode. The University offers around 45 programmes through online mode as well.

To realize the goal of reaching 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2035 IGNOU has made concerted efforts to introduce academic programmes offered through ODL and Online modes. In 2023, 318 ODL and 45 online programmes were on offer. In light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the University has implemented Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) in which the learners would have the freedom to select their desired courses providing curriculum's interdisciplinary flexibility. Students in various fields such as sciences, computer sciences, psychology, library science, social work, sustainable development, counselling and family therapy, food and nutrition, anthropology, education, health sciences, nursing, information security,

and more, are expected to actively participate in hands-on learning experiences to enhance their job prospects.

The University has implemented 39 new academic programmes in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) format for the January 2023 and July 2023 admission cycles. The programmes offered encompass diverse disciplines such as Jyotish, Urdu, Sanskrit, Drawing and Painting, Entrepreneurship, Information Security, Performing Arts, Development Communication, Smart City Development, Communicative Sanskrit, Solid Waste Treatment Techniques, Diaspora and Migration, Environmental and Occupational Health, Sustainability Science, and Renewable Energy. Subjects of study: Vedic Studies and Yoga. Various programmes are specifically tailored to address a wide range of requirements in various professional domains. IGNOU has become the First Open University in the Country to have been accredited with the highest A++ Grade by NAAC. The programmes are offered in compliance to NEP 2020 Guidelines. Today IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu has marked its presence in almost every corner

of the Jammu region with a network of 31 Learner Support Centres which include 4 Jail Centres exclusively for Jail inmates. IGNOU caters to the needs of the under privileged and downtrodden masses of the far flung and remotest corners of the region.

After a long wait of more than 26 years, Regional Centre Jammu has now got its own new campus at Rajinder Vihar, Phase-I, Banlatab, Jammu which was recently inaugurated on 7th of February, 2024 by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, virtually. Regional Centre Jammu has a huge databank of more than 3700 empanelled Academic Counsellors in different disciplines. These Academic Counsellors are faculty members in conventional higher education system. The Jammu Regional Centre has consistently shown sustainable growth in enrollment over the years. Regional Centre Jammu has registered more than 75 percent learners from the rural far flung and tribal areas which clearly represents the reach and popularity of IGNOU in far flung remote and tribal areas of the region. In the 37th Convocation of the University

on 20th February, 2024, as many as 3,08,584 learners will be presented with the degree/diploma/certificate at IGNOU New Delhi Headquarters and 39 Regional Centres across the country. Under the Jammu region, as many as 12454 learners have been declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates in the 37th Convocation function at Jammu which includes 5698 learners of Master Degree programmes, 416 learners of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 105 learners of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes. Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon'ble Vice President of India will be the Chief Guest on this occasion at the New Delhi HQs. of IGNOU.

Prof. Ashok Aima, Distinguished Chair Professor, School of Management, MIET-Jammu and Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, will be the Guest of Honour and deliver Convocation address in the 37th Convocation function of Regional Centre Jammu being organized in the Auditorium of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu on 20th

February, 2024 at 9AM. As per the details provided by New Delhi HQ. of IGNOU, as many as 310 qualified students have submitted the requisite fee and consent to receive their respective Degree/Diploma certificates in person in the Convocation function at Regional Centre Jammu. The participating students need to reach the venue by 8:00AM and register themselves at the registration counter well in time in order to avoid chaos. The male students should wear White / Off white or cream coloured Bharatiya Paridhan (Indian Dress) preferably made of Handloom / Khadi and female students should wear White / Off white or cream coloured Bharatiya Paridhan (Indian Dress) Sari or Salwar Kurta or Salwar Kameez, etc. preferably made of Handloom / Khadi.

"In view of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to Jammu on the same date, we have already approached the local administration and concerned Police authorities so that our learners, Guest of Honour, dignitaries, other invitees and staff coming from different corners of the region do not have to face any difficulties to reach to the venue of Convocation", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

J&K witnessed unprecedented development under Modi regime: Nitish

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Nitish Mahajan, senior BJP leader, and Co-Incharge, Social Media Department, BJP, J&K, has called upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally on February 20 at MA Stadium. He emphasized the monumental strides in infrastructure development witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi since 2014.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the BJP government at the Centre has prioritized the development of Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the unprecedented progress. The UT has undergone a remarkable transformation, with significant investments in infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing connectivity, livelihood opportunities, and overall quality of life for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

BSP accuses BJP of betrayal, failure to deliver promised devp

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K general secretary and Media head of the party, Rajesh Gupta on Monday said that BSP will continue to oppose BJP Govt for rising unemployment, economic crisis, lack of development and also expose the saffron party's false promises and betrayals.

While interacting with media, here today, Gupta rued that people in the country, especially Jammu and Kashmir are confronted with the ugliest situation due to the policies adopted by Modi Govt.

"After realizing that it has failed to achieve what it had expected after 5 August 2019, several drives were started to divert the attention of the people from real issues, matter of the fact remains, people won't change their opinion and never forgive



BJP for what it has done in J&K," he added.

He alleged that the BJP exploited the electorate on different slogans on the name of religion, regions and caste but it was a tool to seek votes through these emotional issues.

BSP leader strongly raised the issue of PoJK refugees who feel cheated

and betrayed. Instead of the recommended relief of Rs 30 lakh per family, only Rs 5.5 lakh per family was sanctioned by the BJP government. A large number of eligible families are still deprived of the relief, he claimed.

Gupta said that the prevailing political and security scenario in J&K tells the story of total failure of the Central government which left the erstwhile state in total chaos. The BSP leader accused the BJP of being habitual in raking up controversies to divert the attention of the people from their failure to provide a credible government in J&K.

"There is no accountability in the administration as a result of which the people are suffering on all fronts," he said. Gupta said the bureaucratic connection with the people is at an all-time low.

KVK Kishtwar starts 15 Days INM Training for Input Dealers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Krishi Kendra Kishtwar, SKUAST Jammu today started 15 days certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management for agriculture input dealers today at Kishtwar. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu and was organized by Dr Narinder Paul Incharge KVK Kishtwar under the supervision of Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu.

Amjad Hussain Malik, CAO Kishtwar Sanjay Sharma DAO Extension, Jamshed Hussain, Khalid Hussain Zargar SMS DL, Manzoor Ahmad Zargar SDAO Marwah,, Jatinder Singh SMS SDL Paddar were present during the inaugural function of the programme. 17 trainees from different areas of District Kishtwar enrolled for the certificate course joined the training programme.



programme.

The Programme started with welcome address by Dr Narinder Paul who also briefed the participants about the content and outline of 15 days programme and importance of the course for the aspiring fertilizer dealers. During the technical session, Dr Narinder Paul briefed the participants about essential plant nutrients, their role and deficiency symptoms and proper nutrient management to increase production and productivity of crops.

Amjad Hussain Malik threw light on the handling, stocking and transportation of fertilizers. Jamshed Hussain SMS DL deliberated upon the current scenario of fertilizer use in district Kishtwar. He laid emphasis on use of balanced nutrient management by using recommended doses of fertilizers for different crops. Auqib Hussain, Altaf Hussain, Arvind Sharma, Atiya Iqbal, Honey Bloria, Nahida Banoo and other participants attended the programme.

Drug Control Department organizes drug awareness program in Khour

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KHOUR, FEB 19

Drug Control officials conducted inspections of medical shops and also organised an awareness programme in Khour under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. Under the campaign, an awareness programme was organized by the Drug and Food Control Organization at Khour on Saturday under the personal supervision of Deputy Drug controller Jammu Sh Mohd Iqbal Palla.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Drug Controller Jammu (DDC) Mohd Iqbal Palla informed that the Government has initiated proactive measures to see the society free of substance abuse. The Department under the overall supervision of State Drug controller Madam Lotika Khajuria has initiated special drive to ensure that the pharmacies dispense medicines in the best interest of public and the patient care. Speaking on the occasion the Chemist fra-

ternity was impressed upon to adhere the condition of licence and mandate of law and to dispense medicines strictly in consonance of registered medical practitioner only. Assistant Drug Controller Jammu Arvind Sharma informed the pharma dealers to install CCTVs and computerized Billing System as per the directives of the government. He further emphasised that complete sale records have to be maintained for schedule HI medicines and in particular the formulations prone to cause addiction and warned the trade fraternity to desist from any unethical trade practices.

Drug Control Officer Amit Mahajan directed the chemist fraternity to conduct sale of such Medicinal preparations in the quantity prescribed only against the prescription of Doctor and to keep a record of complete information of consumers. He was appreciated for his proactive stance with respect to installation of CCTVs.

Renewed social activist Gauri Shankar joins DPAP

Uniting all Communities for Inclusive Progress: Azad



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 19

Renowned social activist Gauri Shankar from Bani constituency has officially joined the Democratic Party of Azad Pradesh (DPAP). His decision to join DPAP was marked by a significant event in the presence of Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad. Azad lauded Shankar's selfless efforts in providing free medical assistance to individuals regardless of caste or religion. This dedication to serving humanity embodies the values DPAP stands for, making Gauri Shankar an invaluable addition to the party. Gauri Shankar's decision

to join DPAP signifies a significant step forward in the party's growth and presence in the Jammu region. Recognizing Gauri Shankar's significant influence in the Bani constituency, Azad expressed confidence in DPAP's electoral prospects with Gauri's inclusion. He reiterated that the overwhelming response from the people reflects their trust in the party's commitment to transparent and accountable governance. He reiterated his commitment to continue serving the people with honesty and diligence, further strengthening the party's foothold in the region. Among others who were

present on the occasion were General secretary RS Chib, Provincial president Jugal kishor Sharma, Sr DPAP leader Dr Tariq Azad, General secretary Anita Thakur, General secretary, Vinod Mishra, Chief spokesperson Salman Nizami, Vice president Adv. Ashok Sharma, state secretary Sunita Arora, Hira Lal Abrol Secretary, Zonal president Choudhary Gharu ram, Zonal GS Sheikh Zaffarullah, General secretary ST cell Sobat Ali, Provincial General Secretary Vishal Chopra, provincial secretary Anoop, khajuria, Spokesperson Sanjay Manhas, Fatima Shikari and others.



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister, Kavinder Gupta on Monday said that the extraordinary scale and scope of infrastructure development under the Modi Government has established J&K as a major investment destination in the country.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior party functionary maintained that the Centre led by PM Narendra Modi not only brought development revolution in the UT by launching huge number of development projects but it has also ensured that every project launched in the region sees the light of the day.

He said that PM Modi is going to inaugurate number of projects worth thousands of crores of rupees during his visit to Jammu tomorrow, which is testimony to the fact that projects which are being envisaged for the UT are executed also with the same enthusiasm unlike the earlier regimes which seldom cared for giving things to people which were promised earlier.

He said that the monumental development which has been realized under the Modi Government is surely going to change the course of life of people as prosperity and good fortune have become new norms while violence and uncertainty are the things of the past due to farsightedness of PM Modi.

Underscoring the significant strides made in infrastructure development during the two tenures of the Modi government, Kavinder Gupta emphasized on their transformative impact on J&K's infrastructure landscape. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K has witnessed a surge in development, with a focus on enhancing connectivity, modernizing urban infrastructure, and

Modi govt established J&K as major investment destination: Kavinder

bolstering UT's economic foundation. He said that the completion of each development project either brings scope for tackling unemployment

or it promises bailing out the people from miseries which they faced due to lackadaisical approach of successive governments in the field of education,

healthcare, roads and bridges, tourism, etc.

The senior BJP leader reiterated the government's unwavering resolve to continue its focus on

infrastructure development, emphasizing its crucial role in realizing the vision of a new J&K, which has become the first choice of investors.

DPS Junior, Kathua Students showcase Alphabet Knowledge with Alphabet Ramp Walk



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 19

Students at Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua's nursery class recently demonstrated their impressive alphabet knowledge through a creative and engaging Alphabet Ramp Walk.

The event, held at the school's premises, saw students with their prop, each assigned a specific letter of the alphabet to represent. Using their creativity, the students decorated their props with items that symbolized their assigned letters. These props were


then proudly displayed as the students walked down the runway, accompanied by instrumental music.

Vivek Arora, the School's Principal, commended the efforts of the class facilitators, including Mr. Arti Sharma, Mrs. Sumesh Sharma, Mrs. Hemanti, and Mrs. Isha Gupta. Their dedication and guidance were instrumental in making the event a success. He also appreciated the students' performance and parents' efforts.

Monika Singh, the School Incharge, expressed her gratitude to the parents, teachers, and stu-

dents for their enthusiastic participation. She emphasized the importance of such activities in enhancing the learning experience of students, making it both fun and educational. She stated that Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua school always focused on foundation-making activity and worked accordingly.

The Alphabet Ramp Walk not only showcased the students' understanding of the alphabet but also highlighted the school's commitment to providing a holistic education that nurtures creativity and confidence in its students.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD
(R&B) DIVISION RAMNAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No. 31 of 2023-24 Dated 17.02.2024

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **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 (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	IMPROVEMENT OF THE DAMAGED PORTIONS OF BATTAL MANSAR ROAD(KM 1ST TO 8TH BY WAY OF LAYING WMM IN PATCHES UNDER ARD 2023-24	4.47	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	UNDER ARD

Position of AAA:- **Accorded**
Position of T.S:- **Accorded**
Position of Funds:- **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	17-02-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 17-02-2024 to 26-02-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	17-02-2024 from 1800 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	26-02-2024 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	27-02-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, RAMNAGAR.
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, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Ramnagar uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Ramnagar** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- 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 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 Web Site 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 **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, RAMNAGAR**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- EE/R&B/RN/3486-91
Dated:- 17.02.2024

-sd-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Ramnagar

DIP/J-15192/23
Date: 19-2-24

Government released comprehensive guidelines for effective disposal of C&D waste: Hardeep S Puri

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 19

Highlighting the vitality of construction industry for Indian economy, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas, said that the construction industry is among the fastest growing industries in India. It is the second-largest employer in the country and has forward and backward linkages across 250 sectors of the economy. It is estimated that India will have the third-largest construction market globally by 2025, he said.

The Minister was addressing at the inauguration of National Workshop on "Recent Development with recycling and use of C&D waste in construction sector" here today. Ms. May-Elin Stener, Norwegian Ambassador to India; Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Housing and Urban Affairs; and Shri Rajesh Kumar Kaushal, DG, CPWD were among

the dignitaries present at the event.

The Workshop, organised by CPWD in collaboration with SINTEF Norway, gave an opportunity to the participants engaged in the Construction Sector to deliberate on various aspects of promoting the use of C&D recycle items in Construction Industry. Experts in the field of C&D recycle products/items are participating in the workshop for dissemination of their views and apprising the advantages on usage of above products in sustainable development.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Puri, said that we are constructing built environment at a great speed. Quoting the statistics about country's urbanisation demands, he said that India needs to add about 700-900 million sq. metres of commercial and residential space every year by 2030. If India is going to be a developed country by 2047, infrastructure will be a vital component

in our ambition, he added. Acknowledging the environmental considerations especially Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste associated with construction sector, the Minister, said that with increasing construction activity, it is imperative to find more efficient solutions to manage the C&D waste that will arise.

Talking about challenges and opportunities of C&D waste in India, Shri Puri said, construction and demolition waste is one of the largest solid waste streams in the world. He said that as per estimates, the construction industry in India generates about 150-500 million tonnes of C&D waste every year. This brings many challenges to the forefront such as unauthorised dumping, a lack of space for disposal, and improper mixing with biodegradable waste. In this context, he said, there is a huge demand for technologies that will support

waste reduction and recycling waste material.

Highlighting the efforts of the Government towards sustainable waste management, the Minister noted that the urban missions which were launched in 2015 are shining examples of the government's green vision to adopt sustainable methods of infrastructure creation and service delivery.

As regards solid waste management, Shri Puri said that solid waste processing has witnessed a significant rise from mere 17% in 2014 to more than 77% in 2024. "Now, we are transferring these capabilities in other forms of waste management, including C&D waste, plastic waste, e-waste and bio-hazardous waste. The government has released elaborate guidelines on these issues.", the Minister added.

He said, "Our government has released comprehensive guidelines across the value chain on effective disposal of C&D

waste."

Speaking on the strides made by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in changing the mindset of all stakeholders towards C&D waste management, the Minister highlighted that MoHUA has advised all states, union territories and urban local bodies to collect data on C&D waste generation for every major city/town and promote the separation of C&D waste at source and establish institutional mechanisms for C&D waste collection.

Sharing his thoughts on effectiveness of Government in C&D waste processing, Shri Puri noted that the region of NCR alone generates 6,303 TPD of C&D waste per day and out of this, almost 78% of the waste is processed per day.

In his concluding remarks, the Minister urged the stakeholders to help the government devise better strategies for the effective utilisation of C&D waste.

GDC Marheen organizes lecture on "Eat Healthy, Stay Healthy" at vill Marheen



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 19

A Lecture was organized by NSS unit of Government Degree College Marheen on the theme of "EAT HEALTHY, STAY HEALTHY". On the occasion, Dr Anupama Gupta esteemed Principal of the College was the Chief Guest. The lecture was delivered by Dr Sanjeet Sharma from District Ayush Department Kathua, the speakers highlighted about the negative effects of consum-

ing excess of preserved, processed and packaged food being consumed by the masses. He also motivated the NSS volunteers and other students of the college. He suggested the gathering to avoid food products rich in carbohydrates, Fats, Sodium, Trans Fatty Acids and Additives to maintain a sound health. He stressed upon the usage of home-made and natural products directly procured from the nature like Fresh Vegetables & Fruits, Fresh Chakki Atta and consump-

tion of Millets, which are much beneficial for our digestive and immune system. During the interactive session certain facts regarding consumption of Vanaspati Ghee, Dairy and Bakery Products were discussed. Dr. Namarta also spoke on health and hygiene and also discussed the issues related to female students. On this occasion, free medical check-up was done and free medicine was also provided to the students from Ayush Department.

DLL inaugurates One week Workshop on Communication and personality development



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu today inaugurated one week workshop on Communication and personality development in the seminar hall of department of commerce.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu. The main objective of the workshop is to enable the

students to learn basic skills of good communication and to improve the confidence levels in order to create a good and lasting impression on others. As a result of communication and personality development workshop, one can learn, discover, and practice skills, strategies and tools to improve one's character and competence.

The workshop is being coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, Department of Lifelong Learning. About 62 participants from University of Jammu, colleges and civil society are very enthusiastically participating in the workshop.

Producers, Processors and Marketing Cooperatives, Ltd. She highlighted the need to have effective communication skills in terms of reading, writing, arithmetic, reading comprehension, speed reading, etc.

The workshop is being coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, Department of Lifelong Learning. About 62 participants from University of Jammu, colleges and civil society are very enthusiastically participating in the workshop.

Vivek Singh of Arni University awarded with Best Chancellor Award



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

One of the most prestigious private universities of Himachal Pradesh, Arni University added another feather to its crown by bagging the Best Chancellor award in the private sector. Arni University's Chancellor Mr. Vivek Singh bagged the Best Chancellor Award among private universities in the state. At a grand ceremony held in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presented the Award to Vivek Singh. This accolade highlights Mr. Vivek Singh's exemplary leadership and dedication to advancing higher education in the state. Vivek Singh expressed gratitude for the honor, emphasizing the university's commitment to academic excellence and societal impact. He said, "I am very encouraged by this honour as it acknowledges our contributions to higher education in Himachal Pradesh. At Arni University, we have always believed in contributing to social causes." Under the visionary leadership of Vivek Singh, Arni University has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering inclusivity and supporting the educational aspira-

tions of various communities. In a ground breaking initiative, the university has introduced special provisions for students from defense families, starting with the Jammu and Kashmir Scholarship Scheme. This initiative aims to facilitate access to quality education for deserving candidates recommended by the Indian Army's Northern Command Headquarters. Mr. Vivek Singh reiterated the university's vision of "Skill Comprehensive Higher Education," emphasizing its role in equipping students with the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields and contribute meaningfully to society. This forward-thinking approach has made Arni University a preferred destination for students from across Northern India, leading to a significant increase in student enrollment over the years. As Arni University continues to evolve and innovate, it remains committed to empowering students and serving as a catalyst for positive change in the region. The recognition of Chancellor Vivek Singh with the Best Chancellor Award underscores the university's dedication to excellence and leadership in higher education.

Congress emerges as only beacon of hope: Kundal

JI NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, FEB 19

Former minister and UT Vice President Congress, Yashpal Kundal today sought special development and employment package for the border areas, saying these under-privileged pockets have peculiar problems and distinct aspirations. "Having suffered the most, the areas adjacent to International Border need some respite in terms of infrastructural development with focus on utility services", Kundal said during his extensive visit and interactions with the people of different different village of Ramgarh Assembly Constituency. "The unemployment has increased among the unemployed youth in Ramgarh Assembly Constituency whereas the scope of employment has reduced in the industrial sector," he said, adding, The unemployed youth have been falling into the trap of drug addiction that needs to be handled with



careful crafting of policy for their employment in army, paramilitary forces, and J&K Police." Kundal demanded reservation for the local youth in the industrial units of Samba & Bari Brahmana so that the skilled and unskilled youth of adjoining areas could be employed there. Kundal said that Congress has emerged as the only beacon of hope in Jammu and Kashmir and rest of India as there is widespread disappointment against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) among the public. Kundal said that there are "thousands of daily wagers who have been struggling to fight for their rights since long". "It has been years

together since the daily wagers are taking to the streets to fight for the regularisation. But, they are only getting promises by the successive regimes," he said. He said that the Prime Minister, who is visiting J&K today, "should make an announcement with regard to the regularisation of the daily wagers within the period of 30-60 days" On this occasion, influenced by the policies of the Congress party, several individuals joined the party fold. Kundal urged the new members to actively promote the Congress party's policies and spread awareness at the grassroots level to strengthen the party's position.

Shiv Sena demands ban on sale of liquor near religious places, educational institutions

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 19

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu Kashmir unit today submitted a memorandum to the Commissioner Excise demanding the ban on the sale of liquor near religious places and educational institutions in the religious city of Jammu.

A group of party leaders under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni today personally met Deputy Commissioner Excise, Suman Sharma and informed him about their demands and submitted a memorandum.

Sahni said that the permission to sell liquor near religious places and educational institutions in Dharman Ngari, Jammu should be banned with immediate effect.

Sahni said that the distance between religious, educational places and liquor shops is being continuously reduced. In the



last few years, it has been reduced from 500, 200 meters to just 50 meters. This formality is also being flouted openly. Sahni said that the religious sentiments of Hindus are being hurt by the sale of liquor near religious places. Besides this, sale of liquor near educational institutions is also attracting the youth towards drug addiction.

Sahni said that a demand has been made to close these shops with immediate effect and if a positive signal is not received from the depart-

ment in the next few days, we will be forced to protest outside the office.

Along with this, strict action has also been demanded against the collection of more than MRP openly at most of the liquor shops.

Sahni said that the conversation with the Deputy Commissioner Excise was very positive and he hoped that action would be taken on above demands soon. On this occasion, President Women Wing Meenakshi Chhibber and General Secretary Vikas Bakshi were also present.

Youth have developed faith in Apni Party, its leadership: Manjit Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEB 19

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today the youth have developed faith in the Party leadership and its agenda of development.

As per a press release, a meeting of youth was organized by Irshan Choudhary, Block President, Youth Wing, Bari Brahmana.

Mohammed Ashraf, Secretary Apni Trade Union, was also present on the occasion. The meeting was organized at village Meen Sarkar, Bari Brahmana in District Samba.

During the meeting, the youth highlighted their concern over the growing unemployment and insufficient opportunities in the private sector and industrial sector.

While holding deliberation, the Former Minister said that the traditional political parties have failed to deliver as per the expectation of the people.

"These political parties have exploited the youth as vote banks and tried to divide the society on the name of region and religion," he said, while referring to the policy of autonomy, self - rule



and discrimination with Jammu.

He said that Jammu has been facing the worst kind of disparity regarding unemployment, development, and allocation of funds after several years because there is no elected Govt.

In the wake of the exploitation of the youth in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the youth have now pinned their hopes with the Apni Party because of its developmental agenda and policy of promoting unity and integrity.

Meanwhile, he also referred to the promotion of sportsmanship among the youth. "The drug addiction among the unemployed youth has increased and the authori-

ties have not been able to handle the issue that has given birth to multiple criminal activities," he added.

He demanded coordinated efforts to curb drug addiction with the active involvement of civil society, and police.

Notice

I, Ghulam Mohd. S/o Lasso Caste Kashmiri Malik R/o Village Sarh (Bagga) Teh Mahore Distt. Reasi applying for 'D' Class Contractor Card. Objection, if any may be sent to supt. Engineer PWD R&B Reasi within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

One week Training on Vermicomposting concludes at KVK Bandipora

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 19

In a bid to empower rural youth with sustainable agricultural practices, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora successfully concluded a one-week skill training program on vermicomposting.

The training aimed to educate and train young individuals from rural areas on the techniques and benefits of vermicomposting, fostering entrepreneurship and environmental sustainability.

Throughout the week-long program, participants were immersed in theoretical sessions supplemented by practical demonstrations. They were introduced to the principles of vermicomposting, including the selection of appropriate earthworm species, main-



tenance of optimal environmental conditions, and the management of organic waste materials.

Dr. Tariq Sultan, Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora-1, expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the training program, emphasizing its role in equipping rural youth with practical skills that can enhance their livelihoods while contributing positively to the environment.

The successful completion of this training pro-

gram signifies a significant step towards promoting sustainable agriculture and rural entrepreneurship, stated Dr. Tahir Saleem, Scientist KVK Bandipora-1.

Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir, Scientist at KVK Bandipora said that Vermicomposting not only provides an eco-friendly solution for organic waste management but also presents lucrative opportunities for income generation among rural communities.

Participants hailed from

various rural areas in and around Bandipora, representing diverse backgrounds and aspirations. Many expressed their enthusiasm for applying the knowledge gained during the training to establish their vermicomposting units, thereby creating employment opportunities and mitigating environmental degradation.

The concluding ceremony of the training program witnessed the distribution of participation certificates among the attendees, acknowledging their commitment to learning and adopting innovative agricultural practices.

Additionally, participants were encouraged to serve as ambassadors of vermicomposting in their respective communities, promoting its adoption among fellow farmers and stakeholders.

4th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games: Athletes arrive to a traditional reception at Srinagar Airport

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 19

The participant athletes of Khelo India Winter Games were given a traditional Kashmiri reception today on their arrival at Srinagar Airport.

The athletes are scheduled to participate in the 4th edition of Khelo India Winter Games at ski destination Gulmarg from February 21 to 25.

Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez received the athletes on the occasion. He said that all the necessary arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of the games.

He said that the games will be held in adherence to the Covid-19 protocols and guidelines, and that the health and safety of the participants and officials will be given utmost priority.



Athletes received with traditional welcome at Srinagar airport

Sarmad Hafeez also said that the games will be a great opportunity for the athletes to experience the facilities and infrastructure at Gulmarg, which has recently hosted

several national and international skiing events. He expressed hope that the games will inspire more youngsters to take up winter sports and bring laurels to the country.

Enroute the venue, the athletes were served kehwa to feel warmth amid heavy downpour and cherish the blend of Kashmiri hospitality. The athletes enjoyed the snowflakes that adds to the charm of winters in Kashmir.

This year, over 800 participants shall be competing in various winter sports such as snowboarding, alpine skiing, nordic skiing, and ski mountaineering.

The athletes expressed their excitement and enthusiasm for the games. They said that they are looking forward to competing with their peers and enjoying the scenic beauty of Gulmarg.

They also thanked the government and the organizers for providing them with this opportunity and for making all the arrangements for their travel and stay.

DC reviews progress of PMGSY sector projects in District Kishtwar

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav chaired a meeting today to review the status of projects being executed by PMGSY in different parts of the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the work-wise and division-wise status of the roads and bridges being executed under PMGSY.

Inquiring about the status of the PMGSY projects, the DC directed the engineers to expedite the pending work to ensure completion at the earliest. He made special mention

of Kuntwara Road and directed the to expedite its execution. He warned of stringent action against any laxity.

Ex En's PMGSY were



further instructed to accelerate the launching of ongoing projects including Mhow Bridge, Gandhari Road and Chitto Road, ensuring their timely completion.

He also emphasized the necessity of Palali to Machail road connectivity up to

Chasoti for vehicles before the commencement of the Annual Holy Machail Yatra to facilitate the hassle-free movement of the pilgrimage.

The stakeholder parties were asked to jointly visit the areas and resolve the issues promptly, if any.

The meeting was attended by Ex En Marwah Mohd Aslam Lone, Ex En PMGSY Chatroo Iftikar Darvesh, JE's, and other staff of the PMGSY Sector.

8th National Snowshoe Championship concludes in Sonamarg

JINNEWS SERVICE
SONAMARG, FEBRUARY 19

The inaugural 8th National Snowshoe Championship concluded in Sonamarg on Monday with immense enthusiasm.

CEO Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), Farooq Ahmad Baba and General Secretary of J&K Snowshoe Association, distributed Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals mementoes among the first, second, and third position holders, as well as other participants including Hoteliers Association Sonamarg and local residents who contributed to the success of the event.

The championship witnessed fierce competition among participants from various states, showcasing their skills and endurance in the challenging snowy terrain of Sonamarg.

The winners of the championship were felicitated with trophies



and cash prizes, motivating them to continue their dedication towards snowshoeing. The event besides providing a platform for athletes to showcase their talent, also promoted tourism in the region, highlighting the

natural beauty and adventure opportunities that Sonamarg has to offer. The Hoteliers Association Sonamarg played a crucial role in providing accommodation and hospitality to the participants and spectators, ensuring

their comfort throughout the championship.

Their support and cooperation were acknowledged and appreciated by the organizers and participants alike. The success of the 8th National Snowshoe Cham-

pionship in Sonamarg has paved the way for future editions of the event, attracting more participants and spectators from across the country.

This event has brought Sonamarg on the map as a prime destination for snowshoeing, and has also boosted the local economy and tourism industry.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to all the participants, sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to the smooth execution of the championship. They also extended their thanks to the local administration for their support in ensuring the safety and security of everyone involved.

Overall, the inaugural 8th National Snowshoe Championship in Sonamarg was a resounding success, showcasing the spirit of sportsmanship, promoting tourism, and highlighting the natural beauty of the region.

Khelo India Winter Games Gulmarg

DC B'la conducts field inspection to add finishing touch to the arrangements



JINNEWS SERVICE
GULMARG, FEBRUARY 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa accompanied by the team of officers today visited Gulmarg and conducted field inspection of facilities in place to add finishing touch to the arrangements for the successful conduct of 4th Edition of Khelo India National Winter Games-2024.

Undertaking a comprehensive field inspection, the DC and his team braved the current inclement weather conditions to meticulously assess road connectivity, lodging facili-

ties, ski slopes, medical services, electricity, parking facilities and other amenities crucial for the national event's profound success.

Speaking about the preparations, Minga Sherpa expressed confidence in the readiness of Gulmarg to host the prestigious event and said that the district administration has left no stone unturned to ensure every aspect of the Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg is meticulously planned and executed, even amidst challenging weather conditions.

The DC further said that the end goal is to provide athletes, visitors and other

guests with a world-class experience and showcase the beauty and potential of winter sports in the region.

Meanwhile, DC issued strict directions to the concerned departments to ensure snow clearance from the roads leading to Gulmarg, uninterrupted electricity supply and other facilities are in place in view of the inclement weather conditions.

Minga Sherpa also strongly urged the drivers to exercise extreme caution and adhere to all necessary precautions while travelling on the slippery hilly roads during adverse weather conditions.

GDC Marh organises 7 Day NSS Winter Camp

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

A seven day special Winter Camp organized by Government Degree College Marh concluded today with a grand valedictory function organised under the esteemed patronage of the College Principal Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The camp was organized to inspire life skills, community service and village development among the participating students. Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat NSS PO supervised the camp.

The seven day camp was inaugurated by the



Principal Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul followed by his awareness Lecture. NSS Committee Conve- ners Prof. Madhavi Prasher briefed volunteers about "communities and NSS" in the 2nd session,

while the 3rd session witnessed a cleanliness drive by the NSS volunteers on the college campus and in village Panchayat Dhateryal. In the last session, volunteers learn about life skills imparted

by Prof. Sachin Kumar through an inspiring lecture.

The Day- 2 started with a warming up session and a lecture on the same by Ravi Kumar. He elaborated how Warm-

ing up helps to activate the body and primes the connections between our nerves and muscles, which improve the efficiency of movement. The second session witnessed Plantation Drive and Shramdaan to develop a sports ground

Similar activities were conducted on the following days. On the closing day, Prof. Sachin Kumar NSS PO briefed about all the activities that were held in the camp. The Volunteers performed various activities like a Nukkad Natak on Drug abuse, sang songs and shared their experiences of the camp with others.


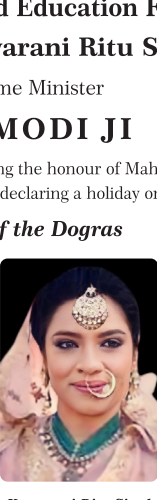

Maharaja Hari Singh Social and Education Foundation
MK Ajatshatru and Kuwarani Ritu Singh

Welcome Hon'ble Prime Minister

NARENDRA MODI JI

to the holy city of temples and thank him for restoring the honour of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji at the Lalkar Rally in 2013, and most recently declaring a holiday on his birthday

Restoring the pride of the Dogras

M.K. Ajatshatru Singh Kuwarani Ritu Singh