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Govt slashes Petrol, Diesel prices by Rs 2 per litre ahead of LS polls

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 14

Ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha election schedule, the Centre on Thursday slashed prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 2 per litre. With the recent cuts in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) prices, speculation was rife that a reduction in petrol and diesel prices may be in the offing in view of the impending Lok Sabha polls.

In a post on X, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, "By reducing the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 2, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again proved that the welfare and convenience of his family of crores of Indians is always his goal."

Avalanche warning issued in 8 districts of J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 14

The authorities on Thursday issued avalanche warning in 8 districts of Jammu and Kashmir for the next 24 hours.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur in Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Baramulla. He said that people living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas. KNO

ACB registers Disproportionate Assets case, conducts searches in 3 districts

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 14

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said to have registered a Disproportionate Assets case against the then Superintendent Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla and also conducted searches at Srinagar, Pulwama and Jammu.

A statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that ACB registers FIR into the allegations of acquisition of Disproportionate Assets accumulated by a public servant namely Mohammad Ayub Wani, son of Abdul Ahad Wani R/o Railway Colony, Nihama, Pulwama, Superintendent Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla (Now Retired).

"The suspect is in possession of huge assets both immovable/ movable and purchased gold ornaments worth lakhs

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Entrepreneurship is not merely a means of livelihood for youth but a potent instrument to fulfill their aspirations and dreams: LG

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

In a major step towards economic empowerment of displaced and migrant communities, J&K Government today provided financial support to 350 youth belonging to displaced families of PoJK, West Pakistan Refugees and Kashmiri Migrant families, to start their own business venture.

The historic event was presided over by Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Convention Centre.

"It is a momentous day for J&K. The financial assistance extended to displaced families of PoJK, West Pakistan Refugees and Kashmiri Migrant families today will help them to realize their dreams and ignite entrepreneurial cul-



ture in the community," the Lt Governor said.

He said, during the Special Governance camp, various government departments, District Industry Centres, KVIB, J&K Mission Youth in collaboration with J&K Bank and Relief & Rehabilitation department conducted

outreach programme and reached out to the youth aspiring to start their own business enterprise and contribute to the society.

The Lt Governor highlighted the resolve of the UT Administration, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to create a pro-

gressive entrepreneurial ecosystem in the UT.

"Entrepreneurship is not merely a means of livelihood for youth but a potent instrument to fulfill their aspirations and dreams. J&K Government is committed to provide support for skill development and entrepreneurship opportunity to empower the future of the youth," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called upon the youth, especially the girls of the displaced and migrant communities to come forward and avail the benefits of self-employment schemes of the government.

He also commended the J&K Bank for 'Sewa Se Swabhimaan', a dedicated initiative for the economic empowerment of

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Corruption, Mis-Governance, fuelling anti-national agenda are INDI alliance's ideology: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused the opposition INDIA bloc of being guided by corruption, mis-governance and fuelling anti-national agenda, asserting he stands for rooting out corruption and appeasement.

His ideology is ensuring the country's welfare through people's welfare, he said at a programme here attended by the beneficiaries of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi scheme, under which loan is given to street vendors.

Targeting the opposition alliance which has united in the national capital to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, he said they have come together on the agenda of "abusing" him day and night.

The Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress have joined hands in Delhi where all seven Lok Sabha seats are held by the BJP.



Modi said the PM SVANidhi scheme has been a big boost to the lakhs of families of street vendors who were never paid any "attention" by previous governments. They used to suffer insults and ran from pillar to post as they hardly got loans from banks and had to obtain capital at exorbitant interest rates, he said.

"Modi ki guarantee" has ensured that they can get loans from banks at simple rates," he said.

Over 62 lakh persons have been given loans of about Rs 11,000 crore, he said.

The BJP government at

the Centre has been working to improve the lives of the poor and middle class in the national capital, he said, adding that it has been making honest efforts to ease traffic and curb pollution in Indian cities.

Over 1,000 electric buses have been deployed in Delhi, he said, and highlighted the expansion of expressways around the city's periphery and increase in its Metro network. The prime minister also laid the foundation stone of two additional corridors of Delhi Metro's Phase 4 during the programme.

4 family members died as vehicle falls into gorge in Kishtwar

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAR 14

A couple among four family members died after a vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Bandarkoot area of Kishtwar district on Thursday, officials said.

Station House Officer (SHO) Kishtwar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge near Bandarkoot.

He said four person died in the incident, while another one was injured. The deceased have been identified as Yasir Ahmed Butt, son of Abdul Gani



Butt, his wife Shazada Begum, their children Artash Yasir and Ailaf Yasir, while the injured person identified is Aarish Yasir, all residents of Berwar Kishtwar.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav said a five family member were travelling in a swift car which fell into a deep gorge.

"Tragically four member of a family lost lives in the accident, while another is injured," he said. He said the injured is out of danger and all possible help from red Cross will be given. KNO

SIU Srinagar produces chargesheet against 2 accused terrorists

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 14

The State Investigation Unit (SIU) Srinagar on Thursday produced a chargesheet against two accused terrorists.

As per a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), police spokesman said

that the duo has been chargesheeted in a case under FIR number 39/2022 in the Court of NIA Srinagar.

"Today, the charge sheet bearing No. 03/2024 of case FIR No. 39/2022 under section 7/27 A Act, 302 IPC, 13, 16, 18, 20 & 38 UA(P) Act of Police Station Soura, Srinagar stands present-

ed before the Court of NIA Srinagar," the statement said. The case has been presented against the two accused terrorists namely Adil Ahmad Parry son of Habibullah Parry resident of Badragund Ganderbal (A1) & Basit Ahmad Dar son of Late Ab. Rashid Dar resident of Redwani Payeen Qaimoh Kulgam,

it added. Among these two accused terrorists, former one stands killed & later one is absconding who is still on run regarding whom the Court is prayed to take cognizance as abated & under section 299 CrPC respectively. The next date of hearing is fixed on 28-03-2024, the statement said. KNO

PM Modi has inspired the youth to fulfil their dreams and aspire to make it big: Dr Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 14

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today hosted a luncheon interaction for school children from some of the remote areas like Desa, Gandoh, Bhalla etc of hill district Doda of Jammu & Kashmir.

The children today reached the national



capital on the first leg of their Bharat Darshan conducted tour.

These students are part of the 'Bharat Darshan Tour' under Civic Action

programme organised by 33 Battalion, CRPF from March 13-17 with an aim to showcase the cultural and social diversity of

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MeT predicts dry weather in J&K till March 20

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, MAR 14

After light to moderate rain and snow witnessed over many places in J&K, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar Thursday predicted "generally dry" weather in UT till 20th March.

As per the news agency CNS, an official from the MeT Centre Srinagar said that many places in J&K received light to moderate rain and snow during the last 24 hours.

The weatherman also expected the skies

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Narco-trade in J&K: Need to 'dig tunnel from both ends', it's a big challenge, says DGP RR Swain

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain Thursday said that narco-trade is emerging as a major challenge and police and other security forces need to "dig the tunnel from both ends" to deal with it effectively.

"Drug trade is emerging as a major challenge in J&K. It has to be addressed in a proper manner. For that, we need to dig the tunnel from both ends," the DGP said after inaugurating the Drug De-addiction and Mental Rehabilitation Centre at Channi-Himat Jammu, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said while on one hand police will crack whip on dealers and sup-



pliers by resorting to seizure of properties under UAPA, on the other hand, there is a need to address the issue of demand as well and those demanding the drugs.

"For us the addict is a victim," he said, adding that dealing with the growing narcotics business in

J&K is a tough job but the police are committed to handle it. "The way we dealt with the terror-ecosystem by taking action against those providing shelter, transporting terrorists and giving them other logistic, similar strategies is for those

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Amit Shah virtually launches unique CCMS Platform of National Investigation Agency

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 14

In a major fillip to India's fight against terrorism and organised crime, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah virtually inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS), designed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi, today. In the virtual event, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah e-inaugurates NIA's 2 new branch offices in Jammu and Kochi and a residential complex in Raipur. Shri Shah also launches a mobile app 'Sankalan' - A compendium of New Criminal Laws by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).



Sankalan app has been designed for navigating through new criminal laws as a bridge between old and new criminal laws. This app will work as a comprehensive guide for all stakeholders. The app will work in offline mode as well and its availability has been ensured

in far-flung areas so that all stakeholders can have access to desired information around the clock. Sankalan app will be available for download on Google Play Store, Apple Store and its desktop version may be downloaded from official websites of MHA and NCRB.

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AB-PMJAY revolutionises Healthcare in Ramban district

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 14

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY), has emerged as a beacon of hope for the residents of Ramban district, offering a lifeline of quality healthcare services and cashless & free medical treatment.

In a region where access to healthcare can often be a challenge, AB-PMJAY has become a cornerstone of the healthcare landscape, providing much-needed relief to individuals and families facing medical emergencies and financial constraints.

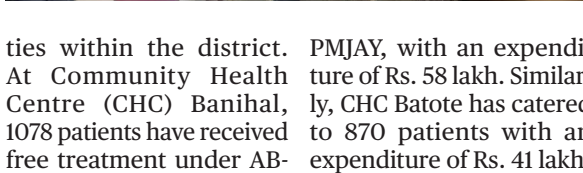
With its emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility, AB-PMJAY has transformed the healthcare experience in Ramban, ensuring that no one is left behind when it comes to receiving essential medical care.

Under the astute guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq

Chaudhary, the Health Department in Ramban has been effectively implementing the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY), as over 6205 indoor patients have received cashless free medical treatment, with an expenditure exceeding Rs. 3.22 crores across four empanelled hospitals in the district.

At the District Hospital Ramban, a commendable effort has been made where 3933 patients with different medical complications have been provided free treatment under AB-PMJAY, amounting to an expenditure of Rs. 218.52 lakh. This initiative underscores the commitment of the Government to provide quality healthcare services to the residents of district Ramban and UT of Jammu and Kashmir as well, irrespective of their financial constraints.

Moreover, significant strides have been made in other healthcare facilities



within the district. At Community Health Centre (CHC) Banihal, 1078 patients have received free treatment under AB-

PMJAY, with an expenditure of Rs. 58 lakh. Similarly, CHC Batote has catered to 870 patients with an expenditure of Rs. 41 lakh,

while CHC Gool has provided free treatment to 324 patients with an expenditure of Rs. 4.5 lakh. These statistics highlight the widespread reach of the AB-PMJAY programme in the district, ensuring that healthcare services are accessible to all sections of society.

According to the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kamal Jee Zadoo, the district has achieved significant milestones in terms of enrollment and coverage under AB-PMJAY. All families, comprising a target of 65171, have been successfully registered under the scheme. Additionally, 89.31% of the eligible beneficiaries, totaling 237150 out of 265523, have already been provided Golden Cards of AB-PMJAY in the district.

The successful implementation of AB-PMJAY in Ramban district is a testament to the concerted efforts of the Health Department, led

by Deputy Commissioner and the dedication of healthcare professionals. By providing cashless free medical treatment to thousands of indoor patients, the AB-PMJAY programme has significantly alleviated the financial burden on vulnerable families while ensuring access to quality healthcare services. Moving forward, it is imperative to sustain and strengthen these initiatives to further enhance healthcare delivery and promote the well-being of the residents of Ramban district.

The story of Dharam Singh, a laborer from Village Karol, epitomizes the transformative impact of AB-PMJAY. Despite facing a health crisis, Dharam's enrollment in the scheme proved to be a lifeline, enabling him to undergo successful heart surgery and gallbladder removal at Narayana Multispecialty Hospital, all covered under AB-PMJAY. His journey serves as a powerful tes-

tament to how AB-PMJAY is transforming lives and providing much-needed healthcare access to individuals in need.

As we move forward, sustaining and strengthening initiatives like AB-PMJAY will be crucial in further enhancing healthcare delivery and promoting the well-being of the residents of Ramban district. Dharam Singh extends his heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji, and Lieutenant Governor, J&K, Sh Manoj Sinha for implementing this life-changing scheme, which has undoubtedly brought hope and healing to countless individuals in Ramban and beyond.

Patients referred from different hospitals in the district to Super-Specialty hospitals in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as other regions across the country, have been able to access the benefits offered by AB-PMJAY.

J&K Hajj Committee issues Orientation/ Training schedule for pilgrims of Hajj-2024 (Phase-I)

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 14

The Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee today issued a Training Programme about Manasik-e-Hajj and other logistics for the selected Hajj-2024 pilgrims of J&K UT. As per an official communiqué, all selected pilgrims of district Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Srinagar, Jammu, Samba Kathua, Ramban, Poonch, Reasi, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Doda and Rajouri are being informed that a Training Programme about Manasik-e-Hajj and other logistics will be conducted in their respective districts. Meanwhile details of the training schedule can be downloaded from www.jkshc.org.

IASOWA J&K visits LBS Roop Nagar for handholding of special children

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

IAS Officers Wives Association (IASOWA) J&K, President, Dr Monika Wali today with other members of the Association visited the Louis Braille School (LBS) for Visually Impaired Girls under National Blind Foundation and Residential School for Visually Impaired under Mission Vatsalya here at Roop Nagar to distribute assistance among students as part of their community service.

Those who were present includes Commissioner Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol, Dr Rashmi Singh; Association members Ruchi Gupta, Rajini Sinha, Anujangid, Geetanjali Singla, Jaysrhad Kunal, and Divya Yadav.

On the occasion the President, IASOWA J&K in her remarks made out that today's world has advanced a lot and brought in lot of better-

ments for our children with special needs. She mentioned that be it Sports, Art, Entrepreneurship, Administration, Business or running other affairs of life such persons had made a mark.

She further advised the students to adopt yoga and other healthy lifestyle activities including the Nutritious diet for overall development of their bodies. She encouraged the students enrolled in these twin schools to chase their dreams without any break. She advised them that sky is the limit for realising their ambitions as the world has made much progress to let them lay back and stumble.

Dr Monika took this occasion to impress upon these students that the talent depicted here through their different performances like singing are no less than that of other talented children out there. She praised them for such a



good performance made impromptu on stage. She advised them to further fine-tune their skills and be the best in their fields of interest. She gave them the example of national icons like Ravindra Jain to follow who made world to acknowledge his talent despite being disabled for life.

While delving on the mandate of the association, she introduced that the association is prioritising the works for upliftment of the poorer sections of the society. She also noted that the association would take forward social works

like poverty alleviation, women empowerment, environmental awareness, community services, popularization of yoga with a renewed vigour and energy.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&P, Dr Rashmi Singh remarked that by coming close to you here today has connected us more with your ambitions and aspirations. She further articulated that it has kindled a drive in us to play our roles more passionately for furthering your cause.

She inspired the students to become aware about different govern-

ment schemes and programmes for the upliftment of persons with special needs. She encouraged them to come forth and avail the benefits of reservation in jobs and other enterprises and be successful in their lives quite like their counterparts. Another Association Member, Geetanjali Singla gave introduction of the association to the audience present there. She threw light on different social, philanthropic and ecological initiatives taken in hand by the association. She exemplified that IASOWA is doing its bit in development of the

society from years now and is going to take this cause further under the able leadership of Dr Monika now.

The President along with others also took part in plantation drive there as part of 'Save Environment Campaign'. They also distributed sports gear, Braille items, common utility items and other material required by such persons among the students.

Later on they took round of both the residential schools meant for visually impaired boys and girls. They applauded the administration and teachers of both the schools for playing a pivotal role in shaping the lives of these special children. They assured them that the association will do everything possible for them to make the education of such children easy and accessible here in the UT.

Distt Admin B'la organises Voters Awareness program under SVEEP at Ladu-Ladoora

J I NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MARCH 14

With an aim to raise awareness about various voting-related activities as part of SVEEP (Systematic Voter Education Electoral Participation) initiative, the District Administration Baramulla today organised Voters Awareness program under SVEEP at Ladoo, Ladoora, Rafiabad.

The event was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina and was attended by the Nodal Officer SVEEP, Baramulla, Balbir Singh Raina, AEROS, BLOs, principals and teachers of schools of the constituency, local residents and students from various schools and officials from various other departments.

The event featured a range of engaging sporting activities, including snow

cricket, snow art, skits and more, which attracted enthusiastic youth and students who wholeheartedly participated and set the stage for a grandeur celebration of the democratic process.

Speaking during the event, the ADC underscored that the goal of organizing these events is to promote electoral literacy and spread awareness of the election process, thereby empowering the electorates especially first-time voters to actively participate in the upcoming Lok Sabha 2024 elections.

ADC further emphasized the importance of every eligible voter in our democratic system and urged everyone present, especially new voters, to participate wholeheartedly in the General Elections and elect their representatives who can understand and address their aspirations.

DC Budgam dedicates newly constructed primary School to students at Rakh Arath Bemina

J I NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today dedicated the Primary School Building to locals at Rakh Arth Bemina.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that under the directions of Hon'ble LG Administration, the District Administration Budgam is committed to complete all pending infrastructure projects in the district.

He said that this school building is the 7th such infrastructure building completed in the last six months. He said other completed projects including PHCs, Health & Wellness Centres completed and dedicated to the general public in the last six months.



He complimented the concerned executing agency and team of officers who were looking after the project, for completing the long pending school building in a short span of time and dedicating it to the local students at Rakhi Arth Bemina.

The DC instructed the CEO to ensure shifting of the school from a rented

building to new school building at the earliest and ensure smooth functioning of the school with all basic and assured facilities in place for students at the new building.

The DC further said that the focus is also on to modernize and equip the infrastructure buildings with latest gadgets and machinery in the district.

He said that during the last visit last month concerned were given clear directions to ensure completion of all pending works including sanitary works for washroom facility very shortly without fail.

DC said that the school shall normally function from this session to ensure smooth imparting of education to local students of Rakh Arath.

During the visit, the DC also met various public deputations who raised their demands with the DC. He gave them patient hearing and assured all their genuine demands shall be addressed on priority.

Among others, CPO, CEO, Ex. Engineer R&B, Tehsildar and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

DDC Reasi reviews implementation of Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)

J I NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MARCH 14

District Development Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan reviewed the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY) at meeting held here today.

The scheme, introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, aims to transform villages with a significant tribal population into model villages (Adarsh Gram) through integrated socio-economic development and a convergence approach.

Under the revamped scheme, known as the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs intends to implement a transformative plan 2024-25. The



primary objective of this initiative is to achieve the holistic development of selected villages by addressing their specific needs, potential, and aspirations.

During the meeting, extensive discussions were held on the progress of works under the PMAAGY scheme and other initiatives for the tribal com-

munity. Key issues addressed included the construction and repair of school buildings, provision of electricity in tribal areas, road repairs, new road constructions, repair and modify electric polls, the installation of desktops in schools

The DDC Mahajan emphasized the impor-

importance of developing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for these initiatives and urged the officers to utilize funds effectively, ensuring maximum benefit to the tribal communities. The DDC Mahajan directed concerned officers to revisit these areas

for various developmental works marks a significant step towards the betterment of the tribal communities in the region.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, PO Poshan Mohd Anwar Bandy, SE PWD Romesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, CEO, DFO and other concerned district officers were present.

Presence of Indian Long Eared Hedgehog reported in Nowshera

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 14

The first ever authentic record of the Indian Long-eared Hedgehog reported from the Nowshera area of the Rajouri-Poonch Wildlife Division. The team headed by Amit Sharma Wildlife Warden Rajouri-Poonch captured

the animal from Nowshera belt and the identity was confirmed by Dr. Shyamkant S. Talmale, Scientist C, Zoological Survey of India. The series of other procedures like DNA analysis and morphometric studies have to be carried out by Dr. Vineeta Sharma, Assistant Professor Central University, for which the

samples have been taken. The Indian long-eared hedgehog (*Hemiechinus collaris*) is a small species of mammal native to northern India and Pakistan. The Indian long-eared hedgehog is a relatively small hedgehog. It is a nocturnal animal that is often found inhabiting burrows. Similar to most

hedgehogs it has spines on its back, embedded into a muscle sheath. The sheath forms a bag-like structure that the animal can hide inside for protection. It can also erect its spines to further protect from predators.

The Indian long-eared hedgehog has a well-developed set of senses because

of its large ears, eyes and whiskers near its snout. These senses, especially smell, help them find food and/or a possible partner. The Indian long-eared hedgehog is insectivorous, feeding on small insects.

The Indian long-eared hedgehog is found in India (Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh)

and Pakistan (North West Frontier Province, Punjab and Sindh). They are seasonal breeders. The males are active from March to August while the females are active from April to August. It is notable for a quite complex mating ritual that involves "dancing" around females for several days before mating.

Sarvesh Rai, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Wildlife Warden, congratulated the staff of the Rajouri-Poonch Wildlife Division for the confirmation of the first ever authentic presence of the Indian Long-eared Hedgehog in the J&K UT and has directed the Wildlife Warden to carry out

population estimation of the animal in that particular area and to survey the other area for its presence in collaboration with the universities and Wildlife Institute of India. The sighting of Indian Long-eared Hedgehog is indeed an addition in the long list of biodiversity of the J&K UT.

DEO Shopian chairs Nodal Officers meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MARCH 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, who is also District Election Officer (DEO) today, chaired a meeting of Nodal Officers responsible for overseeing the forthcoming Lok Sabha General Elections 2024, here at Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The meeting focused on ensuring the readiness of all the officers involved in the electoral process in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, DC instructed the Nodal Officers to remain

well-equipped with election processes, acquire domain knowledge and know their roles and responsibilities so that execution is done effectively for the smooth conduct of elections.

Discussions encompassed various operational, logistical and administrative matters for the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

Nodal Officers were given a comprehensive briefing regarding their roles and responsibilities in overseeing the electoral process within their respective jurisdictions.

DC laid emphasis on enhancing operational efficiency and coordination among different stakeholders involved in the electoral process, including law enforcement agencies, administrative authorities and electoral staff.

Nodal Officers were reminded of the importance of strict adherence to electoral laws, regulations and ethical standards to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

Strategies for conducting voter awareness campaigns, EVM training,

Assured Minimum Facilities including Ramp Facilities, Postal Ballot and initiatives to encourage maximum voter participation were discussed to ensure inclusive and democratic elections.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Tanushree; Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, SDM, ACD, Dy. DEO, ACP, ASP, and all the Nodal Officers appointed for various election assignments in the district.

Distt Admin intensifies Market checking at Kupwara, other towns

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 14

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, a market checking team headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Muhammad Rouf Rehman Thursday conducted an intensified market checking in various parts of the Kupwara town.

The drive was conducted to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables.

The market checking team comprising Tehsildar Kupwara, officers from Police, FCS&CA, Municipal Council Kupwara, Legal metrology, and Food safety departments conducted intensive market checking in different markets of Kupwara town and inspected Bus stand market, Bye-Pass road, Hajaj market,



Iqbal market, Jamia Masjid market, Dar Gali and Old Chowk Kupwara and other markets.

During the drive, the market checking team inspected business units including Bakery, confectionery, grocery, vegetable, fruits, meat and chicken shops. They also checked hygienic conditions and the Date of Manufacture, Use-by Date etc.

During the course of market checking all the traders in general, Meat,

Chicken, vegetable and fruit sellers in particular were warned to maintain the quality of the products besides all the shopkeepers were also warned to ensure no hoarding, overcharging is made by the shopkeepers.

On the occasion Rs. 2500 were imposed as fine upon erring traders and also a good quantity of rotten vegetables and fruits were destroyed on the spot.

ADC instructed the

Market checking teams to continue the drive so that the general public gets a good buying market besides fruits, vegetables, milk etc are available at reasonable fixed rates and there is no black marketing.

He directed Dy. Sp Traffic and SHO Kupwara to ensure streamlining of traffic movement to avoid traffic congestion on daily basis, and CEO MC Kupwara was directed to ensure that the foot paths and the main roads are cleared of any encroachment and bottleneck.

While interacting with the shopkeepers, the ADC asked them to display rate lists at prominent places and adhere to the rates approved and ensure quality standards of eatables otherwise strict legal action will be initiated against erring shopkeepers.

Meanwhile Market checking drive was also conducted in Kralgund and Tangdar markets.

DC Kupwara chairs DGRC meeting, reviews grievances, implementation of AB- PMJAY



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Grievances Redressal Committee (DGRC) to review the status of grievances and implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The committee members were apprised of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the swift resolution of grievances related to the AB-PMJAY during the meeting.

The DC emphasized the significance of efficiency and directed the members to actively monitor the grievances database, ensuring that all issues are addressed within the prescribed timeline.

She directed the concerned to concentrate on anti-fraud under PMJAY so that the fraud levels are minimized and also minimize the rejection of cases.

The meeting was attended by CMO Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan, Medical Superintendents; DH Handwara, SDH Kupwara, and other concerned officials.

Director JKEDI e-inaugurates three EDPs under SANKALP at Ramban

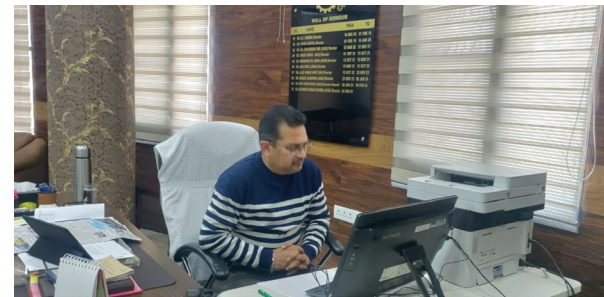
JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

Director, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Rajinder Kumar Sharma today e-inaugurated three Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs) under Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) for aspiring entrepreneurs of Ramban.

The five day EDPs are being conducted at Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Banihal, Ramban and Government Higher Secondary School, Batote in which 120 aspirants were enrolled.

The trainees include entrepreneurs who have started their business ventures as well as aspiring entrepreneurs who intend to become self reliant under different government sponsored schemes.

While interacting with the trainees, Director JKEDI, Rajinder Kumar Sharma urged them to



choose entrepreneurship and self employment avenues to reduce dependency on government jobs. He

directed the JKEDI district officers to facilitate training programs for prospective entrepreneurs in a

professional manner and make it interactive so that the aspirants are motivated to take up entrepre-

neurship as their career option. He also urged the course team to brief the participants about the different facets of J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 so that they are able to avail its benefits in future. On the occasion, Henna Latief, who runs and owns a food processing unit "Bahi Foods" at Banihal shared her experience as an entrepreneur. She remarked that she has been able to establish her dream business unit which is providing employment to many people despite several challenges.

Another entrepreneur, Lalita Devi from Batote who runs a mushroom cultivation unit said that she is happy to be part of SANKALP training program and hopes that it will help her to realise her dream of becoming a "Lakhpati Didi".

Pertinently, during the five day EDP, the participants will be apprised

about basic business concepts like business plan formulation, marketing plans, accounts management and other topics of relevance, so that they can successfully run their businesses. The participants have already received sector-specific short-term technical training in their chosen businesses, and will now benefit from JKEDI's specially curated training modules.

Notably, SANKALP which aims at strengthening the institutional mechanisms for skill development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for youth across the country, was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India.

Among others, the inauguration ceremony was attended by the District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Ramban Basit Khurshid; Course Coordinator, Sheikh Ashraf, Trainer, Yashpaul Sharma and other officers of JKEDI.

Enforcement of Tobacco Control Measures reviewed In Jammu District



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusya Jamwal today chaired the District Level Coordination Committee meeting on National Tobacco Control Programme implementation in the district. Key stakeholders participated in the discussion, shedding light on critical aspects of tobacco control.

Dr. Mridula Singh delivered a detailed presentation outlining the objectives of the programme, with a focus on raising awareness about tobacco's harmful effects and ensuring compliance with relevant legislation such as the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). Highlighting the

menace of second-hand smoke, it was emphasised that passive smoking poses a significant threat to public health.

The meeting underscored the importance of enforcing COTPA provisions, including the prohibition of smoking in public places, display of designated "No Smoking" signage, and restrictions on tobacco sales near educational institutions. Surrogate advertising emerged as a challenge, prompting a call for vigilant monitoring and enforcement.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusya Jamwal stressed the need for interdepartmental coordination to effectively implement tobacco control measures. She emphasised the role of

various stakeholders, including government departments, educational institutions, and civil society, in fostering awareness and compliance.

The meeting also emphasised the deployment of dedicated inspection squads to enforce signage requirements and curb illicit tobacco sales.

Among the attendees were Chief Medical Officer Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Deputy Director Information Varinder Gupta, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Shahzada Noor ud Din, Assistant Commissioner MD, KPDCL to provide uninterrupted electricity to consumers during the peak hours of Sehri and Iftar. He also directed to replenish buffer stock of power Transformers in

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Holy Month of Ramadan & Navroz

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 14

In view of the ongoing holy month of Ramadan, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting to review the arrangements orchestrated by the departments for the convenience of the general public.

While reviewing the availability of ration and fuel in the market, Div Com directed concerned officers of FCS&CA to ensure adequate quantities of essentials in the market to facilitate the people during the month of fasting.

He also instructed for the constitution of market checking teams to take action against illegal profiteering and overcharging.

The Div Com directed the concerned to facilitate the movement of fuel tankers on priority on national highway.

Regarding availability of power, Div Com directed MD, KPDCL to provide uninterrupted electricity to consumers during the peak hours of Sehri and Iftar. He also directed to replenish buffer stock of power Transformers in



districts.

Moreover, Bidhuri directed concerned officers of PHE to ensure availability of drinking water to the public.

Further, he directed concerned to ensure availability of adequate quantities of quality meat and poultry birds in the market.

While reviewing the arrangements for forthcoming Navroz, Div Com directed concerned departments to ensure availability of essential services and items to the people to celebrate the occasion. He also directed DCs to conduct the field visit of the areas to take the stock of arrangements and ensure all the necessary facilities are made

available on the eve of Navroz. Among others, the meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, officers of FCS&CA, KPDCL, PWD (R&W), Transport, Traffic, SRTC, SMC, ULB, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Food Safety etc.

While reviewing the physical status of work on the three flyovers at Bemina, Nowgam and Sanatnagar, Div Com directed CE PWD (R&B) to expedite the completion of these vital projects at the earliest.

He instructed contractors to make service roads rideable for smooth movement of traffic.

SVEEP Cell organizes workshop for NCC Cadets

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 14

SVEEP Cell of District Rajouri today organized a workshop for NCC Cadets of Government Degree College Rajouri as a part of SVEEP activities. The initiative was taken under the guidance and supervision of District Election Officer Rajouri Om Parkash Bhagat and Principal of the college Prof. (Dr) Shamim Ahmed Azad.

Nodal Officer SVEEP Prof

Mohd Iqbal Raina educated the Cadets of SD boys and SD girls unit regarding the importance of voting rights and participation in upcoming elections.

The Cadets of NCC wings were designated as Ambassadors to promote the voting percentage among young voters. They will help voters to check their names in the voters list, and take initiatives to add their names or insert correction in it and also motivate voters to exercise their franchise compulsorily.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.	
Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-72/2023-24	
Name of work : Provision of electrical work in C/W Lowering and lifting of submersible pumps and rewinding/repairing of defective submersible pumps motors of Amritsar, Firozpur, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Pathankot Zones and provision of GSM based automation for protection of pumps control system of Firozpur division for two years.	
App. Cost (in Rs.) :	Rs. 65,98,435.24
Earnest Money (in Rs.) :	Rs. 1,32,000.00
Completion Period :	24 Months
Opening of tender :	04.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.
Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in	
Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-74/2023-24	
Name of work : Electrical work in C/W Lowering and lifting of submersible pumps and rewinding/repairing of defective submersible pumps motors for Jammu and Udhampur Zone of Firozpur Division for 2 years.	
App. Cost (in Rs.) :	Rs. 32,65,038.78
Earnest Money (in Rs.) :	Rs. 65,300.00
Completion Period :	24 Months
Opening of tender :	05.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.
Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in	
Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-73/2023-24	
Name of work : Electrical work in C/W Modernization of bridge workshop at Jalandhar Cantt under Dy.CE/NS/JRC	
App. Cost (in Rs.) :	Rs. 1,91,07,167.02
Earnest Money (in Rs.) :	Rs. 2,45,500.00
Completion Period :	6 Months
Opening of tender :	04.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.
Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in	
No. : 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 56-Elect/2023-24 Dated: 13.03.2024 823/2024	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Poshan Pakhwada celebrated at Anganwadi-C in Akramabad



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 14

Poshan Pakhwada, a fortnight-long event focusing on nutrition, was joyfully celebrated at Anganwadi Centre-C in Akramabad, Doda.

The event served as a platform to disseminate knowledge about the significance of nutrition and the adoption of healthy eating habits within the community, particularly among children and women. Numerous activities were meticulously

organized to advocate for proper nutrition and to ensure the overall well-being of children and women residing in the vicinity.

Participants actively engaged in various informative sessions highlighting the government's initiatives and programs aimed at addressing nutrition and health-related concerns. The event proved to be instrumental in fostering a culture of prioritizing health and well-being among all attendees.

Training on Tissue Culture Techniques commenced at IIIM

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

A three days skill development training programme on Tissue Culture Techniques commenced at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine here today in which about 30 participants from diverse backgrounds of Biotechnology, Life sciences, Agribusiness management and agriculture enrolled for the workshop. The programme was inaugurated by Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu. Dr Ahmed, Chief Guest during the inaugural session in his address said that tissue culture techniques have emerged as a pivotal aspect of modern biotechnology, playing a crucial role in crop improvement, pharmaceuticals, and horticulture. Recognizing the significance of this discipline in the contemporary scientific landscape, IIIM, following the NEP guidelines has taken the initiative to introduce a specialized Skill Development



programme aimed at equipping individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge in tissue culture methodologies. He called Tissue culture as an advanced technique, which includes molecular genetics, recombinant DNA studies, genome characterization, gene-transfer techniques, aseptic growth of cells, tissues and in vitro regeneration of plants. These technologies have applications in crop improvement and agriculture, which is the focus of this skill development program. Dr Ahmed further said that Plant tissue culture coupled with biotechnological approaches leads towards sustainable agricultural development providing

solutions to major food security issues. Dr Ahmed described Plants are the rich source of phytochemicals with medicinal properties rendering them useful for the industrial production of pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals. He said there are numerous plant compounds with application in the cosmetics industry, in addition to having moisturizing, anti-ageing, anti-wrinkle effects, plant-derived compounds also possess pharmacological properties such as antiviral, antimicrobial, antifungal, anticancer, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-allergy characteristics. He said that in vitro propagation of industrially significant flora is

gaining attention because of its several advantages over conventional plant propagation methods. He described the advantages of this technique is the quick availability of food throughout the year, irrespective of the growing season, thus opening new opportunities to the producers and farmers.

Dr SK Bakshi, Ex Chief Scientist and renowned cytogeneticist, who was distinguished guest speaker spoke about advantageous technique for plant propagation at a commercial scale. He also gave a lead lecture on "Development of MAPs, using Tissue Culture Techniques, for commercial utilization". He further said that Plant propaga-

tion in vitro has the potential to be a powerful tool in both fundamental and applied biology and said that Cryopreservation of genetic resources technologies have a lot of potential and are rapidly evolving around the world.

Pertinently these hands on training and skill development series have been launched by CSIR-IIIM Jammu as part of CSIR-Integrated skill initiatives. The event was conducted under overall supervision of Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head RMBD & IST. Dr Srinivas Kota, Scientist gave an overview of whole training program while as Dr Nasir Ul Rasheed, Senior Scientist gave formal vote of thanks.

Col Pathania demands CBI probe for mysterious disappearance of Sahil Verma



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party JKUT, expressed his anguish and concern about mysterious disappearance of son of the soil, sailor Sahil Verma from aboard naval ship since 2, and demanded a CBI probe, for dispensation of justice. Pathania, said that circumstances under which Sahil disappeared and statements made by the naval authorities are sketchy and not convincing. Various SOPs and drills with CCTV coverage of 24/7 during sail, leaves very little chance for any ambiguity or doubt and explanations by naval authorities are not convincing. Though departmental enquiry has been ordered but circumstances of disappearance, certainly warrants a CBI enquiry. More over parents of Sahil Verma too are asking for an immediate CBI probe. Such incidents needs to be viewed seriously, lapses any must be brought out and officials responsible for lapses must be dealt in accordance with the law. SOPs and drill to must be amended, to assure no such occurrences happen in future. Pathania, urged honourable Lt governor to take up the case immediately with the union government for ordering a CBI probe, considering the demand of aggrieved parents of Sahil Verma, a young sailor of 22 years.

Administrative Council approves Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy-2024

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

The Administrative Council (AC) which met here today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, approved Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy-2024.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting. The Policy aims to position J&K as a hub of cinematic creativity and productivity. The approved policy will supersede the current Film Policy i.e., J&K Film

Policy-2021.

The policy provides for time bound administrative assistances, setting up of Single Window Cell, facilitation for granting of permission for shooting films, package of financial assistance, promoting Government/Non-Government Organizations associated with publicity of cinema and striving to create nationally competitive infrastructure for film making.

The policy provides for bodies like Film Development Council, J&K Film Division, Script Screening Committee, Divisional Location Permission Committee, Film Development Fund and mechanism for

branding and promotion of activities by means of film festivals.

To ensure that a chunk of the film shooting for a film seeking subsidy from the UT Government, the criteria of a minimum of 20 days of shooting has been provided. The criteria for claiming subsidy for Films/ TV Serials/ Shows/ Web Series etc. has also been notified in the policy.

The maximum subsidy in the regional languages of J&K will be Rs 1.25 crores.

A Film Development Fund shall be created from fiscal year 2024-25 with allocation of Rs. 500 crores (payable in next 05 years with an annual

budgetary grant of Rs. 100 crores.) to be sourced from CAPEX budget for disbursement of subsidies/incentives. The minimum cost of production of the film shall be Rs.10 crores and it must be screened on minimum 25 screens across the country. For domiciles of J&K, the minimum cost of production of a film shall be Rs.50 lacs and it must be screened on minimum 3 screens. The in-eligible categories for subsidy have also been notified in the policy. The policy will have positive impact on the economy in terms of generating employment and growth of film tourism. The policy will be valid for 05 years.

Vikram Rathore demands enhancement of VDC/SPO wages

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, MAR 15

Apni Party Provincial President of Legal Cell, Jammu Province, Vikram Rathore today demanded enhancement of wages and regular release of the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) and Special Police Officers (SPOs)'s wages.

As per the press release, Vikram Rathore was addressing a meeting at the Bhaderwah office of the Party where the VDC/SPOs called on him and informed him about their problems.

After hearing them patiently, he assured that he would highlight their issues before the

concerned authorities and if the authorities fail to address the burning demands of the VDCs/SPOs, the Party will come on the roads to protest the discrimination with the nationalist people who fight against the terrorists by putting their lives to the risk.

In his address, Vikram said that the Govt should enhance the wages of VDCs/SPOs, and these wages shall be regularly released on a monthly basis.

He also demanded that a review of their wages, and other demands shall be taken by the authorities. "These VDCs/SPOs work in very dangerous situa-

tions, and their role cannot be denied for eliminating the terror related incidents from the Chenab Valley. In this situation, it becomes important for the Govt to consider their genuine demand to enhance the wages, and release these wages on the regular basis," he added.

Expressing surprise over the delay in taking a decision that would benefit the VDC/SPOs across Jammu region, he said that these defence committees shall be provided other benefits like free health care, health insurance, and bullet proof jackets by the security forces especially during the counter-insurgency operations.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Entrepreneurship is not...

Kashmiri Migrants and displaced families of PoJK and West Pakistan Refugees.

Officials of various departments were also felicitated for their important contribution to the self-employment initiative.

Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Sh Baldev Prakash, MD and CEO J&K Bank; Sh Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), senior officers, prominent citizens and beneficiaries were present.

Narco-trade in J&K...

involved in the narcotics business," he said.

Replying to a query how big a challenge was narcotics trade in J&K, the DGP Swain said that given the fact that J&K is a "border state" which lies on the western side of the country, the huge consignments of drugs like Heroine and Brown Sugar are coming from the neighbouring country.

"Till recent past, there was only challenge of home-grown Charas and involvement was limited. But now the involvement is more as Heroine and Brown Sugar is pushed into this side in a large quantity. This was the case with Punjab and now it is growing here as well. But we will not allow J&K to become Punjab," he said. "This not a challenge in Karnataka and Telangana as these states aren't close to borders."

He said that there are 10 drug de-addiction centres of Police operating at present and some private players also involved in it. "These centers are less compared to the number of addicts," he said. The DGP said that police will assess where it stands at present and where it will stand in 2025. The DGP advocated a strategy where a coordination needs to be maintained with Punjab as well. KNO

PM Modi has inspired...

the country to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Interacting with the students, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inspired the young minds to fulfil their dreams and aspire to make it big. This shift can be attributed to various factors, including increased administrative support, improved infrastructure, and a growing priority to youth and level playing field for jobs or admission to higher education institutions, etc he said.

"Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, has made efforts in the last ten years to spur

development. Various infrastructure projects including roads and highways have changed the face of hilly areas including its most peripheral parts. Hospitals and healthcare centres, schools and colleges and scores of institutes of higher learning including medical colleges have been set up in the region," he said.

The students openly praised the work done by their MP, Dr Jitendra Singh, in their area under the leadership of PM Modi. They were also aware of the 'purple revolution' born from Bhaderwah and some of them belonged to families which had undertaken lavender cultivation for making lucrative earnings.

Thanking Dr Jitendra Singh for Government's support, the students cited development works being undertaken on ground level in the last few years like opening of new medical colleges, national highways, bank branches, schools etc. in remote areas of district Doda that were distant dreams earlier.

The students said that they now have more opportunities as recruitments are fair and transparent due to abolition of interviews and favouritism.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who represents Udhampur constituency in the Lok Sabha, appealed to the students to be catalysts of Prime Minister Modi's reforms and help in their effective implementation in J&K.

Citing the stupendous success of Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution in J&K, Dr Jitendra Singh encouraged the school children to look for opportunities in Agri-Startups such as Lavender cultivation.

"Bhaderwah has emerged as the Lavender capital of India and Agri StartUp destination. Following the success of Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution in Bhaderwah and Gulmarg regions, over 3,000 Startups are now engaged in Lavender cultivation alone," he said.

PM Modi has pulled Jammu and Kashmir out of the long spell of darkness, gloom and misery, Dr Jitendra Singh said.

"PM Modi has changed the destiny of J&K and given the people the hope to dream of a bright new future," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit J&K' campaign, IEC vans reached out to the remote villages of J&K in order to achieve saturation of Central Government welfare schemes and ensure none remains left out of 'Modi Sarkaar ki Guarantee'.

Amit Shah virtually...

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, the newly developed Criminal Case Management System will enable the NIA personnel to

better coordinate in terrorism and organized crime cases, thereby improving justice delivery. The new stand-alone version of CCMS has been developed by NIA as a user-friendly and easy-to-deploy, customizable, browser-based software to help the State Police forces in their investigations and prosecution. The two new Office Complexes in Jammu and Kochi (Kerala), besides the Residential Complex in Raipur (Chhattisgarh), will strengthen the agency's reach and presence, and provide a safe and secure environment to NIA officers and personnel to operate in the States tackling the menace of terrorism and left wing extremism.

Launching the CCMS, the Union Home Minister urged the State Director Generals of Police to use the new-age software for carrying out effective and expeditious investigations and operations. He added that it will help the State forces organise, integrate and digitalise the data generated during investigations, such as case documents, extracted data, collected evidence, and the charge sheets presented to the court.

It may be recalled that the Home Minister, during the 'Anti-Terror Conference' in October 2023, had expressed the desire for the establishment of such a digital platform for law enforcement agencies across the country to enable state police forces and central agencies to undertake structured and synergised investigations. The Home Minister had then emphasized that it would help improve conviction rates in sensitive and complex cases across the country.

The state-of-the-art CCMS software would not only bring standardisation into investigations but also enable easy and streamlined compilation of terror-related data across the country. The launch of the software comes at a time when India is facing increasing threats from various terrorist organisations, new challenges in the form of extensive use of cyber-space, dark-web, drones, crowd-funding, use of crypto-currencies, encrypted communication platforms, besides use of new technologies for terrorist financing, movement of arms and other terror support activities. NIA, which has been aggressively tackling such threats, has undergone major empowerment and expansion over the years to enhance its capacities and competencies. The Home Minister said that CCMS would further foster stronger cooperation between the central and state agencies, including the Anti-Terror Squads of the State Police.

Shri Amit Shah pointed out that the newly developed system will also boost supervision by providing clear frameworks for assessment and guidance by both the senior police officers and the prosecutors. He added it will assist NIA and the State Police forces' preparedness to implement the newly legislated post-colonial era

Criminal laws in the form of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakhsya Sanhita.

Augmentation of the agency's Physical Infrastructure, including new Branch and Residential Complexes and hiring of new office spaces are key to strengthening of the organisation. The Jammu, Kochi and Raipur NIA Branch offices, inaugurated today, had been functioning from rented premises since their sanction by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2016, 2012 and 2016, respectively. The Raipur Branch had moved into its own building in 2022 but construction of the associated residential complex has been completed now. These modern buildings will provide the NIA personnel with a secure and conducive environment for executing their work in a better way.

ACB registers Disproportionate...

of rupees. The assets were found disproportionate to his known source of income during the verification," the statement said.

It added that the omissions and commissions on the part of the above named public servant constitute offences punishable U/S 5(1)(e) r/w 5(2) J&K PC Act. Svt. 2006.

Accordingly, the statement said that a case FIR number 05/2024 is registered in PS ACB Srinagar and further investigation taken up. "After obtaining search warrant from the Court, searches were carried at the 03 separate locations viz Residential house at Afandi Bagh Rawalpura Srinagar, Residential House at Railway Colony Nihama Pulwama and Flat in "Ansal Tower" at Sainik Colony, Jammu simultaneously," the statement reads.

During the search incriminating material including Revenue papers, & finance/bank documents etc were recovered and seized as evidence in the instant case, the statement said, adding that further investigation of the case is going on. KNO

MeT predicts dry...

to remain "generally dry" in J&K from the 14th-20th of March.

It was also said that fresh spells of light to moderate rain and snow could occur in J&K's many places during the 22nd-24th of this month.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperatures recorded last night in Srinagar, Pahalgam, and Gulmarg were 4.4°C, -1.3°C and -4.8°C respectively.

Community Mobilization Programme held at GMS Jasrota to promote enrollment



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 14

To strengthen community involvement and promote enrollment in government schools, a Community Mobilization Programme was organized today at Government Middle School (GMS) Jasrota.

Gurnam Singh, Headmaster of GMS Jasrota, emphasized the importance of enrolling students in government schools to get quality education. Khajuria urged villagers to take advantage of the free uniforms, books, mid-day meals, scholarships, and highly qualified staff provided by government

schools.

Sarpanch Sudershan Khajuria said that the government is committed to provide accessible and quality education to all. "Government schools offer an ideal platform for our children to excel academically and become responsible citizens," he added.

The guest speakers stressed the significance of community involvement in ensuring the success of government schools. They urged parents to actively engage with the school authorities and provide support to their children's education.

A documentary show-

casing the facilities and achievements of GMS Jasrota was released at the programme to further promote the institution and its commitment to student development.

The Community Mobilization Programme at GMS Jasrota is a testament to the government's efforts to strengthen the education system and provide equal opportunities for all students. By engaging with local communities and highlighting the benefits of government schooling, this programme aims to increase enrollment and promote the overall development of the younger generation.

DDC Bandipora reviews progress under District CAPEX 2023-24

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 14

The District Development Commissioner, (DDC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Thursday chaired a meeting of officers to review the progress of works under District Capex 2023-24 and to discuss strategy for upcoming Capex 2024-25.

During the meeting, a comprehensive department-wise evaluation was conducted to check the status of all projects under the district Capex budget.

The DDC was informed that under the regular component of District Capex, 16 schemes have been included with the approved allocation of Rs. 6247.28 lacs and under CSS component 11 schemes have been included with the total approved allocation of Rs. 54248.86 lacs.

It was revealed in the meeting that under District Capex Budget 2023-24, an expenditure of 74.99 percent has been



made out of total available funds, and 60.36 percent expenditure has been made against outlay.

The meeting was informed that 88.91 percent expenditure has been made in minor irrigation works, 80.21 percent in R&B, 80.08 in PHE, 83.07 percent in Aspirational Block Development Scheme and 90.20 per-

cent expenditure has been made in NFB.

The DDC stressed the concerned officers of various departments to monitor all works related to their departments.

He urged officers to provide regular updates and promptly address any issues to prevent delays and directed the concerned to complete all

ongoing works within stipulated time.

Regarding the Capex 2024-25, the DDC stressed the concerned to ensure comprehensive planning by focusing on major works.

He directed the officers to ensure that there is no issue regarding the availability of land, title of land, or any other issue before formulating the DPRs and estimates.

The DDC also emphasized giving due consideration to demands projected by PRIs and general public besides inputs based on public Darbar and Viksit Bharat Campaign.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Mohd Ashraf, SE R&B, ACD, CPO, District Officers of Various Departments, BDOs and other concerned.

DDC Reasi inspects facilities at polling stations in Katra ahead of Lok Sabha Elections

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MARCH 14

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, conducted a comprehensive inspection visit to Katra, focusing on the functionality of police check posts and provision of Basic Minimum Facilities in Polling Stations.

Additionally, DDC Mahajan visited the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) building and inspected four polling stations housed in the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), emphasizing the need for essential facilities to facilitate the electoral process.

During the visit, DDC Mahajan meticulously examined the operational status of all police check posts within the district, ensuring their efficiency and effectiveness in maintaining law and order during elections.

World Kidney Day: DH Ramban sensitises participants about Renal Health

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 14

District Hospital Ramban commemorated World Kidney Day with an awareness program about kidney health.

Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and spearhead of Medical Superintendent Dr Virender Trisal, the event witnessed a confluence of medical expertise and community engagement, marking a significant stride in prioritizing kidney health in the district.

The highlight of the event was insightful awareness lectures delivered to both the general public and patients by specialist doctors, imparting invaluable knowledge on preventive measures and early detection of kidney-related ailments.

Renowned senior doctors, including Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr Mohamad Rafi, Pediatrician, Dr



Narendra Singh, Surgeon, Dr Muzamil, Dental Surgeon, Dr Bushan Kumar, and Physician, Dr Mohamad Sayeed graced the occasion, enriching the discourse with their profound insights and experiences.

Through informative sessions and interactive discussions, held at the OPD Complex, attendees were empowered with the necessary tools to safeguard their kidney health and embrace a lifestyle

conducive to overall well-being.

The MS, DH expressed his gratitude to all participants for their unwavering support and active participation in making the World Kidney Day celebration a resounding success.

He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in fostering a culture of proactive healthcare and urged everyone to prioritize regular check-ups and adopt healthy lifestyle practices.

GDC Kathua hosts enlightening lecture on Stress Management, Drug De-addiction

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 14

Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, in collaboration with the Women Study Centre, today organized a thought-provoking lecture on Stress Management and Drug De-addiction.

The event began by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by MD Ayurveda from GMC Kathua Dr. Deepak Sharma, and Convener of the Women Study Centre Prof. Ambika Rajput, along with distinguished faculty members including HOD English Prof. Shivani Kotwal and other esteemed committee members.

The occasion began with a warm welcome address by the Convener of the Women Study Centre, emphasizing the significance of discussions around Stress Management and Drug De-addiction in today's context.

The College Principal Prof. Seema Mir, commended the organizing team for arranging such



an insightful lecture and underscored the increasing importance of addressing topics related to stress and addiction in educational settings.

During the lecture, Dr. Deepak Sharma elucidated various types of stress, including physical, social, and psychological stress, their root causes, and effective strategies to mitigate them. He also shed light on the pivotal role that faculty members play in creating awareness among students regarding stress management and drug de-addiction.

The event saw active participation from faculty members across various departments of GDC Kathua, including Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Gotam

Singh, Prof. Anil Verma, Prof. Charandeep, Dr. Meena, Dr. Eva Sharma, Dr. Nitasha Baloria, Dr. Nitu Sharma, Prof. Rajni, and students from different semesters, further enriching the discussions.

Dr. Gotam Singh delivered a formal vote of thanks, acknowledging the efforts of everyone involved, while the event was skillfully anchored by Ms. Ragini.

The event not only provided valuable insights into stress management and drug de-addiction to the participants but also underscored the importance of such dialogues in fostering a healthier and more informed community.

DDC Ganderbal chairs DCC & DLRC meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 14

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) of the district for taking review of the performance related to 3rd quarter ending December 2023 of FY 2023-24.

Lead District Manager informed that J&K Bank alone has disbursed Rs.512.20 crore under priority sector and Rs 326.62 crore under Non priority sector showing an achievement of 86% contribution towards total credit disbursement in the district.

The DDC emphasized the need for improving the credit flow in Agriculture and allied sectors under the HADP plan.

District Credit Plan for FY 2024-25 envisaging a Credit outlay of Rs. 766.29 Crore under Priority Sector was also approved in the meeting. The performance with respect to social security

schemes under Jansuraksha was also discussed and the chair emphasized the need for roping in the people under social security schemes with joint coordination of all concerned agencies.

Besides reviewing the performance of Banks and Govt. departments under various Schemes including SANKALP, KCC, PMEGP, PM Kisan, the DDC directed the line agencies to sponsor quality cases and the Banks for speedy disposal of Govt. Sponsored cases.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; AGM, RBI, Anoop Sharma; DDM, NABARD, Junaid Ahmad and District Coordinators of all the Banks, Govt. departments and other development agencies.

Vocational Apparel Program

Free uniforms provided to Students at GHSS Kohag- Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 14

In a significant initiative to support vocational education, free uniforms were provided to students enrolled in the Apparel, Madeups, and Home Furnishing program at Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Kohag today.

The School Principal Mohinder Gupta gave away the Uniforms to the eligible students in presence of their counterparts, staff and parents.

Principal Gupta emphasized the importance of vocational education in empowering students with practical skills and preparing them for future employment or higher education.

Free uniforms will provide much-needed sup-



port to underprivileged students and encourage them to pursue their vocational aspirations he added. Specialist Mentor teacher hailed the government's support to make vocational education accessible and attractive to all students.

The distribution of free uniforms to vocational students is a significant step towards promoting skill development and reducing disparities in educational opportunities. By providing practical support to students from dis-

advantaged backgrounds, this initiative aims to foster their growth and empower them to contribute meaningfully to the workforce.

The event also highlighted the government's commitment to strengthening vocational education and training (VET) in India. VET plays a crucial role in equipping students with industry-relevant skills, enhancing their employability, and contributing to economic development.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024: DC Bandipora visits Sumbal, takes stock of poll preparedness



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 14

In view of upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Shakeel ul Rehman visited Sumbal sub division to take stock of poll preparedness.

During the visit, the DC took spot inspection of various locations.

The DC visited yatra transit camp and other

adjacent locations to check accommodation facilities available there.

He asked the SDM and other concerned to make all facilities available related to the election well in advance.

He also directed the concerned to assure minimum basic facilities in all the polling stations.

He was accompanied by SDM Sumbal and other concerned officers.

EDITORIAL

Dilemma hits opposition camp in J&K

After the recent National Conference and PDP face-off, the moot question that arises in everybody's mind is whether the PAGD and INDIA bloc still exist. The answer is definitely a big no. The opposition parties are still in a state of confusion over announcing candidates for five parliamentary seats of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has already announced its candidates for two prestigious Lok Sabha seats in Jammu province. However, most senior Congress leaders are hesitant to contest the Parliamentary elections for these seats. Although these Congress leaders' names have been included in the list of potential candidates, they have not shown much enthusiasm for entering the electoral fray. In the Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha constituency, one senior Congress leader has shown only lukewarm interest in contesting the elections. Finding a suitable candidate for the Udhampur-Doda seat has proven challenging for the party. In contrast, the BJP has put an end to speculation by re-nominating both sitting Lok Sabha members from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Minister of State (MoS) in the Prime Minister's Office, represents the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Parliamentary constituency. Jugal Kishore Sharma is the BJP's Lok Sabha member from the Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha constituency, formerly known as the Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha seat before the 2023 delimitation exercise. The Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Parliamentary constituency covers 18 assembly constituencies across four districts of Jammu province, including Inderwal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhadarwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban, Banihal, Udhampur West, Udhampur East, Chenani, Ramnagar, Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jasrota, Kathua, and Hiranagar. On the other hand, the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary constituency spans three districts, namely Samba, Jammu, and Reasi. The Congress, the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are still negotiating the terms of their alliance and have been facing pressure from the party cadre to announce candidates. The Congress has reportedly put forth an idea of contesting two seats from the Jammu region, while it is pressurising the NC to let the PDP contest from the Anantnag constituency. At present, the NC has sitting MPs on all three seats in Kashmir. The NC has been offered to contest from Srinagar and Baramulla seat under the alliance. Ignoring the plea of INDIA bloc partners, the National Conference has now announced that it would contest all three seats of Kashmir Valley, thereby leaving no scope of allying with PDP which has been asking for Anantnag-Rajouri seat for Mehbooba Mufti. There are reports that Mehbooba Mufti may consider the option of contesting the Lok Sabha poll from Central Kashmir (Srinagar seat). After the Delimitation of Parliamentary segments, several areas of Anantnag seat, which are considered to be the strong bastion of PDP, has been merged with Srinagar seat. While the PDP workers are still insisting that she should contest from Anantnag seat, the PDP chief is weighing options of contesting polls. There are certain assembly segments in South Kashmir where the PDP and the National Conference are in a neck-to-neck contest. Given the scenario, the PDP chief feels that Central Kashmir would be a better option for her. The BJP's J&K president Ravinder Raina has ruled out any alliance for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in J&K. He has made it clear that the BJP is ready to contest all five Lok Sabha seats in the UT. Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Kashmir rally, Raina says that at least 2 lakh people are expected to take part in the grand event in Srinagar. Any delay on the part of Congress, NC and PDP to announce their candidates for upcoming Lok Sabha polls would only benefit the Saffron party.

JS RAJPUT

Independent India began its journey under extremely painful conditions. It was only because of the legacy of ancient democratic practices and the strength of equal respect for all religions and faiths that it could gradually create a place for itself in the global community of nations. During the last decade, India has acquired a place of adulation and admiration on the global platform. The inherited system of education was in tatters, and the literacy rate was just around 18 per cent.

In spite of the tragedy of partition, rampant poverty, and challenges of food security as well as external security, India slowly and gradually stabilised its democratic practices and that attracted the attention of those who had prophesied that India was not a nation; and after independence, it would collapse! The initial leadership consisted mostly of the freedom fighters who had made great sacrifices for the nation. It needed new institutions and strengthened academic and professional centers, institutions and establishments with an eye on the future.

It was an insightful initiative established by

the young graduates who established themselves as the most sought-after group of young professionals in the best scientific research and technical institutions in developed countries. These young professionals established their intellectual superiority in the NASA-National Aeronautics and Space Agency - of the USA. Subsequently, as is well known, Silicon Valley practically stands 'taken over' by Indian professionals.

India formulated the first national policy on education in 1968 and the next one in 1986/92. After nationwide intensive consultations for over 4 years, the national education policy - NEP 2020 - was finalised and presented to the nation for implementation. This policy has received global appreciation for its insights as well as for pragmatic stipulations and realistic targets. There, however, are several concerns that threaten the smooth implementation of the policy. These require urgent effective remedial measures.

One is particularly worried about the ever-increasing practices of copying and paper leakage. I still remember the touching statement by the girl who topped the Bihar School Board Examination



in 2016: 'I only wanted a second division but Chachaji made me top the Boards!'

The latest reports from the Nuh district of Haryana, clearly indicate how unconcerned, insensitive and inefficient our systems are towards this nefarious practice. How could one ignore the recent paper leak in the UP police recruitment examination in which over 48 lakh young aspirants appeared, then to their shock, found that the exam had been cancelled because of the paper leak?

In Rajasthan, 14 police sub-inspectors along with others have been arrested as details of a paper leak and copying during their recruitment exam have appeared recently. In Rajasthan, after 2019, on average, 3 instances of paper

leaks per year have been reported. An analysis of paper leaks in 15 states during the last 5 years has brought forth shocking details that 1.4 crore young persons have suffered because of paper leaks. There are no details available on how many culprits and members of the mafia have attracted any serious punishment.

There are reports in circulation that the nakal mafia and paper leak mafia have strengthened themselves over the years to such an extent that some of them continue to indulge in these nefarious practices on a serial basis.

Obviously, either the establishment is in collaboration, or it is the total incompetence and indulgence in corruption of those agencies that are interested in conduct-

ing these examinations. It is worth investigating whether any senior officer has ever been sacked for paper leaks in any of the examinations conducted by the school boards or those by the recruitment agencies. How silently the systems have allowed another shocking practice to flourish - solvers being arranged in Board exams and also in recruitment examinations.

Imagine a doctor appearing for a medical aspirant, and being allowed to continue in the profession. It could happen only in India! Recently, the central government has brought about a modal act in this context. Some state governments have also promised strict steps to prevent nakal and paper leaks.

The past record is so bleak that people have no trust in pronouncements and assurances. If the concerned agencies were really keen to eradicate these aberrations, they could have done so even with the existing provisions of law.

Suspending or merely transferring an officer is in fact a mockery of the seriousness of the crime that is being repeatedly committed. Why can't all those responsible be sacked within a couple of

days?

There is a way out for long-term reforms and it has been indicated in the NEP-2020 which recalls the recommendation of Justice JS Verma Commission, first made in 2012, that over 10,000 teacher training institutions are selling degrees. Imagine the presence of lakhs of 'trained' teachers in the system having 'purchased degrees! They did not get any training and are giving lessons on values, morals and characters in our schools. The nation must focus on a war footing in improving its teacher education institutions. These are not the places for investments and dividends. Once the right culture is generated in teacher training institutions, under sincere and committed teacher-educators, it would flow to schools and then to various professions. This is the only way out, India can no more neglect its teachers, their genuine professional education and continuous upgradation and Inservice education. Once achieved, it could provide a ray of hope.

(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity, views are personal)

RUSA and PM-USHA: Making higher education future ready

RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI

Sustained growth in the sphere of knowledge enrichment is an essential factor for the advancement of human civilization. Needless to say, education is the backbone of holistic growth for individuals, society, and the nation. Quality contemporary education promotes economic, intellectual, and social growth by empowering youth with attributes such as critical thinking, creativity, skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

These attributes are essential for inclusive growth, social harmony, and horizontal and upward mobility. Moreover, quality education fosters scientific advancement and helps create a rational and just society. With a superb demographic dividend, India's commitment to providing high-quality 21st-century education to its youthful population will determine the future of the country.

In this context, Rash-

triya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), an overarching centrally sponsored scheme, has become a key driver for promoting equity, access, and excellence in higher education. The sole objective of RUSA is to create an ecosystem for the best quality higher education by strategically funding higher education institutions under state governments and union territories.

RUSA also focuses on ensuring equity in higher education by promoting the inclusion of women, tribals, minorities, differently-abled persons, socially disadvantaged, and economically weaker sections. Additionally, it also aims at quality assurance, infrastructure development, faculty recruitment, and research and innovation.

RUSA is being implemented in mission mode to fund state government universities and colleges to achieve educational objectives. This has helped state governments with strategic planning

and execution for completely revamping the higher education ecosystem to address issues of access, equity, quality, and related concerns.

After the completion of the first phase, it was extended as RUSA 2.0 until March 2020, with further extension provided until March 2021 under the same programmatic and financial frameworks.

RUSA, a norm-based and outcome-dependent scheme, has significantly contributed to sectoral outcomes through various focused components. In the first phase, RUSA covered a total of 2,107 institutions across different components with a budgetary outlay of 8,118 crore for infrastructural grants. Under the second phase of RUSA, around 1,050 institutions received funding, with a total allocation of 6,475 crore, of which infrastructure grants accounted for a 35% share and quality and research initiatives constituted a 31% share. Better achievement of

targets in certain areas has been observed under the second phase, indicating maturity in implementation and processes.

An independent performance review conducted by IIT Bombay in 2017 found that GER increased from 19.4% in 2013 to 25.2% in 2018, and the teacher-student ratio also significantly improved after the implementation of RUSA. While the number of accredited institutions during the scheme period has increased, a large number of institutions are still unaccredited.

Despite the high focus of the scheme on infrastructure augmentation, some surveys conducted in the past highlight gaps in infrastructural availability and the quality of infrastructure in a few institutes. Limited usage of ICT-based classroom transactions has also been observed in some sampled institutes.

This new avatar of RUSA targets to reach out to the unserved, underserved areas, remote

and rural areas, difficult geographies, LWE areas, the North-eastern region, aspirational districts, tier-2 cities, areas with low GER, etc., and to benefit the most disadvantaged areas and socio-economically disadvantaged groups. It also aims at revamping and re-energising the learning system for the delivery of quality higher education in tune with the key recommendations of NEP-2020. The focus of strategic funding under PM-USHA, apart from improving equity, access, and quality, has shifted to transformative reforms such as gender inclusion, multidisciplinary education and research, ICT, and enhancing employability through vocationalisation, skill upgrading, and innovations. This would support around 1,600 projects worth Rs 12,929.16 crores, with a 60:40 sharing arrangement with the state governments.

PM-USHA is the central government's commitment to meet the promises

held by the rich expanse of India's state universities. The country's future lies in empowering these campuses to enhance quality learning, and transformative research, and promote skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

As a centrally sponsored scheme, the vision of RUSA is loud and clear that at times the most important lessons of life are learned outside the classroom. This will also strengthen the bond between education and employment by bridging the skill gap and satisfying the entrepreneurial hunger of youth. Finally, it will empower youth with life skills to contribute meaningfully towards the economic, intellectual, and social imperatives of Bharat and thus realise PM Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

(The writer is Vice Chancellor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda; views are personal)

First Time Voter Youths

NEERAJ CHOPRA

Sportspersons serve the nation through their dedication, perseverance, and teamwork. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to wear the national colours, whether at home or abroad. But as sportspersons, and young Indians, a part of the world's most vibrant democracy, there is another privilege we aspire to - that of voting.

Elections are the bedrock of democracy, granting citizens the vital privilege to elect their representatives. However, this right is not passive; it is a duty, especially incumbent upon the youth, to actively engage in the electoral process. Historically, young people have spearheaded societal change, and their involvement in elections is crucial. Strengthening democracy requires the active participation of youth at every stage, from voter registration to grassroots campaign-

ing.

The first-time voters bring fresh perspectives and champion ideals such as transparency and inclusivity. The energy and tech-savvy nature of a young voter inject dynamism into the electoral landscape, fostering accessibility and responsiveness to citizens' needs. Youth play a pivotal role in holding elected officials accountable, utilising social media to amplify voices and advocate for issues that resonate with the public, thereby safeguarding democracy's integrity and vitality.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The future depends on what you do today." As the wheels of democracy turn once again, gearing up for the upcoming general election in India in 2024, it is imperative to underscore the pivotal role that the youth play in shaping the destiny of the nation.

In his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki

Baat," Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the importance of youth participation in the electoral process, highlighting the Election Commission's "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" campaign aimed at first-time voters. He lauded India's youth for their vigor and enthusiasm, urging them to actively engage in voting as it directly impacts the nation's future.

Urging first-time voters to participate in record numbers, he stressed their crucial role in shaping the country's destiny. PM Modi called upon influencers across various sectors to join the campaign and motivate young voters, recognising their influential role in driving societal change. Amidst the electoral fervour, he urged the youth to not only participate in political activities but also stay informed about ongoing discussions and debates.

The Election Commission of India is spearheading

"Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" aimed at fostering universal enlightened participation of youth in elections. Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched the campaign anthem, symbolising the nation's commitment to encouraging young voters to exercise their democratic right. The anthem, a part of the voter awareness initiative, embodies the spirit of PM Modi's call for greater youth participation in the electoral process. Youth across the country are embracing this anthem as a clarion call to encourage their young friends to pledge to vote.

The initiative is also witnessing Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) conducting comprehensive voter awareness activities nationwide and stressing the value of voting for a more representative democracy. Whereas HEIs are hosting physical events, online competitions are also being organised on the MyGov

platform, including blog writing, podcasts, debates, and more, to encourage creativity in content creation. Workshops, seminars, flash mobs, and voter pledge drives are further engaging and educating students on the electoral process, with NSS volunteers and institution clubs actively participating in the campaign.

Responding to Prime Minister's appeal, influencers from across various platforms, including Instagram, YouTube, and the entertainment industry are actively supporting the campaign, motivating the first-time voters. Prominent names from across all corners of the country, who have made a mark in spheres like Sports, entertainment, business and industry, have come together to spread the message far and wide.

My fellow sportspersons like Jasprit Bumrah, Ravichandran Aswin, Mohammed Siraj, Avani Lekhara, Saikhom Mirabai Chanu,

film personalities like Anil Kapoor, Prosenjit Chatterji, Raveena Tandon, Rana Daggubati, Kailash Kher, Shreya Ghoshal, industry leaders such as Ritesh Agarwal, B. V. R. Mohan Reddy, and several Padma Awardees have participated in this campaign, turning it into a 'national movement' of voter awareness.

This 'people's movement' underscores the collective power of voices of the youth and the importance of their active participation in shaping the country's democratic landscape. Let's unite in embracing this responsibility and celebrating the strength of our collective voices. Let us rise to the challenge, let us raise our voices, and let us empower others to do the same.

Neeraj Chopra, Indian track and field athlete and reigning Olympic and World Champion in Men's Javelin Throw. Views expressed are personal

DC Budgam reviews Arrangements for holy month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak



JIN NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today convened a meeting of officers to review the arrangements for the ongoing holy month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak.

Stressing on the uninterrupted power and water supply across the district, the DC asked Executive Engineers of PDD and PHE to sensitize their field staff to ensure that there is best possible water and electricity

supply to the consumers during the Ramadan especially at the Sehri and Iftar times.

At the outset, the DC directed the concerned for the constitution of special market checking squads to keep check on profiteering, hoarding and overcharging by shopkeepers.

Emphasizing on the sanitation and lighting of towns and municipalities areas, the DC directed Executive officers of Municipal Committees to launch special cleanliness drives in the district with focus on roads, lanes,

drains and regular lifting of wastage from markets and also installation of lights in their respective towns.

Further, DC directed concerned to ensure plying of public transport during evening times as well in all towns for the commuters.

The meeting among others was attended by ADC Budgam, Mehraj Din Shah; CPO Irfan Ahmad, all SDMs, CMO, Animal & Sheep Husbandry Officer, Ex. Engineers of PHE & PDD, ARTO, and other concerned.

DC reviews physical, financial progress under Capex Budget 2023-24 in District Udhampur

JIN NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 14

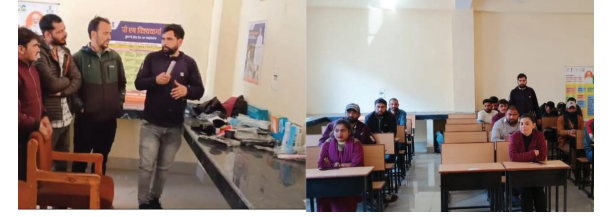
Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur to assess the physical and financial progress achieved under the District Capex Budget 2023-24, along with the progress of Village Development plans, ABDP, APDP, and SOS initiatives being implemented across various departments in the district. Additional District Development Commissioner Ghan Sham Singh, PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal, Chief Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal, and other departmental officers attended the meeting. After a comprehensive sector-wise review, the DC urged officers to ensure 100%



expenditure within the set timeline by expediting the pace of ongoing projects slated for completion within the current fiscal year. Emphasizing close coordination among departments, the DC underscored the importance of achieving development objectives collectively. During the meeting, officers provided updates on the physical and financial status of ongoing developmental endeavors. The DC stressed the urgency of completing pending

tasks swiftly, emphasizing the necessity of attaining 100% expenditure targets. Officers were directed to accelerate expenditure bookings and ramp up the tempo of developmental undertakings. Optimizing full fund utilization, officers were urged to mobilize resources efficiently, ensuring timely project execution. Additionally, officers were instructed to promptly record maximum expenditure for ongoing projects.

PM-Vishwakarma; GPC Ramban concludes training of Beauty & Wellness Training Batch



JIN NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MARCH 14

Government Polytechnic, Chanderkote, Ramban, successfully concluded the training program of 2nd batch of the PM-Vishwakarma Scheme and 1st batch of Assistant Barber Training Batch.

This revolutionary initiative, aimed at empowering skilled artisans and fostering self-reliance in the apparel trade, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary.

Under the patronage of the Skill Development Department, the training programme was conducted at the PM Vishwakarma Centre, Govt. Polytechnic, Chanderkote. This initiative aimed to nurture entrepreneurship among candidates hailing from various parts of the dis-

trict, thereby contributing to the overall development of Ramban.

The assessed batch comprised 17 enthusiastic male and female candidates, demonstrating a diverse range of talents and skills.

Principal of Government Polytechnic Ramban, Er. Vivek Mahajan, encouraged the candidates and provided insightful guidance on the scheme.

During the assessment, candidates underwent both theoretical and practical evaluations, showcasing their proficiency and expertise in the field.

The assessments were conducted under the meticulous supervision of the institution's Principal and HOD (E&C), Er. Pawan Kumar, who also serves as the SPOC for the Vishwakarma Scheme.

Rural Water Supply Training Program concludes at Samba



JIN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 14

The 4-day residential training program aimed at enhancing the skills of Level-3 functionaries of Samba district regarding the operation and maintenance of Rural Water Supply Schemes.

The program concluded with insightful remarks from Abhishek Sharma, District Development Commissioner Samba, who chairs the District Jal Jeevan Mission.

The training, graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries including Ashwani Khajuria, Special Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Bodh Raj Bhagat SE Hydraulic Circle Jammu, Manesh K Bhat Consultant, JJM, (Retd. Chief Engineer) and other officials from the Jal Shakti Department, focused on various crucial aspects of maintaining rural water supply schemes.

A key highlight of the program was the emphasis on shifting from an 'engineering-led approach' to

a 'community-led, community-owned, and community-driven approach' for sustainable operation and maintenance. Participants, comprising members from Paani Samitis at the village level, Anganwari workers, ex-Panch/sarpanch, VLW/Pyt secretaries, prominent citizens, and officials from the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, gained valuable insights into the O&M Policy for rural water supply schemes.

Furthermore, the program culminated with the recognition and award presentation to the best-performing staff of the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department and participants who exhibited exceptional performance during the training sessions.

This training program signifies our collective commitment to ensuring the efficient and sustainable management of rural water resources, ultimately contributing to the well-being and development of communities in the Samba region.

World Kidney Day observed at GHS Bijarni-Doda

JIN NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 14

Acting upon the directions of the Director Health Services Jammu Dr Rakesh Magotra and under the guidance of CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar & BMO Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor, an awareness programme to celebrate the "World Kidney Day" was held at GHS Bijarni under AAM-Sub Centre Bijarni District Doda.

The day is celebrated every year on the 2nd Thursday of March all over the world to create awareness about kidney diseases.

Mr Faizan A Tramboo from the health department on this occasion delivered a lecture about the importance of kidneys and reducing the frequen-



cy, impact of kidney diseases and its associated health problems.

The health team also encouraged the participants and general public to take care of their kid-

neys right from childhood to ensure a healthy life ahead. The stress was laid on healthy life style, which includes regular exercises, keeping weight in check, monitoring

blood pressure regularly, having adequate fluid and most importantly refrain from smoking and self-medication.

The programme was attended by a large number of students, staff and general public of the area.

Headmaster of the School Nuzhat Jabeen thanked the health department, particularly CMO and BMO Ghat for organizing awareness programmes in the school on a regular basis. She said that such programmes will surely boost the talent and knowledge among students about various diseases and makes them to live healthy & happier life.

Ace para Int'l Taekwondo Player of Jammu gets Driving License



JAMMU, MARCH 14

Transport Commissioner, J&K Rajinder Singh Tara today handed over a Driving License to Chanddeep Singh Specially abled International Player in Taekwondo, who had always dreamt of driving car using his legs. He had represented and won many laurels for the country and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir

To fulfill his dream, Chanddeep Singh, renowned differently abled sportsman approached the Transport Commissioner, Jammu for issuance of Driving License.

Keeping in view his contribution towards Nation despite facing challenges, a special Board headed by Vinay Samotra, Joint Transport Commissioner comprising of Pankaj Bhagotra, Regional Transport Officer, Jammu and Ms Rehana Tabas-

sum, ARTO (HQ), Jammu was constituted by the Transport Commissioner, J&K. The Board conducted Driving Skill Test at Trial Ground, Nagrota and during real time basis on National Highway as well on 13.03.2024. The trial was conducted on his adaptive vehicle which is modified/alterd as per ARAI guidelines/requirements. The major control of his car is being operated using his feet. The RTO Jammu has also altered the registration of the car as adaptive vehicle after inspection of the kit provided by the ARAI.

This is one of the biggest service of the Transport Department to the specially abled persons to realise his dream of legally driving the car after obtaining license. The Department is ready to give wings to other similar special abled persons after meeting required formalities.

Training imparted to Zonal & Sector Magistrates ahead of Lok Sabha Elections 2024

JIN NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 14

As part of the preparation for the smooth conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha election 2024, the District Election Authority Udhampur today organized a training session for Zonal, Sector Magistrates, Assembly, and District Level Master Trainers. District Election Officer, Udhampur, Saloni Rai chaired the program held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Deputy District Election Officer Dr. Anirudh Rai, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, Sub Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, Sub Divisional Magistrate Chenani Gurdev Kumar, along with other Zonal and Sectoral Magistrates, and District

and Assembly level Master trainers attended the training programme.

During the session, District Level Master Trainers provided comprehensive information on the preparation and conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha election 2024. Participants were briefed about their roles in the election process.

Addressing the trainees, DEO emphasized the importance of adhering to rules and regulations to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections in the district. She actively engaged in the training session, reiterating the need for strict adherence to procedures.

A question-answer session was also conducted, allowing participants to raise queries. Master Trainers provided satisfactory answers, clarifying all doubts about election procedures and rules.

General Elections: Nodal Officers imparted training at Doda

JIN NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 14

The District Election Authority Doda today organized a one-day training programme for nodal officers in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha election 2024.

The event, held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex, was conducted under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner

Sudershan Kumar and Deputy District Election Officer Om Prakash.

During the meeting, SLMT Riaz Ahmed Butt provided a comprehensive overview of the role and responsibilities of each designated nodal officer. He highlighted the significance of adhering to the Model Code of Conduct and addressed queries raised by the officers regarding its implementation.



JIN NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 14

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman, who is also District Election Officer, reviewed the poll preparedness for upcoming General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024 in a meeting held at Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The DEO reviewed various preparations made by election nodal officers regarding upcoming lok sabha elections.

He reviewed status from the concerned officers regarding, ERONET, Suvidha app, eVIGIL, vulnerability mapping, election training and other

matters.

The concerned officials of NIC informed the DEO that Punching of employees data is complete and data is ready for randomization.

The DEO asked the officers concerned to act upon election related matters without delay and stressed on intensifying SVEEP activities to attract voters. The meeting was attended by ADDC M Ashraf Bhat; Nodal Officer MCC/ADC, Umar Shafi Pandit; Dy. DEO Mohammad, Rafeeq Bhat; ERO/ACR Shabir Ahmad Wani, ACD Peer Mumtaz Ahmad, CPO Mohd Maqbool, Election Nodal Officers and other concerned.

DGRC recommends fine for hospitals violating AB-PMJAY norms



JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

The District Grievance Redressal Committee for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, presided over by District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, has recommended that the State Health Agency impose fines on two hospitals for violating norms of the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY scheme.

The committee found

these hospitals guilty of violating norms of the Government's flagship health insurance program.

The meeting also addressed and sought to resolve other issues related to the health insurance scheme.

Present at the meeting were committee members, including the Chief Medical Officer, the Assistant Commissioner Development, the District Grievances Nodal Officer and other concerned officers.

Rahul has brought SC/ST/OBCs at Centre stage of national politics: Tara Chand

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MAR 14

Former Dy C.M. and Chairman JK Congress Campaign Committee Shri Tara Chand has said that for the first time the SCs, STs, OBCs & other oppressed classes have been brought into the centre stage of politics in the country by Shri Rahul Gandhi and asked the weaker sections to fully support the congress party & Shri Rahul Gandhi to transform the political system in the country and change the destiny of our future generations.

Addressing a largely attended rally of SC/ST/OBC and other weaker sections at village Bhamaal here today Shri Tara Chand expressed gratitude to the party leadership of

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge especially Shri Rahul Gandhi for transforming the entire dynamics of the politics of this country by bringing the oppressed sections of the society into the centre stage of the country's politics and changing the entire political course. The people of weaker sections of society should understand and realize the difference brought about by the latest struggle of Shri Rahul Gandhi and congress party for the betterment and dueshare of the weaker sections, into the main stream politics of the country. Congress party has lot of contributions towards the participation and upliftment of the Dalits, backward, marginalized communities in every sphere including reservation

in services, professional courses and in political sphere of the country right from parliament, state legislatures and PRIs, as it all started from Nehru era and continued and improved further. It was Pt. Nehru as P.M. who appointed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as first law minister of India and entrusted him the job of drafting the constitution, which is under threat of change by the BJP-RSS, today, if not stopped.

Tara Chand said that under the dynamic leadership of Rahul Gandhi, congress has started a movement to bring these communities into the centre stage of mainstream politics, when the entire politics of all political parties and the country now revolves around the oppressed

classes and weaker sections and it will change the destiny of our people and ensure real justice to them.

It is time for the poor and weaker sections to pick up thread and rally around congress and Rahul Gandhi's leadership for the betterment of their future generations. Terming Modi Guarantees as Election Jumlas, the senior Congress leader asked people to trust congress guarantees to the youth, women, farmers and common people like disbanding Agniveer and holding regular recruitments, filling 30 lacs Centre Govt. jobs, one lakh to each woman of poor family per year, doubling the salary of Anganwadi, Asha workers, recruitment in each Panchayat for legal aid

to women, MSP, legal guarantee to farmers etc, which will transform the life of common people. He said BJP & Modiji have cheated people and gave so many guarantees before 2014 elections but all proved false & election jumlas. Now they don't refer to black money, 2 crore jobs, 15 lac to each account, checking price rise, women security & MSP guarantee. All sections felt cheated by the BJP's slogans while during elections, as BJPs strategy is to raise emotional & religious issues for exploiting voters. BJP has cheated Daily Wagers, need based, temporary, contractual employees, Anganwadi, Asha workers & others in J&K, brought miseries to all sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir.

GDC Billawar celebrates International Women's Day, 2024



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BILLAWAR, MAR 14

GDC Billawar celebrated International Women's Day, 2024 with great enthusiasm under the patronage of Dr. Alka Sharma, Principal GDC Billawar. The day was celebrated by showing a screening of video of 'Inspiring Indian Women'. The video also displayed the social, economic, cultural and political

achievements of these women in their respective fields.

As the world is facing many crises, ranging from geopolitical conflicts to soaring poverty levels and the escalating impacts of climate change. These challenges can only be addressed by solutions that empower women. By investing in women, we can spark change and speed the transition towards a healthier, safer,

and more equal world for all. The purpose of the event was not only to showcase the achievements but also to inspire and empower the young girl students of the college, most of whom hail from the far-flung area of Billawar.

The program was attended by more than 100 students including boys and girls. The faculty members of the college also attended the event.

Col Mahan inaugurates vital road link connecting isolated communities in Kathua

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAR 14

In a significant development for the residents of Kathua, Colonel Mahan Singh, the DDC Chairman, spearheaded the inauguration of a crucial 3 km road link funded by NABARD. The newly inaugurated Nabard road, stretching from GHS Jhanker to Baguin (Papral), marks a pivotal moment for connectivity in the region.



amidst resounding slogans and drumbeats. Alongside the Colonel, notable figures including Kewal Kr Sarpanch, Nirmal Singh, Sham Singh Kuderia, Mast Ram, and others graced the occasion.

Addressing the gathered crowd, DDC Chairman expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the residents, emphasizing the transformative impact of the new road. He extended sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and LG Manoj

Sinha for their crucial role in releasing funds and fulfilling the longstanding aspirations of the isolated region.

Highlighting the significance of enhanced connectivity, he underscored its potential to catalyze development and facilitate easy access for residents to nearby blocks and district centers. The inauguration of the Nabard road stands as a testament to the collective efforts towards fostering inclusive growth and prosperity in Kathua.

CUJ in collaboration with JKSDM organize State Level India Skills Competition

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

Central University of Jammu in collaboration with Mission Directorate, J&K Skill Development Mission organised State Level India Skills Competition 2023-24. India Skills Competition is a biennial event in skill competition involving participation from all over the country. Today's event witnessed participation of shortlisted candidates from across UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event marked the display of talent in Cloud Computing and Graphic Designing. The programme was formally inaugurated under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu by Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ in presence of Ms. Leena Padha, Director Mission Directorate, J&K Skill Development Mission and Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Principal,



Community College.

Leena Padha, Director Mission Directorate, J&K Skill Development Mission in her address highlighted the key features of the competition and the role of Mission Directorate in this path breaking initiative towards providing a platform to youth of J&K for displaying their talent at national level. Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar CUJ apprised that the candidates shortlisted today will participate in

the national competition which is scheduled later this year.

Leena further stressed that we have to give equal importance to competencies, applied knowledge and hands-on training to lead in the 21st century.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar provided a brief overview of academic and research activities being carried out in the University. He reminded everyone of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's call for

enhancing competency over acquiring degrees alone. Prof. Yashwant highlighted the importance of employable skills, which will increase market acceptance of the workforce. Mr. Zia-ul-haque Kohli, Joint Director, J&K Skill Development Department observed that the Department will collaborate with the University in future in executing skilling initiatives.

Earlier, Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Principal, Com-

munity College welcomed the participants and team of Mission Directorate, J&K Skill Development Mission. Prof. Bhasin in her address emphasized on the importance of Skilling and India Skills Competitions 2023-24. She apprised the audience that the University is extensively involved in promoting capacity building and skilling initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion a team of faculty members from Department of CS&IT Prof. Yashwant Singh, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Singh, Dr. Neerinder Yadav, Dr. Arvind Salwal acted as jury members whereas Mr. Zakir Sheikh, Mr. Dhruv Kumar provided technical support for the conduct of the competition. Dr. Shahid Mushtaq from School of Business Studies and Mr. Khalid Sheikh from Mission Directorate coordinated the entire event and proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Modi Govt going full-throttle to ensure J&K's all round devp: Kavinder

Kick-starts devp works at Cantonment Area

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

The BJP Government headed by PM Narendra Modi is going full throttle to achieve the mission of J&K's all round development with no room left for any kind of prejudice.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta after the launch of development works of blacktopping, lanes, drains and laying of tiles at Ward No 6, Cantonment Area with an estimated cost of Rs 30 lakhs. On the occasion, senior leaders of the Party namely Vinay Gupta, Narinder Gupta, Bharat Bhushan, Avtar Singh, Ajay Sharma, Suraj Raina, Dalair Singh, Surjit Singh, Hans Raj, Ravi Sharma, Vinod Sharma, Manjit Singh, Amrik Singh, Surjit Singh, Onkar Singh, Balwant Singh, Balwant Singh and Manmohan Singh accompanied the former deputy Chief Minister during the inauguration of the aforesaid development work.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder said unlike NC, PDP and Congress parties which seek mandate using divisive tac-



tics, the BJP has taken the 'development route' to become popular among the masses. "It has set the goal of serving the society without distinction and discrimination of region, religion or linguistic contours. This is the reason that people of all hues and ethnic groups have started showing undaunted faith in the party which earnestly believe in Sabka Saath Sabka Vishwas", he said, adding that people should give overwhelming support to BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls to ensure that party continues with the development spree with more confidence and added pace.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said the

momentum of development process in the UT of J&K after abrogation of Article 370 is unprecedented and the same is continuing unabated giving shape to aspirations of the people in an extraordinary manner", he said, adding that no other party has will and guts to emulate the precedent set by the BJP in ensuring development making the party the first choice of all.

Later, Kavinder interacted with people of the area and listened to their issues related to civic amenities. He assured them that their issues will be redressed in a shortest possible time by taking the same with the authorities concerned.

Live Streaming of launch of Semiconductor facilities by PM organized at SMVDU



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) had the esteemed privilege of hosting the live streaming of the momentous launch of three cutting-edge semiconductor facilities by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Held at the premises of SMVDU, this event stood as a significant milestone in India's technological advancement. The live-streamed launch event showcased the inauguration of three state-of-the-art semiconductor facilities, exemplifying India's unwavering dedication to technological innovation and self-reliance in the semiconductor industry. It underscored the nation's commitment to fostering indigenous capabilities and reinforcing its posi-

tion as a global leader in technology. In conjunction with the launch, SMVDU organized an insightful interaction session held in lecture theatre, focusing on "The Role of Academia in Viksit Bharat." Mr. Pritam Banerjee, representing Trident Tech Labs, offered invaluable insights during the session which was attended by students, faculty, and staff of SMVDU, the interaction provided a platform to deliberate on the pivotal role of academia in nurturing innovation and propelling progress in a developed India. The event was coordinated by Prof. K. R. Jha, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor at the School of Computer Science and Engineering, and Mr. Ashish Suri, Assistant Professor at the School of

Electronics and Communication Engineering. Their dedication and concerted efforts ensured the seamless execution of the event, fostering meaningful discussions and facilitating collaboration among participants. Mr. Ashish Suri, Assistant Professor at the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, presented the introduction and delivered a formal vote of thanks for the event. His eloquent expression of gratitude encapsulated the significance of the occasion and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of all stakeholders involved. SMVDU remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting academic excellence, nurturing innovation, and contributing to India's journey towards emerging as a global technological powerhouse

Expert Lecture on "Role of NCC in Nation Building" held at SMVD University

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

In an enlightening session at SMVD University, an Expert Lecture on "Role of NCC in Nation Building" was held for the students at SMVD University. The event, organized by Dr. Varun Dutta, Assistant Professor at SMVDU, featured Lieut. (Dr.) Pankaj Mehta as the keynote speaker. Dr. Mehta, who also serves as an Assistant Professor at Central University of Jammu and as an NCC officer, brought forth valuable insights and experiences to the discussion.

The gathering was further enriched by the presence of two NCC cadets of 2nd JK BN, NCC, Cdt. Rohit Kumar and Cdt. Masum Raja, who showcased various activities undertaken during NCC camps. Through practical demonstrations, they exemplified the essence of discipline, teamwork, and leadership instilled by NCC training. Dr. Mehta, drawing from his dual roles as an educator and an NCC officer, elaborated on the significance of NCC in nurturing responsible and patriotic citizens. He highlighted how the values imbibed through

NCC activities contribute to the holistic development of individuals and, consequently, to the progress of the nation. Students attending the discussion expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive understanding gained about the multifaceted contributions of NCC towards nation-building. Witnessing the practical applications of NCC principles left a lasting impression on their minds, instilling a sense of pride and responsibility towards serving the nation. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, lauded the initiative, emphasizing the importance of such discussions in shaping socially conscious individuals capable of making positive contributions to society. He reiterated the university's commitment to providing holistic education that equips students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for societal advancement. Other members present on the occasion were Registrar, SMVDU, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Dean Student Welfare, Prof. R. K. Mishra, and Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh.

Astro India launches Thar Earth



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Thar Earth edition is inspired by the Thar Desert and the SUV features a Desert Fury satin matte paint scheme. Thar Earth Edition will be available in four variants in the LX Hard Top 4x4 guise, with prices starting at Rs 15.40 lakh and going up to Rs 17.60 lakh (both prices ex-showroom). In terms of design, the Thar Desert edition looks the same as the regular Thar but features exclusive Desert Fury satin matte paint with dune-inspired

decals on the rear fender and doors, Earth Edition badging on the B-pillars, matte black badges, floor mats, and a comfort kit.

Moving inside, the SUV gets a dual-tone theme of black and light beige layout with dune designs on the headrests, Thar branding on the doors, and dark chrome accents all around. Additionally, it gets Desert Fury-coloured inserts for the AC vents, centre console, and steering wheel. Mahindra also said that each unit will get a unique numbered decorative

VIN plate. Customers can also opt for accessories such as customised front and rear armrests, floor mats, and a comfort kit.

The Thar Earth Edition will be available in both petrol and diesel engine options. A 2.2-litre, four-cylinder, turbocharged diesel engine which puts out 130PS and 300Nm of torque and a 2.0-litre, turbo-petrol engine which puts out 150PS and 320Nm. Both engine options come paired with a six-speed manual or a six-speed torque converter automatic transmission.

Civil Defence Awareness Program organized in Central Sanskrit University



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Civil Defence Awareness Program was organized during a special camp of National Service Scheme Unit of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. In this awareness program, 150 volunteers participated. On this occasion,

Deputy Controller Civil Defence DSP, Anita Panwar talked about ways to protect oneself as well as help others during accidents and disasters. In this program, the participants were given information that when a disaster occurs, how they have to help the people in trouble while saving their own lives.

Dr. Romesh Khajuria takes over as chairman of Carpet Export Promotion Council

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/ JAMMU, MAR 14:

Carpet exporter and entrepreneur Dr Romesh Khajuria on Thursday took charge as Chairman of Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India New Delhi. The government of India yesterday appointed Dr Khajuria, chairman of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC), Ministry of Textile, Government of India, as Chairman CEPC at New Delhi in an impressive ceremony. Dr. Khajuria has been appointed Chairman of Carpet Export Promotion Council, Min-



istry of Textiles, Govt of India top priority is to hold elections for the post of 18 committee of administration (COA) Members and vice chairman in accordance with Memorandum and Articles of Association and Election Rules of CEPC amended till date it was stated by Dr Khajuria.

Dr Khajuria son of the soil hailed from Jammu's village Rehal in Bishnah. Khajuria also deals with growth of the entrepreneur ecosystem and exports of Wool and Woollen blended based products.

Taking over charge of the posts, Khajuria thanked government for giving him important

responsibility.

Dr. Romesh Khajuria is presently also the Chairman of Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC) since March, 2022. During his tenure as Chairman, WWEPC, Dr Romesh has contributed to the promotion of export of Woollen Products from the country and the Council has undertaken aggressive export promotion strategy by participating in trade Fairs/exhibitions in countries like France, Italy, Spain, UAE, Japan, Australia, UK, USA, Brazil and Canada. During Dr. Khajuria's tenure WWEPC also arranged following national level events in India:

National Seminar on Bhakti Literature concludes at CSU

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

A national seminar was organized by the Hindi Department of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu on Bhakti literature in the context of Sanskrit, Hindi and Dogri language on 13 and 14 March. The chief guest of its inauguration was Prof. Ram Kumar Sharma of Central Sanskrit University, Jaipur Campus. He said that there is an inexhaustible store of devotional literature in Sanskrit. Along with this, Prof. Manoj Kumar Singh of the Hindi Department of Banaras Hindu University, in his address as a special guest, said that the rise of the Bhakti period was a transformative event in Hindi literature. The literatures indirectly worked to unite the society through devotional literature. Padmashree Jitendra Udhampur, as Saraswat guest, read Dogri poetry related to devotional literature. The program was presided



over by Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra. A total of four sessions were organized in the national seminar in which about 150 research papers were read. The reading of research papers was done on hybrid mode in which eminent professors and research students from different universities and colleges of the country participated. The chief guest of the concluding session of the national seminar was Prof. Manoj Kumar Mishra of Central Sanskrit University, Gangnanth Jha campus. He made a minute review of various points of Bhakti literature in Sanskrit. He stated that there has been a distinct tradition of devotional literature in Hindi, Sanskrit and Dogri languages. Special guests of the program, Vice Chancellor of Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divy-

ang University, Chitrakoot, Prof. Shishir Kumar Pandey, Guest of Honor, Prof. Prabhakar Singh of Kashi Hindu University, Saraswat Guest, Guests of Dogri Department of Jammu University, Dr. Padmdev Singh, Sanjay Bansal, Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor, Dr. Ramdas Sharma were present. A detailed report of the seminar was presented by Kamal Kishore, Professor of Dogri subject. The program was presided over by Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra. Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh was the coordinator of the program. Technical support was provided by Tirupati Bala and Manoj Abrol. The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Rekha Mishra of the Hindi Department. The program was successfully conducted by Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi.

Yudhvir reiterates BJP's commitment to prompt resolution of public problems

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President today reaffirmed the Party's dedication to swiftly address the grievances of the general public.

This commitment was underscored during a 'redressal camp' held at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan in Kacchi Chawni, Jammu. The camp was organized by Yudhvir Sethi with the primary objective to address the problems being faced by the general public hailing from the East constituency of district Jammu.

Parveen Korni, President East Mandal, Arun Sethi, General Secretary East Mandal, Naseeb Singh Shakti Kendra Parmukh Aithem also accompanied the senior BJP leader during the camp.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders. Various deputations, including individual persons-most of whom were women-visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other devel-



opment-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the phone. He assured the visiting people that he will take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon.

The senior BJP leader reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party to prioritize and resolve the issues and concerns voiced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the BJP stands as a bridge between the government and the masses, dedicated to ensuring effective communication and prompt action on the grievances of the citizens.

Yudhvir Sethi mentioned that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi,

has a personal interest in the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that the BJP-led government at the Centre has taken various initiatives to address the issues of unemployment, poverty, and underdevelopment in the Union Territory.

He also underscored the party's proactive approach in engaging with the public, listening to their woes, and swiftly addressing their concerns. He reiterated that the BJP's mission is not only to govern but also to serve the people, fostering a sense of trust and collaboration between the government and the populace. Through initiatives like these, the BJP aims to strengthen the democratic fabric of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring inclusive development and prosperity for all its residents, he added.

NSS SMVDU organizes Millet food promotional event at Govt. School



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

NSS volunteers of SMVDU Katra organized a millet food promotional activity at Govt. Primary school in village Sool. Volunteers prepared 'Makki ki Roti', green vegetable and other food items for school students and staff members. The food was prepared with the help of firewood on chulha by the volunteers. Vice chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar graced the occasion and also helped volunteers in food preparation. The millet based food was served with Lassi and Gur (jaggery). NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma briefed school students about benefits of millet foods in their diet. Cultural performances by school students and NSS

volunteers were also there including dogri song and dance. Volunteers also played indigenous games with school students. NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and staff member Mr. Avdesh Gupta organized the event with the help of volunteers. NSS coordinator also thanked school authorities including incharge Mr. Romesh Chand, Mrs. Mamta Sharma and Mrs. Anju Anand for the support in organizing the event. NSS student coordinators Sadhvi Sharma and Abhishek Sharma led the whole event successfully. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragti Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS team and also promised to donate laptop and cardboard based puzzle games to school.

Balwant Thakur attends National Seminar on 'Playwriting in India' as key speaker

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI 14TH MARCH, 2024

Balwant Thakur the eminent playwright and theatre director attended the National Seminar on playwriting in India at World's largest literature festival organised by National Academy of Letters (Sahitya Akademi) Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Apart from Balwant Thakur the discourse 'Playwriting in India' was addressed by top playwrights including D.P Sinha, Devindera Raj Ankur, Soumitra Mitra, Dilip Borkar, Mahendra Malangiya, Y. Sadanand Singh, Abhiram Bhadkamar and Bigoy Kumar Satapathy.



avenues enabling support for the young playwrights. Playwriting is a complete craft and has its defined grammar and the younger generation of playwrights is required to be professionally trained into that mastery for the larger concern of the development of theatre in India. Known for bringing Dogri Theatre in the global limelight, Balwant Thakur has 27 original plays to his credit which vibrated the theatre scene of India. His prominent plays include 'Ghumayee', 'Suno Eh Kahani', 'Iss Gran Gi Swarg Banai Lo', 'Gulab Gatha', 'Mere Hisse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai', 'Rang Badalti Duniyan', 'Aap Hamare Hain Kaun', 'Hum Hain Naa', 'Udaan', 'Gatte Ehh Maanu', 'Choonha hai Aasmaan', 'Kahani Hamari Tumhaari', 'Aag', 'Parvaaz', 'Rangroot', 'Loktan-

tra Ka Mantra', and 'Mere Bhi Ehen Kish Khaab'. His play 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun' has been translated in English, Creole and French.

Coveted with highest Indian honour in performing arts i.e., Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for direction in theatre and Padmashree, Balwant Thakur held very prestigious positions including Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Regional Director Indian Council for Cultural Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Cultural Diplomat of India to the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Mauritius. He holds a unique credit of having held his artistic presentations in over a record 100 international cities globally.

One Day Awareness Camp Organized by Civil Defence, Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MARCH 14

One day Awareness programme on First Aid, CPR, Choking, Fire Fighting and other emergency rescue methods was organized at Central Sanskrit University Kot Bhalwal, Jammu in which 90 NSS Students including Girls Students of the University participated. The Program was organized under the supervision of Dy. SP. Anita Pawar, Dy. Controller Civil Defence,

Jammu who gave awareness about basic knowledge through demonstration by Civil Defence experts. The main aim of the awareness programme was to make aware the students and staff members with regard to preventive measures during natural or Man-made Disaster.

On the occasion a lecture was also delivered by Dy.SP. Anita Pawar on the topics of Disaster Management and highlighted the role of Civil Defence in

the organization. Dr. Shri Dharan Mishra, Director of the University appreciated the role of Civil Defence in spreading awareness about disaster management and rescue.

R.Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu, Dr. Rishi Raj HoD Education, Dr. Maninder Singh Programme Officer NSS, Dr. Yogendra Dixit, Programme Coordinator and other staff members of the University were also present on the occasion.

Former Minister calls on LG



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

Sh Abdul Gani Kohli, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today at Raj Bhawan and apprised him of various development issues of Rajouri and Poonch area.

The former Minister was accompanied by Sh

Haroon Choudhary, In-charge BJP ST Morcha J&K and Sh Haji Mohd. Yusuf, President All J&K Gujjar Bakerwal Conference.

Subsequently, members of Gandhi Global Family J&K led by its President Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, called on Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan and put forth several issues of public importance.

Prominent citizens of Ghagwal block announce support to Congress



JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAR 14

The Congress Party has geared up for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Congress party leaders are going from village to village every day seeking support in favor of the party. To gauge the pulse of the people and seek support in favor of the Congress Party, a meeting was organized in a village under the block under the chairmanship of Raj Khajuria, Block President of Ghagwal Block of the Congress Party. In which people from nearby villages participated. During this, District President Sanjeev Sharma arrived as the chief guest. During this, District President SC Department Vinod Kumar, Vinay Kumar State Vice President SC Department, Hari Dutt District Vice President, Vijay Kumar, Ravi Kumar and others were present with him. During the meeting, people narrated their plight and told Sanjeev Sharma that we had voted for BJP in the last two Lok Sabha elections, but as a reward our children have got unemployment. Inflation has broken our

back. Even after registering a complaint regarding the poor condition of the street drains, no hearing is taking place. Since then, anger against BJP has started in our area. During this time, District President Sanjeev Sharma held a meeting and sought support for Congress in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Addressing the people, Sanjeev Sharma said that despite being educated, the youth are wandering on the streets and when the youth go to the government to ask for jobs, they are lathicharged by the government. Many people in Ghagwal block are temporarily serving in the PHE department. When those people go to demand their rights, they are also beaten with sticks. Therefore, now is the time that everyone should unanimously decide to support Congress in the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and teach a tough lesson to BJP. Whereas Sanjeev Sharma said that due to the trust that the people of Ghagwal block have shown in him, he promises that he will stand with the people of Ghagwal block in every difficulty, at all times.

World Kidney Day celebrated at GHS Bijarni Doda



JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 14:

Acting upon the directions of worthy Director Health Services Jammu Dr Rakesh Magotra and under the guidance of CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar & BMO Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor, an awareness programme to celebrate the "World Kidney Day" was held at GHS Bijarni under AAM-Sub Centre Bijarni District Doda on 14-03-2024. The day is celebrated every year on the 2nd Thursday of March all over the world to create awareness about kidney diseases. Mr Faizan A Tramboo from the health department on this occasion

delivered a lecture about the importance of kidneys and reducing the frequency, impact of kidney diseases and its associated health problems. The health team also encouraged the participants and general public to take care of their kidneys right from childhood to ensure a healthy life ahead. The stress was laid on healthy life style, which includes regular exercises, keeping weight in check, monitoring blood pressure regularly, having adequate fluid and most importantly refrain from smoking and self-medication. The programme was attended by a large number of students, staff and general public of the area.

SVEEP awareness programme held at Govt HS Katwalt Ramnagar



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Systematic Voters Education and electoral participation (SVEEP) today organized at High School Katwalt on 13 March 2024 under the chairmanship of Head master Smt Sulekha Devi Nodal officer. Mr Kuldeep Kumar Booth Level officer detailed discuss regarding SVEEP program and informed the Voters as discussed in the online meeting on 11 March with

Worthy SDM ,ERO Ramnagar . PRI members took active participation in this programme. Vilaage numberdar, chowkidar young voter miss Naresh Thakur delivered speech regarding the programme and motivated the public present in the programme. Teachers of village Katwalt ,BLOs , Anganwadi Workers, Helper of Katwalt, students, and locals were present in the programme. Students of Govt High school Katwalt and Government Middle

school Sangli Katwalt diplayed nukkad natak , dogri songs and some other activities regarding this programme. Moreover Headmaster and nodal officer smt Sulekha Devi gave detailed presentation and expressed gratitude to present members for giving co-operation in this awareness programme. Others who were spokes on the occasion Kuldeep Kumar, Surinder Singh Master, Rampal BLO, Ranjeet BLO etc.

District Level Neighborhood Youth Parliament organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Jammu in Samba



JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAR 14

Nehru Yuva Kendra, Jammu, successfully orchestrated a District Level Neighborhood Youth Parliament at Bhargav Degree College, Samba District. The event, graced by the presence of esteemed Chief Guest Shri Keshav Dutt Sharma, Chairman of the District Development Council, witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth representatives who engaged in stimulating discussions and activities. The event commenced with a warm welcome extended by Nissar Ahmed Butt, State Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Jammu & Kashmir, to the Chief Guest, resource persons, and all participants. In the subsequent session, participants were enlightened about the MY Bharat portal and were encouraged to register on the platform for enhanced engagement and access to government services. During the third session, various resource persons delivered enlightening lectures on diverse topics. Principal Netar Singh elucidated on 'Nar-

ishakti', delving into the historical significance and the struggles faced by women. Principal Sh. PK Dhar emphasized the importance of 'Vocal for Local', advocating for local entrepreneurship and sustainable development. Chief Scientist KVK Sh. Sanjay Kumar Khajuria enlightened the audience about millets, showcasing samples and highlighting their nutritional benefits. Sh. Vijender Singh Jamwal, Nodal Officer of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute, discussed 'New India, New Initiatives', guiding youth towards emerging opportunities for their future endeavors. Following the sessions, participants engaged in a mock parliament, simulating proper parliamentary procedures and addressing local issues of significance. This interactive segment provided a platform for constructive dialogue and collaboration among participants. The program concluded with heartfelt gratitude expressed by the Principal of Bhargav Public School Dr. Subash Kumar towards the Chief Guest and all resource persons. Shri Keshav Dutt Sharma, in

a gesture of appreciation, honored all the resource persons for their valuable contributions. Mrs. Bimlesh Kaur, APA State Office NYKS J&K, Mr. Anmol Bajaj, APA NYK Jammu, along with other staff members and NYVs of NYK Jammu, were also present during the program, adding to the vibrancy and success of the event. The event culminated with a collective rendition of the National Anthem, symbolizing unity and patriotism.

Reasi Police arrests fraudster within 01 week in multi-crore scam in sub treasury Arnas



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

A Case FIR no 19/2024 US 409/420/477-A IPC stands registered in Police Station Arnas in connection with fraud and loss to govt exchequer of Rs 1.38 Crores in sub treasury Darmari. After committing offence fraudster namely Ali Shah went underground to evade arrest.

Sensing the gravity of the offence *SSP Reasi Ms Mohita Sharma constituted a special team comprising *Insp.Vijay Kumar SHO P/S Arnas, SI Lalit Sharma* under the supervision of *Sh.Mohd.Irfan Khan (SP)SDPO Arnas.*

Police team led by SDPO Arnas Sh Mohd Irfan Khan raided at various locations in Jammu. Finally today on a specific information alleged kingpin namely Ali Hussaia Shah S/o Azam Hussain Shah R/o H. No. 21 Shergarhi Tehsil Chasana District Reasi J&K A/P Bandi Mahore (MTS assistant, Sub treasury Dharmari) got arrested.

Sharing the information *SSP Reasi Ms Mohita Sharma IPS* conveyed that the criminal who was evading the arrest from the last one week and who wrongfully gained the amount causing loss of Govt. Exchequer of worth Rs 1,38,17,971/- by way of cheating and falsification

of accounts at Sub Treasury Dharmari arrested today. SSP Further added that Two other accused namely Ajeet Kumar S/o Punjab Ram R/o Rayala Tehsil Pouni Disrict Reasi Roopnagar, Reasi (assistant treasury officer, Sub treasury Dharmari) and Balbir Singh S/o. Kirpa Kotli Lajpat Tehsil Bhomag District Reasi A/P Geeta Nagar, Reasi (account assistant, got also arrested for involvement in the criminal conspiracy of the act committed. People appreciated the quick action of Reasi police in arresting the main criminal involved in this heinous crime.

Doda Police conducts Awareness Program on New Criminal Laws



JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAR 14

Doda Police Department organized an awareness program on the newly implemented criminal laws in India on March 13, 2024. The program, held at Government Degree College Doda (GDC Doda), aimed to educate the public about the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya

Adhiniyam (BSA). These new laws replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and Indian Evidence Act, respectively. The initiative, led by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda Shri Javaid Iqbal-JKPS, witnessed participation from faculty members, students of GDC Doda, Station House Officers (SHOs), and In-charge Police Posts of Sub-Division Doda. Deputy SP DAR Doda Shri

Mohd Aslam and Deputy SP Hqrs Doda Shri Ajay Anand delivered lectures on the new laws, explaining their provisions and significance. The program was well-received by the participants, who appreciated the police department's efforts in raising awareness. Attendees requested further programs to ensure comprehensive understanding of the new legal framework among the general public.

Restore statehood of J&K, conduct assembly elections soon: Dr. Preeti Bhagat

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has said that assembly elections should also be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir immediately after the Lok Sabha. Apart from this, there should be no delay in restoring the statehood. The people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot wait any longer for the restora-

tion of democracy. SHE said that there has been no elected government in Jammu and Kashmir for the last several years due to which there is an atmosphere of despair among the people. If Lok Sabha elections can be held in Jammu and Kashmir then why is there a delay in holding assembly elections. The government should conduct assembly elections in Jammu

and Kashmir immediately after the Lok Sabha elections, but for this it is necessary that first by following the orders of the Supreme Court, the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir should be restored. SHE said that it is the job of the Election Commission to visit the states. This is not the first time that they are coming here. The Election Commission in a state starts prepara-

tions for elections months in advance. This is a regular exercise. All the political parties of Jammu and Kashmir have raised the demand for holding assembly elections soon. Now it is up to the Election Commission and the Central Government as to when they will hold the elections. But depriving the people of the elected government for a long time is against democracy.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH RURAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 175 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/individuals for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Est. cost (in Lakh)	Cost of document / tender fee (in Rs.)	Bid Securing Declaration	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Repair/Serviceing of 160 KVA DG set installed at Chief Office, Jal Bhawan Narwal Jammu.	0.39	Rs. 200/-	Bid Securing Deceleration form as per Annexure "A".	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing: 12/03/2024

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **12/03/2024 (02:00 P.m)**
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **12/03/2024 (02:00 P.m) to 18/03/2024 (12:00 P.m)**.
- After opening the tender Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table (and for DIC/SSI registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K Govt.) payable at Jammu pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Rural Division Jammu.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year from the date of issuance of tender. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of Treasury Challan/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu payable at Jammu.

Sd/-
(Er. Tarun Arora)
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural
Division Jammu

DIP/J-16054/23
Date: 14-3-24

Hold Parliament, Assembly polls simultaneously in J&K: Tony

JI NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, MAR 16

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Member Suchetgarh, emphasized the critical need for democratic representation in Jammu and Kashmir by urging the visiting Election Commission to hold Assembly polls in the Union Territory simultaneously with the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in the country.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of a programme held here today, the senior Congress leader underscored the importance of addressing the genuine aspirations and demands of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly amidst the absence of a popularly elected government since 2018. He highlighted the significant challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir due to the prolonged absence of a democratically elected leadership, emphasizing the urgency for conducting Assembly polls in tandem with the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Recognizing the present moment as an opportunity time to address the democratic deficit in the Union Territory, Tony



emphasized the need for inclusive and participatory democratic processes to ensure the representation of the diverse voices and aspirations of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that by holding Assembly polls simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission could facilitate the restoration of democratic governance in Jammu and Kashmir, fostering stability, progress, and inclusivity in the region.

During the event, Tony called upon the people of Suchetgarh to rally behind Rahul Gandhi and strengthen the hands of the Congress party by supporting its candidates in the upcoming polls. He emphasized the pivotal role of grassroots support in empowering the party's leadership and advancing its vision for a prosperous

dedicate the newly constructed community hall to the people of Sai Kalan Kandali in the Suchetgarh Constituency.

Speaking at the ceremony, Tony expressed his belief that the community hall would serve as a vital space for the people to gather and celebrate their social functions, fostering a stronger sense of unity and camaraderie among the residents.

In his address, Parvinder Singh Happy highlighted the significant strides taken in the development of Suchetgarh, asserting that the area stands at the forefront of progress. He emphasized the importance of community infrastructure like the newly inaugurated hall in furthering the socio-economic well-being of the residents. He also guided the youth to maintain universal brotherhood and stay away from drugs.

Local people thanked Tony for ushering in a new era of development in the border villages of Suchetgarh by setting a new benchmark of development.

Tony and Parminder Singh Happy also greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the commencement of New Year as per the Desi calendar.

CUJ organizes Special Lecture on "Empowering the Future: National Security and the Emerging Role of Young Voters"



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

The Office of Dean Students' Welfare and the Department of National Security Studies (NSS) at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the patronage of hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, jointly organised a Special lecture on the theme "Chunav Ka Parv, Desh Ka Gaurav". The lecture titled "Empowering the Future: National Security and the Emerging Role of Young Voters" was delivered by Lt. General Rakesh Kumar Sharma, AVSM, SM (Retd), and Squadron Leader Anil Sehgal (Retd).

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Head of the Department, NSS and

Dean of Students' Welfare, CUJ.

Lt. Gen Rakesh Kumar Sharma delivered an enlightening discourse on National Security and the role of young voters. He explained the various dimensions of National Security and how it affects and translates to conflict. He also clarified the concept of Comprehensive National Power and India's capability to counter wars. The speaker emphasized the role of young voters as responsible citizens in India's path to becoming a Viksit Bharat.

Special Remarks by Squadron Leader Anil Sehgal (Retd.) offered insights into the lecture's relevance within the context of Lt Gen Rakesh Kumar Sharma's message. He emphasised the political will and wisdom

of strong government and the role of civilians in contributing towards National Security. The role of voters to give confidence to a strong government by voting wisely was highlighted.

The Q&A session, moderated by Dr. Anuradha Choudhary, was interactive and engaging for faculty, students, and scholars from various departments.

Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor and the event coordinator delivered a Vote of Thanks. Other members of the organizing committee included Dr. Neeta Rani, Associate Professor, and Dr. Ekta Manhas, Assistant Professor. The event proceedings were capably hosted by Ms. Abhigya Langedh, a doctoral student of the department.

Abducted minor traced out and reunited with family by Bus Stand Police, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

A missing report of a minor (Name with held) was reported in the Police Station Bus Stand and a case FIR No. 10/2024 U/S 363/IPC was accordingly registered and investigation initiated.

Acting upon this, a Police team led by SHO Police Station Bus Stand Jammu did strenuous efforts under the supervision of SP City North Sh. Shivam Sidharth IPS and SDPO City North Sh. Davinder Singh JKPS and with the help of technical assistance and CCTV surveillance, the said missing minor girl got traced out within 72 hours by the police team of ps bus stand.

The above mentioned minor has been reunited with her family after completing all legal formalities. People have highly appreciated efforts of People

Missing Girl Traced out and reunited with legal heirs by Police Post Rehari, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 14.03.2024

That on 20-12-2023, one missing report of one complainant from Jammu Peer Mitha Jammu.* was lodged Vide DDR No. 13 Dated 20-12-2023 in Police Post Rehari Jammu on the written complaint of her brother.

Acting upon this, a Police team led by SHO Police Station Pacca Danga & IC PP Rehari did strenuous efforts and with the help of technical assistance, said missing Girl, was got traced by the police team, and after completing all legal formalities, she has been handed over to his legal heirs.

Ritika welcomes EC's readiness to conduct Parliament, Assembly polls simultaneously in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan today welcomed views of Election Commission of India (ECI) with regard to conducting Parliament and Assembly elections simultaneously in J&K. In a handout issued here she said BJP is ready and in favour of the decision if Lok Sabha and assembly polls are held together. She said the people of the Union Territory will get huge relief if simultaneous elections to the Assembly along with the ensuing Parliamentary elections are conducted. She said that people of J&K eagerly waiting to vote and elect a representative government of their own.

Ritika said that her party is in favour of early assembly polls in the Union Territory and that the polls will be held before September



this year. She said that the elections have to be announced by the Election Commission itself, and it is true that the polls will be held before September 2024, but BJP is in the favour of early elections here. In the last over four years, she said that the efforts have been made to ensure progress and peace in Jammu and Kashmir. "From August 2019 to till date, every minute and second under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been dedicated to ensure peace, progress and development in J&K. All the benefits being given to the people from

outside are being ensured to the people in the UT as well," she said.

Ritika further expressed the BJP's commitment to putting its full force into the elections to contribute to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of forming a BJP government at the Centre with improved numbers compared to the last elections. She outlined cadre's determination to surpass its previous performance, particularly in Jammu and Udhampur seats, expressing confidence in convincingly winning the Rajouri-Poonch-Anantnag constituency with broad support across society. "Time has come for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to come out of divisive politics of NC, PDP and Congress which has misled and politically blackmailed people of Jammu and Kashmir for their political gains", Ritika said.

Shiv Sena demands govt jobs for medal winners, transfer of funds to those deprived of cash awards

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has strongly welcomed the cash award to the medal winning athletes under the Sports Policy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Along with this, there has been a demand to open the doors of government jobs for these champions and to transfer the prize money to the accounts of the players who were deprived of taking the prize money due to some reason.

In a press conference organized at the party state central office today, state chief Manish Sahni said that for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 368 medal winners of 17 subjects of national and international competitions for the year 2021-22, 2022-23 were honored by the Lieutenant Governor with a special cash award, which is a commendable



and welcome step.

Sahni said that there is a feeling of disappointment among some medal winners who were deprived of getting this award. According to the information, due to some personal and other commitments, some medal winners could not complete the formalities on time to get this award money.

Sahni said that many medal winners have been deprived of receiving their awards due to reasons like being out of the state to participate in competitions and being busy at work. Sahni said that the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has the full list of medal winners is available. Sahni said that he appeals to transfer this cash prize amount to the accounts of

the champions who have brought glory to the country and the state without any discrimination.

Along with this, they also demand to immediately fulfill the promises of giving government jobs to medal winners under SRO 349, SO 12. Sahni said that appeal has been made through a memorandum regarding all the above demands, to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Honorable Manoj Sinha (who is the Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council). On this occasion President mehila wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Sanjeev Kohli, organiser Imran Shekh were present.

One Absconder apprehended by Police Station Nowabad

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 14.03.2024

Today a police team of Police Station Nowabad led by PSI Jeewan Kumar under the overall Supervision of SP City North, DySp Hqrs Jammu and SHO Nowabad apprehended an absconder namely Sikander Raj S/O Prithvi Raj R/O Bakshi Nagar, Jammu whose warrant for arrest was issued by the Hon'ble Court.

The said absconder was wanted in Case FIR no. 67/12 U/S 382 RPC of PS Nowabad and accordingly was produced before the Hon'ble Court of law.

Hegde's statement is proof of BJP's anti-constitutional mentality: Vijay Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Expressing strong objection to the statement of Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Lok Sabha member Anant Kumar Hegde about changing the Constitution, Jammu Kashmir Congress Seva Dal President Vijay Sharma Babbi has said that Hegde's statement reflects the anti-constitutional and anti-democratic mentality of the BJP. On one hand, BJP bows before Mahatma Gandhi and on the other hand, it makes such statements through its leaders so that an atmosphere of turmoil can be created in the country. Vijay Sharma said that the 2024 election in India is the last election of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao



Ambedkar to save the Constitution and democracy in the country. If Modi government comes to power again in 2024, they will work to sell the country and change the Constitution. The ideology of BJP and RSS is completely opposite to the commu-

nal fabric of this country. These two parties never contributed in establishing an atmosphere of peace in the country but instead kept instigating mutual fighting in the name of religion. The BJP high command wants to spoil the communal harmony in the country by getting its leaders to issue unrestrained statements before the elections. He said that the countrymen recognize this distorted mentality of BJP and will not fall into their trap this time.

Dr. Mool Raj elected as new staff secretary of GCW Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 14

Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur conducted election of the staff secretary for the session 2024-25, Where Dr. Mool Raj HOD Urdu has been elected as staff secretary unanimously.

The Convenor Election Cell of the college, Dr. Seema Sharma had issued the notification in

this regard on 12-03-2024 and the election was conducted on 14-03-2024. The election was held as per the stipulated norms in a free, fair and democratic manner. The formal announcement of the result was made by the Convenor Election Cell Dr. Seema Sharma.

The newly elected staff secretary also nominated his team, which include Dr. Shivani Suri Verma

[Joint Secretary], Prof. Pardeep Singh [Treasurer], Prof. Yash Kumar [Publicity Secretary], Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed, Dr. Madhvi Bhardwaj, Dr. Neha Antal, Dr. Sarabjeet Kour Sudan and Dr. Swati Dutt as members of the staff council respectively.

The entire process of election was completed with a formal thanks by newly elected staff secretary along with his team.

Jammu Police arrested drug peddler in RS Pura area, 18 grams of heroin (Chitta) recovered

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 14

Jammu Police continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, on 13/03/2024 patrolling party of Police Station RS Pura while on routine patrolling under the jurisdiction of Police Station R.S Pura on Govt vehicle arrested on drug peddler and recovered contraband.

During patrolling police party established a naka at Agra Chak road near Shamsan Ghat for checking/frisking in the afternoon and found that one pedestrian on the way from RS Pura towards Chak Agra and the pedestrian turned around and tried to flee from the spot.

The police party there-

after successfully overpowered the said pedestrian. On preliminary questioning, the said person disclosed his identity as *Mustaq Ahmed son of Zahur Husain R/o Gujjar Basti, Kadyal Tehsil RS Pura, District Jammu.

On personal search of the said pedestrian, a transparent polythene packet containing Heroin (Chitta) like substance is recovered from his possession (which measured approximately 18 grams).

The said accused person was arrested and contraband seized accordingly.

In this connection FIR No. 47/2024 under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station RS Pura and further investigation is going on.

AC extends Amnesty scheme for domestic consumers of electricity till March 2025

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

The Administrative Council which met here under the Chairmanship of Sh. Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor approved extension of Amnesty Scheme-2022 upto 31-3-2025 in favour of Domestic Consumers of electricity.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, J&K; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The scheme provides for waving off 100%

interest/surcharge on outstanding principal amount. In UT of J&K, the domestic consumer category comprises over 86% of JKPDD consumers and around 50% of total energy consumption in the UT is from the said category of the consumers.

However almost 30% of these Domestic consumers (Approx. 5.50 lakh) in the said sector are either making staggered payments or have not made any payment towards their electricity bills primarily due to huge accumulation of outstanding power dues including late payment surcharges/

interest which is leading to high commercial losses to JKPDD/ Discoms.

The Amnesty Scheme has resulted into the recovery of Rs. 235.58 crore from domestic consumers. The Domestic consumers shall be benefited by waving off the surcharge amount and payments of principal amount in affordable installments (EMIs).

The Government/DISCOMS shall be able to recover the outstanding principal amount which shall result in decreasing the ARR/ACS gap and shall have a positive effect on lowering of AT&C losses too.

Horticulture Department organises series of Farmers' awareness camps

J I NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 14

Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing-District Kathua a series of awareness camps in different parts of the District to promote government schemes launched for doubling the income of the progressive growers.

The camps were organized at Panchayat Amala and Fruit & Vegetable Market Kathua on two consecutive days.

A complete Know on Holistic Agricultural Development Program

HADP; PMFME-ODOP; Support for Packaging, e-Nam etc was imparted to Growers, Agripreneurs, Agri Traders by the district officers of stakeholder departments

A large gathering of members of FPOs, SHGs and Cooperative Societies participated and shared their experiences and disseminated information regarding strengthening of the Agricultural Marketing.

It was impressed upon the participants to avail benefits of the flagship schemes, for which the

stakeholder departments would provide adequate hand holding.

Also present on the occasion were the representatives of J&K Bank, Department Of Fisheries, Department of Cooperatives, Department of Agriculture /Horticulture.

Ex-Sarpanch Madhu Sharma and President F&V Market Kathua also spoke on the occasion.

Area Marketing Officer Horticulture Planning & Marketing Kathua, Shiv Sangra has assured full cooperation to the growers of the District Kathua.

Class 10 Exam: CEO Rajouri inspects different Examination centre

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 14

Chief Education Officer Rajouri, Mohammad Mush-taq, today conducted Surprise inspection of centres for class 10 Annual examination at Government High School Palam and Government High School Jahawar Nagar.

He directed the supervisory staff to stay extra vigilant to maintain the integrity and fairness of the examination process.

Evaluating the facilities, he asked the staff to ensure that students face no obstacles in the exam centre. The Education Department is regularly conducting surprise inspection in different exams centre including 8th, 10th and 12th in the District to ensure fair and transparent examination process, which is essential for the overall development and success of students.



J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 14

In a thrilling encounter between Civil ADM -XI (DM-XI) and Airforce XI, the Civil ADM -XI emerged triumphant, showcasing remarkable skills and teamwork under the guidance of Captain Rafiq Jaral, SDM Ramnagar.

Opting to bowl first after winning the toss, Airforce XI aimed to capitalize on early breakthroughs. Despite early setbacks, with four wickets down for just 38 runs in 7 overs, Civil ADM -XI rallied back but thanks to Ritik's outstanding innings of 40 runs off 29 deliveries and Sahil Verma's steady 25 runs off 21 balls, setting a competitive total of 125 runs in 15 overs. Vikrant and Asif of Airforce XI delivered exceptional bowling performances, each claiming 2 wickets in their 3 overs, exerting pressure on the Civil ADM-XI batting lineup.

In response, Airforce XI struggled to forge partnerships, managing only 69



runs on the scoreboard. The standout moment of the match was Nasir's phenomenal bowling, clinching a remarkable 5 wickets in just 3 overs, earning him the well-deserved Man of the Match accolade.

Civil ADM-XI demonstrated outstanding performance throughout the tournament, securing victories in all four matches against Udhampur XI, Army Commander XI, CAPF-XI, and today, Airforce XI, thereby earning their spot in the final match. Commentator Captain Sachayan Ghosh and Inderjeet Gupta, a legend-

ary bowler and mentor, provided insightful commentary throughout the match.

Raman Kumar, Rakesh, and Deepak Sharma officiated as umpires for the Bhaichara tournament.

The team captain conveyed heartfelt appreciation to 71 Sub Area, Northern Command Udhampur, for graciously hosting the Bhaichara T-20 Cricket tournament. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to District Magistrate Udhampur, Saloni Rai, for her invaluable support throughout the entirety of the tournament.

PGCIL signs MoU with District Administration Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 14

In a significant move aimed at enhancing healthcare facilities and cleanliness initiatives, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), a Government of India enterprise, has forged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the District Administration.



Under this collabora-

tive effort, PGCIL will

supply TB Testing TrueNat

Machines and five Garbage

Collection Vehicles to the

District Administration. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai emphasized the transformative impact of this initiative. She highlighted that the deployment of TB Testing TrueNat Machines will revolutionize tuberculosis testing, enabling swift detection and diagnosis of cases. Moreover, the provision of Garbage

Collection Vehicles will fortify waste management efforts, fostering a cleaner and healthier environment for residents. The collaboration between PGCIL and the District Administration signifies a pivotal advancement in healthcare and cleanliness infrastructure, underscoring their commitment to the community's well-being.

Chief Justice releases first monthly "Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Law Journal"

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, N Kitiswar Singh, today released the first and only monthly Law Journal of both UTs titled "Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Law Journal" (JKLLJ) at Lawyers' Chambers High Court Campus in presence of other distinguished Judges and learned Advocate General J&K.

Senior Advocates, Judges of District and Trial Courts, President YLA and members of Bar Association Jammu were also present on the occasion.

The Journal has been published by JKLLJ Publications, a sister concern of Capital Law House, Delhi, renowned Law Publishers.

The legal community celebrated a significant milestone today with release of this first ever and only monthly journal.



Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar Shukla, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Advocate General D.C. Raina, Senior Advocates U.K. Jalali, Ved Raj Wazir, R.K. Jain, Editor of JKLLJ Monish Chopra, President Young Lawyers Association Rohit Sharma and office bearers, large

number of members of J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu grace the occasion with their presence.

The Function was anchored and hosted by Advocate Monish Chopra Editor of JKLLJ who gave brief Introduction about the Journal. He stated that this first monthly journal of its kind in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh combines timely case insights with practi-



cal skill-building content. We aim to empower the legal community with a comprehensive resource that informs, educates, and inspires, he added. Our journal is committed towards crating and disseminating valuable content, including case laws of Jammu & Kashmir, local laws, legal news, insightful articles and highlights from the Supreme Court. He informed that a special and unique chapter

titled "Band and Robe" has also been added in Journal, dedicated to enhancing legal skills and professional development among legal practitioners, aspiring lawyers and law students within the region. We hope that JKLLJ will serve as an invaluable resource, enriching the knowledge and skills of the legal fraternity while fostering a culture of collaboration and excellence, he added.

AC gives nod to installation of vertical lift from Peerkho to Mubarak Mandi

Heritage Complex

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

The Administrative Council which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha accorded administrative approval for installation of vertical lift from Peerkho Station of Jammu Ropeway Project to Mubarak Mandi Heritage complex at an estimated cost of Rs 25.07 Cr.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, J&K; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The vertical lift comprises two lifts, each with a capacity of 13 passengers, ensuring efficient transportation between Peerkho Station and Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. The project includes foot over bridge for connectivity and safety measures for the passengers.

The installation of this lift will have no adverse structural impact on Mubarak Mandi Complex. The project has been conceptualised with technical vetting from IIT Jammu.

It is an initiative aimed to seamlessly integrate key tourist attractions, thus fostering tourism and cultural exploration of the region. The area is famous for ancient temples and has scenic advantage due to upcoming Tawi river front project.

Administrative Council transfers 22 kanals, 2 marlas land to Animal Husbandry Department

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

The Administrative Council (AC) which met here today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, approved transfer of 22 Kanals and 2 Marlas of land situated in Estate Devipora, tehsil Tulmulla, district Ganderbal in favour of Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) for establishment of Dairy Plant.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL) shall be implementing agency for implementation of the Central Sector Scheme, National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) which shall be contributing 90% of the funding under the central sector component, and remaining 10% will be JKMPCL's share, for execution of the project.

The project shall provide employment and reduce agro-farm wastages and also enhance nutritional value of the produce.

With this decision, approximately 1.50 lacks milk producers will be benefitted in the area and employment opportunities for approximately 400 to 500 people will be created.

AC changes Administrative department of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society from Tourism to Culture Department

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

The Administrative Council which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha accorded approval for change of administrative department of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society (MMJHS), Jammu, from Tourism Department to Culture Department.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, J&K; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

Since maintenance of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage complex aligns with the role and responsibility of the Culture Department, the proposal was mooted by Tourism Department for change of Administrative Department of the society from Tourism to Culture Department.

By placing MMJHS under the Culture Department, its projects will become part of the Culture Department's regular budget, making heritage preservation more organized and effective and will also address funding concerns and impart efficiency in control of the affairs of the complex.

Chairperson J&K Waqf Board calls on Lt Governor

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

Dr Andrabi briefed the Lt Governor on the upcoming projects and the activities undertaken by the Board for development of the Sufi Shrines in the Union Territory.