

JANSAMPARK
PRINTING PRESS

BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU
Mob. 9419104223

GOOD HYGIENE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

STOP SPREAD

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 59 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

India-EFTA trade agreement symbolises shared commitment to fair, equitable trade: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the signing of the trade agreement between India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA is a "watershed moment" as it symbolises shared commitment to open, fair and equitable trade.



The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

The Prime Minister said India will extend all possible support to these countries and facilitate industry and businesses, not only to achieve the committed targets but also to go beyond them.

In the agreement, the EFTA bloc has committed to invest USD 100 billion in India over the next 15 years.

"The Tenth of March 2024 marks a new turn and a watershed moment in the bilateral relationship between India and EFTA countries," Modi said.

He said the global leadership of the four nations in innovation, R&D across diverse areas such as digital trade, banking and financial services, trans-

port and logistics, industrial machinery, biotechnology, pharma, chemicals, food processing, and clean energy, will open up new doors of collaboration.

"Heartiest Congratulations and best wishes to the negotiators and signatories involved in the signing of India-EFTA Trade and Economic Participation Agreement (TEPA)," Modi said in a written message.

The Prime Minister's statement was read by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here in the presence of ministers and officials of EFTA countries.

"In the last 10 years, India's economy has

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India emerged from Fragile Five to Top Five Economy under Modi's leadership: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAR 10

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed the annual investment summit - NXT10 of the India Global Forum in Mumbai on Wednesday. On this occasion, Shah clearly stated that 'Under Modi ji's leadership, India has emerged from the Fragile Five to the Top Five Economy today.'

Every citizen of India knows that from 2004 to 2014, when the Sonia-Mamohan government was in power at the centre, the country's economy was at the 11th position in the world. In the last 10 years, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to bring the country's economy to the 5th position. It is certain that Modi ji will be successful in bringing the country's economy to the



third position in his third term. The condition of the country's economy until 10 years before 2014 was deteriorating, investor confidence had eroded, but today, in the era of Amrit Kaal, the economy has become strong, and India's self-confidence and self-reliance have also increased.

The world knows that under the leadership of visionary Modi and the

guidance of Amit Shah, who practices the politics of 'Antyodaya' (upliftment of the last person), the central government has transformed from 'inactive' to 'dynamic,' India's progress has shifted from 'regressive' to 'progressive,' and the economy has changed from 'fragile' to 'top.' India has now reached the Top Five Economy from the Fragile Five. The new India

has emerged as a 'Bright Spot' from a 'Dark Spot' on the global map. The government of 10 years has taken more than 50 transformative decisions, including demonetization, GST, Jan Dhan, Triple Talaq, New Education Policy, CAA, Article 370 and 35A, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, three new laws, construction of Ram Mandir, construction of new parliament building, construction of Kartarpur Corridor, control on North East, Kashmir and Left-wing Extremism, household electricity, gas, and water, free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh, economic assistance to farmers, surgical strike, air strike, and many more decisions that have given India a new identity in the world.

Today, the Lok Sabha elections of 2024 are also approaching in

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Terror hideout busted in Poonch, 7 IEDs Seized

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Security forces on Sunday busted a terror hideout in a forest in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and seized seven rusted improvised explosive devices and a wireless set, officials said.

They said the hideout located inside a cave was uncovered during a joint search operation by police and the Army at Dara Sangla in the Surankote area.

Blankets and some other materials were also found in the hideout, the officials said.

A case has been registered and further investigation is on, they said, adding that no arrests have been made so far.

The officials said preliminary investigation suggests the hideout was used by terrorists active in the area two decades ago.

Traffic suspended on Jmu-Sgr highway for road widening work

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Traffic movement on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained suspended on Sunday morning as authorities were carrying out road widening work on several problematic stretches in Ramban district, officials said.

Vehicular movement on the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country was suspended late Saturday night to allow the widening of the carriageway to two lanes at Dalwas,



Mehar-Cafeteria, Panthiyal and Nachlana between Nashri and Banihal tunnels, they said.

The traffic department officials said the decision to suspend traffic on the highway for 14 hours from 10 pm on

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

North India's first Govt Homoeopathic College coming up in Kathua, J&K: Dr Jitendra Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAR 10

"North India's first Government Homoeopathic College, centrally funded at a cost of nearly Rs. 80 Crore will come up in Jasrota area of district Kathua in J&K", said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today.

While continuing his consistent spree of devel-



opment even after the declaration of his mandate for Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh today visited the proposed site of the college in Jasrota village, where work for the

boundary wall has already started.

The Minister was briefed by the engineers and senior experts from the Department of Ayush about the institution.

Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that the agenda of the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, which was taken at hand soon after he was elected as Member of Parliament in 2014, will continue uninterrupted till the date of the declaration of election Code of Conduct and will resume immediately after the Code of Conduct is lifted.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi before whom this requisition was put, and said it was a

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Electoral Bonds SC to hear on Monday SBI's plea seeking extension to disclose details

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 10

The Supreme Court will on Monday hear the application filed by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeking extension till June 30 to disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties before the scheme was scrapped last month.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud will also hear a separate plea, which has sought initiation of con-

tempt action against the SBI alleging, it "wilfully and deliberately" disobeyed the apex court's direction to submit details of the contributions made to political parties through electoral bonds to the



Election Commission by March 6.

The apex court bench, also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra, will assemble at 10.30 am to hear the two petitions.

In a landmark verdict delivered on February 15, a five-judge constitution bench scrapped the Centre's electoral bonds scheme that allowed anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional" and ordered

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a huge transformation following the historic abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"The decisive and bold step, as per the BJP's manifesto, has opened a new chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir has paved the way for unprecedented development, prosperity, and peace", Mr Rana said while addressing Senior Citizens Sammelan, organized by the party's

J&K on transformational mode post-abrogation of Art 370: Rana

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MARCH 10

Senior Citizen Cell.

Among others, the Convenor of the Cell Mr J. D Singh besides Co-Convenors Mr Subash Gupta and Mr A. K Mahajan (Retd SSP) were present in the Sammelan.

Lauding the visionary leadership of Yashasvi Prime Minister Mr Naren-



dra Modi, Mr Rana said Jammu and Kashmir is already on transformational journey since the repeal of Article 370 and Article 35A, and is now witnessing unprecedented progress across various sectors, including infrastructure, economy, education,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday took oath as Pakistan's 14th President, a day after the veteran politician was overwhelmingly elected as the next head of state.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa administered the oath to the 68-year-old Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the Presidential Palace.

Zardari will replace Dr Arif Alvi, who stayed in office for five more months despite completing his five-year term in September 2023.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, all three service chiefs, senior officials and diplomats.

Zardari, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman, the joint candidate of the ruling alliance, was elected as the country's president for the second time on Saturday after he defeated PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) candidate Mahmood Khan Achakzai by a huge margin.

He secured 411 electoral votes in Parliament

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Asif Ali Zardari sworn in as Pakistan's 14th president

JI NEWS SERVICE
ISLAMABAD, MAR 10

Krystyna Pyszkova From Czech Republic Crowned Miss World 2024



AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAR 10

Czech Republic's Krystyna Pyszkova on Saturday won the coveted Miss World 2024 title at a grand event here.

Miss Lebanon Yasmina Zaytoon was named the first runner-up.

Reigning Miss World Karolina Bielawska from Poland crowned her successor at the star-studded finale here.

Rain, snow during next 5 days in Jammu and Kashmir: MeT

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10

Two back-to-back Western Disturbances (WD's) in quick succession are likely to trigger rain and snow over the next five days in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasts that generally the weather will remain cloudy today with isolated very light rain and snow over the upper reaches of Jammu

and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

The MeT office said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at widespread places during March 13, while light rain or snow at a few places on March 14.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry during March 15 to 18.

An independent weather forecaster, Kashmir Weather, predicted that two Western Disturbances in quick succession are



going to affect Jammu and Kashmir over the next 5 days.

He said during March

13 and 14, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow in most areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Heavy snowfall can also occur in a few higher reaches during the period.

He said there is a possibility of a significant drop in daytime temperatures during the period.

Barring Gulmarg, the night temperature was recorded below normal in all stations of the Kashmir Valley on Sunday.

Srinagar had a low of

2.2C against 2.1C recorded during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday. It was 1.1C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway in south Kashmir recorded a low of 1.4C, while Kokernag settled at 1.8C on Sunday.

The night temperature at Pahalgam slipped down to a low of -2.5C against

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Srinagar Admin organised Awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma scheme at Banquet Hall

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

The District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Skill Development and District Industries Centre today organized a one-day awareness program on the PM Vishwakarma scheme launched to uplift traditional Artisans and Craftspeople.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was the Chief Guest of the programme held at Banquet Hall.

The programme was attended by stakeholders and beneficiaries to further amplify the awareness to ensure effective implementation of the scheme and fully harness its potential for the betterment of the Artisan community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on better implementation of the scheme to ensure that its benefits reach to the Artisans contributing in preservation of traditional and heritage crafts.



Highlighting the features of PM Vishwakarma initiative, the DC said that the scheme will directly benefit the Artisans of the District working with their hands and tools, besides transforming the lives of the Artisans and Craftspeople contributing in preservation of traditional and heritage crafts.

The DC further said the scheme will enable the recognition of Artisans and Craftspeople as Vishwakarmas (Traditional Artisans) making them eligible to avail the benefits under the Scheme.

The DC emphasized on implementing the scheme effectively to cover all eligible beneficiaries across the District in the identified trades to enhance livelihood opportunities

at grassroots level.

Earlier, Assistant Director MSME underlined the collaborative effort of the Ministry of MSME field Office Srinagar and the District Administration Srinagar signifying a proactive approach to empower local Artisans and promote sustainable socio-economic growth of the Artisans and craftspeople in the District.

Pertinent to mention that PM Vishwakarma scheme offers a range of benefits including toolkit incentive of Rs 15,000, training to artisans, Rs 500 per day during training, collateral-free credit support up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5%, incentives for digital

transactions and marketing support.

At present Government has recognized 18 trades under PM Vishwakarma scheme including Carpenter, Boat Maker, Armorer, Blacksmith, Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Cobbler, Masons, Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy Maker, Barber, Garland Maker, Washerman, Tailor and Fishing Net Maker.

During the programme, various Artisans were registered on the PM Vishwakarma portal using biometrics

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, the awareness programme General Manager, DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Joint Director, MSME, Secretary SMC, Principal ITI, Srinagar, members of the District Implementation Committee, representative from MSME, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Assistant Director MSME, Lead District Manager and other stakeholders including beneficiaries of the scheme.

DLSA Ganderbal organized awareness programme on International Women's Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 10

District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal is organizing Legal Literacy programmes across the district including at hilly and remote areas to spread awareness among the people, especially to women on the eve of International Women's Day and in connection with ongoing legal awareness campaign.

DLSA Ganderbal on Saturday under the chairmanship of Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Chairman District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal organised Legal Awareness Programme at KGBV Gutlibagh Ganderbal in association with Education Department Ganderbal on the eve of celebration of International Women's Day and in connection with ongoing legal awareness campaign/week.

The Program was attended by Muzamil Akhtar, Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, Abdul Rehman, Zonal Education Officer Ganderbal, Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant LADC, Adv. Adil Bashir Koul, Panel Lawyer DLSA Ganderbal, Rafia Jawhar,



Warden, KGBV Gutlibagh Ganderbal, Nazir Ahmad, District Cultural Coordinator, Ganderbal, Mohammad Ashraf Dar, Zonal Cultural Coordinator, Ganderbal, Staff members of KGBV Gutlibagh, PLVs of District Ganderbal, Students of KGBV Gutlibagh, etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Education Officer of Ganderbal emphasizes the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in education.

In her speech, the Chief Education Officer highlighted the significant role of women in shaping societies and economies and stressed the need for

achievements of women across diverse fields.

Furthermore, crucial information regarding legal remedies for domestic violence or any form of abuse was provided to participants.

Assistant LADC underscored the imperative role of gender equality in national development, affirming that a nation's progress hinges upon providing women with equitable opportunities.

This celebration served as a poignant reminder of the ongoing commitment to empower and uplift women in society.

While addressing the gathering Adv Adil Bashir quoted the Article 14 of Constitution of India and highlighted the issue of gender discrimination prevailing in society.

He also talked about the menace of the Sati system which prevailed in India earlier and how the strict laws were made to abolish the sati system. He also briefed about the role of DLSA in helping the downtrodden and victimized women of society.

He also made participants aware about Gender equality, women's empowerment, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence, Dowry and Maintenance and challenges faced by women.

inclusive and equitable education systems that support the advancement of women.

In commemoration of International Women's Day, an enlightening speech was delivered by Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant LADC who emphasized on the fundamental rights accorded to women under the Indian Constitution.

He informed about the invaluable free legal aid services provided by District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal to the deserving persons.

During the event, participants, including students, staff, and esteemed guests, were enlightened about the remarkable

Watlab Wular Lake Hosts Electoral Literacy Event under SVEEP

JI NEWS SERVICE
SOPORE, MARCH 10

In an endeavour to encourage young prospective voters and first-time voters to participate vehemently in the electoral process, District Administration of Baramulla, in collaboration with the Watlab Conservation and Management Authority (WCMA) and the Local Sports Association, orchestrated a series of impactful activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at Wular Lake.

The proceedings were led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina, who inaugurated the first of its kind boat race aimed at raising awareness among fresh voters about the electoral process by exercising their right to vote.

Speaking during the event, the ADC highlighted the paramount importance of new voters in actively participating in the democratic process. He underscored the pivotal role of selecting representatives who reso-



nate with the aspirations of the youth and are committed to addressing their concerns.

Shabir Ahmad further highlighted that the objective of organizing these events is to foster collective commitment towards culture of electoral literacy and to educate individuals especially first-time voters with the requisite knowledge and resources to become proactive stakeholders in the electoral process.

The event witnessed the active engagement

of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who meticulously educated participants about the electoral process and enlightened them about their right to franchise and their pivotal role as integral members of our thriving democracy.

Later, the ADC distributed awards among the participants of the boat race as a token of appreciation, acknowledging their contribution towards fostering a culture of electoral awareness and participation among the youth.

8 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized in Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MARCH 10

District Mining Officer (DMO), Pulwama along with the enforcement team today conducted a targeted operation against illegal mining in various areas of the district.

The operation was held at Pampore, Hatiwara, Reshipora and Newa areas of the district, resulting in the seizure of one JCB and 07 vehicles engaged in unauthorized extraction and transportation of minerals.

Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama has time and again issued unequivocal instructions to prevent and deter illegal mining throughout the District.

Operations against illegal extraction and transportation are being taken regularly by the department and strict action against offenders is initiated to deter them from illegal activity involvement.

CBC holds seminar on Rural Development Schemes, Career Counselling for students in Ganderbal

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

The Central Bureau of Communication Srinagar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GoI, organized a day-long seminar focusing on public welfare schemes in the rural development department and a career counselling session for students in Ganderbal district.

Programme was held as a part of the ongoing five-day exhibition at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal & was aimed to educate participants about various center and state sponsored schemes being implemented for rural development.

Resource persons from the Rural Development Department provided detailed insights into the schemes, sharing success stories and outlining targets for implementation of various schemes.



Colonel Anshul Sharma, Director of the Army Recruitment Office Srinagar, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Agnipath Scheme, highlighting career opportunities within the defense

services. Additionally, representatives from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and Govt College of Physical Education Ganderbal shed light on the functions and responsibilities of their institutions.

Director CBC J&K Ghulam Abbas highlighted the role of the Central Bureau of Communication in propagating different welfare initiatives of the government through the integrated communication and outreach programmes.

An open quiz was also organised for the participants and the winners were awarded trophies and appreciation certificates.

Cultural troupes affiliated with CBC Srinagar captivated the audience with vibrant performances on various themes, including "Viksit Bharat," "Agnipath," "Mission Life," and "Swachta."

National Lok Adalat held at Ganderbal

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 10

As per the directions of National Legal Services Authority and J&K Legal Services Authority, National Lok Adalat was organized on Saturday in District Ganderbal under the Chairmanship of Ritesh Kumar Dubey and under the guidance of Secretary District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

To dispose of Pre-Litigation matters and Pending court cases by compromise/amicable settlement, total 04 benches were constituted for the Lok Adalat comprising of Presiding Officers and Other Members.



The 1st bench was comprised of Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, CJM Ganderbal, & Advocate Sofi Abdul Samad, 2nd bench by Mainaaz Qadir, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Ganderbal and Advocate Kousnar Syed Masoodi; 3rd bench by Mohd. Waseem Mirza, Munsiff/JMIC Ganderbal and Advocate Younis Saleem Wani, and 4th Bench by Easar Ul Nabi, Munsiff/JMIC Kangan and Advocate

Suheel Ahmad Mir. Overall, 1,160 Pre-Litigation matters and Pending court cases were taken up for settlement in the Pre Lok-Adalats and National Lok-Adalat out of which 1,073 cases were amicably settled/Compromised on spot and an amount of Rs 74,23,407 was awarded as settlement amount in Bank Recovery Cases, Electricity matters, MACT cases, 138 NI Act cases and other cases.

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today Inaugurated a capacity building programme on "Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic plants" under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme at Sub-division Chadoora, Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, director Agriculture enumerated the initiatives by the department for the promotion of Medicinal & Aromatic plants on commercial basis in the region. He said that the department has already brought new areas and lands under the cultivation of Medicinal & Aromatic plants on a commercial basis.

Under HADP the cultivation has been extended, introduced to all the districts of Kashmir division,



he added. Chowdhury said that there is a vast potential for the promotion of these plants in the region. He said that the department has not only provided planting material to the concerned farmers but is working in close coordination with the farmers and offering them the technical guidance during their crop cultivation activities.

He impressed upon the participants to work in close coordination and ensure maximum awareness among the farmers regarding the various projects under HADP.

Meanwhile, he distributed Medicinal & Aromatic plants among the concerned farmers.

M.Y. Shakoer DLSMS, Fayaz Ahmad War SDAO Chadoora, Syed Mubashir Qamar AEO Chadoora, other concerned officers and a large number of farmers were present in the programme.

State level Skill Competitions held at NIFT Campus Budgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 10

The J&K Skill Development Mission, in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) GoI and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has kick started the State Level Competition of Fashion Technology at National Institute of Fashion Tech-

nology (NIFT), SIDCO Complex Ompora Budgam. The selected candidates will get an opportunity to participate in pre National competitions while those who qualify second stage shall participate in National level competitions. The finalists of the National level competition shall represent the country at World level competitions in Leon, France.

Regional parties have exploited people for years, will usher in development: Azad

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10

Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad today addressed a Public Meeting in Koker-nag, Kashmir. In his address, he addressed the exploitation of Kashmiris by regional parties over the years, particularly by raising slogans advocating autonomy and self-rule. He stated that, while the MPs of these regional parties remained silent on the matter, he actively protested in Parliament against revocation of Article 370. "Why do NC and PDP no longer raise these slogans? They fooled the people, enjoyed power, and caused the deaths of innocent people." He reiterated his commitment to championing the cause of people and ensuring their voices are heard on the national level. He stressed the need for unity, cautioning that these parties



may ally with anyone for power but will not do justice to the people. They will only use and exploit the voters. Azad revealed a personal connection, with South Kashmir stating, 'My grandfather was originally from Koker-nag. We moved to Doda, but there's a special connection between us. Let us rebuild that relationship. Anantnag has always been in my heart. I have estab-

lished a medical college, degree college, hospitals, and schools here. I want to do even more for this district, especially for Koker-nag. Give me a chance to serve', Azad said. He highlighted his efforts in granting land rights to the poor through the Roshni scheme. He emphasized that when the government attempted to seize the land, he was the sole voice to speak up, halting

the bulldozers. Additionally, he promised to restore the Roshni scheme if elected to power. Azad further stressed the urgency of tackling unemployment, promising to address the issue once elected to power. He emphasized the importance of providing loans to those who are not highly educated, enabling them to start businesses and earn a livelihood. He highlighted the untapped

potential of tourism that needs to be boosted, expressing regret over not being able to complete his term as CM. He remarked that if given the chance, he would have sanctioned more tourism projects to harness this potential. He promised to provide free electricity for the poor and pledged to focus on building roads, hospitals, and furthering development in triple shifts. He expressed concern over the burden of electricity bills on the people, especially the poor, and appealed to the government to reduce the bills for those in need. Among others who were present on the occasion were G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, Ch Haroon Khatana Gen Secretary, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Adv Saleem Parray Official spokesperson, Zamir Ahmed Distt President, Shahida Begum DDC and others.

Big Setback to BJP in Haryana: Hisar BJP MP Brijendra Singh joins Congress



J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

In a major setback to the Bharatiya Janata Party, its MP from Hisar in Haryana today resigned and joined the Congress. He was inducted into the party by the Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in presence of senior party leaders including Ajay Maken, Mukul Wasnik and Deepak Babaria. Talking to reporters Singh said he was thankful to the Congress president Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Mrs Sonia Gandhi for inducting him into the

party. He said, for a long time he was not feeling comfortable with the BJP for ideological reasons like their handling of the farmers issues, the Agnipath scheme and their dealing with international female wrestlers. Replying to a question about Chaudhry Birender Singh also joining the Congress, Ajay Maken said, he (Chaudhry Birender) had informed them that he will be joining the Congress at a public rally. To a question about the resignation of one of the Election Commissioners, the Congress president

said it was too early to comment. But he added, the way a High Court judge joined the BJP in West Bengal only a day after resigning, and started abusing the TMC very next day, showed the mentality and the mindset. He also pointed out how the BJP had placed such people at all such important places. On the seat sharing with various alliance partners, he said, he was thankful to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and the Congress team in the state for working out the seat sharing agreement with the DMK.

Repeal of Art 370 paved way for empowerment of refugees: Slathia

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAR 10

Former minister and BJP Pradesh Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia today reaffirmed the party's unwavering commitment to the welfare and rights of the West Pakistan refugees who had long been marginalized and neglected. Addressing a meeting, organized by the BJP Refugee Cell at Village Hariyapur in the District Kathua this afternoon, Slathia said the entire scenario changed after the abrogation of Article 370 that paved the way for refugees to enjoy all the rights and benefits of various central schemes that remained out of bounds for them for nearly seven decades. Slathia said the BJP, which is rooted in the principles of justice, equality, and inclusivity, always stood firmly in solidarity with the plight of these refugees and advocated for their rightful recognition and empowerment. He said the refugees have faced countless



hardships and injustices over the decades. Despite their significant contributions to the cultural and socio-economic fabric of the nation in general and J&K in particular, they continued to struggle for basic rights, including citizenship, land ownership, and access to essential services. Recognizing the urgency of addressing their grievances, the BJP championed their cause at all the levels from time to time, he said and expressed happiness that repeal of Article 370 ended their ordeal to a large extent, he added. Slathia said that due to concerted efforts, the

BJP secured justice and dignity for these deserving citizens, ensuring that they are afforded equal opportunities and protections under the law. Furthermore, the BJP remains steadfast in its resolve to provide comprehensive support and assistance to the West Pakistan refugees, including access to education, healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities. By empowering these marginalized communities, the BJP seeks to foster a more inclusive and prosperous society, where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and succeed, he added. Referring to the

urges of the West Pakistan refugees, Slathia assured that the BJP will continue to strive in a mission mode for addressing the concerns of the refugees as per the cherished agenda of Yashasvi Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Ashok Khajuria Convener BJP Cell J&K, Babu Ram Sharma Convener BJP Kathua, Ravi Sharma Mandal President Marheon Kathua, Karan Attri Chairman DDC Kathua, Rattan Lal, Surjit Singh, Prem Pal Choudhary and others.

Nation cannot afford to let BJP retain power in 2024 elections: Bhalla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla Sunday said that the nation cannot afford to let the BJP retain power in 2024 as it is imposing a monolithic and illiberal socio-political order on the people with the ideological backing of vested agenda. The policies of Government at the Centre proved to be disastrous, and the Constitution was itself under attack, he asserted while addressing people at Raipur Satwari. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Congress Sewadal Chief J&K-UT Vijay Sharma Babbi, JKPC Secretary Pawan Bhagat, Ex Vice Chairman Containment Jatinder Singh Lucky, Sandeep Dogra Sonu, Raj Kumar, Som Nath, Kuldeep Singh, Mohan Lal, Bolla Choudhary, Mohinder Singh, Panch Sunil Kumar, Sapna Devi Ravi Kumar Babloo Ramesh Kumar besides others. Bhalla claimed that BJP Govt has created such an atmosphere in J&K that people are not able to live peacefully and comfortably. No one is supposed to question the government about its policies and if do question, they are labeled as anti-national. He further said that BJP has exposed itself in its utter failure to govern the country on each front. He asked the BJP to explain as to why it has failed in keeping up the promises made to the people and failing the people on all fronts. He said BJP stands



exposed for its anti-poor and anti-youth policies and these are the segments which are going to punish the party in Parliamentary elections for ditching people's interests. Launching attack on BJP Govt, the Congress leader said that statehood and rights to job and land are the identity and protection of our Dogra culture and the people of Jammu and Kashmir shall fight till last to secure their rights and status. He said the primary objective of the alliance is to fight together and defeat BJP to save the country, democracy, constitution, federalism, secularism. These are all constitutional values which are being debased by the BJP government," Bhalla alleged. Taking a potshot at the BJP government at the Centre, he said, "In the past ten years, the BJP has proved to be disastrous and we cannot call it governance, it is misgovernance, misrule and people are passing through unimaginable suffering and ordeals. "This has to be understood and that is why we are saying that the BJP needs to be removed from power. That is the primary objective of the alliance," Bhalla added. Accusing BJP of "limited vision", Bhalla

also warned that if the BJP comes back to power, the country will be pushed towards a "dictatorship" and its people would be deprived of all democratic rights. "PM Modi has forgotten the contributions of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who created not only history, but also geography, when she severed Pakistan into two and created Bangladesh. The contributions of Prime Ministers Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi cannot be ignored. PM must exercise restraint when he is talking about them," he said. He also accused the government of complete failures on all policy fronts in the past ten years, whether it be farmers issues, unemployment, high inflation and called for a united challenge to uproot it. Slamming the BJP, Bhalla said, "Politics and religion should not be mixed. Some parties and leaders are trying to mix them these days. Different people in one community can like different parties. Individuals in one household can have different preferences. We should not tend to club them together. Such ideas are regressive and weaken our Democracy and Constitu-

tion. My advice to BJP leaders is to not play one community against another for the greed of votes." He stated, "But now the type of governance in this state has changed. The BJP Government failed in providing good governance, which they had promised. People have been left disappointed. Bhalla said that the Congress did large scale development all across the country after independence. The late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was responsible for the spectacular growth of the country through bank nationalisation, land reforms, and more pro-people measures. Things being so, Prime Minister Narendra Modi questions what Congress has done in the last 70 years, he mused. We have built dams, public sector undertakings. We have provided education, healthcare and employment opportunities for all. When the country got independence, literacy level was around 16%. Now, it is around 70%. Who made people literate? Who educated all the doctors, engineers, scientists, teachers and lawyers all these years? "It was our leadership-the Congress leadership which built rural villages, primary schools, high schools, ITI, IIS, engineering colleges and medical colleges. What have they done? They are closing schools. Government schools are being closed to promote private schools," he said.

BJP stands firmly behind to players bringing laurels to the country: Rakesh Mahajan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stands firmly behind to the players who are bringing laurels to the country. This was stated by Rakesh Mahajan, Incharge All Cells, BJP, J&K during a program organized by the Party's Sports Cell, aimed at interacting with athletes ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. On the occasion, Ved Sharma, Co Incharge, BJP All Cells, Convener Sports Cell Sumit Sharma, CoConvener Ritika Mahajan and Rajeshwar Singh and Parghat Singh were present. Rakesh Mahajan highlighted that BJP has begun a campaign to collect suggestions from people across the country for its manifesto ahead of the Lok Sabha Election. As a part of this campaign, the party is introducing "Sujhav Peti" (Suggestion Box), where people from all sections of society can submit their



suggestions for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election manifesto. The senior BJP leader said today Sports is not just an extracurricular activity but an integral part and parcel of education. Beyond the physical benefits, sports instill essential values like teamwork, discipline, and resilience, which are crucial for personal development and success in life. Engaging in sports activities fosters holistic growth, promoting mental agility and emotional well-being alongside academic achievements. It teaches invaluable life les-

sons such as leadership, sportsmanship, and the importance of fair play, shaping individuals into well-rounded and responsible citizens. Therefore, integrating sports into educational curriculums is vital for nurturing the holistic development of students and preparing them for the challenges of the future, he added. Today's program marked the BJP's outreach to the budding athletes of Jammu and Kashmir, recognizing their pivotal role in bringing honor to the nation through their remarkable achievements

at national and international levels, Rakesh Mahajan said, commending Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts in bolstering sports infrastructure across the country, resulting in Indian athletes creating a record 111 medals in the recently concluded Asian Games. Rakesh Mahajan asked the budding sports players to give their valuable suggestions in shaping the Party's manifesto for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. He encouraged them to submit their recommendations through written submissions, missed calls, or via the NAMO App, ensuring their voices are heard in the policymaking process. Later, Rakesh Mahajan also distributed sports kits among players from diverse sports streams in Jammu and Kashmir, including cricket, football, hockey, and gymnastics to promote sports culture in the Union Territory.

BJP SC Morcha organizes Basti Sampark Abhiyan at Pargwal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PARGWAL (AKHNOOR), MAR 10

BJP SC Morcha undertook door-to-door campaign in SC Bastis under the Basti Sampark Abhiyan at Upper Pargwal in Akhnoor. Adarsh Jathiar, General Secretary, BJP SC Morcha accompanied by Vijay Anand Gill, SC Morcha Vice-President, Rishu Langleh, Media Secretary, Dev Raj District President SC Morcha, Ganesh Das, Mandal President Morcha, Koushal Kumar, Panch, Joginder Kumar, Panch, Tarsem Lal and others led the campaign. He was accompanied by, and Dis-



trict General Secretary, BJP SC Morcha. Adarsh Kumar, while sharing details about the Abhiyan, said that the local residents of Upper Pargwal were informed about the welfare policies and unprecedented development under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that PM Modi is committed to strengthen the nation and uplift the socio-economic status of the neglected and the oppressed. He said that the Prime Minister is leader of the common masses, who is concerned for their welfare on the ground level.

Vijay Anand Gill enumerated the various public welfare schemes especially tailored for the SC community. He said that Modi government truly recognized the issues and the grievances of the community and took substantial steps to empower the community.

BJP cadre intensifies its activities ahead of LS polls

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Continuing with its different programmes of "Vidhan Sabha Pravas" by senior leaders, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu Kashmir held various Shakti Kendra and Booth Sammelans in various Assembly Constituencies.

In this series, these programmes were held in 11 different Assembly segments at 8 places, where the senior leaders of the party had reached their assigned destinations. They held threadbare discussions with the local leadership as well as the party activists holding the important responsibilities as Shakti Kendra Pramukh and organizers of Booth Sammelans, reviewed the progress of such programmes and suggested more measures to further polish the grass root level activists to reach the people and mobilize their support for the BJP by educating them about numerous mega projects of development and welfare schemes of Modi government.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), BJP chaired 2 Shakti Kendra and Booth Sammelans at Jammu North, Marh, Nagrota and Jammu West Assembly Constituencies.



Ashok Koul, while addressing the party leaders, said that as the schedule of the Lok Sabha polls is expected to be announced soon, the J&K BJP has intensified its activities in the entire length and breadth of the UT. The party has already taken the lead in opening of election offices at assembly constituency levels and announced its candidates, the morale of the party activists is high and each one is devoting more time to ensure the successful conduct of various programmes being undertaken as per the directions of the party high command.

Similarly, Sham Lal Sharma, BJP Vice-President accompanied by Swarn Lata chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Jammu South-RS Pura Assembly Constituency.

Yudhvir Sethi, BJP Vice-President chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Bahu Constituency.

Chander Prakash Ganga, former Minister senior leader chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Samba Constituency.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Munish Sharma, senior leader chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Jammu East Constituency.

Sham Chowdhary, BJP Vice-President chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Bishnah Constituency.

Ashwani Sharma, former MLA chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Vijaypur Constituency.

Shamsher Singh Manhas, former MP, Devinder Singh Rana, senior leader, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, Chairperson DDC, former Minister Priya Sethi, Inderjit Sharma, Shiv Dev Singh Manhas all District Presidents, senior leader and other senior leaders also participated in these programmes.

Sat Sharma, Baru asks party workers to speed up election campaign

JINews SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, MAR 10

Sat Sharma, former minister & senior leader of BJP and Sanjay Kumar Baru, senior BJP leader & Prabhari Nowshera District, stressed upon the BJP workers from Kalakot-Sunderbani assembly constituency to speed up election campaign for the 2024 Parliamentary polls.

Sat Sharma and Sanjay Baru were addressing an organizational meeting at Assembly office Sunderbani in Nowshera district.

District President Neena Sharma, BJP senior leader Th. Randhir Singh, former Dy Mayor Dharamvir Jamwal, former Councillor, District General Secretary Pritam Sharma, District General Secretary former District President Captain Ramesh, DDC Rajinder Sharma, BDC Bal Krishan, Sardari Lal, district office bearers and Mandal presidents participated in the meeting.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the party



workers stressed that BJP cadre works consistently for the nation and the society. He said that BJP worker remains active every day of the year and never take rest in the service to the fellow citizens. He said that it is a routine work for the BJP activists to visit every home to know the issues of the people and extend help to get them resolved at the earliest, however, now every party worker must leave no stone unturned to ensure that the Narendra Modi government at

the Centre receives highest support from Jammu & Kashmir.

Sanjay Baru said exhorted upon the party leaders to reach every section of the society and ensure that the public welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government have reached the targeted population. He said that the real motive of these schemes will only be achieved if all needy fellows, who are a part of the targeted population successfully get the benefit from these schemes

to uplift their socio-economic status.

Neena Sharma, speaking on the occasion, asked the party leaders to contribute more hours and initiate regular Pravas in their respective areas. She said that the people are fully prepared to support the Narendra Modi government in the upcoming Parliament elections.

BJP Mandal Presidents Naseeb Singh Chib, Madan Pal Sharma and others were present in the meeting.

Vibodh inaugurates BASE GYM in Kheora

JINews SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 10

BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta inaugurated the newly opened 'BASE GYM' at Kheora in Rajouri District by cutting its ribbon. The inaugural ceremony was attended by a large number of people from various walks of life. Addressing the enthusiastic gathering, Vibodh Gupta lauded the initiative taken by the owner, Akash Kumar, recognizing the significance of such establishments in fostering a healthier community. He emphasized the pivotal role of fitness in combating the menace of drug abuse, urging the youth to embrace constructive activities that promote overall well-being. He also stressed cultivating the habit of body management, which is the need of the hour in today's mechanical life to keep ourselves fit and healthy. While interacting with the youth, Vibodh also high-



lighted various initiatives taken by the Modi government to promote a healthy lifestyle and sports activities among the youth. He stressed that a nation can only thrive when its youth is healthy and active, and urged them to embrace physical fitness as a

means to contribute to the nation's progress. From promoting physical education in schools to launching nationwide fitness campaigns like Fit India Movement, Khelo India the government's efforts were geared towards instilling healthy habits

early on. He strongly asserted that only fit youth can shape a Superfit India and therefore the government aimed to provide necessary infrastructure and support to empower youth physically, mentally and socially. "BASE GYM has introduced the latest kind of modern technology and top-notch machines as well as apparatus to cover the entire body fitness training to be imparted by a renowned certified trainer," said the owner of the GYM, Akash Kumar. Prominent leaders and citizens present on the occasion were Ranjeet Tara, Koushal Gupta, Puspinder Gupta, Chander Kumar, Vicky Sharma, Azaz Khan, Yogesh Sharma, Radhish Sharma, Kewal Sharma, Nitish Chib, Ashwani Kochar, Amar Singh, Kulbir Kumar, Babli Kumar, Amrishi Gupta, Adv. Shaيدا Masood, Gulshan Saraf, Ajay Sharma, Aryan Bakshi, Ashok Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Anil Gupta and others.

J&K National Panthers Party convenes meeting to discuss Foundation Day celebrations

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) convened a crucial meeting today at party office to deliberate upon the arrangements and preparations for the upcoming celebration of its Foundation Day, which falls annually on the 23rd of March. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Vilakshan Singh President J&K National Panthers Party.

The meeting brought together key members, office bearers, and volunteers from across the region to strategize and plan for the momentous occasion. The Foundation Day holds immense significance for the JKNPP, symbolizing the values, vision, and journey of the party in serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, various aspects pertaining to the grand celebration were discussed comprehensively. This included the formulation of event programs, logistical arrangements, mobilization of resources, and



outreach initiatives aimed at ensuring maximum participation from party members and supporters. Additionally, the meeting also emphasized the importance of upholding the party's core principles and commitment to the welfare and development of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, President Vilakshan Singh reiterated the party's unwavering dedication to the cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the significance of the Foundation Day as an opportunity to reflect on the party's journey, rekindle the spirit of unity, and reaffirm its pledge towards the betterment of the region and its residents.

Furthermore, Singh

expressed gratitude towards the members and supporters for their continued dedication and support, highlighting their pivotal role in the success of the party's endeavors. He urged everyone to actively participate and contribute towards making the upcoming celebration a memorable and impactful event. In the meeting a committee was also constituted for ensuring proper arrangements for the foundation day celebrations. Naresh Chib General Secretary of the party was appointed as the chairman of the committee and other members of the Committee included Rajesh Gondhi (State General Secretary), Ravinder Jamwal (State Secretary), Sham Gorkha (Provin-

cial Presidnet, Jammu), Rakesh Gupta (District President, Jammu) and Navin Bali.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and commitment amongst the attendees, as they pledged to work tirelessly towards ensuring the success of the Foundation Day celebrations and furthering the objectives of the J&K National Panthers Party.

The other leaders who addressed the meeting included Hakikat Singh Jamwal (State General Secretary), Farooq Ahmed Dar (Provincial President, Kashmir), Adv. Kesar Parveen Women Wing State President, Peerzada Mudaassar Ahmed Shah (District President, Kupwara).

Shiv Sena accuses the administration of violating constitutional rights of the party

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has accused the Jammu and Kashmir administration and police officials of hindering the expansion and promotion of the party. Blamed the above allegations during a press conference organized at the party state central office here today.

State chief Manish Sahni said that as per the announced program under the campaign "Pehele Adhikaar Phir Sarkar" cam-



paign, there will be a dialogue with the public on March 9 at 5 pm.

As soon as he reached the press enclave in Srinagar

, Shiv Sena leaders were taken into custody and taken to Kothibagh police

station in Srinagar. Sahni said that written information about the program was given to the administration well on time.

Sahni said that he was kept in custody for about two hours and was forced to return to Jammu. Sahni

said such behavior of the police administration is a violation of their constitutional rights. Sahni said that he along with party leaders was kept in custody for about two hours and was forced to return to Jammu. Sahni said such behavior of the police administration is a violation of constitutional rights. Making allegations, Sahni said that at the behest of the ruling party, opposition parties, especially Shiv Sena, are being prevented from expanding and propagating the party.

BJP flags off video vans to 7 Assembly constituencies

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, along with Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former MLC & Convenor "Viksit Bharat Video Vans" flagged off the Video Vans from BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The vans displaying audio-visual representations were flagged off for their further journey to Bahu, Marh, Nagrota, Jammu North, Jammu East, Jammu West assembly constituencies and will culminate in Jammu South in the evening, thereby covering 7 assembly segments.

Ashok Koul, while flagging off the video vans, said that the wave carrying message of "Viksit Bharat-Modi ki guarantee" has swept the nation. He said that specialized video vans have been deployed to further take the message of unprecedented development in the nation as well as the welfare of the needy and the poor to the public.

Koul added that, BJP has



advanced a step further in the good governance streak by asking the public about the political manifesto, in which these vans will carry "Sankalp Patra-Suggestion Boxes", in all the Assembly segments. The general public would be asked to put their suggestions into these suggestion boxes, which would then be taken collectively to the party's "Sankalp Patra" committee at the state level for drafting the manifesto.

Jugal Kishore Sharma,

said that the video vans would include what all the works that the Modi government has done for public welfare and development under various schemes of the government. Having its public centric purpose, it will further link the party with the ground level activist and masses, he added.

Vikram Randhawa said that as per the party high command's guidelines, 2 video vans will be provided in every Lok Sabha to reach every nook and

corner of the constituency. The entire exercise is aimed at having public opinion about the policies and programmes that the Modi government needs to do more in the next course.

BJP leaders including Tilak Raj Gupta, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Rekha Mahajan, Hari Om Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Surinder Bhagat, Ricky Gupta, Baharat Bhushan, Narinder Gupta and others were present on the occasion.

EDITORIAL

Congress faces an uphill battle for unity

The Congress party is facing significant challenges in its efforts to unite the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The rivalry between these two key players in Kashmir politics has escalated, with both parties engaged in a war of words over seat-sharing arrangements. The recent exchange of barbs began when NC vice-president Omar Abdullah criticized the PDP, stating that the party, ranked third in the 2019 polls for the Anantnag parliamentary seat, has no right to demand a seat. He expressed regret over potentially weakening his own party for the benefit of another member. In response, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti accused the NC of making unilateral decisions and causing a setback to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted the unfulfilled expectations from the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and the INDIA alliance. The Congress had been attempting to persuade the NC to concede the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat to the PDP to avoid a contested election within the INDIA bloc. In return, the Congress offered to relinquish its claim on the Ladakh seat, demonstrating its commitment to alliance unity. Despite the bleak prospects of reconciliation between the NC and PDP, the Congress remains hopeful of maintaining unity within the INDIA bloc. Mehbooba has indicated that the PDP will decide on fielding candidates after consulting with the Congress and other alliance members, while Omar has proposed that the Congress contest the Ladakh seat instead of insisting on the Anantnag-Rajouri seat for the PDP. The Congress leadership continues to pursue the goal of defeating the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir, even as challenges to alliance unity persist. The NC president has made it clear that his party is intended to raise the issue of holding Assembly elections in the Union Territory with the Election Commission of India in its upcoming visit to Jammu and Kashmir. His argument holds some logic as if Lok Sabha elections can be conducted in J&K, why can't authorities hold assembly polls? The hopes for the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, as being accused by the political opponents of BJP, were dashed when Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not make any announcement in this regard, leaving them disappointed. While the Prime Minister mentioned efforts to win the hearts of the people of J&K and reduce the distance between Delhi and J&K, they believe that they are yet to see concrete achievements in this direction since 2021. The resignation of Election Commission Arun Geol is a matter of concern, and they are not sure of the decision-making process of the Chief Election Commissioner. The opposition parties claimed that the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) still exists, but there are differences among partners regarding seat-sharing. Both the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and National Conference (NC) are part of the alliance, and even if we win seats, it may not alter the dynamics of the alliance with India. The PDP has openly criticized the NC, and the NC's decision-making was influenced by the situation getting out of control. Congress is confused as if it has to take a call on whether to turn into a mediator between NC and PDP to sort out the differences or remain silent and go solo in Lok Sabha polls as far as J&K is concerned.

A big event in India's nuclear journey passed off quietly. Just as well

SRAGHOTHAM

A most significant event took place in the country last week, but with almost no attention paid to it - probably because the Prime Minister did not make a big deal of it. He came, he saw, he left, apparently all in 45 minutes. Fittingly appropriate, I must say, considering what it was all about. It was the "commencement of core loading of the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)". In simple terms, the operators of this nuclear reactor, PFBR, began to load fuel into the reactor and switched it on - and they will slowly crank it up over some months to 'criticality', when they can be sure that a sustainable fission chain has been set off and the reactor can run and produce power. But India already has 20+ nuclear reactors and more are coming up, and all of them together don't still account for more than 4-5% of India's power generation. So why is the switching on of one more nuclear reactor so significant? So, here's the thing in a nutshell: India has huge energy needs to meet

its industrialisation and developmental goals, but it is not endowed with massive hydrocarbon (oil and gas) resources. Nuclear energy is the only source that can meet India's energy and power needs while at the same time helping to de-carbonise the economy. But to harness this technology, we need the right fuel. We do not have enough uranium reserves, but we have abundant thorium (which can be converted into uranium), said to be enough to power India for more than 250 years. To be able to use thorium optimally, we have to graduate through a 3-stage nuclear programme. That is what Homi Bhabha designed in the 1950s, and we have been following since. The existing nuclear reactors are all of the first stage - burning uranium to produce power, and plutonium for the second stage reactors. With the PFBR, we have reached that second stage on a commercial scale. This reactor will breed plutonium as it consumes it. It will also help convert thorium to U-233 on the side. The dream of reaching the thorium stage is thus closer. The PFBR story is the

story of India, its leadership and the people, at all levels, in the nuclear establishment determinedly pursuing a plan laid out in 1958, no matter what. If it succeeds - and at this stage, one sees no reason why it shouldn't - then India will have arrived as the leader on the world nuclear stage at just the time when there's growing interest worldwide in reviving nuclear power, thanks to climate change. I have been inside the reactor vault, the 'sanctum sanctorum', as it were, and the control room of the PFBR, where PM Modi too was taken, some 10 years ago, when it stood ready, more or less. And I have met and interviewed dozens of people involved in it - from Sivaramakrishnan, a crane operator who had to lift up the reactor and safety vessels - special steel vessels of 12-13 m diameter -- above 80-foot tall walls and place them in a precise spot on the other side (with a tolerance of 300 mm!) without being able to see the other side (believe me, there's a logic to why it had to be done that way), to people right up to the hierarchy of scientists, engineers, directors and

CMs of 'Bhavini', the company formed to build the PFBR, and IGCAR, the research centre whose experience of building and running a test breeder reactor (FBTR) since 1985 determined every detail of the PFBR. I have also met and interviewed scientists, engineers and directors and heads at the apex of the Department of Atomic Energy and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and many other institutions that make up India's vast nuclear establishment, as well as people from the likes of L&T, Walchandnagar Industries, MTAR, etc., who were involved in the manufacture of key components, sub-systems, etc. The story of the PFBR, more than anything else, is the story of the perseverance and triumph of these people. Let me point you to only a few of these people, events and stories: Nehru: In the 1950s, the US and Britain, too, wanted to build thorium-based reactors. In 1951, when Nehru appealed to the US for food aid as India reeled under near-famine conditions, the US Congress made it conditional on India

lifting its ban on export of Kerala's thorium-rich monazite sands, and exporting them to the US. Nehru refused to give in. The US Congress held off the food aid for weeks, but finally gave in. That export ban stands even today. We need the thorium ourselves. 'Carbide' Ganguly: When France, which was helping us design the experimental FBTR, backed off from cooperation and refused to sell the special mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel required, India's breeder reactor dreams seemed at an end. India was not in a position, at the time, to make the MOX fuel. In stepped C Ganguly, a young PhD who had researched on an alternative carbide fuel. The FBTR ended up using the carbide fuel, a world-first, and has run on it for nearly 40 years now, thanks to Chaitanyamoy, nay 'Carbide' Ganguly. The Tsunami: Then PM Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone for the PFBR in October 2004. A special elevated platform was built for the PM to do the honours by remote since his security chief would not allow him to go into a large excavated area. Two months later,

when the December 2004 Tsunami struck and the entire excavated area was flooded and everything in the vicinity washed away, it was this VIP platform that helped save the lives of all but one of the 150 people who were at the site. A construction supervisor who was standing on that platform alerted the workers to flee just in time as he saw the giant waves rush in. Anil Kakodkar: During the India-US 'nuclear deal' talks, the US insisted that India put its Fast Breeder Reactor under international safeguards. Given its strategic and commercial importance, the DAE resisted it strongly. Some in the government and some 'strategic experts' ridiculed the Fast Breeder programme as a "pipedream" that would never take off and that it would be silly to let go of the deal for its sake. Pressure was sought to be mounted on the DAE to relent. The then DAE Chairman Anil Kakodkar decided to use the only weapon he had: He went public with his "over my dead body" opposition. The FBTR was taken off the table. Today, the "pipedream" has become reality.

Social proofing the business case for climate action

ANU BARARIA

John Lennon in his iconic Imagine envisioned a world where people lived in peace and unity. Without greed or hunger - a brotherhood of man. Yet, the universal camaraderie he dreamt of, existed neither before nor after this song. Even Lennon conceded that his vision was that of a dreamer. Still, he tried to convince us to accept it with a simple and irrefutable fact: "But I'm not the only one." This stands as a testament to the formidable power of social proof. What exactly is social proof? Social proof is when a substantial number of people believe or act in a certain way, serving as compelling evidence for others to follow suit. Take the great climate debate. Despite global warming making headlines around the turn of the last century, social proof of fossil fuels' utility in powering our homes, factories, and infrastructure incentivised their unabated

use in developed countries, and later in developing ones. Social proof shapes an idea's perceived appropriateness, American psychologist and author of Influence, Robert Cialdini asserts. The late 20th Century witnessed a turning point for climate action as renewables gained popularity through the right support mechanisms and advocacy initiatives. Media-driven climate consciousness further influenced the world order. Energy companies pivoted to clean energy, and world leaders passionately embraced a carbon-free world in principle and practice as well to a good measure. Governments and corporations globally began setting ambitious clean energy targets, ushering in new supply chains at an unprecedented pace. Cialdini's proposition about the crucial role of idea validity and feasibility in driving transformation applies remarkably to climate action. As more and more people and

powers adopted clean energy, it elevated its rationality, positioning it as a better option both practically and ethically. The numbers tell a compelling story: renewable energy generation, electric vehicle production, solar and wind-powered enterprises, and investments in clean infrastructure have reached record highs. Clean energy and carbon neutrality are having their moment in the Sun. Last year in New York, during Climate Week, this author witnessed a multitude of Lennon's dreamers advocating for fossil fuel phase-out - ordinary people and world leaders united by the understanding that today they aren't the only ones. The dialogues leading up to COP28 built social proof, reinforcing that Climate Change is an urgent threat to humankind. Then at COP28, historic firsts unfolded: the first acknowledgement of the need to move away from fossil fuels, and the consensus on

a framework for the global adaptation goal, among others. Social proof of the validity of climate action in sustainable development was unequivocally demonstrated. Now let's talk about the feasibility component. People embrace an idea once many others, especially within their social circles, effortlessly adopt it. For example, individuals can switch to electric vehicles or rooftop solar if their entire social circle recommends it for their ease and economy. It then appears realistic and, therefore, implementable. However, to drive change the feasibility of one option must substantially outweigh the supremacy of the other, particularly for key change agents such as governments and conglomerates. Developing countries, also major energy consumers, face hurdles in transitioning to clean energy without sufficient funding from the Global North. Uncertain about bankable projects in the Global South, developed nations are

afraid to lend, more so unconventionally. While charts depicting the rise in clean energy adoption illustrate the power of social proof in advancing climate action, closer scrutiny reveals a pace of change slower than desirable to avert catastrophe. The social proof built around fossil fuels and their pervasive use is still hard to wish away. Despite overwhelming evidence supporting Climate Change mitigation, a tug of war persists at crucial forums, involving the Global North and the Global South, clean energy companies, and those in coal, oil, and gas, debating the feasibility of a massive transformation. The impasse persists, each side holding the same refrain: We are not the only ones. (Anu Bararia is former General Manager of Public Relations and Strategic Communications, ReNew.)

Can Dalit food ever be Satvik? Devdutt Pattanaik writes

DEVUTT PATTANAİK

Imagine a meal made of coagulated blood cooked with oil, salt and chillies, or a meal of the flesh of rats, or the flesh of a dead, not slaughtered, animal. Or imagine a meal which contains the brain, intestines and trotters of a goat or a sheep or a meal involving dried flesh of cattle or pig. Some of these could be delicacies in Christian and Muslim households, in Europe and America, in Africa and China, but not in 'upper' caste elite Hindu households. This is Dalit food, eaten for centuries by many, not all, communities who identify as Dalit. Dalit is a political term of self-identification popular since the 20th century amongst numerous downtrodden, marginalised and backward communities of India. This includes castes who were forced to live on the fringes of villages and towns and were responsible for keeping the village clean, performing sanitation work, removing garbage, sewage and dead bodies. These were the "untouchables" of India, who were not given access to the community spaces, to markets and to water bodies. Their history is very different from, and often eclipsed by, the larger conversation of caste in India. We get access to their story and their dietary practices only if we read Dalit literature, which emerged only in the 19th century after Dalits gained access to education, after the arrival of Christian missionaries. Though these communities participated in the village economy, they were not given what we would today refer to as a fair share of the village harvest. They were forced

to eat food that was stale leftover food. Even today, in households across India, the staff continues to be given stale food, yesterday's food, not the fresh food cooked for the master and his family. Even food kept in the fridge is frowned upon by the affluent. No guruji will be given yesterday's rotis, preserved in the fridge and reheated in a microwave. Food in India, as in other parts of the world, is a marker of tribal identity. Jews have Kosher food. Muslims have Halal food. No argument is possible against these foods as they claim to be following God's law. In India, food laws, traceable to Bhagavad Gita, refer to a three-fold (tri-guna) division of food that creates the four-fold caste division of society (chatur-varna). For aristocrats, there is spicy, oily, 'rajasic' (royal) food that can

energise you and even make you aggressive. For those steady-state seeking bureaucrats, accountants and merchants, there is fresh organic, relatively bland 'satvik' (honest) food that has been granted spiritual status as it is believed to be produced non-violently. Stale, fermented 'tamasic' (dark) food is to be avoided as they take away initiative, make the body and the mind dull, apathetic, and submissive. Where do you locate meat? Kings who loved to hunt, insisted it was rajasic. Temple priests insist it is tamasic, unfit for gods. Usually whatever the priest likes to eat becomes satvik, and part of temple rituals, too. Dalit food was all food shunned by the elite: stale leftovers; sacred or dirty animals (cattle, pigs, rats); 'unclean' parts of the animal (intestine, brain, feet); dead animals! This was not a choice. This

was an outcome of necessity. In poverty, this was the only food they had access to. Even the market was out of reach for the 'impure'. Some argue this was a deliberate move, as part of the caste strategy, to keep those on the fringe dull and dependent enough through a 'tamasic' diet, so as not to revolt. Globally, people are more tolerant about religious food than caste food. And so can mainstream kosher food and halal food, and Jain food, but activists will mock "pure" vegetarian Brahmin food on grounds that this is presented as superior food and so is inherently discriminatory. It is only now, through books of self-expression, that we are learning about Dalit food. We learn how coarse grain was the only grain available to make bread. To make the food edible, a lot of salt, onion and

chillies were added, due to lack of access to other spices. Seeds that would otherwise be thrown, like watermelon seeds, were used to make the food edible and tasty. Sugar was not easily available, therefore, molasses were used. Dried meat of pork and beef was kept for the rainy day. As there is a concerted move to annihilate caste, should young Dalits walk away from food habits their ancestors were forced to adopt for survival, and embrace the rajasic and satvik choices that they now have access to? Or should they hold on to their food as markers of a dark history, and caste identity? Or should Dalit food be mainstreamed, embraced by chefs on cookery shows, and turned into a delightful meal that everyone can relish? Every choice has repercussions, says the law of karma.

Shiv Sena Hindustan will contest Parliament elections in J&K: Rajesh Kesri

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today in a press conference at Bishnah Block Murar Chak said that Shiv Sena Hindustan and Hindustan Shakti Seva together will participate in the Parliament elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He said in this regard National President Pawan Gupta is coming to Jammu and Kashmir soon in which all the office bearers of Jammu and Kashmir will also participate and will discuss about the upcoming Parliament elections, which seats should be contested and on which seats, which party should be supported. Shiv Sena Hindustan can also support those parties with whom our ideology is matching. Shiv Sena Hindustan will



announce the names of its candidates from Jammu and Udhampur. Pawan Gupta will soon announce the seat distribution in a press conference after reaching Jammu in two-four days. Kesri said that young generation have become addicted to drugs in these areas and some people are selling drugs without license due to which our young generation is getting spoiled

because of these hidden drugs. It does not cause bad breath nor does it stumble and the parents think that because their child is not drinking alcohol, hence no one would be intoxicated, added Kesri. By the time the parents come to know about it, it is too late and on the other hand. Kesri also expressed concern over production of desi liquor in these areas which is

produced by the people in the desi Bhatti. He said Police is also doing its work, but it is a matter of big concern that now drug peddlers have also included women in this illegal trade, which is very dangerous for the society besides Police also have to face a lot of problems to catch them. However the government and the police are catching them and putting them in jails but after coming out, they again start doing the same work again because they do not have any other work. He demanded enhancing funds for identification, motivation, counseling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation of the drug users. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Dheeraj Kumar, Rajkumar Baba besides others.

Dr. Preeti Bhagat organised free medical camp, distributed medicines

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat organized a free medical camp at kirpind village of of Suchetgarh assembly constituency. During the camp, Dr. Preeti Bhagat and her team conducted free checkups of more than 100 patients and distributed medicines to them. People who came to the camp for checkup said that usually social organizations organize medical camps only once or twice a year, but the passion of



Dr. Preeti Bhagat takes out time from her busy schedule and organizes camps in some village every week. The villagers said that by getting checkups done in such camps,

they remain aware of their health. Otherwise they do not have the facilities to get their health checkup done. Dr. Preeti Bhagat said that the passion for social service has been in

her mind since the beginning. She wants to do something for the society. This was the purpose of joining the medical profession and now she is serving people through this profession. Such camps will be continued in future also. Dr. Preeti Bhagat also gave many tips to the people who came to the camp for checkup to stay healthy without medicines. She said that if you follow a good routine and maintain proper eating habits, you can stay safe from diseases to a great extent.

JKAP celebrates 4th Foundation Day in Akhnoor

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party celebrated its 4th foundation day and International women's day at khara balli Tehsil of Chhamb Constituency which was organised by Ganesh Dass Sharma General Secretary JKAP Jammu District rural A. wherein large number of party workers and women participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. The party flag was hoisted by Pushap Dev Kumar uppal District president Jammu rural A Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party thereafter he delivered his lecture on the importance of the day which our party is committed and pledged to work for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



and Kashmir hibernated with one pretest or the other and only Sayed mohd Altaf Bukhari came out with the like minded people and leadership from various parties to plead the case before the central leadership for protecting the rights of people and sigh of relief was given to us and on the same day Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party was formed to protect to protect the rights of people this day was 8th March 2020 which is a historical day and on the same day

women's day is celebrated globally for the welfare of women and their upliftment and empowerment which doubles the significance of this day. Uppal explained the agenda of the party to the worker's that 500 units of electricity will be provided free to all the households if we come in power, oldage, widow destitute, handicapped will be raised to 5000 pm instead 1000 marriage assistance shall be 1 lac from 50000 that to within one month of marriage

of girls four free cylinder in Ujwala scheme restoration of old pension scheme for employees unemployment allowances to all graduate and above youths till they are absorbed in government and private jobs the core agenda of the party is restoration of statehood and conduct of assembly elections at the earliest the foundation was attended by Beli Ram Vice president Jammu rural, Puran Chand Pujari Thandi Choi, Kara balli and local workers of Apni Party.

Dr. Karan Singh shares fascinating nuggets from his 'Meetings With Remarkable Women' at launch of his book



J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 10

It was a brief meeting with Hellen Keller that lasted a few minutes but left a lifelong impression. And it remains etched in his mind as an encounter with 'an iconic fighter for the cause of the disabled.' His memorable meeting with Eleanor Roosevelt, whom he describes as the first lady of the United Nations, took place when he was just 17 years of age.

From the depths of his remarkable memory, veteran politician and public figure, Dr. Karan Singh has dug out these and many more fascinating nuggets relating to some of his most memorable encounters

with women, and put them together in the form of a book 'Meetings with Remarkable Women'. Sure to be a collector's item, the book, in its Hindi edition and a new English edition, was released by the author himself on Saturday evening at Delhi's India International Centre.

The English version, first published in 2014 as a compilation of his impressions about the remarkable women he had met in his life, has been updated with seven new additions, right down to President Shrimati Droupadi Murmu. Both the English and Hindi versions are the first publications of the newly formed Karan Singh Foundation in collaboration

with Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House. Speaking at length about the book at the launch event, Dr Karan Singh said, "In the course of my multifarious and varied public life, which began some eight decades ago, I have had occasion in India and abroad to meet with a large number of remarkable people..." and they "have left an impression upon my mind." Those memories had resided in the recesses of his mind till, on the prompting of Jyotsana, his daughter and chairperson of the Karan Singh Foundation, he decided to pen them down, he revealed. Many of the women who have found their

way to his book were well known around the world, while many were not in the public eye. But, according to the author, "they shared a certain intangible quality which has led me to include them in this book of reminiscences."

The launch event was attended by a galaxy of dignitaries from different walks of life. It saw an exciting panel discussion between Dr. Singh and two remarkable women - Mala Thapar (Malvika Singh), daughter of journalist and political commentator Romesh Thapar, and Ameeta Mehra, daughter of late Major PK Mehra. The panelists also interacted with the audience on the occasion.

EJAC nominates Suhaib Munshi as Chief Convenor of EJAC NPS unit J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10

In a landmark development, the Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) of Jammu and Kashmir has nominated Suhaib Munshi as the Chief Convenor of the NPS Unit. The announcement was made during an event graced by distinguished dignitaries, including the Chief Guest Wajahat Durrani, President of EJAC, Masroor Ahmad Khan, a senior leader in EJAC and President of the +2 Lecturers Association, Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, Secretary EJAC, and other key representatives from various unions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Suhaib Munshi, the President of the Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts Employees Union, expressed gratitude for the nomination, emphasizing the urgent need for modifications to the NPS policy and expressing hope for alignment with the OPS framework.



President EJAC, Wajahat Durrani, highlighted the challenges faced by NPS employees post-retirement, stressing the need to restore OPS in Jammu and Kashmir. Durrani expressed optimism that the committee, under Suhaib Munshi's leadership, will successfully address these issues.

Masroor Ahmad Khan, a senior leader in EJAC and President of the +2 Lecturers Association, passionately addressed

the gathering. Khan expressed his unwavering support for the cause, underscoring the vital role of NPS employees in the community. He eloquently spoke about the challenges faced by these employees, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive solution. Khan pledged to stand with the committee, ensuring that the concerns of NPS employees are heard and addressed at every level. Mushtaq Ahmad Malik,

Secretary EJAC, emphasized the collective commitment to resolving NPS employees' challenges, stating it is a collective responsibility.

The Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee, through its Press and Publicity Wing, aims to bring attention to the pressing issues surrounding NPS policies and work towards a resolution for the benefit of employees in the region.

BJP OBC Morcha organised Samajik Sannelan in Bagial Panchayat in Kathua

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Sunil Prajapati (President BJP OBC Morcha), Madal Dabgotra (Spokesperson OBC Morcha), Madan Verma (Spokesperson OBC Morcha), Vinod Kumar (District President OBC Morcha Kathua), Buta Ram (Secretary OBC Morcha Kathua) were Present main in the Program.

The Program was organised by Buta Ram (Secretary OBC Morcha Kathua).

Sunil Prajapati on this occasion said that only BJP is the party that resolved the long pending issues of OBC Samaj and in coming elections OBC voters will give befitting reply to National Conference and Congress. He also highlighted the dedicated efforts of Modi Government for ensuring Justice and welfare of people of J&K UT by undertaking various projects under Kaushal Vikas yojana and constructed various of Roads including Highways, overhead bridges, development of Railway Stations and railway tracks in the UT as well as launching of various welfare schemes for the People of J&K including Ayushman Bharat, Arogya Yojna, and Kishan Samman Nidi Yojna. He also emphasized the welfare schemes for specially



for the women such as; Jan Dhan Yojana, Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao, Ladli Beti, Ujjwala Yojana as examples of initiatives aimed at empowering the women across the Nation. The Sannelan was attended by a large number of people including the women and West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) from the adjoining Areas.

Sunil Prajapati on the occasion said that it is the duty of every party worker to disseminate every information of the Government's welfare schemes to ensure that it reaches every individual of the Society. He also highlighted the dedicated efforts of the Modi Government towards the development of Jammu

and Kashmir following the revocation of Article 370. He also expressed that it is only the Modi Govt who has granted the domicile right to West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) after seven decades of their settling in J&K, who were migrated during partition of India during 1947 and settled in the adjoining areas of International Border, mostly in the Border District Jammu. He accused that the previous Govt led by NC-Congress never considered them as resident of J&K and denied all constitutional rights including residentship, proper education, right to own immovable property and even the voting right for State elections.

He also said that the

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

Sunil Prajapati extended gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Union Govt, for this great cause for implementing OBC reservation in J&K UT and extending reservation in elections of Panchayts and the Municipalities. He expressed that the Modi Govt has provided the constitutional rights to OBCs at par with other States under the spirit of Sab Ka Saath, Sab ka Viswas and Sab ka Vikas.

AAG: Natrang's play raises awareness on drug menace



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Balwant Thakur's Hindi play 'AAG' staged here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at Rani Park, Jammu under the direction of Neeraj Kant. The play showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations and thus crippling the developing nations. The youth of the country, the most energetic human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slip into the world of drug-addicts.

The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment multiple stories were woven by the playwright in one theme focusing the spread of drug menace like a fire, taking the toll of the important work force of the country. In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company after his passing of the school and entry in the college. He is isolated

for not being the consumer of intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a young man now, he finds the easiest way and demonstrates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In another sequence a rural inhabitant particularly the men-folk is shown drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the growing consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings for alcohol. Having drunk he has lost his way home. By the time a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night the drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his arrival. When the escort intervenes to

save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having bad intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunken man after losing senses damages his household property as well. The play unfolds a series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly. Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon.

Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact of their acting included Neeraj Kant, Kananpreet Kaur, Amit Rana, Arun Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Vishal Sharma, Aadesh Dhar, Vansh Pandotra and Kushal Bhat. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

SMVDU, Dr. Deepak Jain received a patent "Automated Medical Environment Management Device with a Health Detection".

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Dr. Deepak Jain, School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University received a design patent titled "Automated Medical Environment Management Device with a Health Detection" under Design Application Number: 6347703 in Class: "24 - Medical and Laboratory Equipment" and Sub Class "02 - Medical Instruments, Instruments and Tools for Laboratory Use". He is one of the ten inventors. This design patent pertains to an innovative Automated Medical Environment Management Device equipped with integrated health detection capabilities.



The design focuses on seamlessly integrating advanced technologies to create an efficient and user-friendly solution for medical environments. The device encompasses a sleek and ergonomic form factor, optimizing both aesthetics and functionality. The design incorporates a comprehensive health detection system, utilizing cutting-edge sen-

sors and technologies to monitor vital health parameters. The device's intuitive interface allows for easy interaction, ensuring accessibility for both healthcare professionals and patients. With an emphasis on functionality, the Automated Medical Environment Management Device integrates seamlessly into healthcare settings, offering real-time health monitoring and precise environmental control. This design patent represents a significant leap forward in the convergence of medical technology and environmental management, catering to the evolving needs of modern healthcare facilities.

SMVDU, Ms. Anshikka Jain published a kindle book as co-editor "Data Wars between Nations: A Threat for Mankind"

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Ms. Anshikka Jain, a student of B. Arch. (4th Semester) published a Kindle book as Co-Editor titled Data Wars between Nations: A Threat for Mankind? on Amazon available at <https://www.amazon.in/dp/BOCPZQM37>. The ISBN No.: 978-93-6076-488-3 (13 Digit ISBN) are issued by Raja Rammohun Roy National Agency for ISBN, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The book records the scenario of rapid growth in e-commerce, cloud computing, and other parts of the digital economy are driving important shifts in the global economy. As the firms in all sectors are incorporating digital tools into their business models,



the desire to put rules in place on digital trade is gaining momentum. This has grown as a number of countries, such as China, Indonesia and Nigeria, which have introduced policies that legislate against foreign data flows and e-commerce, affecting the business models of leading global digital corporations. The success of developing and emerging countries in resisting the push for digital trade rules at the WTO was also down to the lack of strong con-

sensus in leading economies. The EU, in particular, was hesitant. Key voices expressed concerns about the impact of new rules on the European digital economy, limiting the ability to establish strong online data protections in the continent. Nonetheless, emboldened by their previous successes, some developing country alliances are now looking to roll back other digital trade commitments in the WTO which they see as damaging. They see these rules as problematic, limiting their ability to collect tariffs as more goods are sold digitally. These diverging positions are likely to increasingly cause conflict in the coming years. The stakes are high and outcomes are likely to shape the direction of the global economy in the future.

'Amad-e-Ramadhan Cricket Tournament': KU's Students XI lifts trophy beating Non-Teaching XI



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

In an exciting display of sportsmanship, Students XI of Kashmir University (KU) clinched victory against the Non-Teaching XI, emerging as the winner of the first-ever 'Amad-e-Ramadhan Cricket Tournament'.

The match was played Saturday at the university's Main Ground.

KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, commended both the teams for their exemplary performance while lauding KU's Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPES) in encouraging sports activities and infrastructure development within the university.

"This tournament

exemplifies the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship and reflects the university's commitment to holistic development," Prof Khan said.

Prof Khan highlighted the significance of sports and other co-curricular activities in nurturing leadership qualities among participants.

The KU VC also presented trophies to the deserving teams.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal and Special Secretary to the KU VC, Dr Ashfaq Ahmad Zari, were present on the occasion.

Director, DPES, KU, Dr Mandeep Singh, extended his gratitude to the dignitaries for their support in boosting the morale of the participants.

The tournament was

organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, KU, with Sakeena Akhtar and Amjad Qadir as the cricket coaches.

On the occasion, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan along with other dignitaries also unveiled the 'Challengers Trophy'.

The 'Challengers Trophy' will be played in five different categories and will be the first of its kind, starting with cricket in coming days. The initiative aims to engage youth in healthy lifestyles and deter them from societal vices and encourage a culture of sportsmanship and excellence, setting new benchmarks in the realm of sports.

Pahari Rap Song Shukriya released at Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

Pahari rap song shukriya released by State Executive Members of Pahari Tribe ST Forum Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Nirvana Entertainers today here at Rajouri. The song has been recited and composed by famous rapper Rehai Prince. The music of the song has been directed by RP Raj and mastered by Hell Mandeer while the song is written by Shafait Yaseen. The motive behind this is to thank the union government after the grant of ST status to the pahari tribe. In the video song the singer rapper thanked Narendra Modi and Amit shah led union government on behalf of paharis of twin districts of Rajouri,



Poonch, Uri Karnah and Kupwara for delivering justice with most neglected and deprived pahari community after 70 years of injustice done by the previous governments with the efforts of Ravinder Raina, Tarun Chung, Vibodh Gupta, Iqbal Malik and other BJP Leaders. The song is supported by State Executive Members of Pahari Tribe St Forum J&K including Advocate Ahsan Mirza,

Advocate Gurdev Singh Thakur, Advocate Aftab Ahmed Ganai, Advocate Sanjeev Sharma, Vikrant Sharma, Bharat Bushan Vaid, Vishal Pahari, Nikhil Gupta, Nadeem Ahmed Mir, Sayed Shafait Yaseen, Manir Mirza, Sajjad Mirza, Jahangeer Khan, Ahmed Khan, Pervaz Khan and Advocate Bhanu Partap. The song is available on the digital platforms and official channel of Nirvana Entertainers on YouTube.

Missing woman reunited with family, public applauds police action

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

One person (name withheld) of Talwara lodged a written complaint on 16th of February 2024 at Police Post Talwara that her wife (name withheld) went missing. He started searching for her but she could not be found anywhere. Sensing the gravity of incident SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma-IPS constituted a special team to trace out the missing women at the earliest.

Enquiries from the family, relatives & friends gave sufficient clues of the missing women & accordingly sources of police were activated.

After meticulous tracking following, with the help of technical assistance by ESU Reasi & consistent hectic efforts, team of Police Post Talwara

zeroed upon the location of the women.

Police team of PP Talwara raided at different locations and recovered the missing woman. The whole operation is led by SHO P/S Reasi Chaman Gorka under the supervision of Dy.SP Hqrs Reasi Neeraj Padyar-JKPS. After completing all the legal formalities the missing women reunited with her family. All family, relatives & community people expressed gratitude to Police for sincere efforts in searching & recovering the missing women.

Reasi Police is being regularly briefed to remain sensitive towards crime against women especially minors further appealed that girls should remain aware of fraudsters who remain on the mission of spoiling the life of innocents.

PUCA Urges AICTE to exclude BBA BCA from its ambit

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10

Department of Higher Education, Govt of Punjab has requested the Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt of India that the Colleges affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh; Punjab University, Patiala; Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar running BBA/BCA & other professional courses must be given one year time to apply to All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi & last date to apply & adhere to norms of AICTE should be extended to 31st March, 2025.

As per notification number D.No. 815/ College Education/DHE dated 7th March, 24, the representations have been received by the Punjab Govt from colleges affiliated respective universities. These colleges are running BBA BCA courses after due approval and under

the norms prescribed by respective universities from the last 20-25 years & were not covered under AICTE domain.

Earlier also Dr Anshu Kataria, President, Federation of Self Financing Technical Institutions (FSFTI), All India & Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) has requested AICTE that since 1987 since the AICTE act was passed; BBA, BCA, BMS were never it's part. After almost 4 decades, suddenly bringing BBA BCA Colleges under its ambit is shocking.

The affiliated colleges under Punjab, Panjabi & Guru Nanak Dev University have expressed the concern that BBA BCA courses are being run successfully & any move to de recognize will jeopardize the efforts of State Govt & will also affect the implementation of NEP 2020 to ensure multidisciplinary aspect in education system.

SSP Reasi awarded CCTNS operator of PS Pouni for outstanding performance



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

During the recent field visit of *ADGP Jammu zone Shri Anand Jain - IPS alongwith DIG UR range Shri Rayees Mohd. Bhat-IPS and SSP Reasi Ms Mohita Sharma-IPS* in district Reasi, ADGP Jammu visited PS Pouni and took stock of working of Police station building, Records, crime disposal and also CCTNS working.

ADGP Jammu also visited the CCTNS Lab of PS Pouni and found that the working of CCTNS Lab to be very impressive and

appreciable as the daily dairy, crime portal and all other related forms were up to date.

ADGP Jammu appreciated the work of Ct Rohit Kumar No. 1005/RSI, PID No.126875/EXJ presently posted at P/S Pouni as CCTNS operator for keeping the record up to date. On this ADGP Jammu rewarded him with a appreciation letter and cash reward of Rs 5000/-

Today Ct Rohit Kumar was rewarded by SSP Reasi Ms Mohita Sharma-IPS for his outstanding performance at DPO Reasi.

YSS Organises Skiing Training at Gurez

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GUREZ, MARCH 10

The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K is committed to promoting physical fitness, sportsmanship, and the overall development of youth in the UT. With a range of programs and initiatives, the Department aims to inspire and engage young individuals in various sports activities, nurturing their talents and creating promising opportunities for their future growth.

Continuing its efforts to promote snow skiing in far-off places like Gurez, the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K skill-fully conducted a training program in Skiing for the youth of Gurez. The arrangements were made by the Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Gurez. The course witnessed enthusiastic participation and remarkable skill development among the participants.

The Snow Skiing Course, designed to provide a



unique opportunity for participants to explore the pristine snow slopes of the Habba Khatun Peak Ranges, has established itself as an exceptional platform for individuals to enhance their skiing abilities while fostering a love for winter sports. Situated amidst the majestic surroundings of Gurez Valley,

the course promises unparalleled natural beauty, making it an ideal destination for winter sports enthusiasts.

As the course continues, participants have been actively engaged in a series of training sessions, focusing on various aspects of skiing techniques and safety measures. The

expert instructors, who possess extensive experience in skiing, have been instrumental in imparting their knowledge and skills to the eager participants. Under their guidance, participants have demonstrated significant progress and determination.

The event witnessed a remarkable turnout of individuals passionate about snow skiing. Participants from different age groups, backgrounds, and skill levels united in their shared enthusiasm for

winter sports. Their spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship has created an encouraging and supportive atmosphere throughout the course. Pertinently the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K aims to promote winter sports and encourage youth involvement in physical activities. By organizing such skiing courses, they provide a much-needed platform for individuals to discover their potential, develop their skills, and embrace the thrill of skiing.

Heart health & urbanisation - incompatible and irreconcilable: Dr Sushil Sharma

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, 10TH MARCH

In view of rapid transition towards urbanisation and proportionate increase in cardiac ailments Head Department of Cardiology Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu with aim to inculcate cardiac friendly lifestyle alongwith ongoing advancements in urban areas. While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that By 2050, it is projected that almost 70% of the world's population will be living in cities, up from 55% today. The fastest urban growth is happening in Asia and Africa, which is also where we're seeing a rapid rise in people suffering from, and dying of, heart disease. The impact of on the world population's health is growing. Non-communicable diseases are those that are not directly transmissible from one person to another. By 2030, scientists predict they will account for 77% of the global burden of disease. Cardiovascular or



heart disease is the most common type, responsible for 44% of all deaths related to this category.

He elaborated that Urban and peri-urban environment are characterized by a tendency to sedentary lifestyle, a diet rich in sodium and calories, excessive alcohol consumption, socio-professional stress, all this in a context of poverty or social insecurity. Linked in particular to an uncontrolled rural exodus. This results in an increase in biological or physiological risk factors and a vicious circle between non-communicable disease which exacerbate poverty and vice versa. The distribution of main risk factors for CVD (i.e., hypertension, type 2 diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, obesity, and smoking) vary widely between global regions,

countries and even within a country. Such differences have been imputed to geographical variation, specifically, to urbanization, i.e., whether an individual lives in a rural or urban settings and, altitude, i.e., how far above sea level the subject resides.

He added about the impact of urbanisation on cardiac health told that building cities for cars and urban sprawl encourages car use, traffic congestion, air pollution and noise. The result is more stress, road trauma and physical inactivity as well as worse health overall and more deaths. It follows that we need better designs for our cities. Research has shown, for instance, that 20% of all deaths could be prevented if cities were designed to meet the recommendations for physical activity, air pollution,

noise, heat and green space. Things like air pollution, green space and housing are obviously all interconnected. Thinking about them as contributing in different, interlinked ways to our urban exposures can help to understand how, together, they cause ill health, and how socio-economic status influences the extent of their impact, He Said.

Management Committee of the Mandir Naveen Bali, Harsh Sharma, Hans Raj Gupta, Kishore Sharma, Vinod Khajuria, Ashwani Suri and Sanjay Bali appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health Check up Camp in their society and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this Camp includes Dr Yashwant Sharma and Dr Dhaneshwer Kapoor. Paramedics and volunteers includes Kamal Sharma, Raghav Rajput, Ranjeet Singh, Rohit Nayyar, Amish Jamwal, Jatin Bhasin, Paramveer Singh, Maninder Singh, Vinay Kumar, Arun Singh, Gourav Sharma and Vikas Kumar.

Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals; Police seizes 6 vehicles, arrests 4 drivers in Baramulla & Shopian

JINews SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAR 10

Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have seized 6 vehicles and arrested 4 drivers in Baramulla & Shopian.

In Baramulla, police parties under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla & SDPO Kreeri assisted by SHO PS Baramulla & SHO PS Kreeri seized 4 vehicles (02 tippers & 02 tractors) and arrested 4 drivers, involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Wanigam Payeen & Town Baramulla. The accused drivers have been identified as Bilal Ahmad Dar resident of Naidkhai Sumbal, Ishtiyaq Ahmad Dar resident of Wanigam Payeen, Javid Ahmad Mir resident of Rangwar Baramulla & Gh Mohi ud din Akhooon resident of Khanpora Baramulla.

In Shopian, a police party of Police Station Zainapora seized 02 vehicles (tipper & JCB), involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals



in the jurisdiction of Police Station Zainapora. Both the vehicles were handed over to the officials of Geological and Mining department.

Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated.

Police arrests drug peddler in Baramulla; Contraband substances recovered



JINews SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAR 10

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police has arrested drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from his possession.

A police party of Police Station Pattan headed by SHO PS Pattan at a checkpoint established at Chinar Crossing Pattan near Pandav Park, intercepted a person identified as Amjad Wahan Wani son of Ab Wahab resident of Wani Mohalla Machil Kupwara. During search, 4 grams of contraband Heroin like substances were recovered from his

possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Pattan where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

Police facilitates Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting in Ganderbal



JINews SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAR 10

Continuing unwavering efforts to bridge the gap between police & public, Police in Ganderbal facilitated a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting at Dab in the jurisdiction of Police Post Shadipora.

The meeting was chaired by SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS and was attended by respectable citizens including Market associations, Auqaf Bodies, Chowkidars, Lumberdars, Sarpanchs, Panchs, youth and other community members of the district. Moreover, other senior Police Officers were also present on the said occasion.

On the occasion, the participants highlighted various issues of public

importance and they were assured by the chairing officer 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.

The participants were also stressed to co-operate with Police in maintaining law and order in the area and in identifying anti-national and anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment. While addressing the participants, SSP Ganderbal requested the participants to provide information to Police about smuggling of drugs and other illegal activities if any noticed in the area for initiating appropriate action against the offenders & culprits.

Udhampur Press Club elects new body

JINews SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAR 10

Local journalists of District Udhampur on Sunday unanimously elected its body with Sumit Sharma of Managing Director JK Channel Udhampur as the President and Pankaj Saraf of Managing Director Media 1 Channel and Bureau Chief Dainik State Samachar as Vice President. The body was constituted during a general meeting of journalists of District Udhampur. Ashish Dutt of Chief




Editor JK Channel has been elected as General Secretary, Ashwani Sharma of Bureau Chief Early Times Udhampur as Secretary, Arun Sharma of Deputy Bureau Chief Dainik State Samachar

as Joint Secretary, Aaftab Hindustani of Bureau Chief Jammu Rising News as Treasurer/Chief Account Officer, Vinay Sharma of Bureau Chief Raftar Samachar as Dist Spokesperson and Advo-

cate Rahul Jandial as Legal Advisor.

In his address, the Club president Sumit Sharma said that he would take steps for the welfare of journalists' community and improving the affairs of the press club Udhampur.

He assured to come up to the expectations of members and do his best to contribute towards the welfare of journalist fraternity and also to coordinate with Civil and Police administration for the overall interest of people.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT No. 109 of 2023-24 Dated 06-03-2024

(Single Cover System)

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

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	REPAIR WORK IN THE OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REASI ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION OF MAIN GATE.	7.64	600/-	15280/-	90 Days	C'D Class

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

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	06-03-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-03-2024 to 16-03-2024, 1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	06-03-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	16-03-2024 up to 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	18-03-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi .
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi** as mentioned in the bid documents.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Reasi .
- The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi** . The date for same shall be intimated separately, No:- 8124-28

Dated:- 06-03-2024

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

DIP/J-15852/23
Date: 9-3-24

Three Weeks long MSME residential Workshops on Advanced ESDP & MDP concludes at NIT Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 10

The three weeks workshop on Advanced Entrepreneurship and Skill Development and Advanced Management Development organised by IIED Centre of National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar concluded with resounding success.

The workshop was impeccably designed and coordinated by Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran the Nodal officer of MSME (ESDP, Design and IPR Schemes) from the Department of Mechanical Engineering along with the other coordinators Dr. Noor Zaman Khan, Dr. Deepak Kumar Naik, Dr. Sandeep Ratee Assistant Professors from Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Nasir F. Bhat Assistant Professor from HSS&M and Dr. Syed Irshad Ahmad Qadri Superintendent Workshop, NIT Srinagar.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Dean R&C Prof. M.F. Wani , Dean Faculty Welfare Prof. G A Harmain, Dean Alumni Prof.

S Nazir Ahmed, Dean Planning & Development Prof. Yeswant Metha, Head Mechanical Prof. Adnan Qayoum, Head IIED Centre Prof. Saad Parvez, Assistant Director MSME Mr.Saheel Allaqband congratulated the whole team for making the event grand success attracting the entrepreneurs across India for various Advanced skill development program including 3D Printing, Welding & CNC and Management Development Program on IPR & Risk Management.

This interdisciplinary workshop, conducted saw participation from a diverse range of regions, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi as well as the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand , Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamilnadu, among others.

The event commenced with a valedictory address by Dean Planning and Development Prof. Yeswanth Metha. It featured a distinguished panel of guest speakers, each an expert in their respective fields and associated with prestigious institutions.



Prof. Metha highlighted the pivotal role of such events in advancing technology, particularly in the skill development, and stressed the importance of ongoing government focus in this field.

The esteemed speakers included Prof. Sheikh Gulam Mohammed, Director KU North Campus, Mr. Satish Kumar, Assistant Director, MSME Delhi, Mr. Parvez Principal Associate Khurana IP Mumbai, Adv. Swarna Srivatsav Director, Zeya IP, Delhi Advt. Swati Varshaney, Director IStopIP Solution, Delhi, Adv. Arishie and Adv. Iftikar from Arooj Associates Srinagar.

Dr Varthini Rajagopal, GCE Tamilnadu, Dr. Sajid Yousuf Bhat , University of Kashmir, Mr. Hafizulla Khan, Senior Trainer Oman, Dr Shiva, IIT Jammu, Mr Ajaz Hussain, PDPC Sanat Nagar Dr Saad Parvez, Dr Noor Zaman Khan, Dr Sandeep Ratee, Dr Asma Iqbal, Dr Nitika Kundan, Dr Parameswar, Dr Dinesh Kumar Rajendran , Mr. Nadeem, NIT Srinagar.

Participants were provided with hands-on learning opportunities, with 3D Printing, CNC Wood Carving, Underwater Welding, Patent Drafting, E Filing of Patent, Design, Trademark, Startup Pitching. Dr.

focus more on the development of Skills quoting various schemes of Govt. of India including start up, skill development, make in India and various other funding opportunity for entrepreneurs spread across 17 streams of Ministry of MSME to upskill the youth to excel in technology.

He expressed his gratitude to the staff and student organisers Mr.Irfan Sidiq Sofi, Mr. Mohammad Rafiq Wani, Mr.Firdoos Afzal Bhat, Ms.Mir Qurraat ul Ain, Mr.Atif Zaheer Khan , Mr.Mohd Ashraf Hajam, Mr.Annayath Maqbool, Mr.Tariq Ahmad, Mr. Suhaib Nazir , Mr.Junaaid, Mr.Aquib for making the series of workshop rally concludes in smooth and organising the workshops.

The event demonstrated the potential of upcoming technology and scope of Entrepreneurship development in Jammu & Kashmir, fostering meaningful discussions and knowledge exchange.

It marked a significant stride toward innovation in this critical sector. The valedictory session was hosted and coordinated by Dr Nasir F Bhat, Coordinator of A-MDP.

IIMC students get hands on experience of Photography



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

The students of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu participated in a photography workshop on Sunday in its campus. Pawan Kumar, a Senior Photo Journalist from the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, provided hands-on photography practice.

Pawan Kumar talked about fundamental aspects of photography like image identification, light, camera, lens, visuals, shutter speed, aperture speed, and focus. He also shared his experiences on the current trends of photography and the intricacies involved in capturing styles. He also said that food photography has become important these

days. Photography may be manipulated and several award winning photographs were criticised due to unethical practices. A photographer must practice with a camera and know about the camera equipment, camera limitations and types of lens. The session was moderated by Prachi, a student of English Journalism.

Earlier, Prof. (Dr.) Anil Saumitra extended a warm welcome to the guest and highlighted the workshop's significance. Throughout the event, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Course Coordinator of Digital Media, Dr. Anshula Gurg, Assistant Professor of English Journalism, Mr. Yasir Arfat, Assistant Professor of Hindi Journalism, and all the students of three courses actively participated in the photography workshop with enthusiasm.

During past two years, infrastructure facilities at Shahdara Sharief have got a big boost: Dr Darakhshan

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAR 10

Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today laid the foundation stone for Jamia Masjid at Ziyarat Shahdara Sharief in Rajouri in presence of Waqf Board CEO Dr Syed Majid Jhangir (JKAS) & Executive Officer Waqf Rajouri Abdul Qayoum Mir (Retd JKAS) & prominent citizens of the area. Dr Darakhshan Andrabi later laid foundation stone for Markazi Jamia Masjid at Rajouri also. Later she addressed the gathering at Rajouri and said that J&K Waqf Board has now become a strong organization and hence the developmental activities in all parts of J&K have been expanded on a big scale. "During the past two years, infrastructure facilities at Shahdara Sharief have got a big boost. In whole of the Rajouri district Waqf



Board has taken up many new projects out of the Board resources and all the projects will be completed within the stipulated time", said Dr Darakhshan. She thanked the people of J&K for their immense support to the Board in making its working transparent and auditable by the public. "The resources of the Board belong to public and this the money and assets have to be utilized as per the broader public requirements and needs. The reformative steps taken by the Board have yielded great results and the pro-

cess will continue", said Waqf Board Chairperson. Earlier she presided over the Annual Day Celebrations of Himalayan Education Mission & Himalayan College at Rajouri and released their periodical and gave away Himalayan Mission Awards to the civil services persons for their exemplary contribution to the society. She was accompanied by Civil Aviation Commissioner & Secretary Civil Aviation, Planning & Monitoring J&K Aijaz Assad and the Chairman of Educational Mission Farooq Muztar.

Vibe and Glow family salon opens in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Vibe and Glow, a luxury family salon was opened in Jammu at Talab Tillo . Former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta who was accompanied by Sohail Kazmi (Eminent Journalist) was the Chief guest on the occasion.

Owner Nishant Agarwal and Amit Jamwal of the Vibe and Glow told media, "We are excited to share the news that finally Vibe and Glow has opened here Talab Tillo Jammu, opposite Knit School near Kamla Place ."

Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta said, Jammu has been witnessing the huge establishment of business and services centre in Jammu and it becomes possible only under the strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Sohail Kazmi Said, "Business establish like Vibe and Glow is the prime demand of time



as youth wants to grow. I would like wish a very good luck to the owner of Vibe and Glow."

Meenu Mahajan said, " Today's world everyone wants to look good either its men or women and I fully ensured that Vibe and Glow will do full justice to the demand of people."

Nusrat Malik (Managing Director at NIST Institute Jammu) highlights the quality of salon, she said the outlet is laced with lavish facilities and an outstanding interior. The outlet is also offering a discount on all the services under its inaugural offer.

The most important aspect of the development is that the entire staff of the outlet is from Punjab and Jammu and are prominent experts in their respective fields. They are equipped to adapt to the latest trends in the industry and use the most favourable products for customers' benefits and quality services.

Services included Hair-styling, Hair cutting, hair spa , Hair keratin , Botox , Nails Extensions , all types of makeup services (hd makeup, airbrush makeup) are just a few of the services offered by Vibe & Glow salon.

Beigh Honoured with Young Scientist Award

JI NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, MAR 10

In a prestigious ceremony held at Hotel Best Western® Ashoka, a Kashmiri young technocrat, Mirza Mohammad Idrees ul Haq Beigh was conferred with the "Young Scientist Award" by Education Expo TV (EET CRS) at the "12th 7Contenters R&D Awards-2024". This esteemed recognition comes after rigorous scrutiny by a panel of experts, acknowledging Beigh's remarkable contributions to the field of science and technology.

Education Expo TV (EET CRS) incubated these awards with the primary objective of celebrating the outstanding achievements of scientists, researchers, academics, and professionals worldwide. The awards aim to honour individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment and innovation in their respective fields.

Beigh, a certified professional from the World Intellectual Property



Organisation (WIPO) and the Law School of Stanford University CA, USA , has showcased immense potential as a world-class scientist. Currently serving as the Head of Research Technology Development at an India-based MNC, Beigh has been actively engaged in ground breaking research and development initiatives.

The award recognizes Beigh's extensive work experience, intellectual property rights (IPRs), and significant contributions towards Science and technology. In addition to his professional endeavours, Beigh is renowned for his involvement in conducting workshops on intellectual property rights (IPRs) across J&K, further contributing to the advancement of science and technology.

RUN FOR HER-BY HER, International Women's day celebrations at 166 Military Hospital, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

As part of the ongoing week-long events to celebrate International Women's day from 07 March to 14 March at 166 MH, a RUN FOR HER- BY "HER" event was organized today. The event was organized by 166 MH with active contribution from OC, 136 SHO, Jammu.

More than 300 women participated in this 3 km run, in Saree/suit. The participants were from families of Jammu garrison, AF stn, Jammu & families & staff of 166 MH. The event marked the largest all female run in Jammu organized in recent times. The run was conducted to highlight the importance of exercise in promoting health among women. Women running in Sarees for it reiterated



that even traditional attire is not an impediment to attaining fitness or running.

Further, to encourage & inspire the spirit of equality & inclusion, which also is the theme for International Womens Day 2024 (INSPIRE-INCLUSION), the event also witnessed a very heart-warming sight of women from all walks of life, including Grade-4 female employees, participate with great zest &

run shoulder to shoulder with others.

The run was flagged off by the guests of honour Mrs Sophiya Rawat , President AFFWA (L), AF Stn, Jammu and Dr Nisha Ahmad, President AWWA, 166MH. As a special gesture, both guests of honour, competed & completed the race, coming a joint second, in 50+ category.

The run was followed by the prize distribution

ceremony to felicitate winners in all categories. To highlight the increasing importance of the women-power in the Armed forces, women officials from the Corps of Military Police, who marshaled the event were also felicitated.

The event culminated with all participants enjoying the light refreshments after a wonderful morning run in midst of a festive atmosphere.

Voting for BJP is Voting for Dictatorship: Anirudh Sawhney

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 10

In a recent statement, Anirudh Sawhney, General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in India has increasingly shown dictatorial and anti-democracy tendencies; voting for the BJP in the upcoming elections would imply voting for Dictatorship. "The ruling party has been moving in the direction of centralizing power, stifling dissent, and undermining democratic principles at each step of governance and decision making. The line between democracy and dictatorship is blurring out, and if this continues, it will eventually fade to give rise to an extremely fascist regime in India", Sawhney said.



leader boldly stated that the government's handling of protests and dissent are clear examples of how this government acts as a force against freedom of speech and expression, freedom to protest peacefully, and basic rights entitled to citizens by the constitution or law. BJP has shown no tolerance for dissenting voices, using tactics such as arrests, intimidation, and the use of state power to suppress opposition. Use of state bodies and statutory bodies for personal -cum- political gains, siding with the Cor-

porate mafias, attempting to erase opposition using undemocratic tactics has all been part of their governance from the start. This was also evident in the government's response to farmers' protests, where protesters have been met with heavy-handed tactics and restrictions on their right to assemble.

The most disturbing is the erosion of institutional independence and the concentration of power in the hands of the executive branch. The system of checks and balance which has been enabled by the Indian Constitution has been thrown out by the BJP and its ministers. The government's influence over regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary has raised questions about the separation of powers and the ability of these institutions to act independently. Furthermore, the BJP

government has curbed press freedom. Several journalists, activists, and academics have been targeted for their criticism of the government. All of these and more are clear signs of a rising dictatorship. In addition, the government's use of executive orders and ordinances to bypass parliamentary scrutiny raises concerns about accountability and transparency. Their measures allow the government to push through controversial policies without proper debate or oversight in Parliament, undermining the democratic process. The BJP's strong majority in the parliament and its dominance in many state governments have also contributed to growing authoritarianism. With limited checks and balances, the government could further consolidate power and erode democratic norms.

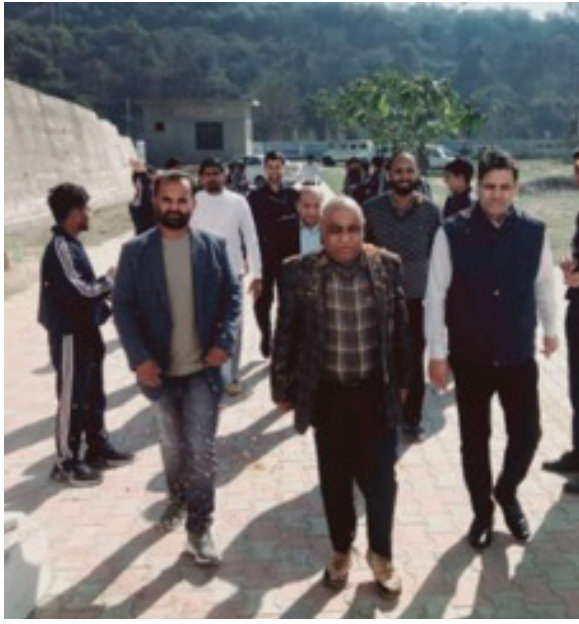
Principal Secretary visits G&B, ST hostels at Samba, Kathua; assess functioning

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

Principal Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today visited Gujjar and Bakarwal (G&B) and Schedule Tribe (ST) hostels of Samba and Kathua to assess functioning of existing tribal hostels, besides reviewing progress on construction of newly sanctioned tribal hostels in the twin districts.

At G&B/ST hostel Samba, the Principal Secretary interacted with the hostel students and enquired them about the facilities being extended to them there. He gave some valuable tips to the students going to appear in the board examinations extending them best wishes. He also inspected hostel rooms, kitchen, dining hall besides conducting a round of hostel premises.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, Director Tribal Affairs, Musheer Ahmed



Mirza, Director Libraries, Mohammad Rafi, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Bharat Singh Manhas, hostel staff and others were present on the occasion.

The Director Tribal Affairs briefed the Principal Secretary about the welfare and developmental schemes being

implemented by the Tribal Affairs Department besides apprising him of working of the hostel, facilities being provided to the students in these tribal hostels. He also informed about the modernization plan for the hostels. He further informed that the hostel students had rare opportunity to witness Republic Day Parade cel-

ebrations January 2024 at New Delhi with the help of Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, where students met the Prime Minister, Union Tribal Minister and other dignitaries besides visiting heritage sites in and around Delhi.

The Deputy Commissioner Samba briefed the Principal Secretary, about the support being provided by the district administration to the hostel inmates. He informed that Rs. 7.00 lakh have been sanctioned by the district administration for developing playground in the hostel saying that the work on the same shall be completed before the end of current financial year 2024.

Regarding construction of Girls Hostel near AIIMS Samba, it was informed that funds have been released and placed at the disposal of the district administration Samba.

The Principal Secretary directed the executing agencies to start the construction work as early as

possible so that tribal girls students may utilize the facility to continue their studies.

At Kathua, the Principal Secretary inspected G&B/ST Boys hostel besides reviewing status of sanctioned girls hostel for the district. He directed the executing agency to submit detailed project report immediately for further necessary action as the department has already released funds for construction of the hostel, and the work has not been started yet.

The Director Tribal Affairs further informed the Principal Secretary with regard to status of Banni hostel besides Pre and Post-Matric Scholarships being provided to the tribal students in Kathua district.

The Principal Secretary assured that every possible help shall be extended to the hostel students in the field of education and sports so that they can excel in their life for a brighter future.

District Election Officer Reasi reviews preparedness for Lok Sabha Election

JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MARCH 10

District Election Officer (DEO) Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting today to review the preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election in the district.

During the meeting, District Election Officer Mahajan briefed the Officers about the delimitation process carried out vis-a-vis District Reasi and provided a detailed review of the total population, voters, and polling stations in the district. Threadbare discussion was held on sensitive and vulnerable polling stations, with emphasis on ensuring their security during the election process. DEO Mahajan highlighted that Reasi would serve as the dispatch and collection center during the election. A detailed transport plan was also reviewed, with an emphasis on ensuring that polling parties reach their designated stations on time.

Further, DEO Mahajan discussed the arrangements for the transit strong room and exhorted the concerned officers to leave no stone unturned to make this happen well within time. Meanwhile, he also directed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Reasi to arrange vehicles polling station-wise, with a reserve pool in accordance with the district transport plan. He stressed on the



importance of providing basic amenities such as toilets, water, electricity, and cleanliness at every polling station. For Polling stations without electricity, he suggested the installation of solar lights. Additionally, arrangements for food and first aid for polling parties were discussed.

The meeting also had a comprehensive discussion vis-a-vis detailed plan for Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities, aimed at increasing voter awareness and participation. He highlighted the importance of implementation of webcasting, photography, and videography at vulnerable and critical polling stations ensuring a free and fair election.

SSP Mohita Sharma provided a detailed review of the security arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of polling.

Stressing on the need to conduct free and fair election, he exhorted

the officers to give wide publicity to the toll-free number 1950 and control room contact number 01991-244320 for the information of general public to get their grievances redressed. He further clarified that for any election-related grievances citizens can contact the control room at the DC office complex or call the toll-free number.

DEO Mahajan urged all officers to maintain close coordination with each other to ensure the successful conduct of the election in the district.

Sukhdev Singh Samyal ADDC Reasi, Mohammad Anwar Bandy PO Poshan, Tariq Aziz SDM Dharmari, Mazahir Hussain SDM Mahore, Piyush Dhotra SDM Katra, Vipran Chandran ASP Katra, Pardeep Kumar ACD, Anshumali Sharma ACR, Rakesh Kumar Dy. DEO, Iftikhar Ahmed Adl. SP, Officers of the Paramilitary forces and other senior district officers were present in the meeting.

2 day Training programme on "New Criminal Laws" concludes



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 10

The two day training programme on "New Criminal Laws" held for Judicial Officers, Prosecution Officers, Police Officers and officers from Forensic Science Laboratories of Jammu province including Research Assistants of High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu Wing concluded today at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur here.

The brain storming deliberations of day one had already set the tone and tenor for the second day orientation. The second day's sessions were continued by Sakal Bhushan, an eminent jurist and son of the soil, now practising in Supreme Court of India, and Delhi High Court who dissected various additions, alterations and amendments in the three laws for benefit of the participants and analysed in detail vis-a-vis the old laws in light of the rulings of the Apex Court.

The resource person deliberated that Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 represents a path

breaking and transformative overhaul of the legal framework in India. The key provisions and changes in the BNS highlight a shift towards modernization and responsiveness to societal needs. He stated that BNS, 2023 addresses various aspects, from offenses against women, children, and murder to tackling organized crime, terrorism, and exploitation. It removes outdated terms, introduces gender-neutral provisions, and aligns with evolving societal norms, he added. He underlined that the BNS embodies a progressive and comprehensive legal framework, reflecting a commitment to justice, fairness, and the evolving needs of society. It stands as a testament to the nation's dedication to shaping a legal system that is both robust and responsive to the challenges and values of the contemporary era, he asserted.

In the second and last session, the resource person educated the participants about the important changes made in the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhinyaya (BSA), 2023.

He highlighted that most of the core principles that formed a part of India's evidence jurisprudence e.g., burden of proof, admissions, relevancy of facts, etc. remain unchanged under the BSA. With significant emphasis being accorded to electronic records and their treatment, the enactment of the BSA is certainly a significant step forward for aligning India's legal system to contemporary technological advances, maintained the resource person.

The resource person encouraged the participants in all the sessions to ask as many questions as they had and all the sessions remained very interactive during which the participants actively participated and shared their difficulties, past experiences and also asked questions on various aspects of the subject topics. All their queries were answered in detail by the resource persons.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Yash Paul Bourne, Director, J&K Judicial Academy.

Jantroun Snow Festival-2024 captivates thousands in Doda



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 10

The Jantroun Snow Festival 2024, held in Doda district, enchanted hundreds with its breathtaking scenery and proved a resounding success.

In the backdrop of snow-covered mountains, attendees were immersed in the serene beauty of nature, creating a truly magical atmosphere. The festival served as a vibrant celebration of the unique culture and traditions of the Jantroun people.

Attendees were treated to a plethora of activities including performances, music, dances, volleyball matches, kabaddi, and other games, all of which showcased the rich heritage of the region.

In addition to the lively festivities, the snow festival also featured art and craft exhibitions, providing a platform to local artisans to display their talent and creativity.

Organized by the civil society sub-division Thathi in collaboration with the district administration

Doda, the event received widespread acclaim.

The presence of esteemed guests, including Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, underscored the importance of promoting local culture and tourism in the region.

Joined by District Development Council Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal, DDC Vice Chairperson, ASP Operation, DDC members, SDM, social organizations, NGOs, and locals, the festival fostered a sense of unity and pride among residents of Thathri, Kahara, Chiral-la, Gandoh, Bhaiderwah, Doda, and surrounding areas.

The participation of DC Doda signaled government support and commitment to community initiatives, encouraging local engagement and strengthening bonds within the community. Overall, the Jantroun Snow Festival 2024 provided a wonderful opportunity for people to come together, enjoy themselves, and gain a deeper understanding of the Jantroun people and their cherished traditions.

Govt embarks on multi-pronged strategies to revive J&K's cultural, literacy legacy: Principal Secretary

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 10

In its endeavors to promote and preserve cultural and literary legacy of the region, the government has devised a multi-pronged strategy to revive and revitalize these fields in the Union Territory in general and Kathua district in particular.

Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, stated this during his extensive visit to the district. He said that instructions have been issued to the J&K Academy of Art, Cultural & Languages (JKAACL) for expediting the construction work on

Regional Cultural Centre, Kathua which would be a step forwards in this direction. The cultural centre, construction of which is underway at Kathua, is being built with state-of-the-art technology having an auditorium, guest rooms, library and office space.

Giving details, Suresh Kumar said that the Culture Department through JKAACL would work in close contact with writers and experts in different art forms to promote rich cultural and literary heritage of the area. He assured that the Academy's sub-office at Kathua would be geared up to broaden

its activities which, on account of lack of space and allied facilities, had more or less remained restricted to holding local mushairas and seminars.

The Principal Secretary said that the PWD and other allied departments and agencies will also be approached by the JKAACL for expediting work on the Kathua Regional Cultural Centre. He asked the JKAACL to get the work completed during financial year 2024-25.

The Principal Secretary was accompanied by Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh and other senior functionaries.

District Election Office Doda hosts training session for Nodal Officers

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 10

In anticipation of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, the District Election Office Doda organized an online training session for nodal officers and master trainers in the mini-conference hall of the DC office complex, the other day. The session was designed to endow these key personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively manage various aspects of the electoral process.

The training session saw the active participation of nodal officers and master trainers, both in person and virtually. Despite the virtual nature of the meeting, the engagement level remained high, with elec-



The training session prioritized the development of nodal officers and master trainers, recognizing their pivotal role in the electoral process. They were equipped with the latest information, guidelines, and protocols to effectively carry out their responsibilities during the elections.

Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, who also serves as the District Election Officer, the session was conducted with diligence and commitment. Singh's presence underscored the importance of the training and the significance of the upcoming elections for the district.

The Lok Sabha elections hold immense importance in shaping the political landscape of the nation. Therefore, thorough training and preparation of election officials and personnel are imperative to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process and uphold the democratic principles of the country.

Assessment, restoration work initiated in flood hit Nachlana-Mangit area

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 10

Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan, along with DDC Khari, Gulshan Parveen, and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal, Rizwan Asgar conducted a comprehensive assessment of the damages incurred by the recent windstorm and flood on the Nachlana-Mangit Road, adjoining Areas and Market Khari. During the

visit, significant damages to a local Madrasa, Residential houses, and infrastructure were observed, requiring urgent need for rehabilitation of the affected people. In response to the assessment, Dr. Shamshad Shan announced the initiation of execution work on the Kawna Buzla Road, estimated at Rs 3.50 Crore, with funding support from NABARD and Rs 1 Crore under the UT Sector. Additionally, reconstruction of the Kumla to Cherwara

Road, under UT Capex, with an estimated cost of 1.50 crore, under PWD Division Banihal, was also kick-started.

Ensuring support for the affected residents, Dr. Shamshad Shan emphasized the commitment of the DDC Khari and its counterparts to swiftly address the challenges posed by natural calamities. The collaborative efforts aim to restore normalcy and provide necessary support to the affected communities.

KCCI delegation calls on LG



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 10

A delegation of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Sh Javid Ahmad Tenga called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today at Raj Bhawan. The delegation

apprised the Lt Governor of various important matters pertaining to the promotion of industries and tourism sector in Jammu Kashmir.

Later, Sh Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman, All J&K Folk Artists Association also called on the Lt Governor.