



# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## AC approves Start-up Policy 2024-27 for J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved J&K start-up policy 2024-27 in supersession to the Start-up Policy notified in the year 2018. The policy has the objective of setting up 2000 new Start-ups in Jammu & Kashmir in the next 5 years.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir will setup a Venture Capital Fund of Rs. 250 Crores and will infuse maximum of Rs. 25 Crores as an initial fund to this venture capital fund.

The venture capital fund so created shall invest primarily in recognized start-ups of Jammu & Kashmir. The Department shall work out detailed modalities for creation of venture fund and its usage in consultation with Finance Department.

The department may also work out a mechanism to facilitate allotment of land to start-ups having good

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Administrative Council approves development of 7 New Industrial Estates

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, accorded administrative approval for the development of seven new Industrial Estates in the UT of J&K spread over 5290 kanals of land for an amount of Rs. 304.51 Crores.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal

Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The estimated investment in these seven new Industrial Estates is Rs. 8700.16 Crores with employment potential of 28376 persons. These 7 new Industrial Estates are situated at Banderpora Budgam, Sempora Medicity, Srinagar, Bhagthali, Kathua, Karandi, Samba, Trenz, Shopian, Hariparigam

Tral Pulwama and Khunmoh, Pantha Chowk Srinagar.

New Industrial Estate Banderpora Budgam involving 64 kanals of State Land shall be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.74 crore by IRCON. The Project would attract investment to the extent of Rs. 78.12 Crore and generate 735 employments.

New Industrial Estate at Sempora Medicity, Srinagar involving

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## LG meets Other Backward Classes delegation at Raj Bhawan Srinagar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 22

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha met the delegation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) at Raj Bhawan Srinagar, today.

The members of the community expressed

their profound gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for reservations in Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of J&K.

"For the first time since India's Independence, justice has been delivered to OBCs in J&K. We are also

planning to establish a Backward Welfare Department like other states in the country," the Lt Governor said.

He said the Act passed by the Parliament will be implemented in letter and spirit. Rules are

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Foreign skier killed, 7 rescued as avalanche hits Gulmarg

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GULMARG, FEB 22

A foreign skier was killed while seven other including a local were rescued after an avalanche hit Kongdori area of Gulmarg on Thursday where the much-awaited fourth edition of Khelo India Winter Games is going on, however, the sporting games remained unaffected as all the participants are safe.

Official sources told the news agency that a strong avalanche hit the Kangdori, Gulmarg. "Seven foreign tourists and a local were trapped in the avalanche. A massive rescue operation was immediately launched during which one of the foreign



skiers was found dead while others were rescued safely," they said.

They said that phase-2 Gulmarg Gandola was temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure.

Officials told KNO that at around 02:00 PM in the afternoon, an avalanche was reported in Gulmarg, trapping some foreigners, who were rescued safely

while one among them died in the incident.

However, the ongoing sporting event that commenced yesterday remained unaffected.

"A collaborative effort between the Gulmarg Ski Patrol of Tourism Department, J&K and J&K Police resulted in the successful rescue of a group comprising six Russian skiers and

one local guide following an avalanche at the higher reaches of Gulmarg, known as Army Ridge," officials said.

"Despite the valiant efforts of the rescue team, one Russian skier tragically lost his life due to the avalanche. Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the deceased during this difficult time," they said.

"It is important to note that the avalanche site is located far from the Kongdori area, where the 4th Khelo India Winter Games are currently underway. The ongoing sporting events remain unaffected by the incident," the officials said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Lt Governor interacts with 160-member delegation of Pahari Community from Kashmir Division at Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 22

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with the 160-member delegation of Pahari Community from Kashmir division at Raj Bhawan, Srinagar today.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Government is committed to empowerment of tribal communities. It is a new era of progress, prosperity, stability and hope for the tribal population of the Union Territory," the Lt Governor said.

The community mem-



bers from different parts of Kashmir Division thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the inclusion of Paharis, Padari, Koli and Gadda

Brahmin in the list of Scheduled Tribes in J&K.

"It is a historic moment for the Pahari population of J&K. The inclusion of Pahari community in the

Scheduled Tribes list is the reflection of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Paharis were neglected for decades, but now in the next 10 years, we will see a considerable change in our lives," Sh Raja Aijaz Ali, former IGP said.

Sh Abdul Majid Zindadil said, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, Paharis have got freedom in a real sense after struggling for more than 70 years.

Our voice was suppressed for decades,

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## Drone dropped IED recovered near IB in Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was recovered by the Border Security Force after the troops fired at a drone near the International Border (IB) in Kathua district on Thursday, officials said on Thursday.

An official told the news agency that alert troops of observed drone movement Manihari village and engaged the drone by fire. He said that subsequently the area was searched and recovery of IED dropped by the drone was made.

"Troops are on high alert and further details will be shared accordingly," he said.

## CBI raids 30 locations in case linked to irregularities in Kiru Power project

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 22

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted searches at more than 30 locations in 8 States in a case related to allegations of irregularities in award of civil works of Kiru Hydroelectric Power Project in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to statement, issued to the news agency the searches were conducted in Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Baghpat, Noida, Patna, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Barmer, Nagaur & Chandigarh. The statement reads that the case was registered on 20.04.2022 against officials of CVPPL, a private company and unknown others.

"It was alleged that in award of civil works relating to Kiru Hydroelectric Project, guidelines regarding e-tendering were not followed. It was also alleged that though a decision was

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Pension reforms introduced with sensitive concern for elder citizens, women: Dr Jitendra Singh

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, FEB 22

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge in May 2014, a series of pension reforms had been introduced, one after the other, with a sensitive concern for elder citizens and women in particular.

Latest technology tools were employed to seek ease of living for these



sections of society, he said.

Chairing the 33rd meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) and 10th Nation-wide Pension Adalat in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Department of Pension is constantly engaged in formulating policies

for achieving the goal of women empowerment thereby ensuring a dignified life and ease of living for women.

Dwelling on the Women-Centric reforms in the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare, Dr Jitendra Singh said, orders were issued where

in a divorced daughter, in whose case a decree of divorce was issued after the death of her parents, will be eligible for family pension if the divorce petition was filed before death of the parents.

Similarly, the Minister said, the families of missing employees covered

under NPS can now get a family pension within 6 months of lodging FIR and not wait for 7 years after which the employee is deemed dead. Even in cases where the Government servant dies before completing a service of 7 years, family pension shall be payable to the family at an enhanced rate of 50% of last pay for the first 10 years and thereafter @ 30% of last pay.

Even the pension for Divyangs were resolved to bring ease of living for all, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Department

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## UP labourer dies in landslide at Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEB 22

A man was killed after he got buried under the debris of a landslide triggered by rainfall in Ramban district, officials said.

An official told the news agency that a fresh landslide occurred near Seeri along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district. "One person got buried under the debris and died on the spot. The body is being shifted to the hospital," the official said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway to reduce travel time between JK and Delhi to 6 hours

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 22

In a bid to enhance connectivity and streamline travel between Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, the ambitious Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project has been set in motion.

The expressway, a crucial component of the Bharatmala project, promises to revolutionize transportation infrastructure in northern India, significantly reducing travel time between Delhi and Jammu to mere six hours.

Purpose and Significance

Katra, renowned for the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Temple, attracts millions of pilgrims annually,

making it imperative to enhance accessibility to the region.

As per the government inputs received by the news agency, the proposed expressway, aims to bridge the gap between Delhi and Katra, slashing the travel distance from approximately 727 km to 669 km and reducing travel time from 13-15 hours to a mere 6 hours.

Additionally, it seeks to expedite travel between Delhi and Amritsar, cutting down the distance from 485 km to about 405 km and travel time from 8 to 4 hours.

Route and Connectivity

Commencing near Nilothi village in Hajarj,



Haryana, the expressway will trace a path through Punjab and Haryana, connecting significant landmarks such as Kundli Manesar Palwal (KMP) Expressway and Sri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport. It will bifurcate

near Nakodar, with one branch leading to Amritsar via Goindwal Sahib, Sultanpur Lodhi, and Tarn Taran, while the other heads directly to Katra via Kathua and Jammu. Notably, the project will also integrate the Kartarpur

Corridor and Dera Baba Nanak, further enhancing regional connectivity.

Construction and Timeline

With an estimated cost of Rs 40,000 crore, the government reports inform KNO that the Del-

hi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway is poised to be a transformative infrastructure project. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone in January 2022, with completion slated for the end of 2025. Partially operational segments are expected to be inaugurated ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, facilitating phased utilization before full completion.

Key Features and Facilities

The expressway is not merely a conduit for vehicular traffic but a comprehensive infrastructure network equipped with essential amenities. It will feature ambulances, trauma centers, traffic police sta-

tions, fire brigades, truck stops, and bus bays along its route. Interchanges will offer refreshments and entertainment, ensuring a seamless travel experience for commuters.

Regional Impact and Economic Implications

The corridor's passage through industrial hubs like Patiala, Malerkotla, Sangrur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Gurudaspur, and Ludhiana is poised to catalyze economic growth and industrial development in the region.

Notably, the corridor will boast Asia's longest cable bridge over the Beas River, accentuating its architectural and engineering prowess.



## AHD organises mega Awareness Programme at Town Hall Bandipora

JNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 22

A mega awareness programme was today organised by the department of Animal Husbandry Bandipora regarding ongoing different schemes including Holistic Agricultural Development Program.

Shaheena Begum was invited as a special guest, who was recently praised by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi during a live interaction programme.

The programme was attended by Officers from Animal Husbandry, Doctors besides Pashu Sakhis and Self Help Groups.

The department of Animal Husbandry expressed gratitude to Shaheena Begum in acknowledging the contribution of the department in her great success while interacting with Hon'ble



Prime Minister of India. The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Bandipora, Dr G.A.Lone felicitated Shaheena Begum by presenting a memento for her success.

The Poshu Sakhis present during the programme expressed satisfaction for the support of the department in lifting their socio-economic status, by successfully implementing the A-Help Program in the district.

Dr G.A.Lone expressed happiness on the contri-

but ion of the department in facilitation of Shaheena Begum for establishing a progressive and income generating Poultry unit and assisting in availing loan facility for sustenance of the Poultry unit and congratulated her for being praised by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

He also stressed upon the participants to work hard in establishment of the different employment generation units, with all time support of the department under different schemes.

The department will continue financial and technical support to all, particularly youth/ women of the district through such awareness programs.

The department has been able to create many success stories like that of Shaheena Begum in Poultry, Muhammad Muqem in Milk Processing, and Rifat Mushtaq for establishing Milk ATM (marketing) etc. Shaheena Begum in her speech thanked the Department of Animal Husbandry and District Administration for their support especially during the hardship she faced while maintaining and sustaining the Poultry unit.

She also advised all Poshu Sakhis, self help groups to come forward and avail benefits of the different schemes being run by the department of the Animal Husbandry and NRLM.

## Public Outreach programme: Dr Rashmi Singh addresses public grievances, highlights cultural initiatives

JNEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 22

Commissioner Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol, Dr. Rashmi Singh, today convened an extensive public outreach programme to assess and address public grievances besides reviewing development projects being executed in the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ankur Mahajan and representatives of various delegations were present on the occasion.

The event recorded an overwhelming response from all sections of the society, with people apprising the Commissioner Secretary of their issues concerning welfare and development of their respective areas seeking speedy redressal of the same.

Dr. Rashmi Singh emphasized the combined role of public representatives and administrative machinery in ensuring effective implementation of development works. She called upon the stakeholder departments to adopt meticulous planning, which is crucial for enhanced execution of development projects.

Highlighting the initiative taken up by the Hospitality and Protocol Department to promote cultural profile of J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh mentioned that JK Utsav is being organized in New Delhi to showcase the diverse cultural heritage and traditional artifacts of the UT including Basohli paintings and Pashmina work.

Earlier, DDC members from Marheen and Parole raised issues con-



Dr Rashmi Singh, while interacting with line departments, called for adopting a public friendly approach in resolving issues of public importance by making optimum use of

existing resources. She emphasized that public darbar is a platform to obtain first hand appraisal of issue at grassroots level, reducing the communication gap between the public and the administration.

The Commissioner Secretary listened to the grievances of civil society members assuring them an early redressal of the same. The Commissioner Secretary directed the district officers to resolve the issues highlighted by the attendees on priority basis.

## DC Kupwara reviews preparations for Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization-2024

JNEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Task Force to review the preparations for Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI)-2024 in the district.

On the occasion, the DC got detailed feedback from the concerned officers regarding the targets to be achieved under the IPPI-2024.

She stressed upon the officers to work with dedication and coordination and ensure nobody is left behind amongst the target population under the Pulse Polio Immunization programme. She asked them for mobilization of men and machinery to carry out the Immunization programme smoothly.

Earlier, the CMO Kupwara briefed the chair



through a detailed Power-Point Presentation regarding the Pulse Polio Immunization programme to be carried out in the district on March 3rd this year.

He said that the district has 130677 children in the 0-5 year age group and 156812 doses of Vaccines are required. 766 Booths and 17 Transit Points have been established, besides, 3064 Workers, 1062 ASHAs and 548 Anganwari Workers have been deployed to carry out the Pulse Polio

Immunization programme in the district.

He said Booth Activity will be held on 3rd March, while House to House Activity shall be held on 4th to 5th March, 2024. Transit sites and Special areas will be covered on all the days from 3rd to 6th March. CMO Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan; District Programme Officer, Hakeem Tanveer; Block Medical Officers, CDPOs and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## District Level Implementation Committee reviews MUMKIN, Tejaswini initiatives in Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, FEBRUARY 22

A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) was convened at the DC Office Complex in Reasi under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner, Reasi Vishesh Mahajan.

The meeting aimed to review the progress of implementation of the MUMKIN and Tejaswini initiatives, focusing on empowering youth and promoting employment opportunities in the district.

During the meeting, the Nodal Officer (AD, Employment) provided an update on the status of cases approved in previous DLIC meetings.

DDC Vishesh Mahajan emphasized the need for expediting pending employment cases, directing banks to complete them before March



10. He also instructed the completion of KCC cases before 29th February.

Several cases of unemployed eligible youth were presented to the Committee for approval under MUMKIN and Tejaswini. After careful review, DDC Vishesh Mahajan approved 24 new cases under MUMKIN and 54 Tejaswini cases, with a focus on refining the selection process to ensure maximum benefit to the

candidates.

DDC instructed the officials to prepare various activities aimed at revitalizing youth clubs in the district, promoting active participation and skill development among youth.

PO Poshan Mohd Anwar Bandy, Chief Agriculture and Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, ARTO and other concerned district officers were present.

## DCO Kulgam closes-down 01 Chemist shop at Frisal



JNEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 22

Drug Control Authorities Kulgam along with police today conducted a raid at a chemist shop at Frisal.

During the raid 37 bottles of Scheduled H1 formulation were recovered from the spot.

The erring incharge person failed to produce the purchase and sale of the said formulation and operation of the shop was

disallowed/ suspended onspot for non maintenance of records of such habit forming drugs and court proceedings initiated in the matter.

Officers informed that the main aim of such raids is to ensure safe dispensing of essential medicine including Scheduled formulations. Drug control organisation has already sensitized chemists to adopt a robust system for maintenance of records.

## DC Ramban reviews progress of Banking Sector

JNEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 22

While reviewing the performance of banks during today's District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting here, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary directed bankers to prioritize the focus on the priority sector to achieve the targets.

Earlier, the meeting was informed that Rs. 273.70 crores were expended on the priority sector against a target of Rs. 586 crores, i.e., 47% of ACP 2023-24 ending December 2023. Additionally, Rs. 245.97



and employment-oriented schemes by achieving the 100% targets under different segments of priority sector schemes like PMEGP, CCS for Artisans, PM-VISHWAKARMA, MUMKIN, JK REGP, TEJSWANI, Agriculture, MSME, Housing, and Education in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsil-dars and BDOs to organize special camps for uncovered individuals in their respective jurisdictions to saturate Aadhar enrollment. He further directed them to coordinate with the Programme Officer, ICDS, and CEO Ramban for organizing Aadhar enrollment camps.

The DC also directed bankers to ensure im-

mediate Aadhar updation of beneficiaries covered under various Government schemes in NPCI. He also directed bankers, especially the cluster head of J&K Bank, to organize meetings of bankers at the Sub-division level to implement all the schemes of the priority sector, especially those meant for the weaker sections.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the bank-wise deposits, advances, and the CD Ratio targets. It was informed that the CD Ratio registered an increase of 6.40% and stood at 66.74% until the end of December 2023.

Highlighting the impor-

tance of awareness activities in implementing various job-oriented schemes, the DC advised the LDM and other departments to prepare a calendar of activities for organizing awareness programs to disseminate information about their schemes, especially pertaining to youth and women folk.

The meeting was attended by the CPO, Shakeeb Ahmed, GM DIC Ravinder Anand, ACD Srinath Suman, ACR S. Harpal Singh, Lead District Manager Abdul Rashid Sofi, Cluster Head JK Bank Parvez Mir, DDM NABARD Arushi Sharma, Tehsils, BDOs, CHO Anil Gorka, AD Fisheries Fayaz Ahmed, bankers, and various senior officers.

## Secretary reviews progress on establishment of grain stores under "World's Largest Grain Storage Project"

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Secretary Cooperative Department, Babila Rakwal, today convened a meeting to review progress on land identification for establishment of grain stores under Centre Government's ambitious initiative "World's Largest Grain Storage Project" in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was informed that a total of 56 land locations have been identified in sixteen districts, so far, including 3 in Jammu, 1 in Samba, 5 each in Kishtwar, Kathua, Shopian, Poonch Kulgam and Doda, 2 in Udhampur, 4 in Budgam, 3 in Pulwama, 1 each in Srinagar, Reasi, Ganderbal, Anant-



nag and Rajouri.

Regarding the remaining locations to be identified for raising these grain stores, the Secretary exhorted upon the concerned officers to ensure that the same is done within a week's. She said that no delay would be tolerated in execution of such prestigious projects as this badly affects the development process.

The Secretary asked

the concerned officers to personally visit the locations for finalizing the same for the store keeping in view all the parameters set under the guidelines for the project implementation. She further instructed all the Deputy Registrars to ensure identification of minimum of seven locations in their jurisdictions with emphasis on selection of far flung areas for

maximum benefit to the common masses.

Among others the meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies, Special Secretary Cooperative, Director Finance Cooperative, Additional Secretary Cooperative, Joint Registrar Banking and Finance, Deputy Registrars and other concerned officials in person and virtually.

## Dobsonian Telescope used to observe 'Sun Spots' at GHSS Pallan, District Kathua under Astro Physics- Aaghaaz Labs

JNEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 22

An impressive, first of its kind session on using Dobsonian Telescope for observing solar events and phenomenon was held at Government Higher Secondary School,

Pallan of district Kathua. About sixty students took part in the event and observed the dark spots on the surface of the Sun under the able supervision of mentor Kamal Kishore, incharge of Astro Physics Lab. The students of the schools keenly took

part in the event and learned about different solar concepts included practical demonstrations

The event was under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha initiative 'Astro Physics-Aaghaaz Labs' in collaboration with prestigious IIT Kanpur

who had also provided trained guides Manpreet Singh & Mr. Rishav Gupta. About eighteen schools of district Kathua had already been benefitted by the same session and the program is planned to cover more schools in coming weeks.



## Seminar cum Awareness Programme on PM Vishwakarma Scheme held at Reasi District

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, FEBRUARY 22

A comprehensive awareness programme on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme was chaired by District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, at the DC Office complex in Reasi. The event, aimed at empowering local artisans, was organised by MSME in collaboration with Industries & commerce department Reasi.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Vishesh Mahajan emphasized the importance of ensuring that no artisans should be left out from getting benefit of all schemes. He instructed Assistant Director IEDS to ensure that collateral are not required for amounts up to 1.50 lakh and to incorporate this into the PM Vishwakarma guidelines.

He urged all eligible beneficiaries to take advantage of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme to improve their socio-economic status. He also assured them of similar initiatives in the future to promote the welfare of artisans and craftsmen in the district.



He also assured them of similar initiatives in the future to promote the welfare of artisans and craftsmen in the district.

DDC highlighted the availability of advanced tool kits under the scheme and directed BDOs to monitor implementation of schemes on day to day basis.

Pertinent to mention here that 6138 registrations have been completed under the scheme up to date.

DDC Mahajan commended the efforts of the district authorities in facilitating registrations and encouraged them to continue their efforts to achieve more registrations.

He said that PM Vishwakarma Scheme aims to empower local artisans by providing them with all required necessary support and resources to enhance their skills and livelihoods.

## HP&M Budgam organizes Awareness programme at Kremshore

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 22

A one day awareness camp regarding familiarization of HADP, PMFME, e-NAM, Support for Grading and Packaging scheme and various centrally sponsored schemes among the growers, PRIs and other stakeholders of horticulture sector was today held at Kremshore, Budgam.

The programme organized by Area Marketing Officer Budgam witnessed participation of a large gathering of growers and experts, besides representatives from allied departments viz. Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Lead Bank.

The camp was chaired by the Deputy Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing (HP&M) Kashmir. The awareness camp started with the introduction of aims and objectives of HP&M presented by the



officers of Area Marketing office Budgam. Thereafter, a series of lectures were delivered by the experts from various allied departments, who presented detailed accounts of their respective schemes aimed to benefit the farmers.

In the keynote address, the Deputy Director presented the brief of the HADP and other schemes offered by the department and can prove crucial in changing the socio-economic status of a growing community.

This was followed by a brainstorming interactive session wherein participants asked plenty of questions which were answered satisfactorily by the chief guest.

Later, AMO Budgam invited growers and unemployed youth of the area to come forward and avail benefits of the schemes of the department, and assured them full support.

## Power shutdown

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Receiving Stations Ghatti-I, Ghatti-II, Ghatti-III, Ghatti-IV, Ghatti-V, Varun Beverages and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 9 am to 9.30 am and 4 pm to 4.30 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Engineer O&M Circle Rajouri (JPDCL) has informed that the power supply to Tehsil office Rajouri, Gujjar Mandi and DC Office will remain affected on February 24, 25 and 28 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply near Receiving Station Darhal will remain affected on February 24, 26, 28 and March 02 and 04 from 9 am to 3 pm.

## JKAACL features Bashir Bhadarwahi in Meet the Author series

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

The J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) under the direction of Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL organized 'Meet-the-Author' programme to have a direct interaction with Bashir Bhadarwahi, renowned Kashmiri & Urdu writer of National fame here today at KL Sehgal Hall Jammu.

Bashir Bhadarwahi who wrote 46 books in Kashmiri and Urdu Language alongwith several articles on different regional languages served on many position in JK Government.

Prof. Shad Ramzan convenor for Kashmir Sahitya Akademi was guest of honour on the occasion who extolled JKAACL for having unique kind of direct interaction of the writer with the audience



which aid the exploration of various life aspects and works which act as a creative inspiration for the author/writer.

At the very outset, Secretary JKAACL Bharat Singh Manhas said that Bashir Bhadarwahi-Legendary figure of Kashmiri and Urdu language has been very popular in his entire career due to his great poeries.

JKAACL feels proud to honour such legendary writers of our region who have created a niche

in their respective fields and brought laurel for the UT of J&K.

He further informed that JKAACL has started this series to promote direct interaction with author whom we have read in books.

The event was presided over by Shohab Anayat Malik HOD of Urdu Department, University of Jammu who lauded the efforts of JKAACL and said that JKAACL is leaving no stone unturned in present time for upliftment of art

literature and culture of the UT. He congratulated the JKAACL Secretary for taking such initiative in Jammu.

On the occasion, Zahir Banihali presented a paper on life and works of Bashir Bhaderwahi alongwith Dr Shenaz Qaderi HoD Urdu who presented research article on life and works of Bashir Bhaderwahi. Dr Shahnawaz Editor cum Cultural Officer of JKAACL presented the vote of thanks.

## DC conducts surprise Inspection of Bandipora Market

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shaheel ul Rehman Rather today conducted a surprise inspection of Bandipora market and took stock of public amenities and ongoing construction projects.

The inspection was aimed to assess compliance with regulations and ensure the provision of quality goods and services to the public.

During the inspection, the DC meticulously evaluated various aspects of the market, including hygiene practices, food safety measures, and adherence to licensing and other measures.

The DC also inspected private health establishments, private bank, and also took on spot inspection of under construction car parking.

During a surprise inspection of a private



health establishment, the DC inspected the dialysis unit, pharmacy and laboratory, and emphasized on the maintenance of infrastructure and the enforcement of fair trade practices besides directing

the concerned to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.

The DC also visited the HDFC branch Bandipora to assess the efficiency of banking services and ensure compliance with

regulatory standards.

During the inspection, the DC interacted with bank staff to discuss various aspects of banking operations.

Branch Head Ishaq Ahmad Wani apprised the DC regarding transactional processes, customer grievances redressal mechanisms, and measures to promote financial inclusion.

During the inspection of the under-construction car parking site, Rather stressed upon the concerned executing agency to complete the work within given timelines.

While interacting with local traders, the DC underscored the need for market vendors and operators to uphold regulations and maintain cleanliness and orderliness.

## GCET Jammu, IIT Kharagpur host 9th NCEETET technical event

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Alok Kumar, today inaugurated the 9th National Conference and Exhibition on Emerging and Innovative Trends in Engineering Technology (NCEETET), organized by GCET Jammu in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.

Senior Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Jeevan Kumar Jethani, Professor Raja Dutta from IIT Kharagpur, CGM Power Finance Corporation Limited, Rajiv Pharlia and, Special Secretary, Higher Education Department, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma were present on the occasion.

The event aimed to provide a common platform to academicians, technocrats, researchers, students and industry professionals to forge collaborative alliances, ensuring progress of science and technology as per the changing economy demands and wellbeing of the global society with a particular reference at the UT level.

Alok Kumar, while addressing the gathering, emphasized upon sustainable engineering by designing and creating things that meets the needs of the common man without harming the



environment or depleting the natural resources. He also motivated the budding engineers to become the sustainable engineers to focus upon building smart cities, devise a plan to minimize waste by using renewable sources, reducing pollution and creating long-lasting efficiency system that can be enjoyed by future generations. He congratulated the organizers for holding an event to generate new ideas and push the boundaries of innovations for positive change in the society.

Earlier, Dr. Sameru Sharma, Principal GCET, highlighted that the purpose of organizing such events is to provide exposure to the engineering students of J&K on latest trends in engineering and technology. These events will provide them an opportunity to interact, deliberate and exchange their innovative ideas with academicians, researchers, students and industry professionals, she added. She emphasized on global

warming, climate change and emerging technologies in the areas related to green hydrogen emission and electrical vehicle and other developments in the renewable sectors.

She added that, the conference channelizes to inspire young budding engineers to reorient their mindset and build ecosystem to encourage high quality research innovation and entrepreneurship particularly in UT of J&K. It provides an ideal opportunity to the students, industry, start-ups to display their working models and projects besides business plans, state-of-the-art technologies and achievements.

Professor Raj Datta, IIT Kharagpur, while addressing the audience, said that the small ideas can pave way for innovation that can prove beneficial for the society at large. He also emphasized that productive key incentive from this conference can supplement innovative ideas to transform health care sector and urban logistics.

The keynote address were delivered by Jeevan Kumar Jethani, who stressed upon reduction of greenhouse gases and procurement of trajectory of renewable resources which help to clean the environment and reduce the cost efficiency.

Rajiv Pharlia emphasized upon the SCADA and RT-DAS projects for enhancement of power reliability in distribution sectors.

The E- proceedings related to paper publications were released by the chief guest in presence of other dignitaries, technocrats, academicians, industry professionals and students present during the function.

The two day conference comprises of Invited talks, plenary talks by eminent speakers and resource persons followed by five technical parallel sessions for contributed paper presentations.

Besides, an exhibition was part of the event, where the emerging technologies/products have been showcased by various Central Public Sector Undertakings of India such as NHPC, PFC, CVPPP, IOC for the knowledge of delegates and engineering students. Also BEE, BIS, J&K Bank, BSNL, NIELIT, Winnovation, Chakr Shield, JKSPDC participated and displayed their exhibits in the event.

## Ombudsman, Jammu conducts townhall meeting under "One Nation-One Ombudsman Scheme" at Udhampur

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 22

With a view to create awareness about consumer protection and grievance redressal mechanism available under Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, a Townhall Meeting was organized by the Office of the Banking Ombudsman, RBI, Jammu here today.

The programme was chaired by Ramesh Chand, RBI Ombudsman (RBIO), for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Zonal Heads of State Bank of India and J&K Bank were also present during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by more than 200 participants including branch heads of Udhampur District, members of various Self-Help Groups, and customers of regulated entities of RBI.

In his keynote address, Ramesh Chand, RBI Ombudsman highlighted the customer centric features of the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RBIO-2021) which aims to improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against regulated entities such as banks, NBFCs and payment service operators,



etc.

He explained about various initiatives being undertaken by the Reserve Bank to protect and safeguard the customers' right and the manner of functioning of Office of RBI Ombudsman, objective of customers' grievances redressal in cost free, expeditious and fair manner. He cautioned the participants about the use of different innovative methods of digital frauds by the fraudsters and appealed to the participants to stay away from the lure of such tricks/offers.

RBIO also made the participants aware about the precautions to be taken while carrying out banking transactions through net-banking/ debit/credit card. He briefed the participants about RBI's Complaint Management Portal and the easy ways of lodging complaints under RBIO-2021. He advised them to visit RBI website <https://cms.rbi.org.in> for further details on filing of com-

plaint etc.

The Ombudsman also encouraged the participants to come forward and raise their queries for on-the-spot disposal.

Zonal Heads from State Bank of India and J&K Bank explained the internal grievance redress mechanism followed in their respective banks for the knowledge and convenience of the participants. They also thanked RBI Ombudsman Office for conducting the townhall meeting in Udhampur and urged the participants to take full benefit of the platform to resolve their queries.

Later, an interactive session was held, where the participants raised their queries and complaints related to banking services, which were addressed/clarified on the spot. The meeting was concluded with a quiz round for all the participants and winners of the quiz were felicitated with attractive prizes.

## Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara visits various areas of Lolab, inspects snow clearance, essential services

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 22

Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today visited various areas of Lolab sub-division to take stock of post snowfall situation.

The Vice Chairman inspected ongoing snow clearance going on at various link roads of Wavoora block. He urged the concerned officer of R&B to ensure clearance of all link roads by today evening so that the movement of people does not get affected especially in emergencies.

He also took stock of electricity and asked the KPDCL officials to restore the power supply in the areas where it is affected. During his visit to different areas, VC inspected various houses which had got damaged during the recent snowfall and asked the concerned officers to provide necessary relief to the residents as per norms.

The VC also paid a visit to NTPHC Wavoora and inspected its functioning.



## Every needy, neglected person is benefitted by Modi govt: Ravinder Raina



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Reiterating the commitment of Modi government to benefit each and every needy person across the lines of region and religion, Ravinder Raina said that for the first time in history, every needy person in the society has been benefitted by the public welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government.

To further strengthen its approach to the needy and the neglected, the BJP will undertake "Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan" in Jammu & Kashmir, in which the party workers will approach the existing beneficiaries of Modi government schemes to know the exact application, pursuit, and implementation of the schemes till the direct benefit is delivered to the actual beneficiary.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir

conducted a marathon review meeting of Parliamentary constituency Prabhari, District Prabhari, District Presidents, Mandal Presidents, and other senior leaders at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, Ashish Sood, Seh-Prabhari J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) and Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President BJP & Incharge "Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan" chiefly addressed the meeting, while being accompanied by party general secretaries Sunil Sharma, Adv. Vibodh Gupta & Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Abhiyan Co-Incharges Amar Singh and Reema Padha on the stage. Ravinder Raina said that BJP workers have worked tirelessly in all these years to extend the benefits of the Modi government's welfare schemes

to the deserving population in letter and spirit. He further asked the senior leaders, especially those who are assigned with the "Labharthi Sampark Abhiyan" responsibilities, to leave no stone unturned to identify every individual who is in need of public welfare schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government. He further prompted them to gear up their activities in view of the approaching Parliamentary elections.

Ashish Sood sought the details of works being undertaken by the party leaders to achieve success in the Abhiyan. He asked them to do the mapping of the areas in the vicinity to reach out to the needy persons to ensure that no needy is left behind. He said that the benefit delivered to the beneficiaries is the report card of the Modi government through all these years.

## Kavinder inaugurates Bikaner Sweet Shop in Channi



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Senior BJP leader and former DyCM Kavinder Singh on Thursday said that opening of big business outlets and showrooms of popular brands in J&K is just a beginning as much more is in offing under the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi.

The BJP stalwart leader said this after inaugurating Bikaner Sweet Shop in Channi area. The former DyCM was accompanied by several senior party colleagues Devinder Rana, BJP Gen Secy Vibodh Gupta, former Dy Mayor Adv Purnima Sharma, former MLC Vikram Randhawa, former Corporator Neena Gupta and former Corporator Rajkumar Gupta besides

party leaders Sawai Singh, Rahul Singh, Deependra Singh, Karan Singh, Naib Tehsildar Satish Sharma, Varinder Gupta, Dr Varun Padha, Tushar Mahajan, Nitish Mahajan and Ankit Gupta.

Kavinder said that development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir is the top priority of PM Modi led government which is evident now with the visit of lakhs of tourists and the beginning of investment worth hundreds of crores of rupees in different sectors ensuring the welfare of the people. He said that days are not far when under PM Modi's rule J&K will acquire top slots in the country for being the most preferred tourist and business region, where investors would love to spend their money and time.

## CUJ Book Club launches Inaugural Session with Bureaucrats Turned Authors



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Under the progressive leadership of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the Central University of Jammu has been organising student centric activities through various clubs.

Pageturners, CUJ Book Club today celebrated its inaugural session with esteemed authors Mr. Shailendra Singh, SSP Railways Jammu and Mr. Pramod Jain, IAS (Retd.).

The event was also attended by Dean Students' Welfare, Prof.

Ritu Bakshi, Dean School of Languages, Prof. Vandana Sharma, Associate Dean Students' Welfare, Dr. Vinay Kumar, Ms. Shafla Parihar, Deputy Registrar, Aast. Librarian, Mr. Romesh Chander and Convener, Book Club, Dr. Neena Gupta Vij.

Mr Pramod Jain, IAS (Retd.), presented "Lock-down and Other Poems", a collection of poems he has written. Mr Shailendra Singh, SSP Railways Jammu and Mr. Pramod Jain, IAS (Retd.).

The event was also attended by Dean Students' Welfare, Prof.

during challenging times, through readings from his novel. Imraan Reyaz, a student of 2nd semester, M.A. English at CUJ also read selections from his book of poetry, Quilt of emotions.

The event, attended by avid readers, members of the book club and local dignitaries, featured engaging discussions and book readings. Pageturners Book Club aims to be a literary hub, encouraging a vibrant community of readers through regular sessions, book launches, and author interactions.

## Langeh for devoting more time to conduct 'Basti Sampark Abhiyan'

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Anusuchit Jaati Morcha President & former MLA, Neelam Langeh, stressed upon the morcha activists to devote more time for the successful conduct of the 'Basti Sampark Abhiyan' to be undertaken from February 24 to March 10 next month. He was addressing a meeting of the morcha office bearers at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, which was convened to discuss the forthcoming



'Basti Sampark Abhiyan' programme.

Neelam Langeh, while sharing the details of this programme, said that the Anusuchit Jaati Morcha will be launching 'Basti Sampark Abhiyan' on February 24 this month,

on the occasion of the Prakash Utsav of great saint Guru Ravi Dass ji and culminate on March 10, under which the morcha leaders at different levels, will visit such localities/bastis, which have the population of scheduled

castes. He said that during their visit to these localities, they will have direct interaction with the members of the SC community, listen to their grievances, if any, and also discuss various welfare schemes of the Narendra Modi gov-

ernment with them.

Neelam Langeh further said that the motive of 'Basti Sampark Abhiyan' is to reach at the doorsteps of the people of SC community in different areas of the Jammu and Kashmir UT and present before them the report card of the Modi government containing various schemes aimed at their socio-economic upliftment and also identify such families which have not availed the benefit of any scheme and help them in applying for the same.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### AC approves...

potential for growth. There is also a provision of one-time assistance as Seed Funding up to Rs.20 lakhs (4 equal instalments) to be provided to start-ups recognized by JKEDI which is nodal agency for start-ups. For seed funding there is capping of 25 start-ups per year which is a decision based upon available budget and desire to support a manageable number of start-ups effectively.

The Government is committed to establish 2000 start-ups in three years but by providing seed funding to a smaller number of carefully selected start-ups, the Government can prioritize quantity over quality for long term economic growth. This will also ensure that the resources are utilized efficiently. The budgetary support for implementation of Start-up Policy for a period of three years will be Rs. 39.60 Crores.

In order to nurture and inspire entrepreneurial talent of J&K by creating a vibrant and robust start-up ecosystem in the UT. The Government felt that there is a need to re-furbish the existing start-up policy issued in the year 2018 and bring new policy suited to meet model challenges in this sector in the UT of J&K.

The feedback received from various stakeholder consultations by Industries and Commerce Department, need was felt to strengthen the incubation and acceleration eco-system for start-ups which has been addressed in the current policy.

The implementation of this scheme in UT shall be monitored by a High Powered Committee headed by Chief Secretary and implemented by a Task Force Committee headed by Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce.

The policy provides for providing entrepreneurship facilities to students, women and support to the entrepreneurs through Government/Private/ High Net worth individuals for setting up of start-ups.

### Administrative Council...

517 kanals of State land shall be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.60 crore by IRCON. The Project would attract an investment of Rs.1825.45 Crore and has employment generation potential of around 11643 (approx.)

New Industrial Estate at Bhagthali, Kathua involving 2949 kanals of State Land shall be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 83.13 Crore by NBCC. The Project will attract investment of Rs.4599.89 crore and has employment potential of around 8278 (approx.)

New Industrial Estate at Karandi, Samba involving 460 kanals of State/Private land shall be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 34.45 Crores by NBCC. The Project will attract investment of Rs.756.89 crore and has employment potential of around 3965 (approx.).

The new Industrial Estate at Trenz, Shopian involv-

ing 500 kanals of State land shall be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 68.06 crores by NBCC. The Project will attract investment of Rs.850 crore has employment potential of around 900 (approx.)

New Industrial Estate at Hariparigam Tral Pulwama involving of 200 kanals of land shall be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 28.17 Crores by NBCC. The Project will attract investment of Rs.124.81 crore and has employment potential of around 2500 (approx.).

New Industrial Estate at Khunmoh, Pantha Chowk Srinagar involving 600 kanals of land shall be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 45.36 Crores by IRCON. The Project will attract investment of Rs.465 crore and has employment potential of around 355 (approx.)

### LG meets Other...

being framed and will be published soon, he added. The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration towards the empowerment of OBCs to realize the vision of Viksit Jammu Kashmir.

Today, the UT of Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a transformative change in the society. It is a new beginning for the deprived sections of the society, the Lt Governor said.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, accelerated development, better infrastructure and facilities have boosted the local economy, and established peace and harmony in Jammu Kashmir, he added.

Sh Mohammad Iqbal Ahangar, Chairman, Jammu Kashmir Other Backward Classes (OBCs) Welfare Association, expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha for socio-economic and socio-political upliftment of the OBC community. He said, the last four years in the history of J&K have been truly "4 Saal Bemisaal".

Sh Mohammad Shafi Shama, President, J&K OBC Welfare Association, thanked the Government of India and UT Administration for empowering the OBC community in J&K.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has mitigated our decades-old suffering and provided justice to the community, Advocate Shabir Ahmed said.

More than 150 representatives of the OBCs from different walks of life were present during the interaction.

### Foreign skier killed...

The rescued individuals are currently under the care of the district administration, receiving basic medical treatment. One skier sustained minor injuries but is in stable condition and is receiving treatment at a local hospital. The response and coordinated efforts of the rescue team, ski patrol, and police played a vital role

in ensuring the safety and well-being of those affected by this unfortunate incident, they added.

Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhal Gull in a post on X, said that all Khelo India athletes are safe. "All Khelo India athletes are safe after the avalanche hits Khilnarmarg area of Gulmarg J&K. All fixtures are being run as per schedule," Gull wrote.

The sports council in a post also said that all necessary measures have been taken for safety. "The avalanche that hit the Khilnarmarg area of Gulmarg earlier this afternoon has not impacted athletes taking part in ski and snowboard events of Khelo India Winter Games 2024 at Kangdoori Phase 1. All necessary precautions have been taken for safety," J&K Sports Council wrote-(KNO)

### Lt Governor interacts...

but due to sincere efforts of the Hon'ble Lt Governor, we have been given our due representation, Sh Bashir Ahmad Khan from Anantnag said.

Prominent Pahari leaders from different walks of life, community elders and youth of the community were present during the interaction.

### Pension reforms...

of Pension under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the Department of Reforms with huge social implications. He asked the SCOVA body which consists of 15 non-official members, representing Pensioner Welfare Associations and Official Members to come out with suggestions and new ideas for the benefit of the department. The Minister informed that it was on his suggestion that a single pension form was introduced instead of the earlier practice of three forms.

Referring to Jeevan Praman (Digital Life Certificate) launched by the Prime Minister in November, 2014, Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that it provides an option to pensioner for submission of Digital Life Certificate online, anytime and from anywhere.

Dr Jitendra Singh also took pride in informing the SCOVA members that to enhance "Ease of Living" for Pensioners/Family Pensioners, DoPPW in collaboration with MeTy and UIDAI has developed a "Face-Authentication Technology" based system to submit Life Certificate from any Android smartphone which was launched in 2021, the first by any government department..

The Minister also underlined that DoPPW coordinated with Banks, India Posts and Payment Bank (IPPB) for providing the doorstep facility of DLC submission from home for incapacitated Pensioners/Family Pensioners. Similarly, BHAVISHYA platform, an integrated online pension sanction processing system made mandatory for all Central Government Departments w.e.f 01.01.2017.

Dr Jitendra Singh also presided over the Nation-wide Pension Adalat, which covered pensioner grievances of 12 Ministries/ Departments including Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Defence Finance, CBDT, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Ex-Servicemen's Welfare, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Culture. 105 Pensioner Grievances have been listed for discussion comprising of Superannuation cases, Family Pension Cases and Voluntary Retirement Cases. 60 percent of the cases were resolved on the spot.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, redressal of Pensioners Grievances is a high priority of Modi Government and for speedy resolution of Pensioners Grievances Pension Adalats are being organized by Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare in which multiple stakeholders are brought on one platform for on-the-spot redressal.

In 2023, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare had organized two Pension Adalats on 17th May, 2023 and 23rd October, 2023. During these Adalats, 603 cases were taken up, out of which 440 cases were resolved on the spot.

Pensioner Welfare Associations from Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka and Puducherry would be participating in the 33rd SCOVA deliberations. DOPT, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Telecom, Department of Expenditure, CPAO, Department of Financial Services, CGDA and State Bank of India will also be participating in the deliberations.

### CBI raids 30 locations...

taken in 47th board meeting of CVPPPL for re-tender through e-tendering with reverse auction, after cancellation of ongoing tendering process, same was not implemented and the decision of 47th board meeting, was reversed in the 48th board meeting," it reads.

It added that during searches evidence of huge cash deposits, investment in fixed deposits, investment in properties in various cities, digital & documentary evidence were recovered, while investigation is on-(KNO)

### UP labourer...

The deceased has been identified as Desh Pal, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, who was working as a laborer in CPPL Company, officials said.

The official further said that the highway has been closed for traffic movement due to landslides at multiple locations along the route in Ramban sector. The restoration process of the highway is currently underway, officials said-(KNO)



## DC Bandipora reviews progress of Mission Youth schemes

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Sha-keel ul Rehman Rather on Thursday convened a meeting at VC Room Mini-Secretariat, here to review the progress of Mission Youth schemes, Sanklap and Skilling Courses of B2V4.



completely.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on various schemes of Mission Youth, including Tejaswini, Mumkin, SEI, Avsar, besides the functioning of Youth Clubs.

The meeting was apprised that under Mumkin scheme of Mission Youth, 66 applications were received during 2023-24, and out of which 43 were approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

It was informed that the subsidy amount of Rs. 30 lac was released under the Mumkin scheme, and the same has been utilized

Reviewing the Tejaswini scheme, the DC was informed that under the Tejaswini scheme of Mission Youth, 25 applications were received out of which 10 were approved by DLIC and 08 were sanctioned by the Bank and the funds to the tune of Rs. 11.5 lac stand utilized.

The meeting was informed that under the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI), 98 applications were received, out of which 76 have been approved by DLIC.

The meeting also discussed various matters

of AVSAR, including Skill Development Target, Career Guidance, Soft Skills, Job Melas, Industry Academia Connect, and Study Center of Professional Exams and other parameters of the scheme.

Emphasizing the importance of youth engagement, the DC directed the concerned departments and agencies to expedite the process of pending cases so that maximum youth get benefits of the self-employment opportunities.

The DC stressed collaborative efforts for engagement of youth under different schemes.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Mumtaz Ahmad Pir; Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Maqbool; Director RSETI, Superintendent ITI, Employment Officer, Career Counseling Officer, representative of Lead Bank, and other concerned officials.

## GDC Ramgarh organizes Traditional Food Exhibition

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 22

The National Service Scheme unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College Ramgarh organised a traditional food exhibition in the college premises today.

The exhibition was organised on day four of the ongoing '7 Days NSS Winter Camp'. The exhibition has been conducted under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, the Principal of the College.

Speaking on the occasion regarding the exhibition, the Principal said that the exhibition is an initiative to mark awareness and the importance of heritage food items of Dogra culture.

The exhibition was focused on local heritage food which involved sharing good practices and practical demonstrations



by NSS Volunteers.

The chief guest of the event was Surinder Sharma, Head Master of GHS Swankha, adopted school of GDC Ramgarh and the other local guests present were Ajay Kumar and Ashwani Dubey.

A large number of NSS Volunteers displayed the

traditional dishes prepared by them. Prof. Brahm Dutt Sharma, the NSS Programme Officer, motivated the NSS volunteers to participate in such activities with zeal and enthusiasm. He said that these activities provided a great opportunity for students to showcase their cooking skills.

## DC Doda chairs 20th NCORD meeting

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 22

In a proactive move to tackle the rising issue of drug abuse, the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) convened its 20th meeting under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh.

Among other officers, SSP Doda, ADC Bhandarwah, SDMs, and Tehsildars also attended the meeting virtually, further enriching the discussion with their valuable insights.

Under the direction of DC Doda, officers deliberated on implementing strategies aimed at curbing drug peddling and disrupting the supply chain. Emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy, stringent measures against individuals involved in drug-related activities were reiterated, reflecting the district's unwavering commitment to eradicating this menace.

One of the key directives issued by DC Doda was the maintenance of



updated records at medical shops to monitor and regulate drug transactions effectively. Furthermore, recognizing the pivotal role of education in raising awareness, the education department was tasked with organizing drug awareness events in every school.

Additionally, the provision of drug testing kits in schools, colleges, and sensitive areas was mandated to facilitate early detection and intervention.

In line with the committee's resolve to combat drug abuse comprehensively, DC Doda emphasized the need for seamless coordination among all stakeholders and departments. This collaborative approach aims to strengthen enforcement measures and enhance community engagement in the fight against drug abuse.

As the district intensifies its efforts to address this pressing issue, the directives laid out by DC Doda underscore a unified commitment towards creating a drug-free environment and safeguarding the well-being of its residents.

## Successful Rescue Operation in Gulmarg after Avalanche Strikes Army Ridge

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GULMARG, FEBRUARY 22

A collaborative effort between the Gulmarg Ski Patrol of Tourism Department, J&K and J&K Police resulted in the successful rescue of a group comprising six Russian skiers and one local guide following an avalanche at the higher reaches of Gulmarg, known as Army Ridge.

Despite the valiant efforts of the rescue team,

one Russian skier tragically lost his life due to the avalanche. Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the deceased during this difficult time.

It is important to note that the avalanche site is located far from the Kongdoori area, where the 4th Khelo India Winter Games are currently underway. The ongoing sporting events remain unaffected by the incident.

The rescued individuals

are currently under the care of the district administration, receiving basic medical treatment. One skier sustained minor injuries but is in stable condition and is receiving treatment at a local hospital.

The response and coordinated efforts of the rescue team, ski patrol, and police played a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of those affected by this unfortunate incident.

## HP&M Shopian organises mega Awareness programme

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 22

The Department of Horticulture, Planning and Marketing (HP&M) Shopian today organised a mega awareness programme at Arhama, here regarding various schemes being implemented by the department in the district.

The main focus was to familiarize the participants about different schemes like HADP, PMFME, and registration on e-Nam Portal.

Huge gathering of growers and other individuals participated in the pro-



gramme.

Among others, representatives of agri-allied departments, Area Marketing Officer, Shopian, along with his field staff attended the programme.

Area Marketing Officer, Shopian, presented a detailed overview of various schemes and their process of implementation before the partici-

pants. Representatives of the Horticulture Department also enlightened the participants about the schemes available with their department.

Registration of participants on DAKSH Kisan portal was also conducted during the day-long programme.

## DC Doda convenes meeting on District Road Safety Committee

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, who is also chairman of District Road Safety Committee, accompanied by SSP Doda Javaid Iqbal today convened a meeting on District Road Safety Committee in DC Office Doda.

During the meeting, the DC Doda emphasized the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to improve road safety measures in Doda. Various aspects such as road infrastructure, traffic management, public awareness campaigns related to road safety, and enforcement of traffic rules were discussed in detail.

DC Doda also focused on the training of volunteers for accident measures and identify the "Aapda Mitras" provided them with emergency accident kits. The officers present at the meeting shared their inputs and suggestions on how to effectively implement road safety measures in

the district.

The DC Doda directed the concerned departments to work together to formulate a detailed action plan for enhancing road safety in Doda and said the officers to prepare a big map of entire district which cover the road circle, health Institutes, PHCs, and Police station of district that helps in finding the location of accident spots.

Regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were also put in place to track the progress of the initiatives and address any challenges that may arise.

DC Doda also directed the health department to provide ambulance with critical care, desired equipment and a doctor for accident victims during mishap and availability of doctors in near PHCs of district. During the meeting, ADC Doda, ACR Doda, SE PWD circle Doda, DFO Doda, ARTO Doda, CMO Doda, GM NHIDCL, CEO Doda, Traffic, SDRF, IRAD besides other officers and officials of District Road Safety committee were present.

## Mining department seizes 6 trucks for gypsum theft



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 22

A total of 06 trucks loaded with gypsum were seized by Geology and Mining department for illegal transportation of mineral at Lakhampur toll post here today.

During routine checking at Lakhampur, District Mineral Officer (DMO) Rajinder Singh along with mineral guards detained six trucks due to non-production of legal documents as required under rules which were later on seized after giving opportunity to drivers for producing documents and other proof of evidence in their defence.

It was informed that all seized trucks after legal formalities were handed over to police

post Lakhampur and shall remain in its custody till realization of penalty and other penal action in Joint Director Office Jammu.

DMO further informed that the trucks were loaded with gypsum in Samba areas and were on their way towards Punjab but they were not carrying any valid documents with them which are required to transport mineral from one location to other.

After seizing the trucks Deputy Commissioner Kathua and Director Geology and Mining, J&K were immediately apprised about illegal transportation of gypsum from the mining leases and also from the premises of unauthorized dealers who supply such mineral in violation of rules.

## Varunjeet Singh Charak assumes office of ADC Ramban



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 22

Varunjeet Singh Charak (JKAS) today assumed the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ramban.

Outgoing ADC, Harbans Lal Sharma along with other senior officers of district administration

welcomed the incumbent ADC. After assuming the charge ADC also held brief introductory meeting with officers and officials.

ADC impressed upon them to adopt a coordinated approach to achieve goals set for development of the district, besides mitigating public issues on priority.

## Khelo India Winter Games

## Nisith Pramanik flags off women's mountain ski event

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GULMARG, FEBRUARY 22

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Youth Affairs & Sports, Nisith Pramanik today flagged off women's mountain ski event at Kongdoori Phase 1 here during the ongoing 4th edition of Khelo India Winter Games.



After flagging off the event, the Union Minister appreciated the enthusiasm and talent of participating female skiers and encouraged them to pursue their passion for winter sports.

The Minister also interacted with the players and officials on the occasion. He expressed satisfaction over the successful organisation of this national event and praised the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as well as the J&K Sports Council.

Nisith Pramanik remarked that the Khelo India Winter Games is a major event that showcases the potential of Gulmarg as the capital of winter sports in the coun-

try. He said that next edition of event would be even bigger with all the international standards. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Anurag Thakur and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for their support and guidance in developing sports infrastructure in J&K and promoting winter sports among the youth.

Minister further said that the Khelo India Winter Games is not only a sports event, but a snow festival that celebrates beauty and culture of Gulmarg and J&K. He added that the event has boosted tourism and economy of the region

and attracted visitors from across the country and abroad.

He remarked that J&K has transitioned into a new era of prosperity and peace under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

The Minister expressed hope that Khelo India Winter Games would inspire more youngsters to take up winter sports and excel in them. He said that the government is committed to provide all the necessary facilities and support to the budding sportspersons and make India a global leader in winter sports.

## DC Kishtwar chairs Task Force Meeting on Pulse Polio Immunization 2024

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 22

In a proactive move to bolster efforts against polio, the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav spearheaded a crucial Task Force Meeting on Pulse Polio Immunization 2024.

The meeting convened stakeholders from various sectors to strategize and chart a course for a successful polio vaccination campaign in the district.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS CEO/KDA Dr Rishi Kumar Sharma, Dy CMO Kishtwar Dr Balbir Singh, DIO (Immunization) Kishtwar, BMO Chatroo, BMO Drabshalla, BMO, Sanatan Dharma Sabha Members,

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, emphasizing the importance of collective action,

DC Kishtwar underscored the district's commitment to eradicating polio and safeguarding the health of its citizens.

The agenda encompassed a comprehensive review of past immunization endeavors, analysis of current challenges, and formulation of a robust action plan for the upcoming campaign. Participants engaged in constructive dialogue, exchanging insights and experiences to optimize strategies and address pertinent issues.

Key points of the meeting included the identification of high-risk areas, enhancement of community engagement efforts, and the allocation of resources for effective implementation. Strategies to combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation emerged as focal points, with an emphasis on tailored communication and outreach initia-

tives. Furthermore, the meeting underscored the importance of seamless coordination among governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community stakeholders.

DC Kishtwar emphasized upon microplanning and enlisting of all High-risk areas of the district for 100% coverage.

The chair was also informed for the support from anganwadi staff and helpers to be part of vaccination team in their areas.

DC Kishtwar specially stressed upon Creating awareness and publicity regarding Polio by various activities.

DC Kishtwar stressed upon rigorous planning, resource mobilization, and extensive outreach efforts to ensure the widest possible coverage and participation in the vaccination drive.



## EDITORIAL

## Muzaffar Hussain Beig makes a surprise move

The co-founder of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former deputy chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffar Hussain Beig made a surprise appearance at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally at MA stadium on February 19, thereby giving speculations a lot of political theories. Now, reports suggested that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have expressed its readiness to support Beig if he chooses to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate from the Baramulla Parliamentary constituency in north Kashmir. An announcement in this regard has also been made by the general secretary of the BJP Vibodh Gupta who stated, "While we cannot confirm Beig as a proxy candidate for the BJP in the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency at this time, there is speculation within political circles that he would contest the election as an independent candidate." Gupta emphasized that should Beig decide to contest independently, the BJP would extend its full support to ensure his victory. Beig's stature as a prominent political figure in Jammu and Kashmir is known to everyone. And there is every possibility that Beig has the potential to register a victory over the Baramulla seat in the upcoming parliamentary elections. There are rumors within political circles about Beig's intention to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate from the Baramulla Parliamentary constituency. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Beig secured victory in this constituency as a candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party. While Beig intends to enter the electoral fray as an independent candidate, the BJP aims to support his candidacy to secure maximum support from the Pahari-speaking community. With the recent grant of Scheduled Tribe status to the Pahari-speaking people, the BJP anticipates widespread support for Beig, who is regarded as a prominent leader among the Paharis. Given that the Baramulla Parliamentary constituency in north Kashmir is predominantly inhabited by a Pahari-speaking population, the BJP is optimistic about effectively competing against the National Conference and other regional groups. Beig has taken a U-turn after PM's rally, saying he was not associated with PDP. Claims to make decisions guided by his "inner consciousness," Beig asserted after attending Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally at Jammu that he is no longer affiliated with the PDP. On January 7, during the death anniversary of former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Beig stated that he never formally departed from the PDP. "I never officially left the PDP. Although I had been inactive for some time, my association with the party remains intact. My relationship with the PDP is akin to a single soul", he had announced. On February 12, Beig lauded the momentous decision of the Centre to confer Scheduled Tribe (ST) status upon the Pahari Ethnic Group. Recently, Beig, accompanied by his wife Safina Baig, Chairperson of District Development Council Baramulla, led a 120-member delegation of the Pahari community in a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on February 12. Beig, co-founder of the PDP, resigned from the party on November 14, 2020. Beig had criticized the incumbent party leadership for yielding to other constituents of the Peoples' Alliance of Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). The political scenario of Jammu and Kashmir is fast changing especially because of the Lok Sabha polls. There is every possibility that many more leaders will turn their loyalties to get political gains.

## Influence of AI and digital media on general elections

POOJA KAPOOR

Laws and moral standards governing the application of AI to political campaigns ought to be developed to reduce the possibility of abuse and guarantee openness. Nowadays, national, and international interests are entwined with technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and nanotechnology. As it progresses, it creates several dependencies, power conflicts, rivalries, risks, and opportunities, in addition to posing economic, political, and cultural issues. It has the power to completely change the electoral environment, offering both benefits and difficulties for Indian democracy.

### Challenges for Democracy

Algorithms driven by AI are used by all social media sites to improve the user experience. The use of these algorithms to determine political strategy is growing in importance. As a result, voters might discover themselves in isolat-

ed informational bubbles that limit their exposure to opposing ideas and could influence their voting decisions and preferences. Deepfakes, or videos that have been altered to look authentic, can be used to spread untrue stories and defame opponents. Social media bots can amplify messages and create fake trends, which might be used to influence people who aren't sure what to vote for. The complexity of AI-driven disinformation makes it harder and harder to separate fact from fiction, which poses a serious risk to making well-informed decisions during elections.

Because AI technologies are becoming more sophisticated, it is becoming more challenging to identify and link illicit activities to foreign actors (terrorist organisations or sleeper cells). This may make it more difficult to hold them responsible and stop meddling in the future. AI-powered bots were deployed by foreign Governments and the troll farms they were associ-

ated with to flood social media platforms with a network of fictitious identities and deceptive information intended to sway public opinion. These bots propagated negative stereotypes and conspiracies against other candidates, amplified some communications, and gave the impression that a particular candidate was receiving broad support. A few months ago, when the Indian Prime Minister's deepfake video went viral on social media, we got a sneak peek of this.

This poses a severe risk to democracy since it can be used to influence voters' decisions and actions. For example, the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica created comprehensive psychosomatic profiles of voters by using information that was accumulated from billions of Facebook accounts. Using this data, they were able to target these individuals with customised social media messages and advertisements, which might have an impact on how they

voted in the US presidential elections of 2016 and 2020 as well as the Philippine midterm elections.

### Looking at the Positive Side

On the positive side, social media and artificial intelligence can support and enhance democracy.

The capacity of AI to precisely micro-target voters is among its most important effects. This entails creating comprehensive profiles of each voter utilising a plethora of data, including demographics, social media activity, and internet conduct. AI-powered applications provide customised tactics that are more likely to sway voters than traditional mass campaigns. Sentiment analysis techniques, for instance, can detect emerging issues and measure public opinion, enabling campaigns to modify their messaging and concentrate on the issues that matter most to voters.

AI-driven chatbots can answer common questions and inform voters around the clock, freeing up

human resources for more important work. Data-driven models improve campaign efficacy and affordability by forecasting voter turnout and allocating resources optimally. AI and social media can be used to raise awareness, reach a larger audience, and resolve complaints.

The electoral commission can share pertinent information on social media. To answer the complaints, the Election Commission's website can deploy an AI-based chatbot. AI algorithms can separate the true news from the false one with the use of fact-checking tools.

In a nation the size of India, it is nearly hard to govern and regulate social media usage. Therefore, if we are unable to solve the issue, we ought to search for a solution. Considering how AI will probably affect our elections, we need to take urgent action on several fronts.

To prevent assaults on electoral infrastructure and voter data, strong cybersecurity measures are first and foremost

required. Second, to recognise and reject disinformation and propaganda, voters need to hone their media literacy and critical thinking abilities.

Third, to prevent foreign meddling in elections, we need to improve information exchange and international collaboration among democracies.

Fourth, the Government needs to sensitise its employees regarding the handling of data. They should undertake capacity enhancement programmes like data science and decision science.

Lastly, laws and moral standards governing the application of AI to political campaigns ought to be developed to reduce the possibility of abuse and guarantee openness. Besides, All election content should also be distinctly watermarked with authenticated political parties, candidates, or registered media.

(The writer is an Associate Professor at Bennett University, India; views are personal)

## Accountability for those harming our institutions

DEEPAK SINHA

In 1927, the French intellectual and philosopher, Julien Benda, published his classic 'La Trahison des Clercs', or "The Treason of the Clerks". He used the term "treason" to imply betrayal, and "clerks" to refer to writers or members of the intelligentsia; journalists, academics, commentators and other professionals. His book was an attack on how the intelligentsia of the period had betrayed the legacy of the 'Age of Enlightenment'; the fruits of the Revolution, by descending into extreme nationalism and racism, a phenomenon that seems to have raised its ugly head again, the world over. We have not been immune either, given the existing state of affairs within our society, though religion and caste may have replaced race to some extent.

In our case, it is not about any particular political party or group suborning our democratic institutions, in its efforts to push through its ideology, or about the unconscionable actions of some within institutions of supinely kowtowing before the powers that be for self-aggrandisement. That kind of behaviour is not unknown from the past, though probably was

not as overt or extensive as prevalent today. The problem with all of this is, as Ayn Rand so perceptively observed, "each individual has the power to suspend, evade, corrupt or subvert his perception of reality, but not the power to escape the existential and psychological disasters that follow." In essence, we may avoid facing reality, but its adverse consequences will always catch up with us.

Take the military for instance. As an institution given its exacting selection process, emphasis on discipline and accountability it is relatively devoid of many ills that plague our society in general. It has always been seen as a reputable and trustworthy institution within the country, and even internationally, a fairly unique phenomenon in the developing world, including in our neighbourhood. Primarily because of its apolitical nature of functioning and the professionalism it has always displayed, whatever the task. Moreover, its senior leadership is also greatly respected and given unquestioned loyalty by the rank and file, because of their competence and integrity and for having the interest and well-being of their troops in mind at all times. Moreover, loyalty, courage and



sacrifice are greatly valued, and long-standing customs and traditions are treated as sacrosanct, which greatly strengthens the foundations of the institution itself. Its members are fully aware of the onerous responsibility on their shoulders to maintain the reputation of the institution itself, which calls for utmost dedication, discipline and self-sacrifice. All of this adds to esprit-de-corps, comradery and morale, instilling in each of its members a strong sense of what is right and wrong. It is an environment that needs proper nurturing to flourish if it is not to be found wanting even in the most difficult of circumstances.

This is not to suggest that there are no deviations from the norm. Far from it, but these are relatively few and far between. Moreover, such egregious behaviour is not condoned and corrective steps are initiated at the earliest possible time to prevent recurrence. More importantly, those involved, invariably face social opprobrium within the community, both from serving and veteran colleagues.

Unfortunately, there has been a gradual deterioration in ethical standards, as increasing corruption and a blatant disregard for societal norms that have infected our society as a whole, especially the

political establishment, have impacted the military as well. In the earlier days, most aberrations at the highest levels were more like sins of omission than of commission. This changed from the time the late General Bipin Rawat was appointed Army Chief. Since then, questionable initiatives have been undertaken, that appeared more geared towards pleasing the political leadership and fulfilling their ideological aims than enhancing our capabilities or protecting institutional integrity. The best example of this was when General Rawat acquiesced to the stopping of funding for the Mountain Strike Corps midway through its implementation, because the present dispensation did not perceive its need as a priority. Indubitably, the contemporary adverse situation in Eastern Ladakh would never have occurred, if this short-sighted step had not been taken. Truly a case of being pennywise but pound foolish! Similarly, seniority and laid down service rules were arbitrarily ignored while appointing

the Chief of Defence Staff, following General Rawat's tragic demise. With the sanctity of such appointments compromised, we not only see greater interference by politicians in purely military matters but also a blatant disregard of all prevailing norms by senior officers in vain attempts to push personal agendas. The invitation to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister as the Chief Guest for a Regimental Reunion, with which he has no affiliation, and the ridiculous initiative underway to change uniforms and badges of rank of one service as they reek of colonial influence are examples of such perverseness. While such behaviour has come to be increasingly normalised, its adverse impact on the rank and file cannot be wished away. Sooner rather than later, we will all pay a very high price for our obvious unwillingness to condemn such reprehensible behaviour that is destroying the very foundations of one of our most cherished institutions.

(The author, a military veteran, is a visiting fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and a senior visiting fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai, views are personal)

## India to dominate the global solar industry

VAISHALI MEHTA

The solar manufacturing sector in India stands at a pivotal moment, presenting significant potential for growth and employment opportunities. Historically, India has been a laggard in the manufacturing landscape of the solar industry, relying heavily on imports and expertise from foreign markets. Consequently, this dependency has led to a scarcity of skilled manpower and a deficiency in indigenous technological capabilities.

From an HR perspective, the solar manufacturing sector offers a unique set of challenges and opportunities. The spill-over effect of manufacturing is particularly noteworthy, creating employment not only within the industry but also generating a ripple effect across related sectors. As the global demand for solar

products rises, the necessity for skilled workers in manufacturing, project planning, and execution becomes increasingly pronounced.

India's reliance on imports has impeded the development of a robust solar manufacturing ecosystem. However, there is a positive shift underway as both Central and State governments emphasise manufacturing. Initiatives like "Make in India" and incentives for the solar industry are expected to foster a conducive environment for skill development within the nation.

A primary challenge has been the limited pool of skilled workers and a lack of project planning and execution experience



in the solar manufacturing domain. To address this, cross-industry resources must be mobilised to fill existing gaps. With the improving demand situation and concerted efforts by the Indian government to boost manufacturing, the solar sector is poised to observe significant expansion. Also, once industrial

manufacturing picks up scale, it will take the R&D sector along, adding high-level technological inventions and innovations from Indian institutions.

As India aligns itself with global competitors in both scale and technology, the solar manufacturing sector is positioned to be a major contributor

to employment, economic growth, and sustainability. With the implementation of the right HR strategies and government support, India has the potential to emerge as a key player in the solar manufacturing landscape in the coming years.

In conclusion, India's solar manufacturing sector is undergoing a transformative phase, marked by a shift from dependency on imports to fostering indigenous capabilities. Despite historical challenges in skill shortages and limited technological expertise, concerted efforts from both government and industry stakeholders are driving significant progress. Initiatives like "Make in India" and

incentivization schemes are propelling the growth of a robust manufacturing ecosystem. However, challenges persist, particularly in addressing the shortage of skilled workers and enhancing project planning and execution capabilities. Collaboration across industries and continued government support will be crucial in overcoming these hurdles. As India aligns itself with global standards in scale and technology, the solar manufacturing sector is poised to become a cornerstone of employment, economic growth, and sustainability. With the implementation of effective HR strategies and sustained Government backing, India is well-positioned to emerge as a key player in the global solar manufacturing landscape in the years ahead.

(The writer is an energy expert; views are personal)



## DC Ganderbal reviews District Disaster Management Plan, Preparedness Measures

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyam-bir who is also Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) today presided over a crucial meeting in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here to meticulously review the District Disaster Management Plan, and assess the preparedness for Disaster Mitigation, Response and Recovery to effectively handle any exigency.

During the comprehensive review, the DC examined the District Disaster Management Plan and its associated measures for Disaster Mitigation, Response, and Recovery particularly in the Sonamarg and other hilly areas of the district.

Special attention was directed towards the identification of hazards, historical data on disasters, constitution of an Incident Responsive Team for Sonamarg, and the formulation of operational guidelines.



Emphasizing the importance of proactive planning, the DC issued necessary instructions to the Revenue department and the Rural Development Department for the identification of vulnerable areas susceptible to disasters. This initiative aims to facilitate strategic planning to address exigencies effectively.

The Chairman DDMA underscored the need to address critical dimensions of natural disasters by revamping the District Disaster Management Plan. He called for the incorporation of essential mitigation measures and safety precautions to enhance the plan's real-time efficacy.

Additionally, the Chairman stressed the importance of formulating pre-disaster and post-dis-

aster measures to ensure timely Disaster Mitigation, Response, and Recovery, safeguarding both people and property.

A department-wise appraisal of preparedness and the availability of resources, including manpower and machinery were conducted during the meeting. The Chairman DDMA emphasized the necessity of conducting mock drills and providing necessary training to both staff and members of youth clubs from adjacent localities.

The meeting witnessed the presence of key officials, including Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; ASP Ganderbal, ADC, CEO SDA, ACR, SDM, ACD, and other officers from concerned departments.

## Jammu gears up for Mahashivratri celebrations

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

In anticipation of the Mahashivratri festival scheduled for March 8 this year, Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh, presided over a comprehensive meeting to assess the preparations for the upcoming celebrations.

Attended by various sectoral officers and representatives from religious bodies, including the J&K Dharmarth Trust and prominent temples, the meeting covered crucial aspects of the festival's arrangements.

Discussions focused on the festive procession, Shobha Yatra, slated to traverse the city's heart a day before the festival. Coordination with police and Jammu Municipal Corporation officials was emphasised to ensure a smooth and secure event. The festivities in major temples like Ranbireswar Temple, Peer Kho Temple



and Har Ki Pouri were also deliberated upon.

To address basic amenities, the meeting detailed the provision of drinking water supply and tanker facilities, overseen by the Jal Shakti and JMC. The Power Development Department committed to guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply and street lighting at prominent venues, while cleanliness in the city was entrusted to the JMC.

In terms of health services, plans were outlined for medical facilities by the Chief Medical Officer, ensuring the well-being of attendees. Transport,

traffic management, road improvements and fire safety were among the key areas discussed. The Tourism Department is set to organise cultural programs, adding a vibrant touch to the festivities.

To enhance coordination and response, a joint control room will be established for close supervision and efficient conduct of the Mahashivratri celebrations.

The meeting saw the presence of SDM Jammu North Nitish Rajora, SDM Jammu South Atul Dutt Sharma, Assistant Commissioner General Manisha and other sectoral officers.

## Mission Vatsalya Kulgam hosts Sensitization/Orientation & Training programme

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 22

Mission Vatsalya Kulgam on Thursday organized a one-day 'Sensitization cum Orientation and Training Programme' on the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, and Child Rights at the Mini Secretariat, here.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan presided over the training program as chief guest.

Addressing the participants, the DC threw light on crucial aspects of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Act 2015, including the legal framework for juvenile justice, child protection

measures, rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders, and other relevant topics.

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

Various stakeholders, including Police, Municipal Committees, advocates and local NGO project coordinator also attended the programme.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri and Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board also attended the event.

Facilitators conducted sessions on Child Rights

Mechanism, an overview of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and POCSO Act 2012, overview of adoption regulations 2022, and the role of SSA, overview of Mission Vatsalya, among other topics.

Snoobar Altaf, DCPO, said that under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), the department focuses on providing preventive, statutory, care and rehabilitation services to vulnerable children, including those from potentially vulnerable families, families at risk, orphans, child drug abusers, child beggars, trafficked or sexually exploited children, besides others as per the law.

## OSC organizes Awareness Camp in block Lar of Ganderbal



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 22

On the directions of District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, One Stop Centre (OSC) Ganderbal, implemented by the She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE), Ganderbal Thursday organized an awareness camp in block Lar. The event garnered significant participation and enthusiasm from Anganwadi workers, helpers, and beneficiaries towards the initiatives of the Sakhi club. The participants showed their presence at the camp and their positive response towards the SAKHI Club initiative. Approximately 35 indi-

viduals actively engaged in the camp, demonstrating a keen interest in the cause.

Centre Administrator OSC Ganderbal, took the opportunity to inform the participants about the various services offered at the OSC for distressed women. She also highlighted the essential roles and responsibilities of Sakhi club members, emphasizing the crucial support they provide to women in need.

Overall, the event proved to be an informative and engaging platform, promoting awareness about the OSC's services and the vital role played by the Sakhi club in the community.

## District-level standing committee meeting held at Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, FEB 22

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, chaired a District-level Standing Committee meeting to discuss and finalize draft objections related to cases of state/departmental land encroachment.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Additional Superintendent of Police Baljit Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, along with Tehsildars and officers from various departments were present in the meeting.

Discussions centered on 13 cases covering various aspects, with a focus on addressing legal challenges affecting different departments. Tehsildars were directed to prepare draft objections, ensuring they are vetted by the District Legal Officer for subsequent filing in court to expedite case resolution.

Additionally, Tehsildars were tasked with issuing notices and conducting eviction drives against illegal occupants.

DC emphasized personal follow-ups by officers, prompt filing of necessary replies, and ensuring timely disposal of legal matters. The meeting underscored the importance of streamlining processes to accelerate resolution and promote overall district progress.

## DLMTs imparted training on Election Procedure at Shopian



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 22

The office of the Panchayat Officer, Shopian, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner, Shopian Thursday organized a comprehensive training session for District Level Master Trainers (DLMTs) in the meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

The session aimed to provide in-depth training on the entire election process, from initiation to conclusion, in preparation for the upcoming elections.

District Level Master Trainers participated in the meeting. The pri-

mary focus was to equip the master trainers with detailed knowledge on essential election procedures.

Additionally, crucial aspects such as the handling of EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and VVPATs (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) were thoroughly discussed.

The training emphasized the significance of the effective process of EVM and VVPAT. The participatory approach of the session ensured that District Level Master Trainers are well-equipped to contribute to the smooth conduct of elections in Shopian district.

## Department of Dogri, Jammu University marks International Mother Tongue Day

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

The Department of Dogri at Jammu University proudly organized a grand event to commemorate International Mother Tongue Day. The occasion was graced by esteemed literary figures who have been recipients of prestigious honors such as the Padmashri, Sahitya Akademi, and State Awards for their remarkable contributions to Dogri literature. Among the distinguished personalities honored were Padmashri Mohan Singh, Padmashri Ramalo Ram, Shri Inderjit Kesar, Shri Vijay Verma, Shri Balwan Singh Jamodia, Shri Pawan Verma, and Shri Dhiraj Bismil.

The event, held at the Seminar Hall of the Department of Dogri, Jammu University, witnessed a large gathering of enthusiasts, includ-

ing prominent journalists and media partners like Shubham Kotwal, Sakshi Sawhney, and Gurmeet Dutta, Chairman of ADAPMA. The esteemed panel of co-conveners, comprising of Prof. Sushma Sharma, Dr. Padma Dev Singh, Dr. Sandeep Dubey, Dr. Radha Devi Sharma, and Dr. Shashi Bharti, worked in tandem under the adept leadership of Department Chairperson Prof. Sucheta Pathania to orchestrate this engaging convocation.

The event was a delightful blend of honoring literary luminaries, exchanging ideas, and celebrating the vibrant heritage of the Dogri language. The Department of Dogri, Jammu University, remains dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich cultural tapestry of the region through such thoughtful initiatives.

## 790 grams of opium recovered by Police station Bahu Fort Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic substance abuse, Jammu Police achieved major success by recovering 790 grams of opium from one accused peddler in the area under the jurisdiction of PS Bahu Fort.

A police team of PS Bahu Fort led by SHO PS Bahu Fort while on naka duty at old bridge, Bhambarwan area under the jurisdiction of PS Bahu Fort rounded up a suspected person later identified as Sanjay Radha S/O Madan Lal R/O Pallan Wala Jammu. On search, 790 grams of opium was recovered from his possession.

In this regard a Case FIR No. 47/2023 u/s 8/17 NDPS Act got registered in PS Bahu Fort and the accused got arrested.

Further investigation of the case is going on. Jammu police is working intensively to uproot the chains of drug supply in the region and thorough questioning of the accused is going on to know the origin of the drugs supply chain. Jammu Police is striving hard and taking every possible step to make people especially youth aware to eradicate drug menace. We request people of the area to come forward and share information about drug peddling or consumption on contract numbers 9086100100 or 100 with Police for the cause. Your identity will be kept confidential.

## GDC Kathua felicitates NSS Volunteer Keshav Sambyal



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Today Principal GDC, Kathua Prof Seema Mir felicitated NSS Volunteer Mr Keshav Sambyal who participated in National Youth Convention at 27th National Youth Festival 2024 held at Nasik Maharashtra w.e.f 12th-16 January 2024.

In an effort to spread the message of Unity in Diversity among the youth of the country, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India took the mega initiative of hosting the National Youth Convention at National Youth Festival 2024.

The volunteers from different States and Union Territories of India par-

ticipated in the National youth Festival. Mr Keshav Sambyal represented Gdc Kathua in the 27th National Youth Festival 2024. During this convention, he got a chance to visit historical places in Nashik Maharashtra. The participating volunteer today met with Principal GDC, Kathua and shared his experience. Principal Prof. Seema Mir congratulated him for being a part of this National Youth Convention and representing this prestigious institute at National level. She also appreciated the efforts of NSS program officers Prof Dr Kulbir Singh, Dr Pinkey and Prof. Arvind Kumar for preparing volunteers for selection in these camps.

## ZEO Marh organises training cum awareness program

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

A training cum awareness programme of School Management committees (SMC's), School Management and Development Committees (SMDC's), Village Education Committee (VEC) and PRI members today organized under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha by the Zonal Education Office, Marh here at Govt High School Gho Manhasna, Zone Marh.

Community members were acquainted with the roles and responsibilities of SMC/SMDC's/VEC's and PRI Members in the development of Govt. Schools.

They were requested to come forward and revive the Education system for the future of children of their locality. They were also made aware about Govt. schemes like MDM programme. Free text

books, free uniform for classes 1st to 8th, scholarship schemes for SC/ST/OBC/ disable students and national Means cum Merit scholarship (NMMS) for 8th class only. Community members were also urged to promote the enrollment by encouraging the general public to send their children to Govt. Schools to get quality education by highly qualified teachers and to avail a string of facilities. Speakers from different school committees gave their valuable suggestion for the welfare of students and upliftment the education system.

The vote of thanks was presented by Zonal Education Officer, Marh Kasturi Lal Kaith and others who spoke on the occasion included Renuka Nagpal Principal HSS Gho Manhasna (Cluster Head) and SMC members of different schools MS/PS.

## Gole Section Talab Tillo President announces dissociation from PHE United Front

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Daily Wager Gole Section Talab Tillo President announces dissociation from PHE United Front. In a press conference, Vikram Sharma, President of the Daily Wage Workers Gole Section Talab Tillo, revealed that their organization has parted ways with the United Front.

He said 'I would like to convey my message to all my daily wages friends. We had made a united front together. In that united

front, there is a struggle for leadership. Some say, I will become the leader. Others say, I will become the leader. From there, we felt a sense of guilt.

Today, I have left the united front. Now, all of us have again made a meeting together. Now, we have gone back to our association that is Water Works PHE Employees Association. Further Sharma warned that if their demands are not met by the government, all daily wage workers will commence a strike starting from the 5th of the month.



## GDC Thannamandi organizes Seminar on Shahbaz Rajourvi to mark International Mother Tongue Day

JINNEWS SERVICE  
THANNAMANDI, FEB 22

The Literary Activity Committee in collaboration with Department of Urdu and IQAC of GDC Thannamandi organized a seminar on the Life and Works of Shahbaz Rajourvi as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 Sankalp here today.

On his 3rd death anniversary, a seminar on the life and works of Shahbaz Rajourvi, legendary poet and writer of Pirpanjal, organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of the college. Khurshid Ahmed Bismal, noted educationist and towering personality of Pirpanjal was Chief Guest whereas Iqbal Nazish, leading fictionist and Afzal Zia were special guests on the occasion. Dr. Naseem Ahmed Malik, Head Department of Chemistry and senior



most faculty in college, presided over the function. The dignitaries also released a book entitled "Shahbaz Rajourvi- Shakhshiat -o-Adabi Khidmat" compiled by Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, based on the life and works of Shahbaz Rajourvi.

In his message, Prof. Farooq Ahmed said that need there is urgent need to preserve the indigenous languages and continue the legacy of scholars like Shahbaz Rajourvi who played pivotal role to preserve and promote them. He appreciated the organizing team for continued efforts to highlight the contribution of regional scholars of eminence among

youth and students.

Khurshid Bismil in his keynote address underlined the numerous contribution of Shahbaz Rajourvi as a versatile personality - educationist, social worker, luminary and think tank who tried to reform the society through his multilingual prose and poetic works including over a dozen of articles in English, Urdu, Kashmiri, Pahari and Gojri languages. He was a teacher par excellence who produced hundreds of students who excelled in different fields of life. I am lucky to be one of his students, Bismil Added. Iqbal Nazish, Afzal Zia,

Prof. Asif Aijaz Lone, Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Prof. Rummy Dar and Anuj Bali (Librarian) also spoke on the occasion in different indigenous languages - Gojri, Pahari, Kashmiri and Dogri.

Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of Botany welcomed and introduced the audience about the programme. Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Head Department of Urdu and Convener, College Literary Activity Committee conducted the proceedings of the programme whereas Dr. Naseem Ahmed Malik Presented the formal vote of thanks.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Prof. Altaf Hussain, Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Dr. Ather Raina, Dr. Javaid Ahmed, Dr. Arshad Khan, Dr. Waheed Ahmed Qazi, Dr. Zubair and Dr. Anzar Peerzada.

## Billawaria kick starts construction work of community hall slab at Gangyal

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

The work of laying the slab of the second floor of the community hall of Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust (Regd.) Ramlila Ground located in Gangyal of RS Pura-Jammu South constituency was started here today. The former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria kick started the construction work of the community hall slab. This development work will be done under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation. Speaking on the occasion, former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the construction of the second slab of this community hall will be of special benefit to the people of the surrounding and adjoining areas, people will be able to



celebrate their small and big functions here. He said that an amount has been earmarked for this work but if needed more funds will be made available to complete the work of the community hall. Billawaria said that the members of the trust have put forward to him the demand of opening the library on the third floor for the students to study. He assured to fulfill the demands of the members of Dogra

Sewa Sambhal Trust as soon as possible and said that the demand of opening a library by Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust is a good initiative in the field of education. He said that with the opening of libraries in the area, youths will not go into bad company and they will be attracted towards books. He said that with the presence of a library, children will develop an attachment towards books rather than mobile

phones due to which they will be more capable of studying. Billawaria also said that Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust is working towards solving the problems faced by the people of weaker and backward sections of the society. He further said that he is ready to cooperate with whatever demand the Trust puts forward for the construction of the library. Trust President Rajiv Sharma, BJP Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Durga Mandir Committee President Puran Verma, Ravidas Temple Committee President Ramesh Sangral, Sector-4 Gangyal Temple President Ashok Pandita, Gangyal Sector-6 Temple & Jwala Ji Colony President MK. Raina, Morning Walker Association President Rajiv Kumar, Dr. Kuldeep Gupta, Nitin Baloria, Punjab Singh, Ajit Bhadral and other dignitaries were present.

## IIM Jammu hosts Meeting of Partner Institutions for LEAD Initiative as part of Nation Building

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted a meeting at its Jagti Campus for, The LJK Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LEAD) with its esteemed partner institutions on 22nd Feb 2024.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director IIM Jammu, extended heartfelt best wishes to LEAD for its future endeavours. Assuring unwavering cooperation and support, he reiterated the Institute's steadfast commitment to driving positive change and innovation within the region. He on the momentous occasion stated, "It is a momentous occasion for IIM Jammu to host this gathering of esteemed partners for the LEAD initiative. As an institution committed to the growth, development, and socio-economic progress of the Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, we are proud to play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and driving sustainable development in the region."

During the session, Shri Manish Ahluwalia, Director of LEAD, presented a comprehensive review of the remarkable events held in the preceding year, highlighting impactful initiatives such as the Youth Conclave, Homestay Business Workshop, InnoLEAD Startup Masterclass, Seminar on Cooperative Sector, and the grand Mahotsav 2023. These endeavours under-



scored LEAD's unwavering commitment to catalysing sustainable growth across diverse sectors within the region. A significant announcement was made regarding the upcoming SUYOG: The LJK Opportunity Summit, aimed at showcasing opportunities available for youth across various sectors. The inaugural event, focusing on the Tourism sector, is scheduled for March 21st and is poised to be a beacon of inspiration and empowerment for aspiring young entrepreneurs and seekers.

Prof. S. K. Mehta, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, pledged the university's unwavering support toward advancing research initiatives, fostering innovation, and nurturing talent to address the region's evolving needs.

Furthermore, discussions on research initiatives to capitalize on opportunities within the Union Territories of Ladakh, Jammu, and Kashmir were held, emphasizing the role of academic institutions in spearheading these initiatives. To take this further, LEAD and the University

of Ladakh signed an MoU at IIM Jammu for collaboration in areas of investment promotion, sustainable development, and economic growth in the U.T of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

LEAD, a pioneering platform, is a citizen's initiative of like-minded individuals and professionals working on the promotion of business investments towards the sustainable development of the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. LEAD also provides a forum for constructive dialogue on various issues related to the growth and development of the region. Members of the LEAD Core Team, including Shri Surinder Mohan Gupta, Shri Rajesh Gupta, Shri Sat Sharma, Shri Harinder Gupta, Shri Rajeev Gupta, and other sector coordinators, were present during the session.

A short film on the "Making of IIM Jammu: Brick by Brick," was shown. The inaugural ceremony As IIM Jammu continues its journey, it remains dedicated to fostering leadership, innovation, and societal transformation.

## Ganesh Sharma awarded "International Michael Angelo Award" by Art and Literature International Diamond Academy, Hungary



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Ganesh Kumar Sharma Eminent Senior Internationally recognized Sculptor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, has been awarded "International Michael Angelo Award" by Art and Literature International Diamond Academy, Hungary. Ganesh Kumar Sharma received this International award for his creation "GANESHA Sculpture" made in green textured granite stone. Mr Ganesh Sharma's sculpture selected amongst the worldwide received



entries from the eminent senior contemporary artists.

The Art and Literature International Diamond Academy, Hungary, organized International competition and invited entries of all kinds of art from eminent senior artists across the globe. The prestigious "Michael Angelo International

Award" contains Citation, International Certificate, Gold - Medal, and Trophy, presented virtually by President of the Academy, Maria Lipták, Ambassador Dr. Issam Qarni Kamel, on 20th February 2024.

It is mentioned here that the prestigious International art and literature Diamond Academy is officially Internationally Accredited, is organizing regularly International events of art, culture and literature.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma, presently residing at Hiranagar has been dedicated to art and culture from more than forty five years, and his many creations are in permanent collections in galleries of government as well as private galleries in India and abroad.

## BJP had stolen Chandigarh Mayor elections but INDIA bloc ultimately won: AAP



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Welcoming the Supreme Court's judgment in the Chandigarh Mayor polls, declaring AAP councilor, the INDIA bloc candidate Mr. Kuldeep Kumar as the winner of the Chandigarh Mayor election, the Sr. AAP leaders Jammu, S/Sh. Ram Singh Chauhan, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat & Omparkash Sharma said that the verdict is a major victory for the INDIA bloc, adding that the Supreme court ruled that eight ballots which were invalidated by Returning officer were valid. The AAP leaders said that this has happened in the first time in India's history. We the people of the

country should thank the Supreme Court, a bench of Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud & Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra who quashed the decision by Returning officer Anil Masih by which he declared BJP candidate Manoj Kumar Sonkar as Chandigarh Mayor on January 30. The order of the apex court came as it found that the returning officer had deliberately defaced eight ballots that were cast in favour of AAP councilor, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar, INDIA bloc candidate, so as to make them invalid. The Apex court on 21st February physically examined the ballot papers & found that they are not defaced & declared the petitioner, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar, AAP councilor, to be the

winner of the Chandigarh mayoral polls.

The AAP leaders further said that the situation in the country is such that a dictatorship is going on & the democracy & all institutions are being crushed & driving the country for a unitary system of governance which, in near times to come, shall prove very harmful for the countrymen and dangerous for the unity & integrity of the country & at such a time, this decision of the Supreme Court holds a lot of significance for democracy. In fact, the ruling Party is working on the policy to keep 95% people poor and 5% wealthy to fund & rule which is very dangerous for unity & integrity of Country, the AAP leaders cautioned.

## 5 Days Crash Course on New Criminal Laws-2023 commences at PTI Vijaypur



JINNEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYPUR, FEB 22

A five days Crash Course on new Criminal Laws-2023 commenced at PTI Vijaypur in which 50 Police personnel including SHOs, Incharge Police Posts and Investigating Officers of various units of Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range are participating. The course is being organized on the directions of J&K Police Headquarters with an objective to familiarize the Police personnel with the key provisions of new Criminal Laws-2023 recently promulgated by the Central Govt. so that these Laws are implemented on ground in letter and spirit. The course was formally inaugurated by Shri Dushyant Sharma, SSP who in his inaugural address, briefed the participating officers/officials and emphasized upon them

to gain knowledge of all the three new Criminal Laws viz. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam-2023 for their proper use on ground after implementation of these Laws. Shri Pawan Khajuria, Retd. Joint Director Prosecution was also invited as guest speaker on the occasion who delivered an impressive lecture to the trainees focusing on understanding the New Criminal Laws to address the contemporary challenges in law enforcement.

Among others, Shri Khushwant Singh Dy.SP (Admn.), Shri Surinder Paul, Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech.), Ch. Asif Iqbal, Sr.PO and Course Coordinator of the Course, Shri Ram Lal (CLD), Insp. Surinder Singh (CDI), Insp. Mulkh Raj were present on the occasion.

## Sham Lal Gupta appeals Excise Dept to implement New Excise Policy properly on ground

JINNEWS SERVICE  
BISHNAH (JAMMU), FEB 22

Anti Crime Bureau, NGO, Chairman Sham Lal Gupta today along with the Team Members appealed Govt to Implement New Excise Policy Properly on ground.

Gupta during his Press Conference told "Excise Department to implement the Excise Policy 2024-2025 in letter and spirit. He said that earlier distance of liquor shops from educational institutions (from nursery class onwards) and religious places was by 500 meters. But it was later reduced to 200 meters and then 100 meters. And, now it has been reduced to 50



meters only, said Gupta, urging that though distance of 50 meters is quite less in city of temples still a compromise on this will create a bad taste among the masses shattering their faith on the government. The government must implement this new

excise policy strongly now and no wine shop be opened near any religious place or educational institution. The distance must be now 50 meters as mentioned in new excise policy..

Gupta further alleged that liquor is being sold above the rates fixed by the government though Excise Department is there to check the overcharges. This time the government has imposed huge fine and punishment over the overcharging giving a strong and strict signal to the department to curb the menace of overcharging. Gupta said officers of Excise Department should take the matter very seriously.

## Avalanche strikes Gulmarg



JINNEWS SERVICE  
GULMARG, FEB 22

One Russian national died while six were rescued after a massive avalanche hit the snow covered ski destination of Gulmarg on Thursday.

The avalanche hit a group of seven Russian skiers along with at around 1300 hrs IST on the Kongdoori slopes of Army Ridge. Ski patrol of J&K tourism and Indian

Army's Avalanche Rescue Team of Pir Panjal Brigade of Dagger Division were immediately alerted and were mobilised to the site of the last confirmed location of the skiers. Six skiers were successfully rescued. The district administration and police were swift to muster medical aid by providing ambulances at the Gandola base for early evacuation of the injured skiers to the local hospital.



## MP Jugal acknowledges importance of Social Media for upcoming LS elections

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Social Media Department at the Party Headquarters in Jammu, where he praised the department's efforts in mobilizing and trendsetting people for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

During the meeting, MP Jugal emphasized the significance of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections for the party as the Party High Command has set a target of winning 400 plus seats. He expressed his admiration for the Social Media Department's commendable contribution in highlighting the flagship schemes of the Modi government.

Recognizing their critical role in disseminating information and creating awareness, MP Jugal praised the department for effectively utilizing



social media platforms to reach a wider audience and engage with influencers and trendsetters. He acknowledged the department's efforts in organizing meetings that brought together key stakeholders and influencers, further promoting the party's agenda and garnering support for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The Member Parliament called on the Social Media Department to

maintain the same spirit in mobilizing and creating awareness among people about the pro-people initiatives taken by the Modi government in the last ten years, as the upcoming Lok Sabha elections draw near. He urged the department to continue to effectively utilize social media platforms to reach millions of people and to educate them on the various initiatives and measures taken by the government for their welfare.

He also emphasized the importance of creating a unified presence across all social media fronts to promote the party's agenda and garner support for the upcoming elections.

Ankit Gupta, State Coordinator of Social Media Department, J&K also expressed his gratitude towards MP Jugal for supporting the department and boosting the

morale of the department. He assured the Member Parliament the same spirit will continue in upcoming polls also with an aim to achieve the aforesaid target set by the Party High Command.

Nitish Mahajan, Coincharge Social Media Department, BJP, J&K briefed MP Jugal about the various activities of the Social Media Department over the last two years that included influential meetings in Jammu as well as Srinagar and Booth to Mandal level social media meets at the district level to promote the party's agenda. He asserted that such meetings were organized with an aim to enhance the party's digital presence and mobilize support at the grassroots level.

Manjit Singh Jasrotia and Satish Jandial, Co Incharges of the Social Media Department, BJP, J&K were present in the meeting.

## Perawan e Wilayat Goma Kargil hosts Grand Roz-e-Jawaan Celebration

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
GOMA, KARGIL, FEB 22

Perawan e Wilayat Goma Kargil, a leading community organization, orchestrated a spectacular event at the Multi-Purpose Hall, MPS Goma Kargil, commemorating the auspicious occasion of Hazrat Ali Akbar's (AS) birthday, known as Rpz-e-Jawaan.

The celebration unfolded as a multifaceted program, featuring a captivating Naat/Qasida Competition, judged by esteemed personalities including Master Shabir Yabgo, Mohd Amin Khan, and Master Yousuf. Over 40 participants, spanning two age categories, showcased their talents, adding a cultural and spiritual dimension to the event.

The event not only paid homage to Hazrat Ali Akbar's legacy but also aimed to guide the youth towards positivity and moral health. Religious Scholar Sheikh Hamid Nasiri, the Chief Guest, shared insightful teach-



ings on Hazrat Ali Akbar's life, emphasizing its relevance in today's era.

Chairman Shabir Husain Yabgo highlighted the motive behind the celebration, emphasizing the redirection of youth from negative influences such as mobiles and drugs toward moral and physical health.

The celebration reached its zenith with the distribution of medals and prizes among the participants and winners, recognizing their efforts

and talents. This event underscores the transformative power of youth, urging society to reflect on guiding and supporting them. It is an opportunity to inspire a legacy of purpose and moral excellence, aligning with the principles embodied by Hazrat Ali Akbar.

Perawan e Wilayat expresses gratitude to all participants, judges, and contributors for making this Roz-e-Jawaan celebration a resounding success.

## Four-Day Training program on handling various types of Cybercrimes concluded at ZPHQ Jammu

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

The training of two batches of telecom operators for handling cybercrime cases and capacity building of police personnel of Jammu Zone culminated today.

The training sessions were conducted at the Conference Hall of Zonal Police Headquarters, Jammu by Cyber Police Station, Jammu in compliance with the directions of PHQ J&K Order no. TRG/20/2024/624-32 dated 09-02-2024. A total of 25 officers/officials of the telecom wing of Jammu Zone participated in the training program.

Shri Kameshwar Puri, Incharge Cyber Police Station, Jammu briefed the chair about various aspects of the training covered during the training period.



Lectures were delivered by the officers of Cyber Police Station Jammu and Crime Headquarters J&K. The participants were trained in handling cyber-crime including bank fraud and social media complaints/cases. Besides, the trainees were also given training to deal with complaints received

on cyber-crime portals and 1930.

The hands-on session was also provided to the trainees to handle different portals including the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) for missing mobile complaints electronically for effective tracing and blocking of missing mobile phones at

the police station level and about grievance redressal portal to address grievance related to social media accounts.

On the occasion, DIG JSK, Dr. Sunil Gupta, IPS, gave an insight into growing cyber-crimes and an earnest need to tackle them. He also assured to create Thana level teams to address the menace of increasing cyber-crimes to provide instant relief to the victims of cyber fraud.

ADGP Jammu Zone, Shri Anand Jain, IPS, felicitated the officers and officials for best performance during the training.

ADGP Jammu Zone emphasized the need to strengthen Cyber Cell at district level and directed all the telecom officers/officials to work with dedication and utmost professionalism to deal with cyber incidents and curb cyber menace.

## Students from different schools embark on educational study visit

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
BASOHLI, FEB 22

A total of 45 students from Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) Sananghat, HS Jankhar, and HS Plakh participated in an educational study visit organized by the Zonal Education Office, Basohli, under the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAK) initiative of SAMAGRA. The visit aimed to broaden the students' perspectives and expose them to diverse learning experiences beyond the classroom. Warm Welcome and Insights into RAK: Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by Zonal Education Officer, Basohli, Lalit Sharma, and his staff members. Sh. Sharma briefed the students about the significance of RAK and its role in fostering scientific temperament and innova-



tion among young minds. Engaging Interaction at DIET Basohli: The first stop on the itinerary was DIET Basohli, the premier institution for training government teachers in the district. The students had an enriching interaction with Principal

Sh. Roshan Lal and senior faculty members, gaining valuable insights into the teacher training process and the crucial role of DIETs in shaping the future of education.

Exploring Engineering Marvels:

Next, the students embarked on a fascinating journey to Mini Goa

Purthu and Atal Setu Basohli. At Mini Goa Purthu, they marveled at the breathtaking natural beauty, while AtalSetu, a magnificent bridge, provided a glimpse into the marvels of modern engineering.

These visits sparked the students' curiosity about science, technology, and their applications in real-world scenarios.

Immersion in the Artistic Heritage of Basohli: The study visit concluded with a visit to the Vishwasthali Painting Centre, Basohli, renowned for its traditional miniature paintings. The students

interacted with artists, learned about the rich artistic heritage of the region, and witnessed the intricate techniques involved in creating these exquisite masterpieces.

The study visit proved to be a highly enriching experience for the students, igniting their curiosity, broadening their knowledge base, and fostering a deeper appreciation for various fields of learning. The Zonal Education Office, Basohli, remains committed to organizing such initiatives that empower students and nurture their holistic development.

## GCET Jammu host 9TH NCEEITET Technical Event in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

The Two day National Conference and Exhibition on Emerging and Innovative Trends in Engineering Technology (NCEEITET) in technical collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur was organized at GCET Jammu.

On this occasion, Sh. Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department J&K inaugurated the 9th NCEEITET in presence of Shri Jeevan Kumar Jethani, Senior Director, Ministry of New and Renewable energy, Prof. Raja Dutta IIT Kharagpur, Shri Rajiv Pharia, CGM Power Finance Corporation Ltd., Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Special Secretary to Govt., Higher Education Department.

The event aimed to provide a common platform to academicians, technocrats, researchers, students & industry professionals to forge collaborative alliances, ensuring the progress of science & technology as per the chang-



ing economy demands & the wellbeing of the global society with a particular reference at the UT level.

Sh. Alok Kumar, Chief guest of the event, while addressing the gathering emphasized upon sustainable engineering by designing and creating things that meets the needs of the common man without harming the environment or depleting the natural resources. He also motivated the budding engineers to become the sustainable engineers to focus upon building smart cities, devise a plan to minimize waste by using renewable sources, reducing pollution and creating long-lasting efficiency system that can be enjoyed by future generations. He congratulated the organizers for holding an event to generate new ideas and to push the boundaries of

innovations for positive change in the society.

Earlier, Dr. Sameru Sharma, Principal GCET welcomed all the distinguished guests and the delegates of the event. In her address, she highlighted that the purpose of organizing such events is to provide exposure to the engineering students of J&K on latest trends in engineering and technology and to provide them an opportunity to interact, deliberate and exchange their innovative ideas with academicians, researchers, students and industry professionals. She emphasized on Global warming, climate change and emerging technologies in the areas related to green hydrogen emission and electrical vehicle and other developments in the renewable sectors.

She further added that,

the conference channelizes to inspire young budding engineers to reorient their mindset and build ecosystem to encourage high quality research innovation and entrepreneurship particularly in UT of J&K. It provides an ideal opportunity to the students/ industry/ start-ups to display their working models/ projects/Business plans/ state-of-the-Art technologies/ achievements.

Prof. Raj Datta, IIT Kharagpur, while addressing the audience said that the small ideas can pave a way for innovation that can prove beneficial for the society at large. He also emphasized that productive key incentive from this conference can supplement innovative ideas to transform health care sector and urban logistics.

The keynote address were delivered by Sh. Jeevan Kumar Jethani, who stressed upon the reduction of greenhouse gases and procurement of trajectory of renewable resources which help to clean the environment and reduce the cost efficiency and

Sh. Rajiv Pharia emphasized upon the SCADA and RT-DAS projects for enhancement of power reliability in distribution sectors.

The E- Proceedings related to paper publications was released by the Chief Guest in presence of other dignitaries, technocrats, academicians, industry professionals and students present during the function. The two day conference comprises of the Invited talks, plenary talks by eminent speakers and resource persons followed by five technical parallel sessions for the contributed paper presentations.

Besides this, an Exhibition was the part of the event, where the emerging technologies/products have been showcased by various Central Public Sector Undertakings of India such as NHPC, PFC, CVPP, IOC for the knowledge of delegates and engineering students. Also BEE, BIS, J&K Bank, BSNL, NIELIT, Winnovation, Chakr Shield, JKSPDC have participated and displayed their exhibits in the event.

## Secretary reviews Maha Shivratri preparations at Ranbireswar Temple



**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Ashok Kumar Sharma, (SSP Retd), Secretary J&K Dharmarth Trust today conducted a comprehensive review of the preparations for the upcoming Maha Shivratri festivities at the renowned Ranbireswar Temple in Jammu.

During the extensive inspection of the temple premises, the Secretary assessed the arrangements being made to facilitate devotees and ensure a smooth and joyous celebration of Maha Shivratri, one of the most auspicious festivals in the Hindu calendar. While

chairing a meeting, the Secretary emphasized the significance of thorough planning to accommodate the expected surge in devotees and ensure their safety and convenience during the prayers and rituals associated with Maha Shivratri. He also directed for timely completion of ongoing repairs and renovation in the temple premises. He also laid stress upon maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the temple premises. Ashok Sharma said that Dharmarth Trust is a centuries old institution under the patronage of Hon'ble Chairman Trustee, Dr. Karan Singh and other Trustee having

a phenomenal record of providing state of art facilities to pilgrims and visitors since decades making it significant to continue with this important tradition and even providing added services through augmenting facilities as far as possible, he asserted that it is solemn responsibility of every staffer of the Trust to patiently and respectfully help the devotees to ensure a comfortable stay at the temples and shrines run under the aegis of the Trust. Additional Secretary Varinder Jamwal, Manager Ranbireswar Temple and other staff members were present in the meeting.



## Thana Diwas: An opportunity to connect with people: Reasi Police

JNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, 22 FEB 2024

As a part of public outreach programme, "Thana Diwas" was organised in district Reasi. It is an initiative of Government of J&K UT to bridge the gap between Police and Public and also to listen and redress the grievances of common masses.

Today on the directions of SSP Reasi \*Ms Mohita Sharma IPS\* Thana Diwas was organised at P/S Ransoo, PP Banganga, Dharmari, P/S Mahore, Sungri and PP Bhambla by District Police Reasi.

The programme was chaired by Sh. Iftkhar Ahmed- JKPS, Additional Superintendent of Police Reasi alongwith SHO P/S Ransoo Insp. Rakesh Kumar at P/S Ransoo, SDPO Katra Sh. Surinder Singh Baloria alongwith SHO P/S Katra Insp. Nishant Gupta at PP Banganga, SDPO Mahore Sh. Ajaz Choudhary-JKPS alongwith SHO P/S Mahore Insp. Charanjeet Singh at P/S Mahore, SHO P/S Arnas Sh. Rakesh Kumar at PWD Guest House Dharmari, SHO P/S Chassana Insp. Ranjeet Singh Rao at Sungri and SHO P/S Pouni Insp. Parmod Singh at PP Bhambla.



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

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

"Community policing is mandatory to boost public

confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils." Referring to the criminal activities in the area, it was stressed upon the officers to brace up with a missionary spirit to fight against drug abuse and other social evils from the society and to take a pledge for serving the society with missionary spirit and maintain the dignity of force. While urging for better policing, it was exhorted that public grievances at grass root level would be dealt on priority and patiently, and were assured that such meetings would be held in every nook and corner of the District to further strengthen the Police-Public relations for achieving better results.

## Rakesh unveils Atwal Brothers' religious bhajan 'Bani Guraa Di'



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Rakesh Mahajan, incharge of BJP All Cells in Jammu & Kashmir, today unveiled the spiritual album titled "Bani Guraa Di" in commemoration of Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti. The official release of the album took place during a grand event held in Jammu today. Sahil Mahajan, co convenor BJP leader, graced the occasion.

The album, "Bani Guraa Di," is a soul-stirring compilation of religious Bhajans, brought to life by the talented Atwal Brothers. With their exceptional singing and composing skills, the Atwal Brothers have infused the essence of devotion into each track,

creating a spiritually enriching experience for listeners.

The music for "Bani Guraa Di" has been masterfully crafted by Chandan Jassu, lyrics penned by Rajan Athwal, evoke a sense of divine connection and admiration for Guru Ravi Dass Ji.

The album features captivating visuals directed by KK Malhotra, ingeniously enhancing the visual storytelling experience for the audience.

The release of "Bani Guraa Di" under the label of Athwal Brothers Music presents a milestone in the spiritual music genre, representing a harmonious blend of music, lyrics, and visuals, all dedicated to paying homage to the teachings of Guru Ravi

Dass Ji. Rakesh Mahajan congratulated the whole team for producing this marvelous album.

Rakesh provided an in-depth exploration of the life history of Guru Ravi Dass ji, delving into his early years, upbringing, spiritual journey, teachings, contributions to society, and lasting impact on followers.

He appealed to them to seize the advantages provided by the schemes initiated by the Modi Government. Encouraging self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship, he called upon young individuals to chart their own path by establishing their startups instead of solely relying on government jobs.

## Dogri Sanstha, Jammu celebrates International Mother Tongue Day



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

In connection with International Mother Tongue Day, a Dogri song competition was organized at Shakti Shiksha Kendra Higher Secondary School, Marh by Dogri Sanstha Jammu in collaboration with Dogri Sahitya Sabha, Marh. The students of the school participated enthusiastically in this competition in which Krishna Kumar bagged first, Bharti Moton second and Geetika Sharma third prize.

The winners were presented cash and Dogri books and the remaining participants were also presented Dogri books.

The program was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President, Dogri Sanstha Jammu whereas Dr. Rakesh Kaul, Principal, Government Degree College, Madh was the chief Guest and Inderjit

Kesar, Vice-President, Dogri Sanstha Jammu was the special guest on the occasion.

The function was attended by galaxy of litterateurs and literature lovers including Puraan Chandra Sharma, President Dogri Sahitya Sabha Madh, Lalchand Gandotra, Sushil Begana, Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Karuneshwar Gandotra, Principal, Shakti Shiksha Kendra Higher Secondary School, Madh and others.

Dr. Rakesh Kaul while addressing the gathering elaborated about the importance of mother tongue and Prof. Lalit Magotra, who presided over the function inspired the children to speak in Dogri language and read as much Dogri literature as possible. The program was conducted by Pawan Verma and vote of thanks was presented by Puraan Chandra Sharma.

## National Workshop on Curriculum Planning and Course Design

JNEWS SERVICE  
KATRA, FEB 22

In a bid to provide courses in line with changing industry needs and NEP 2020, a National Workshop on Curriculum Planning and Course Design was hosted by the School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University under the chairmanship of Prof. Pragati Kumar (Vice Chancellor, SMVDU). The workshop focused on refining course curricula to reflect industry evolution, integrating innovation and technology in educational frameworks, embracing the principles of NEP 2020 in curriculum development. The workshop featured insights from distinguished academic and industry leaders with varied expertise. With the rapidly evolving landscape of technology and industry demands, the workshop aimed to revamp existing curricula to ensure relevance, agility, and alignment with contemporary industry needs. Experts engaged in robust discussions,



sharing insights, best practices, and experiences in curriculum development and pedagogical approaches. The academic experts who deliberated during the workshop include Prof. Deepak Kumar, Head, Centre for Automotive Research, IIT Delhi, Prof. Niraj Sinha, Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Kanpur, Prof. Harpreet Singh, Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Ropar, Prof. Subash Chander, Mechanical Engineering Department, NIT Jalandhar and Dr. Durai Prabhakaran, Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Jammu. The industry experts included Mr. Amrendra Kumar, Country General Manager and Whole Time Director, Winoxa Abrasives India Pri-

vate Limited and Mr. Ashwani Koul, Maruti Suzuki Pvt. Ltd who provided their inputs to revamp the course curriculum in line with the changing needs of the industry and NEP 2020.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU spoke about the NEP2020 implementation at SMVDU and the flexibility being offered to the students. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, SMVDU spoke about the need for the minor and honors degrees being offered by the School of Mechanical Engineering. Prof. M. Eswaramoorthy, Head SME also spoke at the occasion. During the day long discussions included proposals to offer minor and honors degrees at UG level in areas of 3D

printing, Robotics, Automation, and Biomechanical. Also, discussion on the proposal to offer M.Tech in Smart Manufacturing by the School of Mechanical Engineering was also held. Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant Professor, SME) carried out the proceedings of the event and Prof. Ankush Anand delivered the formal vote of thanks. The workshop was organized jointly by Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant Professor, SME), Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Assistant Professor, SME), Prof. Ankush Anand, SME, Dr. Sanjay Mohan (Assistant Professor, SME), Mr. B.K. Bhatia (TPO, SMVDU), Er. Deepak Byotra (Superintendent Workshop) and all faculty members of SoME also attended the day-long workshop.

## Notorious Drug peddler booked under PITNDPS by Police Station Bishnah Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 22

An information was received at PS Bishnah regarding one notorious drug peddler lady namely Poli Devi W/O Baldev Raj Sansi R/O Kothey Bulandey Tehsil Bishnah Dist. Jammu who was evading his arrests in multiple cases.

On this special police teams of PS Bishnah led by SHO PS Bishnah raided at the suspected place and arrested the notorious drug peddler.

It is pertinent to mention that a warrant under PITNDPS was also issued against the accused by the Divisional commissioner Jammu.

### DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY ENVIRONMENT AND REMOTE SENSING

Office of the Environmental Soil Conservationist  
Paryavaran Bhawan Transport Nagar Gladni Narwal Jammu

Email: [escjmu@rediffmail.com](mailto:escjmu@rediffmail.com) Fax/Ph No: 0191-2490777

#### SHORT TERM QUOTATION NOTICE

Short Term Quotation are hereby invited from the interested reputed firm dealing in catering arrangements for participants during the Paryavaran Excursion of Students to Jamboo Zoo on 27.02.2024 which shall be reached in this office by or before 26.02.2024 upto 2.00 P.M. positively. The detail of items required is as under:-

S. No.	Item	Quantity	Remarks
1.	Chana- Puri	125 persons	Including crockery
2.	Halwa		
3.	Water Bottle 200ml		



The undersigned shall reserve the right to Reject/Accept any quotation without informing the concerned firm.

Sd/-  
Environmental Soil Conservationist  
Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing  
Jammu

No: DERS/ESC/MMO/E-40/23/2381-82

Dated: 21-02-2024

DIP/J-15291/23  
Date: 22-2-24

   
**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE, PARKS & GARDENS, JAMMU**  
Har-Ki- PoudiBagh-e-BahuRoad Jammu e-mail:- [floriculturejammu@gmail.com](mailto:floriculturejammu@gmail.com)  
Tele- 0191-2435121

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 09/2023-24 /Floriculture Department Jammu Dated: 19.02.2024.

**Director General, Deptt. Of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu** on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K invites Tenders by e-Tendering mode from the registered Individuals/Firms/Companies/Agencies for outsourcing of Coffee/Snacks Bar at Bhour Camp Garden, (Phase I)/Bagh-e-Bhour Jammu for a period of three years (as is where is basis) from the date of issue of allotment.

S.No	Name of the Asset	Minimum Reserve bid	Earnest Money as CDR/FDR	Cost of Tender Document
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Coffee/Snacks Bar at BhourCamp Garden, (Phase I) / Bagh-e-Bhour Jammu	Rs.2.25 lakh Per annum	20,000 ( Twenty Thousand only )	Rs. 500/- (Non-refundable)

The bidding documents (s) consisting of qualifying information eligibility criteria, specification , items and conditions and other details can be downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dfi.jk.gov.in](http://www.dfi.jk.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-02-2024 to 11-03-2024 upto 1630 Hrs.
2.	Bid Submission Start Date	20.02-2024
3.	Bid Submission End Date	11.03-2024 upto 1630 Hrs.
4.	Date and time of opening of Tenders online	12-03-2024 at 1400 Hrs.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, conditions and other details. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect site of Bhour Camp Garden, (Phase I) Bagh-e-Bhour Jammu before bidding.
- Bids must be accompanied by CDR/FDR and cost of tender Document as specified in column 4 and 5 of the table payable at Jammu pledged in favour of **Accounts officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu**. CDR/FDR shall have to be valid for one year (12 months) The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be paid in form of DD payable in favour of **Accounts officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu**.
- Cost of tender document should also be uploaded online along with requisite **Treasury Challan/ receipt under Receipt Head 0406- Forestry & Wild life**.
- Bids will be opened online in the office of the **Director General Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu**. In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.
- Bidders should get ready with the hard copies of cost of documents as specified in the tender documents. The hard copies of the bids shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as H1 after opening of financial bids.
- Bidders should get ready with the hard copies of list of documents & EMD as specified in the Tenders documents. The hard copies of the bids shall be obtained from the bidders who is declared as H1 after opening of financial bids.
- The detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from this Directorate on any working day during office hours and also through Departmental website [www.dfi.jk.gov.in](http://www.dfi.jk.gov.in).

Sd/-  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL,**  
(Chairman)  
No: - DFJ/GS/7361-70Department of Floriculture,  
Parks and Gardens  
Jammu

DIP/J-15324/23  
Date: 22-2-24



## Saudi Arabia wraps up Guest of Honour participation at 2024 New Delhi Book Fair

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEB 22

Saudi Arabia wrapped up its role as the guest of honor at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2024 (NDWBF 2024) last night. The nine-day event, held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from February 10 to 18, saw the Saudi pavilion draw a significant crowd, becoming a standout attraction at the fair.

The pavilion attracted numerous visitors eager to delve into Saudi culture, arts, and heritage in a comprehensive cultural experience led by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission. Several cultural entities, including the Heritage Commission, the Music Commission, the Film Commission, the Culinary Arts Commission, the Fashion Commission, and the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives, were involved in creating this rich cultural experience.

The Saudi pavilion played a crucial role in promoting intercultural dialogue and showcasing Saudi cultural and intellectual aspects to the Indian



audience. The cultural program included 13 dialogical seminars exploring the influence of Saudi culture on Indian culture and collaboration in publishing, cinema, and translation fields.

Two celebrations were also held during the Kingdom's participation: a Saudi dinner night featuring national dishes and a music night showcasing Saudi music and performance arts. These events were attended by ministers, officials from the Republic of India, diplomats, academics, media professionals, and enthusiasts.

The Saudi pavilion represented various cultural sectors, featuring mini-exhibitions of Saudi fashion and musical instruments, a heritage session offering Saudi coffee hospitality, displays of books about the Kingdom's

nature, heritage, and traditions, and an exhibition showcasing replicas of artifacts discovered in Saudi Arabia dating back thousands of years, highlighting the Kingdom's ancient civilizational heritage.

Saudi Arabia's participation in the fair reflects the Ministry of Culture's commitment to enhancing international cultural exchange, aligning with the national cultural strategy's goals under Vision 2030. The NDWBF, organized annually by the Indian Ministry of Education, is the oldest book fair in the Republic of India and one of the most prestigious international book fairs since its inception in 1972, featuring over 600 international publishing houses that bring together the cultural outputs of the world.

## BJP's grievance redressal mechanism aims at bridging gap between people & governance: Yudhvir

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

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

Accompanied with party workers, Yudhvir Sethi interacted with individuals and listened attentively to their grievances.

The camp witnessed an overwhelming response from residents across Jammu city, as people flocked to the party office to discuss their concerns with senior BJP leaders. A diverse range of issues were raised by various deputations, with a significant number being women who sought resolution on matters related to ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, development, and personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi patiently heard the deputations and promptly took action by engaging with the relevant authorities via phone, resulting in the



immediate resolution of most issues. He emphasized the BJP's commitment to addressing the day-to-day challenges faced by the people, particularly in Jammu City, and expressed the party's determination to bridge the gap between administration and citizens.

Yudhvir Sethi assured the public that he will personally follow up on the remaining issues with the

concerned authorities to ensure swift resolution. He said BJP remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the people and strives to create an environment where citizens' voices are heard, and their grievances are effectively addressed. He asserted that only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

## Pre-schooling crucial for nurturing young minds: Rana



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NAGROTA FEBRUARY 22

Describing pre-schooling crucial for nurturing young minds, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said that sensitivity, skill and patience are prerequisites for teachers to meet the challenge of shaping the destiny of children.

Inaugurating a play way play-way school started by young entrepreneurs Mrs Shivani Sharma and Vishal Sharma at Nagrota, Mr Devender Rana said care and compassion towards children is guiding philosophy for institutions taking up preschool activity.

Mr Rana said the concept of pre-schooling has gained momentum across the country in recent years and exposure to babies on wider canvass at the very onset of their life places them in good stead in the initial years of schooling. Apart from confidence, they tend to be sociable from very beginning, he said and appreciated the efforts of the private sector in meeting this challenging responsibility.

Mr Devender Rana congratulated the management for the initiative and reminded them of the great responsibility they are undertaking in grooming young babies. The idea of catching young minds, as early as the first one and half years, is not an easy task, as it requires a lot of patience and spirit of sacrifice, he felt.

Mr Rana dwelt on baby instincts in detail and said the process of learning starts as soon as a child

takes the birth. "This is a universal truth that mother is the first and the best teacher of a child", he said, adding that the pre-schooling mechanism is like sharing the responsibility of mothers. He cautioned against exposing children to negativity and called for close synergy between teachers and parents to ensure that they tread their journey on the right path.

"The play-well schools have attained added significance with working mothers having time constraint in shouldering their responsibilities", he said and exhorted the trainers to put in their best in filling the vacuum and supplementing efforts of healthy grooming of babies. Molding young minds towards positive pursuits is the most challenging task and much of the onus lies on teachers, who have to work with a missionary spirit to shape their destiny, he added.

Speaking on the occasion Peer Mushtaq Ahmed Bukhari, BJP leader hoped that the management will ensure conducive atmosphere, hygiene, safety and security and the prescribed norms set by the competent authority for running such schools. "The most important requirement will be to create such an atmosphere where the child feels at home and the parents feel a sense of security about their children", he said, adding that the success of inmates depends upon the level of confidence and trust they have in each other.

## JCCI delegation led by Arun Gupta calls on Bhawani Singh Rakhwal, KAS VC JDA

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

A delegation of office bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry headed by its President Sh. Arun Gupta called on Sh. Bhawani Singh Rakhwal, KAS VC JDA and during interaction Sh. Arun Gupta apprised him that since last about 2 and half decades the Jammu Development Authority and the J&K Housing Board have not developed/established any commercial area or residential colony due to which there is dearth of both commercial sites as well as the residential colonies in Jammu, where we can accommodate the unemployed educated youth as well as the middle class families. He requested that steps should be taken to establish the new commercial area as well as the residential colonies.



Arun Gupta also briefed the VC JDA that in spite of depositing the prescribed fee the lease deeds in respect of shops at Shiv Market Railway Station have not been executed by JDA since last 15 years. These lease deeds should be executed without any further delay.

Further some commercial shops in Bahu Plaza area have been allotted to some persons but the possession of said shops has not been given to the concern allottees and no

lease deeds have been executed with them. He requested that possession should be given and lease deeds be with the said allottees without any further delay.

Arun Gupta also said that the old bus stand building has been declared as unsafe we request that steps should be taken to repair the said building to avoid any untoward incident. Further he requested that this area of the bus stand should be developed into a new

multistorey project and the existing shopkeepers / businessman working in the present building may be rehabilitated on the analogy of rehabilitating the shopkeepers of newly constructed/developed multistorey project so that their livelihood is not effected.

Arun Gupta also briefed the VC JDA that a move was started by the JDA to give free hold rights to the plot holders of Trikuta Nagar Housing Colony but due to some unknown reasons the said move was stalled. We request that the process of free hold rights to the plot holders of Trikuta Nagar Housing Colony should be restarted.

The issue of Change of Land Use (CLU) was also discussed in the meeting and Sh. Arun Gupta requested the VC JDA to clear All the pending files of CLU without any further delay.

While reacting to the issues raised / discussed in the meeting Sh. Bhawani S. Rakhwal, VC JDA informed that JDA is already working for developing new residential colonies and new commercial sites. He also said that he will personally look into the issue of lease deeds of Shiv Market Railway Station and sort out the same.

Regarding the issue of Bahu Plaza Shopkeepers he requested the Chamber to come up with a concrete proposal that how the matter can be sorted out and he will definitely work on the advised proposed. The other Office bearers who accompanied the delegation include Sh. Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Sh. Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Sh. Arun Gupta, Executive Member

## 2 different theft cases solved, stolen tractor trolley, 2 motorcycles and 5.5 quintals of paddy crops recovered

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Two different theft cases solved, stolen tractor trolley, 2 motorcycles and 5.5 quintals of paddy crops recovered by PS RS Pura Jammu.

A complaint was lodged at PS RS Pura by one person named Ramesh Kumar S/o Lt. Krishan Lal R/o R.S Pura Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu stating that his Mahindra tractor along with trolley was stolen from Chohala Morh.

Similarly another complaint was lodged at PS RS Pura by complainant named Gurdeep Singh S/o Saroop Singh R/o Simbal Morh Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu stating that from his godown situated at Mehlowal, 5.5 quintals of paddy crops were stolen.

In this regard, case FIR No. 10/2024 U/S 379 IPC and case FIR No. 37/2024 U/S 454/380 IPC respectively got registered at PS RS Pura and investigation started.

After this special police teams of PS RS Pura led by SHO PS RS Pura did strenuous efforts and with the help of technical assistance finally rounded up two suspected persons later identified as 1. Mohd. Amjad S/o Sadiq Ahmed R/o Balaeni Pull Nagrota District Jammu 2. Rohit Kumar S/o Parshotam R/o Gazipur Kullian Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu. During questioning accused confessed their involvement in the above case and on their disclosure stolen tractor along with trolley bearing registration No. JK02N-2061, stolen in case FIR No.10/2024 and 5.5 quintal of paddy crops stolen in case FIR No.37/2024 have been recovered. More over two other motorcycles i.e 1. Hero Splendor bearing chassis No. MBLHAR086JHM57862 and 2. Motorcycle bearing chassis No. MBLHAW114NH92735 have also been recovered from their possession.

Further investigation of the case is going on.

## Congress seeks early assembly elections with statehood in J&K

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Demanding immediate announcement of restoration of statehood before assembly polls, JKPCCC demanded holding of lok sabha and assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir at the earliest.

JKPCCC has asked the party cadres to be fully ready for the Lok Sabha & Assembly elections & demanded immediate restoration of statehood before assembly polls, besides urging the government to ensure level playing field for all political parties for election campaign in vulnerable areas and provide adequate security to the prominent leaders of opposition including Congress, as per their political status & standing like BJP leaders and its like minded parties.

A meeting of PCC Campaign Committee was held under the chairmanship of Former Dy CM Tara Chand while JKPCCC president Vikar Rasool Wani was the chief guest which was attended by most of the members & all district presidents of Jammu prov-



ince to discuss the preparations and strategy for elections.

The senior leaders and members held threadbare discussions on various aspects of the elections to lok sabha and assembly elections. The meeting expressed full readiness for both the elections and asked the government to ensure proper security to all prominent leaders of opposition parties especially non BJP parties, as there is huge discrimination with non BJP parties in the matter of security. It is the duty of the government to ensure safety and security of all citizens especially minorities and all political workers irrespective of party affiliation of prominence in a fair manner.

The Meeting held threadbare discussions

the current political scenario and hit back at the BJP for claiming credit of the Prime Minister's rally for which the government & LG administration mobilized the entire government machinery and employees for the success of the official rally which is being claimed as BJP rally.

It was for the first time that mobilization of the Govt machinery of such levels were done as there was low public response in view of the failures of the Govt. on various fronts and to deliver its last promises to various sections of people and youth.

The meeting questioned the Prime Minister for not uttering a word for the promises made to the people of J&K, especially Jammu region in the last elections. The Prime Minister deliberately

avoided to mention the most popular demands of people for restoration of statehood and democracy as well as promises made to the unemployed youths, farmers, refugees daily wagers contractual and other categories of temporary employees.

The meeting viewed that the people are fed up with the BJP Govt. for the wrong policies with regards to youth, farmers, employees, pensioners and the common man who are facing the brunt of wrong policies, especially on the economic front pushing the common and poor people to great economic distress and state of joblessness.

The meeting condoled the death of an agitating farmer yesterday and hit out at BJP Govt. for crushing the voice of peacefully

agitating farmers for their genuine demands including MSP legal guarantee as promised by the Prime Minister Modi ten years ago and reiterated by him three years ago.

PCC hailed the announcement of Congress party to grant MSP to the farmers on coming to power and asked the Modi Govt. to immediately concede the genuine demands of farmers.

The meeting was attended by Secretary AICC Shahnawaz Choudhary, PCC Senior Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Vice Presidents Yogesh Sawhney (Ex-Minister), Tralok Singh Bajwa (Ex-MP), Former Minister Shabir Ahmed Khan, S.S. Channi, General Secretaries Narinder Gupta (Org), Ashok Dogra (Ex-MLA), Anayat Ullah Rather (DDC), T.S. Tony (DDC), Th. Balbir Singh, Nadeem Sharief Niaz (DDC), Dist. Presidents Th. Manmohan Singh, Th. Shamsher Singh Chib, Pankaj Dogra, Sheikh Mujeeb, Pervez Ahmed Wani, Asif Naqeeb, Vinod Khajuria & Chairman Social Media Dept. Jatin K Raina.

## Modi govt failed to empower OBCs, Dalits: BSP

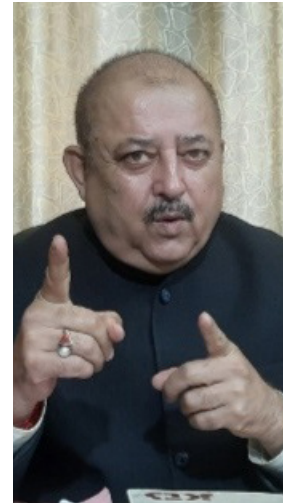
**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K UT general secretary Rajesh Gupta and media head said that the class and caste divide in India was such that the Dalits and the backward have no one to represent them in the media or big industries, nor in the bureaucracy.

The (Narendra) Modi government's UGC is now issuing a notification that reservation for SC, ST and OBC posts in universities should end. The BJP is only busy in snatching the jobs of the youth, says Rajesh Gupta.

The BSP on Thursday alleged that there is a "conspiracy" to end reservation given to SCs, STs and OBCs for posts in higher education institutions, and claimed that the Modi government is only doing "politics of symbolism" with regard to Dalits, backward classes and tribals.

BSP leader accused the BJP-led Centre of not creating enough jobs for the Dalits and other backward classes, which constitute "90% of the population," and discriminating against



them in his second term. "What kind of government is this where ... Backward classes, Dalits, tribals and minorities, who constitute about 90% of the total population, cannot get jobs," Gupta said.

"Fifty per cent of the population in the country belongs to backward classes, 15% are Dalits, 8% are tribals and 15% are minorities. Shout as much as you want but you can't get employment in this country. If you belong to backward, Dalit, tribal or poor general category then you cannot get a job. Modi govt does not want you people to get jobs," Gupta said.



4th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games- Day 02:

# Himachal Pradesh takes away all medals in Giant Slalom for Women; Army sweeps Men's Sprints



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GULMARG, FEBRUARY 22

On the second day of fourth edition of Khelo India Winter Games being organized here, players took to venues to participate in the Nordic Skiing, Alpine Skiing, Ski Mountaineering and Snowboarding events scheduled for the day. The comprehensive measures taken by the J&K Sports Council ensured that all the events were successfully conducted with all the logistics available to the players. In the early morning, the field of event for Nordic Sprint witnessed the brimming Gulmarg bowl with snow sports

enthusiasts. At the Golf Club, Nordic Sprint for Men of distance 1.6 KM was held in which 36 players participated where Army again made a clean sweep as Manjeet bagged Gold Medal while Padma Namgial got Silver and Rameez Ahmad Padder settled for Bronze. Manjeet, representing the Army, won the Silver Medal yesterday. Speaking at the medal presentation ceremony, he expressed excitement over the achievements and gave credit to his family, friends and staff who encouraged him and chiseled his potential. In the same event for women's category of distance 5KM, Bhavani Thek-

eda Nanjunda from Karnataka bagged Gold; Sapna and Prince Kumari representing ITBP received Silver and bronze respectively. The highlights of the Khelo India Winter Games for the second day were the events held at Kangdoori where three sports events of Giant Slalom, Run Slalom and Mountaineering Sprints for Men and Women groups were organized as per the fixtures. In the Sprints Mountaineering Skiing, Menka Gunjijal from Uttarakhand bagged the Gold medal, Shazia Hassan from J&K got the Silver while Kaamya Kathikayan from Maharashtra got the

bronze medal. Menka Gunjijal from Uttarakhand could not hold herself as she jumped in joy when she was declared winner. She acknowledged that the competition was very good from other participants but she put her best to win the Gold Medal. Her father who had been also an athlete and is Padma Shri awardee is her role model. She desires to gain more experience and represent country in the Olympic games. Mountaineering Skiing for Men's category was flagged-off by Olympian Shiva Keshavan at Kangdoori. The Sprint race culminated with Mayank Dimiri from Uttarakhand

taking the Gold Medal while Shahid Ahmad Chichi and Mehraj Ud Din Bhat from J&K winning silver and bronze respectively. So, it has been a golden day for Uttarakhand as another player from the state won the Gold medal in Mountaineering Skiing at Kangdoori. Mayank while displaying his happiness said that he is proud of his performance and divulged that he has trained consistently. Talk-

ing about the difference between the slopes of Gulmarg and Uttarakhand he said that the vertical slopes here are ideal for skiing and these slopes show the perfect gradient of snow sports. In the Giant Slalom event for Women held at Kangdoori, medals rained in the kitty of Himachal Pradesh as Anchal Thakur, Tunaja Thakur and Promila Thakur clutched away Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively.

## Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt Kulgam organises Awareness/Exhibition at D H Pora



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 22

A one day Awareness cum Exhibition camp was Thursday conducted by Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kulgam at D H Pora. The event was inaugurated by Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan. AD-Handicrafts & Handloom, LDM Kulgam, Representatives from BDO Office D H Pora and NRLM D H

Pora were also present. More than 200 artisans and local people thronged the event, in which different Cooperative Societies showcased their products. Speaking on the occasion, SDM Noorabad deliberated upon participants and Cooperative Societies to avail different schemes of the department and become self-dependent. He also highlighted and appreciated the role of artisans in the local economy.

## Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara visits various areas of Lolab, inspects snow clearance, essential services



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 22

Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today visited various areas of Lolab sub-division to take stock of post snowfall situation. The Vice Chairman inspected ongoing snow clearance going on at various link roads of Wavoora block. He urged the concerned officer of R&B to ensure clearance of all link roads by today evening so that the movement of people does not

get affected especially in emergencies. He also took stock of electricity and asked the KPDC officials to restore the power supply in the areas where it is affected. During his visit to different areas, VC inspected various houses which had got damaged during the recent snowfall and asked the concerned officers to provide necessary relief to the residents as per norms. The VC also paid a visit to NTPHC Wavoora and inspected its functioning.

## ACD Ganderbal pitches for youth empowerment



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 22

The Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Ganderbal, Dr. Bashir Ahmad today visited JKYDF DDU-GKY HIMAYAT Centre in Ganderbal. During his visit, ACD distributed welcome kits, and addressed the candidates, uplifting their

morale and reinforcing the commitment to empower youth. The visit provided an opportunity for candidates to interact with the ACD, gaining insights and encouragement from his experience and expertise. He emphasized the importance of youth empowerment in driving socio-economic growth and development. He also

reiterated the commitment to equipping young individuals with the necessary skills and resources to succeed in today's competitive landscape. The ACD deliberated in detail about the "Project Unnati" of MoRD Govt. of India and the Role of DDU-GKY centers in making it a successful and a result-oriented project.

## DC Bandipora flags-off Rally as part of SVEEP campaign



To promote the Voter Awareness and civic engagement as part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Rather today flagged-off a rally of students from Mini Secretariat Bandipora. Deputy District Election Officer, Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat; Nodal officer trainings, Nodal Officer SVEEP, and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion. Students from various schools, colleges, ITIs, and Polytechnic College Bandipora participated in the rally. The rally was aimed to

generate awareness for encouraging citizens to actively participate in the electoral process and exercise their right to vote. The rally, which started from Mini Secretariat Bandipora, concluded at NM Higher Secondary School Kaloosa raising awareness regarding ethical voting practices among citizens, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive democracy.

generate awareness for encouraging citizens to actively participate in the electoral process and exercise their right to vote. The rally, which started from Mini Secretariat Bandipora, concluded at NM Higher Secondary School Kaloosa raising awareness regarding ethical voting practices among citizens, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive democracy.

# District Administration Kishtwar Launches Kishtwar Idol 2.0, Official Kishtwar Tourism Website, Vibrant Kishtwar Calendar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 22

In a significant move towards promoting the cultural and tourism potential of Kishtwar district, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, along with the Kishtwar Development Authority and other stakeholders, today launched Kishtwar Idol 2.0. The event was inaugurated at TRC Kishtwar's Picture Time Theatre. It also featured the unveiling of the official Kishtwar tourism website of KDA and the Vibrant Kishtwar Calendar, highlighting the district's tourism allure. The ceremony was attended by other dignitaries including SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom -JKPS and CEO KDA Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, AD FCS&CA Shafkat Keen, Dy SP DAR Sajjad Khan, CEO Kishtwar Prehlad Bhagat, DYSSO

Kishtwar Kharati Lal Sharma besides Officers from the civil and police administration and Prominent locals personalities and musical Maestro also remained present on the occasion. The event commenced with a welcome address by the District Information Officer Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, who is also the Nodal Officer of Kishtwar Idol Season 2. He shed light on the Journey of Kishtwar Idol which is an initiative conceived and executed by DC Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav. Addressing the inaugural session, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the communal harmony fostered by Kishtwar Idol and its



role in providing local singers with a platform to reach new heights in their careers. He also highlighted the launch of the official tourism website www.kishtwartourism.com as a cutting-edge initiative

to showcase the district's beauty globally, leveraging the technology. He emphasized the local artists to take part in the season 2 as the Kishtwar Idol team is transversing across the district Kishtwar, holding ground auditions at different locations on scheduled date as shared on social media handles of district administration Kishtwar and District Information & Public Relation, Kishtwar.

During the unveiling of the KDA's website, CEO Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma presented its features, emphasizing its role in assisting tourists visiting Kishtwar. A promotional video on the National wide Pulse Polio Campaign was also screened on the occasion for the audiences of Kishtwar. SSP Kishtwar, besides the CEO Kishtwar and other members of Kishtwar Idol also spoke on the occasion. The event concluded with ground auditions, where enthusiastic singers showcased their talent, judged by DySP Sajjad Khan, Music teacher Sanjeet Sharma, and Senior artist Ashok. On the inaugural day of Kishtwar Idol Season 2 ground auditions, a remarkable display of talent unfolded as more than 100 local aspiring singers participated. The rigorous auditions saw 33 contestants showcasing exceptional skills, earning their ticket to the next round.

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## DDC B'pora reviews progress of JJM; emphasizes proper monitoring of all ongoing works

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA FEBRUARY 22

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Rather on Thursday chaired a meeting at Mini Secretariat, here to take a thorough review of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district. The meeting discussed various works of JJM, including bore wells/ tube wells/dug wells, rapid sand filtration plant, pipe network, Over Head Tanks and other electro mechanical works. The chair was apprised that in Jal Shakti Division (JSD) Bandipora, 175 works of 66 water supply schemes (WSS) were taken up, out of which 168 were tendered and 55 works stand completed as on date. It was given out that in JSD Sopore, 145 out of a total 147 works have been tendered and allotted, and 31 works have been completed so far. The meeting was informed that in SSD Gurez, 11 out of 25 works have been completed so far. Reviewing the progress of JJM in Sumbal sub-division, the chair was apprised that under WSS Sadatpora Naidkhai, 80 percent work is completed for retrofitting and 90 percent work is completed for construction of two 0.25 lac gallon capacity OHTs besides work is going on for the construction and commissioning of 0.55 lac gallon capacity OHT at Bonpora for WSS Sadatpora Naidkhai. The DC, on the occasion, emphasized proper monitoring of ongoing works to maintain the quality and to complete the works within stipulated time. He also asked the concerned departments to remove bottlenecks, if any, for timely completion of projects and also took a serious view of the delay in JJM works due to lapse on the part of contractors/agencies. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Umar Shafi Pandit, ACD Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, Chief Planning Officer Mohamad Maqbool, Ex-En PHE Bandipora/Sopore and other concerned officers and officials.