



# JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 61 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## PM Modi inaugurates PMBJ Kendra at Srinagar railway station, Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revolutionising rail infrastructure and connectivity in J&K and dedicating number of railway projects to the people of the Union Territory.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone and dedicated Railway projects worth over Rs 85,000 crores.

He inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janashadhi Kendra at Srinagar



railway station and Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba. Prime Minister also

dedicated 'One Station One Product' (OSOP) stalls at Anantnag, Awanti-

pura, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## EC amends rule on party symbols, makes it applicable in J&K ahead of announcing LS polls

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 12

Ahead of announcing schedule for the Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission has amended a key rule relating to the allocation of party symbols to make it applicable in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A notification issued by the poll panel on Monday said Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 stands amended and will come into force with "immediate effect".

Till the time Jammu and Kashmir was a state, it had its own version of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the law applicable elsewhere



tion to elections in all parliamentary and assembly constituencies other than assembly constituencies in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Accorded to the amended version, it extends to the whole of India and applies in relation to elections in all parliamentary and assembly constituencies.

The earlier order said "State" includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

The amended order says that "'State' includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Union Territory of Puducherry and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir". **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Centre approves Rs 224 crore outlay for Shopian Bypass

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 12

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari announced on Tuesday that an allocation of Rs 224.44 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of the Shopian Bypass on National Highway-444 in Jammu & Kashmir.

This development, which will comprise a 2-lane stretch across 8.925 km in the Shopian district, will be executed using the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode. The minister said the project also holds



strategic significance as it links Shopian district with Pulwama on one side and Kulgam on the other within Jammu & Kashmir.

It is poised to significantly benefit apple growers in south **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## LG inaugurates 3-day capacity building programme in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday inaugurated the three-day capacity building programme on 'Leadership Development of Academic Administrators and Principals of Colleges of J&K'.

In his keynote address, the Lt Governor lauded the collective effort of the University of Jammu and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) for organizing the workshop which focuses on implementation of National Education Policy 2020



and internationalisation of higher education.

He said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is leading the reforms in nation's educational ecosystem. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

"J&K UT is committed to reform and revamp higher education with the objective of giving our students the best curriculum and provide them knowledge and skills to compete **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## PM Modi honoured Hindu, Jain, Sikh refugees by granting citizenship through CAA: Amit Shah

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, MAR 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has honoured Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain refugees by giving them citizenship through CAA, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Addressing a BJP social media volunteers meeting here, Shah alleged that the Congress party opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) due to appeasement and vote-bank politics.

"We had said we will bring CAA. The Congress party opposed CAA. Since



Independence it was a promise of the Congress and makers of our Constitution that citizenship will be granted to those persecuted on religious grounds in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan, who come (to India). But,

due to appeasement and vote-bank politics, Congress party opposed the CAA," Shah said, justifying its implementation.

He said in order to save their faith and honour lakhs and crores of **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Dr Jitendra launches 'common fellowship portal' for aspiring students, startups



AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 12

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Depart-

ment of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today launched "Common Fellowship Portal", a single interface between applicants and various fellowship

schemes by the Department of Biotechnology today at National Media Centre, New Delhi.

The portal will save the energy and time of aspiring students and **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## J&K leads India in job creation under PMEGP

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12

At national level, Jammu and Kashmir has topped for generating maximum employment under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

As per the figures, available with the news agency, the union territory received the highest assistance for projects under the scheme and even surpassed states like Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for generating maximum employment under PMEGP.

Figures suggest that Jammu and Kashmir saw 44,542 projects assisted between 2021-22 and 2023-

24 (until Jan 30, 2024), receiving a margin money subsidy of Rs 921.38 crore.

This has led to an estimated 3,56,336 employment opportunities, the highest among all states and accounting for 18 per cent of the total employment generated nationwide under the scheme during this period.

Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, has seen 32,629 projects assisted with a margin money subsidy utilisation of Rs 1,107.4 crore, leading to an estimated 2,61,032 employment opportunities. Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, witnessed 17,337 assisted projects with a margin money subsidy of Rs 500.56 crore,

resulting in an estimated 1,38,696 jobs.

Overall, the PMEGP has assisted 2,53,710 projects with a margin money subsidy of Rs 8,099 crore, generating an estimated 20,29,680 jobs over the past three years. Since its inception in 2008-09, the PMEGP has assisted a total of 9.35 lakh enterprises, creating employment for 76.35 lakh persons. The scheme, implemented by the Ministry of MSME through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans and unemployed youth, particularly in rural areas. The UT government **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Three bikers killed after hit by truck in Udhampur

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Three bikers were killed when a motorbike they were riding on was hit by a speedily driven truck in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police here on Tuesday said that the bike on which three youth travelling from Doda towards Jammu last night, was hit by a truck near Garnai on Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Udhampur.

The riders suffered critical injuries leaving two dead on the spot while the third died while being shifted to the Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu.

"The deceased persons were residents of Doda district while the driver has been taken into custody and a cognizance has been taken into the matter," said police.

## Jammu court convicts railway official in bribery case

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12

The Special Judge, Anti Corruption (CBI Cases) Jammu has convicted Tilak Raj, then head goods clerk of the northern railway, who was posted at railway station Jammu in a bribery case.

In a statement, issued to the news agency, a spokesperson said that CBI had registered the case on 08.07.2013 on a complaint against Tarsem Lal and Kameshwar Singh.

The statement reads that it was alleged that accused were demanding bribe of Rs 22,000 from the complainant for reducing the penalty charges, levied due to delay in lifting the consignment from Railway Station.

"CBI laid a trap on 08.07.2013 and during the trap, the accused Tilak Raj accepted bribe of Rs 20,000 from the complainant, which he shared with other two accused persons as well. The trap team caught all the three accused and arrested them," it reads.

It added that after completion of investigation, chargesheet was filed before the court of Anti Corruption (CBI Cases) Jammu on 02-01-2014 against all the accused and charges were framed against them on 30-04-2014. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## ECI Team's Kashmir Visit: Political parties call for simultaneous assembly and Lok Sabha elections in JK

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 12

Political representatives of various parties in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday jointly advocated for the synchronization of assembly elections with the Lok Sabha polls as they voiced their concerns and demands during a meeting with the Election Commission team in Srinagar on Tuesday.

As per the news agency, Led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, the Election Commission team embarked on a three-day

tour to Jammu and Kashmir, commencing their engagements in Srinagar on Tuesday. Amidst a charged atmosphere, representatives from various political parties put forth their demands and expectations regarding the electoral process in the region.

Notably, Nasir Aslam Wani, a representative from the National Conference (NC), articulated the long-standing demand for conducting assembly elections concurrently with the Lok Sabha polls. Wani emphasized the need for democratic par-

ticipation, highlighting the decade-long hiatus in electing the government. He questioned the rationale behind delaying the electoral process, especially in the context of Prime Minister Modi's push for 'one country, one election', urging equitable treatment for Jammu and Kashmir.

Echoing similar sentiments, another NC leader underscored the urgency of holding assembly elections before the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra, citing security concerns and the impera-

tive of safeguarding democratic rights.

On the other hand, representatives from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) outlined their respective stances on electoral reforms.

RS Pathania, representing the BJP, emphasized the need to enhance voter turnout in Lok Sabha elections and proposed measures to facilitate smoother voting processes.

Additionally, the BJP advocated for the **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Jammu Kashmir National Front banned by govt under UAPA

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 12

The Government on Tuesday banned the Jammu Kashmir National Front led by Nayeem Ahmad Khan under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. In an order, the Ministry of Home Affairs declared the JKNF, a constituent of the hardline Hurriyat Conference, an "unlawful association" with immediate effect.

The government said the JKNF has been "indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and

security of the country."

It said members of the JKNF have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and anti-India propaganda for fueling secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir and providing logistic support to terrorists in the Union territory.

It also said JKNF members "have been involved in mobilising violent protesters in various parts of Kashmir for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone pelting on security forces." The order will have effect for a period of five years.

## Omar Abdullah calls CAA notification BJP's Ramzan Gift to Muslims

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR 12 MAR

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Party Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that BJP has given Ramadan gift to Muslims by notifying CAA "which is against the very foundation of our constitution".

He said this while talking to the press at the party headquarters Nawae-Subha. Omar Abdullah said that notifying (CAA) days before the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections shows the BJP is not confident about winning 400 seats in the ensuing polls.

"It is evident that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to use religion in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. "It was passed in 2019, but notifying the CAA (rules) just a few days before the bugle of elections is to be blown,



perhaps makes it clear what their aim is. They were saying that after the construction of the Ram Temple, they could not lose. But perhaps they feel that their position is weak and that is why they have to use these new weapons to sway gullible voters," he told reporters.

He further emphasised that BJP wants to use religion in the upcoming Lok

Sabha polls. "Muslims have always been a target of the BJP, which is not something new for the party. Even in the CAA, Muslims have been made a specific target. This is not new for the BJP as this has been their approach before as well. It seems they want to use the politics of polarisation in the upcoming elections," he said.

## DDC Chairman inaugurates One-Day Job Fair at GDC Doda

JNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 12



Chairman District Development Council Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal inaugurated a one-day Job Fair in the Government Degree College Doda, today. Dr. Sandeep Kotwal, Convener of the Placement Cell GDC Doda, Prof Mansa Ram, Prof Waheed and Imtiyaz Ali and Employment Officer were also present on the occasion.

The mega job fair, organized by the District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC)

under the supervision and Guidance of District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh, aimed to provide a convenient platform to educate unemployed youth and job seekers to interact with potential employers for placement opportunities. The event witnessed an overwhelming response from job seeking youth from the district.

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

## CEO inspects class 10 Annual Exam Centers in Kishtwar

JNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 12

Chief Education Officer Kishtwar, R K Vesheshta today conducted inspection of examination centers for the Annual Regular class 10 exams at GHSS Boys and GHSS Girls. During the surprise inspection, the CEO identified one case of unfair means at GHSS Girls Kishtwar and promptly took stringent action against the individual involved.

In addition to addressing the specific case, Vesheshta took the opportunity to caution all examinees against resorting to cheating or any other unfair means during examinations.

Emphasizing the importance of integrity in the examination process, he urged students to uphold the principles of fair and honest conduct.

## ACD inspects Handicrafts Centers, MGNREGA works in Kishtwar



JNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 12

Assistant Commissioner Development Kishtwar Phulail Singh, who is also holding Charge of AD Handicrafts today conducted an official inspection and meticulously examined the advanced training centers for crewel in Poochie and Cherhar Kishtwar.

Additionally, he scrutinized ongoing development initiatives under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) at Panchayat Lachdayaram B.

In a proactive move towards promoting skill development and preserving traditional crafts, Phulail Singh dedicated time to assess the training centers specializing in imparting advanced skills and knowledge to artisans, ensuring the pres-

ervation and evolution of traditional handicrafts.

During his visit to Poochie and Cherhar Kishtwar, the ACD engaged with artisans, trainers, and stakeholders to gain firsthand insights into the challenges and opportunities in the handicrafts sector. This interaction not only highlighted the commitment of A.C.D to skill enhancement but also provided valuable feedback for further improvements.

Moreover, ACD took a keen interest in the developmental endeavors initiated under MGNREGA at Panchayat Lachdayaram B. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been instrumental in enhancing livelihood opportunities in rural areas, and Phulail Singh visit underscored the significance of monitoring and evaluating such projects for their effectiveness.

## PM SHRI GHSS Bhalra embarks on vocational tour



JNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 12

PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Bholderwah organised one day Educational Tour for the students of 6th to 10th classes here under PM Shri Scheme.

During the tour, students along with the staff members of the Institution visited Khellani Top and Drudhu Herbal Garden.

Students enjoyed the scenic beauty and added up to their knowledge about the flora and fauna specifically medicinal plants.

Dr Sanjeev Kumar Koul briefed students about the floral cover of the area and historical importance of the places.

He also emphasized the school's commitment to holistic development of the students and commitment to equip them with the knowledge required to cope up with the rapidly evolving world.

The whole program was organized under the guidance of Sh. Om Parkash (Nodal Officer) and supervision of Principal Pradeep Singh Billawria. Latter, Viksit Bharat Sankalp programme organised by PM SHRI Govt. HSS Bhalra Bholderwah.

On this occasion, students were briefed by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul (Associate NCC Officer) about the Viksit Bharat Sankalp programme under the theme "Sughao Aapka Sankalp Humara".

## Satish Chandra presides over maiden meet of JK RERA-Realtors at Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

In a landmark initiative to bolster the real estate sector's transparency and accountability, the maiden JK RERA-Realtors meet was held today at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The event, held under the Chairmanship of Chairman, JK RERA, Satish Chandra, was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur. The meet marks a pivotal step towards aligning the real estate operations within the region with the regulatory framework established by JK RERA.

The meeting witnessed an enthusiastic participation from local realty promoters and real



estate agents, indicating the sector's eagerness to align with the regulatory mandates. The focus of the meet was to enlighten the attendees about the provisions and requirements of JK RERA and the department has made a detailed presentation on provisions of RERA Act 2016 and J&K RERA Rules 2020.

The Chairman, JK RERA, emphasized the importance of compliance with the RERA Act, which is designed to pro-

tect the interests of home buyers and enhance the real estate sector's integrity. He highlighted the critical aspects of the Act, including registration of real estate projects, timely project completion and transparent transaction processes. The session facilitated a comprehensive dialogue between the stakeholders, the regulatory body and the government allowing for an exchange of ideas and concerns regarding implementation of

JK RERA mandates. The meet also served as a platform for realty promoters and agents to understand their roles and responsibilities in fostering a more organized and accountable real estate market.

The convening of this meet signifies a significant stride towards ensuring a robust regulatory framework for the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir, promising a future marked by transparency, accountability and growth.

## Vision 2024: Pioneering Real Estate Growth in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

In a significant development aimed at bolstering the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir, a high-profile meeting was convened at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, and Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries.

The participation included a delegation from the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), signifying a collaborative effort towards the region's real estate growth.

The primary focus of the meeting was to revisit the key outcomes of the Real Estate Summit 1.0, evaluating the current status of its initiatives and



strategizing on how to effectively mobilize these for moving forward. This approach underscores the government's commitment not only towards enhancing the real estate infrastructure in the region but also ensuring sustainable urban development.

The discussions emphasized the need for leveraging the unique potential of Jammu and Kashmir's real estate market, making it more accessible and attractive to investors both nationally and inter-

nationally. The meeting explored various avenues to stimulate growth in the sector, including easing regulatory processes, enhancing transparency and implementing investor-friendly policies.

Mandeep Kaur and Vikramjit Singh highlighted the government's vision of transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a real estate and industrial hub, capable of contributing significantly towards region's economy. They reiterated the commitment

towards working closely with stakeholders such as NAREDCO to facilitate realization of this vision.

The meeting concluded with a resolution to take proactive steps towards implementation of the discussed strategies to bring out the progressive policies and required changes in the regulatory frameworks making J&K one of the most preferred investment destinations. Besides, roadmap for organizing Real Estate Summit 2.0 was also discussed in the meeting.

## Chairperson DDC conducts extensive tour of Panchari area



JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 12

To assess the progress of different developmental projects and mega initiatives across different sectors, Chairperson DDC Udhampur, Lal Chand, undertook a comprehensive tour of the remote Block of Panchari in District Udhampur.

During the tour, the DDC Chairperson inaugurated a 2 Km road from Upper Meer to Draman, costing Rs 7.23 crore, under NABARD. The Executive agency is PWD, Division Udhampur.

The road, benefiting a population of 2000, was inaugurated in the presence of Jasvir Singh, DDC Councillor Panchari Mounгри, AEE PWD Sub Division Panchari, and

local residents. Additionally, he visited the Health and Wellness Centre at Meer, inspected the ongoing developmental work of Govt Higher Secondary School Panchari, and reviewed the renovation work of the Agricultural building and Panchari Treasury building. While inspecting the ongoing developmental projects, the DDC Chairperson emphasized expediting the pace of work and ensuring timely completion. He urged the executing agencies to mobilize resources and manpower effectively to meet the stipulated deadlines. The DDC Chairperson also directed concerned officers to adopt a mission mode approach for timely completion and to maximize tangible results on the ground.

## International Women's Day celebrated at Kupwara



JNEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, MARCH 12

Vajr Division of Chinar Corps celebrated the International Women's Day at Government Degree College, Kupwara to honour the achievements of distinguished women and to felicitate young women achievers in the region.

More than 250 young girls and women from various age groups participated in the interactive forum with the panellists to engage in a dialogue about growth, empowerment and the positive impact of women in all facets of life.

The United Nations theme for this year, 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,' focuses on addressing the economic disenfranchisement of women. It aligns with the agenda of the event, which was to highlight the importance of investing in women for the betterment of society.

The chief guest for the event was the Chairperson AWWA, Kupwara who highlighted the critical role women play in maintaining societal balance and their burgeoning success across various

domains. She emphasized that such strides forward are key to propelling Kupwara and the entire Kashmir region towards a future filled with glory.

She also praised the attendees and the women of Kupwara for their pioneering spirit in all walks of life and called upon the community to make a commitment to women empowerment and urged for ensuring that women receive their rightful opportunities to meaningfully contribute in the growth and prosperity of the Kashmir valley and the nation at large.

The panellists consisting of Colonel Pooja Chauhan, SP Sopore Divya D, acclaimed actress Mateena Rajput and Refat Wani shared their personal inspiring stories of the challenges and opportunities they faced in diverse fields like sports, entertainment, social welfare and defense to motivate and inspire the young women of Kupwara.

The panellists and achievers including Fareeda Bano, Aliya Azmat, Saleeqa Tariq and Pakeeza Qureshi were also felicitated for their contributions in their respective fields.

## Lok Sabha Election 2024

### Kishtwar: Training imparted to Nodal Officers on enforcement of MCC, EEM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 12

The District Election Office Kishtwar today commenced preparations for the Lok Sabha Election 2024 with an Exhaustive training programme for election staff.

Additional District Development Commissioner Ghulam Rasool led the session held here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The extensive training programme on the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and Election Expenditure Monitoring was organised for Nodal officers and dedicated teams besides officers/Officials of District and Police Administration.

The training programme included two extensive sessions aimed to acquaint the Nodal Officers, District Officers, AROs of Assembly Constituency 48, 49, and 50, Model Code of Conduct team, DySPs, Inspectors, and Tehsildars about their role and responsibilities for effective implementation of MCC and EE Monitoring.

The proceedings of the training sessions were efficiently carried out under



the overall guidance of Dy District Election Officer, Idrees Lone, and under the adept guidance of Master Trainer /Nodal Officer for Trainings, Riyaz Ahmed Butt.

The training program adhered to the cascading training schedule, with Master Trainer throwing light on the role and responsibilities of all the stakeholders and officers/officials associated with the Lok Sabha elections.

During the training session, it was emphasized that the Election Commission of India has set an expenditure limit for both candidate and Political Party for the general elections. The teams were

instructed to be well-versed in the methodology to calculate poll expenditures.

The ADDC asked the teams to closely monitor election expenditure, enforce MCC guidelines, and ensure compliance to the fixed rates for every item. Strict enforcement of the MCC is essential, with stern action against any negligence. He also emphasized the significance of the teams and officers involved in the election process.

The Participants had the opportunity to interact with the Chairperson and Master Trainer, addressing their doubts about their roles and responsibilities.

## Amar Singh College celebrates International Women's Day

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 12

Amar Singh College, Cluster University Srinagar observed International Women's Day in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Directorate of Mission Shakti J&K.

Dr Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, the nodal principal of Kashmir division colleges and Principal of Amar Singh College Srinagar delivered the presidential address. He emphasized that gender equality is a significant marker of a healthy society. He also pointed out that the equality and empowerment of women must be focused both in the education sector and entrepreneurship.

Earlier, Dr. Bazigha Badar Head, Department of Environmental Science, Amar Singh College delivered the inaugural address. She apprised the audience about this year's Women's Day celebration theme and stressed the



need for women's empowerment.

Hafiz Abdul Bari, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer North, also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of women in society. Dr. Sabina Rasool, Head Department of Education, Amar Singh College also delivered a detailed lecture on the significance of the Women's Day celebration. Prof. (Dr.) Syed Ajaz Farid, Head Department of Geography also shared his views on the day.

The event saw massive participation by the students and other stake-

holders.

Day-long celebration was observed with artists performing Skits and cultural songs. The Chess event was also organized exclusively for women, along with self-defense training camp for women, and a singing competition.

Eleven stalls showcasing different skills and crafts by the women were displayed in the Taseer Hall. The stalls witnessed an encouraging footfall of visitors. The day-long celebration concluded with the certificate distribution and a brief felicitation ceremony.

## SVEEP Awareness programme held at GCW Udhampur



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 12

SVEEP Cell of Government College for Women, Udhampur today organised an awareness Programme on SVEEP in collaboration with Electoral Cell District Office Udhampur, under the supervision of District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai and Deputy District Election Officer, Dr Anirudh Rai.

The event featured varied activities including Nukkad Natak, Motivational Speeches by students, Poetry recitation, Patriotic songs and dance performances and Tug of War. The purpose of organising these activities was to emphasise the value of voting, how to make informed choices, and understanding of electoral process. The programme was organised by keeping into consideration, the general elections 2024.

The programme began with the welcome address by Prof. Swarna Devi, Nodal Officer of the SVEEP GCW Udhampur. She inspired the students for casting their vote with full zeal and by sacrificing their personal interests and by ignoring caste, religion, region, etc. factors while casting their votes. Prof. Nalini Pathania, Principal of the college, in her speech, congratulated the students for their active participation and appreciated the efforts of the SVEEP Nodal Officer and members for organising the wonderful awareness programme. Prof. Shama Rani, District Core Committee, Udhampur member and NSS PO of the college also spoke on the occasion and inspired the students through her kind words.

Dr. Preeti Sharma, District Panchayat Officer (DPO) and Atul Rasyal, SVEEP Nodal Officer and

a team of artists were amongst the guests from the DC Office, Udhampur. Dr. Preeti and Atul Rasyal motivated the students for casting their votes in the upcoming elections in the district through their motivational speeches. Artists inspired the students through the ramp song and Gitadu. Almost 200 students of the college participated and contributed with full zeal and enthusiasm in different activities and events organised in the college for making the whole programme a success.

The whole Programme was organised by Prof. Swarna Devi, Assistant Prof of Political Science (SVEEP Nodal Officer of the college), Dr Om Parkash, Assistant Prof. Sanskrit, and Dr. Swati Dutt, SVEEP members. Programme concluded with the Vote of thanks presented by Dr. Om Parkash, HOD, Sanskrit.

## Director Agriculture Jammu inaugurates first harvest of Himsona tomato variety



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen, inaugurated the first harvest of the Himsona tomato variety, here today.

The Director picked up these high-quality tomatoes, grown under the controlled conditions of Naturally Ventilated Poly Green House (NVPGH) structure.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that this marks a significant achievement for the Vegetable Improvement Scheme, showcasing the

potential for cultivating advanced and productive tomato varieties in the Jammu region.

He emphasised farmers to cultivate Himsona tomato variety which has high yield potential, long duration variety and good for long distance transportation.

During the programme JD Inputs Sanjay Verma, JD Extension Satish Sharma, Agronomist Vegetable Development Scheme Jammu Vikas Padha besides other field staff of vegetable improvement scheme were also present at the inaugural function.

## State Level India Skills Competitions

### Elevating J&K Youth Talent: JK SDM Contest in Full Swing across 18 Skill Trades with 250 Participants



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Jammu and Kashmir, J&K is known for its amazing artistic and cooking skills, now these skills are getting recognized in the Union Territory (UT) through India-Skills competitions. J&K youth is also actively participating in web design, graphic design, software solutions for business, and mobile robotics.

This competition, called India Skills 2023-2024, is happening to make India famous for its skills all around the world. The Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission is leading this effort. In simple terms, the competition is a way for talented people to show off their skills, in beauty therapy, Cooking, Graphic designing Fashion Technology, and

technical skills like CNC Turning, Cyber Security. The platform provides youth to showcase their expertise and excellence in diversified skill sets nationally and internationally.

The ongoing state-level competitions 2023-24, a collaborative effort between JKSDM, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the Government of India, and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), are being conducted with the active support of the Skill Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

The competitions encompass a wide array of job roles, with the State Level Competition for Refrigeration & Air Conditioning and Beauty Therapy Skill Sets recently taking place on March

12, 2024, at CIIT, Government Polytechnic Jammu - academic partners to the J&K Skill Development Mission.

Participants from across the UT of J&K engaged in the State Level Competition, a stepping stone to pre-National competitions, National level competitions, and ultimately the World Skills Competitions set to be held in Lyon, France later this year. Mission Director, J&K Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha said, "JKSDM remains committed to organizing such initiatives, providing opportunities for the youth of J&K. State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT, where more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre-National and National Level Competitions."

## 6-month Training Programme under Karkhandar Scheme concludes in Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, MARCH 12

The first batch of the six-month training programme under the Karkhandar scheme, launched by the Department of Handicraft Ramban in September 2023 concluded successfully today with 10 trainees completing the course.

At the closing ceremony, Trainer Shahida Parveen

encouraged the trainees to utilize the skills acquired during the training for their socio-economic betterment. She emphasized the abundant opportunities available in the handicraft sector for employment generation, particularly for unemployed youth and females. She highlighted the market demand for crochet and related products, under-



scoring the potential for trainees to register with

the Handicraft Department and establish themselves

in the industry.

Expressing gratitude to the Handicraft Department for providing this valuable opportunity, the Trainer commended the trainees for their dedication and enthusiasm towards learning and earning for themselves.

Trainees also had the opportunity to share their training experiences with dignitaries, reflecting on

the value gained from the programme and their aspirations for the future.

The successful completion of the first batch under the supervision of Handicraft Training Officer, Tuab Mujtaba Rashid underscores the effectiveness of the Karkhandar scheme in empowering individuals through skill development and fostering economic independence.

## Bhaichara T-20 Cricket Tournament Udhampur DM-XI seals victory over CAPF-XI in thrilling Match



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 12

Udhampur DM-XI today marked its third consecutive win in the ongoing Bhaichara T-20 Cricket Tournament hosted under Ops Sadhbhavana by the 71 Sub Area Udhampur on behalf of Northern Command Udhampur.

The Udhampur DM-XI, after winning the toss, elected to bat first. Uttam Palsar and Azam Khan showcased their prowess with the bat, each contributing 35 runs, while Ashwani Kotwal added 19 to the total. Vikram and Sahil Verma set the stage ablaze with aggressive innings of 24 runs in 9 balls and 10 runs in 4 balls respectively, guiding their team to a formidable total of 180, in the stipulated 20 overs.

In response, CAPF-XI struggled to keep up, falling short by 42 runs with a total of only 148 runs on the board. Rahul, Godara, and Saddam displayed good resistance, scoring 19, 35, and 34 runs respectively. Ashwani Kotwal and Nipun emerged as the chief tormentors, snatching three wickets each, while Sahil Verma contributed with two crucial scalps.

Ashwani Kotwal rightfully earned the title of Man of the Match for his stellar performance, contributing with both bat and ball, taking three crucial wickets and scoring 19 runs.

Under the adept guidance of Rafiq Jaral, SDM Ramnagar, the entire DM-XI team showcased exemplary skills and teamwork, securing a well-deserved victory.

The victory of Udhampur DM-XI over CAPF-XI marked the third consecutive win for the team in the ongoing Bhaichara T-20 Cricket Tournament under Ops Sadhbhavana, organized by the 71 Sub Area Udhampur on behalf of Northern Command Udhampur. Despite their administrative commitments, the DM-XI players have demonstrated a commendable dedication to the sport, showcasing the true spirit of the game.

The captivating commentary of Inder Gupta, coupled with the soothing voice of Capt. Sanchayan Ghosh, transformed the ambiance of Vikram Stadium, injecting it with a pulsating energy that amplified the spectators' enjoyment and intensified the allure of the game.



## CSU organizes 'Saral Manak Sanskrit Workshop' at MAM College

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Saral Manak Sanskrit Workshop was organized on Tuesday under the joint aegis of Central Sanskrit University, Sri Ranbir Campus, Jammu; Indian Language Committee, Ministry of Education, Government of India; and MAM College, Jammu. In this workshop comprising of four sessions, eminent scholars from literature and Sanskrit field who had been invited from different places of Jaipur and Jammu, discussed in detail on the teaching and learning of Sanskrit in an easy way. The workshop started with lighting of the lamp and invocation by the guests. Thereafter, Saraswati Vandana was presented by the students of the music department of MAM College.

Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra honored the invited guests by giving them a memento



and a flower bouquet. Discussing the objectives of the workshop in detail, he said that in the Saral Manak Sanskrit Workshop, we will be able to know the various simple forms of Sanskrit. He said that Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computers. If any student is curious and wants to learn to speak Sanskrit, then our teachers and students can teach him to speak and write Sanskrit i.e. the language of the Gods in 15-day conversation camp.

Chief guest of the program, Regional Director

of IGNOU, Dr. Jaiprakash Verma said that Sanskrit language is very simple and easy. It is helpful in human welfare and development. It is believed by all that not only Vedapishad and Puranas, but many other texts like Ayurveda, Astronomy and Yoga Shastra were also first published in this language.

Special guest, Principal of MAM College, Prof. B B Anand said that Sanskrit is the most ancient as well as modern language being the language of Gods. It is well known that the

knowledge base of our country is in Sanskrit.

Jagadguru Ramanandacharya, Dr. Diwakar Mishra of the Department of Education, Rajasthan Sanskrit University, while discussing the form of simple standard Sanskrit in his keynote speech, said that by making the teaching style in the classes interesting and comprehensible, we can make the subject more understandable. He also highlighted many important points of Saral Manak Sanskrit and said that Sanskrit is a rich and fluent language.

In the second session, the practice of simple Sanskrit conversation was discussed by Dr. Praveen Mani Tripathi. He made the trainees practice conversing with each other through simple sentences. The trainees very enthusiastically practiced speaking simple and daily life sentences in Sanskrit in an interesting manner. In

the third session, while discussing the implementation of Saral Manak Sanskrit, Dr. Khem Narayan Regmi gave examples of simple sentences to the audience groupwise and explained the tricks of learning Sanskrit easily. In the concluding session, certificates were distributed by the guests to all the 150 registered participants.

Sanskrit teachers, researchers and students of government colleges of Jammu were present in the workshop. The stage was moderated by Dr. Khem Narayan Regmi. On this occasion, IQAC coordinator of MAM College, Dr. Neeraj, Dr. Sunil Uppal, Dr. Yogendra Dixit, Dr. Ashish Kumar, Kamal Kishore, Dr. Kamaljeet, Dr. Nazia Chaudhary were also present. Technical support was provided by Mrs. Tirupati bala and Mr. Manoj Abrol. Dr. Purushottam Dash extended the vote of thanks.

## BSF organizes exhibition of weapons in Akhnoor under Drug Free India campaign

JNEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, MARCH 12

On Tuesday, while implementing the Drug Free India Campaign, 46th Battalion of Border Security Force organized Drug Free India Campaign through weapons exhibition and photographs at Headquarters, Akhnoor. In the exhibition, students were given information about the establishment, development, bravery stories of BSF during peace and war through pictures and videos. They were also introduced to the weapons that have been deployed to stop anti-national forces and protect the borders. The program was presided over by Sanjay Doval, Commandant 46th Battalion Border Security Force.

More than 300 students from Government Higher Secondary School Akhnoor, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Akhnoor, Government Girls Higher Secondary School Akhnoor, Government Degree College Akhnoor and IDPS



Akhnoor participated in this exhibition. During the exhibition, information about weapons was given to all the students present by the officers and soldiers present.

On this occasion, Lekh Raj SDM Akhnoor, Satish Sharma SDM Khoud, Akhnoor police station in-charge Tariq Ahmed, principals of local schools were also present as representatives of local administration. C.R. Chauhan and D.M. Punetha, Second Commanding Officer, Shri Anulesh Kumar, Subash Prajapati, Anil Chauhan and Anil Saroj Deputy

Commandant had special contribution in making this program successful.

The students present during this program said that the today's program gave them a lot of encouragement to join the army and any force deployed for the security of the country. They said they are highly motivated by having close view of such arms and are highly encouraged to choose path of being selected in defence forces instead of choosing path of drug addiction. During this, students also presented patriotic songs.

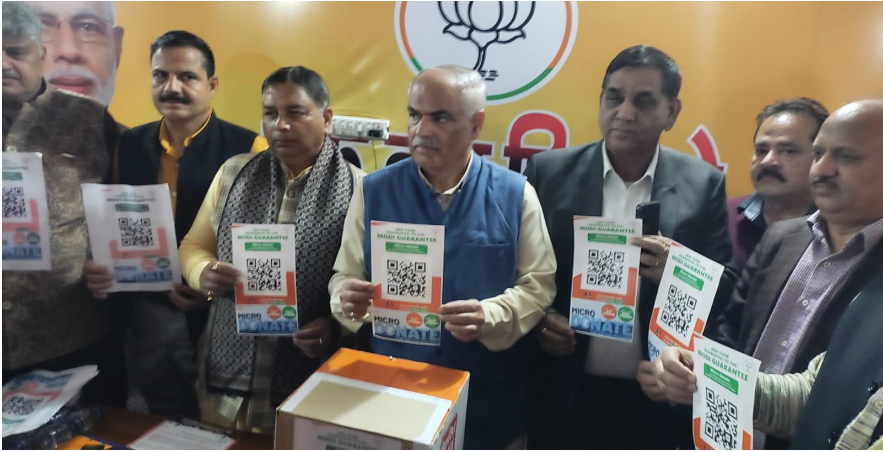
## BJP launches micro donation campaign

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Ashok Koul, BJP state general secretary (organization) launched the special micro donation campaign for the party in a function held at Jammu-Reasi parliamentary constituency election office, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, along with former minister, Sat Sharma, BJP Vice-President & constituency Convenor Chander Mohan Gupta, state general secretary & former minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, former MLA Balwant Mankotia, and other leaders.

BJP leaders Narain Singh and Munish Khajuria managed the overall programme for the launch of micro donation campaign in the Parliamentary constituency.

Ashok Koul, while speaking about the campaign, said that the party is launching micro donation campaign to accept dona-



tions from its activists, supporters and members from across the UT, like other parts of the country. Anyone can donate rupees five, ten, twenty, fifty, hundred, five hundred, one thousand and two thousand by cashless transaction through Namu App. He said that the party has lakhs of members, besides other lakhs as workers and supporters and all of them need to be encouraged to donate for the party.

He asked the party

activists to gear up for the task and reach nook and corner of the UT to encourage people for micro donations.

Ashok Koul, said that the BJP had won this Lok Sabha seat by securing 56 per cent votes last time and now the party is set to create record by registering victory by getting 76 per cent votes.

Party leaders Veenu Khanna, Rajinder Sharma, Prabhakar Singh Jamwal, Parmod Kapahi, Munish

Khajuria, Surinder Choudhary and others were also present.

In a similar programme, held for Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, BJP Vice-President Aseem Gupta along with Additional Treasurer Prem Gupta, District President Gopal Mahajan, Rahul Dev, Akshay, Mehta, office bearers of Hiranagar and Jasrota Assembly constituency, launched the micro donation campaign at party office, Kathua.

## IIT Jammu Successfully concludes 5-Day Program on AI and ML in Manufacturing, Sponsored by MSME GoI



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

From March 5th to March 9th, 2024, a 5 day program on Building Entrepreneurship Excellence: AI and ML based smart manufacturing was conducted at IIT Jammu sponsored by MSME GoI. Throughout the five days, participants were exposed to different facets of AI and ML's role in revolutionizing manufacturing processes. From the pivotal role of IoT and digital twins to the game-

changing applications of machine vision, predictive maintenance, and defect prediction, every session was a gateway to new insights and possibilities.

Sessions were arranged to build an understanding that entrepreneurship is not just about technology but also about business acumen; dedicated sessions were delivered on essential topics such as crafting a robust business plan, navigating funding opportunities, and

harnessing the power of incubation for sustainable growth.

There was an enriching plant visit to Shalimar Flooring Pvt Ltd, where participants witnessed firsthand the integration of cutting-edge technologies into real-world manufacturing environments. Additionally, hands-on workshop experience with 3D printing and modern manufacturing machines provided a tangible glimpse into the future of production.

## Jammu Police in Domana recovered 4 gms of Heroin (Chitta) and cash Rs 30450

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 12.03.2024

Jammu Police acting tough against drug peddling, on 11.03.2024 a police party of Police Station Domana led by SHO Domana Inspector Arun Sharma, assisted by PSI Murtaza Rehman while performing vehicle checking at Domana naka under the jurisdiction of PS Domana apprehended one m/cycle rider namely Abdul Hamid S/o Lt Abdul rashid R/o Javed Nagar Nikki Tawi Jammu along with M/cycle JK02DG-8255. During checking 4 grams of Heroin like Psychotropic Substance and Cash Rs 30,450 has been recovered from the possession of said person.

The said person have been arrested and a case FIR No. 53/2024 U/S 08/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered at P/S Domana. The arrest and recovery took place under the supervision of SDPO Domana Sh Mudassir Hussain (JKPS) and SP Rural Sh. Brijesh Sharma (JKPS).

## Hegde's remarks vindicates Cong stand that constitution in danger under BJP rule: Karan

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

JKPCC SC Deptt Chairman Karan Bhagat on Tuesday attacked the BJP over Anantkumar Hegde's remarks about amending the Constitution, saying such a move would cause "upheaval" in the country and BJP should clarify the matter. Addressing a press conference in Party headquarter in Jammu, Bhagat accused the BJP of being against social justice and secularism as enshrined in the Constitution and said though many of its leaders and MPs have made such statements in the past, the Prime Minister has remained silent so far.

Bhagat said that BJP was against social justice and secularism enshrined in the Constitution. "This is not a good mindset, this will create upheaval in the country if you want to change the Constitution," he said, hitting out at the BJP. He said, "If social justice is denied to the poor and the oppressed, they will not remain silent." "If the BJP continues to speak with such mindset,



the people are watching them, their remarks, views and sentiments and will decide accordingly in 2024 elections," he said. He said the BJP aims to get a massive mandate only for amending the Constitution according to their needs as their leaders are against social justice to the poor and oppressed classes, and secularism.

Bhagat further said that, "Narendra Modi's silence on BJP MP's statement of 'changing the Constitution' is dangerous. The electoral contest now is between two

ideologies!""Constitution or unconstitutional, social justice or exploitation, secularism or communalism, civil rights or helpless people, freedom of speech or fearful silence, love or hate, diversity or monopoly, just order or dictatorial injustice." "Changing the Constitution, India's most precious heritage obtained from the struggle for independence, means pushing the country towards slavery. The decision on the future of the coming generations is now in your hands," Bhagat said. Their attack came after Hegde,

at a gathering in Karwar in Karnataka on Saturday, had said the BJP needed a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament to amend the Constitution and "set right the distortions and unnecessary additions made to it by the Congress".

Bhagat claimed that on one hand Prime Minister Modi states that the Constitution will not be changed and on the other hand, he makes his people say that they need two-thirds majority to amend it. This statement has been made not by any fringe ele-

ment but a BJP MP, he said. That is why PM Modi says 400-plus seats for the NDA as they want to amend the Constitution, he claimed.

Bhagat also alleged that the BJP has a "forked tongue" with which it conveys two messages -- one for public decorum and the other its "Mann Ki Baat". The BJP believes in imposing duties on citizens, while snatching away their fundamental rights, he said. He said, adding that democracy however is in the veins of Indian society and it will reject these anti-Constitutional forces who look to destroy Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution. "If the Constitution is amended according to the RSS/BJP agenda, that will be the end of Parliamentary democracy, Federalism, rights of the Minorities, and the English language being one of the two official languages," Bhagat claimed.

District Chairman Shamsheer Chand Bhagat, Dewan Chand, Surinder Kumar, Pardeep Kumar and Sunil Thappa also spoke in the press conference.

## A Hat-Trick Win For Camikara: Wins Two Golds and A Silver At Masters Competition 2024

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU / SRINAGAR, MARCH 12

India's first pure cane juice rum maker, Piccadilly Distilleries, has once again set a benchmark for Indian Rums and has created history for India at a global level. At the recently held Rum & Cachaça Masters 2024 competition, Camikara aced the Agricole aged rum category with two golds and a silver: Camikara 12YO and 8YO won gold medals and Camikara 3YO secured a silver medal. Camikara is the only Indian brand to have won among the finest rum and cachaça brands from around the world. The well-deserved accolade shows that the indigenous premium rum has emerged as a worthy contender, and the world is awakening to the new star from India that is Camikara.

The Rum & Cachaça Masters competition, chaired by The Spirits Business, is a prestigious event within the spirits industry held in London, UK. This competition holds signifi-

cant weight due to its rigorous blind tasting format, which ensures an unbiased evaluation of each entry. The assessment criteria, including aroma, flavor, complexity, and balance, reflect the nuanced qualities that define exceptional rum and cachaça. With experienced professionals and connoisseurs serving as judges, the competition maintains a high standard of evaluation. Their meticulous scrutiny of each entry underscores the dedication to identifying the most exceptional expressions within the categories of rum and cachaça.

Speaking on the achievement, Siddhartha Sharma, Founder, Piccadilly Distilleries said, "We wish to break the mindset that rum is a cheap drink. We have therefore produced India's first pure cane juice rum which is an Agricole style made from fresh cane juice and the palate of which is reminiscent of our weather, soil and sugarcane. This rum stands as a testament to our land and time, unabashedly differ-

ent to any global product. The aged versions, which are matured for more than eight years, are more comparable to cognacs than rum and the three-year-old younger expression is more akin to premium tequila, giving you the taste of the soil and vegetation where it comes from. Camikara is an all-natural product with no added sugar."

India, the world's largest sugarcane producer, never created a quality, luxury rum - until the launch of Camikara. Although there have been several brands available in the Indian market, they have always been at the entry level. A premium category Indian rum capable of competing on a worldwide platform and making India proud has never been researched. Derived from the Sanskrit word for "liquid gold", Camikara rum is a celebration of land, time, culture and people. Camikara was born for two reasons: to rediscover the past; and to pave the way for the future making it truly a 'rum like no other'.

## EDITORIAL

## Call for simultaneous LS, Assembly polls gets shriller

The demand for simultaneous assembly elections alongside the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir reflects the political parties' eagerness to restore democratic processes in the region. The absence of an elected government in J&K since June 2018 has left a governance void, and the people of the region deserve elected representatives to address their concerns effectively. The National Conference, Congress, PDP, and CPIM, among others, have voiced their support for holding both elections concurrently. They argue that if the situation in the region permits conducting Lok Sabha elections, there should be no delay in holding assembly elections as well. This demand highlights the parties' commitment to democratic principles and their belief in the importance of representative governance. The team of the Election Commission has started discussions with political parties in Jammu and Kashmir after reaching Srinagar to assess readiness for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the region. Led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, the commission officials held discussions with delegations from various parties, including the National Conference, PDP, BJP, CPI(M), Congress, and the Aam Admi Party. After meeting with representatives of the political party, the team of the ECI will conduct a comprehensive review of election preparedness with district election officers and police superintendents. Later today, officials will confer with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer P.K. Pole and state police nodal officers. Similar engagements are scheduled in Jammu. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo also reviewed the preparedness of the civil and police administration officials to ensure the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory. Different political parties have been demanding Assembly elections simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls in J&K. On Monday, National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah demanded the holding of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that it would be an injustice to the people if the assembly elections were postponed. Jammu and Kashmir is without an elected government since June 2018, when the BJP dumped the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) followed by the resignation of the then Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. Five months later, on November 28, 2018, the then Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved the legislative assembly minutes after Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP staked a claim to form the government with the support of Congress and the National Conference. A month later, on December 19, 2018, the then President Ram Nath Kovind issued a proclamation promulgating President's Rule in J&K under Article 356 of the Constitution of India. Eight months later, on August 5, 2019, the BJP government abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The decision ultimately rests with the Election Commission of India, which will assess the feasibility and readiness for conducting simultaneous elections in J&K. The commission's engagement with political parties and the local administration is crucial for ensuring a smooth electoral process and upholding the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## India's semiconductor quest amid geopolitical dynamics

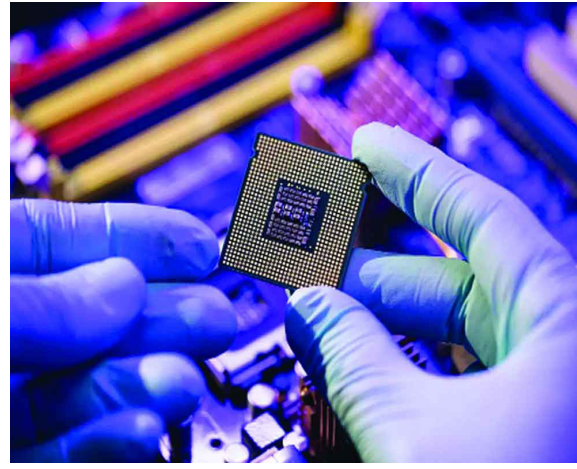
ISHOO RATNA SRIVASTAV

Semiconductor chips are posited as the new oil by some; some see them as a threat to national security, while others view them as a passport to economic prosperity. Dominated by companies from the United States, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and the Netherlands, the semiconductor industry is seen as the new oil, serving as a fulcrum of future geopolitical strength for these nations. Similarly, traditional military combat is no match for AI-enabled missile attacks, quantum computer-driven decision-making, drone swarms, and cyberattacks powered by state-of-the-art semiconductor chips, the manufacturing capabilities of which bestow power and influence.

They are embedded in our lives, from coffee machines and mobile phones to electric vehicles and health equipment, offering an industry potential of trillions of dollars by 2030, according to McKinsey. India's ambition to ascend the pecking

order of global superpowers by building advanced technology manufacturing capabilities, including semiconductor chips, is aptly based on a bold vision, the realization of which requires careful analysis of the following:

**Complex value chain:** The three core verticals of Design, Fabrication, and ATP form one of the most diverse supply chains in the world, crossing as many as 70 borders before reaching the consumer. US companies dominate the design of advanced chips, capturing -47 per cent of the value. Foundries manufacture the designed chips operating at subatomic-level precision, capturing -24 per cent of the value. ATP is a relatively automated and lower-value business but is now changing with advanced packaging techniques. **Precision:** The advanced chips, benchmarked below 7 nanometers (nm), are the true test of technology manufacturing capabilities, currently largely vested with Taiwan and South Korea. These foundries require facilities 10,000 times cleaner than



a hospital surgical room, and the purity standards of some of the 300 different materials needed to produce an advanced semiconductor are 1,000 times higher than for solar energy panels.

**Geopolitics:** The US continues to control key choke points of the global supply chain and retains the ability to influence other nations that wrest control over manufacturing processes. Samsung's decision to diversify its manufacturing to Vietnam signals the unfolding of opportunities for other nations from a technological decoupling with China.

**Technological Catch-**

up of South Korea and Taiwan: In less than twenty years, Taiwan and South Korea displaced the technology leaders like Germany and climbed the patent charts on semiconductors from zero to 386 and 267 respectively in the late nineties. In South Korea, the chaebols led vertical integration from the design to the testing of chips and anchored R&D, whereas a network of specialised firms and Government-supported institutions developed the R&D capabilities and acquired foreign technologies in Taiwan. Though they followed different evolutionary paths in the

development of the semiconductor industry, both leveraged inter-country mobility of experts where in return of foreign-educated nationals provided significant transfer of best practices and state-of-the-art knowledge.

India's moonshot at becoming a Semiconductor Hub: The recent promise of \$10 billion under the Semicon India programme, the PLI scheme, and the separate Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme aspires to build India's muscle across the semiconductor value chain. Its international strategic partnerships as part of the QUAD, India-US iCET, and investment interests from leading US firms like Micron are aimed at exploiting opportunities in technology, resourcing, talent, and research. However, in a complex industry such as Semiconductors, only industrial cooperation can do so much. Talent is identified as one of the top three risks for the industry, whereas India's skilled workforce can at best claim expertise in Chip design. India is said

to be two decades behind the Chip curve, and some of the most developed nations in advanced manufacturing have struggled to establish prominence in the field.

India's attractiveness therefore needs to extend beyond the availability of cheap land and capital and instead emerge as an attractive destination for the highly specialised global knowledge workers who relocate with their families and participate in the country's ambitious journey of development. It's also important to grab the opportunities offered by the decoupling that allows India to find value-aligned international partners, who, knowing its history of respectful coexistence and burgeoning economic prominence, bridge the R&D and execution gaps. India's success with Chandrayaan-3, 5G, and Digital technologies does offer optimism with respect to its ability to realise its formidable vision.

(The writer is Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, North Western Railway, views are personal)

## Electoral Bonds | SBI's time-wasting tactic is laughable

SUBHASH CHANDRA GARG

On February 15, the Supreme Court of India directed the State Bank of India (SBI) to submit the electoral bonds details for the buyers and recipient political parties, along with the date of purchase/deposit and denomination of bonds, by March 6.

On March 11, the court rejected the SBI's plea and directed it to furnish details of purchasers of these bonds and the names of political parties that encashed it by March 12.

Instead of furnishing the information, the SBI pleaded with the court, two days before the deadline, for time until June 30, on grounds of a "complex process" for "decoding" the electoral bonds and "matching of the donor to the donations made".

Was producing the said information a 'complex process'? Was the information which the SBI claimed to be a 'complex process' really what the court asked?

Why did the SBI make this plea?

Collection of specific information

The electoral bonds

scheme, from January 2, 2018, prescribed a specific set of information to be collected for each buyer, in addition to prescribing a clear procedure for making the applications.

The prescribed form, among others, required each buyer to furnish details of the mode of payment, the status of the applicant, the denomination, and the number of bonds to be purchased, in addition to the date of application.

The notification further mandated that the information furnished by the buyers be treated as confidential, and shall not be disclosed to any authority, except when demanded by a competent court or upon registration of a criminal case by a law enforcement agency.

For political parties encashing the electoral bonds, the scheme provided that the bonds be credited only to a specifically designated bank account in the SBI.

The scheme unambiguously provided for the collection and furnishing of the information directed by the Supreme Court.

SBI hiding behind something which has not been asked



The SBI's application stated: "...Due to the stringent measures undertaken to ensure that the identity of the donors was kept anonymous, 'decoding' of the electoral bonds and the matching of the donor to the donations made would be a complex process."

The SBI has also ostensibly informed that to protect the donors' anonymity, the bank had internally directed: "No details of bond purchaser including KYC and other details will be entered in CBS (core banking system)."

The electoral bonds scheme mandated the SBI to collect and keep all the information in a confidential manner. Whether the SBI could confidentially keep this information by recording it in its CBS or otherwise was the SBI's

internal matter only.

The SBI plea goes beyond this alibi to muddy the waters further.

The petition says: "The data related to the issuance of the bond and the data related to the redemption of the bond was kept recorded in two different silos."

Citing this as an unmanageable constraint, the SBI petition argues: "It can thus be noted that both sets of information were being stored independently of each other. Thus, to re-match them would be a task requiring significant amount of effort."

The SBI wants to match the buyer of each electoral bond with its recipient political party. The Supreme Court did not ask for this information. Then why did the SBI offer to do it?

Quite obviously, the SBI invented this excuse of 'complex process' to push the sharing of the information asked by the apex court beyond the Lok Sabha elections.

SBI can never match buyer and depositor

The electoral bonds had no serial number or any other identifier. The purchase and deposit processes did not allow the SBI to record any identifier of a specific electoral bond for its purchaser or depositor.

None of the three critical documents – the application, the electoral bond, and the deposit slip – recorded an identifier. How can the SBI 'decode' or 'match' an electoral bond with its buyer and/or depositor in such a case?

The electoral bonds, printed in the security printing press, did have a security feature, to avoid somebody faking the bond – a secret number embedded in the bond which could be seen only in ultraviolet light.

This number was not also recorded anywhere.

Given this, it is impossible for the SBI to link a single electoral bond, forget more than 22,000 bonds, with its purchaser and depositor.

SBI's plea was deservedly outrightly rejected

Alarming, what the SBI was seeking to do – matching each electoral bond with its buyer and depositing political party – was neither asked for by the Supreme Court, nor can it be done, not in four months' time or ever. On the contrary, the information directed by the court was required to be readily kept by the SBI.

The SBI can easily generate the information for each buyer relating to the amount of electoral bonds purchased, along with date of purchase, from the respective bank accounts of the buyers (from transaction records of non-SBI buyers).

The details of the amount of electoral bonds deposited, along with the date of deposit, for the political parties is readily available as all the bonds were deposited by the parties in their respective SBI bank accounts.

This, the SBI petition for extension deserved no consideration and was rightly rejected outrightly.

(Subhash Chandra Garg is former Finance & Economic Affairs Secretary, and author of 'The Ten Trillion Dream' and 'We Also Make Policy')

## China's strategy of creeping jurisdiction

KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

The essence of the strategic issue in the seas around China can be summarized as the US determination to secure a cordon of island chains to contain China, and the latter's attempts to breach this confinement. In so doing, China interprets its obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in a manner at odds with other countries and therefore not in line with international order because UNCLOS has the widest subscription and compliance of any agreement in the UN system other than the UN Charter itself.

China's attitude to maritime and territorial sovereignty is fluid and essentially long-term. Control of the maritime space is important also because it is directly linked to the control of a nation's airspace and, apart from rights of

navigation, fisheries and oil and gas exploration and exploitation are affected by the maritime boundary.

China's actions are not contextually a China-US issue, which relates to the US placing stress on freedom of navigation and China making claims on other coastal countries regarding how maritime boundaries are drawn and disputes about sovereignty and resources resolved. China has no settled maritime boundary with any country except, in a small sector, with Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin.

China wants its neighbouring coastal countries, and the US, to keep out of what it considers its waters, and it keeps up the pressure with its coastguard's presence as it tries to prevent others, such as Japan, from accessing those waters, thereby exercising physical possession on the basis that this will sustain its claims of

sovereignty.

There is therefore a capital-intensive deployment of maritime vessels by China. Small uninhabited rocks have been turned into habitations which help in assertions of sovereignty. This can be termed creeping or incremental jurisdiction, and Chinese domestic law legitimizes such control.

China and Taiwan have a median line between the Taiwan coast and mainland China which China had observed for several years but no longer does because Taiwan is a strategic objective for China. This is a slow, patient, and deliberate process of non-observance of the median line, which affects both the maritime boundary and airspace, and is an incremental assertion of sovereignty. For China, the Taiwan Strait is within its exclusive economic zone since it does not recognise Taiwan's sovereignty. After

the January presidential election in Taiwan, which brought into power a leader opposed to reunification with China, this trend of intrusion will be enhanced and China's tactics of creeping jurisdiction will intensify, with the greater erosion of the median line and Taiwan's contiguous zone.

It needs to be noted that China is conservative in considering how much risk its policy may involve. Its general position is strategic ambiguity, which could be intensified to heighten or reduced to lessen tension. What the policy is aimed at is to both create a new normal of customary law and also to display evidence of its capabilities.

The international community does not favour unilateral activities. However, the position of the US, which is in the forefront of contesting China's policy, also has strategic and tactical limitations.

While it is party to three 1958 conventions on Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Continental Shelf and the High Seas, which it invokes, it has failed to ratify UNCLOS and consequently, in public opinion, looks unprincipled and without locus standi. This makes the regional countries somewhat sceptical about American intentions.

Besides this, the freedom of navigation principle strongly advanced by the US is only theoretical as far as Vietnam and Philippines and other coastal nations are concerned, because they do not have the air or sea power to exercise it. This permits China to assert that US policy is a sign of the American desire for domination, power projection and militarisation.

Accordingly, the US needs to focus on the resources and claims of the exclusive economic

zones, especially regarding fishing. This would interest all of China's coastal neighbours, including Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Brunei. And the US should use its coastguard ships instead of naval military vessels, because only the coastguard can frustrate China's extensive fishing in contested waters and marketing the catch at lower-than-competitive prices.

However, it is not all one-way traffic to China's advantage on the sea. To counter China's island-building, countries like Philippines and Vietnam, in particular, have shown themselves to be ready to take some risks in copying the same techniques and, while keen to avoid any incidents, have set up maritime military units on the Chinese model, and have used similar tactics while running the gauntlet of Chinese water-cannons aimed to deter them.







## Promo Run sets stage for community's celebration: Er. Shubham Kotwal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 12

In a display of unity and athleticism, Jammu witnessed a remarkable gathering of runners and fitness enthusiasts on Sunday morning for the Herath Half Marathon Promo Run. Organized as a prelude to the esteemed Herath Half Marathon, this event not only ignited a fervor for running but also cultivated a sense of community engagement and brand promotion.

Er. Shubham Kotwal, a prominent figure in Journalism, remarked, "The Herath Half Marathon isn't just a race; it's a celebration of the human spirit. We are thrilled by the overwhelming response to the promo run and look forward to welcoming participants from all walks of life to join us in this grand celebration of athleticism and unity."

Shubham underlined the Herath Half Marathon, named after the vibrant Herath festival symbolizing rejuvenation and new beginnings, saying that it stands as a testament to the spirit of resilience, inclusion, and togetherness. He opined that by



promoting health and wellness, the marathon encapsulates the values that resonate deeply within the fabric of Jammu's cultural tapestry.

The promo run transcended mere running; it acted as a convergence point for individuals from diverse backgrounds, united by their love for fitness and adventure. Participants, spanning various age groups and experiences, came together, fostering new friendships, sharing running insights, and motivating one another to surpass their boundaries.

Shubham remarked the

zero age limit for the participation in the Half Marathon and appreciated the steps taken by Jammu Hills Sports Club. Anticipation for the main event, slated for March 24th, soared to new heights, evidenced by a surge in registrations and an outpouring of community support.

Kotwal urged the youth to participate in these kinds of events more often so as to keep themselves healthy and be a brand ambassador of fitness. The Herath Half Marathon promises an unforgettable amalgamation of sportsmanship, culture, and team work.

## BJYM extends welcome to newly appointed SHO Bhandarwah, Sandeep Parihar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BHADERWAH, MARCH 12

In a gesture of camaraderie and community support, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) team in Bhandarwah warmly welcomed the newly appointed Station House Officer (SHO), Sandeep Parihar, in a meeting held earlier today.

The meeting, marked by enthusiasm and positivity, took place at the Station House office Bhandarwah. BJYM General Secretary, Sandeep Manhas, along with Mandal Pardhan Bhandarwah Vikas Rajprouhit, Mandal Pardhan Chinta Bhalla Narbeek Manhas, Ajay Charak, Rinku Yogi and District Vice President

Abhimanyu kotwal the delegation in extending a heartfelt welcome to SHO Sandeep Parihar.

During the meeting, BJYM members expressed their unwavering support for the local police department and commended SHO Sandeep Parihar for his honesty and courage in serving the community. The BJYM team members, reiterated their commitment to working hand in hand with law enforcement to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

Abhimanyu kotwal shared, "We are delighted to welcome SHO Sandeep Parihar to Bhandarwah. His dedication and fearlessness are truly commendable, and we stand

shoulder to shoulder with him and the entire police force. Together, we will continue to work towards a safer and stronger Bhandarwah."

The warm reception highlighted the unity and cooperation between the local youth and law enforcement agencies, emphasizing the importance of community-police partnerships in fostering a secure environment for residents.

As Bhandarwah embraces this collaborative spirit, the BJYM remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the endeavors of the police department and contributing positively to the welfare of the community.

## Doordarshan News Jammu invites applications for position of stringers

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 12

The Regional News Unit, Doordarshan Kendra, Jammu has invited applications for engagement of stringers in all districts of Jammu Province. Five stringers will be selected for Jammu district and two stringers each will be selected for the remaining nine districts. The selected people will be expected to cover news-worthy events for DD News Jammu and also report on issues as and when needed. The application process is completely offline and the last date for applying is April 6th, 2024. The application forms are available for download on the website [www.ddindia.gov.in](http://www.ddindia.gov.in) or can be collected from

## Reasi Police recovers illicit liquor, seizes distillery, arrests accused, lodges FIR

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MAR 12

Continuing the drive against drug abuse and illicit liquor launched by District Police Reasi. Reasi Police recovered illicit liquor and arrested the bootlegger involved in smuggling the illicit liquor.

Police party of Police Camp Mora Mal was on routine patrolling duty who received an information through reliable source that one person namely Sukhdev Singh S/O Bali Ram R/O Moramal (Tuli) Tehsil Chassana Distt. Reasi is involved in distillation of illicit desi liquor, on this information the police team searched the house of the above-mentioned person wherein 1.5 liters of illicit (desi) liquor, 05 litres of lahan

and utensils for preparation of desi liquor have been recovered from his home. In this connection a case FIR No 14/2024 under section 48 (a) has been registered at P/S Chassana, and investigation is going on.

SSP Reasi Ms Mohita Sharma-IPS conveyed that Reasi police under is committed to eradicate the menace of drug abuse and illicit liquor smuggling from the area and people from all sections of the society should come forward and join hands with Police to strengthen anti-drug drive of District Police Reasi and share any information regarding such illegal activities on district police anti drug helpline no. 9070907017 where identity of caller will be kept secret.

## One-Week Residential program on "Skill Development in Electronics" begins at SMVDU

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 12

A one-week residential program on "Skill Development in Electronics (Hardware, Software, and Devices)" is started at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra, which is scheduled from 11th to 15th March 2024, and organized by the School of Electronics & Communication Engineering. Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Mr. Ashish Suri, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, and Dr. Neeraj Tripathi are the organizing coordinators of this program, under the project RP-128, which is funded by the Government of J&K. The aim of the program is to cater to the needs of real-world projects, primarily in the start-up environment. This meticulously designed program stands as an ini-



tiative aimed at cultivating technical expertise and elevating the competencies of professionals within the domain of Electronics. One of the distinguishing features of this program is the opportunity for direct engagement with distinguished professors, industry professionals, and representatives from government agencies. This curated interaction is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive perspective, integrating theoretical knowledge with real-world insights

garnered from leaders in academia, industry, and public service. This program has diversity in participation from different parts of J&K and Rajasthan. The inauguration ceremony of the program has witnessed the presence of the chief guest Prof. Pragati Kumar Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha Dean of Engineering, and Prof. Neeraj Sharma expert speaker from IIT (BHU) Varanasi. Prof. Pragati Kumar Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, focused on the need to think poten-

tially to develop different and unique opportunities for start-ups. Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha stressed the need to enhance skills to cater to the needs of society. Mr. Ashish Suri briefed the audience on the importance of the program.

The program has expert speakers from premium institutions like IIT (BHU) Varanasi, IGDTUW Delhi, JKEDI, NIT Allahabad, GKV Haridwar, CU Jammu, BBAU Lucknow, DIAT Pune, and industry. The program is designed to assemble theoretical knowledge into industry-oriented projects by doing the hands-on. The program coordinators are thankful to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the University for their Kind Permission to organize this skill development program.

## FDP on "Skill Development" begins in CUJ

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

The UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) at Central University of Jammu is set to host a comprehensive Faculty Development Program (FDP) from 12th to 21st March, 2024 under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof Sanjeev Jain. It is designed to offer an in-depth orientation on Skill Development, this FDP aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's objectives.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, was the chief guest in the inaugural session. He highlighted the University's commitment to implementation and promoting skill development in contemporary education. In light of the

dynamic nature of teaching-learning pedagogy, skill development of faculty in all disciplines is the highest priority of our University, he added.

Dr. Neelika Arora, Director of UGC-MMTTC, Central University of Jammu, in her welcome address, informed that this FDP program is the fourth in the series that the centre is slated to offer. The FDP program includes 130 faculty members from various educational institutions across India, she informed that the MMTTC is designed to implement the key changes to the current higher education system to revamp and reenergize it and thereby deliver high-quality higher education with equity and inclusion.

Dr. Akshay Kumar, Deputy Director of UGC-

MMTTC, Central University of Jammu presented a brief introduction about the theme of FDP. He informed that the eminent experts from different universities across the country will be conducting the session during the next eight days.

The inaugural session was conducted by Ms. Karishma Rana. While presenting a formal vote of Thanks, Dr. Amit Gangotia, Program Coordinator, emphasised on the need of this FDP.

Subsequently the formal inaugural, Dr. Mahendra Singh, Program Coordinator welcome and introduce the eminent resource person for the first session Prof. Pankaj Kumar Mishra, Pro Vice Chancellor, Global University, who deliver talk on Bridging Skill Gaps with the NEP

and unveiling job skills for 2024, to the participants.

The FDP is spearheaded by an energetic organizing team that aims to enrich educators with a nuanced understanding of skill development and its integration within the current educational framework. Dr. Neelika Arora, Director of UGC-MMTTC at the university, leads the initiative alongside Dr. Akshay Kumar, the Deputy Director, Dr. Mahendra Singh and Dr. Amit Gangotia, Program Coordinators, have been instrumental in shaping the program's structure and content.

The FDP is a significant step towards realizing the objectives of NEP 2020, which emphasizes the incorporation of skill development in the education system.

## SMVDU, Bhangra Team bags 1st Runner up Position at ANHAD '24 hosted by IIT Jammu



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Bhangra Hood, the bhangra team of BCA (Board of Cultural Activities) represented Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra in Groove Troops, a competitive dance event held as part of the Annual Techno Cultural Fest, ANHAD '24, organized by IIT Jammu. The team bagged 1st Runner-up position in the event. The team was accompanied by the cultural coordinator BCA, Dr. Ankush

Raina and Hostel supervisor, Suneha Sharma. The team comprising of Achint Raj, Manpreet Singh, Manmohan Singh, Sharanveer Singh, Antiriksha Rathore, Stuti, Samriti Bharadwaj, and Hargun Kour showcased their dedication and exceptional talent on the stage. Bhangra Hood's success at Groove Troops marks a significant milestone in their journey. The team is motivated to continue their pursuit of excellence, aiming to showcase their talent on even grander platforms

in the future. Under the leadership of Dr. Rakesh Kumar (President, BCA), Dr. Kamni Pathania (Vice-President, BCA), Dr. Ankush Raina (Coordinator, BCA) and Dr. Rahul (Coordinator, BCA) the team has excelled in their endeavours. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMVDU extended the heartfelt congratulations to the team for representing SMVDU at a National Platform and stressed upon these types of participations by the students in the near future.

## NC leaders meet youth, seek support for their party in forthcoming elections



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 12

National Conference leaders, including Provincial Joint Secretary Ankush Abrol and Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban), Dr. Vikas Sharma today held a meeting with a large number of youth and dwelt on their number of issues.

The NC leaders expressed concern over the growing unemployment, menace of drug abuse and lack of opportunities for the youth class. They came down heavily upon the LG administration for not redressing the burning issues related to youth.

Abrol said, "Youth of J&K have a lot of potential. They can do wonders if they are provided with proper opportunities. The

## CAA doesn't discriminate against Muslims: Purnima

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor has welcomed the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) announced by the Govt the other day.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that the people across the nation are today celebrating the most humanitarian step taken by the BJP Govt at the centre that will go a long way in addressing the woes of the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs who had been at the receiving end due to the atrocities meted out to them in the Muslim countries namely Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. She said that though the law was passed four years ago, yet it is never too late and its implementation today has added yet another feather to the cap of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi heading the Union Govt as well as the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Purnima asserted that this significant decision of the Union Govt was inevitable to make the nation's journey to become a Vishwa Guru as it addresses the vital humanitarian concern of the people of Indian origin living as minorities abroad especially in some Muslim countries especially in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## NYKS Anantnag organises Nari Shakti Fitness Run

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, MAR 12

In a proactive move to commemorate International Women's Day and advocate for women's empowerment, Nehru Yuva Kendra

Anantnag block Anantnag organises Nari shakti fitness Running competition. The event aimed to celebrate the achievements of women while highlighting the importance of empowering them for societal progress. The race was

flagged off by principal Elysium public school Wanhama. This resonated with the overarching theme of the event: "Invest in Women to Accelerate Progress." Amidst the spirited atmosphere of the Competition. In This competition beig

sheema got first, shobi Jan got second & zeenat Fayaz got third respectively. All three position holders were awarded with tshirt, cap & medal. The event was conducted by National Youth Volunteer zubair basheer.

## Identification of gap where cooperative societies are less across country will prove helpful in cooperatives' expansion through National Database: Amit Shah

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 13

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the National Database. Shah, who is associated with the cooperative movement, believes that 'The identification of the gap where cooperative societies are less across the country will prove helpful in the expansion of cooperatives through the National Database.'

Today, with the skilled guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, the worn-out cooperative societies have become vibrant. The country's cooperative activities are now centralized and computerized. Now, cooperatives are being made multi-purpose across the country. Amit Shah, who practices the politics of 'Antyodaya' (upliftment of the last person), repeatedly state that by the year 2027, there will be one cooperative in every Panchayat in the country, is likely to be proven true. This is why



the National Database has been created, which will help identify the gap in the number of cooperative societies across the country and assist in the expansion of cooperatives. Every piece of information about cooperatives will now be available with just one click through the National Database. A National Database, working as a valuable resource for policy-makers, researchers, and stakeholders, will act as a compass for the development of the cooperative sector. In fact, this database is the basis of India's entire cooperative activities, created using cutting-edge technology. Through the database portal, small cooperative institutions can receive guidance for

their expansion. The database has the potential to connect information from PACS to APEX, from village to city, from mandi to the global market, and from state to international databases. The solution to geographical imbalance, sectoral imbalance, community imbalance, and functional imbalance - all these issues have been finely addressed within this database using tools. Looking at the rise of the cooperative sector, it seems that Modi's cooperation will bring prosperity, development through digital means, and achieve goals through the database. In the present times of Amrit Kaal, more than 8 lakh cooperatives are registered, and more than

30 crores citizens are connected to these societies. After independence, there was a demand for the separate formation of the Ministry of Cooperation for decades, but no government paid attention to it. As a result, the condition of the cooperative sector continued to worsen. In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled the task of establishing a separate Ministry of Cooperation, and the command of it was handed over to Union Home Minister and veteran BJP leader Amit Shah. Since his early days, Shah, who has been associated with the cooperative sector, has not left any stone unturned in empowering cooperative societies in just a few years.

Modi Ji, who is engaged in building a new India, and Amit Shah, who has changed the direction and situation of Indian politics, have a nature to take courageous decisions and implement them to fruition. This is why the Ministry of Cooperation was established, and today the cooperative sector is also developing.

## CBC's Five day exhibition concludes in Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 12

The Central Bureau of Communication Srinagar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, successfully concluded its five-day Integrated Outreach Programme and Exhibition today at the Mini Secretariat in Ganderbal on Tuesday. The exhibition, which commenced on March 8, served as a platform to showcase the remarkable progress achieved by the government across various sectors over the past decade, with a particular focus on rural development, healthcare, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, ICDS, and education. Under the overarching themes of Viksit Bharat, Mission Life, Agnipath, and Swachh Bharat Mission, the event aimed to inform and educate the general populace about the government's initiatives and achievements.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, attendees were treated to a series of informative lectures and presentations delivered by experts and officials from diverse government departments. These sessions delved into the intricacies of different schemes, highlighting their successes and future targets. A large number of



beneficiaries participated in the programme and shared their inspiring success stories, showcasing the tangible impact of various government schemes on their lives.

On the final day, representatives from the Agriculture Department, Fisheries, and Horticulture provided detailed insights into their respective sectors, including information on employment gen-

eration schemes. The artists from the City Cultural Group, empanelled with CBC Srinagar presented informative skits on various government schemes.

Director of CBC Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Ghulam Abbas said that the exhibition received an overwhelming response from the public, fulfilling the event's outcome.

Field Publicity Officer and Nodal Officer of the exhibition, emphasized the vital role of CBC's integrated communication campaigns, facilitating effective communication between the government and the public, ultimately fostering greater awareness and participation in key initiatives aimed at socio-economic development.

Naseer Ahmad Rather,

## Lecture on Dental Implants held at Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

A lecture on dental implants under the expert lecture series 2024 was organized at Jammu. The topic of the lecture was "Basic Implantology - simplified and oral hygiene care" and the resource person was Dr. Vikram Bali, Periodontist and Implantologist, from Ludhiana.

Dr. Bali simplified the concept of placing, maintaining, restoring, and tackling the complications associated with dental implants. He said that it is better to replace a missing tooth with an implant than placing

a bridge in that area. He also gave a detailed list of precautions to be observed while placing dental implants.

Dr. Gautam Sharma, President, Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu, presented a certificate of resource person to the speaker. Dr. Gautam said that now most dentists are placing dental implants in their practice, but soft tissue consideration shall always be kept in mind as it may complicate the restorative part.

Senior manager Colgate, Rakesh Shrivastav, oral care consultant Sumeet, oral care executive Vineet Dogra were present on the occasion.

## PMVS reviving Heritage, empowering Artisans: Yudhvir



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme holds immense significance by empowering India's traditional artisans and craftspeople with a holistic package of recognition, skill training, financial support, and market access. It aims to revitalize age-old crafts, boost incomes, and preserve cultural heritage, ultimately building a self-reliant community of artisan entrepreneurs.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President during the special camp organized by Jyoti Gupta, President Mahila Morcha Amphalla Mandal here today. The camp was inaugurated by Yudhvir Sethi along with Raman Sharma, President Amphalla Mandal.

Addressing a gathering, Yudhvir underscored

the scheme's potential to unlock a golden age for traditional crafts and uplift the lives of millions of skilled artisans. "The PM Vishwakarma Scheme is not just an initiative, it's a clarion call to rediscover the magic of our indigenous arts. From carpenters to potters, weavers to goldsmiths, this scheme empowers our Vishwakarmas with recognition, skill upgradation, financial support, and market access. It's time to ensure every beneficiary across the Jammu and Kashmir unlocks the doors to prosperity and contributes to a vibrant Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

Yudhvir Sethi also urged the party workers to become torchbearers, guiding artisans through the registration process and disseminating crucial information about the scheme's benefits.

## Congress is only hope for Jammu Kashmir: Kundal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMGARH, MAR 12

Former minister and state vice president Congress Yashpal Kundal said that the ultimate goal of PM Modi and BJP is to destroy Baba Saheb's Constitution. We will not let these conspiracies succeed with the dreams of our freedom heroes. During a nukkad meeting organized in Dabuj Shahzada under Ramgarh assembly, Kundal made a harsh statement about the intentions of BJP. Kundal said that BJP has always been anti-constitutional and now there is talk of abolishing the constitution outright. Kundal explained to the people that

the Constitution of the country gives the citizens the right to live with equality, BJP wants to abolish it and run a dictatorial regime.

Kundal said that Lok Sabha elections are about to come, if BJP is not uprooted from power this time then even their right to life will be snatched away from the people. Kundal said that people are troubled by inflation and unemployment, farmers are being forced to leave farming due to inflation, but the government is busy in garnering false praise by putting up big boards. Kundal appealed to support Congress in the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

## Farewell party given to 8th class students of GMS, Sangli Katwalt




J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Today on 12th of March 2024 grand farewell party is organised in the premises of Government Middle school Sangli Katwalt zone kulwanta Ramnagar. It is moment of joy and happiness among all the students. Students of school performed various activities to make the program funny and cultural.

All the students were very happy while performing these activities

under the kind guidance of Mr Kuldeep Kumar Headmaster Government Middle school Sangli Katwalt Ramnagar. Various students have given emotional speech including Shilpa Devi, Radha Devi, Isha Devi, Anita Devi etc. Moreover Makhan Singh, Archana Jugnwal, Sheetal Devi, Godvari Devi, Naresh Kumari, Nisha Devi, kalasha Devi, Diksha, Romal Singh also blessed the students with valuable words.



**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**

### OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

### PWD (R&B) DIVISION CHENANI

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**e-NIT No. 27 of 2023-24 Dated 09.03.2024**

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL OF PRIMARY SCHOOL NADANISER AND GIRLS TOILET AT SIMBAL NALLAH DISTT. UDHAMPUR	8.00	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	60 Days	"C/D"	SAMAGRA

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

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-03-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-03-2024 to 02-04-2024 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	09-03-2024 from 1800 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	02-04-2024 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03-04-2024 on or after 1100 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Chenani.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Chenani uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Chenani** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Chenani**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

**No:-** EE/C/4794-4801  
**Dated:-** 09.03.2024

-sd-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Chenani

**DIP/J-15975/23**  
**Date: 12-3-24**

## Omar dragging Ramadan, Ram Temple in CAA unfortunate: Suri

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Coming down heavily on National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah for his remarks that "BJP Has Given Ramadan Gift to the Muslims of the Country by Notifying the CAA. We regret it," Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said that the National Conference (NC), as usual, is trying to polarise the society by spreading lies which have no basis and are concocted, misleading, and aimed at gaining back some lost foothold in the political arena.

Raman Suri said that without explaining 'how CAA will affect Muslims,' to the people of the country or to the audience, whom Omar Abdullah was trying to address, he chose to simply drag the Holy Month of Ramadan and Shri Ram Temple at Ayodhya into the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) subject. This is nothing but National Conference's frustration after collapsed INDI Alliance and People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) besides a failed attempt to gain the lost ground in Kashmir.

The BJP leader said, CAA has been implemented to provide citizenship to six communities including Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who



came to India on or before December 31, 2014 from three countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. How and where do the Muslims living in India come into picture with respect to CAA, this Omar Abdullah must explain to the people whom he is trying to exploit or mislead by his vague, manipulative, concocted, and twisted statements.

Raman Suri said, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah had time and again said that well-before the general elections, CAA will be implemented, and that is what he did. Unable to find anything wrong with the law, Omar Abdullah is now questioning the timing of its implementation. The NC leader should come clean on the subject whether he is opposed to the law or its timing. Omar Abdullah must also explain how Shri Ram Temple is linked to the CAA and its timing, or must apologise to the people who are sure to teach him a lesson in the upcoming elections.

National Conference

Vice President must understand that whatever BJP promises, it fulfils. CAA, law on Triple Talaq, Abrogation of Article 370 or One Nation, One Law are some of the examples of BJP's commitments, which it fulfilled in letter and spirit. Now that the BJP has said that its going to get 400 plus seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, NC must reconcile to the fact that it is going to happen with the active support of people and on the basis of work that BJP government at the Centre has done under able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Omar Abdullah, Raman Suri added, is living in an illusion and must understand that it is not BJP but NC, which is using religion in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls by using Ramadan and Ram Temple just to debate on CAA, even though these both have nothing to do with the said law. Muslims across the country, especially in Kashmir are appreciating the work done by Narendra Modi, and it is only the National Conference which is trying to instigate them for gaining votes. Saying that by implementing CAA, Muslims have been made a target, Omar is trying to polarise the society as well as mislead and misguide the common people, which is highly condemnable, said Raman Suri.

## Shiv Sena expresses apprehension over organizing free and fair elections in J&K Accused of not providing adequate security to leaders



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit expressing doubt over the claims of ensuring free and fair elections with large-scale public participation, without providing adequate security to all the opposition leaders including Shiv Sena and creating no hindrance in the programs organized by them.

Sahni said that facilities like adequate security and accommodation are immediately issued to those in power and the leaders of their "favourite parties formed overnight". But the leaders of opposition parties, especially Shiv Sena (UBT), are being given step-motherly treatment.

Sahni said that he has been the head of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and

Kashmir unit for last five years and has made a written appeal to provide security to all the officials from Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Chief Secretary, DGP, but he is not being provided security. Sahni alleged that as part of a well-planned strategy, efforts are being made to keep him away from party promotion in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently they were not allowed to talk to journalists and hold Jan Samvad Yatra in Srinagar, Kashmir. Along with this, Imran Shaikh, who recently left BJP and joined their party, is not allowed to go out and promote the party under the cover of security.

Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir being a sensitive area, the shadow of terrorism has been looming here for the last 35

years. It cannot be predicted when and whom terrorists will target in order to maintain their dominance and make their presence felt.

Sahni said that the dates of elections for the 18th Lok Sabha can be announced at any time, in such a situation, for the expansion and promotion of the party, he has to visit remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir division, but due to lack of security, there is always a fear of some untoward incident. Sahni said that a memorandum will also be submitted to the Election Commission officials regarding his above demands. On this occasion president mehila wing Meenakshi Chhibber, President Kamghar Raj Singh, Organiser Imran Shekh were present.

## Darshan Rana tours Jammu East Assembly segment, holds workers meet



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

A delegation of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leaders which was led by J&K UT president Darshan Rana comprising of Hari Chand, tarsem Lal, Ram Dass, Subash Sumbria and others took a tour of the Jammu East constituency today.

The leaders held meetings with people at various places of Jammu East constituency and apprised the people about the policies and programmes of the party.

Darshan Rana while speaking at various meetings, said that BSP is the only party which fights for the cause of the poor and down trodden people and

the time has come where people should realize the importance of their vote and bring the party in the power so that they may be able to fight their cause vigorously in the Parliament.

The people of this constituency are still struggling for the basic amenities.

BSP Chief appealed the people to support BSP and vote in favour of their candidates so that party may become a major factor in the balance of power or able to form the next Government and redress the real problems of the people. Other, Party workers Krishan Lal, Brij Mohan, Bishan Dass, Sewa Ram also present on this occasion.

## Announcement of CAA just to divert people's attention from electoral bonds issue: Tony



J I NEWS SERVICE  
SUCHETGARH

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Congress and DDC Member of Suchetgarh, has strongly condemned the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) shameful tactics of using electoral bonds to manipulate public opinion. The Saffron Party has once again demonstrated its disregard for transparency and accountability in the electoral process.

Speaking at the programme held here today, the senior Congress leader said that the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) by BJP Govt is seen as nothing but a desperate attempt to divert people's attention from the critical issue of electoral bonds. By introducing the CAA amidst widespread concerns about the lack of transparency in electoral funding through bonds, the BJP stands exposed in front of the people, he added.

Tony emphasized that the CAA does not address the pressing issues faced by the citizens of our country but is merely a smoke-screen created by the BJP

to deflect attention from its dubious actions. It is evident that the BJP's priorities lie in maintaining its grip on power rather than addressing the genuine concerns of the people. He asked BJP to uphold the principles of democracy and transparency and also to prioritize the welfare of the citizens and take concrete steps towards ensuring fairness and accountability in the electoral process.

Earlier today, the senior Congress leader initiated the blacktopping of the road at Hara Peer Sai, with an allocated budget of Rs 3.56 crore. Upon completion, this road will serve as a vital link connecting over 50 villages up to Arnia and RS Pura.

Additionally, the senior Congress leader highlighted that the ongoing construction of a bridge near Hara Peer, with an estimated cost of Rs 11 crores, aimed at enhancing connectivity to village Sae from RS Pura. Assuring swift progress, Tony mentioned the expected completion of the bridge by the end of June.

## Do not delay paying your advance taxes, deadline is March 15, 2024

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 12

Income Tax Department organized an interactive session on Advance Tax and Grievance Redressal with top taxpayers of J&K along with taxpayers from business fraternity viz. Hotel associations, Tour & Travel operators, Shikara & House Boat association, Chamber of Commerce and tax professionals - Chartered Accountants, Advocates & Tax Consultants at "The Chinars" Aaykar Bhawan, Srinagar. The event was attended by around 50 taxpayers and tax professionals including R.A Punjabi (Former President KCCI), Farooq Ahmad (Burza group), Dildar Ahmad (President PHARO group), Abdul Gafoor (Kashmir Art Centre), Bilal Ahmad Dar (Owner of Pick & Choose), Manzoor Seerat Ali Shah (owner of Ali Shah carpets), Chartered Accountants & Advocates namely Altaf, Amir Jan, Bashir Ahmad, Manjoor Ahmad Malik, Mostaq Mir. The programme was chaired by M.P. Singh, Pr. Commissioner of Income Tax, J&K and Ladakh.

The event was commenced by Shakil Ahmad Ganie, Dy. Commissioner of Income Tax- Srinagar who welcomed the taxpayer

ers and tax professionals and highlighted the importance of paying Advance tax for both taxpayers and the government. He stated that from the taxpayers' perspective, it helps in managing cash flow as they pay taxes in instalments rather than facing a significant burden at the end of a financial year. It also ensures compliance with tax laws and avoids penalties for non-payment or delayed payment of taxes. For the government, advance tax ensures the availability of funds throughout the year to meet various expenditure requirements and contributes to the stability of the economy. Later, Rahul Padha, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar took the stage and stated that the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and normalization of security scenario in the state has given a much needed impetus to the economy of the state which was in shambles earlier. For the past 2-3 years and particularly from the last year, the valley has seen an unprecedented rise in number of tourists visiting Kashmir. Due to continuous inflow of tourists, almost all sectors including hotels, restaurant & hospitality, tours and travel agencies, local handicrafts, artisans and

other allied sectors have flourished which has resulted in generation of employment along with significant increase in the earning capacity of natives of J&K particularly the taxpayers from business fraternity.

However, the area of concern for the I.T department, as discussed by Rahul Padha was that the growth seen in economy and earning capacity of people is not reflected in form of tax payments from the taxpayers particularly the advance tax payments. With the boost in local economy, the department was expecting an increase in number of tax payers and tax collection in form of Advance tax, however, against an anticipated rise the trend has shown a downward slope.

M.P. Singh, Pr. Commissioner of Income Tax, J&K and Ladakh while addressing the gathering emphasized that the department through its Risk Management Strategy is closely monitoring the taxpayers who despite having substantial tax liability resort to paying Self Assessment Tax (SAT) while filing their ITR rather than depositing Advance tax as prescribed by the I.T Act. He further cautioned that on account of non compliance from taxpayers with regard to

timely and accurately payment of advance taxes, department will be forced to initiate action as per relevant provisions of Income tax act against such non-compliant assesses. M.P. Singh further highlighted that the department over a period of time has noticed that majority of the assesses in J&K do not comply to the notices and other communications issued by the I.T department in their cases. Due to non responsive nature of the assesses, the Assessing officers are constrained to make additions on the basis of material information available with them which results in creation of huge demands in their cases by the faceless assessment units. Subsequently, when the assesses do not deposit the demand created on the basis of ex-parte assessments in their cases, the I.T department as a last resort, gets the bank accounts of the assessee, attached. In this regard, he advised that the assesses should update their email ids and mobile numbers on Income Tax e-filing portal so that they receive communications from department and respond timely. He further stressed that whenever the assesses receive any notice or any other communication

from the department, they should immediately contact their nearest Income tax office or take help of tax professionals and act accordingly. A senior officer from the department explained that in case the bank accounts of the assesses are attached by the department, the assesses may resort to following options:

a) File an appeal before Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) under section 250 of the Income tax Act against the assessment order or penalty order which resulted in creation of huge demands and ultimately led to attachment of their bank accounts due to their non compliance. The time limit for filing appeal before CIT(A) is 30 days from the receipt of demand notice. However, the assessee may file an application for condonation of delay along with their appeal describing reasonable cause for not filing their appeals timely.

b) As an alternative remedy, the assessee may also opt to file a revision petition under section 264 of the I.T Act in the office of Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (J&K) along with relevant supporting documents.

c) Against the unfavourable order passed by Assessing officers, the

assessee may file an application for stay of demand in their cases [till the adjudication of appeals filed by them before CIT(A) or revision petition filed before Pr. Commissioner of Income Tax] before their jurisdictional Assessing Officers by depositing 20 percent of demand computed in their cases. This stay application may also be filed before jurisdictional Principal Commissioner of Income Tax along with proper justification explaining reasonable cause to restrict demand in their cases to a reasonable limit till the finalization of their appeals or revision petition. By doing so, the assessee's may get their bank account released and operate them normally.

After an engaging discussion with the participants, the grievances of the taxpayers on different issues such as outstanding demands, refunds, rectifications, appeal etc. were taken up for discussion and duly addressed by the officers of the department. The taxpayers were assured that the department is ever willing to help and guide them in their tax matters and in return expects them to pay their taxes honestly and timely and play their part in progress of the nation.

## Indian Army organised lecture on 'Padhega India to Badhega India' Upgradation of Schools at Maniyal, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MAR 12

Education is one of the most important instrument for social, economic and political transformation in any society. Indian Army strived to provide quality education to the students of remote under developed area of Marha, Bufliaz and Maniyal of Poonch district conducted various events for upgra-



duction of Schools. The event was organised to spread awareness amongst students about impor-

tance and significance of literacy and various initiatives by Government for education. As part of welfare measures, furniture for students was provided for its overall upgradation. During the events, motivational lectures were

also delivered on these matters - 'To Join Armed Forces and importance of Education in Life'. Modalities on guidance, coaching and assistance for the students and awareness to join armed forces was also discussed. The celebration was overflowing with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm. Indian Army once again extended a gesture towards consolidation of military-civil bond.

## Indian Army conducts Coaching Classes on Sainik, Military School Entrance Exam for Youth Empowerment at 'Veero Ki Dharti', Rajouri

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAR 12

The supreme sacrifice of Hav Majid Khan, Kirti Chakra (Posthumously) continues to inspire the young generation of Poonch and Rajouri to join the Armed Forces. Indian Army conducted coaching classes to prepare the talented, potential students belonging to poor and rural background for admission into Sainik



and Military Schools to give wings to these highly

motivated youth to join Armed Forces. Monitoring

and preparing students of these remote areas for Sainik and Military School entrance exams will have a far reaching effect in stabilizing the region by providing them assistance in securing seats in reputed Sainik Schools. A total of 75 students of District Rajouri and adjoining areas attended the free coaching classes conducted under Sadbhavana.

## Fueling Agricultural Innovation, Collaboration: Jammu hosts Pioneering NABARD-organized FPO Mela-Tarang

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

In a significant move towards bolstering the agricultural sector, Jammu witnessed the launch of the four-day FPO Mela-Tarang, an event dedicated to celebrate the unity and achievements of Farmer Producers' Organisations (FPOs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

Organized by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in partnership with Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), the fair commenced on Tuesday at Kala Kendra Jammu and will continue till 15th March 2024.

Tarang Mela serves as a testament to the success of this partnership, providing a platform to FPOs



to showcase their diverse range of products, from farm-fresh produce to artisanal crafts. Attendees can expect to peruse stalls brimming with organic fruits and vegetables, aromatic spices, handcrafted textiles, exquisite handicrafts, and much more - all proudly bearing the mark of FPO excellence.

Bhallamudi Sridhar, Chief General Manager, NABARD, J&K Regional office inaugurated the fair. During his inaugural speech, B. Sridhar CGM, JK RO highlighted the

importance of connecting farmers directly to markets. He emphasized that the objective of TARANG is to demonstrate high quality products of FPOs and connect them directly to consumers offline and online with assistance from Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

He stressed that the mela aims to provide a platform for exhibition and sale of a diverse range of products produced by farmers, artisans, weavers and SHG women from

the rural hinterlands of Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining states.

Anamika, General Manager, NABARD, J&K RO briefed that this initiative is not just fair but a testament to the innovative strategies being employed to support the agricultural community. By bringing together FPOs, the event encourages the exchange of ideas and best practices, enabling farmers to gain insights into new agricultural technologies and market trends. The collaboration with SFAC and ONDC further enhances the fair's ability to connect farmers with broader markets, demonstrating the potential of digital platforms in transforming agricultural marketing.

On this occasion, progressive farmers from Jammu and Kashmir region, also participated in the inaugural event.

## Two Days Workshop for BLOs concludes at Ganderbal

JNEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 12

In the second phase of the workshop, a total of 105 committed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from the 17-Kangan (ST) constituency actively participated, enhancing their understanding of Chunav Patshalas, Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs), Model Code of Conduct and Voter Awareness Forms (VAFs) at meeting hall BDO Office Kangan.

The presence of the Nodal Officer SVEEP enriched the discussions with strategic insights, emphasizing the importance of voter education and awareness.

Expanding the collaborative effort, key stakeholders including AERO Kangan (Tehsil-dar Kangan), Zonal Education Officer Kangan, and master trainers also



played integral roles in the workshop. This collective engagement fostered a multifaceted approach to address challenges and enhance strategies for effective electoral participation in the 17-Kangan (ST) constituency, ensuring a well-rounded and informed democratic process.

Each BLO provided valuable feedback, sharing insights into challenges and offering suggestions to boost voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

This collaborative exchange aimed to enhance strategies for a more effective and inclusive democratic process.

## Power shutdown

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 12

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Upper Barnai, Lower Muthi, Paloura, JK Colony, Chandan Vihar, PHE Roop Mahar, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, BSF Paloura and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 14 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 14 from 8 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Mandal, Purmandal, Sandhi, Gurha, Utterbehi, and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 14 from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Sidhra, Bamyal, MES and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 15 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Rajouri (JPDCL) has informed that the power supply to Tehsil Office Rajouri, Gujjar Mandi and DC Office will remain affected on March 13 and 17 from 9 am to 3 pm.

## Project 3C

## Deworming drive commences in Poonch to ensure Health, Well-being of school, AWC, Madrasa Children

JNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MARCH 12

As part of the National Deworming Day, District Administration Poonch today started a deworming drive to cover 1.98 Lakh children of the government and private schools, Madrasas and Anganwadi centers.

The inaugural ceremony took place at Government High School Ajote and AWC Sheesh Mahal Poonch with the active participation of health institutions. Additional District Development Commissioner, Sandesh Kumar Sharma inaugurated the event. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Zulafkar, along with the Chief Education Officer, Bishamber Dass, and the DPM Unit NHM were also present on the occasion.

A second inaugural



function was conducted at Madrasa Zia ul Uloom and private School Hakia Poonch, led by the ADC, Tahir Mustafa Malik in presence of Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Albendazole tablets were admin-

istered to 1 to 19 year old children.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, a mop-up round has been scheduled for March 18, 2024, which will serve as a means to reach the children who

may have been missed during the initial implementation. National Deworming Day aims to protect children from parasitic worm infections, promoting their overall health and well-being. By administering Albendazole tablets, the initiative seeks to tackle the prevalence of worm-related diseases in the district.

The event also covered far flung areas. For instance, a special event was organized at Govt middle school Mandi which witnessed massive response from the public. Similar exercises were organised at various locations aimed at creating mass awareness.

## Mass Voters Awareness Campaign held at GHSS Dalhori under SVEEP

JNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 12

Marking a powerful stride in democratic participation, Government Higher Secondary School Dalhori, Zone Baljarallan, hosted an impactful awareness campaign under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

Guided by the adept coordination of District Election Officer Om Parkash Bhagat and the leadership of Prof. Mohd Iqbal Raina, DNO from the District SVEEP Cell Rajouri, the event aimed to illuminate the community about the pivotal role of voting in the electoral process.

Mohammad Ayaz Raina, a dedicated member of the District SVEEP Cell, fervently outlined the objectives of SVEEP and underscored the critical importance of



each vote. The resonating theme, "No voter to be left out and mission 75%," reverberated through the engaging session.

Comprising Class 12th students, institution staff, supervisors from the surrounding polling stations and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from nearby panchayats, the participants actively absorbed the insights shared during the awareness session.

Ayaz Raina's comprehensive presentation ignited a collective com-

mitment among attendees to propagate the campaign's message to their respective Panchayats.

The success of this awareness campaign stands as a significant stride toward achieving the mission of a 75% voter turnout, ensuring that no eligible voter is overlooked. The dedication displayed by the participants at HSS Dalhori exemplifies the grassroots strength needed to construct a resilient democratic society.

## Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Assigned Addl Charge of Director SKIMS

Soura's Post  
JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR 12 MAR

The J&K Government on Tuesday assigned an additional charge of the post of Director, SKIMS Soura to the Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed. An order copy lying with news agency CNS reads, "Consequent upon the retirement on superannuation of Prof. (Dr) Parvez Koul, Director, SKIMS and ex-officio Secretary to the Government, on 08.03.2024 (A.N.) and pending appointment of a suitable candidate against the said post, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department is hereby assigned the charge of the post of Director, SKIMS, in addition to his own duties till further orders.

## KVK Samba organises Agricultural Drone Demonstration Programme

JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, MARCH 12

Samba Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu today organized agricultural drone demonstration under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Bhupinder Nath Tripathi, Varsity Vice-Chancellor and the direct supervision of Dr. Amrisha Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST-Jammu.

KVK Samba of SKUAST Jammu gave live demonstration of the drone operation with the active coordination of Prof. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba and Principal Investigator of the project, ICAR, Agri drone, project. It is pertinent to mention here that under ICAR, Agri drone, Project, SKUAST-J is conducting various demonstrations to the various crops in the farmers' field for the benefit of farming community of Jammu division.

Dr. Saurav Gupta, Scientist Entomology and Co-P.I of the project, gave the live demonstrations of various nutrients as



well as pesticides spray in the wheat crop. More than 160 Kanals of area is covered in Ramgarh block on the spot. More than 150 progressive farmers of the village and media persons participated in the programme. Till date more than 600 kanals of area was covered under the demonstration in Ramgarh block. The people are happy to see the Agri drone in their area and its benefits especially covering maximum area in minimum time and uniform spreading of pesticides as well as nutrients. Darshan Choudhary, former BDC chairman, Ramgarh highly thanks the efforts

of SKUAST-J especially Dr. Sanjay Khajuria and his team for helping the farmers at their doorstep. He also thanks Prof. Bhupinder Nath Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu as well as Dr. Amrisha Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST-Jammu for their endeavor.

After the inauguration of the drone demonstration, Dr. Saurav Gupta addressed the participants and stressed on the adoption of latest technology in agriculture for increasing its economic productivity, reducing environment pollution and for attracting youth to agriculture. He said that the agriculture sector

in the country is moving towards precision farming and is witnessing use of drones for timeliness, accuracy and appropriateness of various farm operations as it results in an increase in yields as well as reduction in the cost of cultivation.

Dr. Saurav Gupta while deliberating upon the efficiency of the drone said that the drone with a payload of 10 Kilogram is fitted with all the latest sensors and GPS.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Saurav Gupta, Scientist (Entomology). The program was also assisted by Tejinder Singh of KVK Samba.

## 2-day HRD Programme on Apple Blotch Leaf Miner concludes at SKUAST-K

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 12

Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Srinagar, Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in collaboration with State Horticulture Department, and SKUAST-K, conducted a two-day human resource development programme on 'Apple Blotch Leaf Miner' at Conference Hall of Vice Chancellor Secretariat, SKUAST-K.

The two day awareness/training programme was inaugurated in the presence of Director Horticulture, Zahoor Ahmed Bhat; Director Research SKUAST-K, Dr. Haroon Naik; Joint Director (E), IPM Division, DPPQ&S Dr. Sunita Pandey; Deputy Director (PP), RCIPMC Faridabad, Dr. Vandana Pandey; Assistant Director (PP) CIPMC Jammu, Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya; Prof. & Head Division of Entomology, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Parry; Prof. & Head Division of Pathology, Dr. Shaheen Kaiser and other officials of Horticulture Department and Senior Scientists of SKUAST-K.

Initially opening remark on the programme was given by Dr. Manzoor



Ahmed Parry, followed by a detailed lecture given on the Emerging Challenges of Insect ABLM by Dr. Sunita Pandey, wherein thread bear light was shed on management of fruit crop to prevent from the threat of devastating disease of leaf miner.

Director Horticulture Kashmir appreciated the initiative and urged that we have to take coordinated

programmes and measures to control and eradicate this disease to safeguard our fruit crop. The first step towards this direction is to reach out to the farming community of the Kashmir Division and provide technical consultation and awareness to check the spread out of leaf miner.

Dr. Malik Mukhtar, Associate Professor of Entomology discussed different

generations of ABLM and Ad Hoc Advisory issued by SKUAST-K in collaboration with the Horticulture Department from time to time which further help farmers to take preventive measures to control this insect pest.

The programme was attended by a number of farmers wherein they were made aware by Dr. Vandana Pandey regarding the Safe and Judicious use of Pesticides. She elaborated in detail on how to use pesticides safely.

Director Research SKUAST-K, Dr. Haroon Naik also appreciated the Department for conducting such programmes for the welfare of farmers and asked the farmers to come forward to take maximum benefits from the departmental schemes.

On the second day of the programme, a field visit was conducted to apple orchards of Block Kakapora, District Pulwama, and Block Zainapora, District Shopian. During the visit farmers were provided awareness about the various diseases of apples and how to take preventive measures i.e., IPM based to control Apple leaf blotch Miner in Kashmir Division.