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Kashmir Valley bracing for major snowfall today: MeT

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28

Kashmir Valley is bracing for a major snowfall tomorrow that may disrupt surface and air transport, officials said on Wednesday.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has already issued an advisory in view of the forecast of heavy snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir,

cautioning about the disruption of surface and air transport.

The weather will remain partly cloudy with light snow over isolated higher reaches on Wednesday.

The MeT centre said an active Western disturbance is most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from February 29 evening/night onwards and can cause widespread moderate rain/snow in Jammu and

Kashmir night/early morning of March 1 and till the afternoon of March 3, with its peak activity on March 2.

“The above system is most likely to cause heavy to very heavy rain or snow over the Pirpanjal Range of Jammu Division and the middle and higher reaches of Kashmir Division, including Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shupiyan-

Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg, and Kupwara-Sachna Pass,” it said.

The weather activity may lead to disruption of surface and air transport, including the Jammu-Srinagar national highway and other major roads in the middle and higher reaches of J&K.

People living in snow-bound areas have been asked to avoid ven-

turing into sloppy and avalanche-prone areas.

There are chances of landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones, most likely over the vulnerable areas. Farmers have also been advised to withhold all farm operations during the first week of March, it added.

Kashmir witnessed a prolonged dry spell this year. But in recent

weeks, the valley has received two significant spells of snowfall.

Meanwhile, nighttime temperatures improved in Kashmir Valley and stayed above normal in all major stations on Wednesday.

The MeT office said that the minimum temperature during the intervening nights of Tuesday and Wednesday in Srinagar

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Centre bans both factions of Muslim Conference in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28

The Union Home Ministry has declared both factions of Muslim Conference, one headed by former Hurriyat chairman Prof. Abdul Gani Bhat and another by Ghulam Nabi Sumji as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-1967.

The Home Minister issued two separate notifications, copies of which are in possession of the news agency, to ban both factions of Muslim Conference. Before August 5, 2019, Prof. Bhat led faction was part of Hurriyat led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq while other was part of Hurriyat led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

According to MHA, the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir



the MCJK-B have been involved in raising funds through various sources including Pakistan and its proxy organizations for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the notification banning Muslim Conference headed by Ghulam Nabi Sumji, the MHA said the faction is known for its anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda. “Members of the MCJK-S have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and providing logistic support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir,” it said.

According to MHA, the leaders and members of the faction have been involved in raising

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(Bhat faction), chaired by Abdul Ghani Bhat have been indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country.

It said that the faction has linkages with banned terrorist organizations and has supported terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

The MHA further said the members of the faction led by Prof. Bhat have been indulging in generating feelings of hatred and disaffection against India to separate Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India.

In the notification, the Ministry said that the leaders and members of

Now proposals for appointment of HM to be sent to Centre for prior reference

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28

In a significant move, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday made it mandatory on J&K administration to send the proposal for appointment of the Union Territory’s Home Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for “prior reference”.

As per news agency, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today amended the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019, to make a prior reference to the Central Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs on the matter of the appointment of



Union Territory’s Home Secretary.

Earlier, Jammu & Kashmir administration was only required to make a prior reference to the Central government on the proposals of the appointment of chief secretary and director general police.

As per earlier rules, J&K Lieu-

tenant Governor shall make a prior reference to the Central Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs or to the appropriate Ministry with a copy to the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of proposals affecting the relations of the Central Government with any State Government, the Supreme Court of India or any other High Court; proposals for the appointment of Chief Secretary and Director General of Police; important cases which affect or are likely to affect the peace and tranquility of the Union territory; and cases which affect or are likely to affect the interests of any minority community, Scheduled Castes or the Backward Classes. KNO

UT admin targets to establish J&K as leading start-up ecosystem, reveals Start-up Policy 2024-27

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28

The union territory administration has targeted to establish Jammu and Kashmir as one of the leading start-up ecosystems in India by 2027.

As per the Jammu and Kashmir Start-up Policy 2024-27, the administration will take multiple measures to boost the start-up ecosystem in the union territory.

According to the policy document, available with the news agency, thorough measures including setting up of incubation centres, assistance in attracting investors and access to funding, the administration has envisioned establishing Jammu and Kashmir as one of the leading start-up eco-systems in India by 2027.

Under the policy, the administra-

tion has targeted to set up at least 2000 new start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir in next five years.

To ensure that the start-ups get funding, the administration has decided to set up a Venture Capital Funds of Rs 250 crores.

“The Government of Jammu and Kashmir will infuse a maximum of Rs 25 crore as an initial fund to the venture capital fund. The venture capital fund shall be managed in a professional manner and shall attract funding from different market sources such as angel investors, entrepreneurs, accelerators and incubators and other funding entities to reach a total fund value of Rs 250 crores,” it said.

In addition to it, the government as per the policy document has decided to establish loan guarantee programmes.

“The eligible start-ups recognised with JKEDI and Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) shall be facilitated to avail loan under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Start-ups as per the rules and regulations laid down by DPIIT for Credit Guarantee Scheme for Start-ups,” it said.

The policy reads that a seed funding of Rs 20 lakhs in four installments shall be provided to the start-ups recognised by JKEDI.

Jammu and Kashmir under the policy has also constituted a High-Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) to monitor the performance of Jammu and Kashmir start-up ecosystem.

With Chief Secretary as the chairman of the 12-membered HLEC, the committee as per the

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Chief Secretary takes stock of the solarisation mission



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday took stock of the measures being taken for implementation of different solar power schemes here in the UT.

Besides the Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PDD; Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Planning; DG, Planning; MD JPDC/KPDCL; Representatives from NHPC and REC besides other concerned officers.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary impressed upon all the stakeholders including NHPC, which has been designated as a project implementation agency for the solarisation here, to start implementing the schemes on ground.

Regarding the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, he directed the concerned to create the ample awareness among the public about this beneficiary ori-

ented scheme. He impressed upon JPDC and KPDC to assist and encourage people to register themselves for this scheme to reap the benefits and called for weekly reports about the registrations made in each division.

The Chief Secretary remarked that such schemes are highly attractive for commoners as they bear a major subsidy component provided to them under DBT. He asked for empanelment of the genuine agencies in each district for installation of solar rooftops for public. He impressed upon them to give people multiple options to choose best for them and avail the benefits under this PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

He advised the Department to go about smoothly by having coordination between them to complete the solarisation of government buildings in the UT. He told the NHPC to finalize the plan for solarisation of such identified government infrastructure

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Terrorist associate arrested in Sopore: Police

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28

Police along with security forces have arrested a terrorist associate in Sopore and recovered hand grenade from his possession.

“Police in Sopore along with 22 (RR) and CRPF (179 BN) arrested a terrorist associate following specific information. He has been identified as Arif Hussain Bhat son of Ali Mohammad Bhat resident of Mundji Bomai, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

During questioning, it surfaced that he was in constant touch with terrorist handlers across the border and on his disclosure, a live hand grenade was recovered, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 04/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Bomie and further investigation has been initiated. KNO

India’s first gene therapy trial in haemophilia conducted at CMC vellore: Dr Jitendra Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 28

India has conducted the first human clinical trial of gene therapy in Haemophilia A (FVIII deficiency) at Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore.

This was disclosed here today by Union Science & Technology Minister (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh while addressing the “National Science Day 2024” programme in Vigyan Bhavan.

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that the programme is supported by the Department of Biotechnology, the Centre for Stem Cell Research - a unit of InStem Bengaluru, in collaboration with



Emory University, USA at Christian Medical College, Vellore. The trials involved deploying a novel technology of using a lentiviral vector to express a FVIII transgene in the

patient’s own haematopoietic stem cell which will then express FVIII from specific differentiated blood cells.

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J&K to immunise 19 lakh children on March 3 Secy Health seeks active public cooperation

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28

Approximately 19 lakh children under the age of five are set to receive immunisation across Jammu and Kashmir on March 3, 2024 - the National Immunisation Day.

As per the news agency, Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed, in a video message said the nationwide campaign is aimed at eradicating polio.

He said around 45,000 healthcare workers, with some from hard

geographical terrains, will ensure that no children below the age of five are left out.

Outlining the vaccination strategy, Dr Abid said March 03 will be designated as a booth day, where children will be brought to pulse polio booths. On March 04 and 05, healthcare workers will conduct door-to-door visits to reach every eligible child.

“The scourge of polio must be eliminated not only from India but also from the rest of the world, and India serves as a guiding beacon in

this endeavour,” he said. He sought active cooperation in maintaining a post-eradication status.

Underlining the commitment of the Health and Medical Education Department, Dr Abid urged collective action to ensure the success of the immunisation campaign. He called upon everyone to prioritise the health and well-being of the youngest members of society.

Through collaborative efforts, a significant impact can be made on the nation’s health

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Awareness programme on NALSA scheme, Domestic Violence Act organized at ADR Centre, Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with, Sakhi One Stop Centre (OSC), Social Welfare Department (SWD) Srinagar today organised an awareness programme on "NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attack) Scheme, 2016 and the Domestic Violence Act at ADR centre DLSA Srinagar.

The awareness programme was held under the guidance of Chairman (PDJ) DLSA, Srinagar, Jawad Ahmed.

The program aimed to raise awareness among the participants about the provisions and benefits of the NALSA Scheme and the Domestic Violence Act.

Raja Mohammad Tasleem, Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Chairman Tehsil Legal Service Committee,



Srinagar, graced the occasion as the chief guest

Jahangir Ahmed Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA, Srinagar; Mukhtar Ahmed, District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar; Adv. Asiya Farooq, Centre Administrator, OSC, Srinagar, Officials of DLSA Srinagar and One Stop Centre Department, Female Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Female Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, Anganwadi Workers, Survivors of Domestic Violence & Acid Attack attended the programme.

Addressing the programme, the chief guest emphasized the importance of legal aid and support to victims of acid attacks and domestic violence. He highlighted the various provisions of the NALSA scheme and the Domestic Violence Act that aim to protect and empower victims.

District Social Welfare Srinagar, in his opening remarks, emphasized the crucial role played by the District Social Welfare Department and the One Stop Centre in providing support and assistance to victims of domestic violence and acid attacks. He further highlighted the

provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, its significance in protecting the rights of women and children, and the need for community involvement in addressing this issue.

Asiya Farooq, Incharge OSC Srinagar highlighted the objectives of the program and the importance of collaboration between various stakeholders in addressing the issues faced by victims of acid attacks and domestic violence. She further added the significance of creating legal awareness about these legal provisions among the public.

Rubina Shafi, Case Worker at OSC, Srinagar provided detailed insights into the NALSA Scheme and highlighted the benefits and entitlements available to victims of acid attacks. She emphasized the need for timely legal intervention and assis-

tance to ensure justice for victims. Deeba, Gender Specialist shared among the participants about the centric schemes for upliftment of women.

Adv. Zainab Amin, Paralegal Lawyer of OSC, Srinagar elaborated on the Acid Attack Scheme 2016 and shared the provisions for compensation and rehabilitation of victims of acid attacks.

Acid attack survivor Sehar Nazir, Assistant LADC, Srinagar, and Survivor of Domestic Violence shared their personal experiences and were felicitated by the Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, District Social Welfare, Srinagar, Incharge One Stop Centre (OSC). The felicitation ceremony aimed to acknowledge their struggle, provide support, and empower them to continue their journeys towards healing and recovery.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, Mission Vatsalya, among other topics.

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

Facilitators conducted sessions on Child Rights Mechanism, an overview of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and POCSO Act 2012, overview of adoption regulations 2022, and the role of SSA, overview of

SWD hosts one day sensitization programme on Juvenile Justice

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 28

Social Welfare Department today organized a one-day 'Sensitization cum Training Programme' on the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012 and Child Rights here in the community hall Bhaderwah under Mission Vatsalya.

District Development Council Chairman, Dhananter Singh presided over the training program as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the participants, the DDC Chairman threw light on crucial aspects of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, including the legal framework for juvenile justice, child protection measures, rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders, and other relevant topics.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhader-



wah Sunil Kumar, Sub Judge Bhaderwah Ramesh Lal Secretary legal service authority besides police officers, member child welfare committee, child protection committee, Advocates, members of Media fraternity, JKRLM, Asha workers and others also attended the event.

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GCW Udhampur ECO Club organises "Poster making Competition"

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR FEBRUARY 28

To commemorate Science Day, the ECO Club Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organized a Poster making Competition on the theme Go Green for a Sustainable Future, here today.

Principal of the College, Prof. Anjali Mahajan was the chief guest on the occasion.

As many as 14 students of the college participated in the competition and expressed their views and ideas in the form of beautiful posters in front of the jury members.

Manvi Rathore of Sem-II bagged first position, while Sampada Khajuria of Sem-IV and Renu Bharti of B.Sc sem-IV secured second and third positions respectively. Besides consolation prizes were awarded to Shafiya Mushtaq of Sem-IV and



Rashika Devi of Sem II.

While speaking on the occasion, Prof Anjali Mahajan lauded Eco Club for organizing the event of great importance in the college. She said that the contest has enabled the students to expose their talent on a common platform which would help in building self-confidence amongst them. She urged for more such programmes in near future also.

Dr. Indu Khajuria, Department of Chemistry,

Dr. Sanjeet Kour, Department of Zoology and Prof. Neha Gupta, Department of Commerce were acted as judge in the contest. Prizes and certificates were also given among the winners by the chief guest.

The programme was coordinated by members of ECO Club, Dr. Sushma Sharma, Pooja Bharti and Yash Kumar.

The programme concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Om Prakash, Co-Convener, ECO Club.

One-day Awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma scheme held at Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 28

The District Administration Baramulla in collaboration with MSME and Skill Development, District Industries Wednesday organized a one-day awareness programme on the PM Vishwakarma scheme to enlighten the stakeholders about the scheme's benefits.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Syed Qamar Sajad was the chief guest on the occasion.

The awareness programme witnessed the participation of various dignitaries including Chief Planning Officer, General Manager District Industries Baramulla, Principal ITI Baramulla, members of the District Implementation Committee, Panchayat Secretaries, ITI Master



Trainers and other stakeholders, including beneficiaries of the scheme.

During the event, the key features and advantages of the PM Vishwakarma scheme were highlighted.

ADDC emphasized the importance of implementing the scheme effectively to cover eligible beneficiaries across the district in all identified trades. He urged officers and officials of concerned departments

to adopt a people-friendly approach to strengthen local job opportunities at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Director Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (GIO), Vineet Saxena informed that, PM Vishwakarma scheme has been launched on 17th Sep 2023 by the Prime Minister under which 18 categories of artisans have been covered.

He informed the gathering that after registration at CSC and verification by authorities, Vishwakarmas would be eligible for various benefits, including a toolkit worth Rs. 15,000 and collateral-free loans up to Rs. 3 lakh at just 5% interest rate. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates among Vishwakarmas who completed basic training courses at ITI Baramulla.

GDC for Women Kathua observes National Science Day 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 28

Government Degree College for Women, Kathua, marked National Science Day 2024 by hosting a series of enlightening events, showcasing the college's commitment to scientific exploration.

Under the guidance of Principal in charge, Dr. Inderjeet Kour, the day featured a Symposium on Global Warming and Climate Change, a Poster Presentation on Sustainable Development, and a Quiz on General Science and Technology.

Organized in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the Science Club, the events saw enthusiastic participation from students and faculty alike. The Symposium, with 9 participants, highlighted the pressing issue of climate change, while the Poster Presentation, with 27 participants, focused on sustainable development. The Quiz, with 16 participants forming 4 competitive teams, tested the participants' knowledge of general science and technology.

In the Symposium, Deepti Singh secured the First Position, followed by Farhat Naz in Second Position, and Prakriti in Third Position. Quiz Team A, comprising Prakriti, Sheetal, Aakariti, and Farhat Naaz, emerged victorious in the Quiz. In the Poster Presentation, Farhat Naz clinched the First Position, with Deepti Singh securing the Second Position, and Scania taking the Third Position.

Medals and certificates were awarded to all winners and participants, acknowledging their dedication to scientific inquiry.

Dr. Inderjeet Kour praised the students, faculty, and staff for their contributions, emphasizing the event's role in fostering a culture of scientific curiosity. The organizing committee, led by Dr. Inderjeet Kour as Convener of the IQAC, alongside Dr. Ashwani Kumar and Dr. Babita Mahajan as Coordinator and Co-Coordinator respectively, comprises a dedicated team striving to enhance institutional standards.

3 day training programme on PMFME concludes at KVK Samba



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

A three day training programme on PM Formulation of Micro Food Processing Enterprise Scheme concluded today at Samba Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology Jammu.

As many as 22 farmers including farm women participated in the programme with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The 3-day orientation session was held under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and under the directions of Director Extension Dr. Amrish Vaid.

Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba inaugurated the programme.

Prof. Khajuria welcomed the participants and enlightened them about different initiatives of GOI including credit linked schemes launched for the farmers' welfare. He also emphasized upon the farmers to take the benefit of the schemes in the micro food processing sector.

A series of lectures were delivered by the experts of the KVK on the topic during the period of three days. Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Sr. Scientist (Horticulture) delivered an expert lecture on the role of the horticulture plants and processing in securing livelihood security.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Sinha, Sr. Scientist (Ag. Engg) emphasized upon the use of efficient machinery to reduce the farming drudgery and also to minimize the carbon footprint.

Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma emphasized upon the role of animal husbandry and also different credit linked initiatives available under the dairy and poultry sector. Dr. Amit Mahajan sensitized the farmers about the opportunities in the different crops. Dr. Shalini Khajuria sensitized about the role of soil testing to improve the soil fertility and minimize the cost of production.

Others who participated in the programmes were Bharat Bhushan, Pawandeep Singh and Tejinder Singh. Programme concluded with the distribution of certificates amongst successful participants.

Vote of thanks was extended by Ramesh Chander Sharma, District Resource person, Samba.

JKTPO participates in MiTex trade fair 2024; exhibits UT's cultural richness, economic potential

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

The Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), participating in the MiTex 2024, held in Mumbai from February 16th to 26th, 2024, showcased the cultural richness and economic potential of the region, leaving a lasting impression on the visitors and exhibitors alike.

The participation of J&K pavilion in the well known exhibition demonstrates unwavering commitment of Jammu & Kashmir government towards providing market linkages to our entrepreneurs/ artisans/ weavers/ farmers for exploring markets and business opportunities.

MiTEX is Maharashtra's largest Trade Fair bringing participants from diverse industries under one roof to interact and sell to a discerning audience. From consumer durables to handicrafts, it will be a perfect platform to boost trade and encourage retail sector. MiTEX is being organised by Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA) which is the Apex Chamber of Maharashtra State representing the Commerce, Industry and Agriculture sector since 1927.

Under the guidance of



Administrative Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) curated a spectacular display with 22 stalls dedicated to exceptional and world-famous Handloom and Handicraft products of the UT.

MiTEX 2024 provided an invaluable platform for exhibitors from Jammu & Kashmir to display their unique Handicrafts, Handloom textiles, delectable Food items, and various

other indigenous products. The Jammu & Kashmir Pavilion, curated by JKTPO, stood out as a beacon of the region's diverse offerings, attracting a significant number of visitors throughout the duration of the event, and generating sales of worth Rs 80 Lakh.

The pavilion offered visitors an immersive experience, allowing them to explore and appreciate the intricate craftsmanship, vibrant textiles, and delicious flavours that define

Jammu & Kashmir.

As the curtains close on MiTex 2024, JKTPO remains committed towards promoting the cultural heritage and economic potential of Jammu & Kashmir on both national and international platforms. After the success of recently concluded Jammu Trade Fair, plans are already underway for JK Trade 2024 at Art Emporium in Srinagar, showcasing the region's offerings and facilitating business collaborations.

CUJ & DSC Samba sign agreement for conducting Capacity Building and Skill Courses under SANKALP

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain and Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, on behalf of the School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu and District Skill Committee (DSC), Samba signed service agreement for conducting Capacity Building and Skill Courses in the Samba District under Project SANKALP.

Deputy Commissioner under SANKALP Scheme, GoI, District Skill Committee Samba and The School of Business Studies shall train young entrepreneurs across various skills. DC Samba, further informed that this Project Skill Development and Youth Empowerment Programmes in Samba



(SDYEP) Under Capacity Building and Skill Initiatives in District Samba shall mainly focus on "Homestay Entrepreneurship Development Program" and focus on preparing young entrepreneurs who wish to convert their homes into a homestay and develop career in hospitality industry. This Capacity Building consultancy project aims to create successful entrepreneurs who will in turn employ others for their business and continue

the cycle of skilling and employment generation. The entrepreneurs can also cluster for different tourist activities including trekking, camping, glamping and many more depending on the local opportunities and offerings. It is pertinent to mention here that Project Team comprising of Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Dr. Neelika Arora and Dr. Anju Thapa has submitted a comprehensive report on Skill Gap Survey Study in District Samba and present Project is another endeavour of Project Team and ITI, Samba to train the youth of District Samba for income and employment generation through entrepreneurial ventures.

Mandeep Kaur assesses progress on Urban Development in Katra

JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 28

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today conducted an extensive tour of Katra town, visiting various locations to assess progress on development works being executed by Katra Municipal Committee.

The Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu, Punit Sharma, SDM Katra and EO Municipal Committee Katra and other officers.

He elaborately discussed multi pronged strategies for further development of municipal infrastructure besides streamlining urban planning undertakings. He reviewed the ongoing projects, discussed strategies to enhance civic services,



improve infrastructure resilience and ensure sustainability of urban growth in Katra.

During the inspection of key sites such as the Inter-Modal Station and MSWM site at village Tan Talab, Kundororian and municipal commercial building at counter 2, Katra, the Commissioner Secretary asked the concerned stakeholders to ensure prompt and efficient project execution.

During visit to MSWM site, the Commissioner

Secretary emphasised the need to have systematic handling of waste materials, focusing on collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of waste, along with monitoring and regulation.

The Commissioner Secretary laid emphasis on enhancing waste processing facility in Katra town that would be responsible for scientific disposal of waste, ensuring environmental safety and health standards. Additionally,

there was a call to address the remediation of legacy waste, which implies taking steps to treat and properly manage previously accumulated waste at the site, further mitigating environmental impact.

Mandeep Kaur underscored the commitment of Housing and Urban Development Department to development of Katra and its aspiration to provide world-class infrastructure and services to its residents.

1st National Lok-Adalat to be held on 09 March at Pulwama

JJ NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 28

As per JK Legal Services Authority, Calendar/ Plan of Action for the month of March 2024, the 1st National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be organized at District Court Complex Pulwama and in subordinate courts of the district on 09th of March 2024.

During the Lok Adalat, all cases pre and post litigation pending before the courts shall be taken up for amicable settlement.

The conciliatory, pre-lok Adalats sessions and sittings shall commence from 05-03-2024 and shall continue till 08 March, 2024.

All the Judicial Officers at District Headquarter Pulwama and other Subordinate Judicial Officers are requested to identify the cases to be taken up in the said National Lok-Adalat and the list of such cases be furnished to DLSA Pulwama by or before 06 March, 2024.

Director Agriculture inaugurates 3rd phase of Vegetable Seedling distribution at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated the third phase of vegetable seedling distribution at Kitchen Garden premises Lalmandi, Srinagar.

Under the third phase of vegetable seedling distribution drive, 8 lakh seedlings of cauliflower, cabbage, knol khol and saaf are being provided to the farmers from Kitchen Garden Lalmandi Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture appreciated the efforts of the concerned officers/officials of Kitchen Garden and Hi-Tech Poly House installations and said that the department, to a great extent, has been successful in making vegetable seedlings available to the farming community round the year and



this endeavour will continue till the set targets are achieved.

He highlighted the importance of vegetable cultivation for the region and asked the educated youth to come forward

and adopt this as a career option.

Pertinently, a large number of farmers, kitchen garden lovers and backyard farmers across the valley were present on the occasion.

GDC Vijaypur organises Group Discussion on "Drug Abuse"

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Nasha Mukt Committee of Government Degree College Vijaypur, in collaboration with J&K Police, Jammu Samba Kathua Range, organized a group discussion on drug abuse to create awareness among the college students/citizens about the impact of drugs on mental health of individuals, social health, psychological health and family health.

The event started with the welcome address by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer Education) followed by lamp lighting and singing of Saraswati Vandana.

The Principal of the College briefed the students about the perils of drug abuse on the life of an individual, including his physical and emotional health and social life. A team from J&K Police, JSK Range comprising SDPO Vijaypur, DySP Rohit Gupta, DySP Raman Kumar (DIG Office Jammu), SHO Vijaypur



Zaheer Manhas and ASI, Tarsem Lal participated in the programme. The SDPO Vijaypur) briefed students regarding the challenges administration is facing in curbing the menace of drug abuse. He further shared various preventive measures that can be adopted by the civil society to keep a check on illegal and anti-social activities. He also answered the questions

raised by the students.

As many as sixteen college students participated in the group discussion which was divided into three rounds. The students shared their views on drug abuse and suggested preventive measures. Winners of the group discussion were awarded with cash prizes decided by a jury consisting Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science),

Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce) and Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology and Convenor Nasha Mukt Abhiyan Committee). The First prize of Rs. 2500 was won by Shail Lalotra, second prize of Rs. 1500/- by Akash and third prize of Rs. 1000/- by Iqra. The program received positive feedback from the students, who found it informative and engaging.

Principal of the college, Prof. Dr. Vandana Gupta appreciated the efforts of the Police Department in organizing such an informative and educative lecture and also for creating awareness about drug abuse. Formal Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Radhika Rasyal. The program was organized by NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) and Nasha Mukt Committee. The event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (HOD Education) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and co-coordinated by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Dr. Radhika Rasyal, Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, and Prof. Renuka Kundal.

SVEEP awareness programs conducted at GDC Khansahib

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 24

Electoral Literacy Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Khansahib conducted a series of SVEEP related activities in the college. Apart from administering voter pledges to the students they were sensitized about the significance of voting for a healthy democracy. The participants were oriented towards various online services available on the official website of Chief Electoral Officer of JK UT including the procedure for online voter registration.

A documentary on the 'Use of Electronic Voting Machines' (EVMs) was screened for the students.

Principal of the college Dr. Nargis Bano appreciated the role of ELC members for organizing these activities.

National Science Day

GDC Hiranagar hosts students' visit to Atal Tinkering Lab



JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 28

To mark National Science Day, students from Govt. Girdari Lal Dogra Memorial Degree College Hiranagar embarked on an educational journey to the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) housed in Bharatiya Vidya Mandir High School, Hiranagar.

The visit, organized by the college, aimed to inspire creativity, problem-solving skills, and a spirit of innovation among the students.

ATLs are innovation spaces established by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a government initiative in India. These labs provide students with access to cutting-edge tools and equipment, including 3D printers, robotics kits, electronic components, and prototyping materials, fostering hands-on learning experi-

ences. Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed and introduced to the concept and purpose of the Atal Tinkering Lab. The facilitator provided an overview of the AIM initiative, emphasizing the role of ATLs in promoting innovation and the resources available within the lab.

Throughout the visit, the students had the opportunity to engage in hands-on demonstrations and interactive sessions with various tools and equipment. These activities not only showcased the practical applications of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) concepts but also served as a source of inspiration for the students.

The Principal of Govt. Girdhari Lal Dogra Memorial Degree College Hiranagar Dr. Pragya Khanna, commended the

school management for their efforts and congratulated the Principal, staff, and students of Bharatiya Vidya Mandir High School who were sent to ISRO under the Atal Scheme.

Accompanying Dr. Pragya Khanna were Dr. Poonam Kamotra, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma, and Prof. Amit Kumar Sharma. Dr. Khanna encouraged the students to engage in guided mini-projects or workshops facilitated by ATL mentors, which could involve problem-solving challenges, basic coding exercises, or small-scale innovation projects.

The visit to the Atal Tinkering Lab not only exposed the college students to cutting-edge technologies and innovation but also inspired them to think critically and creatively, paving the way for their educational and career paths.

District Administration hosts mega Job Fair at Baramulla

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 28

In an endeavour to foster employment opportunities, entrepreneurial endeavors, and skill enhancement, the District Administration Baramulla in collaboration with Employment Department, Baramulla and Skill Development Department today organised a Job Fair/Rozgar Mela under SANKALP at Govt Polytechnic College Baramulla.

The Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Qamar Sajad, in presence of Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, Javid Ahmad and General Manager, District Industries Centre Baramulla, Nighat Alam inaugurated this multifaceted event aimed to connect job seekers with a diverse array of employers, departments implementing self-employment schemes, and skill training institutes under one roof.

The Rozgar Mela featured participation of 22 renowned companies spanning local, national, and international employers such as Sulaiman Al Habib Hospitals (Saudi Arabia), HDFC Bank, LIC



India, WEPS Civil Aviation, Axis Bank, Himalayan, PNB MetLife, among others, representing diverse industries including health, aviation, manufacturing, insurance, and IT others collectively offered over 2900 job vacancies to the district's youth.

A total of 729 Job seekers hailing from different corners of the district participated in the placement drive in which after rigorous interview and vetting process 32 candidates were handed over on-spot job letters while 123 candidates including 43 for overseas jobs were shortlisted for the next round of interviews.

Besides the job fair, government departments viz. Employment Department, District Industries, Handi-

craft/Handloom, KVIB participated in the event, providing invaluable guidance and supporting self-employment schemes to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, interactive sessions were conducted by industry experts and skill training institutes to the aspirants offering practical insights into skill development and career enhancement where attendees gained valuable knowledge on emerging trends and skill upgradation courses.

Speaking during the event, the ADDC appreciated the Employment department for organizing this placement drive in an aim to provide opportunities and empower the youth to take proactive steps towards realizing their career goals.

Practical demonstrations on concept of 2-dimensions held at NPS Gujjar Basti, Kore Punnu



JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 28

A fascinating lesson unfolded on the grounds of NPS Gujjar Basti Kore Punnu Zone Marheen District Kathua where mentor teacher Mahesh Kumar led an enlightening lecture on a seemingly simple, yet complex topic: two-dimensional shapes.

A two-dimensional shape, as explained by Mahesh. Kumar, can be defined as a flat figure that has two dimensions - length and width. These shapes lay the foundation of our understanding of the world around us, from the pages of the books we read to the blueprints of the buildings we inhabit.

In the words of mentor teacher Mahesh Kumar, "Understanding two-dimensional shapes is not just about recogniz-

ing squares or circles. It's about comprehending how these shapes come together to form the world as we know it. Every element we interact with, whether it be a piece of paper or a sprawling landscape, starts with understanding its basic two-dimensional properties."

This exploration of shapes offers students a fresh perspective on how to observe and make sense of their surroundings, emphasizing the integral role of basic geometric principles in our day-to-day lives.

The students keenly participated in the demonstration and actively took part in the lesson. The session was held under the overall supervision of the HOI, who appreciated the mentor on his understanding and delivery of the topic.

Congress is dedicated to serving people and addressing their grievances: Bhalla



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

In order to boost Congress Party's political activities and public outreach campaign, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla today addressed party workers at Bathindi area of Bahu constituency.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Sarpanch Hafeez Uhallah, Sarpanch Fazal Hussain Shukar Din, Fareed Ali, Badhur Ali, Abdul Majeed Malik, Noor Hussain, Nek Mohd, Naseem Ali, Gulzar Hussain, Kala Din, Mir Alam, Kaki Hussain and others.

While addressing workers, Bhalla urged people to support Congress Party so that it can implement its pro-people agenda to ensure a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "Congress Party's primary agenda is to ensure a permanent peace, enduring prosperity, and equivalent development in Jammu and Kashmir, and economic and political empowerment of its people. We have seasoned politicians in this party and these leaders have the vision, determination, and potential to bring about positive change in the region.

We are committed to elevating J&K to new heights of prosperity and economic well-being." Affirming party's unwavering dedication to elevating Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of peace, prosperity, and development, Bhalla stated that their commitment lies in fostering the economic

and political empowerment of the region, aiming to lift the populace out of the prevailing uncertainty and challenging conditions.

Bhalla said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have constantly been subjected to suffering and deprivation due to the deceptive politics of BJP and its leaders. He promised that Congress would put an end to political exploitation in Jammu and Kashmir and lead the region to new heights of prosperity and development. He appealed to the people not to fall into the trap of deceptive slogans but instead to strengthen the Congress Party to secure a promising future for the region and its residents. Bhalla said that Congress is dedicated to serving the people and addressing their grievances. He stated, his Party holds both the vision and the will for prosperity and development in Jammu and Kashmir. Unlike other parties, we do not believe in fake promises and misleading narratives. We are committed to the politics of truthfulness. Therefore, we will not promise you the moon and the stars; rather, we will promise only what we believe is achievable—to ensure peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir."

Bhalla expressed his profound concern over the rising unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir and stated that when the Congress is given the mandate to serve, it will eradicate unem-

ployment by creating job avenues and opportunities, utilizing the natural potential of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "The Almighty has bestowed J&K with tremendous natural resources. If these resources are used properly and scientifically, they will enable us to generate a significant number of job opportunities for our young population." In his address, he appealed workers, urging them to throw their support behind Party, enabling it to execute its clear-cut agenda and policies aimed at the welfare of the people. He said, "In the prevailing uncertainty in Jammu and Kashmir,

Bhalla said Congress stands as a beacon of hope, with its leadership dedicated to bringing about a positive change here. Unlike other political parties, we do not aspire to attain power just to rule but to serve the people. We stand in support of the people of Jammu and Kashmir like a rock, as our mission is to protect their rights and ensure their prosperity and well-being." He urged the party workers to remain active in order to strengthen the organisational set-up further. Bhalla said, "We have to strengthen our party further to make it powerful enough to serve the people better. It is imperative that we attract and involve the younger generation within our party ranks. Together, we can safeguard the rights of the people, and foster prosperity and well-being in their lives."

Chandan Datta meets IAS Aditya Sangotra



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Social Activist Chandan datta met IAS Aditya Sangotra at his Delhi West office and greeted him for his outstanding work. KCWT wishes him all the luck for his future endeavours assignments and May he serve this Nation with more strength and courage to serve mankind and humanity.

Weekly Block Diwas held at Shiva Sopore

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 28

A weekly Block Diwas program was held today at Shiva Sopore to provide a platform to residents to voice their grievances and demands.

The programme was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina.

The weekly block diwas program is part of the administration's commitment to fostering community engagement and responsive governance.

The event saw a significant turnout of residents eager to participate in the dialogue. During the session, ADC actively listened to the concerns raised by community members, demonstrating a deep sense

Azad vows flood of development projects under his govt

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, addressed a party convention in Doda comprising office bearers from Doda and Kishtwar. He emphasized the importance of unity and preparation to ensure victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Azad highlighted that during his tenure as Leader of Opposition, he was the sole voice raising important issues in Parliament, particularly concerning the revocation of Article 370, 35A while other MPs from the NC and other parties remained silent despite their presence.

Azad criticized these parties for deceiving the people and emphasized that if efforts are made to secure the victory of his Lok Sabha candidates, his party will continue to champion public issues. He noted that both the NC and Congress have minimal presence in the Jammu province and



warned that their participation could divide votes. Azad asserted that his party's presence spans the entire state and positioned themselves as the only viable alternative. Azad, cautioned against the potential danger of regional parties misleading people with false slogans, including exploiting religion and caste divisions. He emphasized the importance of focusing on developmental issues, which constitute the main agenda of his party. Azad underscored the urgent need to address the deprivation of basic neces-

sities of life in regions like Chenab Valley and others, where people are struggling for jobs and resources. He reiterated the party's commitment to uplifting the poor and stressed the necessity to defeat the politics of religion and caste. He urged party workers to actively engage with the public and raise their concerns. He encouraged people to watch his speeches in Parliament, where he consistently raised public issues and ensured their redressal. Former Chief Minister, Mr. Azad, emphasized the developmental

achievements during his tenure, highlighting significant infrastructure enhancements including hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, and roads. These initiatives have aimed to improve the socio-economic landscape and enhance accessibility for all citizens. He emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in governance and reiterated his commitment to serving the people. Among others who were present on the occasion were Vice Chairman G.M.Saroori, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Zonal President P.R.Manhas, Asif Gattu Distt President Doda, Shabir Lone Distt President Kishtwar, Farooq Shikari, Javid Malik, Mush-taq Ahmed DDC, Amina Begum, Sheikh Zaffarullah, Fatima Shikari, Javed Azad, Ramesh Parihar, Asghar Khanday, Nek Raj, Roop Lal Bhagat others.

05 days Crash Course on new Criminal Laws-2023 commences at PTTI Vijaypur

JNEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, FEB 28

Five days Crash Course on new Criminal Laws-2023 which was commenced at PTTI Vijaypur on 22.02.2024 concluded today in which 50 Police personnel including SHOs, Incharge Police Posts and Investigating Officers of various units of Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range participated. On this occasion, a special lecture of Shri Subash Chander Gupta, Retd. District & Sessions Judge was arranged with a motive to enlighten the Police personnel with the key provisions of new Criminal Laws-2023 viz. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam-2023 which are going to be implemented in the Country with effect from 1st of July 2024. The guest speaker



delivered an impressive lecture, interacted with the Police personnel and replied to their queries concerning New Criminal Laws patiently.

Shri Pawan Khajuria, Retd. Joint Director Prosecution also delivered a lecture to the participants and shared his insights to apprise about the New Criminal Laws.

During valediction, Shri Dushyant Sharma, SSP thanked both the dignitaries for sparing their precious time for sharing their valuable experiences with the participants

which would definitely help the Police personnel while investigating the cases when the New Criminal Laws would come into force.

Among others, Shri Khushwant Singh Dy.SP (Admn.), Shri Surrinder Paul, Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech.), Ch. Asif Iqbal, Sr.PO, Shri Rahul Sambyal, Chairman NGO Justice for Youth, Shri Ram Lal (CL), Inspr. Surinder Singh (CDI), Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Anil Kumar, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta, Inspr. Ashish Darmat were present on the occasion.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Kashmir Valley...

was recorded at 4.5 °C, against the 1.0°C recorded the previous night. It was 3.0°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national had a low of 2.0.2, and Kokernag in south Kashmir settled at 1.1°C recorded the previous night.

The minimum temperature at Gulmarg improved but remained the coldest place, with a low of -5.6°C against -6.4°C the previous night. It was 0.2°C above normal for the famous ski resort of North Kashmir.

The mercury at the tourist resort of Pahalgam settled at -2.6°C against the -1.3°C recorded the previous night, and it was 1.6°C above normal for the tourist hot spot of south Kashmir.

Kupwara also had a low of 1.0°C against 0.4°C, and it was 1.0°C above normal for the frontier north Kashmir district on Wednesday, the MeT office said.

Centre bans both...

funds through various sources including Pakistan and its proxy organisations for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

It said that MCJKS has "constantly asked the people of Kashmir to refrain from taking part in elections and thereby targeted and hampered the very basic constitutionally recognized fundamentals of Indian democracy."

It said that the faction and its members by their activities show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set up of the country. KNO

UT admin targets to...

document shall take necessary decisions for encouragement of innovations in Jammu and Kashmir and modify start-up policy, guidelines from time -to-time

The government has also constituted a start-up task force to monitor the implementation of policy and decisions of HLEC on a regular basis.

The 10-membered task force will be headed by administrative secretary Industries and Commerce department. KNO

Chief Secretary takes...

being the implementing agency through REC under Resco model.

The Chief Secretary was informed by Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Saurabh Bhagat that the Department has completed its survey and has found 28686 government-owned buildings feasible for solarisation here. He gave out that out of these 2703 buildings had already been solarized and the capacity of rest has been tentatively estimated to be around 241 MWs.

Regarding the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, it was informed that it envisages providing free solar power to poorest sections of the society. It was added that under this Yojana, the households having consumption of about 150 energy units can install solar rooftops of the capacity of 1-2 KWs and get a subsidy component of about Rs 30000-60000.

Similarly for 2-3 KWs a subsidy component of Rs 60000-78000 can be availed and above that Rs 78000 is given as a subsidy to the beneficiaries directly into their accounts by the government. KNO

India's first gene therapy...

The Minister expressed the hope that manufacturing of this vector will commence soon in India and proceed with further clinical trials.

Stating that the National Science Day commemorates the discovery of "Raman Effect" by Nobel Laureate Sir CV Raman, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled C.V. Raman's words that India could progress only through science, more science and still more science, and said that after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took over, India is truly under the "Raman Effect" as PM Modi accords very high priority to science and keeps reiterating that science and technology are imperative to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Highlighting India's giant strides in S&T under PM Modi, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space said India's bio-economy has grown 13 folds in the last 10 years from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024.

"India is ranked as the world's 3rd largest Startup

Ecosystem with more than 100 unicorns and Incubators under DST providing are job opportunities to nearly 1.5 lakh youth. The Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution are examples of Agricultural transformation through science, innovation and technology which also gave a new avenue for Agri-startups," he said.

Speaking on India's efforts in Advanced Technologies, Dr. Jitendra Singh said "India is ready to match the global standards in Quantum Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. He said, we are not only on the same page but in some ways even ahead of others". He further shared that to enhance the effectiveness of AI, we are also using human interface at different levels.

On the increasing role of women scientists due to equal opportunity in S&T, Dr Jitendra Singh categorically mentioned that the women scientific community has been empowered under PM Modi as many of the Scientific Institutions and programmes, including Space Missions, are women-led.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also expressed his confidence in the Anusandhan National Research Foundation that it will prove to be a boon for research and development as the Government has taken efforts to make it a comprehensive forum not only of scientists and industry but also researchers from social sciences and humanities.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that in the wake of recent scientific achievements, it may be underscored that the rising trajectory of India over the past 10 years is being witnessed globally.

"We are globally among the top five countries in scientific research publications, 40th in Global Innovation Index (GII) showcasing remarkable climb from 81st rank in 2015 and our patent filing has crossed 90,000 which is highest in two decades," he said.

"All this is due to strengthening of the S & T ecosystem in the country under PM Modi in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Astronomy, Solar & Wind Energy, Semiconductors, Climate Research, Space Research and Biotechnology. Indian scientific breakthroughs have reached from the lab to the moon; with the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the south pole of the moon, India became the first country to achieve this feat," he said.

Acknowledging India's progress in robust vaccine development capacity, which has been proved during COVID pandemic, Dr. Jitendra Singh said India is hailed

as a global leader in Preventive healthcare.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled a compendium of SATHI Clusters by felicitating heads of IIT Hyderabad, BITS Pilani, ICT Mumbai etc. He also released a White paper on 'Evolution: Catalysing technology led ecosystem for Bharat e-Mobility.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. V.K Saraswat, Member Niti Aayog shared that currently 15 companies are producing Bullet proof vests for our soldiers using indigenous technology as PM Modi has said no soldier should martyr due to lack of Bullet proof vest.

In his address, Prof. A.K. Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India shared that RUTA i.e. Rural Technology Action Group - recognises potential in rural India to foster innovation at ground level in rural areas.

Addressing the gathering, Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary DST said, "it is clearly evident that our scientific endeavours have the power to shape not only the future of our nation but also contribute significantly towards global advancement".

Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Dr Kalaiselvi, DG-CSIR, Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Head, NCSTC, DST also addressed the function.

The National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'. The Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986. On this day Sir C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. On this occasion, theme-based science communication activities are carried out all over the country. The theme for National Science Day 2024 was 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'.

During the event Dr. Jitendra Singh acknowledged India's progress in robust vaccine development capacity, which has been proved during COVID pandemic. Dr. Jitendra Singh said India is hailed as a global leader in Preventive healthcare.

J&K to immunise 19 lakh...

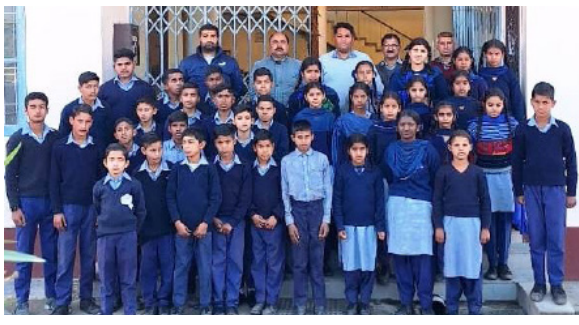
landscape," he said, adding, "Let us unite in our endeavours and work together to make National Immunisation Day a resounding success." KNO

GMS Rampur students embark on Industrial tour to ITI Bhaddu

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 28

A vocational trip was today organised for students of GMS Rampur (Bilawar zone), offering them a unique opportunity to gain practical experience and exposure to diverse careers. The excursion, which included a visit to ITI Bhaddu and a bamboo factory at Dewal, provided a wealth of knowledge and practical insights to the students.

At ITI Bhaddu, students were exposed to a variety of technical skills and vocational training programs. One of the mentors at the event remarked, "This is a great chance for students to see firsthand the kind of opportunities that vocational training can provide. We hope it inspires them to consider these paths in their future."



Meanwhile, the visit to the bamboo factory allowed students to gain understanding about sustainable practices, manufacturing processes, and potential career opportunities in related industries. "It's vital for students to see how industries like these operate. It gives them a different perspective and can open up new career paths for them," echoed another mentor.

The students, brimming with enthusiasm, shared their experiences. "It was very enlightening to see

the practical aspects of the things we learn about," one student said. Another added, "It's exciting to see the possibilities for our future careers. Today's trip has definitely broadened our horizons."

The students enjoyed a day filled with learning and exploration, complete with lunch and refreshments. The tour was expertly guided by HOI, Mr. Mulkh Raj and staff members of MS Rampur, ensuring an enriching and memorable experience for all students.

UT Level Seminar on "Scientific Beekeeping" concludes at Kisan Kendra

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

The Two Day UT Level Seminar on "Scientific Beekeeping" under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) concluded today here at Kisan Kendra.

The Seminar was organized by the Apiculture Development department.

Director Agriculture Jammu S A S Reen released a Souvenir on Apiculture at the valedictory session of the Seminar. Addressing the participants he emphasized upon the need for adoption of beekeeping activity by the farmers as the most lucrative profession to improve their economic status. He stressed for Bee Keeping on scientific lines to make it more prolific.

Director further elaborated various projects and steps taken up by the Department for strengthening of this sector. He added that more stress is being laid on capacity building of beekeepers and marketing of honey and its by-products. He informed that bee colonies



are provided to farmers on more subsidy and the provision of min Honey Testing Lab will be provided by the Department very soon

Technical session was conducted by experts including Dr. DP Abral (Retd. Dean, SKUAST Jammu) Bhupinder Gupta Project Officer, Deepak Singh, Training Officer and Dr. Vishal Raina Apiculture Expert.

During the programme different topics covered included processing & Value addition of honey, entrepreneurship development in beekeeping, bee colony management. The trainees were also made aware about the Departmental schemes and other benefits provided by the Department & other government Departments. Some progressive

beekeepers and representatives of NGOs also spoke in the Seminar and shared experiences and problems faced by them.

Kapoor Tulsi plants were distributed to all participants from Nursery of Agronomist section to be planted at their fields as it provides bee flora for the bees. Joint Director Extension Sanjay Verma, Liaison Officer Apiculture & Mushroom, Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Deputy Director Training Alok Pandotra, Vikas Padha, Agronomist Jammu, sectoral officers and other officers and officials were present. More than 250 beekeepers/entrepreneurs/officers/officials including women attended the Seminar.

The Seminar concluded with vote of thanks by Rajesh Verma Assistant Entomologist Jammu.

Live streaming of PM Kisan programme held at Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 28

The Department of Agriculture, Ramban, hosted the live streaming of the release of the 16th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

The event was attended virtually by a multitude of stakeholders including government officials, elected representatives and farmers, underscoring the government's unwavering commitment to bolster grassroots-level agriculture.

Among the dignitaries present were Councillor District Development Council, Ramban, Renuka Katoch, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ram Gopal Sharma, AD Fisheries, Fayaz Ahmed, ASCO Ramban, Khalid Abdullah, SDAO, Kuldeep Kumar, Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) and Junior Agricultural Extension Officers (JAEOs). The enthusiastic participation of these stakeholders reflected the collective determination to support and uplift the farming commu-

nity. The DDC Councillor said that the farmers under PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana receive the release of Rs. 2000 each, marks another milestone in the government's efforts to empower farmers and enhance agricultural productivity. This latest installment, benefiting 27049 farmers in the district, will serve to augment their incomes and stimulate further growth in the agriculture sector.

Farmers expressed appreciation for Prime Minister Modi's advocacy of agro-based start-ups and pro-farmer initiatives, recognizing the pivotal role such measures play in advancing the interests of agricultural communities nationwide.

The live streaming event not only celebrated the tangible benefits of the PM-KISAN Scheme but also served as a platform for dialogue exchange, fostering a sense of solidarity and shared purpose among stakeholders dedicated to the welfare of farmers. About 80 members of PM-KISAN beneficiaries viewed the live telecast of PM's message on the release of 16th installment at CAO Office Ramban.

District Admin Ganderbal organizes mega Block Diwas at Gund

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 28

In a significant initiative to bring governance at the doorsteps of people and expedite the resolution of grievances, the District Administration Ganderbal today convened the weekly Block Diwas program at the Multi-Purpose Building in Gund, here.

The event, presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, saw active participation from various stakeholders including SDPO Kangan, Tehsildar Gund, CMO Ganderbal, district officers, and DDC member Gund.

During the programme, civil society members, prominent citizens, and locals of block Gund highlighted several issues, ranging from the availability of staff at PHC HariGaniwan to the repairs of Sumbal Bala Bridge.

Other concerns raised included the upgradation of electricity infrastructure, dredging of Ganai Mohallah Canal, provision of fire service at Sonamarg, establishment of a separate track for snow bikers at Sonamarg, upgradation of infrastructure at Zerpura Middle School, transformer upgradation at Zerpura, completion of the under-construction building for Kullan hospital, 24*7 electricity for Kullan Hospital,



staff shortage at Kullan Higher Secondary School, and various other matters of public importance.

The civil society Gund raised demands for an Education Zone for Gund, fencing of power canal at prone areas, road from primary School Ramwari and revenue camps at Gund. Addressing the public, the ADCDC emphasized that the primary objective of this public outreach program is to gain a firsthand understanding of crucial issues at the grassroots level. He underscored that these outreach camps play a pivotal role in bringing governance to the doorsteps of the public, thereby enhancing the efficiency of public service delivery.

In response to the raised concerns, the ADCDC issued necessary directives to all officers to conduct awareness camps in their respective areas, ensuring that the general public can benefit from various centrally sponsored schemes.

Regarding the development of Sonamarg, the ADCDC assured that the District Administration is dedicated to transforming Sonamarg into a premier tourist destination. He highlighted ongoing projects and the formulation of a tourism plan, which will be made public once completed.

The District Administration remains committed to addressing public concerns and fostering development across the district through such proactive initiatives.

Meanwhile, the Executive Director of the She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs gave a detailed overview about the schemes of She Hope Society, such as Sakhi, the One Stop Centre, the District Disability Rehabilitation Centre, and the Ahat-e-Waqar (Senior Citizen's Home) Ganderbal. He also shared the numbers they have achieved and explained how these platforms can be used to obtain service in detail.

Chairperson KVIB chairs awareness camp at Palli

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Chairperson, J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, today presided over an awareness camp cum interactive session with educated unemployed youth and aspiring entrepreneurs at Palli, Samba, a village adopted by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

The programme was attended by Secretary/CEO, JKKVIB, Dr. Jagdish Chander, Executive Officer, Dr. Sandeep Kotwal, District Officer, Samba and Jammu, representatives from PRIs and large number of educated unemployed youth and aspirant entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat enjoined upon the prospective entrepreneurs to seize the opportunities being provided under government schemes and embark on the journey of establishing their own micro-enterprises.

She added that employment generation programmes viz. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme and JK Rural Employment



Generation Programme have been designed to empower masses; thus fostering economic independence and driving positive change. She underscored the need for ensuring active engagement of stakeholders to make a meaningful impact on employment opportunities across UT of J&K.

It was informed that during last three years and current financial year, a margin money of Rs. 13.07 crore has been released in district Samba for establishment of 593 units.

During the program, the officers from the Board gave detailed presentations about the modalities involved in implementation of JKREGP and PMEGP. The stakeholders and people were informed that these schemes are online and aspirant entrepreneurs can apply Online

for Financial Assistance under these schemes.

Later, the Chairperson inaugurated the rally of e-rickshaws sponsored by the Board under PMEGP and JKREGP Schemes.

Appreciating the enthusiasm and passion of attendees especially women, the Chairperson JKKVIB advised the concerned officers to undertake discreet awareness and sensitization in the area to ensure maximum number of aspirants are covered under government schemes.

The Secretary, who also addressed the gathering, emphasised the imperative need for youth participation in various schemes aimed at fostering their socio-economic progress. He urged upon them to capitalize on the opportunities being provided by the board.

DM Udhampur orders closure of 2 Marriage Halls, Resort for violation of Pollution Control norms



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 28

District Magistrate Udhampur, Saloni Rai, has ordered the closure of two marriage halls and one resort for violation of pollution control norms.

In accordance with directives from the J&K Pollution Control Board and with approval of the competent authority, the DM invoked Section 33(A) of the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974, and Section 31(A) of the Air Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1981, along with Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act,

1986, against Raghunath Palace, Thappa Palace, and Bharat Resort within Udhampur District.

A team of officials, comprising representatives from Revenue, Police, and PCB, led by Tehsildar Udhampur, Jai Singh, enforced the closure of the identified establishments. The joint team not only facilitated the shutdown of the mentioned establishments but also guided the owners, urging strict adherence to the guidelines of the PCB. This action aims to ensure compliance to environment conservation and abatement of pollution in the district.

Chairperson DDC Ramban launches construction work of NABARD funded Road

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 28

Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, Dr. Shamsad Shan today launched the construction work on a crucial 4.1 km link road connecting Kawna to Sarachi via Wagalwas.

The significant infrastructure development project, with a budget of Rs. 9.27 crore, has been undertaken under the auspices of NABARD.

Highlighting the importance of this endeavor, Dr. Shamsad Shan said that upon completion, the link road will address a long-standing demand of the area, substantially improving the lives of local residents by enhancing connectivity and accessibility.

During the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Shan underscored the paramount



importance of ensuring quality of work and timely completion of the road project. She urged the engineers of the Public Works Department (PWD) to uphold rigorous standards to ensure that the project benefits the multitude of individuals relying on the road network in the vicinity.

Additionally, the Chair-

person called upon the officers and locals to actively engage in overseeing the execution of developmental projects, emphasizing the need for their vigilant supervision to uphold quality standards and meet project deadlines. She further encouraged the prominent people to facilitate the effective implemen-

tation of various youth and beneficiary-oriented schemes within their respective domains.

The Chairperson also took the opportunity to engage with members of the community, attentively listening to their concerns and reaffirming her commitment to addressing their grievances and fostering inclusive development.

The inaugural event witnessed the presence of key stakeholders, including Assistant Executive Engineer of PWD Sub Division Banihal, Ved Singh, prominent citizens, and the general public.

DC Shopian flags-off farmers' tour for capacity building under HADP

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 28

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today flagged-off a group of 50 farmers for a capacity building training programme under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to SKAUST and Centre of Excellence Zawoor, Srinagar.

The objective of this tour was to familiarize farmers with the latest horticulture techniques and skills aimed at improving fruit crop production and productivity, aligning with the Prime Minister's goals of doubling the farmer's income.

While interacting with the farmers, the DC underscored the significance of such initiatives, emphasizing the role



of new technologies in addressing challenges in the horticulture sector and enhancing economic prosperity, especially in the rural areas

The Chief Horticulture Officer, Shopian, Mohammad Ramzan War shared further insights with the

farmers and said that programmes like this under HADP aim to raise awareness about various aspects, including nursery development, orchard management, hi-tech cultivation and micro-irrigation techniques. He encouraged

farmers to embrace scientific technologies over traditional methods to boost the horticulture sector in Shopian district.

The officers and officials of horticulture department and other concerned were present.

EDITORIAL

De-silting canals—a step towards agricultural renewal

As the summer season has started approaching, the administration has started its de-silting of irrigation canals by undertaking all necessary maintenance works of canals in Kandi belts including the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts. The entire Kandi belt is dependent on rainwater as far as the water needs of farmers are concerned. What is distressing and rather disappointing is that the lack of civic sense among the people is responsible for the poor condition of Jammu's one of the important canals, the 119-year-old Ranbir Canal. It is being presumed that if a dedicated plan is not formulated, the canal will die in the next few years. Jammu, with its lush green landscapes and fertile fields, has long been a breadbasket of the region. However, this agricultural prowess is now under threat due to the neglect of its vital irrigation infrastructure, particularly its canals. The recent initiative to desilt these canals comes as a much-needed respite and a crucial step towards reviving the agricultural sector and preserving the environment. Canals play a pivotal role in agriculture by providing water for irrigation, especially in areas where rainfall is insufficient. However, over the years, these canals have become clogged with silt, reducing their water-carrying capacity and efficiency. As a result, farmers have been facing water shortages, leading to decreased crop yields and economic hardships. The desilting of canals in Jammu is not just about ensuring water availability for agriculture; it is also about environmental sustainability. Clogged canals not only impede the flow of water but also become breeding grounds for pests and diseases, posing a threat to both crops and human health. Moreover, stagnant water in these canals contributes to the proliferation of mosquitoes, increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue. By desilting the canals, the authorities are not only improving water availability for agriculture but also mitigating the environmental risks associated with stagnant water. The renewed flow of water will not only benefit farmers but also help in restoring the ecological balance of the region. However, the desilting of canals is just the first step; maintenance and proper management of these waterways are equally important. Regular desilting schedules should be established, and mechanisms for monitoring the condition of canals should be put in place. Furthermore, farmers should be educated about efficient water use practices to ensure the sustainability of water resources. The desilting of canals in Jammu is an important initiative that demonstrates the government's commitment to agricultural development and environmental preservation. It is a step in the right direction, and if implemented effectively, it can bring about a significant transformation in the agricultural landscape of the region. The administration has begun its exercise and has asked officials concerned for ensuring that the irrigation water reaches the tail ends of the canals and farmers don't face any kind of issue for irrigation during summer season. The need of the hour is to ensure proper monitoring of the de-silting and maintenance works of the irrigation canals. Any laxity should be viewed seriously and invite strict action.

Gender bias in electoral politics is a global issue

ARCHNA DATTA

Donald Trump has won the South Carolina primary, defeating Nikki Haley, the last major Republican candidate in the race for Presidential nomination. On the eve of the poll, one of the South Carolinian Republican supporters in her home State, reportedly commented that 'yes, Ms. Haley did some fine things as governor, but, Donald Trump is the man', which perhaps reflected the predominant public mood. Now, is this a case of a perceptible preferential bias among voters in favour of male candidates compared to female candidates?

'Many voters seem to use gender as one of the ways to evaluate candidates, predict a candidate's beliefs and competency – and use it as a shortcut for information about the candidates – and these subtle biases in some electoral contests, put a candidate at a disadvantage because of his or her gender', said Kira Sanbonmatsu, a political science professor, Ohio University, who authored a 2000 study on 'gender and voter's preferences'. A study of French parliamentary elections across different polling stations found that

votes for women are lower in municipalities with more traditional gender-role attitudes (Barbançon and Sauvagnat, 2019).

However, a 2018 research contended that 'gender, through which men and women identify with masculinity and femininity with sets of roles, traits and ideals, strongly conditions the impact of sex on the voting pattern, but, it differs from case to case, depending on where one places oneself on a masculinity/femininity continuum'. Many men, who do not strongly identify with hyper-masculinity, are equally or more liberal than women on various issues, while, many highly feminine women with very traditional gender identities, are more conservative on some issues, and thus, gender cannot be automatically treated as a 'first-order' or 'meta' identity, the study added.

There is also a competing view that 'gender is not a strong pull on the vote or political attitudes, and that there are few male-female gaps in attitudes in voting' (Amanda Bittner, University of Newfoundland Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Queens University, 2017).

A study in Spain, after it adopted a law in 2007, that obliged political parties to include at least 40%



of women on every list for every election, didn't find any evidence that it had either worsened women's relative electoral performance or voters' lower electoral support for exogenous reasons (Bagues and Campa, 2020). Nevertheless, in the 2018 midterms in the USA, sex and gender did play a

prominent role, leading to large partisan gaps between men and women in casting their ballots. While, a study in India revealed that a 'woman voter' is more likely to vote for a male candidate than a man to vote for a woman, as it is more about perception of society, than the candidates' suitability.

Sadly, women's under-representation in electoral politics is a reality! World Economic Forum's Gender Equality Report,

underlined that so far only 25% of a hypothetical 100% gender gap has been closed in women's political participation. Many political Scientists explained the gap from the angle of supply and demand constraints, as there is a shortage of potential candidates and a lower appeal of women politicians in electoral battles. Several socio-economic and cultural barriers keep women away from politics and create a higher opportunity cost of running for elections (Fox et al., 2001). Women also tend to be less in number in professions that become a conduit for a political career (Welch, 1977, Clark, 1994). Studies also mentioned the 'ambition deficit', as many women, despite having the requisite professional and economic credentials, often

fight shy of entering competitive politics (Niederle and Vesterlund, 2007 & Fox and Lawless, 2004).

Family and relational considerations dissuade many of them, as recent research in Sweden found that female politicians in mayoral positions experienced a significant increase in the likelihood of divorcing their partner (Folke and Rickne, 2020). On the other hand, 'women are routinely demotivated by being told that they do not belong here, signifying a structured system of oppressive gender hierarchy in politics'. Sexism among party leaders is also rampant, more so, if they are aware of voters' bias against women, as a votes-maximising strategy.

While, India witnessed an increasing turnout of women voters, in the 2019 election, but, the number of women candidates remained less than 9 per cent. Those who did get party tickets, mostly, have family political connections or are 'dynastic' politicians. The gender quota at PRIs 'hasn't created much larger candidacy responses at the state level'. However, a study (Bhalotra et al. 2018), analysing electoral data over three decades (1980-2007) found that a

woman's electoral victory leads to an 18.5 percentage point higher probability of having a woman as a major party candidate in the next election.

Now, as of November 2021, gender quotas have been adopted in 132 countries, either in the form of voluntary party or compulsory legislative quotas. A study (1995-2012) disclosed that such measures enhanced women's representation from 11 percent to 21 percent. Some critics argued that it is 'anti-democratic', and 'manipulates voters' choices', while, a section of women's rights activists claimed, they are 'disrespectful in the assumption that women cannot get seats on their own', and are often negatively labelled as 'quota women'. Nevertheless, it brought women in many least-developed countries like Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania to the political front, and increased their substantive representation on issues that are traditionally seen as gendered.

India has already passed the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, its implementation cannot be put off to an uncertain date!

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan & All India Radio, views are personal)

Political funding: Not just transparent, it should be clean too

ASHWANI MAHAJAN

The decision of the Supreme Court on electoral bonds is a legal process and there is no point in making any special comments on the same. But the first thing that deserves consideration in this regard is why the system of electoral bonds was introduced in the first instance. Political parties have the right to collect donations and do not have to pay any income tax on the funds so collected. Those who receive money in the form of donations are expected to provide information about the same to the Election Commission. Earlier, information about the money received through bank cheques or drafts was available, but there was a complete lack of transparency regarding cash receipts.

It is a fact that the presence of black money has been prevalent in the politics and electoral process of our country, and the solution to this problem

has been under discussion for a long time. Before the introduction of electoral bonds, big cash collection was legal and now it's not.

Due to black money, funders continued to take unfair advantage of the political parties and their governments. This situation was a serious challenge to our political system. In this background, by introducing the system of electoral bonds, an attempt was made to stop the problem of black money and discourage the same.

In the year 2017, the system of electoral bonds was first introduced by the Government of India, in which provision was made that electoral bonds can be purchased by any person or institution and can be given to any party. The parties redeem the electoral bonds within a stipulated period. In this system, there has been no provision to make public the information as to how much donation has been given by which person or institution to which party

through electoral bonds. The Supreme Court has objected to this provision and has said that there should be proper transparency in the transactions of election donations.

The court has instructed the State Bank of India to stop the issuance of electoral bonds. The main objection of the Supreme Court is regarding transparency. We should understand that there was a huge lack of transparency in the system that was in place before the advent of electoral bonds and the way political parties raised money. Besides, there was also the problem of what is the source of money of the people who are giving huge amounts of cash. It was impossible to find out who had given cash to the political party in question and whether there was any quid pro quo, that is, whether an undue advantage had been given to that person or firm donating to the political party.

The number of registered political parties in our country is in the

hundreds. In such a situation, it is not possible to have a central repository of wealth and to provide an equal share to all the parties. Moreover, the ideologies of the political parties are also different. Suppose someone has to donate and feels that the ideology and programmes of some party are based on narrow thinking and are harmful to the country. They would not like to donate to that party. If all parties receive equal funding, then forming a party will become a business.

If the Supreme Court believes that it should be transparently known how much money has been given by which person or institution to which party, then this is an interpretation of the law and should be taken positively.

We have many examples in the past where the government did not accept the decisions of the Supreme Court and passed laws in the Parliament, nullifying the court's rulings. Additionally, there have also been

instances when amending laws have been passed accepting the main points of court orders and incorporating them into the law. Since the government still needs time to understand and interpret Supreme Court decisions.

It seems that there is a need to make the present system more transparent and in tune with the objections of the Supreme Court, and the government can present a revised draft before the Parliament. But this cannot be done immediately. The journey of the nation continues. In this journey, laws are formed, amended and also abolished, with changing circumstances. There is no need to consider this electoral bond issue from a short-term perspective.

Since this decision is of the Supreme Court of India, the country and the government have to be respected, but it must be understood that the system of electoral bonds has been a progressive step towards dealing with

the use of black money in elections. The provision of electoral bonds was made during the tenure of this government, hence this government will have to see that a revised system is brought in compliance with the objections and instructions of the Supreme Court.

The purpose of any system or legislation is that there should be no interference of economic and muscle power in the democratic process of our country and there should be clean and fair elections. While making amendments to the law about political funding, we need to ensure that we may not revert to the old system of cash receipts by political parties which would allow corruption in public life and even the play of muscle power and the use of illicit money and money received from unethical activities.

(The writer is a professor at PGDAV College, University of Delhi, views are personal)

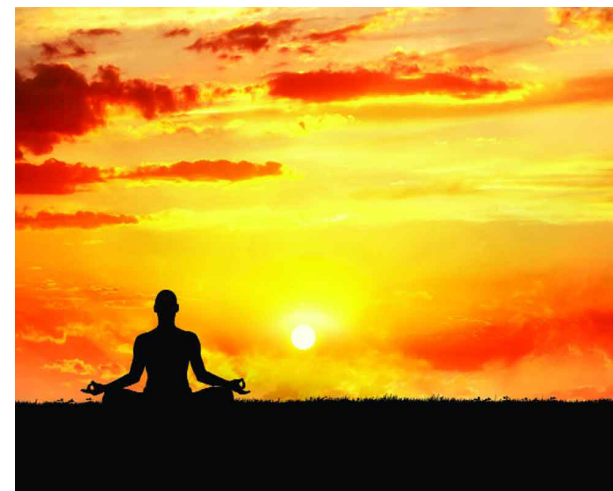
Materialistic Spiritualism

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

The recent web series shedding light on the life of a renowned spiritual preacher has not only captivated audiences worldwide but has also ignited a profound contemplation about the authenticity of spiritual figures and the intertwining of spirituality with materialism. It also raised a lot of questions that were until now merged in people's minds. It made people question their beliefs and reevaluate the faith and the trust they place in spiritual figures, often referred to as Gurus. There is no doubt that there are some people who have an intense love for spiritualism, but the brand of spiritualism that they promote may not be entirely rooted in pure spirituality. Instead, it appears to carry undertones of materialism. No

doubt, these spiritual figures engage themselves in spiritual practices and persuade others also to have spirituality in their life but still their mind is tied in knots of materialism. They dedicate their time and energy to propagating spirituality and uphold high ideals, but their manners and methods and their hopes and aspirations reflect some special kind of materialism.

It is true that despite advocating for soul consciousness and encouraging others to relinquish body consciousness, these souls find themselves entangled in the webs of material desires. And while doing so, they often target individuals with financial means, hoping to utilise their resources for a greater cause. While on the surface, their efforts may seem altruistic, a closer look reveals that they have a hidden desire for personal glory and praise.



They hold big congregations and mass gatherings where people in large numbers come to listen to their discourse and to have community dining. But the purpose of holding these mass-scale programmes is not to spread waves and vibrations of spirituality but to have a large number of people who remain in their fold.

Thus, they have a desire for fame and mate-

rial abundance. So, in this sense, they are protagonists of materialistic spiritualism. Such people start their spiritual careers by just being seekers of truth or being simple spiritual practitioners. As they march forward on the spiritual path, people begin to praise and adore them for their noble intent, simple life and spirituality and start offering them money, materials and lands, as a

result of which these spiritual practitioners get bitten by the money bug. The allure of grand titles and high epithets, coupled with ceremonies meant to honour and felicitate them, further entangles them in the trappings of materialistic spiritualism. Navigating the path of spirituality, as depicted in this narrative, is likened to walking on tiles that may occasionally slip beneath one's feet. Hence one has to be very cautious in one's gait. Because, one may, sometimes, see the self surrounded by flatterers and flippants and, at other times, by those who want some special favours by offering fat purses, costly gifts, big bouquets or high-flown words of praise. This environment can fuel the hunger for fame, power, and honour, testing the authenticity of their spiritual journey.

However, a true spiritualist remains untouched by these temptations and stands as a living example of purity amidst the challenges of the world—like a lotus blooming in the mud. At the same time, it should also be noted that genuine spirituality does not necessitate a complete rejection of worldly aspects such as money, building projects, or events. Instead, the essence lies in cultivating a spirit of sacrifice and renunciation, avoiding an insatiable desire for transient and hollow worldly pursuits. Needless to say, one must look after one's health and have necessary things but at the same time, one must lead a simple life and must not stretch things out of the controllable limit.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Promoting Digital Literacy Workshop on Google Form, other online tools held at GHS Bani

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 28

In an era where digital literacy is no longer a luxury but a necessity, a comprehensive workshop was held today at Government High School Bani, under the prudent guidance of the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Manoj Kumar Anand.

The workshop was orchestrated with a focus on the crucial skill of filling Google Forms and other online tools that are fast becoming indispensable in contemporary teaching methodologies and administrative operations.

The workshop was graced by the participation of all Pay Centres across UPS Bhullari, UPS Dhaman, UPS Chhabaroo, UPS Drabal, and UPS Kote Fagulta. The Heads of Institutions (HOIs) representing different schools of Zone Bani were also active participants in the insightful session.

Manoj Kumar Anand, Zonal Education Officer, underscored the importance of digital literacy in the present age. He stated, "In a world rapidly moving towards remote working and online education, tools like Google Form have become essential



components that enable efficient and effective communication, along with seamless data collection."

The workshop was designed to be highly interactive and engaging. Detailed training was imparted on various portals such as U-DISE, Samiksha, Aadharshila, and Shalla Sidhi. Attendees were given the opportunity for hands-on experience, facilitating a deeper understanding of these digital resources. Every point related to Google Forms and other online works was meticulously elaborated and discussed, ensuring attendees gained a thorough comprehension of the subject matter. The workshop concluded

ed on an upbeat note, with attendees and mentors expressing their appreciation for the initiative. Attendees voiced their gratitude for the opportunity to acquire knowledge on these crucial digital tools. They expressed how this training would be immensely valuable in their day-to-day teaching activities and administrative tasks.

The Zonal Education Officer Bani, in his future vision, plans to conduct more of these workshops to further foster digital literacy among educators in the region. This initiative is seen as a significant stride towards bridging the digital divide and empowering educators with contemporary skills.

KVIB Ramban organises seminar cum awareness camp at Dharam- Gool



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 28

Khadi Village & Industries Board (KVIB), Ramban, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, on Wednesday organized a seminar cum awareness camp at Dharam-A, Panchayat of the Sub-division Gool. The event aimed to disseminate information about various schemes such as PMEGP, JKREGP, and PM Vishwakarma implemented by KVIB, Ramban, to empower the local youth and promote entrepreneurship.

Zonal Officer, KVIB, Ramban, Tanver Ahmed Wani, welcomed the distinguished guests,

members of the public and unemployed youth, emphasizing the importance of these schemes in fostering a culture of self-employment.

Addressing the gathering, BI, DIC Ramban, Ravi Danaishwar Singh, provided detailed insights into schemes like PMEGP and PM Vishwakarma, elucidating the application process and benefits available to aspiring entrepreneurs through DIC enrollment.

The event also saw the participation of representatives from J&K Bank, Sangaldan, R-SETI, Handloom and Handicrafts Department, Ramban, who provided additional support and guidance

to the attendees. The seminar succeeded in motivating unemployed youth from neighbouring Panchayats to explore avenues for self-employment, leveraging the financial assistance and subsidies available under the PMEGP Scheme for both manufacturing and service sectors.

Expressing gratitude, the District Officer, KVIB, Ramban, Farooq Ahmed Baba extended a vote of thanks to the former Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) members and the enthusiastic youth for their active participation, signaling a promising future for entrepreneurship and economic growth in the region.

One day Seminar on NEP 2020 held in Zone Sunderbani

JI NEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, FEBRUARY 28

A one day seminar on National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) was organised in Zone Sunderbani to facilitate its effective implementation in the schools of the Zone.

The seminar was hosted by Zonal Education Officer Subash Chander Sharma while Sanjeev Kumar Suri Principal Govt Boys HSS Sunderbani was the Chief Guest of the Program. R C Sharma, Principal Govt Girls HSS and B.N. Sharma Principal GHS Bajabain were the Guests of Honour.

Sagar Raina conducted the proceedings of the seminar attended by Headmasters of different Government High Schools, Masters and Teachers of Middle and Primary Schools of Zone Sunderbani Participated.

Distinguished speakers



enlightened the participants on different features of the NEP 2020 including Inclusive Education, Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) and other Government facilities provided in the schools. Arvind Kumar of GMS Khuidheri, Jagjeet Kumar of GPS Doba, Chetan Sharma of GMS Tala Nagara, Suman Lata & Anju Sharma of GHS Sunderbani and Dr. Dushyant Pradeep of Government Boys HSS Sunderbani apprised the audience on different topics related to the subject.

Loginder Paul of GMS

Kund, Vinod Kumar of PS Palyar and Manjali Jamwal of GHSS Sunderbani entertained the participants with their cultural presentations. Distinguished guests exhorted the participants for proper implementation of NEP 2020 and related Assessment schemes on the ground level. The program was concluded with the vote of thanks from Sh. Subash Chander Sharma, Zonal Education Officer Sunder and he congratulated all for the successful programme in which more than 100 teachers across the zone participated.

Kathua Admin, Animal Husbandry Department collaborate to establish State-of-the-Art Goushala cum Animal Welfare Centre for 1000 animals



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 28

The District Administration Kathua, in a groundbreaking collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Department, is set to establish a pioneering Animal Welfare Centre at Pathwal, Hiranagar.

This state-of-the-art facility, over an impressive 9 kanal land, would be the largest of its kind in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, strategically located near the National Highway.

The Animal Welfare Centre marks a significant milestone in the region's commitment to animal welfare, with a primary focus on addressing the needs of over 1000 animals, specifically stray

cows that are prone to road accidents.

This initiative highlights the district's steadfast dedication to upholding ethical standards and providing compassionate care for all living beings, in line with constitutional mandates.

Financial support for the Animal Welfare Centre will be provided by the Animal Husbandry Department, ensuring the successful implementation of a comprehensive 24x7 rescue support system and a well-equipped first aid facility. This will greatly enhance the region's ability to provide immediate assistance to distressed animals.

In addition, a dedicated ambulance service

has been launched to cater to animals in need of urgent medical attention. The ambulance can be accessed by dialing 1962, ensuring a swift response to distressed animals and facilitating their timely transportation to the Animal Welfare Centre. The collaboration between the District Administration and the Animal Husbandry Department underscores their proactive approach in addressing animal welfare issues in the region. The establishment of this state-of-the-art Animal Welfare Centre cum Goushala, sets a new benchmark for animal welfare initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir and will serve as a beacon of compassion and care.

Mega Block Diwas held at 3 Blocks of Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 28

The District Administration Kulgam on Wednesday organized Mega Block Diwas in three blocks of the district to take appraisal of the public issues, grievances and demands.

During the programme, functions were held at D.H.Pora, Kulgam and Devsar blocks of the district.

Officers and officials from line departments listened to issues, grievances and demands of the public for their timely redressal at all the three venues.

Meanwhile, to take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri presided over a grievance redressal camp at Kulgam.

Officers from District Administration were also present on the occasion.



Visiting delegation from Khee-Jogipora, Mohammad Pora, Areh, Awhatoo, Srandoo, Pahloo, Razloo and other areas apprised ADC about their issues and put forth their demands.

Several delegations from various areas raised the issue of unscheduled power cuts across the district.

Officers on the spot responded to the queries and demands of people

pertaining to their departments.

ADC after giving patient hearing to the public addressed some of the immediate nature of grievances on the spot and assured that the rest of the genuine issues and grievances will be addressed in a time bound manner.

Power department was instructed to streamline the power scenario in the district.

Illegally constructed structure demolished, state land retrieved in Birpur : DC Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Abhishek Sharma today said that the administration with the help of police would continue its drive against the illegal constructions on the state land and drug peddlers/smugglers in the Samba District.

Addressing a press conference here at the district headquarters, Abhishek Sharma, who was accompanied by SSP Samba, Vinay Kumar Sharma, said that the administration has taken strict action against the encroachers of state land in the District.

Under this mission to retrieve the state land from the encroachers,



he said that the administration has retrieved one kanal and 12 marla of state land (Khasra number 94) in village Birpur, Tehsil Bari Brahmana during a drive that was conducted following proper verification on the ground with the assistance of the local police.

He further stated that the land was retrieved after demolishing the structure which was constructed on 9 marla of

encroached land. Meanwhile, he said that an unauthorized de-addiction centre was being operated in a building constructed on the state land.

"The illegal de-addiction centre has been sealed and an FIR in this regard has been registered at the concerned police station." He said that 17 FIRs have already been registered in 11 police stations against the person namely Kapil Sharma who was operating the illegal de-addiction centre.

He said that the administration and police have taken a tough stance over the illegal activities, and therefore, the accused person has presently been detained under Public Safety Act (PSA).

GDC Ramgarh hosts Volleyball Match



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Sports and Physical Education Department of Government Degree College, Ramgarh, in collaboration with Rapial Mahila Mandal, affiliated with Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Government of India, organised a Volleyball match, under the aegis of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA). The sports event was conducted under the guidance and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, the Principal of the College.

PTI Ashok Kumar and Anil Kumar briefed the participants about the motive of the match. They said that this kind of activity will boost the confidence of the students

and will further help in the overall development of their personality.

Ravinder Kour, President, Rapial Mahila Mandal, Raika Labana, advised the students to always take part in sports activities to achieve physical, moral, social, psychological, and cultural upliftment. On behalf of the NGO Rapial Mahila Mandal she presented the college with a Volleyball Kit, consisting of a Volleyball Net and two Volleyballs. The participants enthusiastically showcased their skills with great zeal and fervor. The College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra congratulated the winning and runner-up teams for their display of discipline and sportsmanship. She also applauded the efforts of the organizers of the match.

Fisheries Department organizes special sale of Trout/ Carp Fish for Mahashivratri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

In view of the upcoming eve of Mahashivratri on 8th March, 2024, the Department of Fisheries J&K Jammu is going to organize a special sale of Trout/Carp Fish at all existing Fish Farms/ Narwal Fish Market of the Department in the Jammu Division. The Fish shall be made available especially at Migrant Camps/Fish Farms on 6th, 7th March, 2024 after 12 noon and also departmental mobile vehicles shall be available on the above dates.

The sale outlets will be available at Migrant Camp of Jagti, Migrant Camp at Purkhoo, Migrant Camp at Buta Nagar/Muthi, Talab Tillo/Anand Nagar, Bohri/Udheywala, TRT Nagrota/Sidhra, Durga Nagar/Janipur, Subash Nagar, Gangyal/ Central University Area and Departmental farms at Fish Farm Doomi Akhnoor and Fish Farm Ghoumanasan.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Journalists briefed in workshop at Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, a one day workshop for media personnel was organised today at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Nirvachan Bhawan, here.

The program was attended by representatives of major news outlets of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The participants included representatives from News 24, Times Now, Dainik Jagran, Times of India among others.

The participants were briefed about all the important aspects of media during election process including spread of information/ disinformation, Fake News, Media Certification and Monitoring Committees. The representatives were also apprised of code of ethics for social media operation and regulations regarding Poll Day

coverage. Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, inaugurated the session and stressed upon the crucial role of Media as a watchdog for fair and transparent elections.

National Level Master trainers, Chand Kishore Sharma and Riaz Ahmed Butt, imparted training on several topics including media centers, restrictions of exit and opinion polls, enforcement of MCC and other regulations.

The Chief Electoral Officer, in his closing address, apprised the participants on various election related aspects highlighting the need for a check on fake news and the role of media in ensuring a civil discourse both during and after the election processes. He also emphasized upon the importance of maintaining good practices and transparency to ensure peaceful and fair elections in the UT.

Students from HS Galodi, HSS Bhoond embark on 'Educational Study Visit'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BASOHLI, FEB 28

A total of 130 students from High School HS Galodi and HSS Bhoond participated in an educational study visit organized by the Zonal Education Office, Basohli, under the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAK) initiative of SAMAGRA. The visit aimed to broaden the students' perspectives and expose them to diverse learning experiences beyond the classroom. Warm Welcome and Insights into RAK:

Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by Zonal Education Officer, Basohli, Sh. Lalit Sharma, and his staff members. Sh. Sharma briefed the students about the significance of RAK and its role in fostering scientific temperament and innovation among young



minds. Engaging Interaction at DIET Basohli:

The first stop on the itinerary was DIET Basohli, the premier institution for training government teachers in the district. The students had an enriching interaction with Principal Sh. Roshan Lal and senior faculty members, gaining valuable insights into the teacher training process and the crucial role of DIETs in shaping the future of education. Exploring Engineering Marvels:

Next, the students embarked on a fascinating journey to Mini Goa Purthu and Atal Setu Basohli. At Mini Goa Purthu, they marveled at the breathtaking natural beauty, while Atal Setu, a magnificent bridge, provided a glimpse into the marvels of modern engineering. These visits sparked the students' curiosity about science, technology, and their applications in real-world scenarios. Immersion in the Artistic Heritage of

Basohli:

The study visit concluded with a visit to the Vishawsthal Painting Centre, Basohli, renowned for its traditional miniature paintings. The students interacted with artists, learned about the rich artistic heritage of the region, and witnessed the intricate techniques involved in creating these exquisite masterpieces.

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

Chinar Open Winter Games 2024: A Spectacular Success with Overwhelming Participation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEB 28

The Chinar Open Winter Games 2024, an initiative by the Indian Army held in Gulmarg, concluded on 28 Feb 2024 with resounding success and record-breaking participation of 676 individuals (the highest ever in any winter games in the valley). The event, organized by the Pir Panjal Brigade of the Dagger Division, captivated audiences with exceptional display of athleticism, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. Amidst the picturesque snow capped peaks of Pir Panjal Ranges, the Winter Games provide a positive outlet for the energy and enthusiasm of Kashmiri youth, channeling their potential towards constructive and competitive endeavors. Even during chilly nights and minus temperatures, the participants were seen lined



up for registration till 27 Feb 2024, displaying the enthusiasm of the young local athletes.

The Chinar Open Winter Games extended beyond the arenas, engaging local communities through outreach programs making it an inclusive event. The event further highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to promoting sports by providing a platform for the budding talents. This Year's Winter Games attracted a diverse range of participants from across the Valley, including seasoned competitors and

enthusiastic amateurs. From adrenaline-fueled skiing races to exhilarating snowboarding competitions, the event featured a wide array of winter sports. Athletes competed in five winter sports disciplines, namely slalom, snow boarding, ice skating and X-country skiing showcasing their dedication and determination. We celebrate the 45 medal winners, whose sportsmanship and unwavering spirit embodied the true essence of Chinar Open Winter Games that showcased the remarkable

talents and skills of the region's youth.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, AVSM, SM***. Senior officers of the military, police and civilian administration were in presence.

As the curtains draw on this year's Winter Games, the organizers express their gratitude to all participants, volunteers and supporters who made the event possible. With the overwhelming success of this edition, plans are already underway to expand and enhance future editions of the Chinar Open Winter Games, ensuring that Kashmir continues to shine as a beacon of sporting prowess and youth engagement in the years to come. This landmark event marks a significant milestone in the sports history of Kashmir, heralding a new era of inclusivity and excellence.

BJP did nothing for womenfolk except providing mere lip service: Rattan Lal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 28

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has reiterated that National Conference stands strongly committed to empowerment of women and this stands proved by the measures taken by the NC Govt in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed this in his address at a day-long Women Convention of the party held here today. The one day convention was organised by Sunil Verma, District President JKNC Udhampur and the meeting was presided over by Sunita Mehra, District President JKNC Women Wing District Udhampur.

Rattan Lal Gupta was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Abdul Ghani Malik senior NC leader and former Minister was the Guest of Honour.

At the very outset the

district president Sunil Verma and Sunita Mehra apprised the senior NC functionaries about the problems being faced by the people in general and women folk in particular.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that keeping up its commitment to women's empowerment National Conference supported the Women Reservation Bill in the Parliament. He said that the National Conference has always provided a platform to women to grow politically, economically and socially. He said that it was during Dr. Farooq Abdullah's chief minister tenure that his Govt has reserved 50 per cent medical seats in medical colleges for the daughters of J&K.

The senior NC leader asserted that the party is committed to ensure equality of women at all levels be it political, educational, economic, technological or social empowerment and it will



continue to raise issues of discrimination and prejudice against womenfolk of Jammu and Kashmir. He accused the incumbent BJP Govt at the Centre and the Union Territory Administration of doing nothing for womenfolk except providing mere lip service due to which the women in J&K have been at the receiving end during the present regime.

Pitching strongly for bigger role to women in shaping destiny of the society, former Minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi, Abdul Ghani Malik said that their presence in the democratic institutions could serve as the best catalyst of change for the women of this Union Territory.

Senior NC leader and former MLA, Bimla Luthra,

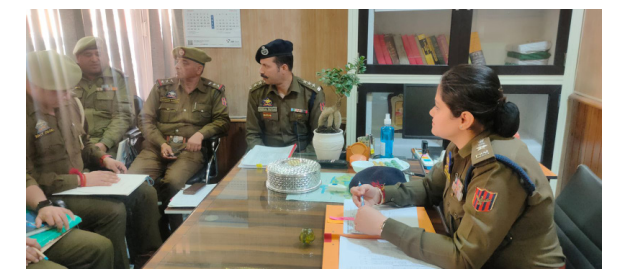
in her address, strongly condemned the incumbent Govt for its failure on all fronts. She said that benefits of Government schemes were not reaching the deserving poor womenfolk due to corruption and nepotism prevalent at all levels and the Govt is wholly and solely responsible for this sordid state of affairs in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Senior NC leader Pradeep Bali and Youth Leader Akash Verma urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to support the National Conference leadership in the upcoming polls, stating that it is time to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to form a government that is people-centric and considerate towards the problems of the common man. Member DDC Dansal Mrs

Shamima Begum and Vijay Lakhshmi Datta Sr. leader also spoke in the convention and stressed the rural women folk to work unitedly for the upliftment of women folk in rural areas.

Among those who were present in the meeting include:- Savitri Devi District President Women Wing SC Cell, Ch. Abdul Rashid District Secretary Udhampur, Gurmeet Singh Josh District Vice President Udhampur, Farooq Khattana District Vice President Udhampur, Om Prakash Block President City Udhampur, Bishan Dass Sharma Block President Pancheri, Amarnath Block President Jib Thathi, Jagdish Singh Block President Ghordi, Bishan Sharma Block President Udhampur, Dr. Ramesh Block President OBC Cell, Sham Lal Sharma Block Secretary, Shakti Devi, Sajad Ahmed District President YNC Udhampur, Sudesh Kumar, Ravi Bhaderwaj and others.

SSP Reasi convenes crime review meeting of Sub-division Reasi at PS Reasi



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Reasi, Ms Mohita Sharma-IPS, convened a comprehensive crime review meeting of Sub-division Reasi at Police Station Reasi. The meeting was attended by the Dy.SP Hqrs. Reasi Sh. Neeraj Padyar-JKPS, SHO Reasi, SHO Pouni, SHO Ransoo, IC PPs and other officers.

During the meeting, the status of under investigation cases related to ULAP(A), NDPS Act, Excise, bovine smuggling and Crime against women & children were reviewed. The progress made in ongoing criminal investigations was discussed to ensure timely resolution and justice for victims. Strategies to strengthen community policing and enhance public safety were deliberated upon, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in maintaining law and order. Measures to tackle drug abuse within the district were discussed, with a focus on prevention, rehabilitation

and enforcement.

Addressing the officers, SSP Reasi said that the Investigation officers must take all the measures to improve investigation and disposal of cases. She directed that the quality of investigation and disposal of these cases needs improvement and stressed upon them to adopt the latest techniques and standard operating practices which would bring better results in investigation process.

SSP Reasi, directed the participating officers to remain extra-vigilant, strengthen nakas/check points, and generate actionable intelligence so that the nefarious designs of anti-national elements can be thwarted. She further directed the officers to take the lead while conducting area domination/patrolling and speculative/specific CASOs in vulnerable areas/pockets. This meeting served as a crucial platform to identify challenges, share insights, and develop actionable plans to address both existing and emerging security concerns in the district.

'Snow Marathon Lahaul' invites city marathoners to world's highest marathon at Sissu (HP) on Mar 10

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU/SRINAGAR, FEB 28

After the success of the first and second edition of Snow Marathon, this year's third Snow Marathon will be organized on March 10 at Sissu (Lahaul and Spiti). This world prestigious snow marathon is being organized by Reach India in association with Himachal Tourism and District Administration. The key organizer Rajiv Kumar informed that Snow Marathon Lahaul has the distinction of being the only snow marathon in Asia and the highest in the world. Likewise every year, the marathon is being organized at Sissu, at the North Portal end of the Atal Tunnel, located at an altitude of nearly 10,000 feet near Manali where in athletes and marathoners from every corner of the country are participating. This marathon is being organized in four categories - 42 kilometer full marathon, 21 kilometer half marathon, ten kilometer and five kilometer. Fun runs are also being organized to encourage local participation. Rajiv said that apart from ath-

letes, defense personnel, especially Navy and Army, are participating enthusiastically this year like every year. So far, 25 sailors have confirmed participation in this event. Apart from that, ten foreign marathoners are also participating in this edition.

Conservationist Gaurav Shimmer who is part of the organizing team said that along with the Administration and Tourism Department, this event is also recognized by the Fit India Movement of the Govt of India. He said that the safety of the athletes participating in such a high and cold sports venue is the biggest priority. To avoid any untoward incident, the medical team of Fortis Hospital, Mohali will remain on their toes during the event. Two advanced life support ambulances and a team of paramedics and doctors will provide all medical assistance during the marathon.

Rajesh Chand, Head - Event Execution said that they are facing widespread challenges due to the devastation caused by the last monsoon. An alternative marathon

route has been prepared in the absence of a bridge that was washed away in the flood. Ravi Thakur, MLA, Lahaul and Spiti in his message had expressed hope that the mesmerizing beauty of Lahaul and the heartwarming hospitality of locals will live up to the expectations of participants". Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar (IAS), administration will leave no stone unturned. in their support so that this marathon comes on the world map of adventure sports.

Dr Arun Kochar, Department of Cardiology, Fortis Hospital said that he is extremely excited to be associated with such an event of reputation which has set a record in itself and has brought HP on the world map. Speaking on High Altitude Sickness, Dr. Ritesh Khokar said that to deal with this situation, athletes should wear protective gear so that the unpleasant incident can be dealt with.

The event is supported by Fast & Up as Nutrition Partner, Bone as Energy Partner, YoungGear & Gokyo as Awards Partner.

98.3 Mirchi hosts Grand Finale of 'Mirchu CII Business Mantra'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

98.3 Mirchi, a leading radio station known for its vibrant programming and community engagement, concluded the grand finale of its highly anticipated Mirchi CII Business Mantra, a unique platform to encourage the youth towards the emerging Start up culture. The event was held at Garden Estate, which brought together aspiring entrepreneurs, top industry experts and eminent personalities from Administration in a celebration of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The event began with a warm welcome of all the participants and guest by Mirchi RJs, the chirpy morning jock RJ CHAITANYA who is On Air from 8am TO 12noon, RJ Tani - Mirchi ki Toofani Tani who hosts the Afternoon show from 2 Pm to 5Pm and RJ Rohit - Jammu ka Hit aur lit ladka, the Evening jock who is On Air from 5Pm to 9 Pm.

The Grand Finale attracted more than 100 participants from various colleges and cities of Jammu region, in which 20 were shortlisted for the semi finale and each presented their innovative business ideas to a



Sharma, MD Vishwamitra water technologies pvt Ltd, Mr Anshul Gulati, owner of Gulati oils pvt Ltd, Dr Abhishek Sachdeva, owner

panel of esteemed judges. Throughout the finale, participants underwent rigorous mentoring sessions and received valuable feedback to refine their pitches and business models.

The highlight of the event was the esteemed presence of Dr Arun Kumar Manhas JKAS, Director, Directorate of Industries Jammu, Mr. Khalid Jahangir JKAS, MD JKTPPO, Kunwarani Ritu Singh, Founding Chairperson, FICCI Flo JK Ladakh and they brought a wealth of experience and insights to competition, inspired participants with their words of wisdom and encouragement

Th judging panel comprised of esteemed professionals and industry veterans named Mr. Archit Puri, Chairman CII J&K Chapter, Director PBI India Ltd, Mr Syed Junaid Altaf, Vice Chairman of CII J&K State and promoter and group exclusive director of Fil Industries Pvt, Ltd, Mr Gagan Jain, Director VKC Nuts pvt Ltd, Mr Deepak

Sachdeva Netralya, Mr Krishan Gupta, Director of ISPAT India and Mr Sawan Nagpal, owner of Tim-Tim, from Confederation of Indian Industries, who evaluated each pitch based on criteria such as innovation, feasibility, scalability, market potential and presentation quality. After careful deliberation, the winners were announced. Happy Hearts by Khushi by Khushi Gupta bagged first prize, Streamcraft OTT by Atul Vinod Duggal bagged second prize and Inava by Avni bagged 3rd prize. Many others including Herbal Aura by Ishvanku, PayUSnap by Divyanshu, Trishul HR Solutions by Neha also got recognition for presenting promising and impactful business ideas. In addition to the opportunity to pitch their ideas to potential investors, winners received a range of prizes, including mentorship opportunities, media coverage on radio, and access to resources to help further develop their ventures.

Indian Army organizes Essay Writing Competition at Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA: 28 FEB 2024

To provide a platform for the school students to showcase their talent and to enhance their self-confidence. An 'Essay Writing Competition' has been conducted at Sugarh for school going children. The competition was organised to develop creative skills among the students and to showcase their talent and to enhance their self-confidence. A total of 25 children participated in the said competition. The response was overwhelming as the event witnessed active participation by the students. The talent and creativity of students in the com-

petition was praiseworthy. The spirit and zeal shown by the children during the competition displayed the growing transformation leaning towards national integrity and amity amongst different communities of the region. Mr Zubair Ahmed, Teacher, Government High School Thalela said these type of initiatives leave everlasting imprint on young minds and are always welcomed as they help such far flung areas to relate it with main stream activities. At the end of the competition, prizes were distributed to the winners.

The talent and creativity of students in the competition was praiseworthy.

Border Battle Hockey Cup Final, closing ceremony held in Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEB 28

Between the ongoing jubiliations and mise-en-scene of exuberance and sporting revelation that is Border Battle Hockey Cup conducted in town of Poonch. As the much celebrated event watches its dawn slowly into dusk the enthusiasm and exuberance does not seem to slow down. On 28 Feb 2024, Finals of Men's Hockey

Cup was played between Poonch XI, Poonch & HBF NCR Hockey Academy, Sonapat, Haryana. The boys displayed a spectacular performance wherein the sticks clashed and the shoulders bumped for the Glory of being the "Champions of the Border Battle Hockey Cup". In nail biting final both the teams vied for four quarters in which HBF NCR Hockey Academy, Sonapat, Haryana emerged victorious

and rightful owner of the ornate trophy and accolades.

After witnessing the exciting Finals, the Finalists were presented the well deserving trophy along with much prized Arjuna Awardee signed Hockey Sticks. The teams in past eight days have displayed true spirit of sportsmanship and never give up spirit thereby fuelling the youth of town with Josh and enthusiasm of Hockey.

Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal stands in support of Asaram Bapu's release

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Ankur Sharma, the National President of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, has issued a statement urging for the release of Asaram Bapu, citing his significant contributions in strengthening and safeguarding Sanatan Dharma and his efforts to prevent dharmantran. It is only because his tirade against Religious Conversions, that a reverted saint fell to back stabbing and political conspiracies.

In a press conference held earlier today, Ankur Sharma emphasized the need to recognize the positive impact Asaram Bapu has had on the promotion and protection of Sanatan Dharma. Sharma highlighted Bapu's dedicated work in fostering cultural values, spiritual teachings, and his unwavering commitment to the preservation of the ancient tradi-



tions of Sanatan Dharma and his fight against religious conversions.

"Asaram Bapu has been a guiding light in our efforts to uphold the principles of Sanatan Dharma. His teachings have inspired millions to lead a life rooted in spirituality and righteousness," said Ankur Sharma.

The press release further asserts that Asaram Bapu's imprisonment has raised concerns among the followers of Sanatan Dharma, who view him as a symbol of moral and spiritual guidance. Ankur Sharma urged authorities to reconsider Bapu's case, given the political conspiracy he has been subjected

to and taking into account his contributions to society and his commitment to preventing the conversion of individuals from Sanatan Dharma.

"We believe in justice and fair evaluation of an individual's life work. Asaram Bapu has dedicated his life to the service of humanity, and we call for a thorough review of his case," stated Ankur Sharma.

The Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, under the leadership of Ankur Sharma, plans to organize peaceful demonstrations and engage in discussions with relevant authorities to advocate for the release of Asaram Bapu.

Dharm Rashtriya Sewa Mandal donates firewood at Panjpeer Cremation Ground



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

In a bid to address environmental concerns and promote sustainable practices, a active group named Dharm Rashtriya Sewa Mandal (DRSM) has embarked on a commendable initiative to collect waste wood from agricultural activities and transport it to cremation ground at Panjpeer for eco-friendly disposal.

The group, comprising dedicated local volunteers in the lead of Mr. Darshan Kumar, Mr Ritesh Gupta, Mr Mohit Gupta & other members of DRSM collaborate with the agricultural dept to gather unused or discarded wood from pruning, harvesting, and land clearing activities.

This initiative not only helps in clearing agricultural land but also prevents the burning of wood in open fields,

which contributes to air pollution and environmental degradation.

By transporting the collected waste wood to cremation grounds, the group ensures that it is utilized in a controlled and regulated manner, minimizing harmful emissions and maximizing its utility. Additionally, the process aligns with eco-friendly practices, as the wood is utilized as fuel for cremation, reducing the need for traditional firewood sourced from forests.

Furthermore, it serves as a model for other regions to adopt similar practices, promoting sustainability and responsible waste management in agricultural settings.

DRSM also ensures that it will continue to provide all the help to needy people & will regulate such kind of activities in near future

2nd Edition of Four-Day Tawi Festival to Begin on March 1

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

A curtain raiser event was organized by Amar Mahal Museum & Library in the lawns of the Palace, heralding the commencement of the 2nd Edition of the Tawi Festival. Scheduled to take place from March 1st to March 4th, 2024, the festival promises an enriching celebration of arts and ideas.

Addressing media persons, Dr Jyotsna Singh, Director of the Amar Mahal Museum and Library and the Chief Coordinator of the Tawi Festival informed that the Tawi Festival of Arts and Ideas is a celebration of Creativity, Inclusiveness, Tradition and Modernity. The main venue is the Amar Mahal Museum and Library established in 1975 by Dr. Karan Singh and Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi in a 150 year old residential building which is now seen as one of the landmarks of the City of



Jammu.

She said that the Tawi Festival is a composite festival which brings together experts and practitioners from different fields and introduces them to audiences in Jammu. Equally it is a platform for local experts and talent. "The region's rich diversity of language, culture, architecture and music is yet to be fully appreciated and the festival will play a role in creating an interest locally as well as outside of the region", she said. Each year the festival seeks to highlight a set of central ideas in environment, education, history, literature

and the Arts. There is also a day dedicated to Heritage, to build awareness locally through talks and walks, and to create interest and encourage initiatives by inviting speakers from other parts of India, to share their experiences with similar initiatives, she added.

Dr Jyotsna said Art Camps, immersive workshops and exhibitions are an integral part of the festival. The artists from the Basohli School supported by the Museum are encouraged to demonstrate and explain their techniques and approach. There is a large community of con-

temporary artists working in different media and alumni of IMFA who have done extremely well in prestigious Institutions in India and abroad: their work and practice is showcased.

Dr Jyotsna said the festival comprises of Seminars, workshops and talks; performances of folk music and street theatre, classical and folk dance and music; and a Mela, with an emphasis on showcasing entrepreneurship, innovation, and local cuisines, and organic products sourced from women's NGO groups across the Himalayan region. The last day is being hosted in the University of Jammu. Many senior faculty members across disciplines including Prof Shyam Narain Lal, Prof Suman Jamwal, Prof Deepika Slathia, Prof Parmil Kumar, Dr Suvidha Khanna and Dr Garima Gupta are collaborating in organizing the festival. Sumit Sharma is looking after creatives of the festival.

Young journalist Shubham Kotwal explores Art Camp Interacts with Col. Sudip Mitra, urges youth to take part



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

On the second last day of the Art Camp at Amar Mahal, Jammu, Young Journalist Er Shubham Kotwal visited the same and met with Ret. Col Sudip Mitra, Director & Secretary Amar Mahal Museum and Palace. The aim of visiting the Amar Mahal Museum and Palace was to observe the art painted down by the artists.

Col. Sudip Mitra explaining about the camp told Shubham that the camp consists of 12 Eminent Artists all over J&K, which are curated by Prof. Suman Jamwal and Rajinder Tickoo. He said, "The camp was initiated on the 25th of February and will conclude on the 1st of March. On 1st of March, at 5PM, the camp will coincide with the Tawi Fest and the

paintings will be showcased in the contemporary Art Gallery till 14th of March."

Shubham said that he was overwhelmed to see the efforts made by the Royal Family for the artists when he came to know about the camp. He said, "I was astonished to know that the paintings will be showcased for 14 days. Art camps like this encourage budding artists to perform better every single day and provide them motivation."

Shubham urged the young artists to indulge themselves in these types of camps and stay away from depression and anxiety-causing distractions. Kotwal said, "I think the art of painting requires a lot of emotions, stability and consistency. Young artists should take part in these camps so that they can improve their painting skills."

Changemakers 2024: India's Premier Personal Development Event Inspires, Transforms Thousands

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Changemakers 2024, India's largest personal development event organized by Success Gyan, lived up to its promise of inspiration and transformation at the Jio World Convention Centre. With a star-studded lineup of speakers, attendees were treated to a day filled with valuable insights and life-transformative experiences.

Over 3000 participants from all corners of the nation poured into Changemakers 2024 with high expectations, and the event exceeded every one of them. They found themselves immersed in a sea of motivation, surrounded by like-minded individuals all striving for personal and professional growth. "Changemakers is an annual event in which we bring the world's best coaches on one stage and design the event so as to give immense value to our community of lifelong learners. At Success Gyan, we believe that every person has untapped potential and greatness within them. Our mission is to empower individuals by providing them with the necessary tools to thrive in today's dynamic world. With top-tier coaches from various fields, we conduct events and summits that help our participants break through limitations



and realize their growth potential. Since our establishment in 2012, we have touched the lives of millions of people across the nation.", says Surendran Jayasekar, Founder of Success Gyan. Dr. John Demartini, the renowned Human Behavior Specialist, was the keynote speaker at the event and spoke about how to awaken an astronomical vision. He says, "Here at Changemakers, it has been an absolute pleasure to witness the power of thought, visualization, and action—knowing that whatever you think, visualize, and act on becomes your reality."

Blair Singer, sales and leadership expert, captivated the audience with his wisdom on achieving peak performance and mastering the art of leadership. He said, "You may set a goal and not achieve it. But you will always have achieved something else in the process."

Dadasaheb Phalke Award winner Vikrant Massey, the

versatile actor of the movie '12th Fail' shared his journey to success, inspiring attendees with his story of starting from a television series to a critically acclaimed actor delivering box office hits. He says, "At ChangeMakers 2024, I express my gratitude for the opportunity bestowed upon me. Life, ever challenging, reminds us to embrace the power of restarting. Manifesting my dreams, I recall the joy of watching Filmfare as a child, now humbled by the responsibility of portraying real-life characters like Manoj. 12th Fail epitomizes courage, sincerity, and the resilience to face any challenge. As I conclude, I urge kindness, acknowledge life's temporality, and emphasize the value of relentless hard work."

Dr Meghana provided invaluable insights into rewiring the brain to achieve success, leaving the audience motivated and empowered. Siddharth Rajsekar discussed digital

business initiatives, and Puja Puneet explored designing a life with a purpose. Distinguished peak performance coach, Thaddeus Lawrence offered practical personal and professional growth strategies. The presence of all Success Gyan trainers on one stage created a unique learning experience, enriching attendees with holistic insights into personal growth and development.

Impacting millions of lives since 2012, Success Gyan has established itself as a leading platform for personal development. As Success Gyan continues its transformation journey, its mission remains clear: to evolve into a global ecosystem of holistic learning that transforms lives through events and seminars, empowering every individual to believe they are greater than their reality. Changemakers 2024 marked a pivotal moment for Success Gyan, celebrating its twelfth anniversary by unveiling a transformative rebranding initiative. Centered on the ethos of 'Until We Win' this initiative embodies Success Gyan's commitment to helping individuals realize their greater potential within. Participant reactions were overwhelmingly positive, with attendees embracing the organization's renewed approach to personal growth.

Indian Army Conducted a Motivational Lecture at GDC, Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEB 28

In order to ensure peace and development in Jammu & Kashmir, the role of youth is of paramount significance. Indian Army is aligned with the Government's agenda to get the youngsters into mainstream and has been taking concrete steps to execute the same. Indian Army conducted a motivational lecture with an overall theme to ignite the young minds at Government Degree College, Doda, inviting the esteemed civil speakers and social activists namely, Mr Mehraz Malik who has conducted several campaigns and programmes across Kashmir to guide the youngsters towards a positive path and Ms Abida Huseen War who is a Social activist working towards Women Empowerment, National Integration and Human Resource Development for Nation Building, to enlighten and engage with the students and youth.

The event aimed to

promote harmony, peace and understanding among the youth, emphasizing the importance of education and community engagement. A total of 300 students including 120 boys and 180 girls and 07 teachers attended the event. The motivational talk organised by Indian Army brought together students, youth and local community to discuss the role of education, dialogue and empowerment to promote a culture of tolerance and inclusivity. The speakers shared their insights and experiences, emphasizing the need for constructive engagement and mutual respect in building a peaceful society and the importance of education in the overall development of society and Jammu & Kashmir. They encouraged the students to pursue their dreams and aspirations, highlighting the power of education in shaping a positive future.

SWD Bharderwah organizes Training cum Awareness program on Juvenile Justice



JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, FEB 28

Social Welfare Department today organized a one-day Training cum Awareness Program on the Juvenile Justice Act under the Mission Vatsalya scheme at Community Hall Bharderwah here today. District Development Council Chairman Dhanter Singh Kotwal, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Secretary District legal Services Authority (Sub Judge) Ramesh Lal, was the guest of honour, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bharderwah Sanjev Kumar and Advocate Mohd Majid Malik Panel lawyer DLSA were special guests and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Bharderwah Subash Kotwal presided over the program. During his address, Resource Person Advocate Mohd Majid Malik highlighted the significance of such training programs in creating awareness and fostering a collective approach. He underscored the essential role played by collaborative efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of children within the community. He empha-

sized that the primary objective of the program was to enlighten stakeholders about the Mission Vatsalya Guidelines, ensuring a comprehensive understanding and implementation of child protection and welfare measures. He also threw light on POCSO Act 2012 and role of Child Welfare Committee and JJB in each district. Resource person Advocate Mohd Majid Malik informed that the District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, and Juvenile Justice Boards are all playing an active role in implementing child rights and juvenile justice within the district. They are also involved in addressing concerns related to child labor and legal violations. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) underpins the department's focus on providing comprehensive services to vulnerable children. This includes those from at-risk families or who are victims of abuse, trafficking, or exploitation. However Arif Rana educationist was stage secretary and Tahir Nadeem Khan Senior Journalist also spoke on the occasion.

National Science Day on 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat' celebrated at CUJ

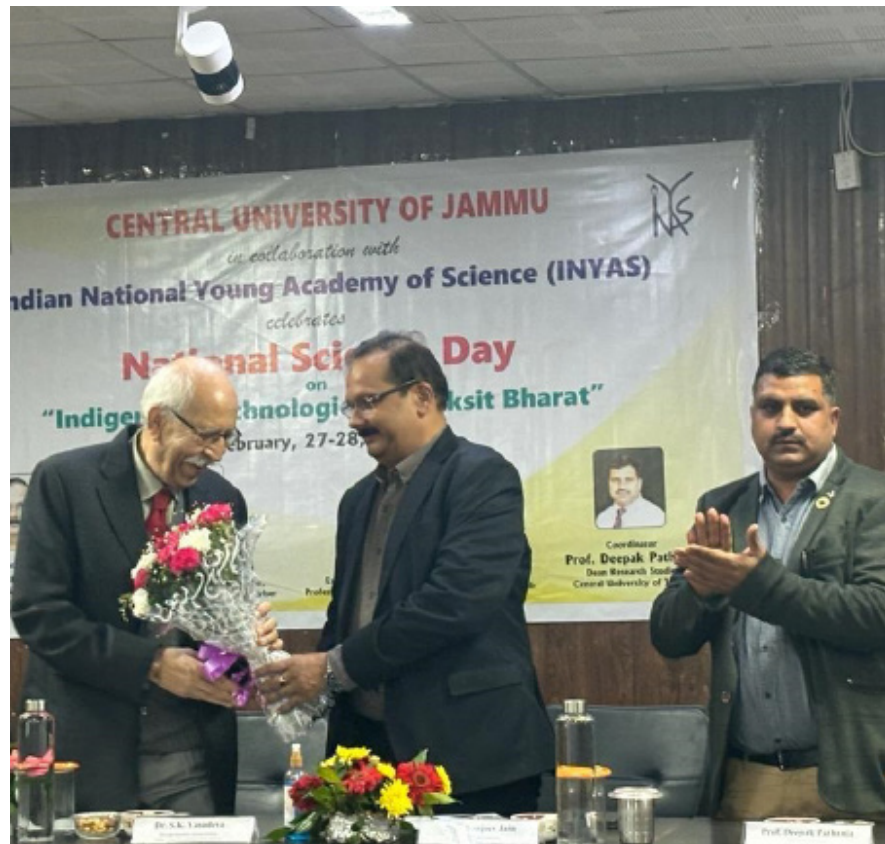
JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in collaboration with Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS) celebrates National Science Day with theme 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat' on February 27-28, 2024 in Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

National science Day is celebrated annually on 28th of February to acknowledge the legacy of Sir C.V. Raman for their significant milestone in the annals of science and technology. Our esteemed guests for today's event are Dr. S.K. Vasudeva, Principal Scientific Adviser Fellow, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India and Prof. C. Raman Suri, Ex- chief Scientist at Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTech Chandigarh) and Professor at IIT Ropar.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice- Chancellor, Central University Jammu was Patron of the event while Prof. Deepak Pathania, Dean Research Studies, CUJ was coordinator of the event. The event started with lighting of lamp followed by the welcome address of Prof. Deepak Pathania, Dean Research Studies, CUJ. The Key-

note address of the event was delivered by Dr. S. K. Vasudev, Principal Scientific Adviser Fellow, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India on indigenous technologies for Viksit Bharat. He mentioned the five pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat: Economy, Infrastructure, Technology driven system, Vibrant demography, and Demand. Key Focus area of the lecture including education, health area, technology, infrastructure, agriculture, environment. He also mentioned Agriculture revolutions in India i.e. from green revolution, 1969 to self-sufficient food in today's time. Other subtopics were the purple revolution of Jammu, Covaxinas indigenous vaccine, Bio economy, Nuclear power, indigenous missile: TEJAS and aircraft: INS VIKRANT. Nuclear power plants under operation in India are 22 in number and by 2032 and India itself will produce 30 gigawatts of energy. The National Green Hydrogen mission has expected outcomes by 2030. The Presidential remarks were given by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ. He highlighted the University achievements, where university faculty members got Approxi-



mately 32.00 Cr. Extramural grant from different national agencies. He highlighted that university faculty members published quality research papers as they achieved high impact factor papers in International Journals and filed patents at National & International. He stresses on Industry-Academic linkage for quality research in line to achieve Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat.

Afterward, Guest of Honor Prof. C. Raman Suri, Ex- Chief Scientist, CSIR-Imtech, & Visiting Professor, IIT Ropar who was the guest of honor delivered a talk on possibilities of Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat. He mentioned the importance of How? And Why? in the field of science. He mentioned the history of scientific discoveries and the development in India dates back to Vedic era and Great ancient discoveries: Ayurveda, cat-

aract surgery, decimal mark and zero, Binary code, Flush toilets. He mentioned the Indian Ancient discoveries by Aryabhata, Bhaskaracarya, Nagarjuna to today's discoveries by S. N. Bose, Vikaram Sarabai, Har Gobind khurana, Ramachandran, the father of Indian missile technology: APJ Abdul-kalam and M. S. Swaminathan. He mentioned that in the next two decades, India is likely to become an economi-

cally prosperous nation. Afterward, winners were announced who participated in Oral, poster, model and Hackathon events on Indigenous technologies for Viksit Bharat.

At last, winners of various events that were organised to celebrate National Science Day were announced. The winners for Hackathon are: Tanisha Gupta (Mathematics) First Prize, Jagriti Gupta (Educational Studies) Second Prize and Shreya (ECE) got third prize. In Oral Presentation: Sourav Sharma (Physics and Astronomical Sciences) First Prize, Priyanka Bali (Nano science and material) Second Prize and Harshita Sharma (Botany) got third prize. In Poster Presentation First Prize got by Prince Kumar (Physics and Astronomical sciences), Second Prize Amritansh Bharti (ECE) and Third Prize Qurat-ul-ain (Botany).

The event ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Sunil Dhar, Head Department of Environmental Sciences followed by the National Anthem. The Dean Research office conveys the special thanks to all faculty members & Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS) for all support.

Vidvat Parishad to intensifies organizational activities in J&K



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 27

Jammu and Kashmir Vidvat Parishad, a renowned group of Sanskrit religious scholars have decided to intensify organizational activities in coming days. Parishad has also chalked out strategy for organizational activities for promotion of Sanskrit in UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

A monthly meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Padamshree Prof Vishwamurti Shastri, president Jammu and Kashmir Kashi Vidvat Parishad, in which members of the parishad discussed the working of organization. By passing a resolution, members decided to enhance the organizational setup of parishad in Jammu and Kashmir for which membership drive would be launched at district level.

After formation of units at district levels, different programs would

be launched for the awareness and promotion of Sanskrit language. State unit of parishad will also organize programs at educational institutions to make students aware about the ancient Sanskrit language. Parishad will try to remove mis conceptions about Sanskrit language among youngsters.

Parishad members also resolved that a six month target of working should be chalked out for upcoming educational session. On this occasion Prof Mamta Sharma and Ex Principal Prof Sunita Sudan enrolled as member of the parishad. Dr Chander Mouli Raina vice president, Dr Shiv Parshad Raina vice president, Dr Ram Bahadur Shukla vice president, Dr Parkash Sharma General Secretary, Dr Bhushan Shastri, Rajeshwar Sharma, Prof Sunita Sudan, Prof Mamta Sharma, Dr Vijayendra Sharma and Dr Parveen Sharma were present in the meeting.

Billawaria facilitates Suresh Mishra, team members with Mata ki Chunari

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

The shopkeepers of Gangyal Market unanimously elected Suresh Mishra (Pappu) as the President of Gangyal Shopkeepers Association. On the occasion, former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria facilitated with Mata's Chunari to the newly elected Shopkeeper Association President Suresh Mishra (Pappu) & members to wish them all the best for doing good work in the future. Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria said that the business class plays an important role in strengthening the economic condition of the government and the business class contributes a lot in the taxes collected by the government. Billawaria informed the members of the Shopkeeper Association about the Vishkarma scheme. He said that the Vishkarma scheme is helpful for small traders and inspired them to take advantage of it. He further



said that the scheme used to be started in the previous governments also but the scheme remained confined to the government office, but under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, every scheme came on the ground and every section is getting its benefit. He also said that the Modi government has brought many schemes for every section which will benefit the deserving people. He urged the members of the

Shopkeeper association & said that along with giving the material to the customers they should also make them aware about the schemes so that the benefits of various schemes run by Modi government can reach the common people. While assuring the members of the newly elected Shopkeepers Association, he said that he will be available to solve every problem of the traders. Newly elected Shopkeeper Asso-

ciation President Suresh Mishra (Pappu) said that all those works will be done for the benefit of the traders which will be good for the progress and prosperity of the market. Gangyal Shopkeeper Association President Suresh Mishra appointed Rakesh Sharma as Vice President, Dev Raj as Cashier, Prince Gupta, Rahul Kumar, Himmat Sharma, Swarn Kumar, Suresh Kumar as members of the association.

One day awareness camp organized by Civil Defence, Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 28


One day awareness programme was held at Baspur Bangla, R.S Pura, Jammu which was organized under the supervision of Dy. SP. Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu. The awareness programme was attended by 45 Civilians of the area. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting, CPR 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 Ex Sarpanch Balkar Singh, Social Worker of the area appreciated and thanked the Civil Defence team

for organizing such programme. Sh. Paramjit Kumar Chief Warden CD Jammu, Sh. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden CD, Jammu, Sh. Ashok Randhawa,

Social Worker, Ex Service-man Subedar Gardhari Lal, SI Ram Dayal Saini, in charge Civil Defence Trainings and other staff of the School also present on the occasion.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 107 of 2023-24 Dated 27-02-2024
(Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of Toilet Complex and Repair / Renovation of Existing Building Gujjar Bakarwal Hostel at Talwara.	30.91	600/-	61820/-	6 Month	'A'B' Class

Position of AAA:- Accorded
Position of T.S :- Accorded

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	27-02-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-02-2024 to 09-03-2024, 1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	27-02-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	09-03-2024 up to 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-03-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs 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.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi** as mentioned in the bid documents.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Reasi .
- The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re- submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by re-uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- 7985-89
Dated:- 27-02-2024

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

DIP/J-15510/23
Date: 28-2-24

Apni Party gains popularity across J&K: Ghulam Hassan Mir

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Apni Party Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir today said that the Party has reached out to the people in every region and its popularity has increased across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the press release, Ghulam Hassan Mir was speaking at a joining program that was organized here at the Gandhi Nagar Office of the Party in Jammu District.

In presence of senior leaders, Mir welcomed the new entrant into the Party namely Advocate Mohammed Anees who joined the Party along with his supporters.

While welcoming them into the Party, he hoped that their joining would strengthen the Party at the grass root level.

Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the policy and agenda of the Party that represents all the regions equally and committed to end the discrimination and feeling of inequality.



He said that the Party has reached out to the people in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir and has won the confidence of the people.

In this process, he said that the Party has gained popularity among the people in both the regions for its commitment to

provide equitable development, protect jobs and land for the local population.

He said that the people are joining the Party every day as it emerged as a movement and a faith has been developed in the Party's policy and its leadership.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya, Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh and other leaders.

OBC Tiranga Yatra reaches Reasi, shares Govt. giving lollipop to OBC people

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB 28

The Eighth O.B.C.ADHIKAR TIRANGA YATRA led by Sh. , Working President of Udampur District of O.B.C Adhikar Tiranga Yatra and Ashok Kumar ,President of Barber Association accompanied by Kasturi Lal Basotra



Chairman Jammu & Kashmir O.B.C.Mahasabha along with Mohan Lal Pawar, Gen. Secretary, O.B.C Mahasabha, Sh.Faquir Chand Satia, President A.I.B.C.F, Sh.Kewal Fotra, General Secretary All J&K Sain Samaj, All J&K O.B.C.Welfare Forum , Srinagar , Abdul Qadir, General Secretary, Dhobi Welfare Central Committee, Rehamedeen Malik, President Teeli community, Rakesh Kumar Verma, Viswkarma Sabha-Lohar Tarkhan Bira d r i , Balwant Katria, Vice-Chairman Vishwakarma Library New Plot and Bansil Lal Choudhary, Convener O.B.C Adhikar Tiranga Yatra started the 3rd day of four days yatra from 26.02.2024 to 29.04.2024 from Bhagat Sabha Reasi towards Zanana Park, Mohalla Muslim, and main Bazaars and Reasi Bus Stand and then moves towards VIL-LAGE KHERAL, POUNI

ies due their poorness. Further Sh. Kasturi Lal Basotra Chairman Jammu & Kashmir O.B.C.Mahasabha that in S.R.O:-126 of 1994 regarding the reservation rules the word "RURAL" was deleted by the Jammu & Kashmir Govt. vide S.R.O :-124 of 2000 in ANNEXURE-D (The lists of " Weak & Privileged Classes (Other Social Castes) against the serial Number 4,8, and 9 namely of POOTERS(Kumhar), BARBERS and Washermen(Dhoobi). But now the OSC/OBC certificate issuing authorities (Tehsildars) are not issuing the OBC certificates for central Govt.Services by saying that the word RURAL has not been omitted in central Lists for JK-UT OBC's. Where as the Urban masses of these OBC-castes were getting their OBC certificates for central Govt. services since the issuance of S.R.O:-124 of 2000 dt.26th April-2000.

So Caste census in the country is the main agenda of this yatra and there should be a separate column for O.B.C like Schedule caste and Scheduled Tribes.

While speaking at Reasi Dr.Naresh Kumar Verma , Senior leader of OBC Samaj detailed that Further it was also detailed that the O.B.C students of Pre-Matric Classes, Post-Matric classes and students of higher studies are not getting the Scholarships since three years due to which most of students have been compelled to leave their stud-

VKMI celebrates National Science Day in HLF HSS, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

To commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect in 1928, "National Science Day" was celebrated by Vichar Kranti Manch International in Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School.

Rich tributes were paid Sir Chandershekar Venkatesh Raman, who was felicitated with Nobel Prize in physics in 1930, He was first Asian to receive this prestigious award in the field of Science.

C M Sharma, School Chairman, narrated Life History of CV Raman, born on 7th November 1988 in Tiruchirappalli Madras, President British India, now Tamilnadu India. He did his BA, MA, from the University of Madras. He was also awarded Fellow of the Royal Society (1924), Matteucci



Medal(1928), Knight Bachelor (1930), Hughes Medal (1930), Bharat Ratna (1954), Lenin Peace Prize (1957).

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman Indian Yoga Association & President Vichar Kranti Manch International, was Guest of Honor on the occasion, said Mr Raman was Indian Physicist known for his work in the field of Light Scatter-

ing. Using a spectrograph that he developed, he and his student K S Krishnan discovered that when light transverse a transparent material, the deflected light changes its wavelength and frequency. This phenomenon, a hitherto unknown type of scattering of light, which is called 'Modifiged Scattering', was subsequently termed as Raman Effect or Raman Scattering.

Proud moment for India; IAF personnel will unfurl Tricolour in space: Suri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the names of the four astronauts-designate who have been undergoing training for the country's maiden human spaceflight programme Gaganyaan, is a proud moment for India. The relentless efforts of Indian scientists, engineers, defence personnel and the immense support of Prime Minister besides Union Minister in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh to the space mission has led to this day, when we are close to launching the indigenous human space flight.

Raman Suri congratulated the four astronauts-designate, who were called "four Shakti" by PM Modi - Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Pratap, Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla - and wished them good luck for their well-being and endeavour to fulfil the aspirations of Indians. These officers of the Indian Airforce underwent rigorous training at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre at Russia for four years and will soon be a part of the country's first manned



space mission.

The BJP leader said that it is after four decades that Indians will be travelling to space. This, he added, will further strengthen India's resolve to complete the manned mission to Moon in years to come and, also set up a space station. He congratulated Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, for making India self-reliant in space technology.

Now that four astronauts-designate have been bestowed with the prestigious 'astronaut wings' by our Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi, it has sent jubiliations amongst Indians especially, the science students and our defence forces. Prime Minister's words that "this time around, the countdown, the timing, and even the

rocket would be ours," is not only encouraging but also an indication that India is poised to become self-reliant and a power to reckon with, Raman Suri asserted.

Raman Suri added that the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme will be the best example of Made in India programme launched by the BJP Government at the Centre. He said, those doubting the credentials of Modi government must see how swiftly the nation is progressing in every field. He also congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientists in making preparations for the launch of India's indigenous human space mission in months to come, adding that the recent space infrastructure projects inaugurated by PM Modi which include - 'Trisonic Wind Tunnel' at Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), the new 'Semi-Cryogenics Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility' at ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu), and the PSLV Integration Facility (PIF) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota, will provide world-class technical facilities for the space sector.

SSSS conducts workshop on moral practices

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28



ducted by the institution in the last year. Dr Kulwant Singh Bahu president NMO and Sh Bharati Bhusan from Bhartiya Vikas parishad also gave PPT about the their organisations performing different health related activities like medical camps, eye camps etc. Sunil Thusoo from Kashmiri migrants emergency and charitable trust in his presentation projected about supporting the needy patients with medical devises, medicines etc. Sh Sandeep Mengi gave vote of thanks . Workshop was attended by representatives from various private hospitals namely Sh DK Batra from ASCOMS, Dr Vishav Gupta, Dr Harvinder Singh from National hospital, Sh Sandeep Mengi Director Principal ASCOMS presented before the audience various free camps con-

Susanskarit swasthya sewa sanstha J&K Conducted a workshop today at ASCOMS on moral practices in private hospitals. Dr Deepak Kapoor convener welcomed all dignitaries and participants in the workshop. Swami Yagyadharanand as main speaker explained role of Sant Rama Krishna param hansa and Swami Vivekananda in establishing ashrams for treating poor patients which have today taken shapes of big hospitals. Dr Gautam Mengi Prant Sangchalak stressed upon the need of inculcating moral practices in health delivery by private hospitals.

Congress celebrates 139th Foundation Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

An impressive function was held at PCC HQ. Shaheedi Chowk Jammu today to celebrate the 139th Foundation Day of the Congress party. Working President Shri Raman Bhalla hoisted the party flag in the presence of Sr Vice President & Former Minister Shri Mula Ram and other Senior leaders.

The traditional salute and the National Anthem was sung by all Congress leaders and workers present on the occasion amidst raising of slogans of "INC Zinda Bad", Bharat Mata Ki Jai. The function was organized by District Congress Committee Jammu Urban led by Th. Manmohan Singh in coordination with Congress Seva Dal led by its Chief Shri Vijay Sharma, which was attended by functionaries of PCC, DCC, Block, Frontal Wings and others.

Prominent among them include PCC Vice Presidents, Vinod Sharma I/C HQ, Hari Singh Chib, Rajnish Sharma (Treasurer), Pranav Shagotra, General Secretaries Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Anayatullah Rathar, Narinder Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Satish Sharma, Santosh Majotra, DCC President Ramban Pervez Ahmed Wani, Working President Samba Babal Gupta, President NSUI Ajay Lakhotra, PCC Secretaries Rajveer Singh, Ritu Choudhary, Sanjeev Sharma (Panda), Th. Hoshiyar Singh, Michael Wazir, Vijay Shastri, Jatin K Raina, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Rajinder Singh Jamwal, Satpal Sapolia, Ricky Dalotra, Atul Sharma, Kewal Krishan Jogi, Vijay Malhotra, Balbir Bali, Pawan Sharma, Rakesh Sharma,

Darshan Verma, H.S. Bagi, Som Nath Sharma, Chandershekar, Nassar Masih, Latish Sharma, Balvinder Singh, Sanjeev Katal, Bushan Kumar Reedi, PCC leaders Anirudh Sawhney, Shoaib Magray, Imad, Tanveer Singh, Office, Rishab Kohli, Anmol Kohli, Mehul Abrol and others.

Addressing the gathering Shri Raman Bhalla said that Congress has history of struggle and sacrifices of 138 years for the freedom of the country and for the unity, integrity and diversity. "Today, once again the circumstances are similar to those existing before independence. The rights of people are being crushed, there is dictatorship everywhere, democratic and constitutional institutions are being finished. Unemployment is at its peak, farms and fields are being attacked. In such circumstances, it is our responsibility to save the country from such dictatorship and fight it. This is true patriotism," Bhalla said. He marked the occasion by highlighting his party's pledge for "truth and equality" and said that "Congress has been committed from the beginning to raise the voice of the nation".

On Congress Foundation Day let us celebrate & acknowledge the selfless service & contributions of millions of Congress workers, men & women, who have helped build & sustain the Congress party over the ages. We owe these unsung heroes our gratitude & respect, observed Bhalla.

He said that the Congress party shall continue its struggle for early restoration of statehood and democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and to safeguard the right to lands and jobs for the youth.

Indian Army organizes Chinar Open Winter Games concluded today at Gulmarg

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEB 28

The Chinar Open Winter Games 2024, an initiative by the Indian Army held in Gulmarg, concluded on 28 Feb 2024 with resounding success and record-breaking participation of 676 individuals.

The event, organised by Dagger Division of Chinar Corps, captivated audiences with its exceptional display of athleticism, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. Amidst the picturesque snow capped peaks of Pir Panjal Ranges, the Winter Games sought to provide a positive outlet for the energy and enthusiasm of Kashmiri youth, channelling their potential towards constructive and competitive endeavours.

Enduring severe temperature drops, the participants were seen lined up for registration till 27 Feb 2024, displaying the enthusiasm of the young athletes.

The Chinar Open Winter Games extended beyond the arenas, engaging local communities through outreach programs making it an inclusive event. The event further highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to promoting sports by providing a platform to the budding talents This Year's Winter



Games attracted a diverse range of participants from across the Valley, including seasoned competitors and enthusiastic amateurs. From adrenaline-fueled skiing races to exhilarating snowboarding competitions, the event featured a wide array of winter sports that showcased the remarkable talents and skills of the region's youth. Hazika Tarooq of Srinagar District won the first position in Giant Slalom in the below 18 category for female, while Vakar Ahmad Lone from Baramulla won a gold in Snowboarding.

As the curtains drew

the organizers expressed their gratitude to all participants, volunteers and supporters who made the event possible. With the overwhelming success of this edition, plans are already underway to expand and enhance future editions of the Chinar Open Winter Games, ensuring that Kashmir continues to shine as a beacon of sporting prowess and youth engagement in the years to come.

This landmark event marks a significant milestone in the sports history of Kashmir, heralding a new era of inclusivity and excellence.

Ministry of Education to organise "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" in Higher Educational institutions across country to ensure universal enlightened participation of youth in elections

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 28

The Ministry of Education will be organising "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" from 28th February to 6th March 2024 with the aim to ensure universal enlightened participation of youth in elections.

Union Education and Skill Development

& Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan urged the youth of the nation to make their voices heard. He highlighted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's clarion call to our youth and first-time voters to exercise their franchise in large numbers.

He informed that he had directed all HEIs

in the country to conduct comprehensive voter awareness activities at their campuses from 28th February to 6th March, to galvanize our Yuva Shakti, emphasize to them the value of voting, making informed choices, and participating in electoral processes for a more representative democracy.

Div Com Jammu reviews status of de-silting, maintenance of Irrigation canals in Jammu, Samba and Kathua



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the status of de-silting and maintenance works of Irrigation canals in Jammu, Samba and Kathua Districts.

Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Director Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Jammu, Chief Engineers of Irrigation & Flood Control Jammu, Ravi Tawi Irrigation Canal, Jammu and other concerned attended the meeting.

The Divisional Commissioner took stock of

the de-silting works being executed in the Ranbir Canal and Ravi Tawi Irrigation canals. He sought the details of the completed and ongoing works for cleaning and maintenance of the irrigation canals from the concerned officials.

The Divisional Commissioner exhorted the officials of the Executing agencies for timely and quality cleaning of the canals.

Reviewing the works being executed by the department of Irrigation and Flood Control, the Divisional Commissioner stressed on proper transportation and disposal of silt, sludge, waste material retrieved during the de-

silting of the canals.

The Div Com directed the Chief Engineers to collaborate with District Administrations for ensuring that the irrigation water reaches the tail ends of the canals and farmers don't face any kind of issue for irrigation.

The Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioners for proper monitoring of the de-silting and maintenance works of the irrigation canals.

The Div Com directed the concerned officials for conducting awareness activities, enforcement drive to sensitise the people for keeping the canals clean and not dumping waste or plastic

Div Com Jammu and ADGP discuss measures for smooth traffic movement on Dalwas-Ramban stretch of National Highway

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and ADGP Jammu Anand Jain today chaired a meeting to review the measures taken by the stakeholder agencies for smooth traffic movement on the Dalwas-Ramban stretch of Srinagar -Jammu National Highway stretch.

Deputy Commissioners and SSP of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Ramban, SSP Traffic National Highway, officials of NHAI attended the meeting.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held to ensure smooth traffic movement on the Dalwas-Ramban stretch.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the NHAI authorities to put in extra efforts for proper maintenance of the stretch so that people do not face any problem while traveling on the National Highway.

The Div Com asked the traffic officers to strictly enforce adherence to cut off timings for LMVs and HMVs and other traffic regulations.

The Deputy Commissioners were asked to install sign boards for facilitating the drivers.

into the canals.

Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav apprised the Divisional Commissioner

on the beautification and sanitation works executed on the banks of Tawi Canal.

Agriculture department hosts live streaming of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi program

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu, organized a live streaming programme regarding release of 16th Installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council presided over the function organized at Baba Jitto, Kissan Kendra, TalabTillo, here.

Er. Abdul Hamid Wani, Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans graced the occasion as guest of honour.

Members, J&K Advisory board for development of Kisans, Basant Saini, Balbir Kour and Kulbushan Khajuria, Special Secretary / State Nodal Officer PM-Kisan, T. K. Bhat, Joint Director of Agriculture(Extension), SanjayVerma, Joint Director Horticulture, Chaman Lal and other senior officers besides more than 200 farmers of Jammu division participated in the programme.

In line with the government's continued commitment and resolve to empower grassroot-level farmers, an amount of more than Rs 21000 crore to over 9 crore beneficiary farmer families was transferred digitally by the Prime Minister, Sh. Nar-



endra Modi in an event at Yavatmal, Maharashtra Under PM-KISAN scheme, a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year is being provided to the eligible beneficiary farmer families, payable in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each. The fund is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Under this scheme, SammanRashi of over Rs 2.80 lakh crore has been transferred to farmer families, so far.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Jammu said that the purpose of PM KISAN SammanNidhi scheme is to give respect to Annadata of the nation in the shape of financial assistance. He further informed that e-KYC

has been mandatory for availing benefits under PM Kisan which can be done through PM Kisan portal or face recognition mobile app or bio metric based e-KYC through CSC.

Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairman in his address appealed farmers to adopt farming as full time profession with technical support of Agriculture Department. He further informed that the government has launched various initiatives under HADP for entrepreneurship development in the Agriculture Sector & making farming profitable for youth.

It was Informed that about 8.20 lakh farmers of JK UT have been benefited today under the 16th installment.

Lok Sabha elections: Training on Vulnerability Mapping of Polling Stations imparted to Zonal & Sector Officers at Kishtwar



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 28

The District Election Cell Kishtwar today organised a training session for the Zonal and Sectoral Officers on Vulnerability Mapping of Polling Stations in the District.

The training session was presided over by Deputy District Election Officer (Dy DEO), Idrees Ahmed Lone here in Conference Hall DC Office Complex Kishtwar.

The training was attended by NT Election Angrez Singh Jasrotia, Sector Officers (Election) besides District Level Master Trainers.

The Sector Officers were acquainted with essential skills and knowledge to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process. The Trainees gave a slew of instruction to Zonal and Sector Officers.

Organized amid

approaching general elections, the training session emphasized the significance of identifying and addressing vulnerabilities in polling stations

The Sector Officers were asked to personally visit the P/S and conduct the Vulnerability mapping through a meticulous assessment of the potential risks.

It was informed that thorough mapping will be instrumental in implementing effective strategies to mitigate the same during the polling process.

The training also encompassed different aspects including security protocols, logistical arrangements, and contingency planning.

Participants actively engaged in interactive sessions and practical demonstrations to enhance their understanding and proficiency in handling diverse scenarios.

Illegally constructed structure demolished, state land retrieved in Birpur: DC Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Abhishek Sharma today said that the administration with the help of police would continue its drive against the illegal constructions on the state land and drug peddlers/smugglers in the Samba District.

Addressing a press conference here at the district headquarters, Abhishek Sharma, who was accompanied by SSP Samba, Vinay Kumar Sharma, said that the administration has taken strict action against the encroachers of state land in the District.

Under this mission to

retrieve the state land from the encroachers, he said that the administration has retrieved one kanal and 12 marla of state land (Khasra number 94) in village Birpur, Tehsil Bari Brahmana during a drive that was conducted by a team comprising ADC Samba Suresh Chander, SDPO Baribrahmana, Mukund Tibrewal, SDM Vijaypur Umesh, Tehsildar Baribrahmana, Punica and SHO Baribrahmana after proper verification on the ground.

He further stated that the land was retrieved after demolishing the structure which was constructed on 9 marla of encroached land.

Meanwhile, he said that an unauthorized de-addiction centre was being operated in a building constructed on the state land. "The illegal de-addiction centre has been sealed and an FIR in this regard has been registered at the concerned police station."

He said that 17 FIRs have already been registered in 11 police stations against the person namely Kapil Sharma who was operating the illegal de-addiction centre. He said that the administration and police have taken a tough stance over the illegal activities, and therefore, the accused person has presently been detained under Public Safety Act (PSA).

Samba admin organises live telecast of KISAN Utsav Diwas programme

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

A live telecast (web) programme on the PM KISAN Utsav Diwas marking the release of 16th installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samaan Nidhi Yojana by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi from Yavatmal, Maharashtra, was organized today in the office of Chief Agriculture Officer.

The programme was organized by the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, District Samba under the Chairmanship of Chairman, District Development Council, Samba, Keshav Dutt Sharma.

During the launch of the 16th installment, 9 crore farmers all over the country are benefited as Rs 21000 crore are directly transferred to the accounts of farmers.



About 20478 farmers of Samba District also got benefited from it and Rs 4.09 crore directly transferred into their accounts.

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Samba, Rajinder Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer Samba, Madan Gopal Singh, Sub Divisional Agriculture

Officer Samba, Naresh Raina, SMS, Avtar Singh and SMS Surinder Mishra, other officers of the Agriculture department and a large number of farmers. Similar programmes across the district were organized at Zone and Panchayat level.

Chief Agriculture Officer Samba presented the vote of thanks.

HADP Sparks Rural Prosperity in Hiranagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 28

A one-day training on Holistic Agriculture Development (HADP) program was successfully held today at the Jandhi Panchayat of Hiranagar, Kathua district.

SDM, Rakesh Kumar, presided over the event, organized under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, with the aim to achieve 100% saturation of the HADP scheme in five model Panchayats of Hiranagar tehsil.

During the program, SDM Rakesh Kumar revealed that HADP, initiated by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, seeks to elevate agriculture and allied sectors from subsistence to self-sustenance with an enhanced bio-economy.

A total of 29 projects are currently underway in Jammu and Kashmir under HADP, striving to make each village a hub of rural prosperity and fortify agriculture and allied sectors for inclusive growth. Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua, Sanjeev Rai Gupta, applauded the Department of Agriculture's unwavering support to the farming community, highlighting the importance of such training programs to boost farm income. Gupta emphasized the motivation for

young entrepreneurs in agriculture, lauding the significant participation of women farmers. He particularly praised the All Women Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) in Lakhri for their commendable work in mushroom cultivation, involving over 100 women farmers.

DDC member Abhinandan Sharma extended congratulations to the Department of Agriculture and allied sectors for delivering crucial technical information to farmers. BDC Chairman Ram Lal Kali encouraged farmers to avail themselves of tailor-made schemes suitable for the diverse agro-climatic conditions of the plain, kandi, and hilly areas of the district. DAO Extension, Murari Lal Dhingra, detailed various schemes, emphasizing the potential of mushroom cultivation and apiculture development to enhance income.

Officers from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua,

and allied sectors actively participated in the event, providing training on the 29 approved projects sanctioned by the Government of J&K. With a substantial outlay of Rs. 5013 crores over the next five years, these projects aim to revolutionize J&K's agriculture economy, fostering growth, doubling sector outputs, boosting exports, and ensuring sustainability and com-

mercial viability across various sectors.

Dr. Vishal Mahajan, Head KVK Kathua, addressed farmers, highlighting the program's main purpose—to apprise farmers of successful implementation and complete saturation in the Londi Panchayat under holistic agriculture sector development. Vinod Kumar, AEO Hiranagar, detailed different projects, covering registration processes, funding patterns, sanctioning processes, and their implementation.

Dr. Suresh Kumar, VAS, Hiranagar, provided insights into schemes implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, including IDDS, IPDS, Dairy Development in J&K, and the roadmap for poultry development. Officers from the fisheries department discussed technological interventions for fish seed and carp production in UT of J&K.

The Department of Science and Technology briefed farmers on the PM Kusum scheme, offering an 80% subsidy for solar pump sets. Farmers expressed keen interest in the program, with on-spot registrations conducted by the agriculture department. The event witnessed active participation from over 30 farmers, along with ex-sarpanch and former PRIs.

MSME, DF Office Jammu hosts awareness event on PM Vishwakarma Scheme at Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 28

In a bid to enlighten the local community about the government's initiatives for artisans and craftsmen, a Seminar cum Awareness Programme focusing on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme was today organized at the DC Office Kishtwar.

The event, presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, aimed to disseminate crucial information about the scheme's objectives, benefits, and

application procedures.

Besides, the seminar was attended by ACD/GM DIC Kishtwar Phulail Singh, AD Food Kishtwar/Nodal Officer AVSAR Shafqat Keen JKAS, AD MSME/DFO Jammu Davinder Kumar Tyagi, all BDO's, LDM Kishtwar Pankaj Badhani, Panchayat Accounts Assistants, Panchayat Secretaries, staff of DIC Kishtwar, representatives of different training Institutions from ITI, Polytechnic College, Private Institutions, Ex Sarpanches/ Panches, GRS, CSC

members and other stakeholders like artisans, craftsmen, and entrepreneurs.

Training was imparted to all the Panchayat Level Officials i.e. Panchayat Secretaries and GRS who are responsible for implementation of stage-1 beneficiaries under PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

MSME officers trained the official machinery with an aim to empower the artisans and craftsmen by offering financial assistance, skill development opportunities, and market

access.

During the orientation programme, emphasis was given on the scheme's role in revitalizing traditional crafts and fostering economic sustainability at the grassroots level.

DC underscored the administration's commitment to facilitating the implementation of the scheme and ensuring its accessibility to deserving beneficiaries. He encouraged active participation and urged stakeholders to leverage the benefits pro-

vided under the scheme to enhance their livelihoods and contribute to local economic growth.

Meanwhile, separate interactive session was held for PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries under the close guidance of GM DIC Phulail Singh and with the Aspiring Entrepreneurs with AVSAR team under the guidance of Nodal Officer AVSAR Shafkat Keen to Boost rolled out Scheme and how to enhance soft skills among the artisans and entrepreneurs.