

JINDRAH IMAGES



DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 49 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

Terrorist hideout busted in Bandipora

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 27

Security forces on Tuesday busted a militant hideout in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said.

The Indian Army, police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) conducted a joint operation based on a specific input and busted a terrorist hideout in the orchards of the Ayathmullah general area in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, a police official said.

A UBGL/grenade launcher, seven UBGL grenades, 95 rounds of ammunition and a bag were seized from the hideout, the official said.

Most wanted highway robber in police net in Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Police on Tuesday nabbed a notorious and most wanted highway robber in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said that the arrested person was wanted in as many as 11 criminal cases registered in various Police Stations of District Rajouri, Jammu and Samba.

The apprehended accused has been identified as Basharat Mehmood alias Bisha, resident of Nerojal Thanamandi area of District Rajouri.

Notably, arrested accused person is prime accused in a series of high-profile highway robberies, theft, assault, attempt to murder and rape charges and has baffled investigators for months.

Multiple arrest warrants were issued by different Courts clearly manifesting the severity and complexity of the criminal activities that he has perpetrated, said the spokesman.

This infamous gang was committing robberies on Highway and in parking areas of Districts Jammu, Samba and Rajouri, he said adding, "this arrest is expected to bring relief to the affected public and serve as testament to the commitment of law enforcement agencies in pursuing the justice." (Agencies)

Man posing as Raj Bhavan official arrested

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

A man has been arrested for allegedly posing as a Government official posted with the Raj Bhavan in Jammu, the crime branch on Tuesday said.

The impersonator identified as Firdous Ahmad Wagay, a resident of Waskora village of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal, was arrested by a team of the Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), the

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Opposition convinced of loss in 2024 LS polls, thus abuses me: PM Modi

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed on Tuesday that the opposition, convinced it won't win the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, resorts to abusing him as it allegedly lacks a roadmap for the nation's progress.

Modi, speaking at the conclusion ceremony of the BJP state unit's padayatra at the Central Stadium here, urged Kerala's people to bless the saffron party with seats in double digits in the 2024 LS polls.

He further said the BJP never sees a state from the perspective of vote-bank.



Modi claimed that over the last 10 years, Kerala has benefited from development like other BJP-ruled states.

He said it was his guarantee to make all possible efforts to realise the dreams and expectations

of the people of Kerala. The PM said it was 'Modiyude guarantee' (Modi's guarantee) to make India the third largest economy in the world as well as eradicate poverty and corruption from the country.

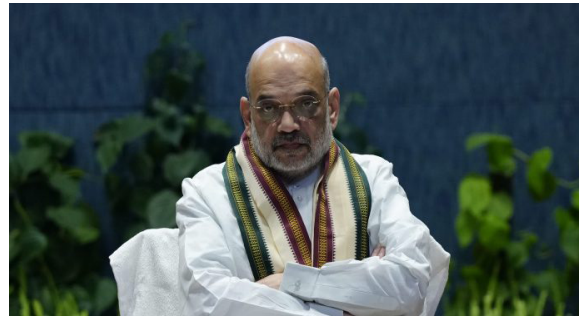
PM Modi worked towards ending linguistic inferiority complex from children's minds: Shah

AGENCIES
GANDHINAGAR, FEB 27

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he worked towards ending the linguistic inferiority complex from the minds of children and instilling a sense of pride among people for their language, culture, country and religion.

He said PM Modi also made the world listen to him give speeches in Hindi on global platforms, including G20.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a medical college run by Shree Swaminarayan Vishwamangal Gurukul at Kalol in his Lok Sabha constituency of Gandhinagar, Shah said that in the last



one decade of the Modi government, improvement to medical services took place at a fast pace in the country.

There is no doubt that Modi will become the prime minister for another five years, he said.

"For the first time, the Modi government made arrangements for students to study medical and engineering courses in their mother tongues. In a short time, students

who wish to study medical science in Gujarat can become a world-class doctor. PM Modi worked towards ending the linguistic inferiority complex from the minds of children," he said.

Shah said he has seen leaders from India, who talked about patriotism, speak in fluent English abroad.

"Today, Narendrabhai has made the entire

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HM extends ban on Jamaat-E-Islami-J&K for five more years

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami (Jammu and Kashmir) for five more years.

The extension of ban reiterates government's commitment to zero tolerance policy against terrorism and crackdown on separatist forces in the Kashmir Valley.

Home Minister Amit Shah, taking to X, said that government has banned the outfit for five more years and asserted that anyone threatening the security of nation

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Project Sampark | BRO personnel clear snow in Doda, Kishtwar

AGENCIES
JAMMU, FEB 27

With an aim to ensure connectivity and safety of the residents, the Border Road Organisation (BRO) under Project Sampark carried out snow clearance operation in Doda and Kishtwar districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

A Defence spokesman said Project Sampark of BRO sprung into action by deploying all the machineries, resources and manpower to undertake the critical task of snow clearance and provide safe passage to the commuters.

Doda and Kishtwar area



have witnessed a heavy snowfall along with rainfall in recent times. This has resulted in many far flung villages being cut off due to snow accumulation and Avalanches, which causes heavy landslides and creates high risks to

road commuters. "Advanced machineries and equipment have been deployed to clear any avalanche and landslides occurring in the Kishtwar region. Timely snow clearance and road

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CS administers oath to Rajesh Sharma as JKWRRRA member

AGENCIES
JAMMU, FEB 27

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today administered oath of office to former Custodian General, J&K, Rajesh Sharma as the member of Jammu & Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority (JKWRRRA) here.

On the occasion the ACS, Jal Shakti; Member, JKWRRRA; Secretary, Jal Shakti; Chief Engineers of the Department besides other officers were present.

Dulloo complimented Sharma for assuming his charge and asked him for using his expertise in bringing innovations into



the working of the Authority.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to ask the I&FC Department to further expand their command area under different irrigation schemes here in the UT. He also sensitized them about the preparedness of the UT to receive the waters from the Shahpur Kandi

barrage. He asked them to further explore possibilities of bringing more land under crop production by devising requisite irrigation schemes under NABARD etc.

On the occasion the ACS, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra informed the gathering that the regulatory authority has now become fully

functional as 3 out of 5 members are in place now making the quorum viable.

He gave out that the Authority has an essential duty of regulating water resources in the UT. He said that its mandate includes ensuring judicious, equitable and sustainable management, allocation and utilization of these resources, fixing the rates for use of water, and all other relevant matters.

Pertinent to mention here that Sharma, an erstwhile IAS officer has served in higher administration and management roles in J&K

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NHM releases ranking of public health facilities on JK e Sahaj for January

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 27

National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir, today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of January 2024.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu followed by Psychiatric Disease Hospital Jammu, Government L D Hospital Srinagar, Kashmir Nursing Home Srinagar, Govt Med-



ical College, Jammu. The bottom five in this category included Super Speciality Hospital Jammu, GMC Handwara, Government Medical College, Baramulla, Government Dental College, Srinagar and Government Medical College, Rajouri.

In the category of District Hospitals, DH

Shopian, secured the first rank followed by DH Ganderbal, Government Hospital, Jammu, CHC Langate, Kupwara, CHC Zachaldara Kupwara and CHC DH Pora Kulgam.

JK e-sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration in J&K) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat, by the Lt Governor, J&K having integration with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Government

in this category included CHC Thanamandi, Rajouri, Rajeev Gandhi Hospital, Jammu, CHC Langate, Kupwara, CHC Zachaldara Kupwara and CHC DH Pora Kulgam.

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Freight train runs Driverless for 75 Km in J&K: Probe suggests driver, station master at Fault

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

A preliminary probe into the incident of the driverless running of a freight train for about 70 km from Kathua (Jammu) to Uchchi Bassi Station (Punjab) in Jammu Tawi-Pathankot section has suggested that both the driver as well as the station master failed to fulfil their responsibilities.

The joint probe report, signed by five senior railway officials, has recorded the statements of various persons involved in the incident and described

the turn of events which point to dereliction of duties on the part of the driver and the station master of Kathua.

Exclusively accessed by PTI, the report said the loco pilot in his statement submitted that besides stabilising the engine and three wagons of the train by applying hand brakes, he also placed two wooden wedges before the wheels of the loco so that it couldn't move.

The report added that, however, when the train was stopped at Uchchi Bassi the concerned sta-

tion master carried out an inspection which was video recorded and found that the wagons' handbrakes were not in applied position.

It further noted that the station master of Kathua, who was on duty, did not stabilise the train properly from 6:05 am to 7:10 am. Railway officials said that as per norms, the station master has to check if the brakes are properly applied and take other measures to ensure that it would not move. According to the report, it

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CAA rules to be issued before model code of conduct comes into effect: Sources

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

The rules for the implementation of the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) for fast-tracking citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are likely to be issued before the Model Code of Conduct for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections comes into effect.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) gets enforced

immediately after election schedule is announced, which is likely in next fortnight.

The rules for the CAA are likely to be issued before the MCC comes into effect, sources privy to the development said.

When the rules for the CAA are issued, the Modi government will start granting Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim migrants - Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians - from Bangladesh,

Pakistan and Afghanistan who had come to India till December 31, 2014.

The CAA was passed in December 2019 and it got president's assent subsequently. However, the law could not be implemented so far as rules are a must for its implementation.

There were massive protests in some parts of the country after the CAA was passed by Parliament. Over a hundred people lost their lives during the protests or police action.

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Army commander reviews preparedness of formations along LoC in Jammu

AGENCIES
JAMMU, FEB 27

Army's northern commander Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar on Tuesday visited Jammu-based White Knight Corps headquarters and reviewed preparedness of the formation deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) in the region.

Lt Gen Kumar assumed the charge as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Udhampur-based northern command on



February 19 and immediately visited Srinagar-based Chinar Corps besides several forward areas along the LoC in the valley.

In a post on X, the northern command said Lt Gen Kumar visited the White Knight corps to review operational preparedness.

"The Army Commander reviewed the state of preparedness of the formations deployed along the Line of Control," the army said.

BMW Motorrad India kickstarts 2024 edition of BMW Motorrad Safari

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

BMW Motorrad commences its most awaited riding experience - BMW Motorrad Safari in India. Conceptualised exclusively for BMW riders, BMW Motorrad Safari offers the ultimate riding experience across the world.

Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, "Motorcycling transcends mere travel, offering a distinct pathway to explore personal passions, uncover untouched terrains, and embrace unparalleled freedom. BMW Motorrad unlocks an expansive universe of experiences, tailored to suit every rider's needs. BMW Motorrad Safari aims to unveil novel adventures, empowering riders to fully leverage the capabilities of their BMW bikes. The joy of riding is magnified when shared; thus, BMW Motorrad Safari is designed to forge unfor-

gettable moments, narratives, and voyages for all participants, enriching the motorcycling community with shared bonds and memories."

BMW Motorrad India is enhancing the BMW riding experience with over 72 expeditions in 2024 through BMW Motorrad Safaris and Weekend Escapes. These exclusive safaris and riding experiences will be organized through BMW's extensive dealer network spread across India, offering an unparalleled opportunity for riders of BMW Motorrad motorcycles to embark on adventurous journeys. The locations for these safaris have been carefully selected to include some of the most scenic destinations around the globe as well as within India, ensuring a visually stunning backdrop for every ride. Each safari promises to be a tailor-made riding experience, catering to the diverse preferences



and riding styles of BMW riders, making each journey unique.

BMW Motorrad Safari embodies the essence of touring, spanning an immersive 5 to 7-day journey that begins and concludes at a singular locale. This meticulously curated expedition navigates through pre-selected scenic trails, offering participants a harmonious blend of accommodations, entertainment, and culinary delights. Detailed route maps are disseminated beforehand, ensuring riders are well-prepared for the adventure that lies ahead, with BMW Motorrad marshals leading the way, providing expert

guidance at every turn. The event is designed with flexibility in mind, allowing riders to traverse at their leisure, encouraging them to fully embrace and absorb the stunning landscapes and vistas encountered en route. Beyond the ride, BMW Motorrad Safari fosters a vibrant community atmosphere, facilitating connections among participants who share a common passion, thereby creating lasting friendships and unforgettable memories.

The series will kick-start with the following Safaris: BMW Motorrad Safari - South Africa, 17-26 March 2024 South Africa adventure

begins in the dynamic city of Cape Town, sweeping you away to the majestic Cape Point, through the lush vineyards of the Cape Winelands, and into the heart of the enchanting forests of Knysna and Tsitsikamma. Witness the majestic beauty of the Addo Elephant Park, explore the unique allure of Oudtshoorn, and touch the southernmost tip of Africa at Cape Agulhas. The journey circles back along the picturesque coast of Hermanus, returning to Cape Town. This expedition offers a deep dive into the rich cultural and natural elements of South Africa, promising an unforgettable exploration of its diverse landscapes.

BMW Motorrad Safari - Bhutan, 19-25 April 2024 Embark on a captivating 7-day journey through the enchanting landscapes of Bhutan, beginning and concluding in Siliguri. The immersive tour takes you to the heart of the

mystical kingdom, where the serene capital city of Thimphu, the picturesque town of Paro, and the historic valley of Punakha await your exploration. Highlighting the adventure is a visit to the iconic Tiger's Nest, a sacred monastery perched on a cliff, promising breathtaking views.

BMW Motorrad Safari - Spain & France, 27 May to 03 June 2024

This safari unites the splendor of Spain and France, navigating through some of the most captivating landscapes the world has to offer. Covering an approximate distance of 1350 kilometers, this expedition begins in the vibrant city of Barcelona, takes you along the stunning Costa Brava, through the historic towns of La Seu d'Urgell and Cardona, ventures into the spiritual heart of Lourdes, explores the medieval charm of Ainsa, and finally circles back to Barcelona.

DMO Kathua lodges FIR against offender for illegal mining



J I NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 27

District Mineral Officer Kathua Rajinder Singh has lodged an FIR against an offender for illegally excavating and transporting minerals from land at Janglote.

The FIR has been lodged under different IPC, MMDR Act and other provisions of the law. The accused has been immediately arrested by police and further investigation

is going on.

Earlier, a complaint was also filed before Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas by some local people and taking immediate cognizance of the complaint, instructions were issued to DMO for taking strict action.

It was informed that the offender was making sale of mineral from the land by using JCB and tractor trolleys in violation of rules of Geology and Mining department.

GDC Vijaypur organises Symposium on "Voting Rights"

J I NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 27

Department of Political Science, in collaboration with NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur organised a symposium on the theme, "Vote for Democracy" as part of Voting Awareness Campaign.

Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the college guided the event aimed to increase the enrolment of the new eligible voters and create awareness among the students about their voting rights and procedure for enrollment. More than fifty college students participated in the activity with great enthusiasm, fervour and zeal.

The event commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Anita Jamwal, HOD Political Science. She briefed the students



about the importance of voting in a democracy and explained in detail how to register in the electoral rolls through online mode and also enlightened the students about the history of election commission of India. The terms and conditions of the competition were informed by Prof. Renuka Kundal, Lecturer, Department of Political Science. Principal of the college Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta while speaking on the occasion said that voting is a fundamental act of civic participation through which

young people contribute to democracy. While it's just one of many ways to engage in civic life, it is a powerful way for young people to make their voices heard and to have an impact on issues that affect them.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Anita Jamwal and Prof. Renuka Kundal. It was co-ordinated by Prof. Mamta Gupta, Dr. Anoop Bhagat, Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Dr. Manoj Heer, Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO), Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo and Dr. Radhika Rasyal.

GDC Ajas organises Voter Education & Awareness programme under SVEEP

J I NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 27

Government Degree College (GDC) Ajas on Tuesday organized a comprehensive Voter Education and Awareness programme as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign at the college auditorium, here.

The aim of the program was to educate students about the importance of voting and electoral participation.

The event was attended by students and faculty members.

The program commenced with an inaugural address by the college principal, highlighting the significance of active participation in the electoral process for the growth and development of the nation.

A special lecture was



delivered by College Education Nodal officer, Ashaq Hussain Parray sharing valuable insights about the electoral process, emphasizing the rights and responsibilities of voters.

He highlighted the importance of voter registration, casting informed votes, and the role of youth in shaping the future through active political participation.

Later, an interactive session was conducted where participants had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify their doubts regarding the electoral process.

Various topics such as voting procedures, voter identification, electoral roll verification, and the significance of free and fair elections were discussed during the programme.

NHM releases ranking of Public Health facilities on JK e Sahaj for January

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27

National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir, today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of January 2024. In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu followed by Psychiatric Disease Hospital Jammu, Government L D Hospital Srinagar, Kashmir Nursing Home Srinagar, Govt Medical College, Jammu. The bottom five in this category included Super Speciality Hospital Jammu, GMC Handwara, Government Medical College, Baramulla, Government Dental College, Srinagar and Government Medical

College, Rajouri. In the category of District Hospitals, DH Shopian, secured the first rank followed by DH Ganderbal, Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, ASYM DH Budgam and DH JLNMB Srinagar. The bottom five in this category included DH Ramban, DH Bandipora, DH Kulgam, DH Samba and DH Reasi. In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), the first rank has been bagged by CHC Charie-Sharief Budgam, followed by CHC Banihal, Ramban, Government Hospital Sarwal, Jammu, AH Gagwal, Samba and CHC Pakherpora, Budgam. The bottom five in this category included CHC Thanamandi, Rajouri, Rajeev Gandhi Hospital, Jammu, CHC Langate, Kupwara, CHC Zachaldara Kupwara and CHC DH Pora Kulgam.

DC assesses power supply scenario on outskirts of Kishtwar Town post charging of 132 KV Ramban-Khellani Line

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Devansh Yadav today led a comprehensive inspection to evaluate the power supply scenario on the outskirts of Kishtwar town after recent infrastructure upgrades (Successful Charging) of the 132 KV Ramban-Khellani-Kishtwar line upto Khellani.

Accompanied by DIO Kishtwar, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, AEE PDD, Sudheer Sharma, and other officials from the Power Development Department (PDD), the DC embarked on a thorough examination of power supply to assess the adequacy and reliability of the distribution network.

Pertinent to mention here that earlier the Twin districts of Doda and Kishtwar were relying on the 132KV DPS line constructed in 1987 for power supply. Initiated in 2007, the construction of the 132KV DC Ramban-Khellani-Kishtwar line faced various challenges, leading to delays and non-commissioning.

However, with persistent efforts and budget-



ary support from the UT administration, the line was successfully made functional up to Khellani by PGCIL & JKPTCL on January 31, 2024, after a hiatus of over 17 years.

This significant development bolsters substantial improvements in power supply for the residents of District Kishtwar.

As a result of a remarkable increase from the previous allocation of 33 MW to a total of 45 MW for the district Kishtwar, the

urban areas of Kishtwar are now receiving more than 20 hours of power supply, while rural areas benefit from 18 hours. During the ground assessment of the impact, DC Kishtwar directly engaged with local residents of the outskirts areas like Sarkoot, Hatta, Poochal, Kundali, Cherhar areas by door-to-door visits, holding discussions to understand their experiences and concerns regarding the power

supply. DC Kishtwar inquired with the locals about the power supply and he was apprised that power received as of now is 18-20 hours per day rather than the previous 10-12 hours per day, as a result of the concurrent availability of an additional 10-12MW to the district through the 132KV Dul Hasti line.

The visit by the DC to the outskirts of Kishtwar town marks a significant milestone in ensuring the improving power supply infrastructure and enhanced quality of life for residents.

The successful charging of the 132KV Ramban-Khellani-Kishtwar line has brought immense relief to District Kishtwar, marking a pivotal moment in addressing longstanding power challenges. Gratitude resonates across the community towards PGCIL, JKPTCL, and the UT administration, especially Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha.

Urban and rural areas alike are experiencing significant enhancements, bringing joy and convenience to households, students, and residents.

DC Shopian chairs District Level NCORD Committee meeting



J I NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 27

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb who is also the chairman of District Level Committee (DLC) under Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD), Shopian today chaired the NCORD Committee meeting with the concerned members at Mini-Secretariat, here.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various issues related to incidence of drug addiction, areas of concern and hotspots of drug use besides cultivation of illicit poppy and bung in the district.

The DC sought details from the concerned departments about the measures taken to control the drug menace and cultivation of illicit poppy and cannabis in the district.

He stressed on intensified crack downs on the drug peddlers along with

rigorous awareness/sensitization camps and inspection drives in a coordinated manner between the concerned departments such as Police, Medical, Education and Social Welfare, etc.

The DC impressed upon the stakeholder departments to work with synergy to combat drug abuse in the district by playing an active role in anti-drug measures. He directed the concerned officers to plan a sensitization programme about drug addiction with participation of all the concerned stakeholders, including school principals, students, civil society members and others.

Assistant Drug Controller apprised the meeting that 95% medical wholesale/retail shops so far have installed CCTV cameras for proper surveillance of sale of over the counter drugs.

The DC directed the Assistant Drug Controller

to ensure installation of CCTV in all Pharmaceutical stores.

During the meeting, DC exhorted upon the SDM, Zainapora and Tehsildars for organising mass awareness drives on drug abuse in their respective areas with active participation of the Police department. He further directed SDM, Zainapora to keep a high vigil in such areas which are vulnerable to drug trafficking.

The meeting also discussed the role of Social Welfare, Education, Health, Youth Services and Sports for drug demand reduction strategies, rehabilitation and mental health counseling etc.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Shopian, Tanushree; ACR, Shopian, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, SDM Zainapora, Tehsildars, CMO Shopian and other concerned Civil and Police officers were present.

Shabnam Kamili chairs Public Darbar at Panchayat Dori, Block Kharah Balli

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

Secretary ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili today chaired a Public Darbar in Panchayat Dori, Block Kharah Balli, to address local concerns.

The meeting was also attended by the DDC Member and other public representatives besides local citizens.

Among various issues, the need for improved educational facilities and infrastructure were prominently raised during the meetings. The importance of enhanced staff and facilities at the local Primary Health Centre were also raised. Reliable and sufficient drinking water supply remained another priority of the public.

Addressing water supply concerns, the Secretary highlighted the ongoing works under Jal Jeevan Mission, assuring swift action. It was also informed to the public that the requirement of medical facilities at the PHC have already been noted and being taken up for fulfillment.

In her address, the Secretary highlighted the government's unwavering efforts to improve overall conditions and elevate the status of citizens in the Union Territory. Roads and infrastructure development remain key focus areas, she reiterated.

Maha Shivratri festival

Suresh Kumar visits Pandavas site, Ek Mukhi Shivji Heritage Temple

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 27

Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today visited the ancient Pandavas site at Shiva Dal and Ek Mukhi Shiv Mandir to take stock of infrastructure and other requisite facilities available for the visitors at both the destinations.

The visit was conducted as preparatory measure for celebration of upcoming Maha Shivratri festival, as thousands of devotees throng these religious spots from various parts of the country.

The Principal Secretary was accompanied by President of Ek Mukhi Shiv Mandir Samiti Mohalla, Seva Ram Parihar and other samiti members.

During the visit, the Principal Secretary evinced keen interest in learning more about these ancient sites and stressed the significance of collaborative efforts towards preserving and maintain-



ing our cultural heritage sites for the posterity.

The Principal Secretary expressed assurance that both these culturally significant heritage sites have the potential to attract visitors not only from Jammu and Kashmir but also from across India and the world. He assured to take all necessary steps to enhance the infrastructure at these pilgrimage sites, which could

contribute immensely towards boosting economy of the entire region.

Seva Ram Parihar briefed Principal Secretary about various promotional activities being conducted regularly by the Samiti management, including organization of a 2-day langar sewa during the Mata Machail Yatra at the Pandavas site Shiva Dal last year.

Seminar cum Awareness Programme on Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana held at Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 27

A Seminar cum Awareness Programme on the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana was today organised here under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh.

The event, which aimed to educate and enlighten the local community about the benefits of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, was attended by a large number of people.

Speaking on programme DC Doda highlighted the importance of the scheme in promoting skill development and entrepreneurship among the youth. He emphasised the need for utilizing the opportunities provided by the PM Vishwakarma

Yojana to empower individuals and enhance their livelihoods.

The experts and resource persons shared valuable insights on the scheme, its eligibility criteria, benefits and application process during the seminar. They also addressed queries and concerns raised by the participants, providing them with a better understanding of how they can leverage the scheme for their personal and professional growth.

The organizers expressed their commitment to supporting and guiding interested individuals in availing the benefits of the scheme to enhance their skills and boost their economic prospects.

Poshan Project activities reviewed in Assar

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 27

In a proactive move towards bolstering welfare schemes, District Programme Officer for Poshan Project Doda, Paramjeet Singh conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing initiatives in Poshan Project Assar, here the other day.

The review meticulously assessed the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), with emphasis on the procurement of supplementary nutrition as per decentralized policy. Paramjeet Singh handed over engagement orders to 08 newly appointed Sahayikas (AWHs) within the Poshan project Assar. This step underscores a commitment to bolster the implementation of welfare schemes and ensure their seamless execution at the grass-roots level.

In a bid to ensure optimal outcomes, stakeholders including supervisors and Sanginis received on-the-spot directives to diligently execute their roles. Nissar Hussain, the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) for Assar, reassured the DPO of Assar's unwavering commitment to monitor the performance of all schemes on a daily basis, addressing any potential hindrances promptly.

Mission Shakti Boosts Girls: 'Beti Bachho Beti Padho' event encourages equality, education in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

Social Welfare Department on Tuesday arranged a special event under the mission of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" here at the Mission Shakti Office in Preet Nagar, aiming to support girls and promote equality.

Inspired by the slogan of the Government of India's initiative, the event focused on "Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child." It emphasized the importance of investing in girls' education to create a fair society.

Under the slogan of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, the event aimed to stop bias against girls, addressing issues like female feticide, underage marriages and gender prejudices. The goal was to raise awareness and create an environment for the overall development of girls.

The event had Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya,



as the Chief Guest, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Shishir Gupta and special guests Ishita Rathi (IAS) and District Social Welfare Officer Mamta Rajput.

Other attendees included Shagun Manchanda, District Mission Coordinator Mission Shakti and offi-

cialists from DHEW and OSC Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya spoke about the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign and also distributed essential items like nutritional kits, baby essentials, school bags, laptop bags and sewing machines

among beneficiaries.

The program included informative sessions with Advocate Mamta discussing legal matters, Dr. Paras Khanna from Shankus Hospital sharing health insights and Khushboo Kapthe, a Gender Specialist from DHEW Jammu, presenting women-centric schemes.

Relief Commissioner (M) reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri Festival

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

A meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation (M) J&K to review the necessary arrangements for Annual Maha Shivratri Festival, falling on 07/08th of March 2024.

The officers from Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Fisheries, Floriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Jal Shakti, Jammu Municipal Corporation and representatives from District Administration attended the meeting.

The chair highlighted the importance of Maha Shivratri Festival, par-

ticularly for the Kashmiri Pandit community and requested the District Administration to constitute checking squads to monitor the quality and the rates of the essential commodities like Flowers, Pooja items, Mutton, Fish, Vegetables, Milk products etc.

The Floriculture Department assured the supply of flowers especially Bael/Bael leaves and Marigold to all the migrant camps viz. Jagti, Muthi, Purkhoo and Nagrota and Non Camps areas where Kashmiri Pandits have a sizeable population viz Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Janipur Colony, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Gangyal, Subash Nagar, Muthi, Udhaywala,

Talab Tillo etc. during the festival days.

The Department of Horticulture assured supply of good quality walnuts, green vegetables, especially Nadru, etc in all the migrant camps and non camps areas during the festival days on approved rates.

The Department of FCS&CA assured smooth supply of all quality food items in camps and non camp areas.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation assured arrangements of cleanliness in the areas falling within the municipal limits.

The Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu assured adequate supply of mutton at reasonable

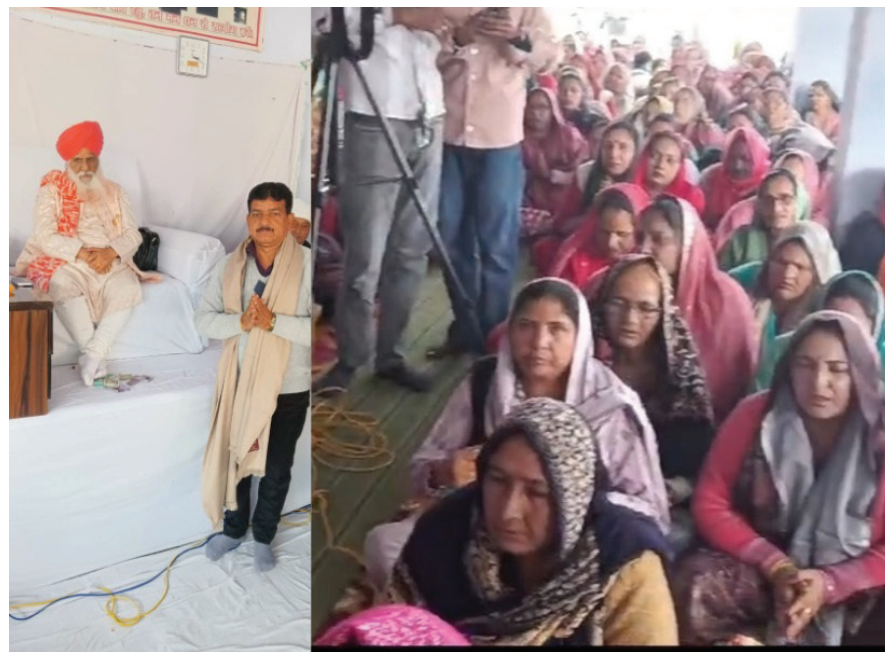
rates in close coordination with Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The Department of Fisheries assured supply of adequate quantities of fish in all the migrant camps and prominent non camps areas.

The participants assured that all the necessary arrangements will be in place well in advance to facilitate smooth celebration of Maha Shivratri festival.

Chief Engineer, JPDC and Chief Engineer, PHE Department, was requested to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply in all the migrant camps and non camps areas during the festival days

Guru Ravidas ji was light for people immersed in darkness: Swami Gurdeep Giri ji Mahaaraj



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Ramgarh (Gurdeep Kumar): Human life has been called the best of all religious texts. This life is found by man to attain God and Satguru is the means of meeting God, this sentence was said by Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj in satsang organized at Palota, Ramgarh. He said that since ages, saints have fulfilled the purpose of their life only by getting on the biography of Guru Ravidas Ji and called upon the sangat to follow the path shown by the Guru.

hak Committee at Palota, Ramgarh, in which Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj made the sangat happy with the prachan. Sangat also praised Guru Ravidas Maharaj ji and worshiped for the happiness and peace of the family. The sangat bowed his head at Guru Gaddi and Ravidas temple and received the blessings of Guru ji by offering prayers. In the religious program, Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj of Pathankot shed light on the biography of Guru Ravidas Ji and called upon the sangat to follow the path shown by the Guru.

Describing Guru Ravidas as the messiah of equality, Swamiji said that Guru Ravidas ji brought the people trapped in the utter darkness of false religious pomp and superstition to the light of knowledge. The welfare of the society and the whole world is possible only by following the path shown by Guru ji. Former state minister Yashpal Kundal also participated in the religious program and called upon the sangat to follow the path shown by Guru Ravi Das ji. A Bhandara was also organized at the end in which the devotees took prasad.

DC Doda reviews progress under CAPEX budget 2023-24



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today reviewed the achievements made under Capital Expenditure (Capex) plan for fiscal year 2023-24 in Doda. The DC emphasized the crucial need for timely project completion to ensure efficient fund utilization and district development. He directed officers to expedite ongoing projects and maintain strict adherence to timelines and quality standards.

The DC stressed the importance of close monitoring and coordination among departments to overcome bottlenecks and ensure seamless project progress. He urged officers

DG Rural Sanitation visits Budgam, reviews work done under SBM-G, ensuring functionality

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 27

Director General (DG) Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra Tuesday undertook a comprehensive visit to district Budgam to assess the functionality of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) assets.

The visit aimed to ensure the effective implementation of sanitation facilities and timely interventions for better results in door-to-door waste collection, collection of user charges, engaging Self Help Group members in different activities, creation of Swachhta Bank and developing of legacy waste sites into revenue generation places and community involvement in different activities.

During her visit, Anoo Malhotra meticulously inspected the sanitation facilities at Panchayat Choon, where she interacted with community members at Common Service Center (CSC), inspected Segregation Shed, Community Compost Pits, Legacy Waste sites and visited Soak Pit constructed at Government Secondary School.

She directed the concerned officers to expedite the functionality of Segregation Shed and Community Compost Pit within two weeks' time emphasizing the importance of clean and hygienic facilities for locals.

Continuing her inspection, Anoo Malhotra visited Panchayat Arigam in Khansaheb Block of the district to interact with community members and to evaluate the functional status of the assets constructed in the panchayat. She stressed the need for proper maintenance and utilization of these plants to maximize their benefits for the community.

SMVDU organized a One Day Visit to SKUAST-Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

A one-day visit as an essential part of the study curriculum was organized by the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra for the undergraduate students pursuing Biotechnology at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu. Students had the opportunity to explore the ongoing research and were provided with a comprehensive knowledge of the recent research endeavors in the institute. The students visited various departments and labs of the institute including the School of Biotechnology, School of Biochemistry, School of Plant Breeding and Genetics, and School of Plant Pathology. Students were provided with valuable insights into the intricate workings and



use of various instruments present in the labs and were made aware of the research done in these labs. The students and the faculty also had an opportunity to interact with various faculty members of the institutes.

The visit was an outcome of the coordinated efforts of Prof. Anil Kumar, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Ravindra Singh Sudan, Head, Genetics and Plant Breeding from SKUAST, and Dr. Indu Bhushan, Assistant Professor & Coordinator of the educational visit for SoBT with Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Bio-

technology from SMVDU. The other faculty members and staff accompanying the students included Dr. Sharada Pottukuchi, Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, and Mr. VP Singh. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the faculty of the School of Biotechnology towards the overall grooming and development of their students as able professionals. He laid stress on organizing more such visits to add to the practical and firsthand experience of the students at SMVDU.

Police arrests drug peddler in Anantnag; Contraband substance recovered

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEB 27

Police in Anantnag have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A Police party of Police Station Bijbehara at a checkpoint established at Waghama Bijbehara intercepted a vehicle (Swift) bearing registration number JK01X-3736 driven by Manzoor Ahmad Rahson of Abdul Rahman Rah resident of Waghama Bijbehara. During search, Police party recovered 18 Kgs of Poppy Straw and a Mixer Grander from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

NSS SMVDU organizes week long Fit India Freedom Run programme



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

NSS SMVDU organized a week long "Fit India Freedom Run 4.0" under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav'. The motive of the run was to make students aware about the efforts of our freedom fighters and to stay fit. The event started daily at 7 am in the university ground. More than 100 students participated in the said

event. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar also participated in the event and appreciated the efforts of all volunteers for organizing the event. Vice chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated NSS volunteers for successfully organizing the event. The entire event was successfully coordinated by NSS volunteer Abhishek Kumar Sharma throughout the week.

GDC Billawar organizes rally on theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure"

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BILLAWAR, FEB 27

GDC Billawar organized a rally on the theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure" under the banner of Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) on February 27, 2024, under the mentorship and guidance of Dr. Alka Sharma, Principal GDC Billawar. As we all know, India is the largest and the most vibrant democracy in the world, where every vote counts. Voting gives Indian citizens the power to form a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. To enhance voter's awareness and voters' turnout, ECI launched SVEEP in 2009. Since its launch, SVEEP has led to a steady increase in voter registration and voter turnout.

The rally was flagged off by Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma (Head, Deptt. of Physics). The message of the rally was conveyed with the help of the recitation of



slogans by more than 50 students and volunteers, besides urging the people for electoral participation and electoral roll registration in the ongoing electoral roll revision and stressing upon participants for maximum voter registration. The rally was meticulously supervised and managed by the SVEEP Committee (Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Convenor, Dr. Manu Sharma and Prof. Sunita Devi), NCC Officer (Mr. Akshay Sharma), and NSS PO (Prof. Bansi Lal) and Prof. Kanchan Mala (member NSS).

PM urges people from all walks of life to spread message about campaign titled 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' among first time voters

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has urged people from all walks of life to spread the message about campaign titled 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' among first time voters.

A Campaign titled 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' is underway to spread awareness among the first time voters and encourage young voters to exercise their democratic right.

On X handle, Union Minister, Shri Anurag Thakur shared Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye anthem and asked everyone to



share it.

Responding to the X post of Union Minister, Prime Minister said;

"Let us make our electoral process even more participative. I call upon people from all walks of life to spread the message, in their own style, among first time voters - #MeraPehlaVoteDeshKeLiye!"

Rajouri Police nabs a notorious highway robber wanted in multiple cases in Rajouri, Jammu, Samba

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, FEB 27

Police nabbed a notorious highway robber in Thanamandi, wanted in as many as 11 criminal cases registered in various Police Stations of District Rajouri, Jammu and Samba.

The apprehended accused has been identified as Basharat Mehmood @ Bisha, S/O Mohd Kabir, resident of Nerojal Thanamandi area of District Rajouri.

Mentionable that the arrested accused person is prime accused in a series of high-profile highway robberies, theft, assault, attempt to murder and rape charges and has baffled investigators for months.

Notably multiple arrest warrants were issued by different Hon'ble Courts clearly manifesting the severity and complexity of the criminal activities that he has perpetrated.



Noteworthy the said accused is a notorious criminal with involvements in FIR Nos.368,380,430 & 437 of 2023 U/S 392 IPC of PS Nagrota; 110/2023 U/S 392/323 IPC,4/25 A. Act of PS Gangyal; 88/2023 U/S 457/392/34 IPC of PS Manjakote; 280 & 317 of 2023 U/S 392/458/34 IPC PS Domana; 149/2023 U/S 392 of PS Vijaypur;

239/2023 U/S 392 IPC of PS Jhajjar Kotli & 281/2023 U/S 392/2023 PS Akhnoor.

This infamous gang was committing robberies on Highway and in parking areas of Districts Jammu, Samba and Rajouri. This arrest is expected to bring relief to the affected public and serve as testament to the commitment of law enforcement agencies in pursuing the justice.

Vikram Rathore leads VDCs/SPOs protest in Thathri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
THATHRI (DODA), FEB 27

Apni Party Provincial President, Legal Wing, Jammu, Vikram Rathore led a protest demonstration of Village Defence Committee (VDCs) in Thathri town in support of their demands.

As per the press release, the protest demonstration was taken out in Thathri area of Doda District by Vikram Rathore amid slogans in support of the VDCs / Special Police Officers (SPOs) who have combat terrorism in the remote and inaccessible area of the Chenab Valley and help the security forces to establish peace in the region. The protest rally passed through the market area of Thathri while the protesters were shouting slogans in favour of their demands. On this occasion, Vikram Rathore was accompa-

nied by Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani, Adv Manmeet Singh and others.

In his speech, Vikram Rathore criticized the traditional political parties for their silence towards the issues of the VDCs/SPOs who have been suffering because of less wages. He said that the administration is not responding to the issues of the VDCs/SPOs in a positive manner and have adopted delaying tactics to fulfill their demand for enhancing their wages.

"These VDCs/SPOs work to maintain peace while putting their lives to the risk in these hilly areas of Doda District, and other parts of Chenab Valley," he said.

He however cautioned the authorities for unnecessary delay in accepting the demands and said that if the matter is delayed, they would come on the roads in support of their

demands in future as well.

He further said that "In case, the present Govt has intention to do the work then at first instance withdraw the petition from the Hon'ble Division Bench (High Court) and they should stop to take two stands which they are continuously doing (one argument taken against the VDCs / SPOs in High Court and Secondly, they are taking different stand outside the court."

Vikram Rathore denied the VDG policy to the extent where the salaries of Old VDCs / SPOs decreased from 18000 to 4500. He however welcomed the said policy to the extent where the old VDCs members are taking their monthly salaries @ of Rs 4000 and further requested to increase old VDCs member's salaries also from Rs 4000 to 12000.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

PM Modi worked...

world listen to him addressing in Hindi on global platforms, including G20. He worked to instil pride in the public for their language, culture, country and religion," Shah said.

For the first time, the youth of the country are confident that India will be on top of the world in 2047 when it completes its centenary year of independence, the Union minister said.

"In 2047, the youth sitting here will see how people abroad will line up for Indian visas. This kind of India is being created under the leadership of Modi," he said.

From seven All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in 70 years, their number went up to 23 in 10 years of the Modi government, he added.

From 387 medical colleges, the number increased to 706 when the country celebrated 75 years of independence. Also, from 51,000 medical seats, the number rose to 1.07 lakh, Shah said, adding that from 31,000 post-graduate seats, the number rose to 70,000.

The Modi government improved the standard of higher education, revived the syllabi to make it world class and offered the youth a platform to compete globally, he said.

"As a result, lakhs of youth created start-ups and hoisted the Indian flag high in the world. All this happened in the last 10 years," Shah said.

In the last 10 years, the number of institutes of national importance more than doubled from 75 to 165, public universities rose from 316 to 480, technical universities from 90 to 188, and colleges from 38,000 to 53,000, he said. (Agencies)

HM extends ban...

will face ruthless measures.

"The organisation is found continuing its activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' on 28 February 2019," he said in the post.

The Centre's crackdown on Jamaat comes days after National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided its multiple premises in Kashmir, in connection with terror funding. The raids were conducted in Jammu, Budgam, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Srinagar. Multiple damning documents and digital records were seized in the raids, which reportedly documented involvement of Jamaat in terror activities. (Agencies)

Project Sampark | BRO...

connectivity is ensured to assist the resident population in this adverse climatic condition," he said.

The spokesman added that the BRO has roped in additional resources in the sector to providing 24*7 connectivity and safe passage to the residents and road users.

The snow clearance activities was taken even during night time to rescue the tourists and inhabitants stuck in the higher reaches due to snow and landslides, he added.

It has been of utmost importance for BRO to ensure that entire road stretches are kept open to handle any unforeseen situation in a time bound manner, he said.

CS administers oath to...

government holding senior responsibilities. He had been the Regional Director (Survey & Land Records), Udhampur, Director Handloom Development Department, Secretary Public Service Commission (J&K) and lastly the Custodian General of J&K before superannuation from active government services in June, 2023.

NHM releases ranking...

of India. The hospital ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e Sahaj for the month of January 2024, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities has been shared on NHM website.

Freight train runs Driverless...

was a divisional material train (DMT) which is used to carry railway materials for construction and other purposes. It was stationed at Kathua junction with 53 wagons and it had no brake van (guard's coach).

The report said that at 5:20 am, the control room told the station master to tell the driver to take the train to Jammu but the driver refused as the train didn't have any guard's coach as well as a guard.

The control room, as per the report, asked the driver to shut down the train, be relieved of his duties and

take a train to go to Jammu. The driver handed over the keys to the station master around 6 am and left for Jammu.

The report suggested that the train remained unmanned from 6 am to 7:10 am before it started moving on its own due to a down gradient.

Experts say that as per the norm the station master is supposed to give in writing to the loco pilot to leave the train unmanned but in this case, as per the report, it was not done. The loco pilot also didn't make any entry in the load stabilizing register or put his sign there, the report said.

According to reports, the Divisional Railway Manager of the Ferozpur division, under which the Kathua-Jammu Tavi section comes, has suspended six railway officials based on the preliminary probe and ordered a detailed investigation.

When contacted, Shoban Chaudhari, General Manager, Northern Railway (NR), told PTI, "At the moment I cannot make any statement regarding actions being taken against the officials since further probe is on." According to an official railway communication, the driverless train ran at 70 to 75 km/h, crossed eight to nine stations and covered 75 km before it was stopped at Uchhi Bassi by putting obstructions such as sand and wooden blocks on the track.

CAA rules to be issued...

The Ministry of Home Affairs has readied a portal for the convenience of the applicants as the entire process will be online.

The applicants will have to declare the year when they entered India without travel documents. No document will be sought from the applicants, an official said. According to the law, the benefits under the CAA will be given to the undocumented minorities from the three neighbouring countries.

On December 27, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that no one can stop the implementation of the CAA as it is the law of the land and accused the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of misleading people on the issue.

Addressing a party meeting in Kolkata, Shah said it is the BJP's commitment to implement the CAA.

The TMC, led by Mamata Banerjee, has been opposing the CAA since beginning.

The promise of implementing the controversial CAA was a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha

and Assembly polls in West Bengal.

The saffron party's leaders consider it a plausible factor that led to the rise of the BJP in Bengal.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of presidential assent or seek extension from the Committee on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Since 2020, the home ministry has been taking extension in regular interval from the parliamentary committee for framing the rules.

Meanwhile, in last two years, over district magistrates and home secretaries of nine states have been given powers to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians coming from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2021-22, from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, a total of 1,414 foreigners belonging to these non-Muslim minority communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan were given Indian citizenship by registration or naturalization under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The nine states where Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation is given under the Citizenship Act, 1955 to non-Muslim minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra.

Interestingly, authorities of none of the districts of Assam and West Bengal, where the issue is politically very sensitive, has been given the powers so far. (Agencies)

Man posing as Raj...

agency said in a statement here.

The agency said the arrest followed the registration of a case under relevant sections of the law in Police Station CICE.

Some incriminating materials, including fake identity cards, seals and other documents used in commission of the crime have also been seized from the possession of the arrested person, the statement said, adding further investigation of the case is in progress.

Wagay was posing as the under secretary posted with the Raj Bhavan to dupe gullible victims, an official said. (Agencies)

Mission Vatsalya Kupwara organizes CBP on JJ ACT 2015 at Environmental Hall, Handwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 27

District Child Protection Unit, Mission Vatsalya Kupwara today organised training cum capacity building programme (CBP) on Juvenile Justice (care and protection) Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, Adoption Regulations, and child rights at Environmental Hall Handwara.

DDC Rajwar, Mir Suliaman was chief guest on the occasion.

District Child Protection Officer Kupwara, Hidayatullah Mir; Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Kupwara, Abdul Rashid Malik; Members CWC Member Juvenile Justice Board Kupwara, District child protection Unit officials, PLVs from DLSA Kupwara, ICDS workers, prosecution wing JJB Kupwara, Chairperson empowering widows, orphans and Disable people's trust J&K Asha workers, Teachers from education department, PRIs, ULBs, JPU HANDWARA and social welfare officials attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Rajwar Mir Suliaman appreciated the concerned officers and institutions for their con-



certed efforts in child care protection in the district. He emphasized the need for proper implementation of different legislations of the Government including Juvenile Justice Act to ensure the protection of child rights.

During the programme, various speakers highlighted the crucial role and responsibilities of stakeholders in ensuring the effective implementation of these Acts and encouraged active participation.

Shayista Muzaffar, Social Worker Kupwara explained the importance of the programme and gave a detailed description of working mechanism regarding child welfare committee, DDCPU and JJB at the district level and detailed discussion were held on the rescue and

rehabilitation process for various categories of vulnerabilities such as child Labour, child begging, missing child and runaway child, as per JJ Act 2015.

CWC Chairperson Ab Rashid Malik, CWC Member M.Rafiq Shah, Mohammad Shafi Mir Chairperson People's Trust JK, Gh Hassan JPU Handwara, Resource Person Advocate Vaseem Aslam, PLV Tawseef Raja, Protection Officer, Gh Mohammad Lone, LCPO Amoos Bhat, Mudaseer Qureshi CWC Member, Protection officer Tawseef Maqbool Bhat highlighted various issues related to child rights.

The certificates of participation and mementos were also distributed to acknowledge the active involvement of the participants in the programme.

NSF pays tribute of 93th Death anniversary of Chander Shekhar Azad

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

National Secular Forum paid tributes to Saheed Chander Shekhar Azad on his 93th Death Anniversary at University Campus. Amid slogans "Chander Shekhar Azad Zindabad" "Inqulaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai" and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was the chief guest while Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District Urban and Zonal Secretary JKNC, presided over the function and Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF, was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF member to remember the death anniversary of Saheed Chander Shekhar Azad.

Abrol threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Chander Shekhar Azad". He said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants.

He also said that when arrested and produced before the magistrate, he gave his name as 'Azad', his father's name as 'Swatantra' and his residence as



'prison'. He was considered to be one of the most famous revolutionaries of the Independence movement.

While Speaking Dr. Vikas Sharma also said that ever since BJP took over the reign into its hand, besides the general public, the majority of youth have totally been broken and gone into a state of desperation due to anti youth policies of the present government. He added that growing unemployment was a matter of great concern as the present regime has miserably failed to create job opportunities for the youth.

He mentioned that during the Janab Omar Abdullah led NC government, jobs were provided to a large number of youth, RTI Act was enacted to eradicate corruption and several other revolutionary steps were taken to push J&K on the path of development. Dr Sharma urged the youth to come together on a single platform to push for this demand. NC would

leave no stone unturned to achieve statehood for J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikshay Vashist said that many freedom fighters laid down their life for the sake of the independence of this country. One of the youngest people to walk to the gallows fighting for India's independence was Azad.

Mohd Umer Farooq President University Unit delivered the welcome address, Aditya Kargotra Working President University Unit, was delivering the vote of thanks.

Among those who were present on the occasion included, Vineet Gupta Chairman University Unit, Atul sharma Sr Vice-President University Unit, Arun singh General Secretary University Unit, Rooh Shah, Ishtyaq Ahmed, Rashid hussain, Babar sohil, Aamil Farooq, Abhishek mehra, Suman kumar, Gourav sharma, Gourav chibber, Yogesh kumar, Sidharth singh, Pankaj sharma, Rohit kotwal and others.

DC Shopian presides over Employment generation/skill development meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 27



Asking youth to come forward and seek skills for self-employment, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today remarked that the skilling of youth in relevant trades is the key to tide over the problem of unemployment.

The DC underlined this while speaking in a meeting to discuss the ways and means of skilling and capacity building of stakeholders. He impressed upon the officers the skill gap in the district as per employment potential and expected areas of investment.

He asked them to impart skills to every youth as per aptitude and willingness. He called for

imparting skills that are relevant in the market and help the person in gainful employment.

The DC issued instructions for making a robust mechanism to skill those youth identified during the recently held outreach programmes of Back to Village and My Town My Pride. He reiterated that investments worth crores are coming to UT in next few years under Single Window System and it would open doors for thousands of youth to gain employment.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Shopian; Assistant Commissioner Development, Shopian; LDM, CAO, CHO, CAHO, AD Fisheries, representatives from ITI and Polytechnic and other concerned.

DCPU-Mission Vatsalya organize CBP at Sumbal Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 27

District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Mission Vatsalya Bandipora today organised training cum capacity building programme (CBP) on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, Adoption Regulations, and child rights at Dak-Bangloow Sumbal, here.

The program was attended by DDC member Tahir ul Qadri, DDC member Ghulam Nabi Ambar, Chairperson/ Members from CWC, JJB and DCPU officials, CHL officials, officials from Education Department, ICDS, Health, Labour Department, SJPUs, representatives from DLSA, NGOs, Traders, Transporters, Civil Society Members, BLCPCs, VLPCs, representatives from Village Level Child Protection Committee and other concerned stakeholders.

During the program, various speakers highlighted the crucial role and responsibilities of stakeholders in ensuring the effective implementation of these Acts and encouraged active partici-



pation.

Earlier, Gowhar Mahmood Protection Officer NIC delivered the introductory speech on the structure of Mission Vatsalya besides explaining the importance of the programme and gave a detailed description of the topic and its working mechanism at the district level.

Detailed discussions were held on rescue and rehabilitation operations for vulnerable child labourers. The facilitators

discussed case studies, group work and role playing to make the program engaging and enriching for the participants.

Speakers highlighted the role of CWC/ JJB/ SJPUs and other line departments.

Asmat Quansar, Legal Officer delivered a speech on Adoption Regulations.

On the occasion, certificates of participation were distributed to acknowledge the active involvement of the participants in the programme.

GDC Marh, J&K Bank organizes 2 day Awareness Programme on Financial literacy

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27



Recognising the importance of financial literacy is crucial in present day life, Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with J&K Bank, organised 2-day awareness cum interaction programme.

Principal of the college Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul was the Chief Guest. He welcomed the J&K Bank officials on the first day and delivered a keynote address on the significance of banking facilities for economic safety and security.

The guest of Honour and resource person for the programme was Ramesh Bhat, Branch Manager J&K Bank, Marh who made the students and staff aware

about different types of bank accounts and their features that are available across all banks in the country.

Earlier, the formal welcome address was delivered by Dr. Ruchika from the department of English.

On the second day, the resource persons from the bank were Rahul Dev and Deepika who spoke about digital banking, how to use online transactions safely using Mpay delight plus app, UPI and QR code.

They also made the students aware about cyber crime related to banking and advised them not to share OTP to any unknown person. They stressed upon banking from home for the safety and saving the time in the life of a student as well as the general

person. The main focus of the interactive session was to spread awareness to the whole society through the youth of the country. Students were extremely happy by the enriching experience they had with the bank officials.

The programme was organised and Coordinated by the faculty members Dr. Ram Dayal, Dr. Sheetal Devi, Ravi Kumar, Dr. Ruchika Kumari, Dr. Tanu Sharma, Dr. Sheetal Verma, Anil Sharma.

On the day of conclusion i.e. 27th February 2024, the formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Ashu Jolly, Convener Cultural Committee. On the day of conclusion refreshment has also been given to the students by the concerned bank.

Shamsher, Ritika distribute Vishwakarma Certificates among beneficiaries

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

In an impressive function at Akhnoor, former Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha Shamsher Singh Manhas along with Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan, Mahant Rameshwar, DDC member Sharda bhau & Gaurav Khajuria today distributed Vishwakarma Certificates among beneficiaries. The programme was organized by Gaurav. Proper lunch was organized for beneficiaries along with other dignitaries present in the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Manhas said that PM Vishwakarma Scheme will

encourage and protect the artisans and craftspeople of the country who are unwilling to engage in traditional business due to adversity. He said that the scheme was aimed at inclusiveness. "Artisans and craftspeople involved in the traditional work sometimes feel hesitant to continue in the business.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme encourages them to stick on to their work. The scheme also encourages youngsters to join their traditional trade. It makes it easier for them to finance their business and get training to enhance their skills," Manhas said, noting that capital is the most important requirement for any business. He urged all those eligible to



avail benefits under PM Vishwakarma.

Manhas further said that PM Modi has been following the 'Antyodaya' principle while rendering his service to the country.

"The PM always thinks of the marginalized sections of society. PM Vishwakarma Scheme is to encourage artisans to grow with society", he stated. The PM Vishwakarma scheme,

under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is fully funded by the Union Government with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore. It aims to preserve and promote traditional

skills, empower artisans, and contribute to the conservation of India's rich heritage and culture.

PM Vishwakarma will provide artisans with various benefits, including free registration, recognition through certificates and ID cards, skill upgradation, toolkit incentives, collateral-free credit support, concessional interest rates, and incentives for digital transactions and marketing support. The scheme is expected to strengthen the Guru-Shishya parampara (teacher-student tradition) of traditional skills, enhance the quality of artisanal products, and integrate artisans into domestic and global value chains, added Manhas.

Horticulture awareness camp held at Banihal

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 27

The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized an awareness camp at Banihal, shedding light on the various schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADD).

The event was presided over by the Deputy Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Ayaz Ahmad Natoo and witnessed the enthusiastic participation of former PRIs, a large contingent of farmers, and aspiring young individuals seeking employment opportunities.

The camp garnered significant interest from attendees, with 16 indi-

viduals expressing keen interest in the Holistic Agriculture development Program (HADD) and the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) schemes. These individuals were encouraged to submit the necessary documentation to avail of the benefits offered under these schemes.

One of the highlights of the event was the introduction of innovative solutions aimed at enhancing agricultural practices and addressing challenges faced by farmers.

Saptkrishi Scientific, represented by CEO Nikky Kumar Jha from IITN, showcased solar-based natural climatic devices for storage and wild animal protection sensor devices, drawing admiration and interest from the attendees.

EDITORIAL

Concerns arise as glaciers retreat

It's concerning that at least 15 major Himalayan glaciers in Ladakh have significantly retreated due to climate change over the last five decades (from 1971 to 2021). Recent studies suggest that three glacial lakes are likely to form around Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh due to rapid ice melt. These findings are based on various scientific studies and regular monitoring by Indian institutes, universities, and organizations funded by the Government of India. The 15 glaciers in Ladakh, including Pensilungpa, DurungDurung, Parkachik, Sagtoga, Sagtoga East, Thara Kangri, Garam Pani, Rassa-I, Rassa-II, Arganglas Glacier, Phunangma, Panamik-I, Panamik-II, Saser-I, and Saser-II, have experienced annual retreat between 1971 and 2021. Except for Thara Kangri glacier, which saw a surge of 11.13 meters per year, all other glaciers have witnessed average retreats ranging from a minimum of 2.85 meters per annum (Saser-II) to a maximum of 18.86 meters per annum in the case of Arganglas Glacier. The mass balance assessment of nine glaciers in the Himalayan region, including two each in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UTs, has reported a net change in mass over the last five years. "Kolahoi Glacier and Hoksar Glacier in Jammu and Kashmir, with Jhelum as their basin, have reported shrinking due to negative mass balance, indicating increased melting. Similarly, Stok Glacier with Indus as its basin and Pensilungpa Glacier with Suru river as their basin, both in Ladakh, have also reported negative mass balance," the report said. A new study by scientists from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology suggests that the Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh is likely to develop three lakes of different dimensions due to subglacial over-deepening, a characteristic of basins and valleys eroded by glaciers. The glacial melt not only increases the risk of glacial lake outbursts but also contributes to water scarcity, as glaciers are the primary source of water in the region. The study, published in the journal 'Annals of Glaciology', is based on satellite imagery from 1971 to 2021, supplemented by extensive field surveys from 2015 to 2021. The group of four scientists, led by Dr. Manish Mehta, found that glacier retreat varied between 1971 and 2021. Remote sensing data shows that the glacier retreated at an average rate of around two meters per annum between 1971 and 1999, whereas between 1999 and 2021, the retreat was at an average rate of around 12 meters per annum. Recent research also indicates a constant rise in temperature in Jammu and Kashmir, which seriously affects the health of glaciers. Experts warn that Jammu and Kashmir has lost 22 percent of its glaciers in just five decades, and if this trend continues, it could lead to a serious water crisis in the next 30 years. Scientists conducting long-term studies on glaciers in Jammu and Kashmir suggest that the accumulation of black carbon, mainly generated by the use of coal and petroleum products, remains trapped due to the peculiar geological shape of the valley, surrounded by the majestic Himalayan ranges, affecting the glaciers, which are the source of several high-altitude lakes and rivers.

China's bid to expand maritime infrastructure

PADMALOCHAN DASH

China's expansive push into larger maritime domains has emerged as a significant global concern. This is particularly evident in its construction and take-over of maritime infrastructure across strategic locations, most prominently in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the South China Sea, and the largely Indo-Pacific. The surge in its naval activities, along with the aggressive acquisition of vital maritime assets beyond its strategic limits, has compelled nations to dissect Beijing's long-term expansive objectives. China's intention: China's much-calculated ambitious plans for maritime expansion are evident, particularly when examining the modus operandi of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investments. These investments aim at enhancing China's maritime reach and linkages in all directions, which go hand in hand "by the intent of crafting a global

power imbalance." Much attached to this intention is its String of Pearls strategy - which is aimed at encircling and containing the littoral South Asian countries and dictating their maritime trade and naval support networks. Littoral States into Client States: Amongst its expansion motifs into South Asia, the transformation of the small states into client states remains the foremost - of late Maldives has fallen into this trap. Concern remains, as the latter will act as a buffer zone around India's maritime strategic space and serve China's naval expansion in the IOR. Maritime infrastructure: In the IOR, China is doing extra-territorial heavy investments into maritime infra. The intention is to take over others' critical assets while tactically positioning itself in crucial maritime zones. To further its access and reach to others' maritime zones that once remained distant is now getting closer to China using the creation of support networks in the littoral states

through diverse investments. Global Stability: The implications of China's maritime goals, particularly infrastructure control, require further examination. China's hybrid strategy of expanding its naval growth and infrastructure acquisition demonstrates its ambition to reshape the global maritime landscape to its capacious encroachments. China's proactive acquisition of marine infrastructure, especially in the IOR, has become a major contention in global geopolitics. China intends to gain control of critical marine infrastructure via a variety of initiatives. Several naval projects have been proposed, including port expansion, drone submarines, air-to-air refuelling, specialised missile systems, carrier-based stealth aircraft, and underwater drones. The intention, beyond doubt, is to bring its naval force to a formidable presence by keeping control over critical maritime infrastructure.

The Response: In response to China's extra-territorial garnishment, global players must urgently devise a comprehensive plan. The major stakeholders must come to the interest of the small littoral States. The focus should be on countering China's strategic procurement and control over the maritime expanse and infra in these contested regions. The role of India: as the Net Security Provider in the region, India must have a long-term underpinned perspective - that keeps the potential consequence of China's escalating expansion - clear spelt. By remaining aligned with these perspectives, India can make the major players critically aware of the Chinese motives and align them with the task. The singular agenda must be, by remaining adhered to the established maritime laws and conventions, there must be a coordinated and proactive response arrangement into a conflict zone.

Alternative Supply Chain : As nations cope with the escalating challenges posed by China's maritime motives that centre on infrastructure control, a united front to contain this must be imperative. Countries must push back against the BRI; and, alternatives to the BRI, such as Japan's "Asia-Africa Growth Corridor" and "India's Security and Growth for All" must be pursued as alternatives. While Australia, the EU, Indonesia, Japan, and the U.S. are implementing strategies to counterbalance China's maritime ambitions, India's effort must be to bring them to these alternative initiatives and collaborate with them to the realisation of a full-scale "Alternative Global Supply chain Alliance"-keeping in attention both the civilian and military purpose. Multi-modal partnership mechanism: Global cooperation is essential to contain China's assertion and control over extra-territorial maritime zones and infrastructures. Further to contain its ulterior

expansion motives, vigilance in maritime affairs must be consolidated. Necessary multi-modal partnership mechanisms must be in place to protect the critical maritime infrastructures, assets and activities, where India can play a key role. India, while maintaining its strategic autonomy also needs to cooperate with non-residential maritime powers to cultivate the required response considerations. To the effectiveness of the multilateral security framework in place; things like diplomatic initiatives, military strategies, supply chain initiatives and multilateral cooperation must remain pivotal. Net Security Provider: To carefully achieve this, measures to demystify the complexities presented by China's assertive projection, providing better alternatives with a non-zero-sum partnership platform for the aggrieved nations, must be India's priority. (The writer works with an independent think tank; Views are personal)

Kerala's education system in a disarray

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

One step forward and four steps backward seem to be the driving force of the CPI(M)-led Government if what happened during Friday's senate meeting of the Kerala University is any indication. The meeting was convened by Mohanan Kunnummel, the temporary vice-chancellor of the university to elect a representative for the search committee formed to find out the new vice-chancellor for Kerala University. Interestingly, all universities in the State have been functioning without full-time vice-chancellors for last year following the Supreme Court verdict that all the appointments of vice-chancellors made by the CPI(M)-led Government violated the laws of the land and the norms prescribed by the University Grants Commission. The senate meeting of Friday was convened by the vice-chancellor and he was expected to preside over the session. But R Bindu, the minister for higher education, rushed to the stage and usurped the chair meant for Mohanan Kunnummel. When the latter reached the Senate

Hall for the meeting, he found himself to be without a chair while the minister claimed that she, as pro-chancellor, would preside over the meeting. Though the vice-chancellor showed her the rule book that stated that the pro-chancellor had no role in the meeting as the Chancellor was very much present in the State, the minister (spouse of CPI-M polit bureau member A Vijayaraghavan) did not budge even an inch leaving Mohanan high and dry. "Minister Bindu turned out to be a right buffoon the party commissars were looking for in their bid to subvert the meeting. They did not want the meeting to take place and this lady played her role well. This will go down in history as the best comic interlude by a minister of higher education whose role is to elevate the standard of higher education to new heights," said R S Sasikumar, president, of Save University Forum, an apolitical outfit working to restore the quality of the State's higher education. The subversion of Friday's senate meeting would lead to a delay in selecting the ideal candidate for the post of vice-chancellor. This comes at



a time when universities outside the State are busy switching over to four-year bachelor's degree courses in tune with the National Education Policy. The delay has cost the State dear as most intelligent and efficient students are leaving Kerala for higher studies and they are unlikely to return. K N Balagopalan, the State Finance Minister, in his budget speech 2024-2025 presented early this month proposed revolutionary changes in Kerala's higher education sector. On the anvil were red carpets for private universities and off-shore campuses of reputed foreign universities. The CPI(M) leaders declared that the day would not be far off when Oxford,

Cambridge, Harvard and even the London School of Economics opened their branches in Kerala so that the students would benefit from world-class education here. But the minister and the party bosses made a U-Turn within two days and declared that they would not open the doors for private as well as foreign universities. "It was only a proposal and not a decision. If the stakeholders are not happy, we will drop the idea itself," Balagopalan told the media following outbursts by the leaders of the SFI, the students wing of the CPI(M). In Kerala, the SFI leaders, who would not have passed the Plus Two examinations had they been born anywhere outside the

State, decide the persons who should be appointed as vice chancellors of universities and as faculty members. This is not an exaggerated statement. Where else on earth you would come across student leaders who demand only persons of their choice be appointed as VCs and teaching faculty? The manifesto of the SFI has promised the students that they would insist that all university examinations should be held only after 1 PM and there won't be any examinations during the pre-lunch hours. The charter that has been submitted to the university has one more interesting demand: the staff council should have a student representative and the college authorities should not

interact with the parents/guardians of students! The day is not far off when they will ask for the right to prepare question papers for the semester examination. Militant trade unions have always played havoc with whatever progressive measures adopted by the CPI(M)-headed Governments in the past. Those days are over as it is nouveau riche like Elamaram Kareem who leads the trade union wing of the party. The children of trade union leaders are enrolled in high-end public schools in Ootti and Kodaikanal while offsprings of party workers continue toiling in Government schools. Leaders of SFI are entangled in cases ranging from murder, attempted murder, sexual offences and above all mass copying and fake degree certificates. There were many instances of students who had failed in their bachelor's degree examinations passing out of postgraduate courses from colleges in the State. Did you hear the pangs of Goddess Saraswati? (The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer; views are personal)

Tourism takes Indo-Russian ties a notch higher

DIVYA BHATIA KAUL

In recent years, the Indo-Russian friendship has discovered new avenues of expression, with tourism emerging as one of the most promising. Moscow, the vibrant capital of Russia, has been spearheading this endeavour by actively engaging with Indian travellers and fostering meaningful collaborations to enhance tourism between the two nations. Moscow's journey toward becoming a global tourism hub has been characterized by strategic initiatives aimed at partnering with international stakeholders. "Our objective," states Bulat Nurmukhanov, Head of the International Cooperation Division of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, "is to position Moscow as a leading global destination. We are particularly optimistic about India due to our long-

standing cultural ties and the traditionally cordial relations shared between Indians and Russians." Furthermore, Russia's reputation as a friendly country with clean environments and hospitable people makes it a top choice for Indian tourists. Moreover, Moscow's affordability, especially for budget travellers, and the reasonable airfare to the city further enhance its appeal. Moscow's success in attracting a diverse array of tourists, including a notable surge from emerging markets like India, underscores its significance. Nurmukhanov acknowledges India's importance, attributing targeted marketing initiatives and improved accessibility as driving forces behind the influx of Indian visitors. "India represents a significant source of tourism growth for Moscow," he affirms. To cater to the specific



needs of Indian travellers, Moscow has implemented a multifaceted approach encompassing promotional campaigns, cultural exchanges. Collaborations with Indian travel agencies and hospitality stakeholders, along with leveraging international platforms to showcase Moscow's attractions to Indian audiences. A significant stride towards facilitating travel from India has been the

introduction of electronic visas for select countries, including India. The role of electronic visas in streamlining the visa application process. "Moscow remains committed to furthering international cooperation and enhancing its appeal as a global tourism hub," says Nurmukhanov. Despite its age, Moscow continues to evolve while maintaining its charm in an ever-chang-

ing world. The statistics speak volumes about Moscow's growing allure for Indian tourists. Last year alone, over 60,000 visitors from India explored Moscow—a remarkable year-on-year increase of 25%. This positive momentum fuels optimism for the future, with plans to enhance infrastructure and reinstate flight connections between Moscow and various Indian cities. Moscow's dedication to fostering inclusive and sustainable tourism growth extends a warm invitation to travellers from India and beyond. Through dynamic innovation and unwavering commitment, Moscow continues to pave the way for lasting bonds and unforgettable experiences, ensuring its place as a top global destination for all. (The writer is a freelance writer and a social media influencer; views are personal)

Indian travellers, coupled with strategic initiatives and enhanced accessibility, underscore its commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable tourism growth. With a remarkable surge in Indian visitors and plans for further infrastructure improvements, Moscow stands poised to solidify the Indo-Russian friendship through tourism. The city's dedication to showcasing its rich cultural heritage and vibrant atmosphere extends a warm invitation to travellers from India and beyond. Through dynamic innovation and unwavering commitment, Moscow continues to pave the way for lasting bonds and unforgettable experiences, ensuring its place as a top global destination for all. (The writer is a freelance writer and a social media influencer; views are personal)

IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar Forge Strategic Partnership to Foster Academic Excellence, Innovation at Bharat Tex 2024

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

In a significant stride towards fostering academic collaboration and promoting innovation, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The ceremonial signing took place today at Bharat Tex 2024, an esteemed international industry platform hosted at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Bharat Tex 2024 serves as a pivotal stage, spotlighting exhibitions, knowledge sessions, thematic discussions, Government-to-Government (G2G) meetings, Business-to-Business (B2B) networks, and interactive pavilions. This event marks the genesis of a promising partnership between the two esteemed institutions, IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar, setting the stage for collaborative endeavors and mutual growth.

The event commenced with a formal introduction to the MoU Signing accompanied by a warm welcome extended to all partners involved. Prof. Dr. Sudha Dhingra, Dean Academics, NIFT Delhi, delivered the welcome address. This was followed by an introduction to both Institutions and an outline of the key deliverables of the MoU between IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar.

The MoU signing ceremony, held on the eve of the ongoing Bharat Tex 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, was a significant milestone. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, and Prof. Javid Ahmad Wani, Director of NIFT Srinagar, inked the MoU in the presence of Director General NIFT, Ms. Tanu Kashyap, IAS and various delegations, symbolizing a commitment to collaboration across various fronts. This partnership aims to enhance academic excellence, foster research endeavors, and cultivate entrepreneurial talent in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Also present at the ceremony was Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of Srinagar Campus, IIM Jammu adding further significance to the occasion. Bharat Tex 2024, in its ongoing events, highlights the richness of Indian textiles, reinforcing its image as a custodian of tradition, innovation, and sustainability. Speaking on the occasion, Prof.



B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, expressed profound enthusiasm about the collaboration, highlighting its significance for the growth and development of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). He emphasized that the partnership with NIFT Srinagar will open up exciting possibilities for academic collaboration and innovation, which are crucial for the socio-economic advancement of the region. He underscored the importance of leveraging each other's strengths to create a synergistic environment that fosters not only learning, research, and entrepreneurship but also contributes to the overall growth trajectory of J&K. He emphasized that by harnessing the rich cultural heritage and diverse talent pool of the region, the collaboration between IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar holds immense potential to catalyze positive change and drive inclusive development. He stressed the role of academic institu-

tions in fostering innovative ecosystems that not only address current challenges but also anticipate future opportunities. He reiterated the commitment of both IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar to spearhead initiatives that promote interdisciplinary research, technology transfer, and entrepreneurial ventures, thereby contributing to the overall prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Javid Ahmad Wani, Director, NIFT Srinagar, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the transformative potential of the collaboration. He expressed delight in joining hands with IIM Jammu in this endeavor, envisioning the creation of dynamic ecosystem that nurtures talent, fosters creativity, and propels socio-economic development in the region. He emphasized the collective commitment of both Institutions to leverage their expertise and resources for the greater good of

U.T of Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to establish a thriving environment conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth.

The MoU encompasses various areas of collaboration, including academic partnerships, research endeavors, executive education and training programs, joint seminars, conferences, and workshops, initiatives for entrepreneurship and incubation, as well as the sharing of research and campus facilities.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Malage, Head of International and Domestic Linkages, NIFT Delhi. The signing of the MoU represents a significant milestone for both institutions, signaling the beginning of a new era of collaboration and excellence. Through joint efforts, IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar are primed to make substantial contributions to academia, research, and entrepreneurship, thereby shaping not only the future of the region but also extending their impact beyond local boundaries and thereby contributing to nation-building. The Bharat Mandapam, Bharat Tex served as the ideal platform for the MoU Exchange and networking, where esteemed academicians and reputed institutes from India and globally came together for collaborative endeavors and partnership formation.

The Gaganyaan Mission, India's first human space flight programme, is set to carry a crew of astronauts into low Earth orbit



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Gp Capt Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair was born in Thiruvazhiyad, Kerala on 26 Aug 1976. He is alumnus of NDA and recipient of Sword of Honour at Air Force Academy. He was commissioned on 19 Dec 1998 in the fighter stream of IAF. He is a Cat A Flying Instructor and a Test Pilot with approx 3000 hrs of flying experience. He has flown variety of ac including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Hawk, Dornier,

An-32, etc. He is also the alumnus of United States Staff College and a DS at DSSC, Wellington and FIS, Tambaram. He has commanded a premier fighter Su-30 Sqn.

Gp Capt Ajit Krishnan was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 19 Apr 1982. He is alumnus of NDA and recipient of President's Gold Medal and Sword of Honour at Air Force Academy. He was commissioned on 21 Jun 2003 in the fighter stream of IAF. He is Flying Instructor and a Test Pilot with approx 2900 hrs of

flying experience. He has flown variety of ac including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Dornier, An-32 etc. He is also alumnus of DSSC, Wellington.

Gp Capt Angad Pratap was born in Prayagraj on 17 Jul 1982. He is alumnus of NDA and was commissioned on 18 Dec 2004 in the fighter stream of IAF. He is a Flying Instructor and a Test Pilot with approx 2000 hrs of flying experience. He has flown variety of ac including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier, An-32 etc.

SSP Reasi holds Police-Public & Crime review meeting at Katra

J I NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB 27

Continuing unwavering efforts to bridge the gap between police & public, Reasi Police facilitated Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meetings at Katra.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Mohita Sharma-IPS, SSP Reasi, Sh. Vipin Chandran-JKPS, SP Katra, SDPO Katra Sh. Surinder Singh Baloria Ahmed and SHO P/S Katra were also present in the meeting. The meeting was attended by Civil Society members and respectables of the area. During the meeting, 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 depart-



ments 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.

The Participants were stressed to co-operate with Police in maintaining law and order in the area and in identification of anti-national elements who try to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere.

Addressing the gatherings, the officers said that police is making all out efforts in wiping out the curse of drug menace.

Officers also exhorted the participants to come forward and support the Police in making Reasi a drug free district, for which participants in the meeting assured their full co-operation to Police and Administration in tackling social evils and also appreciated the efforts of Police in facilitating community interaction meets where participants express their opinions freely.

Further, officers urged participants to keep strict watch on their wards so that they don't indulge in criminal activities. The meeting concluded with good note of thanks and appreciations from public.

For "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Patra", BJP will collect 1 crore suggestions from 10000 public aspiration boxes, 1000 Raths and Namu App: Chugh

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

To achieve the record number of seats in the coming Lok Sabha elections, the BJP will install and mobilize 370 suggestion boxes to receive public opinion for Lok Sabha constituencies in J&K. Besides, the Party will also display special numbers for online suggestions for Sankalp patra, said, Tarun Chugh.

Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Incharge BJP J&K and Ravinder Raina, President, Dr. Narinder Singh, National Secretary, J&K BJP along with Ashish Sood, Seh-Prabhari, J&K BJP, Devinder Singh Rana, former MLA, Adv Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, Adv Abhinav Sharma, Spokesperson and other senior leaders was addressing to the media persons at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

BJP launched a mobile



number 9090902024, on which any person can give suggestions to the party.

Tarun Chugh and Ravinder Raina launched the programme of 'Sankalp Patra Suggestion Campaign' and 'Developed India - Modi's Guarantee Campaign' in Jammu & Kashmir. He said, that in the Amritkaal, our country is ready to take a long leap towards a developed India under the leadership of respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To ensure that the country takes a huge leap in development in 2024, suggestions are being collected from the public, he added.

Chugh said that yesterday BJP 'Sankalp Patra Suggestion Campaign' and 'Developed India - Modi's Guarantee' Rath Yatra was launched by BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda in Delhi.

Speaking at the launch programme of the campaign, Chugh said that under the leadership of respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the vision of developed India, self-reliant India, world-friendly India is coming true. Chugh said that BJP will establish communication with the public at more than 250 places in the country, collect more

than 1 crore suggestion letters and include these suggestions in the party's 'Sankalp Patra'.

Chugh said that the illustrious public welfare and development works done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be extended to all the Lok Sabha constituencies under 'Developed India-Modi's Guarantee' through 1000 chariots. The video van will also work to connect people with the party along with asking for suggestions from the public. Chugh said that it is the resolve of the Bharatiya Janata Party that the aspirations of the people should reach the party and our government will fulfill those aspirations of the people in the next 5 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To achieve this purpose, 10000 people's aspiration boxes are going everywhere.

Ravinder Raina, addressing the media

persons, said that BJP has initiated a grand exercise to reach up to every individual to know their suggestions, collect them and carry them to the party leadership. He said that the drive would be carried out in all the 20 administrative districts of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that BJP will organize 370 programmes in 285 blocks putting the suggestion box in each of these blocks. He said that BJP workers will visit every area of the region to collect the suggestions and ensure that these reach to the PM Modi.

Ashish Sood shared that a manifesto committee has been constituted to list all the issues of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Sunil Sethi will be the Incharge, and Shamsheer Manhas, Devender Rana, Abhinav Sharma, RS Pathania, Ranjit Singh, Rakesh Gupta, Jitender Singh, and Ved Sharma will be the members of the committee.

Indian Army organizes Medical, Health Checkup Camp at Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEB 27

Indian Army organised a Medical & health checkup camp at Govt Girls Middle School, Nazal Chak, Rakhmuthi under Operation Sadbhavana, which aimed to provide essential healthcare services, free medical consultation along with free prescribed medicines for the residents of border area villages including Ratanpur, Potha and Rakhmuthi. The camp also offered dental check up and con-



sultation by esteemed gynaecologist and other specialists. In addition

the event also featured nutritional counselling, dental hygiene aware-



ness and distribution of essential medicines to the residents. The populace

appreciated the efforts of Indian Army for organising such an event.

Indian Army organizes Hony Capt Santan Singh, Vir Chakra, Ans Valley festival from 22 Feb 24 to 24 Feb 24 at Kotranka



J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEB 27

Indian Army at Samote organised Honorary Capt Santan Singh, Vir Chakra, Ans Valley festival from 22 Feb 24 to 24 Feb 24 at Kotranka, District Rajouri, wherein sports events (Volleyball and Tug of War), Academic Events (Elocution) and Cultural Events (Patriotic Group Song and Patriotic Group Dance) were con-

ducted. ESM and Widows of Kandi, Budhal, Khawas & Samote were also felicitated on the occasion.

Hony Capt Santan Singh, VrC, Ans Valley Festival provided a platform to the resident populace to showcase their talent. Senior Government and Military officials graced the event. In addn, a Medical Camp was also organised for the benefit of the populace.

A total number of 630 (including 353 locals, 215 students/participants and 12 Widows, 50 Ex-servicemen) witnessed the event. Residents, Sarpanchs, Panchs, students, elders and ex-servicemen have expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude towards Indian Army for organizing this grand event. It will go a long way in bridging the gap between Army & AWAM.

Aijaz Ahmed Khan expresses anguish over delay in granting FRA rights in Reasi, Ramban, Udhampur

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB 27

Apni Party Vice President, and Former Minister, Aijaz Ahmed Khan on Tuesday has expressed anguish over in orderly delay in the implementation of Forest Right Act (FRA) in favour of the tribals and other forest dwellers in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi, Udhampur and Ramban Districts.

In an interaction with the tribal people from Gujjar-Bakarwal community at Talwara in Reasi, the Former Minister, Aijaz Ahmed Khan listened to the issues of the tribals.

During the interaction, the tribals informed that they had submitted their claims with the documentary proof to the committees which are submitting the claims under Forest Right Act in Reasi, Udhampur and Ramban district.

However, their files (claims) were not disposed of by the forest right committees even after completing all the requisite formalities, Aijaz Ahmed Khan added, citing issues raised by the people during his interaction with them.

He also said that approximately 670 FRA claims are still pending in Sanasar Forest Division in Udhampur and many more such cases pending in Ramban

Forest Division as well as Udhampur District.

"The authorities have failed to fulfill the commitment, which was made by the Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister, Shri. Amit Shah that the tribals, and other forest dwellers would get the right of grazing and other rights on the forest land under the FRA. However, the authorities, especially the Forest Department, is creating hurdles in the fulfilment of the promises made by the Prime Minister," he stated.

He said that the tribal lives have been made miserable by the forest department, and other Govt authorities by fencing the forest land and restricting the movement of tribals and their cattle - livestock to the grazing land.

"The tribals and other forest dwellers are protectors of the forest land and forests in Jammu and Kashmir for centuries. However, the Forest Department has restricted the movement of the people who depend on the forest for the feed of their cattle/livestock which is a clear violation of the Forest Rights Act of such people who live in such areas for decades," said the Provincial Vice President of the Party, Ex-MLA



Haji Mumtaz Ahmed Khan.

Further highlighting the issue, Mumtaz Ahmed Khan said that the people have claimed that the forest department and civil administration often stop the renovation work of the already established old / kacha houses in the forest or state lands in many districts.

"The people are not being allowed to replace their teen sheds or renovate the crumbling walls of their kacha houses in hilly/forest areas/state lands by the authorities even after knowing that they have no other alternative house to live in," he further claimed, while criticizing the authoritarian attitude of the forest department

and other authorities.

He further expressed concern over how the poor and economically weaker section is being ignored regarding the benefits under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) or granting of five marla of land by the Govt.

"Unfortunately, the names of the people came in the PMAY lists to get the benefits, but they were denied any kind of benefit under the PMAY scheme because their land/houses had to be constructed on forest land where they lived for centuries," he stated.

Hence, the deserving poor nomads remain incomplete, and the basic purpose of the PMAY

scheme fail to yield any result as per the expectation or promises made by the Govt," he added, while seeking attention of the authorities so that the benefits of PMAY scheme can reach every deserving person in J&K.

Raising an alarm, he demanded that the Govt should send teams of veterinary department's teams to provide needed medical treatment / vaccination to the cows and buffaloes suffering following the spread of diseases among them like epidemics.

In the wake of scheduled seasonal migration of the tribals to the upper reaches with the onset of summer season, he asked

the Govt to make appropriate arrangement so that the tribals do not lose their cattle/live-stocks during their scheduled journey from the plains of Jammu to the upper reaches of Kashmir and Kargil.

He also demanded that ration and medical teams should also be dispatched with the seasonal migrant tribals.

Meanwhile, he said that the tribals living in kacha - houses in Beli Charana area of Jammu District should not be harassed and instead, their rights should be protected by the authorities.

"Majority of them do dairy work and hence, they shall be provided Govt benefits to promote their milk production," he added.

He further said that the Govt should develop Patwar Halka Talwara as a dairy cluster and accordingly, the milkmen of this area shall be provided benefits of dairy milk schemes to increase the production of milk and enhance the quality of their production that would help in generating self-employment.

Similarly, he said that the goat and sheep rearing should also be encouraged, and the live-stocks should also be brought from Rajasthan to improve the quality of the live-stocks breed.

Civil Defence Jammu organizes one-day awareness camp



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

One day awareness programme was held at B.M.P.C High School, Makwal Satwari, Jammu which was organized under the supervision of Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu. 100 Students of the School have attended the awareness programme. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting, CPR, Chocking especially on Drug addiction and other life saving techniques were given to the trainees by the Civil Defence expert. During the programme demonstration on the above said topics was also presented by the Civil Defence

team. The main aim of the awareness programme was to educate students with regard to preventive measures during natural or man-made disasters. On the Occasion Sh. Rakesh Sharma, Principal of the High School appreciated and thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing such programme.

Paramjit Kumar Chief Warden CD Jammu, Sh. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden CD, Jammu, Sh. Yashpaul, Vice Principal of the School, Sh. Raj Kumar, Dy. Post Warden CD, Jammu, SI Ram Dayal Saini, Sub-Inspector, in charge Civil Defence Trainings and other staff of the School also present on the occasion.

BJP's prospects bright in Jammu, Valley in ensuing LS poll: Kavinder

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday asserted that the party is hopeful of spectacular performance not only in Jammu province but Valley also in the ensuing Lok Sabha Polls as prospects are bright with people's mood largely inclined towards Saffron party policies and plans for the UT. In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP stalwart said that the way the centre has delivered justice to people of all shades in the UT with promise of more to come, the chances for the party are strong that it will come out with flying colours by ensuring remarkable victories on all seats giving a blow to opposition leadership, which is already in doubt due to flip flops in Gupkar and India bloc alliances, as both seem to be on the verge of collapse. He said that the stupendous work done by the Modi Government in J&K especially with regard to restoring peace, ensur-

ing colossal development and winning the hearts of people by giving them the rights denied by the conventional ruling parties for years together, the BJP has made a special place in the hearts and minds of people kindling them to vote only for the Saffron party whether it is Jammu, Kashmir or for that matter even in Ladakh. He said that looking into the mood of the people, the opposition parties including the NC, PDP and Congress have already prepared themselves for facing the devastating defeats, as could be well gauged from their half-hearted remarks with regard to upcoming polls in J&K. He said that grandiose welcome which was offered to PM Narendra Modi by the people in Jammu and similar possibility during his forthcoming visit to Valley has enlightened the entire opposition in the UT with the stark reality that their chances are bleak in the LS polls as a big zero is waiting as the figure they'll get as election outcome with all seats going into BJP's volley.

CUJ hosts educational visit for Students of Zone Samba



JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 27

Office of the Chief Education Officer, Samba in collaboration with the Office of Dean students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu organised a visit of 500 students and approximately 70 teachers of higher secondary schools/ High schools of Zone Samba.

During this educational visit to Central University of Jammu, the students of government higher secondary and high schools visited various departments, laboratories, ISRO building and interacted with university teachers, scholars and students, keeping this educational

trip in mind the different coordinators present in various department provided them the knowledge and various opportunities after their schooling.

From this visit students had the chance to explore various departments across the campus, where they have received first-hand demonstrations of the latest innovations. The students gained valuable insights into potential career paths. During the whole day, students engaged in dynamic discussions with the faculty members. The educational visit was done under the supervision of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu.

OBC Adhikar Tiranga rally reaches Katra-Reasi, attracts attention of Govt

JNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEB 27

The members of Other Backward Classes took out OBC Adhikar Tiranga rally to Katra Reasi from Udhampur here today to attract the attention of Govt towards the implementation of Mandal Commission report in the JKUT.

The OBC members led by Kasturi Lal Basotra, Chairman Jammu & Kashmir OBC Mahasabha along Bansil Lal Choudhary Convenor OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra besides others assembled at Hari Singh Park near Tawi bridge today morning and started Adhikar Tiranga rally to create awareness among the own community people about their rights.

They were shouting slogans in support of their demand of implementa-



tion of 27% reservation for the OBCs in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Several leaders of the OBCs including Kasturi Lal Basotra, Bansil Lal Choudhary addressed the rally and also spoke to the media, demanding implementation of the Mandal Commission Report in J&K. They said that 12% reservation was not acceptable to the OBCs and the Modi Government must fulfil its

promise. They said after J&K was turned into UT, the Central Laws were extended to the J&K, then why the Mandal Commission report was not implemented here. The Modi Government must clarify it. They said that merely a 12% quota was not acceptable to them as the population of OBCs is 42%. The quota should be provided as per population.

They further disclosed that the Tiranga Yatra is being taken out from Feb 26 to 29. The main purpose of this yatra is to educate OBC masses about their fundamental constitutional rights and their duties towards their Nation besides implementation of 27% reservation in JK-UT for OBCs.

This eighth OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra after starting from Maharaja Hari Singh Park adjoining Press Club Jammu at around 10. 30 am and passed through Gumat Chowk, Vivekanand Chowk, Prem Nagar, Gurjar Nagar, Nagrota, Suketar, Dhansal, Jindrah, Kishanpur-Manwal and then reached Udhampur in the evening of 26th February, 2024 followed by Katra-Reasi today.

NHM employees hold convention; frame District Udhampur Association

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 27:

In its mission to bring all categories of employees under the ambit of the National Health Mission on one platform, a one day district level convention of National Health Mission employees of District Udhampur was held at Conference Hall NITL HSS Udhampur on Sunday (25-02-2024).

The meeting was presided over by Senior NHM representative of Jammu Division including Sr Vice President Jammu Mr Faizan A Tramboob, General Secretary Mr Ajay Sharma, Chairman Advisory Committee Dr Pradeep Rathore, Dr Ashish Khajuria (Treasurer), Dr Rohit Bhardwaj (Coordinator), Dr Nasir Indrabi (Advisor), Dr Rakesh Kotwal (Sr NHM Representative), Mr Ajay Manhas (NHM Rep-



resentative) besides other representatives of District Udhampur.

The meeting was actively participated by a huge gathering of Medical Officers, Management and Paramedical Staff of the different block of the District Udhampur including DH Udhampur.

The meeting was organized with an objective to unite all NHM employees and to discuss the issue of strengthening the organization at gross root level at district as well as each block level.

During the convention,

the speakers raised various issues related to the welfare of the NHM employees and meaningful solutions to their issues.

Meanwhile, a district level body for Udhampur was also framed on this occasion in which Mr Ajay Sharma was elected as Chairman, Dr Tamanna Dogra as District President, Dr Atul Goswami, Mr Pawan Kumar, Mr Mohd Ali, Mrs Sunita Devi as Vice Presidents, Dr Mohit Sharma as General Secretary, Dr Anil Sharma as Spokesperson, Mrs Madhu Devi & Mr Sumit as Treasurers, Mr Deepak Sharma, Mrs Rekha Ranyal, Mrs Sushma Devi, Mr Ajay Verma & Mrs Nayim Begum as Secretaries, while in the District Advisory Committee, Dr Pardeep Rathore, Dr Arvind and Mr Rajinder Singh were nominated as its members.

While speaking on the occasion, the newly elected President Dr Tamanna Dogra thanked all the participants for honoring and entrusting her the responsibility of the District President and assured that she will leave no stone unturned when it comes to the welfare of NHM employees of the Udhampur District.

In their addresses, Sr Leaders of the Association stated that with the support of our fellow employees, we can work towards resolving the pending cases and particularly focus on the various

concerns. They said the current Chief Secretary, Health Secretary and Mission Director NHM have shown a positive and proactive approach, and we believe we can collectively achieve positive outcomes for the betterment of the employees in the time to come."

The leaders threw light on the problems being faced by the employees and debated the methods to be adopted to arrive at solutions. It is pertinent to mention here that the JKNHMEA Jammu Division remains fully committed to its mission of advocating for the rights and well being of NHM employees in J&K UT. The organization will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders and govt authorities to work towards the resolution of the issues of its employees in a more effective and focused manner.

Social Consciousness Yatra organizes in Central Sanskrit University



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Social Consciousness Shobha Yatra was organized by the Education Department of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot-Bhalwal, Jammu on 27/02/2024 under the direction of the Director of the campus, Prof. Shreedhar Mishra. On this occasion, he said that water is life. Its conservation and cleanliness is our utmost duty,

because life is not possible without water. He encouraged the students to save water. He further said that "If there is water then we are, if there is no water then there is nothing." The procession was started from the Jammu campus to Government Higher Secondary School, Bhalwal. In this procession, slogans like "Save Water, Save Life" were raised high in the society through educationists and students. This way, the society

was made aware about water conservation. The coordinator of this program was Dr. Rishiraj, Head of the Department of Education; Convener Dr. Vivek Kumar and Co-convener Dr. Snehlata. Along with them, teachers of the department Dr. Devendra Kumar Mishra, Dr. Shubhashree Dash, Dr. Anup Kumar Pandey, Dr. Praveen Mani Tripathi, Dr. Khem Narayan, Dr. Akhilesh Pandey and Babita Hada were present.

Pervasive suffering engulfed every section of society under BJP regime: Bhalla

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla today convened meeting of prominent office bearers of RS Pura Jammu South and Bahu constituency to discuss poll strategy ahead of forthcoming parliamentary elections. Bhalla interacted with the district Congress leaders and addressed their concerns. Prominent among those who participated in meeting include JKPC Vice President Yogesh Sawhney, District President Manmohan Singh Pinka, CWC Member and former NSUI National President Neeraj Kundan, Vice President & Treasurer JKPC Rajnish Sharma, Vice President Pranav Shagotra, General Secretary Satish Sharma, Gen Secy Amrit Bali, Secy Parveen Singh, Secy. Pawan Bhagat, Sewa Dal Chief Vijay Sharma Babbi, Ex Corporates - Kamal Singh, Bhanu Mahajan, Pritam Singh, Block Presidents - Gurmeet Singh, Pradeep Bhalla, Surinder Singh Dutta, Sanjeev Katal, Bhusan Kumar Reddi, Latish Sharma, Sarpanch Kashmir Singh, Ravinder Singh Dheera- Dr. Vijay Sharma, Panch Gagan Bral, Aman Bawa, Sandeep Dogra Sonu, Happy Randhawa, Rajinder Singh, Satnam Singh Sandhu Kaka, Salim Khan, Deewan Chand, Yudhvir Singh, Satpal Sapolia, Master Kewal, Gurdeep Singh Kaka, Maggar Singh, Bittu besides others.

Bhalla, while addressing the meeting, he urged the leaders to continue taking steps in the direction to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. He said that the genuine needs of the public should be addressed openly and that they should enable the public to recognise the ruses of the BJP and its divisive policies. He added that the BJP has failed the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the Congress will step in and take charge. He shamed the BJP government for being incompetent in tackling the economic crisis of the country and ignoring the middle class and poor.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that the BJP has lost the moral right to go to Jammu people after betrayal after betrayal. Former Minister took a dig at BJP over deceits and a failed government in order to highlight the failures and performance of the Modi Government on various fronts, including economy, foreign policy, communal harmony, inflation, farmers' income, national security, welfare for the Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, and other backward classes. "It is not BJP but tireless efforts of Congress party that the people of the J&K are on the path of development and prosperity," he said. He said Jammu people are now realizing their mistake committed in 2014 and 2019 as these people who were sent by the voters to raise their



voice remained unheard for ten long years. It is hoped that the people of Jammu will surely correct the past mistake and reject such opportunists and exploiters and show them their place in forthcoming parliamentary elections. Bhalla alleged that the ruling government's promise of 'achche din' (good days) was meant only for themselves or a selected group of industrialists and capitalists whose wealth had increased. He criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its unfulfilled promises, stating that these have caused widespread disappointment among the public. He pointed out that the increasing inclination of people towards the Congress party is a direct result of the BJP's failures. He highlighted the BJP's apprehension in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging their reluctance to hold Assembly elections due to fear of losing to Congress and its allied parties. He emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would not tolerate this and that the Congress party is exerting pressure for early elections to establish a democratically elected government. He lamented the pervasive suffering that has engulfed every section of society under the current regime, emphasizing the Congress's position as the sole alternative to this cycle of hardship. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have now fully recognized the Congress as the only force capable of liberating them from the miseries inflicted upon them by the incumbent government," Bhalla declared.

and tackling the selective attacks by terrorists in the Valley. Bhalla said the PM continued to remain silent over the promised restoration of statehood to J&K or instilling a sense of confidence among the people about restoration of the democratic process, which stands denied for nearly five years.

Bhalla promised overall development of Jammu and Kashmir without any religious or regional bias if his party was voted to power in the union territory. He said that in the present political uncertainty, his party is the only hope of the people as Congress has never done politics on a religious or regional basis and believe that people deserve equal opportunities with dignity. "We never discriminated between the regions and treated them equally in all manner," said Bhalla. He said poor governance and lack of accountability in the system is affecting the economy of people which has led to the decline in job opportunities. "Where shall our youth go now? It is our duty to provide them enough employment opportunities but unfortunately nothing such is done," he said. Appreciating the people of Jammu for building rich secular values, Bhalla said that they should be cautious against all those forces who have no contribution to its development but play petty politics for their personal gains.

Death Anniversary of Sher-e-Duggar Lala Hans Raj Mahajan observed at Jammu



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Today on 27 February 2024, Death Anniversary of Sher-E-Duggar Lala Hans Raj Mahajan ji was observed at Lala Hans Raj Mahajan Sabha, Talab Tillo, under the Presidentship of Ayodhya Gupta Ji, Wherein the renowned members of Mahajan Biradari remembered the contributions of Lala Ji towards the Society. It was felt that his contributions were not restricted upto the Mahajans or Jammu only rather he worked

for up liftment of different classes of the society throughout the country.

President Ayodhya Gupta Ji stressed upon the community to follow the footprints of Lala Hans Raj Mahajan.

The prominent persons present on the occasion were Rattan Lal Gupta, Krishan Lal Gupta, Dr O P Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Tarsem Gupta, Rajan Gupta, Brijesh Gupta, Veena Gupta, Bhupinder Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, Ramesh Gupta, Pappu Ji Gupta, Rocky Gupta, Sonali Gupta, Pinku Ji, Yogesh Gupta.

Bali Bhagat stresses for social engagement in view of upcoming LS Polls

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Bali Bhagat, a senior BJP leader and former Minister and in-charge of the State Election Committee, today chaired a meeting of the North assembly constituency today at Chinor. The primary objective of the meeting was to strategize and mobilize the "Social Sampark" department in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha Polls.

Sabha Polls, Bali Bhagat emphasized the need to strengthen the party's presence and actively engage with the citizens of the North constituency. Through the establishment of Social Sampark Conventors, the BJP aims to amplify its reach and connect with the community on a personal level, understanding their concerns, and addressing them effectively for the betterment of the constituents, he added.

During the meeting, Bali Bhagat directed the Conventor and Co-Conventor of Assembly Segment to promptly appoint Conventors of Social Sampark at all Shakti Kendra levels within the North constituency, with an aim to ensure seamless organization of various programs and initiatives at the grassroots level, thereby fostering effective social engagement throughout the constituency.

Recognizing the significance of the upcoming Lok Sabha approaching, Bali Bhagat said that the Party is committed to delivering on its promises and garnering support from the people. He asserted that the upcoming Lok Sabha Polls are critical for the future of our nation, and the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is determined to work tirelessly to secure a brighter and prosperous future for the constituents of the North assembly constituency.

The Holy Relics of Lord Buddha and His Two Disciples Enshrined for public veneration at Sanam Luang Pavilion in Bangkok

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

The Holy Relics of Lord Buddha and His Two Disciples were Enshrined today for public veneration at the specially built Mandapam at Sanam Luang Pavilion in Bangkok with great reverence and amidst Holy Chanting. The Governor of Bihar Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar handed over the Holy Relics of Buddha to Thai Prime Minister (Chairman), Mr Srettha Thavisin, while those of Arahants Sariputra & Maha Maudgalayana were handed over by Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar to the Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Somsak Thepsutin and Thai Culture Minister for enshrining in the mandapa.

A majestic parade of Relics leaving from the national museum was also organized, showing the culture and Heritage of Thailand as a part of the 26 day grand exposition of the relics of Lord Buddha and his two disciples. The

parade also displayed the bonhomie between India and Thailand as the Parade consisted of the National Flags of Thailand and India along with cultural exhibition of the two countries.

On this occasion, an exhibition set up by States of UP and MP Govt. "Buddhabhoomi Bharat" organised to showcase spiritual and religious Tourist places in India was also inaugurated on by the Governor of Bihar, Union Minister and Thai Culture Minister. Speaking on the occasion, Governor of Bihar, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar said that he feels blessed to be part of this grand ceremony organised in Thailand for exposition of the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha and his two Disciples. He said Lord Buddha is an icon of compassion and Non-violence. He further stated India is a sacred land where Lord Buddha got enlightened and following his teachings India has always given to the world message of 'Karuna' and 'Ahimsa' and it is with this message that we have



come to Thailand. He emphasised that Practice of Peace and harmony is most important in today's world. This exposition of holy relics will further spread Lord Buddha's message of love, peace and compassion for all living beings. He hoped that bilateral relations between India and Thailand will Attain a new height with this exposition. The Thai Culture Minister expressed gratitude to Indian Govt for giving an opportunity to Thailand for exposition of holy relics and said that Thailand will make all efforts to spread Lord

Buddha's message for mankind. DG, Culture and Tourism Ministry, Govt of UP made a presentation on religious and spiritual tourist places and the measures taken by the Govt to facilitate the tourists thronging in the country from all over the world.

Earlier during the day, Governor of Bihar Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar who is heading the delegation of Lord Buddha's Exposition in Thailand visited Wat Pho temple in Bangkok where he presented a Set of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kangyur (Tri Pitika - Bud-

dhist cannon) & 26 books on Buddhism by Prof Satya Vrat Shastri to Most Ven Dr Devvajracharya, Deputy Abbot of Wat Pho. Most Ven is an illustrious alumni of Pune University. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar also paid

his homage to the giant statue of Reclining Buddha at Wat Pho temple. The Governor and Most Ven discussed the cultural connection between Thailand and India, where the latter described India as his second home.

CUJ Faculty admitted as Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC)

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Prof. V. Sridharan, Head, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences, Central University of Jammu has been admitted as a Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) in February 2024. Prof. Sridharan is a Synthetic Organic Chemist, who is working on the development of novel multi-bond forming reactions including nucleopalladation-initiated cas-




cade reactions to access complex carbo- and het-

erocyclic compounds of biological relevance and exploring the mechanistic aspects of these transformations. Prof. Sridharan has received several research projects from funding agencies including DST, SERB, CSIR, DRDO and JKST&IC and published his research results in over 120 well-reputed international journals of high-impact. The Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences has recently received DST-FIST grant of Rs. 2.43

cores, where Prof. Sridharan was the Coordinator of the project.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu congratulated Prof. Sridharan for this recognition. Prof. Sridharan acknowledged the exceptional support and initiatives taken by Prof. Sanjeev Jain for the promotion of research activities at CU Jammu, particularly for the development of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences.



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

e-NIT No. 106of 2023-24 Dated23-02-2024

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	4	5	6	7
1	Supply of Stationary Article	600/-	10000/-	10 Days	'A'B'C'D Class/GeM Register

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	24-02-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-02-2024 to 05-03-2024, 1400 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	24-02-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	05-03-2024 up to 1400 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	05-03-2024 on or after 1430Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi .
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

E-tender(throughGeMPortal)areinvitedundertwo-bidsystemfromeligibleOEM's/Authorizedresellersfor PWD OFFICE REASI OR SE OFFICE REASI. The Bidder shall be registered with appropriate authority such as Registrar of Companies/Firms/Partnership Firms/MSME. Requirement/eligibilitycriteria,termsandconditionsofthecontracthavebeenclarifiedin theadditionaldocuments. Tenderdocument(includingadditionaldocuments)areavailableonlineonGeM Portal. Biddersareadvisedtoread tenderdocument(uploadedonwebsiteandonGeMportal)andchecktheireligibilitybeforeparticipating in the bid. The committee reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions containedinthetender documentincludingquantity/amountof itemstobesuppliedortorejectanyor all tenders without giving any notice or assigning any reason thereof. The decision of the committee in this regard shall be final.

No:-7897-7900
Dated:-23-02-2024

SD/
(Er. Rajesh Sharma)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Reasi

DIP/J-15484/23
Date: 27-2-24

Indian Army strengthens bridging capability with 46-meter Modular Bridge

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

Indian Army bolstered its bridging capability with the induction of the 46-meter Modular Bridge. Designed and developed by DRDO and produced by Larsen & Toubro (L&T), the bridging system was formally handed over in a ceremony at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The event was graced by General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff. Senior dignitaries from Indian Army, DRDO, and MoD were also in atten-

dance.

Over the next four years, a total of 41 sets, valued at Rs 2,585 Crores, will be progressively inducted. It is a mechanically launched single-span, fully decked 46-meter assault bridge, enabling the army to overcome obstacles such as canals and ditches with ease. It will augment the crucial bridging capability of Indian Army Engineers as these bridges are highly mobile, rugged, and designed for quick deployment and retrieval, aligning with the fast-paced nature of mechanized



operations.

Each set of Modular Bridge consists of seven carrier vehicles based on 8x8 Heavy Mobility Vehicles and two launcher vehicles based

on 10x10 Heavy Mobility Vehicles. The bridge can be employed over various types of obstacles like canals and ditches with quick launching and retrieval capabilities.

The equipment is highly mobile, versatile, rugged and capable of keeping pace with wheeled and tracked mechanized vehicles.

The modular bridges will replace the manually launched Medium Girder Bridges (MGB) that are currently being used in the Indian Army. The indigenously designed and manufactured Modular bridges shall have many advantages over the MGB such as increased span, less time for construction and mechanical launching with retrieval capability.

FFMA pays tributes to Chander Shekhar Azad



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) J&K paid tributes to the freedom fighter Chander Shekhar Azad, on his martyrdom day at Maheshpura Chowk here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman FFMA, Rajiv Mahajan recited Azad's famous proclamation, 'Dushman Ki Goliyon Ka Saamna Hum Karenge, Azad Hi Rahe Hain, Aur Azad Hi Rahenge'.

"Chander Shekhar Azad was born in a small Madhya Pradesh village of Bhavra in Jhabua district on July 23, 1906. He was just 15 when he was terribly moved by the Britishers killing thousands of innocent Indians at Jhalianwala Bagh in Punjab. That was when he decided to join India's independence movement," Rajiv Mahajan said.

He added, "Azad shook the British empire when he was just 16 by revealing his name as 'Azad', his father's name 'Swatantrata' and his residence as the prison cell."

Mahajan further said that Azad's passion for freedom inspired many youth. Mahajan said that Shaheed Chander Shekhar Azad fought and jerked the base of the British rule in India with his dedication and sacrifice.

He was jailed several times for his protests against the British.

"His patriotism & valour remains an inspiration. The nation remains forever indebted to his supreme sacrifice," Mahajan said. Others present on the occasion were Ved Gandotra (Chief Patron), R.C Puri (Vice Chairman), Karnail Chand (Working President), Kamal Sharma, Parbhat Kaphi and others.

Dharmarth Trust to celebrate upcoming Maha Shivratri Festival with great fanfare: Brig Langeh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

J&K Dharmarth Trust, a renowned organization dedicated to the preservation and management of temples and shrines, has diligently made all necessary arrangements across the temples and shrines falling under its purview for the impending Maha Shivratri festival, which will be celebrated on March 8, 2024.

Speaking at a press conference, Brig RS Langeh (Retd), President of the Trust flanked by SSP Ashok Kumar Sharma (Retd), Secretary, said "Under the able guidance of Hon'ble Chairman Trustee, Dr. Karan Singh and other Trustees, the Trust has made commendable efforts in ensuring a seamless experience for devotees visiting the temples and shrines falling under its purview."

He said several ancient and prominent temples like Umapati Mahadev Temple in Purman, Ranbirsingheshwar, Abhimukteshwar Temples in Utterbehni, Shankaracharya Temple Srinagar, Raghunath ji Temple, Jammu, Shri Ranbireswar Temple, Sudh Mahadev, Mantalai, Shiv Temple Nagrota, and Shiv



Temple Satwari have all been prepared meticulously to accommodate the influx of devotees during this auspicious occasion.

The Trust's President expressed his commitment in ensuring hassle-free facilities for devotees not only on Maha Shivratri but also on regular days. The Trust, with its rich history spanning centuries, has been pivotal in offering state-of-the-art amenities to pilgrims and visitors. It strives to continue this tradition by providing enhanced services and augmenting facilities wherever feasible, he added. Briefing media persons, Ashok Kumar Sharma informed that the Civil Administration and J&K Police Department has made elaborate arrangements for facilitating the celebrations and ensuring

the security respectively. He also thanked active public participation in organizing the function on Maha Shivratri. He also commended the efforts of the Shri Ranbireswar Mandir Welfare Committee, whose contribution has been instrumental in making the celebrations a grand success.

The Trust's President and Secretary invited devotees from across the Union Territory to join the vibrant and spiritually uplifting celebrations of Maha Shivratri in the Dharmarth Trust Temples and Shrines. In addition to the meticulously prepared temples, there will also be various cultural and spiritual programs including Langars organized throughout the day, providing a truly enriching experience for all who participate, they added.

National level Shooting Range to be established in Vill Seer, Suchetgarh: Tony

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, FEBRUARY 27

An upcoming shooting range in the village of Seer, located in Suchetgarh block, is poised to provide training opportunities for youth of border villages. This shooting range, expected to be built at a national standard, aims to clarify its status on the international stage in the days to come.

The proposed site for the shooting range was finalized on Tuesday by Taranjit Singh Tony, a member of the District Development Council (DDC) from Suchetgarh, along with members of the Jammu Kashmir Rifle Association.

Present at the occasion were S.S. Sodhi, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association, Vice President Samar Dev Singh, Paramjit Singh, Chairman Kuldeep Singh Jamwal, Arun, as well as several local representatives including former Sarpanch Rashpal Singh Gill, Numberdar Manjit Singh Mehta, and Sukhwinder Singh Bittu.

During the visit, DDC member Taranjit Singh Tony highlighted the demand from the local community to utilize government land in Seer village for the establish-



ment of a shooting range to benefit the youth. He emphasized the importance of initiating this project promptly to cater to the budding talent in the region, pointing out the recent achievement of a local girl who secured a medal in the Asian Games.

Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association's S.S. Sodhi expressed confidence that after today's inspection, discussions with the government would commence soon, paving the way for the commencement of construction at the proposed site.

Furthermore, members from the team accompanying Taranjit Singh Tony, who arrived from Delhi, indicated their commitment to facilitating arrangements for an internationally recognized shooting range. They affirmed that with

the cooperation of the District Development Council member, the project would soon see the light of day.

Nambardar Manjit Singh and the former Sarpanch echoed the sentiments, emphasizing that the establishment of a shooting range in the panchayat would not only benefit the local youth but also attract aspiring athletes from neighboring areas. They stressed the significance of sports alongside education, noting the active participation of rural youth in national and international competitions.

The collective enthusiasm displayed during the inspection reflects the community's eagerness to foster sporting excellence and provide promising opportunities for the youth of Seer village and beyond.

GDCW Kathua showcases Role of Home Science in Entrepreneurship Development

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

In an effort to promote and inculcate skills among students, Department of Home Science, Government Degree College For Women, Kathua, in collaboration with IQAC and IIC, has taken an initiative to organize an Entrepreneurship Development event in the college premises on 27.02.2024. Dr. Deepti Salotra, Assistant Professor in Home Science aware the students of different streams about Home Science education that it provides different skills, lifelong teaching for self-development, employment and income earning opportunities in different areas of Home Science. Under this event, Home Science students have displayed different mouthwatering food stalls, diet for BP patients and for Diabetic patients, Best out of waste items, handcrafted products and many more that covers dif-



ferent branches of Home Science, with the aim that hone their entrepreneurial skills. The programme was organized under the esteemed patronage of Dr. Inderjeet Kour, Incharge Principal of the college. She expressed her enthusiasm for the event, stating that it's a platform that instills entrepreneurial skills in our students, preparing them for real-world challenges. She also encouraged the students to participate in all such events where they are groomed to keep up with the spirit of entrepreneurship and 'Earn while they Learn'. She commended the Home Science Department for their efforts in fostering holistic education. The event was graced by Prof.

Ashwani Khajuria, Dr. Babita Mahajan, Dr. Rachna Devi, Prof. Romika Bassin, Prof. Yash Paul, Dr. Deepshikha, Dr. Ambica, Dr. Karam Chand, Dr. Surbhi Gupta, Dr. Kamini Kapoor, Dr. Mukesh Kumari, Dr. Surekha Rani, Dr. Usha Kiran and Dr Rohit Kumar.

Dr. Deepti Salotra, Head of the Department of Home Science, emphasized the educational significance of the event, saying, "Our department is committed to providing a well-rounded education to our students and this event is a testament to our commitment." She concluded the event with a vote of thanks to the chair and all the participants present over there.

JKAACL Kathua organises Bhajan Sandhya

JJ NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR 27-2-2024

Sub Office of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kathua organised 'Bhajan Sandhya at Ravi Dass Temple, Ramgarh, Vijaypur here today where a large number of folks and pilgrims thronged to witness the soulful musical event. The programme was organized under the overall guidance of Secretary JKAACL Sh. Bharat Singh.

Swami Khadak Giri Ji Maharaj was the chief guest on the occasion who lauded the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages for bringing Bhajan Sandhya for the folks of Ramgarh. He said that this event will be remembered in years to come with the request to come up with such events in near future.

As per the handout, Sanjeev Gupta SOCA, JKAACL Sub-Office, Kathua shared that it's our moral responsibility to take our culture to the shrines. These kinds of soulful presentations always keep the folks of the region well known with their roots. He further assured the audience



that he would request the authorities of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages to hold such programs to other major shrines of District Samba Kathua in coming days. He also thanked the working committee of Ravi Dass Temple, Vijaypur for their

unconditional support.

The programme was started with the captivating Krishan Leela presented by Ravi Sharma & Party. The programme was further taken over by the vibrant singing of Suman Lata and Party followed by the presentations of

Subash Chander & Party, Vidya Devi & Party, Rashpal & Party, Sunita Devi & Party and Nirmal Kumar & Party. The programme concluded with a soulful presentation by Narinder Singh & Party who mesmerised audiences with their singing skills.

The programme was ably conducted by Sat Pal Singh.

A localite Ramesh Chander appreciated and lauded the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages and thanked Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh, JKAS for bringing cultural events to a religious place. While appreciating the mesmerizing programme by the artists, he said that every artist has made him spell bound with their soulful and magical performance. He further requested the authorities for organizing such events on all such occasions in future also at Ramgarh, Vijaypur

Indian Army Organised a Lecture on Career Counseling for School Students at Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEB 27

As a part of ongoing process of educating the resident population 'Career Counseling Lecture was organised for School Students', Bihota at Doda district (J&K). During the lecture, Teacher, Government Primary School, Goha elucidated various points about government schemes. He educated them in detail on various schemes like PMKVY, Financial assistance for skill training, Vidya Kaushal and Skill Development for minorities etc. The initiative was undertaken to educate youth and to prevent them from being misguided, choose a healthy and progressive life and it was appreciated by the youths. A total of 40 students attended the career counseling lecture. All students remarked "These kind of initiatives will help to mould the young generations to make their choice in future as a responsible citizen".

Charak, Ishant flag off Ram Devotees to Ayodhya

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Amid religious fervor and 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans, a group of 'Ram Bhakts' was flagged off from Bahu Fort to Ayodhya by BJP J&K Senior Leader & Prabhari Jammu District Kr. Rajeev Charak and J&K BJP State IT Head Advocate Ishant Gupta here today.

The Group is led by Sumeet Bajrangji and all the pilgrims were sent to Jammu Railway Station to board the special "Aastha Train", carrying over more than thousand devotees for Ayodhya as it departed from the Jammu Railway Station at 11:55 am.

Speaking on the occasion, Kr. Rajeev Charak



expressed enthusiasm among the devotees of Prabhhu Shri Ram, "Congratulations to everyone here. Chanting Ram Bhajan and 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans, the enthusiastic devotees and their families thronged the occasion and to be part of the flagging-off ceremony.

Advocate Ishant Gupta also expressed his happiness for this moment and congratulated all the devotees for their holy yatra.

Others who presented were Haradesh Khokher, Yash Nagotra, Pt. Khushal Chand, Sher Singh Khokher, Darshan Patyal, Sat Pal Sharma and others.

Ganderbal embarks on comprehensive Tourism Development Plan

JINNEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 27

In a significant move towards boosting the tourism sector, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Tuesday chaired a pivotal meeting on the preparation of the District Tourism Plan at VC Room DC Office, here.

The Meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, Farooq Ahmad Baba; CPO, DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, Tourist Officers of Sonamarg Development Authority and Wullar Manasbal Development Authority and Assistant Faculty JKEDI Ganderbal.

The meeting's core objective was to harness the collective expertise



and perspectives of a diverse group of professionals, each bringing their unique insights to the table.

This collaborative effort aimed at formulating a comprehensive strategy to elevate Ganderbal's tourism infrastructure, promote sustainable tourism practices, and spotlight the district's distinctive attractions to both domestic and international tourists.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held on potential unexplored soft

and hard tourism zones within the district, setting the stage for an in-depth discussion on leveraging these areas for tourism development.

The meeting saw active participation from various key stakeholders including President Adventure Tour Operators, Rouf Ahmad Trambo; renowned trekking and expedition specialist, Manzoor Wangnoo; Ex. President Travel Agents Association Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo; Founder of Discover Kash-

mir, Sajad Kralyari and tourism vlogger, Mohammad Sharif Bhat who shared insights on the industry's challenges and opportunities, and discussed strategies for marketing Ganderbal as a top-tier destination.

The meeting served as a vibrant forum for exchanging ideas and recommendations, setting a positive trajectory for the development of a tourism plan that not only aims to enhance Ganderbal's tourism appeal but also ensures the sustainability of its natural and cultural heritage.

With such a broad spectrum of expertise and commitment, Ganderbal is poised to emerge as a leading destination in the region, offering a rich and diverse tourism experience to the visitors.

Zonal, Sectoral Magistrates imparted election training at Doda

JINNEWS SERVICE

DODA, FEBRUARY 27

In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, Zonal and Sectoral Magistrates were imparted training under the supervision of District Election Officer Harvinder Singh. The training aimed to equip the officials with all necessary knowledge and skills to effectively carry out their duties during the electoral process.

Interacting with the participants, Deputy District Election Officer Om Prakash Bhagat focused on a range of issues like distribution centres for 3 Assembly constituencies, distance between polling stations and distribution centres, proper arrangements in polling stations. He directed the Zonal/Sectoral Magistrates to visit the polling stations after allocation and check AMF & basic minimum arrange-



ments there.

The training covered a wide range of topics, including election laws, procedures, and protocols that needed to be followed during polling. The zonal/sectoral Magistrates were briefed on their role and responsibilities, emphasizing the importance of maintaining law and order, overseeing polling stations, and ensuring the safety and security of voters.

Dr Akhter Hussain Assistant Prof. GDC Bhaderwah, District level Master Trainer (DLMT) imparted

a detailed training related to use of EVM machines, working and counting of votes. Officials stressed the significance of impartiality, transparency, and strict adherence to the election code of conduct. The training session also focused on equipping the Magistrates with the skills to handle any potential issues or challenges that may arise on Election Day.

The 2nd training of Zonal/Sectoral Magistrates will be conducted after the allocation of their Jurisdiction of Polling Stations.

Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission bids adieu to Ajay Gupta

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for J&K and Ladakh accorded an affectionate send off to member (Technical) JERC, Ajay Gupta, who attained superannuation today after serving in the Commission for about three and a half years.

Chairman JERC and Member (Finance) besides other the officers and officials of the Commission participated in the event and extended their best wishes to the retiree wishing him a healthy and prosperous post retirement life. They lauded the contribution of Ajay Gupta as Member (Technical) JERC for J&K and Ladakh.

Ajay Gupta had held various prestigious positions before joining the JERC on 28-08-2020.

National Science Day 2024 observed at JU Udhampur Campus

JINNEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 27

To spread awareness and significance of science and its application in people's daily life and exposing the stakeholders to new technologies being promoted as a step towards Viksit Bharat, Udhampur Campus, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the JK Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science and Technology, organised a "One Day Awareness-cum-Training Programme on "Aromatic Crops and importance of Biodiversity" on the eve of National Science Day 2024. Dr. Suphla Gupta, Principal Scientist at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu & Nodal Scientist Aroma Mission III and Prof Susheel Verma, Head, Department of Botany, University of Jammu, Jammu were the expert speakers

and resource persons while the special guest Shrutu Khanna, Assistant Director, represented the JK STIC, Udhampur.

In her presentation on the Importance of aromatic Crops for empowerment of society, Dr. Suphla Gupta highlighted the important contribution of Aroma Mission in the growth, nurturing, and positioning of the essential oil-based aroma business in the nation. Dr. Gupta stated, "The aroma mission has established a strong ecosystem that benefits the industry, farmers, and young entrepreneurs". Both productivity and income of the farmers are increasing, and their lives are changing as a result of the employment of indigenous technology and scientific interventions in the areas of agriculture, processing, and product development. She shared



several inspiring success stories of the young entrepreneurs across Jammu & Kashmir who are involved in the cultivation, processing, value addition, and marketing of highly lucrative aromatic and medicinal plants like lemon grass, Rosa grass, tulsi, mint, marigold, monarda, and other aromas based plants.

In the afternoon session, Prof Susheel Verma spoke on the "Importance of biodiversity and its conservation in the era of climate change". Biodiversity is indispensable for our well-being and prosperity. Therefore, protecting the cultivated and

wild crops and their pollinators like honeybees, beetles and other insects are very much helpful for us as well as the ecosystem, as our survival depends on them", said Prof Verma. He enlightened the audience about the role of conservation organizations such as IUCN, CITES, etc., in protecting the diverse flora and fauna.

In her address, Mrs. Shrutu Khanna, highlighted the major initiatives and activities undertaken by the DST, J&K, all over Jammu & Kashmir for the upliftment and development of the local communities. She thanked

the Udhampur Campus faculty and staff for working together to arrange the "One Day Awareness-cum-Training Programme on "Aromatic Crops and significance of Biodiversity."

Earlier, Prof Yash Pal Sharma while conveying his gratitude to Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, for his stewardship and unwavering support in the development and advancement of the Udhampur Campus, he extended warmly welcome to the resource persons and the participants and hoped that such efforts will be helpful in making India 'AtmNirbhar' and Viksit Bharat as envisaged by our Hon'ble Prime minister of India, Sh. Narinder Modi.

The mega event was attended by the JK STIC representative, the faculty

and students of Bhaskar Degree College, Kalra College of Education, and the local schools in the village of Garnai-Lotta, as well as members of the civil society, members of the local bodies, and progressive women entrepreneurs including Mrs Vimla, Mrs Santosh Jamwal, Mr. Dalip and the faculty members and students of Udhampur Campus. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Ms. Tarun Dubey, DrAnushka Singh extended warm welcome to the guests and participants while the formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Shilpa Gupta. Every year the National Science Day is celebrated to honour the discovery of "Raman Effect" on 28th February, 1928 by the Indian Physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman, the first Asian scientist to bag the Nobel Prize in Physics in the year 1930.

GDC Ramgarh organises Nukkad Natak on Voter Awareness



JINNEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 27

Government Degree College, Ramgarh today organised a Nukkad Natak on the theme 'Chunav Ka Parv Desha Ka Garv', under the aegis of SVEEP activities. The event was held under the guidance and supervision of the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

In her address, the Principal highlighted the significance of the Voting rights in empowering students and the community with essential civic rights and duties.

The nukkad natak was directed by Dr. Ekta Rani from the Department of Hindi and was performed by the students of the College. It aimed to enlighten the audience

about the importance of exercising their right to vote. Students of the College enthusiastically witnessed the performance and promised to cast their vote in the upcoming elections. The natak was performed to spread the important message among the masses, especially the youth in creating a sense of responsibility among the students and about the role each citizen plays in shaping the democratic fabric of the nation.

The faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, PTI Ashok Kumar, Dr. Shivali Choudhary, Dr. Imityaz, Priya Sharma, Akanksha, Ram Murti, Fayaz Ahmed, Neha, Priya Bhagat, Anil Kumar and Sunil Kumar.

GoI issues postage stamp in name of AIRF, glorious history



JINNEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEB 27

This year, the oldest, historical and militant organization of Railways, All India Railway Men's Federation (AIRF), is going to complete 100 years of its establishment. It was established on 24 April 1924. To commemorate this, the Government of India decided to issue a "commemorative postage stamp This centenary year commemorative postage stamp was released by Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, Communications and Information Technology, Government of India today, on 27 February 2024, in a grand ceremony at Karnail Singh Railway Stadium, in the presence of more

than 5 thousand railway employees.. Many prominent senior officials of Railway Ministry, Indian Postal and Northern Railway were present on this historic occasion. Along with this, top officials of Railway, Postal and other government and unorganized workers' organizations across the country and other eminent intellectuals were also present. This is the first time in the history of the country when the Government of India has honored a labor organization by issuing a postage stamp in its centenary year, which is a symbol of the fact that this organization is an important organization for this country and its workers. Addressing the employees on this occasion, Chief Guest Mr. Ashwani Vaish-

naw briefly highlighted its historical background and said that this organization has been given leadership by such people who are not only involved in the trade union movement of this country but also in the international level trade union movement. Has also made important contribution. This organization of railway workers, playing the role of a responsible trade union organization, has made an important contribution not only in the social and economic upliftment of railway employees but also in making the railway industry safe and convenient for its customers. In his address on this occasion, General Secretary of the AIRF, Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra given detailed informa-

tion about the activities done by the Federation from time to time in the social, economic and cultural fields for the railway employees and their families. In the journey of hundred years, where the railway employees wrote the development story of Indian Railways under the leadership of All India Railway Men's Federation, the route kilometer reached 68 kilometers and today 82 Vande Bharat Express Trains are running, and 30 thousand Amrit Bharat coaches have been constructed by our employees. While this Federation established those dimensions of struggle and achievements which included equal pay to the Britishers, facilities, ban on retrenchment as

the AIRF has innumerable achievements in its name like equality of Men of Craft and Men of Letters, bonus, expansion in pay allowances and facilities through pay commissions, expansion in promotions through cadre restructuring, airconditioned pass facility to all, expansion in medical facilities etc. etc. While there are glorious struggles carried out by AIRF in 1960, 1968 and 1974, the resolution and struggle against Emergency is also the history of the strength of this organization. Certainly, there have been 100 years of continuous struggle of All India Railwaymen's Federation and even in this centenary year, we are continuously struggling for the restoration of old pension and hope that the

government will definitely restore it. The ceremony was attended by Dr. N. Kanniah, President, AIRF, Dr. M. Raghavaiah, General Secretary, NFIR, Mrs. Jaya Verma Sinha, Chairman and CEO, Railway Board, Ms. Smita Kumar, Director General, Indian Postal, Mr. Naveen Gulati, Director General (HR), Railway Board, General Manager NR Shri Shobhan Chaudhary, Working President of AIRF Shri J.R. Bhosle, Treasurer of AIRF Shri C.H. Shankara Rao, National Women's Convener Mrs. Praveena Singh and many other important officials and officers were present and kept his views on this occasion.. The ceremony was conducted by Shri SK Tyagi, Assistant General Secretary, AIRF.

Director Agriculture inaugurates Hi-tech Polyhouse at Chakoora Pulwama

JINNEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 27

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated Hi-tech Polyhouse at Chakoora, and inspected under-construction hi-tech Polyhouses at Tahab, Pulwama.

Speaking to the farmers of different areas of the sub-division, Director Agriculture said that the department is working on an ambitious plan of providing farmers with round the year availabil-

ity of seedlings of different vegetable crops. He said to achieve this goal, the department has established hi-tech poly houses in all the districts of Kashmir division.

He highlighted the importance of integrated farming and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations.

Addressing the farmers, the Director said that the department would provide all the technical assistance to them to comprehensively perform their agriculture activities.