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Govt grants 3-day leave to Migrant, PM Package employees for Mahashivratri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 1

Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday granted 3-day special leave to Jammu based migrant and PM Package employees working in Kashmir in view of Mahashivratri.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency the special casual leave will be granted to the employees on 7, 9 and 11 of this month.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of three days Special Casual Leave on 7th, 9th and 11th March in favour of Jammu based Migrant and PM Package employees working Kashmir Valley, who desire to celebrate 'Mahashivratri' with their families at Jammu," reads the order. KNO

Dr Abdul Rouf Bhat assigned charge of Project Director J&K AIDS Control Society

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 1

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday assigned the charge of the post of Project Director AIDS Control Society to deputy director health Dr Abdul Rouf Bhat.

In an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, it is hereby ordered that Dr. Abdul Rouf Bhat, Deputy Director Health Services, Kashmir, shall look after the charge of the post of Project Director, AIDS Control Society, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

"The arrangement in respect of the doctor is made purely on temporary basis and subject to the outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before the Court(s) of law and shall not confer any right upon the doctor to claim preferential treatment at the time of regularization/ placement/promotion which shall be made strictly in accordance with the rules," reads the order. KNO

JKDMA issues avalanche warning for nine districts

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 1

Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Friday issued an avalanche warning in the higher reaches of nine districts in the Union Territory during the next 24 hours, officials said.

An avalanche with "medium danger" level is likely to occur above 2200 metres over Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara districts of North Kashmir and in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district in the next 24 hours.

A similar warning has also been issued for the people living above 2200 metres over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi districts

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LG chairs high-level meeting on Budgetary Expenditure



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a review meeting on Budgetary Expenditure in the UT of Jammu Kashmir, at Civil Secretariat on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Forests; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Administrative Secretaries

and senior officials.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the department-wise progress achieved in the Financial Year 2023-24 and called upon the officials for 100% utilization of funds available under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Capex.

It is heartening to see that capital expenditure has achieved 102 percent growth in 2023-24 as compared to 2018-19. We have also registered an impressive increase in Excise

and other Tax & non-tax Revenue. These are the indicators of a streamlined financial prudence system in place in the Union Territory, he said

"J&K is touching greater heights today as the focus on massive infrastructure development is towards meeting the aspirations of people and building Aatm-Nirbhar J&K," the Lt Governor further added.

He asked the Administrative Secretaries

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Lt Governor addresses inaugural ceremony of industrial unit of Bloomtix Industries Pvt Ltd

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the inaugural ceremony of the industrial unit of Bloomtix Industries Private Limited.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Bloomtix Industries for starting the production within one year.

He reiterated the commitment of the UT administration to provide a vibrant environment for the growth of industrial sector in Jammu Kashmir.

"Progressive reforms for ease of doing business, revolutionary new industrial development



scheme, transparent land allotment policy, best Incentives, Return On Investment (ROI), affordable electricity for units and low crime rate have made J&K the preferred

destination for the investors," he said.

The Lt Governor further added that the compliance burden has been reduced to facilitate the ease of doing business.

Today we can fulfil the 70% land need of the industries. Earlier, availability of land was an issue, but now we are making dedicated

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Both approved in 2019: AIIMS Jammu operational; Northern Command Chief assesses security situation on LoC

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 1

Two highly-anticipated All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) projects were approved simultaneously for Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. While the operations at AIIMS Jammu have started following its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, the AIIMS project in Awantipora is lagging far behind completion, with approximately 45-50 percent of the work still pending.

According to details obtained by the news agency, the deadline for

AIIMS Awantipora's completion is January 2025, yet a lot of work remains unfinished.

Officials informed KNO that the deadline for the completion of AIIMS Awantipora is January 2025, but nearly half of the work remains unfinished.

"It seems the AIIMS Awantipora won't be completed soon. If the government wants to complete this ambitious project on time, then there is a need to work in double shifts," they said, adding, "Over the past five years, only around 50 percent of the AIIMS Awantipora project has been completed. The

authorities have a daunting task of finishing the remaining work within the next 11 months."

Locals from Awantipora and neighbouring areas have urged the government to expedite the project's completion by December to alleviate their suffering due to the lack of treatment options for various diseases.

Expressing disappointment over the unequal progress, locals said both projects should have been completed simultaneously.

"The people of Kashmir are suffering more for the want of treatments

as compared to Jammu who have easy options to visit the AIIMS Delhi," the locals said, adding that the government should have given priority to AIIMS Awantipora.

Meanwhile, officials working on the AIIMS Awantipora project said the work is going in full swing and will be completed by January 2025. However, they said the project faced various challenges, including legal disputes over land acquisition, the aftermath of Article 370 abrogation, issues with nearby military installations, adverse

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JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 1

Army Northern Command Commander, Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, conducted a comprehensive review of operational readiness and security conditions in the hinterland during his visit to the Pir Panjal region on Thursday, marking the second day of his tour.

He also visited National Rifles formations and the Romeo Force Headquarters in Palma. Earlier, on the first day of his visit, he inspected Line of Control (LoC) structures in

Rajouri and Poonch.

According to the reports received by the news agency, during his interactions with the troops, Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar not only assessed the overall situation along the LoC but also delved into the security dynamics of the hinterland.

In addition to the forward areas, he closely examined the security arrangements in the hinterland, in collaboration with White Knight Corps Commander Lieutenant General Naveen Sachdeva.

The Army Commander

paid a visit to Rashtriya Rifles formations, which operate under the auspices of the Counter Insurgency Force (CIF)-Romeo. This marked Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar's inaugural visit to the Pir Panjal region after assuming the role of Army Commander, Northern Command.

During his interactions, he emphasized the imperative of enhanced coordination among various security agencies to foster stronger ties with the local populace and thwart the nefarious intentions of adversaries. KNO

'400 plus for Modi' is common people's demand: Dr Jitendra

AGENCIES
JAUNPUR (UP), MAR 1

"400 plus for Modi" is common people's demand, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said.

It is not only the BJP worker appealing for 400 plus mandate, but the common citizen of India who wants a third term for Narendra Modi to lead India in the Amritkaal, he said.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy



and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh was interacting with the media on the sidelines of a meeting with party workers in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh.

In the last two terms Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the tallest leader today, his word is heard

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

J&K's International Border records 40 homestays, offers zero line view to visitors

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 1

In a bid to boost tourism along the International Border (IB), 40 homestays have been identified, providing tourists with a unique opportunity to witness farming activities on the zero line and experience life near the border firsthand.

This initiative, aimed at promoting border tourism, is set to redefine the tourism landscape in the region.

According to the reports received by the news agency, under the joint collaboration between the

Samba District Skill Committee and the School of Business Studies of the Central University, young entrepreneurs will receive specialized training to enhance their skills and manage homestays efficiently.

A formal agreement was signed between University Vice Chancellor Professor Sanjeev Jain and Samba District Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma to kickstart this initiative.

The homestays, designed in a bunker-like fashion, offer tourists not only a comfortable stay but also a chance to immerse themselves in

the local culture and lifestyle. Additionally, plans are underway to establish libraries and gyms in Ramgarh and transform community bunkers into model bunkers in Samba, further enhancing the tourism experience.

The initiative has sparked enthusiasm among border residents, particularly young entrepreneurs, who are now embracing the opportunity to capitalize on the burgeoning tourism potential of the region. With the support of both the Central and Union Territory administrations, the homestay scheme is

gaining momentum, with tangible benefits already beginning to emerge.

Speaking about the initiative, Chamliyal resident Des Raj expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fostering peace along the border, which has paved the way for economic opportunities and tourism development. He noted that the cessation of cross-border shelling has instilled a sense of security among villagers, opening up new avenues for growth.

The locals also highlighted the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Tourism deptt working on renewed plan to make J&K a world famous tourist destination

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

In a meeting today called to take a peek into the renewed tourism development plan by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, several new innovative steps were highlighted by the concerned department to make J&K the most popular tourist destination in the country.

Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal elucidated several aspects of this strat-



egy under development for the cognizance of the Chief Secretary.

During this meeting it was made out that the Department is in a process

of working out different progressive

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Higher reaches of Jammu experienced fresh Snowfall; Rains in plains

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

The high altitude areas of Jammu region recorded fresh snowfall, while the plains including the winter capital city were lashed by rains on Friday, resulting in appreciable drop in the mercury, officials said.

The strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained open for one-way traffic despite rains, a landslide blocked Batote-Kishtwar highway near Pakki Hatti, the offi-

cials said.

They said the winter vacation in schools, which were supposed to open in the winter zone of Jammu region including Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban on March 1, was extended by two days in view of the prediction of heavy snowfall and avalanche warnings.

"In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of students, Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh has directed the closure of all educational

institutions, both government and private, for two days across the district.

"However, the practical examinations will be conducted as per schedule," Doda cluster head of schools Nazir Ahmed said.

He said the classwork in all the schools of winter zone of Jammu province was supposed to resume from March 1 after two-and-a-half month winter vacation, but the schools will now reopen on March 4.

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PMAY-Urban empowers 591 homeless in District Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 01

In the heart of District Ramban, three vibrant municipalities are witnessing a remarkable transformation through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U). As many as 591 eligible families, spanning across the Municipal towns of Ramban, Banihal, and Batote have released the dream of owning a house.

Under the visionary leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary, the PMAY-U scheme has transcended mere housing provisions and has become a symbol of empowerment and dignity for the community.

In Ramban Municipal



Council alone, 115 families are already relishing the comfort of their completed homes, while 158 others have been granted the privilege of a PMAY-U house and the rest are in different stages of construction.

Likewise, in Banihal and Batote Municipal Committees, 247 and 186 families respectively have been bestowed with the promise of a brighter future through PMAY-U. The tireless efforts of the local municipalities have enabled 139 families in Banihal and 87 families

across the nation, who have found solace and sanctuary in the PMAY-U initiative. From urban landscapes to rural vistas, the PMAY scheme stands as a testament to the government's unwavering dedication to uplifting the lives of its citizens.

As the sun sets over the picturesque landscapes of Ramban, Banihal, and Batote, it illuminates not just the newly constructed houses, but also the bright hopes and aspirations of the families who now call them home. Through PMAY-U, dreams have been realized, and futures have been secured, paving the way for a more inclusive and prosperous society.

The gratitude expressed by the beneficiaries echoes the sentiment of millions

Mir from Ward No-05 Hollan, MC Banihal, and Pritam Singh, from Ward No-1, Bass Mohalla near Rehamat Masjid, MC Ramban, recounted their poignant journeys of transitioning from houselessness to homeownership. Reflecting on their past experiences, they vividly recalled the hardships endured during rainy days and the harsh summer and winter seasons in their previous accommodations. With heartfelt gratitude, they thanked the PM for bestowing upon them not just a PMAY-U house, but dignity, social security, and safety.

They affectionately refer to their newfound homes as 'Sapno ka Ghar', symbolizing the realization of their dreams.

Jt. Directorate of Information Kashmir condoles demise of Ex. Deputy Director, Gh. Rasool Badana

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 1

The Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir Friday condoled the demise of Ex. Deputy Director Information, Gh. Rasool Badana (Azad) who breathed his last in Srinagar after prolonged illness.

Gh. Rasool Badana hailing from Hachmarg Chowkibal in Kupwara district was also a noted scholar, prominent fiction writer of Urdu and Gojri languages.

In this connection, a condolence meeting was chaired by Jt. Director Information Kashmir, M Aslam wherein he lauded the role of the ex. Officer of the department.

The Joint Director in his address expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise and offered sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Deputy Director Information (PR), Cultural Officer and other officers and officials also participated in the condolence meeting, expressing deep anguish over the demise.

Meanwhile, a similar condolence meet was held at District Information Centre Kupwara, wherein Officers/officials paid heartfelt tribute to the departed soul and prayed for strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

DC Doda reviews arrangements for month of Ramazan

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 1

Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh along with ADC, Sudarshan Kumar led a comprehensive meeting with stakeholder departments and non-official committees to review arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Ramazan.



The meeting stressed on strengthening essential services such as drinking water, power supply, security, traffic management, issue of stray animals, cleanliness, availability of essential commodities and market monitoring.

The DC instructed the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department to take measures to maintain supply of potable water, while the Power Development Department (PDD) was tasked with providing uninterrupted electricity.

The Police authorities were tasked to maintain necessary vigil and Security arrangements.

The ARTO was asked to regulate traffic management. MC Doda and Bhaderwah were directed to maintain hygiene in and around the Town and the CA&FCS department for ensuring the availability of essential commodities at government-approved rates. ADC Kumar stressed on the importance of collaboration among departments to minimize inconvenience to the public.

He highlighted the importance of ongoing mechanisms, such as the formation of supervisory squads and monitoring committees to ensure compliance with regulations. Additionally, departments were directed to address specific concerns raised during the meeting such as maintaining uniform rates etc.

The meeting was attended by district officers, representatives of line departments, members of the Seerat Committee Doda, members of the Butcher Association, Chicken Seller Association, President Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Doda and President of Vegetable Seller Association. Additionally, police officers and SDMs also participated virtually in the meeting.

Director Animal Husbandry kick-starts 4th round of FMD Vaccination

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MARCH 1

In a significant move towards bolstering animal health and welfare, the Director Animal Husbandry, Purnima Mittal today kick-started the 4th round of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination campaign from Bijbehara.

Additionally, marking a milestone in veterinary infrastructure development, the Director laid the foundation stone for the Sub District Veterinary Hospital in Bijbehara.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that the initiative underscores the commitment of the Department of Animal Husbandry towards ensuring the health and well-being of livestock, an integral aspect of agricultural sustainability and rural livelihoods.



By initiating the fourth round of FMD vaccination, the department aims to mitigate the spread of this highly contagious disease among the livestock population, thereby safeguarding the interests of farmers and enhancing the productivity of the livestock sector.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Sub District Veterinary Hospital in Bijbehara signifies a concerted effort towards strengthening veterinary healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level.

This hospital is poised to become a vital hub for providing quality healthcare services to animals, offering diagnostic, treatment, and preventive care facilities to the

stock owners in the region.

Director expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, including government authorities, veterinary professionals, and local communities, for their unwavering support and collaboration in realizing these initiatives.

She reiterated the department's commitment to promoting animal welfare and enhancing the socio-economic well-being of rural communities through effective veterinary services and infrastructure development.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Anantnag, Javid Mohi ud Din Zargar and other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

District Veterinary Hospital in Bijbehara signifies a concerted effort towards strengthening veterinary healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level.

This hospital is poised to become a vital hub for providing quality healthcare services to animals, offering diagnostic, treatment, and preventive care facilities to the

Silk Mark Expo-2024 takes off at Kala Kendra Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 1

Silk Mark Organization of India, an initiative of Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India today started its distinctive Silk Mark Expo 2024 here in the Kala Kendra.

Scheduled to continue till March 8, 2024, the expo will be open to all from morning 11:00 am till evening 8:00 pm during this period.

This expo has around 20 stalls put up by Authorised Users of Silk Mark from all over India covering 08-10 states representing approximately 12 silk weaving clusters.

It has diversified silk products like Tassar Silk sarees with fancy designs having embroidery with contrast color, Kantha work, Silk bags, Shirts, Dhotis, Blouses and Garments apart from traditional Kanjivaram, Banarasi, Pochampally, Murchidabad, Mysore Silk, Uppada, Paithani, sarees.

The Expo offers a great chance for those looking to purchase pure silk for ensuing weddings in the family, upcoming special occasions and festivals or regular use.

The Silk Mark Expo 2024, Jammu was inaugurated by Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, Director, Sericulture Development Department (SDD), Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir in the august presence of Dr. N.K Bhatia, Director, CSR&TI, Pampore, K. S. Gopal, CEO, SMOI, Bengaluru and other scientists and staff of Central Silk Board and Sericulture Development Department today here at Kala Kendra.

The Silk Mark Organization has invited all the silk lovers of Jammu to visit the Silk Mark Expo 2024 Jammu to experience the Fabulous World of 100% Pure Silks and encourage the weavers and artisans from across India.

Silk Mark Organization of India, an initiative of Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India organizes Silk Mark Expos all over the country to ensure the discerning silk loving consumers get an opportunity to see and buy 100% pure silk products from across India. These expos also provide a platform to the genuine Weavers, Co-operatives, Societies, Women Entrepreneurs, Traders, etc. to showcase and sell their products to consumers who understand the value of pure silk.

Div Com chairs Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board Meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 1



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, who is also the Chairman of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, on Friday chaired the meeting of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board and reviewed the arrangements for Maha Shivratri Mela to be organized being held at the Shrine.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi (VC SSKSB), Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai, SSP Reasi, Mohita Sharma, officers of SSKSB, PDD, PWD, besides members of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Professor Chandar Mouli Raina, Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner sought the details of the development of Shri Shiv

Khori Shrine and proposed works for the same.

The Div Com was apprised on the comparative figures of the number of devotees arrived in the previous years, activities proposed for development of the Shrine, details of developmental works which are under execution via a PowerPoint presentation. The Div Com was also apprised on the new initiatives by SSKSB for providing better facilities to yatriks and the proposed activities for forthcoming MahaShivratri Mela.

Reviewing the arrangements for the MahaShivratri Mela, the Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioner Reasi and SSP Reasi for providing the best facilities for a memorable spiritual experience for the devotees at the Shrine.

He further asked CEO SMVDU for extending support and assistance to the SSKSB by providing wide publicity to the Maha Shivratri Mela through flex and video messages at Katra.

SSP Reasi was directed to start comprehensive planning for security arrangements and queue management during the Mela on the auspicious festival of MahaShivratri. Directions were also issued to rope in all stakeholders to make best arrangements for the devotees and smooth conduct of the MahaShivratri Mela at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine, Ransoo, Reasi.

CEO reviews Lok Sabha Election-2024 preparedness in Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MARCH 1

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today visited Baramulla and chaired a comprehensive meeting of officers at Dak Bunglow here to review the preparation for Lok Sabha Election 2024 in I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency to ensure smooth, free and fair conduct of the said election.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman; SSP Baramulla, SSP Kupwara, SSP Bandipora, SPs, Deputy Election Officers, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) of all assembly constituencies, election officials from all the three districts and other concerned officers.

It is worth mentioning here that the I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency consists of all the Assembly constituencies of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora Districts and two Assembly constituen-

cies of Budgam district.

During the meeting, the CEO was comprehensively briefed by the DCs, who are also District Election Officers (DEOs) of respective districts, regarding the various arrangements implemented by the administration to facilitate the smooth conduct of the electoral process within the parliamentary constituency of I-Baramulla.

Among other facets, the discussion encompassed the meticulous implementation of the electoral roll process, assessment of logistical requirements, manpower management plan, risk management plan, transportation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), polling staff and security personnel, implementation of robust security arrangements both in plains and border areas.

The meeting further deliberated on allocation of sufficient Human Resources, implementation of the SVEEP plan at booth level, formulation of a comprehensive material management plan, efficient and secure route mapping, and the develop-

ment of an extensive training program tailored for Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), and designated nodal officers to ensure extensive preparation for the elections.

Speaking during the meeting, the CEO directed the DEOs, AROs, AEROs and all the stakeholders involved in the conduct of election to create a conducive environment and ensure all necessary measures are taken to encourage and facilitate widespread participation from the community in the electoral process.

The CEO instructed the DEOs to establish robust control rooms in their respective districts to monitor various aspects of the election process, including tracking EVM-carrying vehicles, communication from polling stations, monitoring print and social media while acting as point of contact in case of any emergencies during the elections.

To maximize public participation in the electoral process, Pole instructed the AROs for the imple-

mentation of widespread awareness campaigns at the booth level by engaging BLOs, sports personalities, government employees, youth icons, influencers, and by organizing sports events, rallies, competitions, door-to-door campaigns etc.

Meanwhile, the CEO underscored the importance of guaranteeing Adequate Minimum Facilities (AMF) for the polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the election day and instructed the appointed Welfare Officers to ensure availability of clean washrooms, drinking water, first aid, and electricity, at their designated camping areas for their comfort and well-being while fulfilling their duties during the elections. Later, the CEO, accompanied by DC Baramulla, Minga Sherpa and other officers visited the warehouses where the EVMs for the conduct of Lok Sabha Elections are housed securely, ensuring strict adherence to the guidelines set forth by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

DIPR condoles demise of former Dy Dir G.R Badana

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 1

The employees of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) have condoled the demise of former Deputy Director, Information, Ghulam Rasool Badana (Azad), who passed away after brief illness.

In a condolence meeting held in this regard, the

employees remembered the outstanding services of the officer to this department and the literary landscape and who actively made an impact for the growth of department.

The officials of the DIPR paid their rich tributes to the officer, prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength for bereaved family members

to bear this loss.

Notably, late G.R Badana was a noted Urdu and Gojri scholar and writer. He was also the member of Jammu and Kashmir Information Gazetted service and served the department in various capacities from Information Officer, PRO Raj Bhawan, Deputy Director-Publications and other assignments.

DC Budgam initiates beautification project at heritage Syed Ali Aali Balkhi Shrine Pakherpora



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today paid visit to Heritage Swami Nand Lal Ashram Temple at Hushroo Chadoora and the heritage Shrine of Syed Ali Balkhi at Pakherpora in Charar-i-Sharief.

On the occasion, the DC laid the foundation stone for different development and upgradation works at both the heritage places.

During his visit to Ashram, the DC laid founda-

tion for multipurpose community hall at the heritage Swami Nandlalji Ashram and also reviewed progress of ongoing works near the Astana Aaliya Hushroo. He stated that interior development and improvement work near Aastana-e-Aaliya shall also be taken up for execution in a week's time.

Later, the DC also paid a visit to the heritage shrine of Syed Ali Aali Balkhi Pakherpora where he initiated Phase-1 beautification project for the heritage shrine.

He said that the dam-

aged devri stones and patches shall be replaced with new stones to not only smoothen the surface level but also to maintain the aesthetic and heritage view of the Shrine surroundings.

He instructed for carrying out the pathway repairing works in an expedited manner to facilitate hassle-free passage to devotees.

The DC was accompanied by CPO, SDM, Ex. Engineer REW, R&B, BDOs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers and officials.

Preparedness for Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign reviewed in District Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 1

The preparatory meeting for Pulse polio Immunization campaign was held across various zones in the jurisdiction of all Poshan Projects in District Doda.

The Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign is scheduled to commence on March 3, 2024 under the direct supervision of S. District Programme Officer Paramjeet Singh.

An extensive exercise was conducted to ensure effective execution of the campaign.

The field functionaries were sensitized about their individual role and assigned duties to conduct awareness among the public. The objective is to ensure that no eligible child is left without receiving the polio vaccine. Supervisors of concerned zones were specifically directed to closely monitor and liaise with Medical Department functionaries to ensure the success of the Pulse Polio campaign.

District Programme Officer S. Paramjeet Singh emphasized the importance of thorough preparation and coordination among all stakeholders involved in the campaign. By sensitizing field functionaries and closely monitoring their activities, the campaign aims to achieve maximum coverage and eliminate any gaps in immunization efforts. The collaborative efforts between Poshan Projects Doda and the Medical Department are crucial in making the Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign a success.

District Advisory Committee reviews implementation of PC&PNDT Act in Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 1

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, on Friday chaired the District Advisory Committee meeting to evaluate the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act and the Clinical Establishment Registration & Regulation Act, 2010.

The meeting was held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh, DIO Udhampur Rajinder Kumar Digra and other officers besides District Advisory Committee members.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the current operational status of ultrasound clinics in the district.

Dr. Manhas briefed the chair about the clinic registration process, norms, and procedures for cancellation in cases of misuse, emphasizing the need to improve the sex ratio in the district, which is below the national average.

After thorough discussion, the DC directed the concerned authorities to conduct surprise inspections of these centers to prevent illegal practices of sex determination and female foeticide. The CMO was tasked with organizing awareness and sensitization sessions/camps at the block level, in collaboration with BMOs, to educate people on women-related issues. Additionally, the DC instructed the CMO to conduct special camps in Anganwadi

Centers on Nourishment Day to address women's health-related issues.

Necessary measures for strict and robust monitoring of drug addiction centers to prevent misuse for spreading drug addiction were also emphasized. The DC sought active support from NGOs to sensitize the public on various issues and assist in spreading various initiatives of the District Administration.

The CMO was instructed to grant provisional registration to clinical establishments upon fulfilling necessary formalities. CMO was further tasked with conducting inspections of both registered and unregistered clinical establishments and imposing fines and penalties on any defaulters as outlined in the Clinical Establishment Act.

The project will focus on skill development training on papier machie craft and its value addition enabling the members to set up their own enterprise.

Speaking on the occasion, DGM NABARD said that LEDP is a focused training programme which provides end to end support to SHG members thus enabling them to take up income generating activity for livelihood. The programme involves intensive training and

GCW Udhampur Students embark on Study visit to SKUAST-Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 01

A group of Students of Government College for Women, Udhampur undertook a study visit to SKUAST-Jammu, where they were exposed to the latest scientific advancements in mushroom Biology.

The visit was organized by JKSTIC, Udhampur in collaboration with IIC, GCW Udhampur and held under the guidance of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and Dr. Anil Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture.

The event was coordinated by Shruti Khanna, District Coordinator from JKSTIC, Udhampur and Dr. Sachin Gupta from SKUAST-Jammu.

In his address, Dr. Ravinder Singh, Coordinator, Campus visit Committee, Faculty of



Agriculture briefed the students about various activities and academic programmes of the University and motivated them to become future agri-preneurs. The students visited Mushroom and Apiculture units of the University. In the mushroom unit, the students learnt about various types of mushrooms including the medicinal mushrooms, their round the year cultivation and nutritional importance. Dr. Moni Gupta gave a detailed presentation about the benefits of mushroom consumption and the biochemical compounds present in them. During their visit to the Apiculture Unit, the students got exposure about the benefits of beekeeping as a source of income generation and about the various products besides honey that are produced by honey bee. It was a first time eye opener exposure of the students to the latest advancements in entrepreneurship opportunities in Agriculture and allied fields.

AHD organises series of awareness camps across Ramban



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 1

The Animal Husbandry Department Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, on Friday conducted a series of awareness camps in Magarkoot, Ukhral, Sumber and Kunfer area of the district.

The primary objective of these camps was to educate farmers about different departmental schemes such as IDDS, IPDP, HADP and IFFD.

Additionally, the importance of vaccination and deworming in controlling animal diseases was emphasized by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons (VAS). The sessions

featured insights from progressive farmers who shared their firsthand experiences as beneficiaries of government-sponsored schemes, highlighting the positive impact on their livelihoods.

Under the leadership of CAHO Ramban, Dr. Suhail Kawoosa the program was efficiently conducted with Dr. Azhar at Ukhral, Dr. Parvaiz at Magarkoot, Dr. Mehrajuddin at Sumber, and Dr. Zahid at Kunfer overseeing the proceedings.

The CAHO said that these awareness camps play a vital role in disseminating knowledge, empowering farmers, and promoting sustainable practices in Animal Husbandry.

NABARD launches Livelihood Enterprise Programme on Papier Mâché in Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 1

NABARD has launched 15 days Livelihood Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP) for 90 females from various SHGs in Pahloo area of Kulgam district.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy General Manager NABARD, Surinder Singh in presence of District Development Manager (DDM) NABARD, Rouf Zargar and Lead District Manager, Parvez Rashid.

The project will focus on skill development training on papier machie craft and its value addition enabling the members to set up their own enterprise.

Speaking on the occasion, DGM NABARD said that LEDP is a focused training programme which provides end to end support to SHG members thus enabling them to take up income generating activity for livelihood. The programme involves intensive training and



handholding on various aspects, including understanding market, potential mapping and ultimately fine-tuning skills and entrepreneurship to manage the enterprise.

The programme is supported by NABARD and implemented through the NGO VOSEEP by engaging master trainers and subject craft experts from the field. The training will cover all the aspects of papier machie production, design, prototypes

and sessions on marketing, informed DDM NABARD. He informed that the programme shall be held in 03 batches and all the equipment and training material shall be provided free of cost under the project. The trainees would also be deputed to exposure visits to successful units in Srinagar for learning experience.

Pertinently, NABARD has been support-

6 Private tour operators allotted seats for Haj-2024 in Kashmir

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 1

The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India has allotted seats to six HGOs (Private Tour Operators) in Kashmir for registration Haj-2024 after they were found eligible. This was stated as per communication OM No.Haj-15/28/2022-HAJ-MoMA dated: 29-02-2024 of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India.

For the information of the public in general and aspiring Haj Pilgrims of Haj-2024 in particular, the names of these HGOs (Private Tour Operators) are hereunder.

M/s Sahar Tours and Travels, Sulaiman Complex, Dalgate; File No. JKO2487024 has been allotted 50 seats under category II.

M/s Universe Travel Corporation, Dr. Ali Jan Complex, M.A.

Road, Srinagar; File No. JKO2527224 has been allotted a seat quota of 50 under category II.

M/s Labaika Haj & Umrah Services, 2nd Floor, MS Shopping Mall, Residency Road, Sgr; File No. JKO2544624 has been allotted 50 seats under category II.

M/s Al Ghazali Tour & Travels, Madina Chowk, Gawkadal, Sgr, File No. JKO2456124 has been allotted 50 seats under category II.

M/s Fly High Tours and Travels, Mir, Complex, S.K. Colony, Anantnag; File No. JKO2459024 has been allotted a seat quota of 50, under category II.

M/s Al Hayat Hajj and Umrah Travel Services, Crescent City Centre, 1st Floor, Main Road, Budgam; File No. JKO2449924 has been allotted a quota of 50 seats under category II.

DDC inaugurates one-day Job Fair at Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 01

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today inaugurated a one-day job fair in the presence of Joint Director Employment, Kashmir, Zeenat Ara at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Ganderbal.

The job fair, organized by the District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) was aimed to provide a convenient platform for educated unemployed youth and job seekers to interact with potential employers for placement opportunities.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response from job seekers and unemployed youth from the district.

During the inauguration, the DDC engaged with employers and job seekers, providing guidance for the best possible outcomes from such events.

Furthermore, certificates were presented to beneficiaries of recently concluded skill development courses, and appointment letters were handed over to selected



job seekers on the spot. Additionally, three Mumkin beneficiaries were provided with keys of small commercial vehicles, further empowering them towards self-employment.

Certificates of appreciation were also presented to individuals who made valuable contributions to the success of the program.

The job fair facilitated the participation of over 300 job seekers and beneficiaries, with 53 job seekers being shortlisted on the spot by 09 different employers, and 04 candidates securing immediate employment opportunities.

Skill training institutes such as RSETI, NRLM,

and Himayat had installed stalls for on-the-spot registration and awareness. Moreover, District Industries Centre and Handicrafts/Handloom Ganderbal registered candidates for self-employment opportunities.

Dr. Shabir, a certified motivational speaker and Technical Officer from the Sheep Husbandry Department, delivered an inspiring speech to motivate participants under the event.

The event was also attended by LDM Ganderbal, Shabir Ahmad; Director RSETI Urfana; AD Handicrafts/Handloom Ganderbal, Vice Principal GBHSS Duderhama, along with officials/officers from DE&CC Ganderbal.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	251-Elect-T-69/2023-24
Name of work	Electrical Work in c/w Provision of 24x7 emergency power supply in existing tunnels in JAT-SVDK section.
App. Cost (in Rs.)	94,00,462.37
Earnest Money (in Rs.)	1,88,000.00
Completion Period	06 Months
Opening of tender	21.03.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.
Website Particulars	www.ireps.gov.in

251-Elect-T.N. Notice No. 54-Elect/2023-24 Dated:- 01.03.2024 679/24
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Arrangements for Sub Inspector Finance Department exams discussed in Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 1

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas today presided over a comprehensive meeting in the DC office complex to review the preparedness for the upcoming Sub Inspector Finance Department Examination. The meeting aimed to ensure meticulous planning for a fair and seamless examination process.

The examination, being conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, is scheduled to take place on March 10 across 15 centers in the district. A total of 6,320 candidates are expected to appear in the exam.

The DC assigned duties to the stakeholder departments, emphasizing the importance of transparent smooth examination. The RTO, DTO, Police and Principals of educational institutions were given specific instructions regarding different arrangements.

To ensure compre-



hensive monitoring, the Information Department was specifically directed to engage videographers who will oversee and record the examination proceedings, ensuring adherence to established protocols.

Magistrates, Center Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and Observers received comprehensive briefings on their role and responsibilities during the critical recruitment process from the DC.

Logistics plans for the examination day were thoroughly reviewed by the DC.

To facilitate candidates, the DC emphasized making adequate arrange-

ments for drinking water and toilet facilities.

The DC called for the implementation of fool-proof arrangements to avoid any malpractices during the examination. He also stressed the need to ensure adherence to Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines for fair and smooth conduct of the examination.

The DC emphasized the significance of coordinated efforts from various departments to guarantee the integrity and fairness of the examination.

Other key attendees at the meeting included SSP Kathua, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal, ADC Ranjit Singh, RTO Kathua, and Designated Magistrates.

AHD Bandipora launches Round-4th of FMD Vaccination under NADCP

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 1

Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) Bandipora today launched the 4th Round of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive at Veterinary Complex Bandipora.

The vaccination drive was launched under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Bandipora, Dr G.A.Lone.

District Nodal Officer NADCP, Dr Bilal Ahmad, Block Veterinary Officer Bandipora, Dr Khalid Hamid; Officer Incharge ABS, Dr Tajamul Husain; Technical officer/PEO Bandipora, Dr Saim Qureshi; Veterinary Assistant Surgeons of Block Bandipora and Pashu



Sakhis of the district attended the programme. During the event, CAHO highlighted the importance of the Vaccination program for maintaining healthy livestock in the district. He asked the field staff to work in coordination with the teams and team heads at respective block levels and ensure 100 percent completion of Vaccination targets within two months.

It was also decided that in case of any issue with regard to tagging, mapping, user ID, password, uploading under NDLM, the team heads will remain in close liaison with District Nodal Officer of Central team (Control Room) at CAHO office Bandipora, who will ensure quick disposal of the queries.

DC Budgam initiates beautification project at heritage Syed Ali Aali Balkhi Shrine Pakherpora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today paid visit to Heritage Swami Nand Lal Ashram Temple at Hushroo Chadoora and the heritage Shrine of Syed Aali Balkhi at Pakherpora in Charar-i-Sharief.

On the occasion, the DC laid the foundation stone for different development and upgradation works at both the heritage places.

During his visit to Ashram, the DC laid

foundation for multi-purpose community hall at the heritage Swami Nandlalji Ashram and also reviewed progress of ongoing works near the Astana Aaliya Hushroo. He stated that interior development and improvement work near Aastana-e-Aaliya shall also be taken up for execution in a week's time.

Later, the DC also paid a visit to the heritage shrine of Syed Ali Aali Balkhi Pakherpora where he initiated Phase-I beautification project for the heritage shrine.

He said that the damaged devri stones and patches shall be replaced with new stones to not only smoothen the surface level but also to maintain the aesthetic and heritage view of the Shrine surroundings.

He instructed for carrying out the pathway repairing works in an expedited manner to facilitate hassle-free passage to devotees.

The DC was accompanied by CPO, SDM, Ex. Engineer REW, R&B, BDOs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers and officials.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024: DC Pulwama inspect Dispatch & Receipt/ Strong Rooms

JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MARCH 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, who is also the District Election Officer today conducted a thorough inspection of Dispatch and Receipt/Strong rooms of district in anticipation of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Dr. Basharat accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama meticulously reviewed the security arrangements and logistical protocols of the dispatch and receipt/strong rooms. These rooms play a crucial role in safeguarding election materials and ballots, ensuring the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

The officers also addressed traffic management strategies and the deployment of polling parties. Recognizing the significance of efficient traffic management, particularly on Election Day, they emphasized the importance of coordina-



tion and preparedness to minimize disruptions and ensure smooth transportation for polling parties and voters alike.

Dr. Basharat reiterated the administration's unwavering commitment to conducting free, fair, and secure elections. He emphasized the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and election staff, in upholding the democratic values and principles of the electoral process.

SSP reaffirmed the police department's dedication to maintaining law and order during the electoral period, emphasizing the deployment of adequate security personnel and resources to safeguard election-related activities.

The joint inspection underscores the proactive approach of the district administration and law enforcement agencies in ensuring the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections in Pulwama district.

Chairman, Sikh Coordination Committee J&K calls on LG



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 1

S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, Sikh Coordination Committee Jammu Kashmir called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan today.

He drew the attention of the Lt Governor towards the issue of the inclusion of the Pahari-speaking residents of hilly belt of Tehsil Rohama and Dangi-wacha (Rafiabad) of District Baramulla, belonging to Sikh Community in the

Pahari Ethnic group. S. Ajit Singh also put forth various welfare issues of the Sikh community including ownership of Gurudwara properties/chunk of land by District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committees as per the Sikh Gurdwaras and Religious Endowment Act 1973. The Lt Governor assured the Chairman, Sikh Coordination Committee J&K of the appropriate action on the issues projected by him during the interaction.

Lok Sabha Election, 2024: DC Shopian visits locations of proposed Strong Rooms & Dispatch Centres

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MARCH 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb, who is also District Election Officer (DEO) today, visited various election facilities to review security preparedness and other facilities, keeping in view the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, 2024.

The DC was accompanied by SSP Shopian, Tanushree.

On the occasion, the Dy. District Election Officer, Shopian, Jahangir Ahmed briefed the DC about the election-related material and other important issues as well.

The officers and officials of the election department were also present.

Lok Sabha Election-2024: Training for Zonal, Sectoral Magistrates held at Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 01

In a run up to Lok Sabha election 2024, the District Administration Bandipora on Friday organised a training programme for zonal and sectoral magistrates at mini secretariat, here. The objective of the programme was to equip zonal and sectoral Magistrates with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively oversee the electoral process during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Padmashri Faisal Ali Dar who is Brand ambassador SVEEP campaign for district Bandipora, Nodal Officer manpower and training, Dr. G. M. Pujoo, Sectoral and Zonal Mag-



istrates, Master Trainer Mohd Iqbal Samoon, Coordinator SVEEP Arsalan Habib, Coordinator Manpower and Trainings Mir Irfan Maqbool and other concerned were present on the occasion. During the programme,

various aspects of Election including roles and responsibilities of sectoral and zonal magistrates, electoral procedures, communication and coordination, ethical conduct and other measures were discussed.

Chairperson, DDC Kulgam distributes Sports Kits among several cricket teams at Block Pombai

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 1

The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parry today facilitated the distribution of sports kits to several cricket teams at Block Pombai.

These kits were acquired under the ADF with an aim to elevate the level of sportsmanship and foster a culture of athleticism within the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairperson said that this significant step underscores their commitment to nurturing talent and promoting

sports at the grassroots level.

The programme was attended by a large number of people from the said areas.

On the occasion, the DDC Chairperson listened to the issues of people patiently and assured of raising the same with concerned quarters for timely redressal.

He also inaugurated a power transformer and dedicated it to the general public.

During his visit, the DDC Chairperson also addressed the large gathering and inspected various DDC/PRI works in the area.

Advocate General Organization condoles demise of Ashok Kumar Parihar, former AAG

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 01

The Law Officers and the staff members of Advocate General Organization, today convened a condolence meeting to pay homage to Ashok Kumar Parihar, Advocate and former Additional Advocate General (AAG), who passed away here yesterday.

Advocate General, D C Raina, and others paid tributes to the departed soul and recalled his services and contribution as Law Officer of the government. They termed the sudden

demise of Ashok Kumar Parihar as unfortunate and tragic which left a void in the world of UT's judicial services.

All the participants including Senior Additional Advocate Generals and other Government Counsels as well as officers and officials of the organization paid rich tributes to the departed soul and prayed for his eternal peace and forbearance to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. They also observed two minutes silence in honour of the departed soul.

DC Kathua discusses emergency preparedness, response plan at DDMA meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 1

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, who is also the chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) today presided over a meeting to deliberate on emergency preparedness and response plan in the event of disasters.

The meeting extensively discussed the role and responsibilities of the stakeholders involved in rescue, relief, and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural disasters, such as earthquakes and landslides, within the district.

The meeting laid special emphasis on strengthening the committees at different levels including District, Tehsil, Block, and Panchayat. Furthermore, all concerned officers were directed to organize periodic mock drills at all levels to assess their operational readiness.

Transportation, technical teams, and medical response were among the important topics discussed during the meeting. A special audio-video presentation was also made by the team of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), showcasing the actual drills and exercises that are undertaken during disasters.

To further assess the preparedness and efficiency of the authorities, a mock drill will be conducted on March 07, where various scenarios will be simulated to test the response capabilities. This meeting and the subsequent mock drill highlight the commitment of the District Disaster Management Authority to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Kathua in the face of any potential disaster.

preparedness and efficiency of the authorities, a mock drill will be conducted on March 07, where various scenarios will be simulated to test the response capabilities.

This meeting and the subsequent mock drill highlight the commitment of the District Disaster Management Authority to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Kathua in the face of any potential disaster.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of involving youngsters in these mock drills. He recognized their potential as active catalysts in mobilizing human resources during exigencies. By actively engaging the youth in these drills, the DC aimed to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively respond to emergencies. Additionally, this initiative helps to instill a sense of responsibility and community participation in the younger generation. By actively involving youngsters, the DC aims to create a culture of preparedness and resilience, ensuring that the district has a capable and proactive manpower to deal with any emergency situation. Through their participation, the youth will play a crucial role in mobilizing resources and providing aid to their fellow community members during times of crisis.

The meeting was attended by officials including RTO, DSP Civil Defense, Tehsildars, CEO, CMO, Coordinator and Volunteers NYK, Secretary Red Cross, DIO, and other members of DDMA.

EDITORIAL

Road safety plans need strict implementation

The surge in fatal road accidents in recent years, despite the implementation of various road safety plans, has had a devastating impact on human lives. In Jammu and Kashmir alone, more than 3,000 road users have lost their lives, and 28,000 have sustained injuries, with many left permanently disabled, in over 21,000 accidents since 2020. These alarming statistics cast serious doubts on the effectiveness of current safety measures. According to data from the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, there has been a consistent increase in both fatalities and accidents across the region. Despite significant investments in road infrastructure and safety initiatives, the lack of coordination among different agencies and inadequate planning continue to undermine these efforts. As of October this year, over 5,300 road accidents have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir, with the twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar recording the highest number of mishaps. In these cities alone, over 700 deaths and more than 7,000 injuries have been reported. Recognizing the severity of the situation, a Division Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the formation of an Expert Committee to investigate the causes of frequent accidents on key highways. The recent tragedy near Assar in Doda district, where 39 people lost their lives and 17 were injured, highlights the urgent need for action. The committee recommended several measures, including the installation of CCTVs at vulnerable spots, strict speed limits for heavy and light vehicles, suspension of licenses for violators, and regular vehicle checks. Scrapping old vehicles, a major contributor to accidents, was also suggested. It is imperative that these recommendations are implemented rigorously to prevent further loss of life. The much-hyped 'J&K Road Safety Policy' (RSP) that had committed "to provide safe and secure roads by taking appropriate steps to reduce the fatalities" has apparently remained on papers only. Approved in 2016, the basic objective of policy was "to reduce fatalities and injuries in road mishaps by 2020 considering 2016 as the base year". The RSP had envisaged that all existing and new roads would be equipped with standard traffic control features like signs, marking, crash barriers, delineators etc, besides initiatives would be taken to upgrade major roads in the state and classify important roads as state highways. There is a need to formulate some concrete measures to save the lives of the people who died while driving on killer roads in the Chenab region. It is expected that the recent decisions to install crash barriers and other measures would help in bringing down the number of fatal road mishaps in Jammu and Kashmir. The need of the hour is to inculcate awareness among motorists to ensure a reduction in fatal road mishaps. The government should also take strict measures against the menace of overloading and rash driving, which seem to be the major causes for fatal road mishaps in the hilly and tough terrains of Jammu and Kashmir.

Protests stress need for climate-smart agriculture

KOTA SRIRAJ

The ongoing farmer protests that began on February 13th have already claimed five lives and resulted in Delhi bearing the brunt of economic losses to the tune of 300 crores as nearly five lakh traders who did regular business in Delhi from adjoining states suspended their businesses given the unrest. Since 2020, farmer protests have unfortunately assumed a regular frequency not only in Delhi and Punjab but across India. According to consultancy firm Verisk Maplecroft estimates, India has accounted for the biggest global share of farmer protests in the past three years. The farmer protests 2.0 again highlight the fault lines in India's agricultural viability and this time the farmers are demanding conclusive government action. The protesting farmers want a firm minimum support price (MSP) that is backed by a legal guarantee for all crops. Another demand is to implement the recommendations of the MS Swaminathan committee on agriculture which will enable increasing MSP to 50 per cent above the weighted average cost of production. Other demands include better sugar cane prices and a pension of Rs 10,000 a month for every farmer above the age of 60. The government is engaged in feverish negotiations with the farmer unions to break

the impasse. However, a breakthrough achieved may be short-lived, as the government would have only successfully attended to the symptoms and not to the problem itself. India's agri sector contributes only 15 per cent to the GDP but engages 58 per cent workforce. This lopsided proportion is made worse by the fact that 85 per cent of the farmers operate in less than five acres of land half of which in many parts of India may be dry and barren. This translates to low yields, low earnings and high debt and when combined with increasing challenges of climate change on agriculture, the problem assumes a much larger and ominous proportion. Climate change whether it is unseasonal rain, hailstorms, floods, or drought, India's agri-sector has seen it all. The lingering uncertainty due to environmental issues keeps the farmers on their toes leading to income insecurity and mounting debt. An example is the casualty in the current protests of a marginal farmer whose 8-acre agricultural land had 8 lacs of debt on it, making it virtually impossible for the farmer to pay it off and continue with another crop. Climate change-driven issues such as these have made the farmers demand an MSP law to act as a safety net for the time, effort and risk they invest in farming. The perennial shortage of water resources is the first symptom of climate change's impact on



the agri sector. According to Rainfed Atlas, it is estimated that between 52% and 55% of the farming community have no means of irrigation and are dependent on rain-fed agriculture. But due to climate change temperatures are spiralling and rainfall has become more erratic, with longer dry spells resulting in droughts and shorter periods of more intense rainfall causing floods. This results in a domino effect whereby crop yield is adversely impacted while high CO2 levels cause low nutritional value of crops. This translates to low marketability of the produce therefore causing financial distress and rising debt for the farmers. The impact of climate change on the agri-sector and the sluggish government response in managing its fallout has come as a double whammy for the farmer community. The lack of robust insulation measures that seek to protect the sector from the vagaries of climate extremes is now having a telling impact on productivity. The cereal crop productivity of most cereals is slated to decrease due to an increase in tem-

perature and CO2 levels, and the decrease in water availability. According to estimates, there will be a projected loss of 10-40% in crop production by 2100 if no climate change adaptation measures are taken. A one-degree Celsius increase in temperature may reduce yields of major food crops by 3-7%. Given these troubling projections, the government must extricate the agri-sector from the clutches of climate change. This alone can ensure the best interests of farmers, safeguard national food security and protect livelihoods. An audit of the agri-sector at the micro-level is essential to identify and remove processes that are detrimental to natural resources. This will ensure weeding out of inefficient water-intensive practices and allow optimal use of the precious resource. Similarly, best farming practices need to be promoted across the sector to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation in the sector. For example, the raised-bed planting of wheat in the Indo-Gangetic plains enables 20-25% savings in irrigation water and also helps in reduced herbicide use. Measures

such as these combined with water accounting methodologies can build long-term sustainability, efficiency and resilience of the agri-sector besides immensely benefiting the marginal farmers. The government must also initiate climate-smart agriculture strategies which aim at adapting agriculture to climate change. This can be done by implementing technologies that help farmers plan crops by considering the climate specifics of their area through easy-to-use apps on their smartphones. This can be done by prioritising botanical research to develop crop species that are more tolerant to water deficiencies and extreme temperatures. Additionally, ecologists can evolve effective soil management methods that reduce the depletion of topsoil, promote carbon sequestration, and reduce chemical application. Advanced farm irrigation technologies can also help proper water saturation levels in the soil, prevent water flooding, and help avoid top-soil runoff. The government must focus on specially developed software solutions for agriculture that can help in real-time monitoring of the crops and allow farmers to accurately calculate the required inputs, which reduces costs in the short term and protects nature in the long term. Technology-assisted cover crops for instance can not only help prevent soil erosion, and promote water retention and

nitrogen fixation but also serve as organic manure for fodder. Smart agri-software can help farmers implement differentiated applications of fertilisers which can help decrease soil pollution and increase crop nutrient levels. The software can also have in-built weather-related tools that provide timely alerts of extremities, elaborate weather forecasts to schedule farming events and enable prediction of general climate change tendencies by analysing historical weather data. Currently, the agri-sector problems and farmer grievances are dealt with on a reactive basis; this is evident in the form of chronic farmer agitations that come back every year. The government must realise that a lasting solution is only possible if actual problems, including the impact of climate change on agriculture, are addressed with the participation of all stakeholders of the sector. The collaboration of farmers, policymakers, environmentalists, botanical scientists and technology experts can help chalk out long-term strategies and solutions and ensure a robust agri-sector that is resilient against climate change onslaughts. Farmer protests are a symptom of climate change's impact on agriculture. Protecting the sector from adverse impacts will automatically ensure farmer well-being and prosperity.

(The author is a policy analyst. The views are personal)

Domestic Politics Amid Global Agenda

KUMARDEP BANERJEE

As elections draw closer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been frequenting India's south more than championing the causes of the global south across available diplomatic platforms. One reason is that his party seems to have a weaker presence down south. Earlier, as a strategic choice, PM Modi chose to inaugurate a Hindu temple in a Muslim country during his last foreign trip in the current tenure. Even as he did so, statements regarding continuity of policies and outlook were subtly delivered when PM Modi confidently told his audience that he already has invitations from several foreign governments for the middle

and latter part of 2024, indicating confidence in his potential third term. A third term for Modi would have wider ramifications for a whole bunch of issues, not to mention foreign policy, given India's rising economic clout and confidence, making it a significant player in global affairs. India is expected to be the third-largest economy after the US and China in PM Modi's next term, which, besides putting a couple of stars on the shoulder, will also mean a heavy lift of responsibilities. One of the significant achievements for Mr. Modi, particularly during his second term, has been uplifting the India-US relationship and situating it in the Indo-Pacific context. While the India-US bilat-

eral is by far at its strongest ever in history, the two nations have managed to work through several plurilateral platforms, the most important being the QUAD (a grouping of the US, India, Australia, and Japan), each having significant stakes and interests in the Indo-Pacific, while also wary of the dragon in the region, never stopping short of using any overt or covert means to push its assertive agenda. While some of the world's finest diplomats, policymakers, and think tanks were deliberating on global issues last week, EAM Jaishankar found some time to speak to a whole bunch of policy strategists on the relevance of QUAD and the way forward. EAM highlighted the changing nature of India's

foreign policy outlook over the last decade when he mentioned "remarkable changes in India's bilateral relationships with its three Quad partners. With the US, we put behind ideological hesitations of history. With Japan, we gave long-standing goodwill much more practical shape. And with Australia, we actually made a real beginning in seriousness." Even though there hasn't been a QUAD leaders summit since May last year, backroom meetings between foreign ministers from the member countries to discuss issues of regional and global importance haven't taken a backseat. Given the political compulsions, it might be difficult for India to host the QUAD leaders summit this year, as it will be too close to the

US elections by the time the new Indian government is in place. However, the significant targets India aims to achieve through the QUAD group, as highlighted by EAM, namely, "it reflects the growth of a multipolar order. Two, it is a post-alliance and post-Cold War thinking. Three, it is against spheres of influence. Four, it expresses the democratizing of the global space and a collaborative, not unilateral, approach. And five, it is a statement that in this day and age, others cannot have a veto on our choices," shall remain in focus. It is this message of continuity of policies that the Indian government is highlighting to the domestic and international audience at a time when instability is the norm for most, includ-

ing powerful nations in the world. India has effectively managed the QUAD as a non-military arrangement, unlike NATO, with shared interests of all members in the region. Mr. Jaishankar highlighted in his address, "Among Quad countries, there is a growing comfort in working with each other given the strong consensus we have in our strategic outlooks. India's bilateral partnerships with each of these three Quad countries have also transformed in recent years." The message is clear: India will continue to push for a multilateral world order with a fair share of voice on international forums.

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

India Inc's new-found liking for no-poach agreements could invite CCI's attention

RAHUL RAI ANICHAM TAMILMANI

India's increasing pace of economic growth is fuelling a war for talent across a range of industries - from IT and ITES, from banking to finance, and from e-commerce to online gaming. The demand and supply mismatch for talent offers an opportunity for employees to seek higher wages by switching jobs. Naturally, employers aren't very enthusiastic about paying higher wages or losing valued employees to rivals. A seemingly innocuous solution has caught their fancy. Employee no-poach pacts, both formal or informal, are finding many takers these days. Some employers are instructing their legal teams to enforce the often ignored 'non-compete' clauses in employment contracts. Others are exploring pacts with their competitors to impose salary caps.

Wage cartels

Reportedly, reports some of the leading Indian private sector banks have reached an informal pact to not poach employees from each other to stem attrition at the junior level. In April 2022, the Government of India issued a notice to Infosys on the enforcement of non-compete clauses in employee contracts restraining them from joining competitor firms within six months of quitting Infosys. More recently, leading esports firms have been contemplating an informal pact capping players' salaries to stem poaching. Each of these attempts by employers to restrain their employees from seeking greener pastures are welfare-reducing. They artificially depress wages. But for the no-poach pacts or agreements capping salaries, wages would reflect the interaction between demand and supply in the marketplace for talent. These types

of agreements or arrangements - formal or informal - have little to no redeeming virtues. They are likely to be viewed as a cartel to fix wages. The Indian competition regulator - the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) cartel enforcement track record is pretty robust but it is yet to initiate an inquiry for cartels in the job (labour) market. Is this likely to change? Globally, competition regulators are showing a renewed interest in employee no-poach, and non-compete agreements. Notable competition/antitrust authorities such as the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice (DoJ) of the United States, the Competition and Markets Authority of the United Kingdom, and the European Commission are actively conducting investigations into potential labour market cartels. For example, US President

Biden expressed his intention to focus on competition in labour markets, among others, through an executive order in July 2021. Not surprisingly, the antitrust division of the DoJ has led criminal indictments in a series of cases of anti-competitive no-poach agreements in the labour market. Across Asia, antitrust/competition authorities in Hong Kong, Japan, and China have demonstrated a clear interest in labour markets, preceding the emergence of the current global trend. While the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has not yet initiated any actions, it closely monitors emerging trends. As the war for talent heats up in India, so will the lure among employers competing for talent to find ways to reduce attrition, while keeping wages low. Doing so though would not be risk-free.

among antitrust regulators towards competition issues in labour markets requires that hiring managers and head-hunters must tread carefully. A wink and a nod are sufficient to prove a cartel. Once the CCI establishes the existence of an agreement to collude, it would be near impossible to show that the cartel had any redeeming virtues. Staying out of no-poach, or similar pacts is indeed the best course of action. Also, sharing commercially sensitive data regarding wages, bonuses, and employment contract terms among companies could potentially spark worries about wage fixing. This exchange of information might lead competitors or employers to reach a mutual understanding regarding their market behaviour and invite the CCI's scrutiny.

Several companies have led the way in devising perfectly legal and win-win solutions for all stakeholders. Their focus on offering internal career opportunities, investment in upskilling their employees, promotions, festival bonuses, quarterly incentives, and ESOP plans are all aimed at stemming the flow of talent to their competitors. These measures may increase the total spend on employees but will help save crores of rupees in a penalty from the CCI.

(Rahul Rai is Partner, and Anicham Tamilmani is Associate, Axiom5 Law Chambers)

Conduct to avoid The renewed interest

Win-win solution No-poach agreements or agreements to cap salaries

Hundreds of people participate in Apni Party's protest rally at Vijaypur



J I NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, MAR 1

Apni Party on Friday took out a massive protest demonstration in Vijaypur town, demanding restoration of statehood and holding of Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hundreds of people, businessmen, ex-PRIs, and prominent people and the Party leaders, who participated in the protest rally, were led by the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh in the town.

The peaceful demonstration was taken out from the market area amid slogans for the restoration of democratic system while the protesters were carrying banners in support of their demands.

As the anger among the people has grown, and the Election Commission of India has yet to take call on the holding of polls in J&K, the Apni Party held the protest to highlight the popular demands of the people who were deprived of their democratic rights and left to the mercy of inefficient and adamant bureaucracy.

"The nationalist people of Jammu and Kashmir have constantly been demanding holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir that

has been snatched from the historic erstwhile state by downgrading it into two Union Territories," said the Former Minister, while addressing a huge protest rally that was taken in the Vijaypur town of Samba District today.

Accompanied by the public representatives of different walks of life, he said that the people have decided to come on the roads so that the Govt and the Election Commission of India could wake up from the deep slumber which has delayed the elections without citing reasons and played with the emotions of the people.

"The people in both the regions of J&K have similar demands to hold elections and restore democracy because the bureaucracy has almost paralyzed the functioning in Govt Departments public interest as the gap between the present regime and the public has widened in an unprecedented manner," he stated while urging the Govt of India for the restoration of statehood.

He further referred to the issues of the Displaced Persons/Refugees who have yet to be granted land rights on the Custodian land even as they have lived there for the last seven decades.

While addressing the protesters, he stated that

the pending demands of the DPs/Refugees should be accepted by granting them proprietary rights on the Custodian land.

He also demanded release of the pending package amount i.e., Rs 25 lakhs for each DP/Refugee family in Jammu and Kashmir that was sanctioned by the then Govt of India.

"Out of total Rs 25 lakhs, the Govt of India has only released Rs 5.5 lakhs for the DPs/Refugees whereas the pending amount has not been released," he said, while asking the Govt to consider the pending demands of the DPs/Refugees who were forced to abandon their houses and resettle in the allotted lands in border areas of Jammu region.

He also demanded an employment package and special recruitment for the border residents of the International Border as well as the Line of Control.

"The youth of border areas should be recruited in the Indian Army, paramilitary and J&K Police in a special on the spot recruitment by the authorities so that they do not get indulged in anti-social activities or drug addiction that has destroyed families in the border belt," he added. He said that the farmers issues like waiving off the KCC loan, canal water up to the tail-end villages along Interna-

tional Border, round the close electricity should be supplied to the farmers so that they can operate their water pumps to irrigate their fields. The prominent people in the protest also addressed the hundreds of people who had gathered to express their resentment against the Election Commission of India for delaying the polls, and not declaring the assembly elections.

District President, Raman Thappa, SC State President, Bodh Raj Bhagat, OBC State President Bhagat Ram, Apni Trade Union J&K Vice President, Ajaz Kazmi, SC State General Secretary, Capt. Joginder Lal, J&K Vice President Youth Wing, Vishal Nariana, Provincial President, Jammu, SC Wing, Lovely Mangol, District President, Samba, Legal Cell, Sahil Bharti, J&K Apni Party's Transport Provincial President, Tirath Singh, Senior Vice President Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Vice President of Women Wing, Neelam, Provincial Secretaries of Women Wing, Sheetal Sharma and Shikha Bhardwaj, District President Youth Wing, Samba, Mangat Ram, District President Youth Urban, Jammu, Shubam Choudhary and others were part of the protest demonstration.

Sham Sharma unveils BJP Office at Marh for Jammu-Reasi Constituency in preparation for LS polls

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Today, State Vice President of BJP and Former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma, alongside District President Omi Khajuria, unveiled the BJP Office for the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency election office at Karloop (Marh). This strategic move comes in anticipation of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in 2024.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the endeavor, Sham Lal Sharma emphasized the significance of these election offices in expanding BJP's presence in Jammu and Kashmir. "The opening of election offices is seen as an endeavor by the BJP leadership to expand its outreach in Jammu and Kashmir," stated Sham Lal Sharma. "From today onwards, all the activities for the upcoming Parliamentary



elections will be coordinated through these offices," he added.

Sham Lal Sharma further articulated the party's strong determination for victory in the upcoming elections, declaring, "We have sounded the bugle for a massive election victory." He highlighted the inauguration of election offices for five parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir, including Udhampur, Srinagar, Baramulla, and the Rajouri-Anantnag seats. Sharma emphasized the

party cadre's relentless efforts to fortify the organization and ensure success in the forthcoming elections.

Speaking on the occasion, District President of Jammu North, Omi Khajuria, underscored the party's proactive stance, stating, "We are already in election mode and election offices are open in different places in the parliamentary constituency in different assemblies." Khajuria exuded confidence in BJP's electoral prospects, predicting a resounding

victory. "BJP will win 400 seats in the coming elections, and once again our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will be sworn in," he affirmed. The inauguration of the BJP Office for the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency marks a pivotal moment in the party's preparations for the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections. With unwavering determination and strategic planning, BJP aims to strengthen its presence and secure a decisive victory in the electoral arena.

DPS Kathua Students Recognized at Silver Zone International Olympiad in English Language

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

The exemplary performance of DPS Kathua students in the Silver Zone International Olympiad of English Language has garnered widespread acclaim, showcasing their exceptional linguistic skills and academic prowess on the global stage.

Notably, Nitika Khajuria of Class X secured the distinguished title of State Topper, earning the esteemed Gold Medal of Excellence, while Komal Bandhral of class XII achieved the remarkable feat of State Topper, receiving the Bronze Medal of Excellence.

In addition to the top honors, DPS Kathua students showcased their talent and dedication with



13 students earning the prestigious Gold Medal of Excellence, 11 students securing the Silver Medal of Excellence, and an additional 13 students being awarded the Bronze Medal of Excellence, underscoring the institution's commitment to nurturing excellence in education.

S m t . K a n t a

Andotra, former MLA and Founder Chairperson, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the students, parents, and teachers for their collective effort and dedication in achieving these outstanding results. Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, expressed his appreciation for the victorious students, emphasizing

the importance of participation in Olympiads in enhancing academic skills and fostering a spirit of competitiveness. He also commended Ms. Ruchi Sharma, the Olympiad Incharge and Primary Wing Coordinator, for her invaluable guidance and support.

Another major boost to Aatmnirbharta in defence: Ministry of Defence signs five major capital acquisition contracts worth Rs 39,125.39 crore

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 1

As part of 'Aatmanirbharta in Defence' and to further boost Make-in-India initiative, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth Rs 39,125.39 crore on March 1, 2024 in New Delhi. The Contracts were exchanged in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane, under whose guidance these deals fructified.

Out of the five contracts, one was with M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for procurement of Aero-engines for MiG-29 aircraft, two with M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited for procurement of Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) and procurement of High-Power Radar (HPR) and two with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) for procurement of BrahMos missiles and procurement of Ship borne BrahMos system for the Indian Defence Forces.

These deals will further strengthen indigenous capabilities, save foreign exchange and reduce dependency on Foreign Origin Equipment Manufacturers in future.

The contract for RD-33 Aero Engines for MiG-29 aircraft has been signed with M/s Hindustan Aero-



nautics Limited (HAL) at a cost of Rs 5,249.72 crore. These aeroengines will be produced by the Koraput Division of HAL. These Aero Engines are expected to fulfill the need of Indian Air Force (IAF) to sustain the operational capability of the MiG-29 fleet for the residual service life. The aero-engines will be manufactured under Transfer of Technology (TOT) license from the Russian OEM. The programme will focus on indigenisation of several high value critical components, which would help increase the indigenous content of future Repair and Overhaul (ROH) tasks of RD-33 aero-engines.

The contract for procurement of CIWS has been signed with M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited

at a cost of Rs 7,668.82 crore. CIWS will provide terminal Air Defence to select locations of the country. The project will boost and encourage active participation of Indian aerospace, defence and associated industries including MSMEs. The direct and indirect employment generated by this project would be approximately average of 2,400 persons/year over the period of five years.

The contract for procurement of HPR has also been signed with M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited at a cost of Rs 5,700.13 crore. It will replace existing long-range radars of IAF with modern Active Aperture Phased Array based HPR with advanced surveillance features. It will significantly enhance

the terrestrial Air Defence capabilities of IAF with integration of sophisticated sensors capable of detection of small Radar Cross Section targets. It will boost to indigenous radar manufacturing technology as it would be first of its kind radar built by the private sector in India. The direct and indirect employment generated by this project would be approximately average of 1,000 people/year over the period of five years.

The contract for procurement of BrahMos missiles has been signed with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) at a cost of Rs 19,518.65 crore. These missiles would be utilized to meet combat outfit and training requirements of Indian Navy. This project

is likely to generate employment of nine lakh man-days in Joint Venture entity and around 135 lakh man-days in ancillary industries (including MSMEs) of the country.

The contract for Procurement of Ship borne BrahMos system has also been signed with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) at a cost of Rs 988.07 crore. This system is the Indian Navy's primary weapon for maritime strike operations fitted onboard various frontline warships. The system is capable of hitting land or sea targets from extended ranges with pinpoint accuracy at supersonic speeds. The project is likely to generate employment of around 60,000 man-days over a period of 7-8 years.

Modi govt's empowerment agenda is set to achieve massive victory in upcoming LS polls: Kavinder



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta asserted that the Modi government's empowerment agenda will lead to a landslide victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha Polls. He emphasized the transformative impact of empowerment-focused policies on garnering support and confidence from the electorate, while highlighting the government's unwavering commitment to uplifting marginalized sections and fostering inclusive development.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader highlighted the government's achievements in providing 10 per cent reservation to Economically Weaker Sections, constructing 3.5 crore houses for the poor, providing sanitation facilities to 11.72 crore households, pro-

viding 9.6 crore gas connections, free treatment to more than 60 crore persons and free rations to more than 80 crore people of the country.

Kavinder contrasted these achievements with the Congress party's record of corruption prior to 2014 and claimed that the BJP has set benchmarks by introducing welfare schemes and creating infrastructure like IITs, IIMs, and AIIMS in the past ten years.

Highlighting the government's commitment to the poor, Kavinder asserted that the BJP has given security and dig-

nity to the poor, lifting 27 per cent citizens out of poverty. He further stated that while the Congress party made empty promises for four generations with the slogan "Garibi Hatao", the BJP has actually worked towards eradicating poverty.

Gupta stated that the people of the country have made up their minds to support Prime Minister Modi, and he expressed confidence that the BJP will form the next government at the Centre by winning 400 plus seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

NOTICE

I, Balbir Singh S/o Jagdev Singh R/o Urkhal, Saruinsar, Teh & Distt. Jammu declare that my wife's name was wrongly written as Sureshta Devi in my daughter's school record instead of her correct name i.e. Surishta Devi which appears in her Aadhaar card and school certificate. Now, I am applying for correction. Objection, if any, maybe conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days.

Col Mahan emphasizes agriculture devp at awareness camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAR 1

In a bid to bolster agricultural awareness and address pressing issues faced by farmers, a district-level Agriculture Awareness Camp was convened by the District Agriculture Department at Village Plakh. Over 200 farmers and members of Self-Help Groups participated in the event.

Retired Colonel Mahan Singh, the esteemed DDC Chairman of Kathua, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Among the distinguished attendees were Murari Dingra, District Agriculture Officer, Ravinder Saini, SMS (SDL), Rohit Billawaria SDO Basohli, Sandeep Andotra HDO Basohli, Capt Ram Rattan, and Usha Thakur, among others.

Participants shed light on critical issues such as the menace posed by monkeys, crop damage caused by wild and stray animals, and the lack of irrigation



facilities. Moreover, beneficiaries of various central schemes including PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, KCC Holders, SHG females, FPO Members, and HADP beneficiaries were present, underscoring the diverse spectrum of stakeholders in agriculture.

Addressing the gathering, Col Mahan Singh underscored the government's commitment to uplifting the farming community in alignment with

Prime Minister Modi's vision of doubling farmers' income. He urged the Agriculture Department staff to assist farmers in identifying their land's potential for specific crop cultivation to maximize yield.

Furthermore, the DDC Chairman stressed the imperative of enhancing irrigation systems and urged district officers to facilitate interested farmers in acquiring agricultural machinery at subsidized

rates. Emphasizing the untapped potential of the region, Col Mahan advocated for the cultivation of millets, citrus fruits, and organic vegetables to harness exponential growth opportunities.

The Agriculture Awareness Camp served as a platform for fruitful discussions and collaborative efforts aimed at empowering farmers and fostering agricultural prosperity in Kathua district.

Billawaria kick starts work of paver tiles, drains at lane near GH Gangyal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

The development work of laying paver tiles and drains was started in the lane adjoining Government Hospital Gangyal located in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency. The former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria kick started the construction work of laying paver tiles and Drains here today. This development work will be done under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Speaking on the occasion, former Deputy Mayor Jammu & senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria said that this development works has been a long pending demand of the locals and now this demand has been fulfilled. He said that the construction of this lane will provide relief from the problem of water logging during the rainy season.



Billawaria said that during his tenure as Deputy Mayor of Jammu, he had put these development works in the pipeline to meet the demands of the people and today the same development works are being started. He said, "I am happy that I am getting the privilege to start the development works that I had planned." He said that during his tenure, he tried to get development work done in every ward of Jammu city so that development could be provided to the people at their doorstep. While addressing the people about the welfare schemes of the Central

Government, Billawaria said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is working on the agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. He said that BJP party workers have always worked actively to solve the problems of the people, that's the reason for the wave of BJP across the country. He said that people have supported that only the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi can fulfill the development agenda and take the country forward. Billawaria further said that this kind of environment has been created in favor of BJP in the country as a

result of the guarantees of the successful Prime Minister Modi being fulfilled. He said that definitely for the third time in the country, the BJP government is going to be formed under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and this time BJP will cross the figure of 400 seats. He said that after the recent rally of PM Narendra Modi in Jammu, the enthusiasm of the workers and people has doubled.

Local people praised former Deputy Mayor and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria for carrying out development work in the area and said that he is always ready for public welfare works. The people of the area also assured full support to BJP in the upcoming elections. Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Rakesh Sangral, Dr Kuldeep Gupta, Sunil Sharma, Mulkh Raj, Om Nath, Punjab Singh and other dignitaries were present.

Awareness Program on Fire Safety organized at CUJ



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 1

Central University of Jammu, Security wing organized an awareness programme on fire safety in the University Campus today. The program conducted a demonstration of Fire Fighting appliances, and Rescue Tools were displayed for the familiarization of the staff and students. The primary aim of this training was to equip the staff with essential skills to effectively tackle fire emergencies at the workplace.

Fire and safety program was organised by the Security Wing under

the visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu. The organiser of the event was Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar Central University of Jammu and coordinated by Security Officer. The training was imparted by Mr. Balwan Singh, Security Officer and Mr. Romi Rajput, Security Inspector on use of fire extinguishers in which Students, NCC boys & girls' cadets, and staff of the University carried out practical use of fire extinguishers. Security officer said that fire safety training can help students and staff to learn

the potential hazards and risks associated with fires and teach them how to prevent and respond in fire emergencies. He discussed how to respond in an emergency situation and how to evacuate the buildings.

The Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu Prof. Sanjeev Jain appreciated the efforts of the Security wing in creating fire safety awareness amongst the University fraternity including students. Prof. Bharat Bhushan, Dr. Ratnesh Yadav, Dr Sushil Sahebrao Kamble, Dr. Amita Gupta graced the event by showing their presence.

Police registers five FIR's against lodge owners at Katra for not installing CCTV cameras

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAR 1

In compliance of District Magistrate Reasi order regarding CCTV Cameras must be installed all Hotels/Lodge, Medical Shops etc. Reasi Police conducted a surprise checking at Katra.

During inspection of Hotel & Lodge, CCTV cameras have not found in 05 lodge. In this regard, five FIR's No. 67/2024, 68/2024, 69/2024, 70/2024 & 71/2024 all U/S 188 IPC registered at P/S Katra, against lodge owners who have not installed CCTV Cameras in their premises despite notification issued by District Magistrate Reasi.

District Magistrate Reasi had directed that CCTV cameras must be installed in all Hotels/Lodge, Medical Shops etc. The whole operation is led by SHO Katra.

Modi Govt's Era a 'Golden Period' for Gujjars, Bakerwals: Vibodh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Describing Narendra Modiji's era as a golden period for Gujjars & Bakerwals, BJP J&K General Secretary & Former Member Legislative Council Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that justice was finally delivered to Gujjars & Bakerwals of J&K after over six decades of Independence. Addressing a workers' meeting of BJP's ST Morcha at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that all political parties fooled Gujjars & Bakerwals for 67 years and blackmailed them for votes. But after taking over as Prime Minister in 2014, Shri Narendra Modi made the welfare of Gujjars & Bakerwals a priority and worked on the ground to change the fate of deprived classes. "Modi's Government gave political reservation to Gujjars & Bakerwals, provided them forest rights, opened Eklavya Model Residential Schools for their educational upliftment, started the celebration of International Gurjar, and also organized Gurjar Mahautsav in India. Modi's Government nomi-



inated Gujar leader Er Ghulam Ali Khatana for Rajya Sabha, which has strengthened them politically, and their voice is being raised in the parliament. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15th November to show respect to legendary tribal freedom fighter, Bhagwan Birsa Munda," said Vibodh. Terming previous governments as anti-Gujjar and Bakerwal, Vibodh said that Gujjars and Bakerwals of Jammu & Kashmir are a pride of India and they have helped the Indian Army in guarding borders. "We salute the Gurjar Tribe for helping the Indian Army in Oper-

ation Sarvanash in the Hill Kaka area of Poonch to eliminate terrorists," he said, adding that the contribution of Gujjars & Bakerwals for the nation was never acknowledged by any government. He strongly asserted that "Modiji gave them respect and dignity, while the Gujjars-Bakerwal Tribe has always loved Modiji and has resolved to support the Modi government on the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat". Encouraging Gujjars & Bakerwal leaders and workers to educate the people about how they were misled by previous Congress, NC, and PDP governments, and how the policies and schemes of the Modi government have transformed their lives, Vibodh urged them to reject attempts by self-centered leaders to sow division along caste lines. Lashing out at some leaders who are hell-bent on dividing people on caste lines, Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that Gujjars, Bakerwals, & Pahari are together and they are

now getting their separate shares, but confusion is deliberately being created by the opposition to further their policy of divide and rule. "Gujjars & Bakerwals must defeat such nefarious designs of self-centered leaders, and they should come forward and support BJP," he added. Meanwhile, State President of BJP's ST Morcha, Roshan Chowdhary, has said that the recent successful public rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Jammu is an eye-opener for the opposition to see how people of the Gujjars & Bakerwal community support BJP. He said that Gujjars & Bakerwals are ready to support BJP in every seat of J&K and ensure Modiji's landslide victory in the upcoming elections. On the occasion, General Secretary of BJP ST Morcha Rayaz Chowdhary thanked Advocate Vibodh Gupta for participating in ST Morcha meetings and assured him that ST Morcha workers will continue its massive outreach program. "Hum Ghar Ghar Jaingey," he said, adding that we must approach people and tell them who is good for them.

Reasi Police organizes Thana Diwas in district Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

As a part of public outreach programme, "Thana Diwas" an initiative of Government of J&K UT to bridge the gap between Police and Public and also to listen and redress the grievances of common masses organised at PP Bhambla, Dera Baba, Kakryal, Dhansal, Shajroo and Malikote by District Police Reasi.

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

During the Programme, participants highlighted various issues of public importance, and they



were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of Civil Administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal. While speaking on the occasion, it was reiterated that policing at grass root level in the Dis-

trict would be revamped to enhance proficiencies of the cops and to develop confidence among the people. SSP Reasi Ms Mohita Sharma IPS further shared that "Community policing is mandatory to boost public confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils"

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

J&K youth in utter frustration, youth festivals, conclaves will not fulfill their aspirations: Rattan Lal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has accused the BJP Govt of landing the youth into utter frustration by following adopting anti youth policies. He said that the said policies are also being followed by the present Union Territory Administration as a result of which the youth of this Union Territory can only see their future plunged into darkness and uncertainty. He expressed this while interacting with JKNC Youth functionaries at Sher-e Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu.

The senior NC leader stated that more than 7 lakh youth are unemployed in J&K today which is a very serious matter. He said that the frustration of the J&K youth can be well gauged from the fact that even the Union Minister stated in the Parliament that there are nearly 13.5 lakh youth population ranging from the age of 17 from 10 years to 80 years old drug addicts in J&K.

Elaborating further he said that more than 25000 trained doctors and 30000 paramedics



in J&K are waiting for employment here while thousands of health institutions including medical colleges, hospitals, dispensaries and health centres are facing shortage of staff thus adversely affecting the health prospects of the people in general. He said that it is really an irony of J&K that despite availability of professionally qualified army of youth they continue to crave for jobs due to UT Administration's callous attitude. He said that nearly 50000 trained technocrats in search of jobs but there is no roadmap to accommodate these youth in govt jobs.

Rattan Lal Gupta reminded that even the Home Minister Amit Shah had committed to bring more industries in J&K to boost not only economy of J&K but also to create more jobs for the unemployed youth of J&K while addressing the parliament on 5-08-2019 but the ground situation reveals that nothing has been done in this regard

so far. He said that the industrial sector is on the verge of closure today for which the Govt is wholly and solely responsible as it is pursuing anti-industries policy.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that the tall claims of signing MoUs worth Rs. 80000 cr continue to remain confined to papers only and it is time for the Administration to issue a white paper revealing how many industries have been established in J&K. He asserted that the fact remains that due to wrong policies of the Govt nobody is ready to come forward for investing in J&K because this Union Territory continues to be marred by instability and uncertain environment amid height of misgovernance. He said that it was during the National Conference regime that Industrial units were established in Samba, Bari Brahmana, Digiana, Kathua, Udhampur and elsewhere. He said that by establishing these industries thousands

of jobs were created and youth adjusted under NC Rule while the job opportunities have got reduced to bare minimum during the incumbent Govt.

The veteran NC leader said that only a popular Govt duly formed by holding Assembly elections can solve the problems of J&K youth as well as other issues confronted today due to misgovernance. He said that time has come for India Bloc to assume power at the Centre to relieve the people from the hollow policies of BJP government. He also mentioned that the people in Jammu and Kashmir have also decided to strengthen and again give a chance to National Conference in J&K in the upcoming Assembly polls to form govt and bring the people out from the clutches of the proxy govt of the BJP.

Those who were present in the meeting included: Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Nitish Gowsami Provincial Secretary Jammu YNC, Zamir Quershi Adv Provincial Secretary Jammu YNC, S. Arunpal Singh Working President NCSU, S. Balbir Singh Advocate and others.

Modi Govt's Era a 'Golden Period' for Gujjars, Bakerwals: Vibodh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Describing Narendra Modi's era as a golden period for Gujjars & Bakerwals, BJP J&K General Secretary & Former Member Legislative Council Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that justice was finally delivered to Gujjars & Bakerwals of J&K after over six decades of Independence. Addressing a workers' meeting of BJP's ST Morcha at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that all political parties fooled Gujjars & Bakerwals for 67 years and blackmailed them for votes. But after taking over as Prime Minister in 2014, Shri Narendra Modi made the welfare of Gujjars & Bakerwals a priority and worked on the ground to change the fate of deprived classes. "Modi's Government gave political reservation to Gujjars & Bakerwals, provided them forest rights, opened Eklavya Model Residential Schools for their educational upliftment, started the celebration of International Gurjar, and also organized Gurjar Mahatsav in India. Modi's Government nominated Gujjari leader Er Ghulam Ali Khatana for Rajya Sabha, which has strengthened



them politically, and their voice is being raised in the parliament. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15th November to show respect to legendary tribal freedom fighter, Bhagwan Birsa Munda," said Vibodh. Terming previous governments as anti-Gujjar and Bakerwal, Vibodh said that Gujjars and Bakerwals of Jammu & Kashmir are a pride of India and they have helped the Indian Army in guarding borders. "We salute the Gujjari Tribe for helping the Indian Army in Operation Sarvanash in the Hill Kaka area of Poonch to eliminate terrorists," he said, adding that the contribution of Gujjars & Bakerwals for the nation was never

acknowledged by any government. He strongly asserted that "Modiji gave them respect and dignity, while the Gujjari-Bakerwal Tribe has always loved Modiji and has resolved to support the Modi government on the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat". Encouraging Gujjari & Bakerwal leaders and workers to educate the people about how they were misled by previous Congress, NC, and PDP governments, and how the policies and schemes of the Modi government have transformed their lives, Vibodh urged them to reject attempts by self-centered leaders to sow division along caste lines. Lashing out at some leaders who are hell-bent on dividing people on caste

lines, Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that Gujjars, Bakerwals, & Pahari are together and they are now getting their separate shares, but confusion is deliberately being created by the opposition to further their policy of divide and rule. "Gujjars & Bakerwals must defeat such nefarious designs of self-centered leaders, and they should come forward and support BJP," he added. Meanwhile, State President of BJP's ST Morcha, Roshan Chowdhary, has said that the recent successful public rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Jammu is an eye-opener for the opposition to see how people of the Gujjari & Bakerwal community support BJP. He said that Gujjars & Bakerwals are ready to support BJP in every seat of J&K and ensure Modiji's landslide victory in the upcoming elections. On the occasion, General Secretary of BJP ST Morcha Rayaz Chowdhary thanked Advocate Vibodh Gupta for participating in ST Morcha meetings and assured him that ST Morcha workers will continue its massive outreach program. "Hum Ghar Ghar Jaingey," he said, adding that we must approach people and tell them who is good for them.

"Meet the Author" Aseer Kishtwari organised by JKAACL



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 1ST MARCH, 2024.

The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), organised Meet-the-Author program at JKAACL premises in Jammu. The series intends to have a direct interaction of the writer with the audience, and these interactions shall aid the exploration of various life aspects and works which acts as a creative inspiration for the author/writer. Under this initiative, every weekend, the JKAACL shall host meet the authors of seven different languages: Urdu, Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Gojri, and Pahari. Today's event was based on Sahitya Akademi Awardee Jenab Wali Mohd Bhat (Asir Kishtwari), former Director General Accounts and Treasury, an eminent Urdu/ Kashmir poet writer.

Wali Mohd Aseer Kishtwari is a renowned name in Kashmiri, Urdu literature and history of Jammu and Kashmir. An iconic figure was born to Kh. Ghulam Qadir Batt Berwari at village Berwar

kishtwar on 2nd of August 1954. Aseer Kashtwari has several books to his credit and is acting as a research guide for the research scholars and other stakeholders. His book "Tareekh-e-Auliya-e-Jammu wa Kashmir", was chosen as the Best Urdu Book of 2015 and received state Award from J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. In the book he has introduced more than 400 Awliyas with their shrines located in different parts of the State including Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and across the Line of Control (LoC) as well. The 848-page book, published in 2013, is an authentic document on Sufism in state of J&K and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). His Kashmiri book "Jamis Manz Kashmiri Zabab-O-Adab (Tawareekh Te Tanqeed) received Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 2020. His other works include Zilla Doda ki Adabi Shinkhat (Literary Identity of Doda District) was published in the year 1993, it carries write ups on the Chenab valley's history, culture and literature. This book contains 495 pages in

which the light has been thrown on local poets and their literary contributions. Other books include Tareekh-i-Ishat-i-Islam, Farsh-e-Gul, Jamme-Subhik Kaeshir Kalamkar, Yaad-e-Nadeem, Safr-e-Harmain, Zikr-O-Fiqr, Jamis-Te-Kashir Manz Kashir Zabban-O-Adab (History & Criticism), Monograph of Nishat Kishtwari, Monograph on Janbaaz Kishwari, Nishat Kishwari (Monography) Jenab Bahir Bhadarwahi, renowned Kashmiri/Urdu Poet presided over the function while Prof. Farooq Fayaz, former HoD History, Kashmir University, prof. Shad Ramzan, Convener, Sahitya Akademi Kashmiri, Prof. Shohib Inayat Malik, HOD Buddhist Studies, Jammu University and Principal IMFA, Jammu shared the presidium along with Sh. Bharat Singh, JKAS, Secretary, JKAACL.

At the outset, Shri Bharat Singh (JKAS), Secretary (JKAACL), gave a heartfelt cordial welcome to everyone. While addressing the audience, he expressed that authors are the face of society.

Police registers five FIR's against lodge owners at Katra for not installing CCTV cameras

JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAR 1

In compliance of District Magistrate Reasi order regarding CCTV Cameras must be installed all Hotels/ Lodge, Medical Shops etc. Reasi Police conducted a surprise checking at Katra. During inspection of Hotel & Lodge, CCTV cameras have not found in 05 lodge. In this regard, five FIR's No. 67/2024, 68/2024, 69/2024, 70/2024 & 71/2024 all U/S 188 IPC registered at P/S Katra, against lodge owners who have not installed CCTV Cameras in their premises despite notification issued by District Magistrate Reasi.

District Magistrate Reasi had directed that CCTV cameras must be installed in all Hotels/Lodge, Medical Shops etc. The whole operation is led by SHO Katra.

Ms Mohita Sharma-IPS, SSP Reasi while sharing the information expressed that Reasi Police is committed to protect the property of citizens & further appealed to the owner of Hotels/ Lodge, Medical Shops of Reasi District to make use of technology & install CCTV cameras in their premises for surveillance on criminal elements in the society.

JKAACL organized Ru - b - Ru with S. Didar Singh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), under the guidance of Shri Bharat Singh (JKAS), Secretary (JKAACL), organised Meet-the-Author at K.L.Saigal Hall Jammu. The series intends to have a direct interaction of the writer with the audience, and these interactions shall aid the exploration of various life aspects and works which acts as a creative inspiration for the author/writer. Today's event featured S. Didar Singh a renowned Punjabi/ Hindi writer, poet. Didar Singh was born on Feb 10th ' 1940 in the family of Sardar Kirpal Singh and Amrit Kour at village Hill Sarung, Tehsil Bagh, District Poonch now in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and is presently residing at Nanak Nagar Jammu.

His grandfather Havaladar Sardar Amir Singh served in Ladakh Scouts in Gilgit before 2nd World War, was assigned some magisterial powers by the then Raja of Poonch and was also offered a chair in Poonch Darbar. His father Sardar Kirpal Singh has served in Indian Army in Artillery Unit and fought 2nd World War in Iraq and Singapore, taken as prisoner of war by Japanese forces and was released after the war was over.

At the outset, Shri Bharat Singh (JKAS), Secretary (JKAACL), gave a heartfelt cordial welcome to everyone especially S.Didar Singh Ji. While addressing the audience, he expressed that it is a priceless opportunity to interact with poet of such a calibre and learn from his literary journeys.

After this Didar Singhji narrated his journey of life. During his study



days, he worked as an electrician and then as a teacher for short time in Punjab. Later on he joined All India Radio Jammu as Hindi programme announcer in 1966. In 1968 he was selected as script writer for Punjabi programmes at the same Station. Then he qualified UPSC and was selected as Programme Executive for All India Radio in June 1977. In 1991, he got promoted as Assistant Station Director and was posted at Dordarshan Kendra Jalandhar where he was promoted as Deputy Director Programmes (DDP)

in 1997 and retired from same post in 1998. During his professional career in AIR, he devised and produced many programmes in Hindi and Punjabi languages for a long time.

Didar Singh had been interested in writing from an early age. But with the passage of time and while being In-charge of literary programmes at different stations of All India Radio, it became his passion. He had been a regular contributor to almost all Punjabi magazines and Newspapers published in India and same journals in Hindi also. He has

also written extensively for Sheeraja Punjabi and Sheeraja Hindi published by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. His other literary pursuits include short stories collections in Punjabi being entitled "PAGDANDIYAN DE BHULEKHE" (1971), "DOOR DI AWAZ" (1979), "INSANIYAT MARI NAHIN" (1978), "DARZWAZE" (1990) and "MANTHAN" (2011) a collection of articles in Punjabi language. At the same time his collection of books in Hindi include "DHUNDHALKE" (1973), "ANKAHI" (1979), "APNE LOG PRAYE LOG" (1996), "PARTEN" (2016) and "JAL BIN KUMABH", a translation of Punjabi novel written by Smt. Chandan Negi.

His noteworthy contributions to Punjabi and Hindi languages have been acknowledged by different Government and Non-Government Organizations from time to time.

He was awarded Best Book Award for "PAGDANDIYAN DE BHULEKHE" in 1973 and "DARZWAZE" in 1992 by J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, honored by All India Radio Jammu on 50th anniversary, All India Radio Jammu and J & K Cultural Academy in 2016 in Jharokha and many Literary and Social Organizations. He is associated with many prominent literary organizations of Jammu like Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti Jammu, Sahit Sangam, Hindi Sahitya Mandal etc.

Dr. Rajvir Singh presented the paper on S.Didar Singh. The dignitaries who shared the presidium included S. Ajeet Singh Mastana, S. Baljeet Raina, S. Popinder Singh . S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi, JKAACL Conducted the Proceedings and presented the vote of thanks.

GDC Nowshera organizes poster making competition



JJ NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, MARI

GDC Nowshera on its third day of Winter Special Camp i.e. 1st March organised a poster making competition on Drug Abuse and Addiction under the banner of 'Nasha Baghao, Desh Bachao' campaign to raise awareness about the critical issue of drug addiction under the supervision of worthy Principal Dr. K. K. Sharma. NSS PO Dr. Sunil Dutt Sharma has also conducted a rally on drug abuse along with their volunteers. The poster making competition aims to confront the stigma surrounding drug addiction and foster empathy and understanding for individuals struggling with substance abuse. Through this medium, students are harnessing their creativity to shed

light on the multifaceted nature of addiction, its impact on individuals and communities, and the importance of access to support and resources. The Students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines have come together to lend their talents to the campaign, contributing original artwork and compelling messaging that reflect their commitment to social change.

From powerful imagery to heartfelt testimonials, each poster serves as a testament to the students' passion for making a difference in their community and beyond. An awareness lecture on the topic 'Adolescent Drug Abuse -Awareness and Prevention' has been delivered by Dr. Ruhi Gupta, HOD Sociology. All the faculty members have participated in the event with zeal and enthusiasm.

My gov't will Uplift, Protect Kashmiri Pandits: Azad

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, visited Jagti township in Nagrota Jammu and interacted with the displaced Kashmiri Pandits to listen their concerns and challenges. Azad pledged to raise various pressing issues faced by the migrants, including enhancing employee security and reinstating free ration & electricity for low-income employees. He reaffirmed his commitment to the settlement of Kashmiri Pandits. He said, "During my tenure as CM, I built these flats, but since then, no government has paid any attention to them. They are suffering. He further said that we provided packages for employment and other essentials during my tenure in the center, advocating strongly for them. However, since then, the central gov't has neglected



these efforts. We were expecting further support packages for the residents. I appeal to the gov't to visit and witness their pain. My gov't will uplift them, will take all necessary steps for their settlement and providing jobs and facilities to those living in these flats. Azad also extended warm greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri. Among others who were present there were R.S.Chib Gen Secretary, Anita Thakur Gen Secretary, Sunita Arora Secretary, Sanjay Dhar President KP Wing, Gourav Chopra Distt President, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary, Charanjeet Singh Publicity Secretary, Gawhar Wani Spokesperson, Daizy Dhar Mahila President, Anjali Pandita Mahila Unit President Jagti, Renu Razdan Mahila Vice President, Naveen Gosani Youth President, Rahul Raina Youth Vice President etc.

Various organizations working for the welfare of the disabled expressed their gratitude to Sheetal Nanda (IAS), Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, for releasing the pending pension of disabled persons, senior citizens and widows. The office bearers of all the organizations also appreciated the valiant efforts of the Social Welfare Department to complete this work within the stipulated period.

Various orgs express gratitude to Sheetal Nanda for releasing pending pension of disables

JJ NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MARCH 1

Issuing a joint statement to the media, officials of various organizations said that a few months ago, a delegation of them including Roshan Bhan, organizer of Disabled Organizations, Sushil Sharma of All Jammu and Kashmir



Disabled Welfare Trust, Umesh Sharma of Disabled Care Foundation and Advocate Ritika Sharma of Beloved Grace Organization met Sheetal Nanda (IAS) Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, in her office at Civil Secretariat and requested her

to release the pending pension and she assured us for the same. We are happy that he fulfilled her assurance within the stipulated time. At the same time, the office bearers of these organizations also appealed to the department for the necessary increase in their pension.

Indian Army has declared result of Akhnoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Army Agniveer Recruitment Rally for male candidates was conducted at Bardal Ground, Akhnoor in Nov 2023. The final merit list as on 22 Feb 2024 has been uploaded on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in website. All candidates whose name has appeared in the merit list are required to report to ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE, BC ROAD, REHARI CHOWK, JAMMU as per their districts with dates mentioned against each. 11 Mar 2024 - Kathua. 12 Mar 2024 - Poonch, Rajouri & Samba. 13 Mar 2024 - Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Reasi & Udhampur. 14 Mar 2024 - Jammu. All Candidates are required to bring their Aadhar Card, All Marksheets in original and mobile phone with number linked with Aadhar card between 0830 AM to 0100 PM for initial briefing with reference to their dispatch procedure.

GDC Marh organises 2-day awareness programme on Drug de-addiction

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 1

Government Degree College Marh organised a two day awareness programme about the ill effects drug abuse on the individual health and society as whole.

The awareness campaign was organized in collaboration with JK Police Headquarter, Jammu and SPVLG Foundation under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, Principal of the College.

The programme was conducted by NSS Programme Officer Prof Sachin Kumar Bhagat. The chief guest for the 1st day programme was Rajinder Kumar Katoch, SSP Staff officer, DIG office Jammu.

The guest for honour for the day was Brijesh Sharma, SP Rural. The other police officials present were Dy. SP Jatinder Singh, from DIG office Jammu and SDPO Domana Jenab Mudasir.



During the inaugural ceremony, the keynote address was presented by principal of the college Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul who emphasised on the importance of spreading awareness and role of youth in reducing drug addiction in the society. It was followed by a group discussion on three themes: Drug Abuse

and Crime Co-Relation, Drug abuse and its ill impact on body and family and remedies and suggestions on controlling drug usage in the society.

Ten participants presented their views on the themes in the three rounds.

The guests also made the students aware about

usage of illegal drugs which cause severe damage to the future of the nation and importance of reducing drug demand from the society. They also spoke on the causes, remedies and laws related to the same. The prize winners for the first day group discussion were Gourav Kumar from 2nd semester who was awarded with Rs. 2500, 2nd prize winner was Vivek Sharma from 6th semester who was awarded with Rs. 1500 and the 3rd prize winner was Prerna from 4th semester who was awarded with Rs. 1000.

The Jury members were Prof Anita Kumari(HOD English), Dr. Sheetal Devi (HOD Dogri) and Tanu Sharma (HOD Hindi).

On the second day, the special Guest was Meenakshi Sumbria, Drug de-addiction counsellor from SPVLG foundation

affiliated with the health department J&K. The main objective of her awareness programme was ways to discuss ways and means to reduce drug demand, problems of drug addiction, preventive action, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, dissemination of information and public awareness under the Umbrella of "NIJAATH" a programme specially designed on prevention and treatment on tobacco and drug addiction. The 2 days event was conducted by Dr. Ashu Jolly (HOD Education), Dr. Ram Dayal (HOD Mathematics) and Dr. Balwinder Saini (HOD Chemistry). At the Valedictory function, the vote of thanks was presented by Prof Asha Kumari (HOD Geography).

A total of 35 students along with student Presidium attended and participated in the event. The Technical Support was provided by Mohit Kalotra.

Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department organises awareness camp on HADP at Sangaldan



J NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 01

The Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department, on the direction of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, conducted a one-day awareness camp cum workshop on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Sangaldan-Ramban.

Chairperson District Development Council Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan was the chief guest and SDM Gool, Pawan Kumar was the guest of

honour. The camp witnessed active participation of a large number of progressive growers from the area, besides HDO Gool, AGMO Ramban, SMS Agriculture Gool, AEO Agriculture Sangaldan, Nodal officer KVIB, Manager JK Bank Sangaldan, and. The primary objective of the workshop was to disseminate awareness about various HADP and PMFME schemes, with the aim to encourage attendees to actively engage and avail the benefits offered by the initiatives. Area Marketing Officer took the

lead in imparting knowledge about the schemes, emphasising the importance of leveraging them to transition from being job seekers to service providers. Furthermore, attendees were encouraged to recognize that individuals across educational backgrounds, from the uneducated to the educated, can seize the opportunity to initiate their units under PMFME. All farmers were urged to capitalize on these schemes, paving the way for a more empowered and self-reliant agricultural community.

Lok Sabha Election 2024: Distt Admin B'pora organises Awareness programme under SVEEP

J NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 1

As part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, the District Administration Bandipora today organised an awareness programme for BLOs and Asha Workers at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here.

The programme was attended by BLOs of Education Zone Bandipora and Quilmuqam and Asha Workers falling under Medical Block Bandipora.

Padmashri Faisal Ali Dar was present as Brand Ambassador of SVEEP activities for District Bandipora. He is also a youth icon in the SVEEP campaign for J&K UT.

Various speakers addressed the gathering during the programme.

Speaking on the occasion,



Padmashri Faisal Ali Dar appreciated the BLOs and other field functionaries for their contribution in raising awareness regarding the electoral process. He said for fostering a vibrant democracy, cultivating a robust voting culture is paramount.

Faisal said, developing a voting culture is our collective responsibility, and emphasized the pivotal role of citizens in shaping the democratic landscape.

He also emphasized on ethical voting for making

informed decisions. District Nodal Officer Manpower and Trainings, Dr. G. M Pujoo highlighted the objectives of the programme and role of responsible citizens in democratic setup. He also deliberated on the role of BLOs and Asha Workers at booth level.

In his speech, Dr. Pujoo also highlighted rights available to citizens and their duties. He said every single vote counts and one should know the value of vote to ensure greater par-

ticipation in democracy.

Addressing the participants, District Nodal officer SVEEP, Javid Iqbal emphasized upon ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity and means to participate in the electoral process by prioritizing the principle of 'No Voter to be Left Behind', District Master Trainer, Mohd Iqbal Samoon highlighted various aspects of SVEEP and urged the participants to generate awareness among the general public regarding the facilities available on poll day for different sections of society including senior citizens and specially-abled persons to encourage enthusiastic participation.

Arsallan Habib Coordinator SVEEP activities; Coordinator manpower and training, Mir Irfan Maqbool also addressed the event.

Poonch admin gears up for Mock Exercise on Earthquake, Landslide Preparedness

J NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 1

In a proactive measure to bolster disaster preparedness in the district, Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik today chaired a meeting with officers aimed at strengthening the community's response capabilities in the event of potential disasters.

The meeting focused on the detailed planning and execution of a district-level mock exercise, which will simulate an earthquake and landslide scenario.

The meeting attended by Xen PDD, Imtiaz Khan, Xen PHE, Rashpal, District Information Officer, Vishaldeep Chandan, Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid, AD Food and civil supplies, Adil Shabir, DEPO, Narinder Mohan Suri,

AE PWD, Tariq Choudhary, Maroof Khan from ARTO office, representatives from disaster and fire services and other concerned officers, addressed various aspects of the upcoming mock exercise.

During the deliberations, the Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of thorough planning and execution to enhance the community's response capabilities.

Detailed arrangements for the mock exercise were discussed, including the selection of five locations, preferably schools, colleges, compact localities and district hospital for the drill. The identified locations for the exercise are as follows: PWD Complex Lok Nirmal Bhawan, Hr. Sec. School Boys Poonch, GDC Poonch,

GDC Mendhar and District Hospital Poonch.

Furthermore, the meeting also focused on updating the status of equipment available with each department involved in disaster response. The officers in attendance provided updates on the current status of equipment and discussed measures to address any gaps or shortcomings.

It was collectively decided during the meeting that one nodal officer, along with five other officers, will oversee the mock exercise. The exercise is scheduled to take place on the 5th and 7th of March.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner urged all concerned departments, members of public and stakeholders to actively participate and contribute to the success of the mock exercise.

DC inspects Rifle Shooting Hall

J NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 1

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh today inspected the Rifle Shooting Hall near Sports Stadium Doda.

During the inspection, the DC directed DYSSO Doda to start rifle shooting activities by making the Hall fully operational within three weeks.

The DC also underlined the importance of promoting shooting sports in the region and directed concerned authorities to promote the competitive spirit and encourage participation from across the district.

This initiative aims to encourage the sportspersons and by providing them an enabling platform to showcase and sharpen their skills.

J&K e-Gov agency holds training cum handholding session on security Audit of departmental websites, apps

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 1

The J&K e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) organized two day training cum handholding session on Security Audit of departmental websites for nodal officers of government departments.

The session aimed at providing assistance for onboarding of security audit agencies so that necessary security compliance of their applications and websites is ensured by the concerned departments. The session was attended by 43 officers and officials from 36 departments.

The session was organized under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA, Anuradha Gupta while team of officials including Saima Mir, Project Manager JaKeGA and Arun Panotra, Analyst IT, JaKeGA conducted the training and handholding session. It was highlighted during the session that as per Information Technology Act, it is mandatory to get the security audit of all the web applications and



web services being carried out in order to be eligible for hosting in Data Centre.

The security audit reduces vulnerabilities and minimizes damage from cyber incidents and most importantly it aims at protecting government data hosted in SDC. Therefore, it is imperative that websites and applications are audited and updated with latest security certificates on periodic basis as per the guidelines issued by the Cert-In.

During the training session, the experts from JaKeGA explained to the departmental nodal officers the process for carrying out the security audit of the unaudited websites. The necessary GEM procurement process was also explained to the Nodal officers besides addressing the technical queries.

The officers from participating departments were told that the websites need to be audit-

ed by the CERT-IN empanelled agencies only. The clearance from security audit is necessary for a website for its hosting on J&K Data Centre servers. There required changes suggested in the audit report, if any, also need to be carried out by the developing agency of the owner department to remove all the identified vulnerabilities.

The departmental nodal officers were also told that the Security Audit is also required to be done as and when any changes are made in the source code. It should also be ensured that all websites/applications, their respective CMS (Content Management System), 3rd party plug-ins, codes etc., are updated to the latest versions.

It was emphasized during the session that all websites and applications are to be monitored on daily basis by the owner departments for ruling out any security compromise.

MP Jugal Kishor inaugurates Mega exhibition Gatisheel Jammu and Kashmir

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 1

The Gatisheel Jammu and Kashmir, a vibrant 3-day exhibition was today inaugurated by Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma at Country Inn Bahu Plaza as the chief guest.

The exhibitions will showcase works of 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 agricultural research and 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



tourism, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Inland Waterways authority of India, Cochin shipyard corporation limited, Ministry of Jal Shakti Pradhan mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Maharashtra Bamboo Development Board, Sakoli Bamboo Cluster (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 (APEEDA), Indian Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON), Marine Products Export Development

Authority (MAPEDA), Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE), Aakash Institute and Development Commissioner for Handicrafts.

The organizers, Meetu Paul Director of Prayass Events and Exhibitions and Jyotika Khurana Project Head Prayass Events and Exhibitions, hailed the MP for his unwavering support for educational initiatives, technology advancement, and sustainable development, reflecting his commitment to foster an environment of innovation and prosperity. The engaging presence of the MP left a lasting impression, as he generously shared insights and interacted with visitors at every stall. The ceremonial lamp lighting, led by Jugal Kishore Sharma alongside Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director of Edu-

cation and Subha Mehta, Joint Director of Education, added to the auspiciousness of the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Member of Parliament highlighted the uniqueness of the event, emphasizing its importance in spreading awareness about government schemes and services benefiting the masses. He urged attendees to spread the word and encourage.

The exhibition strives to create an interactive platform where the people of Jammu can connect with a wide array of government departments and institutions. Its goal is to offer valuable insights into welfare schemes and policies, benefiting attendees, including students. Additionally, visitors will have the opportunity to explore potential career paths and educational prospects across different fields, thereby enhancing their knowledge and future prospects. We invite you to join us in broadening your understanding of various sectors and departmental operations, ultimately empowering the younger generation to grasp forthcoming opportunities.