



# JINDRAH IMAGES

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**Maharashtra tourist dies of heart attack in Sonamarg**  
JI NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, FEB 29

A 63-year-old tourist from Maharashtra died of a heart attack while enjoying a snow bike ride in Sonamarg area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said.

An official told the news agency that Manohar Motiram Rajani (63) from Solapur, Maharashtra was enjoying a snow bike ride at Tajwqs glacier. He said that Manohar fell unconscious during the ride and despite immediate efforts to save him, he was declared dead on arrival at Primary Health Centre in Sonamarg. Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

**Indian Army conducts Anti Tank Guided Missile field firing test at Teesta Range**  
JI NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEB 29

The annual Eastern Command Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) field firing was conducted at Teesta Field Firing Range in West Bengal from February 20 to February 28, a defence official said. According to the defence release, more than 1500 personnel from various units of the Infantry and Mechanised Infantry Battalion participated in the command-level training exercise. The firing was conducted under the aegis of the Trishakti Corps and more than 260 missiles were fired to achieve the target of One Missile and Tank.

**A K Choudhary sworn in as Chairman PSC**  
JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

A. K. Choudhary was sworn in as the Chairman, Public Service Commission, UT of Jammu Kashmir at a ceremony held at Raj Bhawan. He took and subscribed to the oath of office before the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

**One dead after fire breaks out in Jamalata area in Srinagar**  
AGENCIES  
SRINAGAR, FEB 29

A fire broke out in Jamalata area of Nawa Kadal in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar on Thursday evening, said Fire Services Department, Kashmir. The dead body of a man, namely Bashir Ahmad was recovered from the incident spot, added the fire department. To douse the flames, fire tenders have reached the spot. This is a developing story. Further details awaited.

## Lt Governor inaugurates DIPR's 'JK Youth Conclave 2024'

### Youth power is the driving force of progressive and prosperous India: LG



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated 'JK Youth Conclave 2024' and launched the second season of 'Inspire GenZ'

and 'Beats of J&K' initiatives of Department of Information and Public Relations, at Convention Centre, today.

In his address, the Lt Governor commended the efforts of the Department

of Information and Public Relations for engaging and inspiring new generation to develop their individual selves.

"Platforms like 'Youth Conclave' will  
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## DIPR organises vibrant, engaging panel discussions as part of Youth Conclave at Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organized vibrant and engag-

ing Panel Discussions as part of the Jammu and Kashmir Youth Conclave 2024 at Convention Centre here with an aim to empower and inspire the youth.

The Panel discussions brought together renowned actors, line producers, sports persons, entrepreneurs of J&K to explore their fields of interest and explore

its significance in today's society.

The first panel discussion on Film ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir was moderated by RJ Nitish  
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## 2 former CMs to jump into LS Poll fray

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 29

The political parties are in the final phase of finalizing their candidates in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh parliamentary seats with reports coming in that two former Chief Ministers- Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah will contest from Anantnag and Srinagar constituencies respectively.

Top sources informed the news agency that it has come during the confabulations that PDP's influence over the South Kashmir Anantnag Lok Sabha seat is noteworthy, surpassing that of NC.

In the seat allocation

discussions, it has been tentatively agreed to be allocated to Mehbooba Mufti. However, formal announcements regarding these arrangements are pending.

Furthermore, as speculation swirls over the potential candidates for the India Alliance in the valley, several prominent figures emerge as front-runners. Omar Abdullah is anticipated to contest from Srinagar, while Aga Ruhalla, a youth leader hailing from North Kashmir, and Sajjad Kargili are poised to represent NC in their respective constituencies.

Meanwhile, Mehbooba Mufti herself is likely to

vie for the South Kashmir seat, with sources indicating support from Gujjar Bakarwal leader Mian Altaf.

Meanwhile, Sajjad Gani Lone's Jammu Kashmir People's Conference has also announced the name of party president Sajjad Gani Lone for the Baramulla seat of North Kashmir and the party says that the party will soon announce two other seats located in the Kashmir division.

Reports inform that PC is heavily banking on prominent trade union leader and former legislator Mohammad Khurshid Alam for Srinagar constituency. Alam, as per  
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## LG's Mulaqaat

## Lt Governor interacts with citizens during Live Public Grievance Hearing

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the people and listened to their grievances during "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at Civil Secretariat.

The Lt Governor sought details of complaints received on JKIGRAMS portal and action taken report on public outreach programmes from the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Com-



missioners and senior officials. He directed the officials to assess the public out-

reach programmes and take corrective measures for efficient redressal of grievances.

"All the initiatives must serve the common good and decisions must  
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## 8.4% GDP growth shows economy's strength, potential: PM Modi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, FEB 29

The GDP growth of 8.4 per cent in the third quarter shows the strength of Indian economy and its potential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, asserting that the government will continue to make efforts to keep fast economic growth and help 140 crore Indians lead a better life and create a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Beating estimates, India's economic growth shot to 8.4 per cent in the third quarter of 2023-24, mainly due to good performance by the manufacturing, mining & quarrying,



and construction sectors. Modi said, "Robust 8.4% GDP growth in Q3 2023-24 shows the strength of Indian economy and its potential. Our efforts will

continue to bring fast economic growth which shall help 140 crore Indians lead a better life and create a Viksit Bharat!"  
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## AIIMS Jammu to launch OPD, diagnostic facilities in coming days

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 29

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, is gearing up to start its outpatient department and diagnostic facilities in the coming days.

Dr Shakti Gupta, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of AIIMS Jammu, informed the news agency that trial runs are currently underway at the hospital to identify areas for improvement in patient care.

"We are currently conducting trial runs and are

hopeful to initiate OPD services along with diagnostic facilities at the institute in the coming weeks," Dr Gupta said.

He elaborated, "Given the scale and prestige of this institute, serving Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and parts of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, some equipment required is being sourced from the USA, Germany, and other countries."

"We anticipate the arrival of all necessary equipment within the next three months, and I can assure you that all 940 beds, including 190 ICU beds, will be opera-

tional within the next six months," Dr Shakti added. AIIMS Jammu plans to open approximately 50 departments, including 30 general and 20 super-specialties.

Dr Gupta said, "A portion of the required staff has already been hired, with the remaining positions currently being filled. We have already recruited doctors from 17 states and three UTs, and recruitment for the remaining positions will continue into March."

Currently, AIIMS Jammu offers an MBBS program lasting 5 years and 6 months, with a

total seat capacity of 62, which will increase to 100 once the institute is fully operational. Additionally, the AIIMS Jammu Nursing College has admitted 60 candidates for BSc Nursing.

The CEO further said that 500 nurses from various states and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir, have undergone specialised training at AIIMS Delhi before joining AIIMS Jammu.

The super-specialty hospital will have 750 beds, including 46 trauma and emergency beds, 193 ICU beds, 20  
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## Stay order in civil, criminal cases won't automatically expire: Supreme Court

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, FEB 29

The Supreme Court today held that there cannot be an automatic vacation of stay orders granted by a lower court or high court in civil and criminal cases after six months.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud did not agree with its 2018 judgement which had held that there should be automatic vacation of stay orders of the courts

below unless they are extended specifically.

Laying down guidelines, the judgement also said the constitutional courts, the Supreme Court and the high courts should refrain from fixing a timeline for disposal of cases and it can be done only in exceptional circumstances.

The bench pronounced two separate but concurring judgements.

"The constitutional courts should not lay down a timeline to decide

cases since grassroot issues are known to concerned courts only and such orders can be passed in exceptional circumstances only," said Justice AS Oka.

"There cannot be an automatic vacation of stay," said Justice Oka, who wrote the judgement for himself, the CJI and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

Justice Pankaj Mithal wrote a separate but concurring judgement in  
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## Modi created lucrative livelihood opportunities other than Govt jobs: Dr Jitendra Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created lucrative livelihood opportunities other than government jobs through different schemes like MUDRA, StartUp India, Aroma Mission, PM Vishwakarma,



PM SVAnidhi etc. There are instances of youngsters leaving corporate jobs to opt for StartUp

entrepreneurship, he said. Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing "MUDRA Labharthi Sammelan" organ-

ised by State Bank of India. The Minister said, J&K has been highly benefited under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) which is evident from the fact that out of over 6 crore beneficiaries across the country, J&K has nearly 25,000 beneficiaries though being a smaller territory with a lesser population compared to some UTs and many states in the country. He congratulated the State Bank of India, J&K chapter  
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## DC Poonch visits Shiv Khori Temple

### Reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri festival

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 29

District Development Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M.Choudhary today visited Shiv Khori Mandir to review the arrangement for Maha Shivratri festival to be held on March 08, 2024.

The District Development Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Zulafkar, Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid, Xen PDD/JKPDCL Aftab Hussain, Xen PHE Rashpal, Xen PWD/R&B Imtaiz Khan, AD Food, Adil Shabir, Chief Executive Officer Municipality, Yaqoob Choudhary besides other concerned officers were present.

The DDC discussed in detail the arrangement for Maha Shivratri and inquired about the provision of water supply, power supply, Sanitation,



security arrangement, Traffic arrangements, Medicare facilities etc.

He asked the respective departments to make all requisite arrangements to avoid inconvenience to the devotees during the Maha Shivratri celebration.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Medical Officer to organise a medical camp with the provision of ambulance to meet any emergency.

The Executive Engineers were asked to ensure regular water and power supply to Shiv Khori Temple, while the EO Municipality was

asked to put in adequate arrangements for sanitation. The Xen PWD was asked to repair the road before the festival.

The Temple Committee members thanked Deputy Commissioner and his team for coming to the Shiv-khori temple to review the arrangement for the festival.

Chairman Shivkhori Mandir, Surjeet Singh, President Shiv Khori Mandir, Lokesh Anand, President VHP (Yatra Pramukh J&K UT), Nishu Gupta and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

## Kishtwar Idol Season 2.0

### Aspiring Singers Showcase Exceptional Talent in Ground Auditions at Paddar and Dachhan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 29

In continuation to the hunt for singing talent in the district, enthusiastic and aspiring singers from the far-flung Blocks of Paddar and Dachhan showcased their high voices during the ground auditions for Kishtwar Idol Season 2.

The audition teams reached the serene and beautiful valleys, unearthing extraordinary talent from these picturesque regions. Two dedicated teams of Kishtwar Idol season 2 conducted ground auditions at TRC Paddar and Helipad Dachhan, providing a platform for local talent to shine. The participants, with exceptional singing prowess, were selected



to progress to the next round—the Theatre round. Kishtwar Idol Season 2 continues to be a platform that not only celebrates musical talent but also serves as a bridge to bring forth the hidden

gems from diverse communities. The organizers express their appreciation for the vibrant participation and look forward to an exciting journey ahead in discovering the next singing sensation.

## DG Rural Sanitation conducts extensive Tour of Keller Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 29

Director General (DG) Rural Sanitation Jammu and Kashmir, Anu Malhotra today conducted an extensive tour of Keller Shopian, to assess the condition of Swachh Bharat Mission in the district.

The DG Rural Sanitation toured Panchayat Halqas Shirmal, Pahnoo of Block Shopian, Panchayat Halqas Narpora, Balpora, Zampathri of Block Keller, Kanjullar and Amshipora of Ramnagri Block.

She visited various assets created under SBM Gramin like Segregation Sheds, Community Soakage Pits, Plastic waste Management Sheds and units, Community Compost Pits and other assets of the district. She took stock of the door-to-door collection of the waste and management of legacy waste. The DG Rural Sanitation also visited educational institutions and insisted upon the head of the institutions to make the students as the agents of sanitation. She visited various pink toilets and community sanitary complexes.

She emphasized on the need of effective planning under SBM Gramin to make the district waste free. She insisted on making the Plastic



Waste Management Units functional and installing intense power supply units. She directed that the Solid waste Segregation Sheds be made functional by making the door-to-door collection a regular process.

The Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Shopian apprised the Director General that the Grey Water Components and solid Waste Components, Faecal Sludge Management components are effectively being implemented in the district.

It was assured that the SBM programme shall be taken to new heights by taking innovative and effective steps. It was informed that the IEC campaign is being taken by the department in the district to make people aware about their role in the process.

It was further informed that in the district 110 Segregation Sheds, 120 community soakage pits, 5 Plastic waste management units have been constructed under SBM in addition

to the large number of assets, both community and individual, under MGNREGA.

The District has already achieved ODF plus model status and a number of steps are being taken to sustain it. These programmes are being taken under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation through the Directorate of Rural Sanitation.

It is worthwhile to mention that the ODF status has already been sustained under the programme as there is no incidence of open Defecation nowadays. Each household has already been provided with an IHHL in the first phase and now under ODF PLUS phase the different types of wastes are being managed. The DG Rural Sanitation was accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Shopian, Manzoor Ahmad; BDO Ramnagri/Kanjullar, Executive Engineer REW Shopian besides other officers and officials of RDD.

## JKRLM collaborates with AMML to host Tawi Festival at Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the aegis of Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) are gearing up to make their debut at the upcoming 4-day 'Tawi Festival' in Jammu. The SHGs will showcase the rich and diverse art forms and cultural heritage of the region, highlighting the skills and creativity of local artisans.

This initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with Amar Mahal Museum and Library (AMML) aiming to provide a platform to these women to display their talent and achieve economic empowerment, besides to celebrate the cultural vibrancy of Jammu & Kashmir.

Around 35-40 SHGs from Jammu, Samba, and Udhampur districts will be participating in this cultural extravaganza.

With 8 stalls allocated to the SHG members, including 6 food stalls offering delicacies like Rajma/Rice and Kalari besides other Dogra cuisines, as well as 2 handicraft stalls featur-



ing products ranging from calico/crochet items to organic soaps, spices, pottery and lemongrass products, the festival promises a feast for the senses.

Speaking about the women participation in this grand event, Mission Director Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Indu Kanwal Chib said that the Tawi festival provides a significant platform to the women SHGs to exhibit their talent and crafts. She underscored that this exposure would not only facilitate networking opportunities but also spotlight the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative products sourced from these groups.

Adding further, the MD said that the collabora-

tion between JKRLM and AMML for the Tawi Festival demonstrates a commitment to support women entrepreneurs and promote the cultural heritage of Jammu. By participating in the festival, the women SHGs of JKRLM would have the opportunity to showcase their talent and connect with potential customers. "This exposure and platform will enable them to garner recognition for their skills, boost their entrepreneurial spirit, and showcase the unique and innovative offerings they bring to the table", she added. She thanked Dr. Jyotsna Singh Director (AMML) for providing this opportunity to the women SHGs of JKRLM and said that this platform will

## District Development Council meeting reviews progress of Dev. Projects under Capex Plan at Kupwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 29

Chairman, District Development Council, Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori today chaired the council meeting in the meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review the progress of various developmental projects under Capex Plan 2023-24.

District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; Vice-Chairman, District Development Council, Haji Farooq Mir; Members of District Development Council, besides District/ Sectoral Officers also attended the meeting.

At the outset, the CPO Kupwara, presented a detailed overview of the ongoing and completed projects under UT Capex, ADF (DDC/ BDC/ PRI grants), Aspirational District Plan, Aspirational Block Develop-

ment Programme (ABDP), SBM, JJM etc.

The meeting was informed that a budget of Rs.102380.10 lacs was approved for District Capex for the year 2023-24 under which 3226 works (S.O works + New) have been identified, out of which 1984 works have been completed.

It was informed that funds released as on date are 48412.13 and expenditure incurred up to ending 2/2024 is 33105.15 lacs which is 68% of total approved outlay.

The chairman took a detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex schemes and sectors including minor irrigation, PWD(R&B), elementary education, secondary education, PHE, Health, Urban Development, RDD, Youth Services & Sports, Samridhi Seema Yojna etc.

## D&FCO conducts inspection of 700 Retail Pharmacies

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 29

The Enforcement Staff of Drugs and Food Control Organisation (D&FCO) carried out special drives within the local areas to secure due diligence with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and rules there-under.

During the drive, more than 700 inspections of Retail Pharmacies were carried out and operations of 115 Drug Sale Establishments (46 in Jammu Province and 69 in Kashmir Province) were disallowed u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot for omissions/ breaches of the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules there-under depending upon the quantum.

The defaulters have been warned to desist from repetition of such omissions as otherwise the Empowered Authorities shall proceed for cancellation of licenses.

Statutory drug samples of nearly 165 drug formulations of various categories were lifted randomly and referred to Government Analyst(s) for framing of legal opinion w.r.t strength, purity and other quality parameters.

Emphasis was laid to observe the compliance of Administrative orders issued from time to time w.r.t installation of CCTV Cameras and adoption of Computerized Billing System.

Awareness/Sensitization Programs were also conducted to educate the stakeholders about their role and responsibilities viz -a-viz curbing the menace of drug/ substance abuse and its adverse impact on health of individuals.

The dealers were impressed upon to restrict their purchase from authorized dealers of manufacturing houses located within the borders of U.T of Jammu & Kashmir.

Moreover, stocks of drugs worth Rs 4,96,000 were seized from an unlicensed premises being run by one Aijaz Ahmed at Hassanpora, Bijbehara for indulging in trade of pharma products without holding licenses for the same. The matter is under investigation and legal recourse in the matter is in offing.

## DES J&K organizes workshop on "Farm Harvest, Producers Price of Agriculture & allied commodities"

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K organized a One Day Workshop on "Farm Harvest/ Producers Price of Agriculture and Allied commodities" here in the Conference Hall, School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu.

The event was held under the patronage of Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, Satvir Kour Sudan

Ashiq Hussain Bhat, Joint Director Surveys welcomed and encouraged the participants to take full benefit of the workshop so that the quality price data could be obtained for its usage in the preparation of

State and District Domestic Product estimates. The workshop was devoted to the discussions on concepts, definitions, methodology for collection of Farm Harvest/ Producers Price of Agriculture and Allied commodities.

Sanjay Vashisht, Director, School of Applied Economics & Statistics, in his address, emphasized on the importance of the workshop and expressed his trust that the field functionaries will collect reliable coherent and quality data.

The training was imparted to the participants by Deputy Director, SIU Inam-Ul-Haq, Assistant Director, Mohammad Yousuf Bhat and Statistical Officer, Imran Hussain of

DES, J&K.

The workshop was attended by District Statistics & Evaluation Officers of Jammu division along with their field staff and Domain expert of line Department namely Mahesh Verma, Joint Director, Agriculture Department, Jammu, Divya Mahajan, Deputy Director (Plg), Directorate of Horticulture Jammu, Shruti Gupta, Deputy Director (Plg), Financial Commissioner, Revenue J&K, Sanjeev Khajuria, Assistant, Marketing Agriculture besides Officers/ officials of DES.

Vote of thanks was presented by Joint Director, Surveys, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K.

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

Secretary Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal, today chaired a workshop held on discussion regarding the future trajectory of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) post the successful adoption of Model Bylaws.

The workshop, titled "Coop Catalyst: PACS Unleashed," deliberated on the avenues for diversification and innovation in PACS activities.

With model bylaws already in place, the focus of the workshop was to explore and plan the expansion of PACS into various sectors.

The Secretary discussed the potential for PACS to venture into new territories, including Common Service Centers (CSCs), Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAKs), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendras (PMKSY), micro-insurance, social security



initiatives and establishing robust backward and forward linkages.

He emphasized the need for a cohesive network among the 537 operational PACS, and urged for a strategic approach towards rationalizing PACS memberships. The vision is for PACS to evolve into dynamic multipurpose entities, working in harmony with other government departments and institutions to deliver comprehensive services, she maintained.

Among others Addi-

tional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, Director Finance, Cooperative Department, Secretariat as well as Joint Registrars, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars actively participated in discussions and deliberations of the workshop.

"The successful adoption of model bylaws sets the stage for an exciting phase of growth and innovation for PACS. This workshop is a forum to collaboratively shape the future activities of PACS, ensuring they become

agile and responsive entities meeting the diverse needs of their members," said the Secretary.

A brief presentation on model bylaws was presented by Rakesh Dubey, Joint Registrar Banking and Finance

The workshop facilitated an open dialogue on strategies for effective implementation, change management and formulation of a roadmap to guide PACS towards becoming dynamic and impactful cooperative entities.

## PM Vishwakarma Yojna Poonch admin hosts awareness event for Stakeholders, highlighting Benefits of flagship Scheme

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 29

An awareness programme was organized by the district administration Poonch here at Dakbungalow to educate the stakeholders about the benefits and opportunities provided by the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

Chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Sandesh Kumar Sharma, the event witnessed the participation of a number of potential beneficiaries and government functionaries.

The programme commenced with a welcome address, followed by a comprehensive lecture delivered by IEDS Assistant Director Rajesh Kumar. Kumar provided a brief overview, emphasizing the significance of the PM Vishwakarma scheme and its potential impact on the lives of artisans.

The scheme, launched on September 17, 2023, by the Prime Minister, covers 18 categories of artisans, ensuring their access to a range of benefits upon



successful registration and verification.

DK Tyagi, IEDS Assistant Director from MSME DFO, Jammu, presented a detailed explanation of the registration process, addressing queries and clarifying the concerns. Representatives from CSC Centre and the Ministry of Skill Development, Government of India, also shared valuable insights on the scheme's execution and the role of their respective departments.

Motivating all participants and district officers, the Guest of Honour highlighted the importance of bringing more potential beneficiaries onto the

platform, thereby maximizing the benefits of the PM Vishwakarma scheme. Recognizing the efforts of the district authorities in facilitating registrations and verifications, Additional District Development Commissioner, Sandesh Kumar Sharma (JKAS) appreciated their dedication and encouraged further registrations to ensure wider participation and increased benefits.

Concluding the event, Khalid Husain, General Manager DIC, extended a vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and participants for their valuable contributions.

## Chairman DDC Doda visits far-flung villages to inspect developmental works

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 29

Chairman District Development Council Doda (DDC) Dhananter Singh Kotwal, along with Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani, undertook a significant visit to the far-flung villages of Hanch and Roti Padarna Panchayats.

The purpose of this visit was to gain insights into the challenges faced by the local communities and to explore opportunities for comprehensive development in these remote areas.

Accompanied by the officials from the R&B and Jal Shakti departments, the visit was undertaken by the DDC chairman to ensuring effective implementation of developmental schemes in these villages. Their participation underscored the dedication

that their issues, including road connectivity and access to water, would be addressed promptly. This engagement with the local communities reflects a proactive approach towards understanding



and resolving their challenges. The Chairman and Vice Chairperson reiterated their commitment to the holistic development of the far-flung villages in Doda district.

and resolving their challenges.

The Chairman and Vice Chairperson reiterated their commitment to the holistic development of the far-flung villages in Doda district.

## DC Doda reviews preparations, planning for National Immunization Day



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 29

Deputy Commissioner of Doda, Harvinder Singh, led a meeting of the district task force to evaluate the planning for execution of the Pulse Polio immunization scheduled on 3 to 5th March 2024 across the district.

The DC directed health department officials to prioritize maximum publicity and awareness for the upcoming national Pulse Polio campaign. He assured full support from

the district administration and asked SDMs, Tehsildars and BDOs to collaborate with the Immunization Teams to make all necessary arrangements for the scheduled days.

The DC emphasized on publicity well in advance and instructed the CEO Doda to prepare IEC material and mobilise all staff for the upcoming Pulse Polio day in collaboration with the education & ICDS department.

In preparation for the event, it was informed that

507 booths, 11 transit points, 20 stalls at religious places and 35 centres for hard-to-reach areas would be established across the district. The DC said that the Tehsildars and BDOs would guarantee all necessary support and priority movements of health department vehicles in their respective areas. Additionally, the DC directed the Chief Education Officer Doda to ensure the involvement of necessary staff from the education department for smooth conduct of the Pulse Polio campaign.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Doda, Assistant District Nodal Officer ISM Doda, CMO, SDMs, DIO (info) CEO, Tehsildars, District Immunization Officer, BMOs, and representatives from line departments.

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 29

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss various measures aimed to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of decisions and directions passed in the previous meeting.

During the meeting, concerned departments briefed the chair about the measures taken to control the drug menace in the district.

The meeting was informed that during the current month 101 pharmacies were inspected and operation of 08 pharmacies was suspended.

It was also shared that 96 percent pharmacies have installed CCTVs.

It was given out that during the current month



12 drug peddlers were arrested and 12 FIRs were registered and 19 KG Poppy straws and 54 gms heroin was recovered.

With regard to declaration of Nasha Mukh Panchayats, it was shared that 12 Panchayats have been recommended for declaring them as Nasha Mukh Panchayats by Tehsil and Sub Division Level Committees. On the occasion,

stress was laid on Officers of all the line departments including Enforcement agencies to ensure better coordination in imposing greater deterrence to combat dangerous trade of drug-trafficking.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACR, SDM Noorabad and other officers from police and civil administration.

## HP&MD conducts Awareness Camp on HADP at Maloora Mujgund

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 29

A one-day awareness program on Holistic Agricultural Development Program (HADP), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), support for Grading & Packing, eNAM and Centrally Sponsored Schemes was today held at Maloora Mujgund Srinagar.

The programme, organized by Area Marketing Office, Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department (HP&MD) Parimpora Srinagar, witnessed active participation from PRIs, farmers, traders, multiple Business Unit Holders of the area interested in upgrading their existing units/setting up of new units etc.

The awareness camp was attended by Officers of Horticulture Production Department, Agriculture Department, Manager J&K Bank Mujgund, Shahzad Ahmad Bhat Corporation Ward Mujgund-32 etc.

The experts from different allied departments



deliberated upon the schemes pertaining to the Horticulture Sector in detail.

Area Marketing Officer Srinagar, Shamma Manzoor apprised the participants about the departmental activities.

Assistant Marketing Officer Bashir Ahmad Wani/Marketing Inspector Shabir Mufti apprised the audience about HADP, PMFME, eNAM and other centrally sponsored schemes pertaining to food processing sector in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and need to integrate the existing unorganized Micro-food Process-

ing Units of the district.

In order to accomplish the objective of self-reliant India (Atma Nirbhar Bharat), the Officer apprised that the Govt. is providing 50% subsidy under HADP and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial, technical and marketing support to upgrade the existing micro-food processing units/establish new units under PMFME thereby integrating around two lac micro-food processing enterprises in the unorganized sector with formal supply chain.

The educated unem-

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

He requested the interested applicants to contact him for assistance in the submission of application, DPR preparation, follow up of cases at bank level etc. In the end on spot assistance was provided to the beneficiaries to register them under the different schemes.

## Doda Administration organises weekly Block Diwas at Kastigarh; Addresses plethora of public concerns on spot

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 29

In a proactive move to engage with the community and to address their genuine concerns, the District Administration Doda organized a comprehensive Block Diwas cum outreach program at Kastigarh.

The event was attended by DDC Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal and Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh to provide a platform to the residents to voice their grievances directly to the authorities.

Upon the arrival of the chief guest, Deputy Commissioner Doda, accompanied by other district officers, conducted a thorough inspection of the government department stalls set up by respective departments. The initiative allowed residents to directly communicate a myriad of issues directly to the concern officials present over there. These encompassed issues such



as water and electricity supply, healthcare and school education infrastructure, road connectivity, demand for essential services like ambulance and women police, unemployment, and various government-sponsored schemes like MGNREGA and PM Vishwakarma training center at Kastigarh.

While speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal thanked the government for providing the benefits

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024: Training programme held at Shopian

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 29

In the run up to Lok Sabha Election-2024, Election Department Shopian in collaboration with the Department of RDD today conducted a daylong training programme for different departmental staffers as part of first phase general training at DIET, Degree College and Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The training programme was presided over by District Election Officer, (Deputy Commissioner) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb, and training was imparted by District Level Master Trainer, Irfan Ahmed.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Election Officer stressed on adopting rules and regulations in letter and spirit and performing duties with utmost dedication, zeal and zest and with great honesty.

He also directed for mutual cooperation and support during the election process to make these elections a grand success. Thrust was given on learning and following timeliness strictly.

Deputy District Election Officer, Shopian further said that training programmes shall continue till all the available manpower is fully trained.

During the programme, District Level Master Trainer imparted training related to EVM and other election related activities besides deliberating upon duties and precautions to be observed by poll staff.

The officers and officials of the election department were present.

## CEO SSCL conducts surprise visit to ongoing Smart city projects in Shahar-e-Khaas

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 29

CEO Srinagar Smart City Ltd. Dr. Owais Ahmed, conducted surprise inspection of the ongoing smart city projects in Shahar-e-Khaas, Srinagar during night hours and evaluated the progress made at various project sites.

The visit aimed to assess the work during the night hours for timely completion of the smart city projects.

During the inspection, the CEO meticulously reviewed the developments at each project site and interacted with officials and executing agencies to address any challenges or obstacles that may be impeding progress.

The CEO emphasized the significance of effective coordination among all stakeholders involved and underscored the need for seamless execution and timely completion of the projects.

The CEO was accompanied by the officials from Srinagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL) and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

## Rs. 30,000 fine recovered from erring FBOs at Shopian

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 29

The Court of Adjudicating Officer, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz today imposed a fine of Rs.30,000 on the erring Food Business Operators (FBOs) of the district.

During the hearing, the Adjudicating Officer disposed-off 10 cases of Food Business Operators (FBOs) for violation of the prescribed provisions/ norms of Food Safety and Standard Act and Rules and Regulations and imposed/recovered a fine from them.

The Food Business Operators of Shopian were warned against any kind of violation in future and were instructed to adhere to the rules and regulations in letter and spirit. They were also stressed for maintaining cleanliness in and around their Food Business Units to avoid any kind of infection.

Food Safety Officer, Shopian and other concerned were present.

Commissioner Harvinder Singh highlighted the state's achievement of securing the 2nd place in registration under the PM Vishwakarma scheme. He directed concerned officers to assess and resolve genuine and pressing issues promptly, reaffirming the government's dedication to addressing local needs and ensuring forthcoming government-sponsored schemes and initiatives are accessible to residents.

In addition to addressing grievances, the District Administration assured to install solar lights in the area. While Chief Education Officer was directed to ensure the smooth functioning of schools. The Social Welfare Department was directed to organize special camps in the remote areas for awareness of their respective schemes, reflecting the administration's commitment for holistic development and welfare of the community at large.

Furthermore, Deputy

### Indian Army Organised Medical & Veterinary Camp at Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEB 29

As a goodwill gesture and in continuance of its commitment to work for welfare of general public, the Indian Army organised a Medical & Veterinary Camp for residents and livestock at Bugrana village. The aim of this camp is to deliver basic medical services at the door steps of the medically less privileged clientele residing in remote and far flung villages & provide veterinary support for animals and medical facilities for migrating gujjars, thereby providing them the required basic medical facilities for themselves and their livestock. During the camp, Veterinary doctors and a team of doctors from the Army and Civil Compris-

ing Medical Specialists attended to the patients requiring medical care. A total of 135 x Male, 156 x Female, 43 x Children were provided with free medical care along with preliminary investigation and medicines for the commonly occurring ailments. Moreover, 135 x livestock included sheep, goats, cows and horses, were also treated and provided with free medicines during the camp. The resident populace appreciated this endeavour of Armed Forces to address their genuine requirements and aspirations. This camp will go a long way in alleviating the health issues of resident population & their livestock and further strengthen bonds of friendship between Army and the local Awaam.

### Rich Cultural, Musical Heritage display at Manjakot Festival



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
MANJAKOTE, FEB 29

The rich cultural and musical heritage of Rajouri- Poonch was demonstrated in the cultural and musical festival organised by Indian Army at Manjakot, Rajouri. The event provided a platform for students and residents to showcase their talent over huge audience. The event organized by Indian Army in collaboration with J&K Academy Art and Culture, attracted more than 800 strong audience. Students of '33' schools including 390 Girls and 255 Boys from the area and residents of Manjakote displayed their talent in the fest. The soulful performances of renowned artists from Rajouri & Poonch Mr Muneer Qureshi and Mr Razad also mesmerised the audience on their tunes. Their rendition of Pahadi and

Gujri songs filled the air with reverence and excitement. Youth and elderly alike performed with passion, creating scintillating atmosphere and even prompting spontaneous dance by 'Girls of Manjakote and FIZA-E-Peer Panjal group' added more colours to the event. Celebrating the spirit of inclusion and encouragement, Mr. Mohd Mush-taq, Chief Education Officer Rajouri and Miss Jajla Kazmi, Tehsildar and Citizens of Manjakote thanked Indian Army for organising such a vibrant function. The event not only embraced art but also acted as a conduit to bring people together, creating a positive buzz. The citizens from far flung border areas were fascinated and mesmerised with the Gala musical and cultural festival which was well attended and appreciated by huge gathering.

### ADGP Jammu attaches new rank to Selection Grade Constables



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Jammu, Shri. Anand Jain, IPS decorated newly promoted Sg. constables who have been elevated by pinning new rank in a simple function held in Zonal Police Headquarters Jammu this evening. The Constables who were decorated as Sg. Constables rank are ; Mukesh Kumar ,Naresh Kumar ,Ashok Kumar ,Deepak Kumar ,Sunil Verma, Joginder Singh ,Sohan Lal and Ajay Kumar. Anand

Jain, IPS congratulated the officials for their elevation and stressed the officials to work with zeal and zest in future also. He expressed confidence that this promotion will reinforce the commitment of constables to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and service excellence. The other Police officers who were present on the occasion are; DIG JKS Range Shri Sunil Gupta, IPS , SSP Jammu Shri Vinod Kumar-IPS and S.O to ADGP Jammu Shri. Vishal Manhas, JKPS.

### Hard work, consistency are keys to success: Dr Preeti Bhagat



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Social Activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat said that success can be achieved only with the strength of consistency and hard work. Yes, success is not achieved overnight, but if you work hard continuously, you will definitely achieve it one day. Apart from academic activities, children should also participate equally in sports and other activities. Dr. Preeti Bhagat was guest of honour during the prize distribution day of Sunshine Secondary School located in Seer Bala area of suchetgarh constituency. She said that Teachers and parents also play an important role in building the future of children. A teacher is the builder of the society. At the same time, parents

also play an important role in inspiring children to have good values and achieve success. School chairman Somnath, while addressing the students, said that in today's competitive era, parents put unnecessary pressure on their children to get good marks. Children should be encouraged. If they get encouragement, they will be able to study well and touch new dimensions of success. School Principal Shama Kumari said that her endeavor is to provide quality education to the children and also keep them ahead in sports and other activities. In the program, the students enthralled the audience by cultural and colorful presentations and at the end, the students who performed well in the session were honored by Dr. Preeti Bhagat and the school staff.

### 3 Day Gatisheel Jammu and Kashmir to begin in Country Inn Bahu Plaza on March 1st 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Experience the finest craftsmanship and innovations showcased by various government departments participating in the Gatisheel Jammu and Kashmir... Atmanirbhar Bharat Ki Aur

event at Country Inn, Bahu Plaza Jammu from 1st March till 3rd March 2024. The exhibitions will Showcase different government department such as Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO), New Space India Limited (NSIL), Indian council of agricultural research (ICAR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES), AMUL, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Department of education (DARE), Soil and land use survey of India (SLUSI), Protection of plant varieties and farmers right authority (PPVFRA), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), India tour-

ism, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Inland Waterways authority of India, Cochin shipyard corporation limited, Ministry of Jal Shakti Pradhan mantra Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Maharashtra Bamboo Development Board, Sakoli Bamboo Clus-

ter (MBDB), National Atlas and thematic mapping organization (NATMO), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Himalayan Forest research Institute (HFRI), Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Indian Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MAPEDA), Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Development Commissioner for Handicrafts.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### Lt Governor inaugurates...

motivate Gen Zers to shape the J&K's social, cultural and economic landscape and eventually make an impact on different sectors," the Lt Governor said. He congratulated the Young Achievers from J&K who were honoured today for their exemplary contribution in diverse fields. "Youth power is the pillar for Viksit J&K and Viksit Bharat. The country is moving forward with great confidence, hope and expectations and I am sure the young generation with their unique skills and talents will make their valuable contribution in this journey," the Lt Governor said. At the Youth Conclave, the Lt Governor highlighted the crucial role of the new generation in cultivating most innovative ecosystem and shaping tomorrow's success. Youth power is the driving force of progressive and prosperous India. They are creating new path to achieve the vision of Amrit Kaal, he said. He reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration towards the empowerment of youth and providing them conducive environment to unleash their true potential. 65% population of J&K is youth. This demographic dividend is our biggest strength, the Lt Governor said. On the occasion, the Lt Governor impressed upon the Mission Youth and Department of Information & Public Relations to create a network of youth through a Next Generation Coalition- JK programme. Youth always work selflessly. They live for others. Youth's actions are not limited to their own benefit. The personality of the youth believes in sharing, the Lt Governor observed. He said, youth-led fight against drugs will play a vital role in tackling the menace of drug abuse and achieving the goal of a drug-free Jammu Kashmir. Youth spread the fragrance of their talent and energy to benefit all. They help the society to light the darker pathways to remove the darkness. The Administration will ensure all the necessary resources and handholding to the youth in their endeavours to serve the society, the Lt Governor further added. The Lt Governor visited the exhibition stalls put up by the different departments at the Youth Conclave. He handed over appointment letters and benefits under various schemes to the beneficiaries. Artists of Beats of J&K enthralled the audience with their electrifying performances. A short video on the journey of Film making in J&K was also showcased on the occasion. Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ms Rehana Batul, Commissioner Secretary Information; Sh Jatinder Kishore, Director Information, senior officials, prominent personalities, renowned artists, young achievers and youth in large number were present.

#### DIPR organises vibrant...

in which Actor and Director, Asheish Nijhawan; Actor, Mir Sarwar and Line Producer, Atul Vinod Duggal were present. During this session, the panelists deliberated on the tapping the film tourism potential in J&K. They

also spoke about the significance of J&K Film Policy in attracting the major production houses of Bollywood to Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, during the second session, the Youth Icons and young Changemakers of J&K like Adil Teli, Chandeeep Singh, Sheikh Samiullah and Risheek Kumar shared experiences about their achievements and journey they have been through to reach this stage. The session was moderated by RJ Rahul. During the session, the icons spoke in length how they transcended the barriers with courage resilience, determination and innovation in their respective fields. Later, a scintillating performance was presented by popular singer Jyoti Nooran, which left the audience spellbound. **2 former CMs to...** reports enjoys wide support from various employees organizations and from the old city of Srinagar which is likely to prove a game changer during the final battle. However, the Peoples Conference has clarified that it will not contest elections from Jammu division, so that the votes are not divided. However, Apni Party can field another leader Rafi Mir, who has separated from PDP, in the election contest from South Kashmir. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir State Congress Chief Vikar Rasool Wani has indicated that the distribution of Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will be unveiled in the initial week of March. He emphasized that discussions are ongoing regarding the allocation of the six parliamentary seats, with a definitive announcement slated by the first week. Wani stated that all parties within the alliance are engaging in cooperative efforts to bolster the ally candidate, aiming for a resounding defeat of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its removal from power. He further asserted that the forthcoming Lok Sabha candidates' names will be disclosed shortly.

#### Lt Governor interacts...

be implemented without fear or favour," the Lt Governor said. He impressed upon the officials to take dedicated measures and focus on strengthening both physical and social capital. We should strive to improve the public service delivery mechanism, quick resolution to public complaints, speedy and transparent implementation of welfare schemes to enhance capabilities of the citizens, the Lt Governor observed. Addressing the grievances received from the citizens, the Lt Governor passed explicit directions for the rationalization of teachers, especially in schools located at far flung areas. "No Single Teacher School" across Jammu Kashmir should be ensured, he said. He further directed for effective functioning of borewells and handpumps, besides strengthening the power transmission & distribution infrastructure and addressing the issues of LT Network and loose hanging electric

wires. Deputy Commissioners were instructed to ensure that areas that require necessary intervention as far as power infrastructure is concerned are covered under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). On the complaint of Sh Mohd Iqbal from Uri, Baramulla pertaining to the construction of the Girls Hostel near Higher Secondary School Pehlipora, the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla informed the chair that the remaining construction work will be completed soon and the hostel will be operationalized within one month. A complainant namely Sh Sohail Khan from Jammu drew the attention of the administration on the issue of the functioning of Ticket counter and other facilities at Bus Stand Jammu. The Lt Governor directed the Divisional Commissioner, JMC Commissioner, JDA, Traffic police, Transport department and other stakeholder departments to take concrete measures to ensure the facilities at the Bus Stand Jammu and Multi-tier Parking are working properly and are available to the people. Addressing a grievance filed by Sh Jashan Sambyal, a resident of Thalora Mandi, Samba regarding the dilapidated condition of the Sumb road, the Lt Governor directed the concerned Deputy Commissioner and officials to redress the issue at the earliest. Deputy Commissioner Samba informed the chair that the work on the said road is expected to be completed by the end of April this year. Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar, Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat. Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Forests; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

#### AIIMS Jammu to launch...

operation theatres, a helipad, and a 1,000-seat auditorium. It will also feature MRI, CT, and CATH labs equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The departments encompass General Medicine, General Surgery, Cardiology, CVTS, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Gastroenterology, Gastroenterological Surgery, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Urology, Nephrology, Pediatric Surgery, Burn and Plastic Surgery, Nuclear Medicine, ENT, Dermatology, Dentistry, Dermatology, CFM, Anesthesiology, Anatomy, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pathology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Psychiatry, Radiology, and Pulmonary Medicine-(KNO)

#### Stay order in civil...

the case. The top court had on December 13, 2023 reserved its judgement in the case after hearing senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, who appeared for the High Court Bar Association of Allahabad, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and other lawyers on the issue. The top court had on December 1 last year referred to a five-judge bench its 2018 judgement for reconsid-

eration. The previous judgement said the stay granted by a lower court or high court in civil and criminal cases will automatically expire after six months unless extended specifically. In its 2018 verdict in the case of Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency P Ltd Director Vs CBI, a three-judge bench had held that the interim order of stay granted by courts, including high courts, will stand vacated automatically unless they are specifically extended. Consequently, no trial or proceedings can remain stayed after six months. However, the top court had later clarified that the judgement would not be applicable if the stay order was passed by it. (Agencies)

#### Modi created lucrative...

for this achievement. What is significant is that across the country, about 60 to 70% of MUDRA beneficiaries are women, said Dr Jitendra Singh. During the program, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised that there may not be any scheme in the world supported by a bank without a guarantee or a mortgage. But, MUDRA started under PM Modi and supported by the banks disburses loans under this scheme without a guarantee or a mortgage and the only guarantee is 'Modi ki Guarantee' which means guarantee of fulfilment of a guarantee. Pertinent to mention, Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship scheme of the Modi Government. The scheme facilitates micro credit/Loan up to Rs. 10 lakhs to income generating micro enterprises engaged in the non farm sector in manufacturing, trading or service sectors including activities allied to agriculture such as poultry, dairy, beekeeping, etc. The Scheme provides financial assistance extended by Member Lending Institutions to the non-corporate, non-farm sector income generating activities of micro and small entities. These micro and small entities comprise millions of proprietorship / partnership firms running as small manufacturing units, service sector units, shopkeepers, fruits / vegetable vendors, truck operators, food-service units, repair shops, machine operators, small industries, artisans, food processors and others. Schemes like PM-SVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma etc. have touched and benefited that strata of the society that has not been taken care of by the previous governments. But, PM Narendra Modi has taken care of every segment of the society without any discrimination or vote bank politics, said Dr. Jitendra Singh. While appreciating the Direct Bank Transfer conceptualised by PM Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, (DBT) has garnered international recognition, has become the role model for the world and has been able to save one lakh crore which is a massive achievement of PM Modi led government. Dr. Jitendra Singh said, another important aspect of these schemes is that these are largely women driven empowering women be that MUDRA, PMAY etc. as the PM Modi led government is strongly focussing on Nari Shakti, Youth, Farmers and Poor.



## EDITORIAL

## Recruitment Board—a big encouragement for Ladakhis

Finally, the four-year-long struggle of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) has borne fruitful results. The Ladakh UT administration has announced the establishment of the Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board (LSSSSB). This board will oversee the recruitment process for all district, divisional, and UT cadre posts in the region. The decision to establish the board follows the several rounds of talks between agitating groups and officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in New Delhi. It represents a major success for the agitating groups in Ladakh and demonstrates the government's commitment to resolving issues affecting the Ladakhi people. One of the key demands of the agitating groups has been regarding employment and recruitment for Ladakhi youth. The government's agreement to establish the LSSSSB was reached after third round of talks in New Delhi. The establishment of the LSSSSB is made possible through the powers conferred by the proviso of Article 309 of the Constitution of India, read with section 15 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act, 2010. The rules to regulate the method of recruitment to Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) and all Group 'C' UT/Divisional Cadre categories of posts under the Administration of Union territory of Ladakh have been notified by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. The General Administration Department (GAD) Ladakh has stated that the UT administration aims to ensure a uniform and transparent process for recruitment through the LSSSSB. The board will use technology to enhance the recruitment process and provide a fair opportunity to all candidates. The LSSSSB will consist of a chairman and two members appointed by the Government. The Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh, will be the ex-officio Chairman. The board will conduct recruitment examinations for Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) and Group 'C' UT Cadre/Divisional Cadre categories of posts, formulate regulations for recruitment examinations, and conduct direct recruitment through competitive examination for identified posts. Political Activist Sajjad Kargili praised the establishment of the LSSSSB, stating that Ladakhis had been struggling for this for the last four years. Jigmat Paljor, Coordinator LAB, urged the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh to expedite the functioning of the board and conduct examinations to alleviate the challenges faced by unemployed youths in Ladakh. The setting up of the recruitment board will speed up the recruitment process for jobs and employment of unemployed educated youths who have been voicing their concerns for the last four years. Not even a single gazetted post has been filled in Ladakh due to non-availability of the Public Service Commission in Ladakh. The decision of establishing a recruitment board has come as a big encouragement and booster for the agitating groups who have also been demanding Statehood and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for Ladakh. They are now optimistic that their unity will put further pressure on the Centre to concede to their demands for Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule and they can even achieve Statehood for the region.

## Nawaz Sharif's strategic move or military script?

KSTOMAR

**A** lively and geopolitical issue is being debated worldwide, especially in Pakistan which pertains to the 'mysterious' decision of three-time prime minister, Nawaz Sharif to Suo moto opt out of the race for premiership and subsequently nominate his younger brother, Shehbaz Sharif for the top slot though he was a favourite of powerful military, obviously current army chief, Asim Munir, who had scripted the entire episode to enthrone him.

Foreign policy experts say that it was on the analogy of former PM, Imran Khan who was saddled in the chair due to the open patronage of Ex-Army chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa but both fell apart owing to fighting for supremacy. It was a paradox and a typical case of a "servant" challenging the authority of the "Master" which may happen in this dispensation also but Nawaz as a "shadow PM" may not permit it as he has had the bitter experience of being ousted by the army from the post in 2018.

Analysts are convinced that owing to compelling circumstances, Ex PM, Nawaz played his cards well hence the choice fell

on his brother which will also ensure the continuity of "Family Rule" in Pakistan. Yet, another addition will be Maryam Nawaz who is poised to become chief minister of the most important province of Punjab.

2nd, the army had meticulously planned to keep Imran Khan out of the political process hence more than 150 cases were registered against him by the previous regime and courts handed him the punishment in three cases which exceeded 24 years.

3rd, due to Imran's tirade against the army, Nawaz was brought to Pakistan last year from self-exile in London which preceded the Supreme Court's decision in 2018 to sentence him to ten-years imprisonment and a fine of \$10.6 million in a corruption case related to Panama papers of illegal properties abroad. He was disqualified and hence fled to London to fight his battle. Nawaz's brother Shehbaz headed the government in Pakistan which ensured the adoption of a bill in parliament on June 25, 2023, which limited the lifetime disqualification of lawmakers to 5 years.

It was meant to pave the way for the return of his elder brother to resume his political activities in



Pakistan. 4th, Nawaz's critics allege that the stage was set for "mass scale rigging" to help him to become PM but the game plan went haywire as independents supported by Imran from jail won a majority of the seats and Nawaz's party PML-N could not get even simple majority which shattered the dream of Nawaz who was averse to heading a minority government.

5th, Nawaz nominated Shehbaz because he had experience in heading coalition governments and was a flexible politician who could take partners along. 6th, Nawaz would have found it difficult in parliament as Imran's loyalists were ready with a lot of ammunition to put him on the mat on corruption whereas Shehbaz is better placed so far. Finally, Nawaz and the army chief are on the same page which may help the new

government to appease the sentiments and fulfil the aspirations of the people who are facing the problem of survival.

It will be the most difficult task of the Shehbaz government to implement the harsh preconditions of IMF which had released USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion loan to the cash-strapped country to stabilize its debt-ridden economy. Shehbaz's previous government had successfully negotiated with the IMF to procure the "bailout Package" which needs to be clinched. The IMF had saved Pakistan from economic collapse as Pakistan's reserves stood at \$7.8 billion as of Nov. 18, 2023, barely enough to cover imports for a month.

The people are reeling under inflation which has touched to the level of 30% and prices of essential commodities are beyond

the capacity of consumers. The floods had caused losses of billions and thousands of lives were lost hence the new PM will have to take care of rehabilitation tasks which are in disarray.

The floods had caused tremendous losses of USD 3.3 trillion in June-October, 2022 besides killing 1839 people which must be uppermost in the priorities of the new government as victims are still craving relief and rehabilitation tasks which seem to be in disarray.

China has treaded cautiously and did not touch the sensitive issue of rigging whereas the United States and EU demanded an investigation into the allegations. China has come to the rescue of Pakistan several times but the cost has been beyond the imagination of this poor country. China's debt policy has entrapped Pakistan which has procured a heavy loan and the Chinese investment has risen \$65 billion in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by 2022.

China has already acquired control of Gwadar Port on 16 May 2013 which may be retained instead of a lease guarantee in future.

Originally valued at \$46 billion, the value of China

Pakistan Economic Corridor had been worth \$62 billion as of 2020. India and the US are opposed to BRI hence Nawaz will have to tread cautiously to keep China in check to save his country from the debt trap policy.

China will be looking for the security protection of its projects in Pakistan hence it may develop cordial relations with the Shehbaz government. Experts say that the United States wanted to see the back of Imran who had accused it of conspiring with the army to oust him from power. It has got history of having direct ties with army generals hence it may find it easy to deal with the new government. India can expect Nawaz to influence Shehbaz to take the initiative to start dialogue with India which has already created its space in the world arena and economic ties can help the beleaguered people of this poor country.

The new coalition government is bound to be weak hence delivery expectations on domestic and international fronts must be based on logical conclusions and limitations of new dispensation in Pakistan.

(The writer is a journalist and political analyst, views are personal)

## BJP is waiting in the wings, but Congress must stop these self-goals

SUHIT K SEN

**T**he Rajya Sabha elections on February 27 showed that the Opposition must properly deal with the depredations of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unless it is to be ambushed time and again.

The BJP has so ratcheted up the practice of poaching that democracy has almost been annulled. It has deep pockets and has been alleged to influence the decisions of legislators from the Opposition camp. We know that where there is payola there is speculation - the political class is awash with bribable elected representatives.

Let's concentrate on the Congress. It had enough MLAs in Himachal Pradesh to win the single Rajya Sabha seat there, but the party's candidate, spokesman Abhishek Manu Singhvi, lost as six MLAs cross-voted alongside three independents MLAs.

After the 2022 Assembly elections, it bucked prevailing trends to win 40 seats in the 68-member Assembly, while the BJP won 25. Three independent MLAs supported the government, giving it a com-

fortable majority. Now, if the nine MLAs make a permanent switch, the government will be on the edge, though Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu can take solace from the fact that the Speaker can disqualify the defecting members, which will give his party 34 seats in a 62-member House, a thin majority.

What could complicate things for the BJP is the Speaker's decision to suspend 15 BJP MLAs from the Assembly on February 28.

As of now, the six presumptively defecting MLAs and three independents have removed themselves to Haryana, pending a likely no-trust motion when the Assembly meets - it's a rerun of a despicable and degrading tactic used by the BJP, which is unfortunately dignified with the name 'Operation Kamal'. This kind of activity is to a 'political operation' what grand larceny is to a 'business transaction'.

**Expect more**

Nevertheless, the Congress needs to look at the situation rationally. First, it happened and the party can expect more

of it - it will take 13 defecting MLAs, assuming all defectors will be suspended, to topple the government. Some way to go yet.

Second, in the run-up to the general elections, with four seats in Himachal Pradesh to be won, the Congress should consider itself lucky that the defectors have tipped their hands at this point rather than sabotaging the party's prospects further down the road. It could also help the party in the distribution of tickets.

**Stop these self-goals**

But, most important, the Congress must remember that it continues to help the BJP succeed in its larcenous activities by scoring self-goals. Thus, in July 2019, the BJP was helped in its capture of Karnataka by securing defections due to the lack of a leader in the Congress. Rahul Gandhi had resigned as party president and it took the party nearly three months to nominate Sonia Gandhi as interim chief. It took over two more years to elect a full-time head.

Soon after Karnataka, the inability to reconcile Jyotiraditya Scindia's ambitions

with the incomprehensible desire to persist with an allegedly corrupt and self-driven Kamal Nath, led to the fall of the Madhya Pradesh government, which is not to say the former's conduct is to be held up as a model.

**Incompetent, ineffective**

Nevertheless, the important takeaway is that even where it still has a presence, the Congress finds itself unable to retain control. One reason is that it keeps shuffling the same people around in positions of power despite overabundant evidence that they are ineffective - like Rajiv Shukla as the supervisor of Himachal Pradesh affairs. This happened in its latest organisational reshuffle in December. It's inexplicable that K C Venugopal should continue to hold the critical position of general secretary (organisation) despite his manifest incompetence at every hurdle.

It's a difficult kind of cronyism. Only Rahul Gandhi's sycophants get positions of power and responsibility, with a few exceptions - like Rajasthan MLA Sachin Pilot in December.

**Hard decisions**

There's the intransigent refusal to set the organisation in order. By now an elected parliamentary board (CPB) should have been in place. This is not a quibble. The CPB has historically played a crucial role in settling organisational matters. Plus, the fatal reluctance to take hard decisions has resulted in nominating a jumbo, 85-member working committee, instead of a partly elected, 15-member one with a proper remit. Finally, there is the easy option of allowing ad hoc Pradesh Congress Committees to remain in place, instead of allowing elections to sort the wheat from the chaff.

Obviously, nothing can be done now to solve structural problems, with general elections impending. But surely more dynamic, independent, and less self-interested people can be chosen to oversee the crucial task of selecting candidates. Organisational nous is needed to help consolidate the capital being generated by Rahul Gandhi's yatras.

(Suhit K Sen is author of 'The Paradox of Populism: The Indira Gandhi Years, 1966-1977')

## Building bridges with empathy

SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

**A**fter being constantly taunted for her height, skin colour and academic performance by her fellow students for months, a 12-year-old girl cut her wrists in an attempt to end her mental agony. Fortunately, she was saved. But a 16-year-old student of Class 10, who jumped off the top floor of the apartment building he was living in, did not survive. It was his letter to his mother in which he wrote that the school had killed him, that revealed the shocking details of bullying he was subjected to and the school's failure to stop it. While several steps have been taken to put an end to bullying, penal action can only be a temporary deterrent and not a long-term solution especially in the present milieu of hyped social media, freely available toxic content

and, peer pressure.

If children are taught to engage empathetically, can it inculcate feelings of respect, dignity and compassion for all? Project Empathy, an endeavour to bring empathy education into school curricula, believes being empathetic can nurture emotionally and mentally strong human beings. When young students understand the importance of living in harmony with one another, the 'walls of division' between them transform into 'walls of friendship'. Contrary to popular belief, empathy can be taught. While 50% of our empathic capacities are genetically inherited, research shows that the rest can be learnt. This is the biggest reason why empathy must be taught at a young age. Over the last five years, Project Empathy led by educationist Vibha Lakhera, introduced this concept and devel-



oped activities and stories that acknowledge, recognize and identify emotions and broaden the discussion around emotional health and well-being of every student.

Empathy education helps to enrich the emotional vocabulary of students and build their emotional and mental resilience. Introduced in

about six schools mainly army schools like the Army Rifles Public Schools in North India and Kashmir and Alok Bharati Public School in Delhi, the project has been able to reach out to over 1500 students. Importantly, teachers, who lay the foundation for their values, have been recognized as critical to the success of teaching

empathy.

This resource book for teachers draws from the education system and best practices in schools in Denmark and Finland, two countries among the top three happiest countries in the world according to the United National Happiness Report. Put together by Lakhera and veteran development journalist Usha Rai, the interesting manual explains the neuroscience of empathy with the help of psychologists and brain scientists sans any jargon. The mirror neurons, which light up when a person feels an emotion like sadness or joy, respond in the same way when this person sees another person also demonstrating the same kind of feelings or actions. This empathic reaction helps to understand and share experiences.

The manual also explains the types of empathy-cognitive, emo-

tional and compassionate while differentiating between sympathy and empathy. Stories centred on children and their emotions have been innovatively used to provide practical guidelines on how to diffuse tensions, reduce stress, and strengthen understanding of each other's differences. At present, empathy is not included in teacher training programmes. Only a handful of schools have taken the initiative to introduce the concept of empathy education. There is a need to encourage all students to consider different perspectives and viewpoints. Only by being empathetic, can they understand and acknowledge differences of opinion and resolve conflict situations.

(Swapna Majumdar is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views are expressed are personal)







# Symposium on Smart Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture concludes at CSIR IIM

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

A three-day symposium on the theme "Translating Technology into Practice: The Smart Know-Hows of Soil and Crop Management" concluded today at CSIR-IIM, Branch Srinagar. Prof. Mohammad Zahoor Chishti, Professor Emeritus at University of Kashmir was the chief guest at valedictory session and Prof. Raihana H. Kanth, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K, Wadura, was the guest of honour. Addressing the delegates at the valedictory function, Prof. Chishti stressed upon the application of scientific knowledge and advanced technologies to cope up with the growing challenges posed to the mankind as a consequence of global warming, climate change, environmental degradation, desertification, and biodiversity loss and exhorted that scientists are globally

striving to address such challenges. The themes deliberated upon in the symposium highlight and strive to address one of the pressing challenges to feed the burgeoning global population while maintaining the ecological balance and sustainable utilization of the depleting natural resources, he added. Prof. Raihana H. Kanth, underscored the importance of innovative approaches to soil and crop management and the need to implement smart soil and crop management for climate smart agriculture. She also complimented the CSIR IIM for organizing the important event. Earlier, Dr. Shahid Rasool, in his address highlighted the importance of translating technologies in precision farming, smart sensors and IoT devices, vertical farming, hydroponics, blockchain and supply chain traceability, data analytics and AI, smart irrigation and water management into practice



for revolutionizing agriculture. He informed that the deliberations and the scientific interactions during the course of technical sessions has generated valuable insights and advanced knowledge-set for optimizing resource use and maximizing crop productivity. He congratulated the participants and the organizing team for the successful conduct of the symposium. Pertinently the three symposium on Translating Technology into Practice:

The Smart Know-Hows of Soil and Crop Management which was inaugurated by Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIM which was attended by 70 registered participants that included research scholars, agri-entrepreneurs, agricultural/ farm engineers, plant science faculties, agriculture scientists, and agricultural and horticultural technocrats. In a press handout it was mentioned that the symposium aimed to brainstorm

ideas and discussions on technology-driven innovative approaches for soil and crop management, emphasizing the transition from traditional methods to advanced agro-technologies for achieving profitable yields and long-term agro-ecosystem sustainability. Throughout the three-day symposium, prominent subject matter experts from different fields of agricultural engineering, agriculture, and horticulture delved into

different aspects of precision agro-technologies during the ten technical sessions. The sessions covered themes on climate smart agriculture, spatio-temporal variability in soil fertility, sustainable soil health, remote sensing and GIS techniques for soil monitoring and management, smart soil-less crop production technology, drone technology, genome editing for crop improvement and sustainable agriculture, on-farm composting, maximizing fruit multiplication rates, organic farming, strategizing water use, combating pathogens, sustainable spice farming, pollinator protection, and assessing crop maturity. The event was conducted under the supervision Er. Ab Rahim Head, IIM (Br) Srinagar. The welcome address was given by Dr. Iqra Farooq, Sr. Project Associate and vote of thanks given by Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Bhat, Principal Scientist.

## Farooq, Omar express grief over passing away of Sham Dass Mahajan

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Mr Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away of Sham Dass Mahajan elder brother of Jugal Mahajan Treasurer and senior leader JKNC and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family. In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mr Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family. In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President, Ajaz Jan Provincial President YNC Jammu, Ayub Malik, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Jammu Province, Vijay Laxmi Datta Sr. leader, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghvir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural "A" have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

## Theft case solved, stolen gold recovered by PS Gandhi Nagar Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

On 25-02-2024, an applicant namely Bhavish Mehta S/o Mohinder pal Mehta R/O Reshamgarh Colony Jammu produced a written complaint regarding theft in his jewellery Store Talla jeweller at Auqaf Market Gandhi Nagar. On this, case FIR No.44/2024 U/S 381 IPC got registered at PS Gandhi Nagar and investigation started. After this special police teams of PS Gandhi Nagar led by SHO PS Gandhi Nagar did strenuous efforts and with the help of CCTV footages of area finally arrested one person namely Viney Kumar Chouhan S/o Vinod Kumar Chouhan R/o New Geeta Colony Jalandhar who was servant of said jewellery shop. During questioning accused confessed his involvement in the above case and on his disclosure 12 tolas of gold worth Rs. 09 lakh was recovered from Muthoot Finance Company Jalandhar Punjab. Further investigation of the case is going on.

## Two missing minor girls reunited with their families by Jammu Police

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Two missing minor girls reunited with their families by Jammu Police in the areas under the jurisdiction of PS Janipur and PS Bakshi Nagar. Two different complaints were lodged at PS Janipur and PS Bakshi Nagar by legal heirs of both minor girls stating that they got missing from their respective homes. In this regard, two different cases i.e case FIR No. 31/2024 U/S 363/IPC got registered at PS Janipur and case FIR No. 23/2024 U/S 363/IPC got registered at PS Bakshi Nagar and investigation got started. On this special police teams led by SHO PS Janipur and SHO PS Bakshi Nagar did strenuous efforts and finally traced both the missing minor girls. Subsequently families of both the missing minor girls were informed and the traced minor girls were handed over to their family members after completing all the legal formalities.

# SMVDU celebrates National Science Day in collaboration with JAKEDA

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Institution Innovation Council and Faculty of Sciences in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) jointly celebrated National Science Day activities at SMVDU. The inaugural session commenced with Dr. Kamni Pathania, coordinator of the event, who extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests which include Chief Guest, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor SMVDU, Guest of Honour, Dr. Prithvi Raj Dhar, CEO, JAKEDA, Prof. Ashutosh, Chairman IIC, SMVDU, Heads of faculty of Sciences, faculty members, enthusiastic students and team JAKEDA. Dr. Kamni briefed the audience about the program objectives and highlighted the importance of celebration of National Science Day. She also apprised the audience about the various activities for the event. Prof. Pragati Kumar highlighted that primary objective of National



Science Day is to ignite an interest in science, inspire people, especially students, to perform new experiments, and make them aware of the latest developments in science and technology. He reminded the students of the efforts and achievements made so far, in the field of science and urged everyone to weigh up the implementation of different technologies. Dr. P. R. Dhar gave a detailed presentation on the importance of Solar Energy for sustainable future and Viksit Bharat. He discussed how, in the pursuit of sustainable energy development and security, their organization encourages the widespread adoption and usage of all forms of renewable energy, which include hydropower,

solar, wind, geothermal and hydrogen energy for economic growth and prosperity of UT of J&K. Dr. Yugal Khajuria, Dean International and Alumni Affairs, SMVDU spoke about the greater participation of students in scientific activities and urged all students to develop scientific mind. Dr. Kuldeep Raj, Head School of Mathematics emphasized the relevance of scientific celebrations and motivated students to dig deeper into science & learn its utilization for public welfare. NSD 2024 started with an interesting exhibition on solar technology devices displayed by team JAKEDA. The event was jointly coordinated by Dr. Kamni Pathania, Dr. Rakesh Thusoo and Dr. Sandeep Sharma.

on the theme "Energy Conservation" was presented by Sadhvi Sharma of School of Physics. A Quiz Competition was also organized by the Research Scholars of the faculty of Sciences to make science an interactive aspect of their life. A poster presentation on the theme "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat" and "Energy Conservation" was displayed at Matrika auditorium. The prizes were also given to the students in each category of the competition. The session progressed with an interesting exhibition on solar technology devices displayed by team JAKEDA. The event was jointly coordinated by Dr. Kamni Pathania, Dr. Rakesh Thusoo and Dr. Sandeep Sharma.

## Free Medical camp organized by 162 Bn CRPF at Waskura Handwara

J I NEWS SERVICE  
HANDWARA

A free medical health check-up camp was organized on 29-2-2024 during the Civic Action Programme conducted by the 162 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at ITI Handwara and distributed free medicines. The camp was inaugurated by Commandant 162 Battalion CRPF Shri Vinod Kumar, Second in command Shri Rajiv Kumar, Lambardar Waskura Handwara Shahzad Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commandant R K Malik, Assistant Commandant Abishek Yaudv, Medical Officer Dr Ajay, Dr Javid Ahmad, and other officers graced the occasion by their presence. During the medical camp a number of people including the ladies, children and senior citizens of the area gathered in large numbers for the health camp and more than

220 people took advantage of the camp. Speaking on the occasion Commandant Shri Vinod Kumar of 162 Battalion remarked "CRPF runs various schemes for assisting the needy and merging with the local population and for having better coordination with them. Today we have organised a free medical camp and consultancy for those who require medical assistance and you see a large number of people turned up in the programme". "The aim of such programmes is to have good relations with locals and also help them in difficult times. It's a continuous process and 162 Battalion is periodically conducting community outreach programs in one or other way. In the past also such free medical camps were organised in different areas in Kupwara district", added Shri Vinod Kumar.

# Unveiling Empyrean 2024 at IIM Jammu: A Celebration of Talent, Artistic Expression and Creativity

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU FEB 29

The Indian Institute of Management, Jammu, is thrilled to announce the much-awaited annual cultural extravaganza, "Empyrean 2024". Empyrean is the flagship cultural festival of IIM Jammu, celebrated annually to showcase the talents and creativity of students. With a diverse lineup of events spanning music, dance, fashion, comedy, and more, the event aims to inspire, entertain, and unite individuals from all walks of life. Promising three days of astonishing performances, artistic showcases, and engaging activities, Empyrean is set to captivate audiences from March 1st to March 3rd, 2024, at its Jagti campus. Empyrean 2024 boasts a diverse itinerary that promises to cater to all

tastes and interests. From captivating musical performances to exhilarating dance battles and thought-provoking competitions, the festival offers something for everyone. Event Highlights: •Mesmerizing Kavi Sammelan and Soul-Stirring Band Performances to Kickstart the Festivities •Enthralling Group Dance Competition and Envie: Fashion Show Showcase Student Talents •Renowned Playback Singer Ankit Tiwari and EDM Sensations Johnnie Ernest to Perform Live •Battle of Bands and Performances by Popular Singer Aditi Singh Sharma to Close the Festival on a High Note Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, mentioned, "Empyrean 2024 is a celebration of diversity, creativity, and innovation. It's a testament to the vibrant culture of IIM

Jammu, where students are encouraged to explore their passions and showcase their talents. We look forward to welcoming everyone to this exhilarating festival." Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, mentioned, "Empyrean is more than just a festival; it's an embodiment of the spirit of collaboration and camaraderie among our students. It provides a platform for them to express themselves, connect with each other, and celebrate their unique talents. We're excited to witness the energy and enthusiasm that Empyrean 2024 will bring." Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu, mentioned, "Empyrean 2024 is the culmination of months of hard work, dedication, and creativity from our students' team. It's a celebration of their passion,

talent, and collaborative spirit. As Chairperson of Student Affairs, I couldn't be prouder of their efforts, and I'm confident that Empyrean will be an unforgettable experience for everyone involved." Day 1 | March 1, 2024, | Friday The festivities kick off with a mesmerizing Kavi Sammelan at the Auditorium, featuring renowned poets who will enthrall the audience with their lyrical prowess. Following this, the Main Stage will come alive with a soul-stirring Band Performance, showcasing the musical talents of students, followed by an electrifying set by DJ Muneca, ensuring that attendees dance the night away under the stars. Day 2 | March 2, 2024 | Saturday Saturday promises an action-packed lineup, starting with a Group Dance Competition that

will showcase the grace, rhythm, and synchronization of talented dance troupes. The fashionistas among us will be treated to Envie: Fashion Show, where students will strut the runway in stunning ensembles. The evening will crescendo with a melodious performance by the renowned playback singer Ankit Tiwari, whose soulful voice promises to stir hearts and evoke emotions. Additionally, the Second Stage will host captivating solo performances in both song and dance categories, highlighting the individual talents of our students. Day 3 | March 3, 2024 | Sunday The grand finale of Empyrean 2024 features the highly anticipated Battle of Bands, where talented musicians will vie for the title of the ultimate musical maestros.

Following this, the Main Stage will come alive with performances by playback singer Aditi Singh Sharma, whose versatile voice transcends genres, and EDM sensations Johnnie Ernest & Lera Nova, who will close the festival with an exhilarating performance that will have attendees dancing into the night. The Second Stage will continue to showcase talent with Empyrean's Got Talent and the final round of LaughCraft, ensuring laughter and entertainment till the very end. Additional Attractions: •IPL Auction 2.0, Offline Speed Dating, Netflix Name Game, and More Interactive Events •Rap Battle, Bollywood Antakshari, Paper Dance, and Other Engaging Activities in the Open Area In addition to the main events, Empyrean offers a plethora of engaging activities throughout the

festival. Attendees can participate in IPL Auction 2.0, Offline speed dating, Netflix Name Game, and various other interactive events hosted in the classrooms. The Open Area will feature activities like Rap Battle, Bollywood Antakshari, Paper Dance, and more, ensuring non-stop entertainment for all. Empyrean serves as a platform for students to showcase their talents, foster creativity, and forge lasting connections. It embodies the spirit of celebration and camaraderie, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the richness of Indian culture and creativity. Join us for three days of talent, creativity, and celebration as we showcase the richness of Indian culture and creativity. Don't miss out on this unforgettable event!

## Dr. Rachna elected Staff Secretary of GDCW Kathua

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

In an election held at Government Degree College for women Kathua today, Dr. Rachna Devi Department of Education was unanimously elected as staff secretary of the college for the session 2024-25. The election for the post of staff secretary was held under the supervision of the Election Commissioner, Prof. Ashwani Sharma and under the overall guidance of senior faculty members Dr. Inderjeet kour and Dr. Babita Mahajan. Dr. Rachna delivered her maiden speech, thanking the teaching fraternity for their support and trust. She emphasized his commitment to serve as a bridge between the administration and the staff, promising transparency, integrity, and dedication in his role.

**BJP OBC Morcha organized Samajik Sammelan in Jammu Border**JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Sunil Prajapati, President BJP OBC Morcha and Sunil Shastri, District President Jammu Border were Present main in the Program. The Program was organized by Ashok Virdhi (District President OBC Morcha Jammu Border).

Sunil Shastri, on this occasion highlighted the dedicated efforts of Modi Government for ensuring Justice and welfare of people of J&K UT by undertaking various projects under Kaushal Vikas yojana and constructed various of Roads including Highways, overhead bridges, development of Railway Stations and railway tracks in the UT as well as launching of various welfare schemes for the People of J&K including Ayushman Bharat, Arogya Yojna, and Kisan Samman Nidi Yojna. He also emphasized the welfare schemes for specially for the women such as; Jan Dhan Yojana, Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao, Ladli Beti, Ujjwala Yojana as examples of initiatives aimed at empowering the women across the Nation. The Sammelan was attended by a large number of people including the women and West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) from the adjoining Areas.

Sunil Prajapati on the occasion said that it is the duty of every party worker to disseminate every information of the Government's welfare schemes to ensure that it reaches every individual of the Society. He also highlighted the dedicated efforts of the Modi Government towards the development of Jammu and Kashmir following the revocation of Article 370. He also expressed that it is only the Modi Govt who has granted the domicile right to West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) after 7 seven decades of their settling in J&K, who were migrated during partition of India in 1947 and settled in the adjoining areas of International Border, mostly in the Border District Jammu. He accused that the previous Govts led by NC-Congress never considered them as resident of J&K and denied all constitutional rights including residents, proper education, right to own immovable property and even the voting right for State elections.

Sunil Prajapati said that the previous governments led by NC-Congress and PDP, have exploiting the sentiments and future prospectus of the people of J&K mostly the Other Backward Classes (OBC), who were denied the very constitutional right to reservation to the OBCs under the guise of Article 370 and 35A. He stressed that the communal differences were deepened during the NC-Congress era in comparison to the Modi Government's to foster the unity among people of the different religious backgrounds in both the region of the J&K UT. He expressed that it the Modi Govt who granted the reservation to OBC category for the first time after passing the J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill 2023. He added that the Modi Govt has also extended reservation for OBCs in the elections of Panchayats and the Municipalities.

**Bali Bhagat accuses Farooq of doing nothing for J&K's minorities**JI NEWS SERVICE  
NAGROTA, FEB 29

Senior BJP leader and former minister Bali Bhagat in a hard hitting statement has reminded Farooq Abdullah that people of Jammu and Ladakh, especially the minorities, were treated like second class citizens for the last seventeen years during the NC-Congress rule. He said that these parties brought only destruction to the erstwhile state while Modi led Govt restored peace and stopped further destruction.

He launched this scathing attack while addressing a gathering today at Nagrota.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bali Bhagat has been nominated as Election Prabhari for Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

The senior BJP leader vehemently castigated Farooq Abdullah for looting Gujarat and Bak- erwal votes in the name of religion in every election during last seventy years. He alleged that NC and Congress did nothing



for the upliftment of these communities. He said that these two parties who ruled the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir are wholly and solely responsible for the miserable living conditions of refugees of 1947 in their own country for seven decades, their only fault being that they were Hindu.

He asserted that it is the Bharatiya Janata Party Govt that restored all the genuine rights to these deprived sections including Gaddi, Sippy, Balmiki and POJK displaced after seventy years of misrule by the NC and Congress Govt in J&K.

Further coming down heavily on the NC leader Farooq Abdullah, Bali Bhagat said that it stands amply proved today that Farooq regime was responsible for shutting down business establishments of hard-working Kash-

miris with daily Bandhs, strikes and stone pelting by hobnobbing with the separatist and secessionist groups.

Asserting that NC's hands are soaked with blood of innocent people, he held the NC responsible for killing of more than forty-three thousand people of Kashmir and other terrorism affected areas of this Union Territory during the last over three decades. The former Minister said that in the upcoming parliamentary and other elections people will teach the NC and Congress a lesson for importing terrorism into Jammu and Kashmir and carried it for 25 years which ultimately resulted in total destruction of the erstwhile State. He said that people are grateful to the PM Modi government for restoring peace and saving the people of J&K from further destruction.

**Avinash Choudhary lays foundation stone of lane in ward-02, Pyt - Chak Salarian**JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAMGARH, FEB 29

Chairman of Border Welfare Organisation, Avinash Choudhary laid the foundation stone of a lane to be built at a cost of about Rs 48 lacs in the ward number 2 of Chak Salarian Panchayat under Ramgarh Assembly. Notably from the past 15 years, residents of Ward No. 2 in Chak Salaria have grappled with numerous challenges, including inadequate road infrastructure and recurring waterlogging issues. Frustrated by the lack of action, the community turned to social activist and Chairman of the Border Welfare Organisation, Avinash Choudhary, for assistance.

In response to the people's pleas, Avinash Choudhary took a bold stand, personally engaging with district-level and higher authorities to address the pressing issues plaguing the community. Despite facing numerous hurdles and bureaucratic red tape, his unwavering determination and advocacy efforts never wavered.

The challenges faced by the residents, including the threat of diseases like dengue due to waterlogging and the absence of proper roads, were immense. However, Avinash Choudhary remained



resolute in his commitment to serve the community.

After persistent efforts, Avinash Choudhary succeeded in securing inclusion of the community's concerns in the Capex Budget Action Plan and obtaining approval for funds totaling approximately 48 lakh rupees for infrastructure development. This significant achievement marks a turning point for Ward No. 2, promising improved living conditions and enhanced quality of life for its residents.

Local residents, including Sukhbir Singh, Surinder Kour, and Harjeet Singh, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Avinash Choudhary for his tireless dedication and relentless pursuit of their cause. They lauded his leadership and perseverance, acknowledging that despite previous appeals to authorities falling on deaf ears, Avinash Choudhary's intervention

brought tangible results.

In response to the outpouring of appreciation, Avinash Choudhary reaffirmed his commitment to serving the people and vowed to continue advocating for their needs. He emphasized that his sole objective is to serve the community and humanity, pledging to work tirelessly to address and resolve all issues faced by the people. He also extended his gratitude to all the administrative officers for their assistance along with Special recognition to the efforts of LG administration including district administration for their approval and hoped for their continued support in his future endeavors of serving the community. Retired Captain Sukhbir Singh, Swaran Sharma, Ram kumar sharma, Das ram, Ravinder Kour, Raghbir Chand, Surinder Kour, Suman Sharma, Renu Kumari and other locals were also present and applauded his efforts.

**J&K Police rewards Rs. 03 lakh cash to informer of Pak Drone in Ramgarh Sector**JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Jammu and Kashmir Police has today rewarded cash of rupees three lakh to the person who provided information about Pakistani drone and subsequently its recovery by security forces in Ramgarh sector of district Samba.

On the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Shri Vinay Kumar, JKPS has presented a cheque to the tune of rupees three lakh as reward amount on behalf of ADGP Jammu Zone to the informer in a felicitation ceremony organized jointly by Samba Police & BSF which was attended by IG BSF Shri D.K Boora, DIG BSF Jammu Sector Shri Chitter Pal, CO BSF 148 Bn. Shri Kamal Rawat, Tehsildar Vijaypur, SDPO Vijaypur, SHO Ramgarh, respectable persons and large number of people from village Dug & adjoining villages. The reward was given as a part of J&K Police's policy recently announced by DGP J&K.

It is pertinent to mention that on 18.01.2024, the informer, a local resident of village Nandpur, has noticed a suspicious object lying in his field near Border out Post (BoP) Chamliyal. On seeing suspicious object (drone), the informer immediately rushed to the nearest BSF unit manned by BSF 148 Bn and informed about drone lying in his



field. Acting swiftly on the information, the security forces recovered Pak surveillance drone fitted with camera from the field of the informer.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Samba sought cooperation and support from general public living near IB in curbing the menace of narco-terrorism sponsored by Pakistan. SSP Samba further apprised the general public about different types of rewards recently announced by DGP J&K for people who will provide information & intelligence on trans-border tunnels, drones, narcotics, terror activities and terrorists.

In addition to this, IG BSF also interacted with local public and urged upon them to remain alert and extra vigilant and ensured full cooperation of BSF to the people especially those who cultivate land near International Border.

Ex-BDC Chairman Ramgarh, Shri Darshan Singh also spoke on the occasion and thanked the

J&K Police for announcing huge reward amount to motivate people living near border to help strengthen security forces in thwarting nefarious designs of ANEs.

The awardee expressed his gratitude towards J&K Police in rewarding cash for his noble cause and committed to serve the nation in future also.

It is worthwhile to mention here that J&K Police has recently announced different types of cash reward which includes: Cash reward of Rs 5 lakh for those who provide information about trans-border tunnel used by Anti-National Elements to transit terrorists, explosives and contraband consignments. Cash reward of Rs 3 lakh to those: a) who sights a drone flown from across the border to drop narcotics or explosive material and which leads to the recovery of the said dropped material, b) who gives actionable intelligence about person connected with receiving drone deliver-

ies and/or transporting arms/ammunition/narcotics from border/LoC to hinterland or Punjab and the said intelligence gets corroborated during further action. Cash reward of Rs 2 lakh each has been announced for people providing information about inter-state narcotics modules, people talking to Pakistan based terrorists and separatists in jails and persons talking to or communicating with terrorist handlers across the border or with their agents within J&K and branding citizens as informers. Police also announced Rs 1 lakh cash reward for persons providing information about those inciting and encouraging people to join terrorist ranks and to pick up gun. Rs 2 lakh to Rs 12.50 lakh reward has been announced for those giving specific information about presence of terrorists, resulting in successful operation leading to arrest or combat, and cash reward will be provided as per category of A, B and C.

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

**e-NIT No. 24 of 2023-24 Dated 28.02.2024**

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF BOYS , GIRLS TOILET AND BOUNDARY WALL AT HIGH SECONDARY SCHOOL DHANAS..	19.09	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	04 Months	"B/C"	SAMAGRA
2.	CONSTRUCTION OF 02 ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOM AT M S JIG.	20.84	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	04 Months	"B/C"	SAMAGRA
3.	CONSTRUCTION OF 02 ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOM AT M S KUD.	20.84	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	04 Months	"B/C"	SAMAGRA

Position of AAA:- **Accorded**  
Position of T.S:- **Accorded**  
Position of Funds:- **Available**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-02-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28-02-2024 to 11-03-2024 1400 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	28-02-2024 from 1300 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-03-2024 up to 1400 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-03-2024 on or after 1500 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Chenani.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Chenani 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, Chenani** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.

2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://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, Chenani.** The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- EE/C/4551-58  
Dated:- 28.02.2024

Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Chenani

DIP/J-15548/23  
Date: 29-2-24

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER	
IT&C Division, Gladni Grid Station Complex, Narwal, Jammu-180006 (J&K)	
Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.	
E-mail: <a href="mailto:zentiedc@gmail.com">zentiedc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>CANCELLATION NOTICE</b>	
<b>Sub: Refurbishment of IT Billing Centre at Electric Sub Division Udhpur I &amp; II of JPDC</b>	
The e-NIT No.: 14 of 2022-23 Dated: 20-10-2022 is hereby cancelled.	
<b>Sd/- Executive Engineer IT&amp;C Division, JPDC Jammu</b>	
<b>NO: IT&amp;CD/CancellationNotice/J/317-321 DIP/J-5557-P/23 Date: 29-2-24</b>	<b>Dated: 28-02-2024</b>

## SSP Reasi convenes crime review meeting of Sub-division Mahore at DPHQs, Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 23

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Riase, Mr. Mohita Sharma-IPS, convened a comprehensive crime review meeting of Sub-division Mahore at District Police Headquarters in Reasi. The meeting was attended by the SDPO Mahore Sh. Ajaz Choudhary-JKPS, SHO Mahore, SHO Chassana, IC PPs, IOs 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 vulner

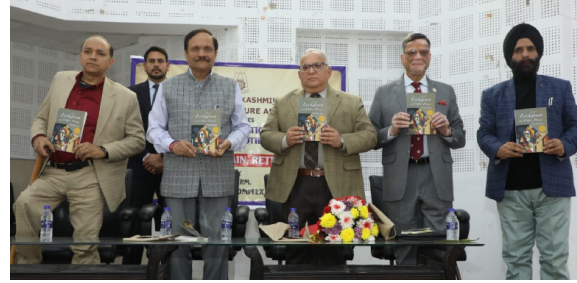
## Bhatnagar releases Promod Jains "Book Lockdown and other Poems"

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages successfully organised book release of "Lockdown and other poems", authored by the Sh. Pramod Jain. The book was released by the Chief Guest Sh. R.R. Bhatnagar, IPS (Retd.), Hon'ble Advisor to the Hon'ble L.G.J&K in the presence of SH. B.R. Sharma, IAS (RETD.), Hon'ble State Election Commissioner, J&K, who preside over the function and Sh. Bharat Singh Manhas, JKAS Secretary. The book release function, held on 29th February, 2024, at K.L.Saigal Hall, Jammu, was a resounding success, attended by esteemed guests, literary enthusiasts, and members of the press.

Lockdown and other poems is a captivating masterpiece that with its thought-provoking narrative and eloquent Poetry, the book promises to resonate with readers of all backgrounds.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Sh. R.R. Bhatnagar, IPS



(Retd.), Hon'ble Advisor to the Hon'ble L.G.J&K, who joined in celebrating the literary achievements of Sh. Pramod Jain. Sh. R.R. Bhatnagar delivered inspiring remarks, highlighting the importance of literature in today's society and commending Pramod Jain for his exceptional contribution to the literary world.

During the function, Pramod Jain shared insights into the creative process behind book offering glimpses into the inspiration and challenges encountered along the way. He expressed gratitude to his supporters, collaborators, and readers, emphasizing the profound impact of poetry on shaping our understanding of the world.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage in

lively discussions, book signings, and networking, further enriching the experience and fostering a sense of community among literary enthusiasts.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the release of and to showcase the talent and dedication of Pramod Jain," said Secretary Sh. Bharat Singh Manhas, "This book represents a significant milestone in his literary journey, and we are confident that it will leave a lasting impression on readers worldwide."

Pramod Jain extended heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the book release function, including publisher, attendees, and members of the press.

The proceedings of the event were ably conducted by Ms. Mitali Gupta.

## Rural areas witnessing unprecedented devp under Modi Regime: Col Mahan

JI NEWS SERVICE  
PLAKH (BASOHLI), FEB 28

Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua today inaugurated a 1.5-kilometer-long concrete road connecting the remote habitations of Sanki, Gujjar Mohalla, Mann, Marthni, and Wadi in Plakh and Pretha Panchayat today. This momentous occasion was met with cheers, slogans, and jubilation from the villagers who have been waiting for this day to arrive for decades.

The road's inauguration fulfills a long-standing dream for isolated communities in the area, who have struggled with difficulties in transporting building materials, threshing crops, commuting, and rescuing patients. The road promises to alleviate these struggles and provide better accessibility to mainstream opportunities for the residents, predominantly from ST, Minority



communities and weaker sections.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh expressed gratitude to PM Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh MoS PMO, and LG Manoj Sinha for their unwavering commitment to developing far-flung areas and providing funds for improving rural road connectivity. He also highlighted the significance of this development and stated that it is a testament to the Modi government's dedication to inclusive and sustainable development. Accompanied by Capt Harnam Singh, Mohd Deen, Badri Badu,

and others, Col Mahan Singh reiterated his assurance to the residents that this concrete road would mark the beginning of a brighter future for these remote areas. The development marks a significant milestone in the journey towards bridging the gap between isolated communities and mainstream opportunities, he added.

He said that the unprecedented development in the rural areas under the Modi regime signifies the government's determination towards empowering the marginalized sections and fulfilling their long-standing dreams.

## International Conference on Computing, Communication and Cyber Security

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Two Day International Conference on "Computing, Communication and Cyber Security (IC4S'05 Volume 1)" from 29 Feb-01 March was inaugurated at the "High End Computing AI and Deep Learning Lab", Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, sponsored by Higher Education Department Govt. of J&K UT in association with Springer. The conference inauguration session was graced by the Patron, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honorable Vice Chancellor SMVDU; Co-Patron Kumud Ranjan Jha, Dean FoE SMVDU, Guest of Honor Prof. Phalguni Gupta, Vice Chancellor GLA University, General Chair Dr. Baijnath Kaushik, Coordinator Dr. Ajay Kaul and Dr. Sakshi Arora. The inaugural session commenced with Dr. Ajay Kaul, Associate Professor, SoCSE, extending a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, along with faculty members, resource persons, and students. The Vice Chancellor SMVDU expressed his gratitude towards the Higher Edu-



cation Department Govt of J&K UT for funding of "High End Computing AI and Deep Learning Lab". Prof. Phalguni Gupta, Vice Chancellor GLA University flagged off the keynote session with an Introduction to Neural Networks focusing on the basics of Convolutional Networks. His expertise was very valuable to all the participants. The conference is dedicated to addressing the latest developments in computing, communications and cyber security on a global scale. By bringing together experts from these areas, the conference seeks to foster discussions on cutting-edge research and innovations. In the afternoon session,

the delegates presented the papers to the session chair. The coordinator also extended his sincere appreciation to all the resource persons Dr. Manju Khari, Professor JNU and Dr. Puneet Goyal, Assistant Professor IIT Ropar. The coordinator also appreciated the organizing Secretaries—Dr. Akshma Chadha, Dr. Yusera Farooq Khan, Abhigya Mahajan, Tavneet, Subha. The volunteers Pushpesh, Rhythm, Shashwat, Tushar, Rajat, Hridayanshu, Vanshika, Subhag, Achyut, Rudraksh, Rudra for their support in this International Conference on Computing, Communication and Cyber Security (IC4S'05)

## Phia Foundation through HDFC Bank Parivartan, Unveil Project-HIMALAYA: Transforming Agricultural Practices in Leh Ladakh



JI NEWS SERVICE  
LEH, 29/02/2024

In a groundbreaking initiative, the Phia Foundation, with support from HDFC Bank Parivartan, has launched Project-HIMALAYA in Ladakh with a one day Training cum exposure tour to and the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR).

This transformative project aims to revolutionize agricultural practices in Leh Ladakh, fostering sustainable farming techniques and economic empowerment.

86 enthusiastic farmers from project villages within Kharu, Thiksey, and Chuchot blocks participated in the training exposure tour.

The training session was a resounding success, providing farmers with invaluable knowledge on

organic cultivation, innovative vegetable farming techniques, and value chain development for milk and vegetables.

Technical experts from DIHAR shared their expertise, leaving farmers inspired and empowered to implement diverse farming techniques. The feedback from participants expressed immense satisfaction with the training program, highlighting confidence in significantly boosting farm income over the next three years.

Mohd Ali, Project Manager at Phia Foundation, commented, "This initiative signifies a remarkable collaboration between Phia Foundation, HDFC Bank Parivartan, and DIHAR to uplift the agricultural landscape of Leh Ladakh. By harnessing the power of knowledge-sharing and innovative farming practices, we are not

only enhancing the livelihoods of our farmers but also fostering sustainable development within the region."

Project-HIMALAYA represents a holistic approach to rural development, emphasizing community empowerment and environmental sustainability. Through the formation of producer groups and the adoption of modern agricultural techniques, the project aims to create a ripple effect, catalyzing socio-economic progress across the region.

As this journey unfolds, the initiative implemented by Phia Foundation and supported by HDFC Parivartan remains committed to nurturing a thriving agricultural ecosystem in Leh, empowering farmers to realize their full potential and cultivate a brighter future for generations to come.

## Passion Unleashed: Pir Panjal Volleyball League for Girls

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SAMOTE : 29 FEB 2024

The positive impact that sports can have for the empowerment of girls have been acknowledged for decades. Participation in sports can break gender stereotypes, improve girl's and women self-esteem and contribute to the development of leadership and strategic thinking skill.

The same was witnessed during the conduct of Pir Panjal Volleyball League organised by Indian Army at Samote, Rajouri with effect from 27 Feb 2024. This two day sporting event was a landmark step in empowering young girls to build a career in sports.

The event witnessed huge resident crowd who



cheered for all the participating teams displaying great enthusiasm & sportsmanship.

In the nail-biting final match girls of Budhal

Cooperative School emerged victorious and rightful owner of the ornate trophy and accolades by beating JNV, Kotranka team.

## Youth need to become entrepreneurs by acquiring different skills: Malhotra



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Rakesh Malhotra inaugurates a mobile service center in Akhnoor market. Akhnoor. Rakesh Malhotra, Managing Director and former councillor of Shub Tilak Multi Specialty Hospital, Akhnoor, today inaugurated the Mobile Mechanics Service Center in Akhnoor market. This will be the first of its kind service center in Akhnoor region where hardware, software and chip based mobile issues will be fixed. While inaugurating the service centre, Rakesh Malhotra was accompanied by former NAP Chairman DN Abrol and dignitar-

ies. Rakesh Malhotra congratulated Vishal Sharma, owner of Mobile Mechanics, for the new venture. He said Vishal Sharma is a certified professional who has received training in Delhi, Bhopal and other states. He said that today the youth should become entrepreneurs like Vishal so that they can provide employment to themselves as well as other youth. Rakesh Malhotra appealed to the youth of the area to learn various skills to become self-employed. He requested Vishal Sharma to provide training to the local youth in this area so that they can become a source of income for their families.

## Indian Army inaugurates Open-Air Gym in Vill Garadh for community fitness



JI NEWS SERVICE  
KHOUR, FEB 29

The Indian Army, in a bid to promote health and fitness among the residents of Garadh Village, has inaugurated an open-air gymnasium. This initiative aims to provide the local community with access to modern fitness equipment and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The open-air gym, located in the heart of Garadh Village, is equipped with a range of state-of-the-art exercise machines and facilities. The gym is designed to cater to people of all ages and fitness levels, offering a variety of workouts and training programs.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, senior Army official said, "We are delighted to inaugu-

rate this open-air gym in Garadh Village. It is our hope that this facility will encourage the residents to prioritize their health and well-being. Regular exercise is essential for maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and we believe that this gym will provide the community with the necessary resources to achieve their fitness goals."

The open-air gym is part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to promote health and fitness in rural areas. The gym will be open to all residents of Garadh Village.

The Indian Army is committed to supporting the health and well-being of the local community and looks forward to seeing the positive impact of the open-air gym on the residents of Garadh Village.

## Sculptor Ganesh Sharma Honoured as "Peacemakers in the World" by UNESCO, UNICEF

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 29

Ganesh Kumar Sharma well known eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed sculptor, son of the soil, has been honoured / recognized as "Peacemakers in the World" by the administration of the "Global Peace Coalition", the administration of the "UNESCO" and the management of the "Croatian University of Zagreb" for World Peace makers.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma honoured / recognized as World Peacemakers in the field of art and culture, under the supervision of the, Doctor, Chairman, of the Board of Directors, "Union of Ravdin Lions", Ben Mariam Perfume.

Sculptor Ganesh Sharma is working in the field of

art and culture from more than forty five years and participated in thousands of international art exhibitions / art events organized by international art organizations as well as International art groups, galleries, online as well as physically in India and abroad.

Ganesh Sharma has been awarded / honoured from so many art organizations, at State, National and International levels. He has organized about 30 solo shows of his art works, online and offline in India and abroad. His art works are in permanent collections in so many art galleries in India and abroad.

Presently residing at Hiranagar and participating regularly in major international art exhibition / events.

## Secy DMRRR conducts mega public outreach camp in Khoon block

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 29

Secretary Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Anil Koul, today convened public outreach programme at Sundla panchayat during his extensive tour to Khoon block.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh, DDC members, Amit Sharma and Jasvir Singh along with various district and block level officers besides former PRI representatives and locals participated in the program.

The participants highlighted their issues and concerns including filling of vacant posts in educational institutions, black-topping of roads, early completion of health and wellness buildings, staff shortage in government schools, construction of government buildings for Anganwadi centers, acute shortage of drinking water in Babey village, upgrading



Government High School to Higher Secondary School, installation of hand pumps, speedy completion of PMGSY roads, coverage of left out beneficiaries under PMAY, opening of a bank branch at Dhema and water pipe leakage in several areas.

Responding to the demands and grievances of the public, Secretary assured them that their issues would be prioritized for redressal, while issuing

on the spot directions to the concerned officers for addressing the same.

Secretary had an exclusive interaction with the attendees during the darbar, promptly resolving many issues and providing clear directions for the remaining concerns.

Anil Koul also inspected the stalls established, on the occasion, by different government departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, Animal and

Sheep Husbandry to raise awareness among the common masses regarding their schemes. He interacted with the staff members and beneficiaries of various schemes and had a detailed review of implementation of these schemes besides seeking feedback from the beneficiaries.

Later, Secretary handed over power tiller machines and distributed Ayushman Bharat Sehat cards among the beneficiaries.

## Webinar on Changing Dynamics in Health, Education Sectors held at Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 29

In an insightful event, a pivotal webinar shedding light on the evolving landscape of the health and education sectors in India was held here today.

The webinar was attended by DY. CMO, Dr. Balbir Singh, staff of the health department, education department, and other departments besides the students. Many others joined through the virtual mode.

The webinar delved into critical discussions aimed at understanding the dynamic shifts impacting these vital sectors.

Led by Dr. Amirullah Khan, a 1993 Batch IAS Officer, joined virtually as the Guest speaker. Dr. Amirullah is among the top economists of the country and has served as senior advisor and strategic head at Bill & Gates foundation. He has also worked with World Bank, IMF, USAID, Planning commission and its new



Avtar Niti Ayog on education and health related issues. The guest speaker shared valuable insights on the importance of proper nutrition, enrollment of students in education (especially in the 6-14 age group), and other related important aspects in detail.

A special Question & Answers session was also conducted after the webinar in which many listeners like Dr. Arif, Isha Atri (Student 3rd

Sem), Dr. Wajid Kalam, Tanveer Ahmed Zargar, Rashid Doolwal, Ziyama Khawaja, Abroo Wajid, Nitin Tiwari and others put up their questions before the guest and got their answers appropriately. The event aimed to foster dialogue and explore innovative solutions to address emerging challenges.

The session ended with a vote of thanks by Patron of Lyceum Study Group Arif Mir.

## GDC Ramgarh organises Seminar on Voter Awareness

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 29

Government Degree College Ramgarh on Thursday organised a Seminar on Voter Awareness under the aegis of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Program). The program was organised under the guidance and supervision of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra. The motive of this event was to educate the students about the importance of their participation in the elections.

The Seminar was organised by the Department of Political Science and the resource person was Dr. Shivali Choudhary. She spoke on the theme "Chunav ka Parv, Desh Ka Garv". An interactive session followed wherein she highlighted the Importance of Voting and said that the Right to Vote is a constitutional right and it is guaranteed under Article 326.

## Delegation from J&K SDD participates in International Conference at Bharat Tex Expo-2024, New Delhi

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

A delegation from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Sericulture Development Department (SDD), headed by Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat participated in International Conference on 'Global Scenario and Sustainable Solutions in Silk Industry' held at Bharat Tex Expo 2024 in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Sericulture J&K said that these kinds of events provide a plethora of opportunities for business and manufacturers to gain global visibility and publicity among the focused audience and expand their customer base across the globe.

During the occasion, one of the Automatic Reeling unit holders M/S Bombyx Mori, Khanmoh,



Srinagar, Kashmir participating in the event, showcased his stall of silk products. He informed that his unit produces 20 MT Silk yarn for weaving of quality silk cloths and expressed his optimism that by virtue of these events the business gets the opportunity

to conduct transactions on B2B platforms to widen and expand the area of network in contemporary global business scenarios.

The National and international delegations from across the country and the world actively took part in the Expo, besides, the

Unit holders from different parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir showcased their stalls to highlight the diversity and potential of the Silk Industry.

The participation of the J&K Sericulture Development Department in this global event reflects the commitment to explore sustainable solutions and foster collaboration for the growth and development of the silk industry.

Director Sericulture J&K while expressing his views, underscored the significance of such Expos and their positive impact on the silk industry, and said that the Department of Sericulture is actively considering organizing similar Expos in Jammu and Kashmir which will certainly act as a catalyst for the revival and growth of the Silk Industry in the region.

During the occasion, the Director Sericulture further emphasized that strenuous efforts are being made to revive the Sericulture industry in J&K

Distinguished personalities present on the occasion included Dr. H. Kinoshita, Consulting Engineer (Silk Reeling Technology) from Japan; Dr. Chyuki Takabayashi, Director of Okaya Silk Museum, Okaya, Japan; Dr. Rangam Rajkhowa, Associate Professor at the Institute for Frontier Materials, Deakin University, Australia; and Dr. G Hariraj, Scientist -D (Retd.) from CSFRI, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Bengaluru. These eminent individuals shared their valuable insights and expertise, contributing to the overall success and knowledge-sharing atmosphere of the conference.

## DDC Reasi flags off Run for Fun to promote anti-Drug abuse campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, FEBRUARY 29

General Zorawar Singh Degree College Reasi, in collaboration with District Youth Sports and Services Reasi and Education Department, organized /Run for Fun against Narcotics with the slogan Say No to Drugs, at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium Reasi.

The event aimed to not only promote health and fitness among the youth but also to provide a platform for students to showcase their athletic abilities and sportsmanship.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students in the schools and colleges, who joined the run with great energy and zeal, making it a spirited affair.

The Youth Conclave Run for Fun was flagged



off by the District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan. Speaking on the occasion, DDC Reasi highlighted the grave issue of drug abuse among the youth. He emphasized the need for parents to be vigilant and monitor their children's activities to ensure they stay away from drugs, as drug abuse can severely hamper the future of the youth.

DDC Mahajan urged all students to actively participate in sports activities, stating that sports can play a pivotal role in keeping the youth away from drugs. He also com-

mended the efforts of the district administration and the Police Department in their relentless pursuit to make Reasi a drug-free district.

Furthermore, DDC Vishesh Mahajan urged all eligible students to cast their votes in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election, emphasizing the importance of a strong government for the betterment of society. District Youth Services and Sports officer Tarseem Singh, Principal Degree College Parbinder Kour, Principal GGHSS Sushma Mawa, Teachers and students were present on the occasion.

## 12 Govt educational institutions in Poonch get Smart Classroom facility

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 29

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary on Thursday inaugurated Smart Classroom facility in 12 Government educational institutions across Poonch District.

Provided with hi-tech digital tools, the facility was established in Girls G&B Hostel Poonch, Boys G&B Hostel Poonch, Girls Pahari Hostel Poonch, Boys Pahari Hostel Poonch Parisha Child Care, Palash Child Care, KGBV-Balakote, KGBV-Saral, KGBV-Mendhar, Eklavya-Mendhar, KGBV - Loran and KGBV-Suranokote

Indus Towers Limited, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program - Saksham aided these institutions.

The program, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner - Poonch, aims to provide the students an opportunity to learn digital and IT skills as well as enable the educators to effectively integrate digi-



tal tools into their teaching methodologies, making learning more engaging and efficient.

Aligned with Gol's Digital India initiative, the program aims to provide school children with additional opportunities to engage with the content alongside their peers and teachers.

With the support of NIIT Foundation, a teacher-led

smart classroom has been equipped with a computer, LED smart TV, printer, and an android box containing digital learning resources. The project will also help enhance the capabilities of the instructors to teach digital literacy by providing counseling, training, and certification.

Deputy Commissioner - Poonch said, "We are happy to state

that the education in these schools will now incorporate new technologies, taking the learning models into higher level for students and enabling the capacity of teachers to deliver the best-in-class through digital medium of education. We appreciate the efforts taken by Indus Towers in remodeling the government schools with smart classroom program."

Harvinder Singh, Circle CEO, Upper North, Indus Towers said, "Indus Towers is actively involved in a range of CSR initiatives with a specific focus on education and skill development. Recognizing the pivotal role of education, digital and creative literacy are key in shaping our nation's future and we are committed to empowering students with an all-encompassing digital learning solution designed to improve the teaching-learning process."

## Div Com calls for promotion of Suchetgarh to attract maximum Tourist footfall



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

Divisional commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting to discuss the promotional plan to attract maximum tourist footfall to Suchetgarh Border.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, CEO Jammu Smart City Limited, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Jammu, Senior Officials of BSF, Executing Agencies and other concerned

departments.

The Divisional Commissioner asked the Tourism department to launch a sustained publicity campaign to promote the Beating Retreat ceremony to be held four days a week at Octroi post Suchetgarh. He directed CEO Jammu Smart City Limited to designate buses for the tourists to reach Suchetgarh for witnessing the Beating Retreat ceremony.

Directions were issued to the Chief Engineer PWD for early completion

of upgradation work on the road to Suchetgarh. He was further asked to prepare a Master-plan for developing parking space and seating facility for tourists at the Octroi Post.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the arrangements put in place for the forthcoming festival of Shivratri in Jammu.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officers to launch a sanitation and cleanliness drive around the temples,

especially where a large number of devotees are expected to pay their obeisance. He also asked them to put in place proper arrangements of sanitation, power, water and health facilities for KPs.

Director floriculture was asked to ensure availability of flowers to be offered in temples by the devotees on the auspicious festival of Shivratri.

Directions were also issued for fixing and keeping a check on the prices of essential items.