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J&K government dismisses an employees for Anti-National activities

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 15

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday dismissed an employee namely Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Laway, Teacher in Education Department S/o Mohammad Yaqoob Laway R/o Manzgam, DH Pora, District Kulgam under Article 311 of the Constitution of India for his involvement in anti-national activities. Article 311 of the Constitution of India provides for dismissal of a person employed in civil capacities under Union or a State.

The activities of the employee had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as they found him involved in activities prejudicial

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Lok Sabha Poll schedule to be announced today

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 15

The Election Commission will announce the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls on Saturday.

In a post on X, the poll panel said a press conference to announce the schedule for Lok Sabha elections and some state assemblies will be held at 3 pm on Saturday.

The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 16 and a new House has to be constituted before that.

Last time the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10 and held in seven phases beginning April 11. Votes were counted on May 23.

NDA will break previous records, says Modi on eve of poll dates announcement

JI NEWS SERVICE
PATHANAMTHITTA (KERALA), MAR 15

On the eve of the Parliament election schedule announcement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Friday that the BJP-led NDA would secure power at the Centre by surpassing previous records in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. He urged Kerala voters to convert their "substantial support" into votes so that the BJP wins seats in the double digits in the state.

"We are going to witness a grand festival of democracy soon. I have a firm belief that this time Kerala will immensely support the



translate into a huge support. I have a firm belief that this time all previous records will be broken. I have a firm belief that this time our Kerala will break the vicious cycle of LDF and UDF.

"I have a firm belief that this time Kerala will immensely support the

BJP. Modi promises you that he will leave no stone unturned to develop Kerala," Modi said, referring to himself in the third person, while addressing a huge meeting of the BJP-led NDA in this south Kerala town. His statement came shortly after the

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Women will have decisive say in J&K's Lok Sabha elections

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 14

Women this time will have a decisive role to play during the forthcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir with their electorate comprising 49 percent of total vote count.

Details available with the news agency, out of the total 86.93 lakh voters in Jammu and Kashmir, women make up 42.58 lakh voters. Anantnag leads in women's participation among the five parliamentary constituencies, with 9.02 lakh women voters.

Other constituencies also exhibit considerable female voter presence, with 8.52 lakh in Jammu, 8.44 lakh in Udhampur, 8.70 lakh in Srinagar, and 8.56 lakh in Baramulla. Over the years, the voting percentage of women in Lok Sabha elections has shown an

increasing trend, albeit with slight fluctuations.

The recent enactment of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and the provision of 33 percent reservation for women in the Legislative Assembly have bolstered enthusiasm among women, providing them with a golden opportunity to showcase their potential in politics. Efforts are underway at the party level to further enhance women's participation in politics, recognizing their longstanding contributions.

As the announcement of Lok Sabha elections draws near, women have begun actively ensuring their participation. The extent of their involvement as candidates will be revealed once all parties announce their nominees, with several parties, including the BJP, Congress, NC, PDP, Apni Party, and others, nominating women candidates, activating their respective wings.

Pulwama emerges as the sole district in Jammu and Kashmir where women voters outnumber men, with 2726 more women voters than men, out of a total of 403,795 voters. In other districts, male voters surpass female voters. In a bid to foster a conducive environment for women voters, pink booths will be established in all districts during the Lok Sabha elections, staffed entirely by female employees, an initiative by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Pertinent to mention that the increased participation of women was evident in the District Development Council (DDC) elections held in 2020, with over 98 percent voter turnout and the occupation of more than five DDCs by women.

SC to hear pleas for stay on implementation of citizenship amendment rules

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 15

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear pleas seeking a direction to the Centre to stay the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 till the pendency of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 before the apex court.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing

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CS reviews key developmental projects of Housing Department

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

In a significant step towards addressing the burgeoning issues of Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) in the UT, a high-level meeting was on Friday chaired by Chief Secretary, Atul Dulloo and attended by the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism besides other HoDs of the Housing and Rural Development Departments here.

While speaking in this meeting the Chief Secretary remarked that the



city infrastructure is the hallmark of development process anywhere. He emphasized on the importance of timely completion of all the utility and developmental projects for making the mobility and city dwelling more safer, easier and faster as per the modern standards of urban development world over.

The Chief Secretary directed that all the urban development projects, currently in the pipeline be expedited, placing public welfare as the foremost priority.

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BJP hails removal of Article 370 as Key Achievement, workers urged to intensify outreach

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday termed the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as its biggest achievement, emphasizing that the removal of the special status paved the way for the integration of erstwhile state with the country.

In an address at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, State BJP General Secretary Ashok Kaul as per the news agency, hailed the removal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as a monumental achievement for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He emphasized that this move has paved the way for the region's integration with India and accelerated its development trajectory.

Kaul asserted that the BJP's relentless efforts have been instrumental in steering Jammu and



Kashmir towards a path of progress and prosperity. He underscored the significance of the recent influx of individuals from diverse backgrounds into the party, citing it as a testament to the growing confidence in the BJP's vision and leadership.

Addressing a gathering of newly recruited members, Kaul highlighted the overwhelming response received by the BJP's nationwide engagement programs in Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that under the stewardship of the Prime Minister, India is poised to achieve unprecedented development milestones by 2047.

During the event, Kaul urged party workers to intensify their outreach efforts and mobilize support for the BJP ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Former MP Shamsher Singh Manhas and former minister Priya Sethi were also present on the occasion.

In a separate program, 42 senior citizens also pledged their allegiance to the BJP. Kaul extended a warm welcome to the new members, expressing optimism that their inclusion would fortify the BJP's organizational structure and advance its objectives in Jammu and Kashmir.

AC approves amendments in Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, 2005

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

The Administrative Council which met here under Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha approved the proposal of Social Welfare Department to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, 2005 in light of Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment)

Act, 2023 dated 15.12.2023, Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024, Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024 and recommendations of Jammu and Kashmir Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission constituted

vide Government Order No. 2030-JK (LD) of 2020 dated 19.03.2020.

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.

In light of addition of four new tribes i.e. Pahari

Ethnic Group, Paddari Tribe, Kolis and Gadda Brahmins, to the Scheduled Tribes Order as applicable to the J&K by the Parliament, the Administrative Council approved 10% reservation in favour of newly added tribes taking the overall reservation for STs to 20%. In order to ensure

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Modi government will grant citizenship to all eligible refugees: Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, and senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party Amit Shah, stated in an interview with the news agency ANI's podcast on Thursday that, "The Modi government will grant citizenship to all eligible refugees. CAA is a law to grant citizenship, not to take it away.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP government had mentioned in its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto about implementing the CAA and under the skilled guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation



Amit Shah, the CAA was implemented across the country before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It is evident from this that CAA is a matter of empathy for the BJP, not for political gain. From Rahul Gandhi to Owaisi and from Arvind Kejriwal to Mamata Banerjee, leaders of all

opposition parties are engaging in the politics of lies. Instead of opposing Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators, Arvind Kejriwal is spreading misconceptions against refugees for vote-bank politics. Mamata Banerjee should focus on preventing

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ACB arrests JE RDD for accepting bribe

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 15

Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have trapped and arrested J.E of Rural development department for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 5000 from complainant for processing and preparing bill of the work executed by the complainant.

As per a statement issued to the news agency, an information was received by Anti Corruption Bureau J&K on ACB Helpline Number 9419678060 from one complainant resident of village Kunnel Qaziabad, Handwara District Kupwara alleging that he has executed some work under MG-NREGA and for preparing & processing the Bill of said work & for preparing labour demand J.E Arshid Ayoub Marazi & GR Suboor Mir are demanding bribe of Rs 5000 & Rs 3000 from him as their commission etc.

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Modi government changed the face of Udhampur: Dr Jitendra Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR (J&K), MARCH 15

"Modi government has changed the face of Udhampur which has emerged as one of the most developed constituencies of the country in last 10 years", said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, there are certain critics and cynics who says they cannot see any develop-



ment in 10 years but at the same time shamelessly avail the utility of all the new projects set up in last 10 years.

Dr Jitendra Singh took a dig at the Opposition, saying that if according to them there has

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Driver killed, helper injured in Ramban road accident

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

A heavy motor vehicle driver was killed while a helper was injured in a road mishap in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday morning.

Reports said that an accident occurred at T5 Panthyal Magarkote when two heavy motor vehicles collided with each other, resulting in death of one driver. They said a helper was injured in the mishap.

Formula-4 car run to be held in Srinagar on Sunday: Div Com reviews arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 15

In a first, a roaring show of Formula-4 Car run from Lalit Ghat to Nehru Park shall be held in Srinagar on Sunday in which renowned Formula drivers will enthral spectators.

This would be a thrilling show to witness on the boulevard road while drivers shall engage in the race and stunts over a distance of 1.7Km route from 10:00Am to 2:00Pm.

In this regard, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting to ensure the arrangements for the successful conduct of the event.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com stated that this first of its kind event will be a major attraction for youth and will instill passion among them for Formula-4 sport.

Terminating the hosting of Formula-4 car race in Srinagar as one of the major achievements, Div Com said the occasion will open the spectrum of options for sports lovers of Kashmir and will be the beginning of a new career



option for enthusiasts of the valley.

This 'adrenaline rushing' car race will be very exciting and enthralling for people, he said and added that such shows will also leverage adventure tourism of Kashmir.

While reviewing the arrangements, Div Com directed concerned officers to ensure leveling of the said road and black-topping of potholes on the route.

To ensure safety of drivers, Div Com instructed installation of C-type 2-tier barricades including red barricades at both the

ends of the route besides deployment of a medical team with two critical care ambulances and fire extinguishers.

Moreover, Div Com directed for proper security arrangements for the event and other requirements including drone permission.

The meeting was attended by VC, LCMA; Director Tourism; Joint Commissioner SMC; officers of PWD, Health Department, Traffic, police, Fire & Emergency and representatives of Racing Promotions Private Ltd.

Director Agriculture Jammu unveils Innovative Grain Safe Bag for Enhanced Grain Storage



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen today unveiled the cutting edge Grain Safe Bag for improved and chemical free grain storage. The inauguration ceremony included a demonstration of the Grain Safe Bag, showcasing its superior capabilities and benefits to attendees. The demonstration programme showcased the efficacy and potential of this revolutionary storage solution for mitigating post-harvest losses and ensuring food security. The attendees witnessed firsthand the practical application of storage bags in preserving various types of grains, including wheat, rice and maize.

The Grain Safe Bag represents a paradigm shift in grain storage, offering unparalleled benefits to farmers and agricultural stakeholders. It ensures the preservation of grains without the need for harmful chemicals. The Grain Safe Bag offers a novel approach to grain storage, particularly in regions prone to environmental challenges such as pests, moisture, and mold. Its durable, hermetic design creates an airtight environment, effectively safeguarding grains against spoilage and maintaining their quality over extended periods.

Director expressed enthusiasm about the potential of the Grain Safe Bag to revolutionize grain storage practices and enhance the livelihoods of

farmers. He emphasized the importance of adopting innovative solutions to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. He stated, "The Grain Safe Bag represents a significant advancement in grain storage technology, offering our farmers a reliable means to protect their harvests and maximize their yields."

The demonstration programme drew participation from agricultural extension officers, key officials from the Department of Agriculture, field staff and representatives from various stakeholders. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the Grain Safe Bag and expressed their eagerness to incorporate it into the farming practices

World Consumer Rights Day-2024: DLSA Samba hosts Legal Awareness programme

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 15

As per the Action plan of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority for the month of March, 2024, the District Legal Services Authority, Samba today organized a legal awareness program to mark the observance of "World Consumer Rights Day" 2024 under the theme "Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers."

Organised under the radiant guidance of Adnan Sayeed, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, and Pr. Dis-

trict and Sessions Judge, Samba, the event was held at Government Higher Secondary School(Girls), Samba.

Kulbeer Singh, Food Safety Officer was the key speaker of the programme who shared his knowledge on the subject. Kulbeer Singh discussed the historical background of the day, Consumer Rights available to the Consumers under Consumer Protection Act 1986 as well as the different provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006. The objective of organizing the programme was to

spread awareness among the students about the different Consumer Rights that exist for the masses to safeguard them from fraud, discrimination and exploitation.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Versha Anthal, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel Samba. The program was attended by students, faculty members of Government Higher Secondary School (Girls) Samba and Para Legal Volunteers of District Legal Services Authority Samba.

District Level Seminar on Scope, Development, Promotion of Medicinal Plants held at Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 15

The AYUSH Department today organised a District Level Seminar on 'Scope, Development and Promotion of Medicinal Plants as Alternative Source of Employment here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

On the Directions of the Directorate of Ayush UT of J&K, J&K Medicinal Plants Board, District Nodal Office Ayush Kishtwar organized the Seminar.

The seminar was attended by progressive farmers from across the District. The event was graced with the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal, as the Chief Guest.

District Treasury Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Wani, Assistant Director, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Shaikat Lone, Chief Agri-

culture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik & Divisional Forest Officer, Vijay Kumar were among the special guests.

Dr. Wahid ul Hassan Technical Officer, J&K Medicinal Plants Board was invited as Resource Person.

The seminar started with a bouquet presentation and followed by the welcome address and a brief outlay of Ayush Department by District Nodal Officer Ayush Dr Vikram Singh Jamwal.

The Chief Guest emphasized the importance of rallying farmers towards cultivating and promoting alternative medicinal plants as a viable income source. He highlighted the potential of AYUSH as an alternative medicine system and urged stakeholders to seize entrepreneurial opportunities in the medicinal plant cultivation sector.

Chief Agriculture Officer and DFO praised the event and assured full cooperation of their Departments in establishing Herbs Gardens and conserving Medicinal Plants.

The Resource Person gave the participants detailed information regarding Cultivation and Marketing of Medicinal Plants such as Ashwagandha, Kutki, Kuth, Pooshkarmool, etc as alternative sources of income for farmers.

A Progressive farmer, Jabir Singh while promoting the importance of Medicinal Plants stated that he has expanded the cultivation of some medicinal plants like Burberry in about 600 Kanals in three Districts -Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban. He urged the other farmers to start cultivation of Medicinal Plants.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Taraq Hussain.

DC Bandipora kick-starts Chinar Plantation Drive



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 15

To mark the celebration of Chinar Day, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Friday kick-started Chinar plantation drive by planting a Chinar sapling within the premises of Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit; ACD Bandipora, Peer Mumtaz Ahmad besides officers and officials of Floriculture Department were present

on the occasion. Besides, Mini Secretariat Bandipora, the plantation of Chinar saplings was also held at Nishat Park Bandipora and Wullar Vantage Park, Garoora.

On the occasion, the concerned officials of the floriculture department informed that around 150 Chinar saplings are available with District Floriculture Office and shall be provided free of cost to Educational Institutions, Shrines and Government Departments.

Public Park inaugurated at Gulabgarh-Paddar, work in progress on several RDD projects

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 15

A public park developed by the Rural Development Department was inaugurated today at Gulabgarh by local DDC Councilor Hari Krishan Chauhan in presence of Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Phulail Singh.

After the inauguration, a comprehensive review meeting was convened in the Block Development Office (BDO) Gulabgarh, where office staff members briefed about the progress and challenges encountered in the execution of these projects.

DDC Chauhan and ADC actively engaged with the local populace to gauge their feedback and address any concerns they may have regarding the ongoing developmental endeavors. This interac-



tion underscored the commitment of the district administration towards fostering inclusive development and ensuring that the aspirations of the local community are duly met.

The inspection and

subsequent engagements underscore the relentless efforts of the administration towards the holistic development of rural areas, with a focus on enhancing infrastructure, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and

fostering community participation in governance processes.

Later, they conducted a comprehensive inspection of various developmental initiatives under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 (PMKSY 2.0), and Capital Expenditure Swachh Bharat Mission (CapEx.SBM) in Gulabgarh Paddar.

ACD Kishtwar who holds additional charge of AD Handicrafts also inspected the Wheat Straw Training Centre of Handicraft at Gulabgarh.

Notable projects included the construction of Panchayat Bhawan, Block Development Council (BDC) building, and a plastic segregation shed.

Kathua Admin discusses preparations for Lok Sabha Elections-2024

Key officials briefed about Role, responsibilities

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas who is also District Election Officer (DEO) today convened a meeting of Nodal Officers responsible for overseeing the forthcoming Lok Sabha General Elections 2024.

The meeting held here in the VC Room of the DC office complex, focused on ensuring the readiness and efficiency of all officers involved in the electoral process.

Crucial aspects of the elections were addressed, and the Nodal Officers were briefed comprehensively about their role and responsibilities within their respective jurisdictions. Discussions encompassed operational, logistical, and administrative matters essential for the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

The DC emphasized the need for Nodal Officers to remain well-equipped and proactive in their roles, highlighting the importance of adhering strictly to electoral laws, regulations, and ethical standards. The integrity and fairness of the electoral



process were underlined as key priorities.

Furthermore, strategies for conducting voter awareness campaigns and initiatives to boost voter participation were discussed to ensure inclusivity and democracy in the elections. The DC reiterated the significance of the Nodal Officers' roles in upholding democratic values and principles, stressing their proactive engagement and commitment to transpar-

ency, impartiality, and efficiency in the electoral process. The meeting was attended in person by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ranjit Singh, ACR Vishav Partap Singh, SDM Rakesh Kumar, and all appointed Nodal Officers, with virtual participation from ADCs and SDM from other regions, highlighting the collaborative effort to ensure a successful electoral process in Kathua district.

Financial support to 14110 B&OCWs paid at Kupwara



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MARCH 15

In an unwavering dedication towards the welfare of workers, the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was Friday presented a cheque to the tune of Rs. 6,14,36,000 covering 14110 beneficiaries by Assistant Commissioner Labour Kupwara.

The cheque was specifically earmarked for registered beneficiaries of the Jammu And Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB), aimed at providing essential financial support for educational assistance.

This initiative mirrors the resolute commitment of the Kupwara administration, under the leadership of the Assistant

Labour Commissioner, to stand by and uplift those grappling with challenging circumstances.

The distribution of the amount will offer much-needed relief to individuals facing diverse hardships, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources to navigate through these trying times.

The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara expressed deep appreciation for the collaborative efforts between the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the JKBOCWWB. This joint initiative underscores a shared commitment to safeguarding the well-being of workers and their families, recognizing the indispensable role they play in the progress and prosperity of the community.

UT Level India Skills Competitions Showcase Diverse Skill Sets

J1NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, MARCH 15

Today marked a significant milestone as the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed the UT Level India Skills Competitions in Cyber Security and Graphic Design Techniques organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM).

This event, part of the IndiaSkills 2023-24 initiative, showcased the prowess of more than 250 participants across 18 skill trades.

J&K, renowned for its artistic and culinary skills, now sees its youth actively engaging in advanced skills like web design, graphic design, software solutions for business, and mobile robotics.

The IndiaSkills competition, orchestrated by JKSDM, aims to propel India onto the global stage as a hub for skill excellence.

The ongoing competitions, a collaborative effort between JKSDM, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the Government



of India, and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), have received active support from the Skill Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir. These competitions encompass a diverse range of job roles, from beauty therapy, cooking, and fashion technology to technical skills such as CNC Turning and Cyber Security.

The State Level Competition for Cyber Security and IT software solutions was held today at partner institution NIELIT Jammu.

Participants from across the UT of J&K showcased their talents, marking a crucial stepping stone towards pre-National competitions, National level competitions, and the esteemed

World Skills Competitions set to be held in Lyon, France later this year.

Leena Padha, Mission Director of JKSDM, expressed commitment to such initiatives, stating, "JKSDM remains dedicated to organizing opportunities for the youth of J&K. State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT, where more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre-National and National Level Competitions."

As the India Skills Competitions continue to unfold, they not only celebrate the talents of the youth but also position Jammu and Kashmir as a thriving hub for skill development and innovation on both national and international fronts.

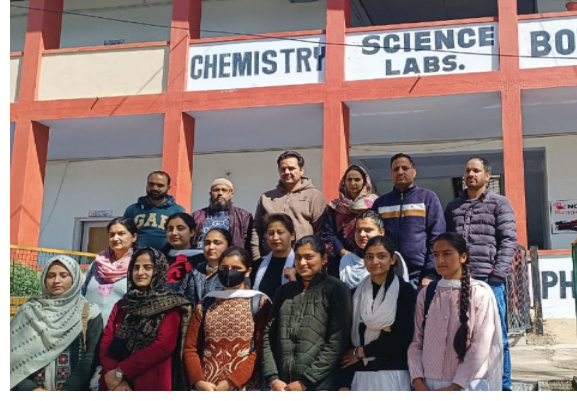
Training-cum-Awareness Camp on Lavender, Marigold Cultivation organised at GDC Kishtwar

J1NEWS SERVICE KISHTWAR, MARCH 15

Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar and the Department of Floriculture Kishtwar today organised a comprehensive training cum awareness camp for students focusing on the cultivation of lavender and marigold crops. The camp aimed to equip students with practical knowledge and skills pertaining to the cultivation and management of lavender and marigold crops. These aromatic plants hold significant economic potential and play a crucial role in the floriculture industry.

Conducted by experts from the Department of Floriculture, the training session covered various aspects of lavender and marigold cultivation, including soil preparation, planting techniques, irrigation methods, pest and disease management, harvesting practices, and post-harvest handling.

Through interactive sessions, demonstrations, and hands-on activities,



students were provided with valuable insights into the best practices for cultivating and maintaining lavender and marigold crops. The camp also emphasized the importance of sustainable and organic farming practices to enhance yield and quality while minimizing environmental impact.

Furthermore, the awareness component of the camp focused on highlighting the economic potential of lavender and marigold cultivation, both at the individual and community levels. Students were briefed on market opportunities, value addition techniques,

and government schemes available to support floriculture ventures.

The collaborative effort between GDC Kishtwar and the Department of Floriculture reflects a proactive approach towards promoting skill development and entrepreneurship among students, aligning with the government's initiatives to boost the agriculture and allied sectors.

Participants expressed gratitude for the informative session and expressed their enthusiasm to apply the knowledge gained to contribute to the development of the floriculture industry in the region.

SVEEP Sports Event Promotes Voters Awareness, Physical Fitness in Reasi



J1NEWS SERVICE REASI, MARCH 15

Department of Youth Services and Sports Reasi organized sports activities at GHS Gari, Block Jij Bagli, as part of the "SVEEP" Programme (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation) under the guidance of District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan. Participants of different ages engaged in Volleyball, Carrom and Tug of War.

The event underscored the importance of voters awareness, aligning with the theme "Fit Mind, Fit Nation" for the upcoming parliamentary elections. Such initiatives aim to engage citizens in the electoral process while

promoting physical fitness and well-being.

The event was graced by the presence of the Incharge Headmaster of Gari, who emphasized the crucial role of SVEEP programmes in educating and engaging new and upcoming voters in the electoral process. He highlighted that the SVEEP program aims to provide necessary information and resources to empower citizens to exercise their democratic rights effectively.

Vijay Kumar Incharge ZPEO Arnas, and Official Harjeet Singh P.E.T HSS Salal, Balbir Singh REK HS Dharmatha, Manzoor Ahmed REK HSS Judda, Sanjay Kumar P.E.T HS Gari and Akshay Kumar P.E.T BMS Arnas attended the event."

Development of Village Patrara under SAGY scheme reviewed

J1NEWS SERVICE RAJOURI, MARCH 15

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today chaired a meeting to review the progress of developmental projects in the village Patrara, under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched on 11th October, 2014 with the aim to translate the comprehensive vision of Mahatma Gandhi about an ideal Indian village into a reality, keeping in view the present context.

Under SAGY, each Member of Parliament adopts a Gram Panchayat and guides its holistic progress with focus on social development at par with infrastructure. The 'Adarsh Grams' are to become schools of local development and governance, inspiring other Gram Panchayats.

A comprehensive assessment revealed significant milestones achieved in various sectors. Notably, all works pertaining to the Rural Development Department under SAGY have been successfully completed. The water supply



scheme at Patrara is near completion, with only the mechanical component of the borewell pending. Furthermore, the construction of the health subcentre has also been completed, marking a crucial stride towards enhancing healthcare accessibility.

Review of the Progress in Power sector revealed that the installation of a transformer has also been completed as per the schedule. Additionally, the detailed project report on lift irrigation scheme at Mawa Patrara has been submitted to the Chief Office for further deliberation and action.

During the review meeting, the Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat underscored the importance of dedication

among officers, emphasizing seamless coordination to ensure the resounding success of SAGY.

The deliberations of the meeting held today reaffirm the collective commitment towards realizing the overarching objectives of SAGY. Through sustained efforts and collaborative spirit, the village of Patrara is poised to emerge as a Model village of rural development and inclusive growth.

Officers who attended the meeting were ADC Sunderbani, Rajeev Magotra; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; ACD Vijay Kumar, CHO Madan Lal, Dy Registrar CS Adnan Rather, AD FCS&CA Rohit Kumar and EXEN Jai Shakti Nowshera Vipin Kumar; EXEN I&FC and other concerned officers.

DC Budgam inaugurates Children's Park & Open Gym facility at Migrant Pandit Colony, Sheikhpora

J1NEWS SERVICE BUDGAM, MARCH 15

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today inaugurated a children's park, a senior citizen's park and open gym facility at Migrant Pandit Colony, Sheikhpora.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the District Administration Budgam, under the directions of Hon'ble LG Administration has contributed and developed twin Parks within the Sheikhpora colony to ensure better facilities to the residents here.

The DC said that the same was demanded by the members during the last interaction with them.

He complimented officers of the concerned executing agency for completing the development of these parks in a short span of time and dedicating the same to the families residing at the Migrant Pandit Colony.

He said that under the directions of Hon'ble LG Administration, the District Administration is focusing on creation of various other infrastructure projects to provide better facilities to the Kashmiri pandits, Kashmiri migrants and PM-package employees at Sheikhpora.

During his visit to Kashmiri Pandit Colony, the DC met members of the Pandit community and listened to them.

He said the parks with the open gym facility, swings for the kids, benches, have the best possible recreational infrastructure available for the children and senior citizens of the colony.

He said that he was happy to inaugurate these parks, which he said were constructed and thrown open in a very short span of time.

The DC was accompanied by SE R&B,



CPO, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers of R&B, Tehsildar, DMO and officials.

Orientation program for Haj pilgrims of Shopian on 17th March

J1NEWS SERVICE SHOPIAN, MARCH 15

The orientation/ training programme scheduled for the selected Hajj Pilgrims of district Shopian has been fixed by the State Hajj Committee on 17th March 2024.

Accordingly, all the selected pilgrims of district Shopian have been asked to attend the said orientation/ training programme at Jamia Masjid Sharief Shopian on 17th March 2024 at 10:00 am onwards.

DC B'la kick starts a mega Chinar Plantation Drive at Uri

J1NEWS SERVICE BARAMULLA, MARCH 15

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, in presence of Director Floriculture Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Rather Friday kick-started a mega Chinar plantation drive at Uri, here. SDM Uri, Javaid Ahmad Rather; Commander 12 Infantry, Brigade Kuldeep Singh Dyha and District Floriculture Officer Baramulla were present at the event.

The plantation drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, local community members, and volun-

teers, all joining hands to contribute to the greening of their surroundings. The event kicked off with a ceremonial planting of Chinar sapling, symbolizing the commitment of the authorities and the community towards a greener and healthier environment.

The Floriculture Department's initiative represents a significant stride in the conservation of Chinar trees, the population of which has been steadily declining. Over 100 Chinar plants were planted during this event, emphasizing the importance of preserving this iconic species.

Minga Sherpa com-

mended the efforts of the Floriculture Department for organizing such initiatives with an aim to preserve biodiversity and combat climate change. The DC further emphasized the need for collective action and urged everyone to take responsibility for nurturing and protecting nature for future generations. Speaking on the occasion, the Director, Floriculture department, Kashmir said that the department will be distributing over 10,000 Chinar saplings free of charge to enhance the region's green cover and environmental sustainability.

Advertisement for 'MORE HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024' listing various special trains like Mumbai Central-Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Anand Vihar, Sri Ganganagar, Udaipur City, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus with their routes and schedules.

EDITORIAL

India, Mauritius forge strategic ties

SUDHIR HINDWAN

Need to act on the plight of PoJK refugees

The issue of displaced persons from Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is a humanitarian crisis that demands urgent attention and action. These people have been living in difficult conditions for decades, facing displacement, discrimination, and deprivation of basic rights. It is high time that their plight is addressed comprehensively and with compassion. The recent outcry from various organizations representing Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) displaced persons sheds light on the ongoing neglect and indifference they face, especially from the administration. The joint statement issued by leaders of these organizations highlights the urgent need to address the genuine issues confronting around 17 lakh displaced persons who have endured immense suffering and pain for decades. The criticism directed towards the UT administration, particularly the Lieutenant Governor, for trivializing the plight of PoJK refugees is a stark reminder of the systemic challenges these individuals and families continue to face. The concerns raised about the wasteful expenditure on a Bhawan for PoJK displaced persons, especially when essential needs are unmet, seem to be valid and warrant immediate attention. The leaders' questioning of the relevance and utility of such a Bhawan, which seems disconnected from the pressing needs of the refugees, underscores the disconnect between the administration's priorities and the ground realities faced by PoJK refugees. The failure to acknowledge and act on critical issues, such as the long-pending rehabilitation package approved in 2014, reflects a broader pattern of neglect and disregard. Furthermore, the accusations of constitutional transgressions and undermining the rights of PoJK refugees, particularly regarding voting rights, permanent resident certificates, and job opportunities, are deeply concerning. The demand for the immediate resignation of the Lieutenant Governor on moral grounds reflects the frustration and disillusionment felt by the PoJK refugee community. The recent ruling of the High Court, ordering an end to discrimination against PoJK refugees settled outside Jammu and Kashmir, serves as a beacon of hope. It emphasizes the need for equal treatment and justice for all PoJK refugees, regardless of their place of settlement. The construction of a Bhawan should not overshadow the urgent and substantive needs of PoJK refugees, including financial assistance, job opportunities, and recognition of their rights as rightful inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir. The allegations of political motivations behind certain actions must be addressed transparently to rebuild trust and ensure the well-being of the refugee community. It is imperative for the UT administration, the Government of India, and relevant stakeholders to heed the voices of PoJK refugees, acknowledge their grievances, and take concrete steps towards addressing their long-standing demands. This includes the immediate implementation of the 2014 rehabilitation package, ensuring equal treatment for all refugees, and fostering a conducive environment for their holistic well-being and integration. The neglect of PoJK refugees is not just a matter of policy but a moral imperative that requires urgent redressal and meaningful action. The time for rhetoric and empty promises is over; it is time for tangible and compassionate solutions that uphold the dignity and rights of all displaced persons. The issue requires a concerted effort from governments and all stakeholders, and civil society to address their needs, protect their rights, and facilitate their integration into society. The time to act is now, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that these refugees are not forgotten or neglected any longer.

The joint inauguration of India-assisted projects such as an airstrip, community development projects and a jetty in the Agalega island of Mauritius shows the increasing concern over the need to change the existing – and also evolve a new – strategic approach to not only enhance economic and commercial cooperation but also ensure strategic surveillance and security of Indian Ocean Area. The virtual Conference between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian PM Pravin Jugnauth is a new cornerstone in building up close cooperation through multiple projects such as the India-assisted Aushadhi scheme (providing high-quality medicines) commercial and economic cooperation, humanitarian relief assistance and joint patrolling. This also fulfils the main thrust of the Indian Foreign Policy principle: "Neighbourhood First Policy" and Mauritius's multiple needs in health, security and economic areas. The Indo-Mauritius coordination is a step forward to add a new country to India's new strategic vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in Region). Besides, it also brings an important fact to light that India and Mauritius need to diversify their strategies to counter the challenges both face from Pakistan and China. The war between Russia and Ukraine, the spreading tentacles of transnational terrorism and the over-ambitious mission of Chinese dominance across the globe have created seri-

ous problems for international security. While the world is still grappling with the deadly spikes of war and terror, the issue of sea security is taking the forefront of global politics. The Leading Realist in IR John Mearsheimer once conceded that states always seek to maximise their power and prowess to achieve security. Realism also contends that states prioritise maintaining their security and status quo power over aggressive expansion, focusing on balancing against threats rather than seeking dominance. It provides a theoretical rationale for comprehending the complex rigmarole in the fluid power equations and how the changing dynamics of Asia particularly around IOA shape India's defence strategies. There is an increasing tendency of actors in International relations to cluster around the powerful one in the system. China's expansionist mission has vindicated Raymond Aron's observation correctly. Aron once conceded that "The two most typical models are called multipolar and bipolar: either the chief actors, whose forces are not too unequal, are relatively numerous, or, on the contrary, two actors dominate their rivals to such a degree that both become the centre of a coalition and the secondary actors are obliged to situate themselves about the two "blocs," thus joining one or another, unless they have the opportunity to abstain. Intermediary models are possible, depending on the number of chief actors and the degree of equality or inequality of forces among

the chief actors". These are changing times and many changes have occurred in International relations recently. Sharing and working on a common strategic vision and a combined approach to ensure mutual economic prosperity and approaching through a multi-layered and multilateral strategy if the situation demands is going to dominate the world order in the coming days. What is required is to develop a fresh perspective for a more mature reliance on international cooperation between nations to enunciate a new strategy of retaliation, threatening a severe response to any attempt to destabilise the order. In this direction To counter the increasing tentacles of Chinese aggressiveness endangering India's Maritime Security through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), deployment of Naval bases in the IOC areas, Naval base in Djibouti, construction of Gwadar Port to help Pakistan, its policy of Strings of Pearls through which China is encircling India by enhancing strategic partnerships with IOR countries India has reached out to its neighbouring countries such as Sri-Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius and had a defence strategy of developing coastal Radar System between these countries. Besides, it has already started a Fusion system to provide information related to the security of the Indian Ocean Region. The recent procurement of an India-Russia Joint Venture BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile for the Indian

Navy and aero-engine for MIG-29 Jets for the Indian Air Force are major initiatives to enhance India's defence capabilities. India has also developed a Necklace of Diamonds Strategy and is establishing a Changi naval service Base in Singapore, Chabahar Port in Iran, and ports in Myanmar and Oman. India is moving ahead with its Act East Policy to enhance economic and trade cooperation among East Asian neighbours in addition to this started with an extensive web of ports and Coastal Surveillance Radar (CSR) building systems. India's recent strategy has set out a clear way forward by getting fully involved in new techniques and developing challenging strategies to meet the needs of all the partners. The issue that remains vital is to bring so many neighbouring countries to a negotiating table to work out a strategy for maritime security and protecting economic interests. The increasing support and agreement about limiting climate change issues and opening up gateways for renewable energy and development in technological know-how along with channelising the sources of power generation and creating a mechanism to withstand any sudden threat posed by BRI (Belt and Road Initiatives) augur well for peace and prosperity of all the member countries. There has always been a series of extremely good relationships between India and its neighbouring countries about trade share having crossed a decent landmark during the last half a decade which was way more than expected. The recent efforts by India to protect IOA's security through cooperation with Mauritius would further boost and cement their ties and create a genuine environment for stabilising economic growth, (along with ensuring the free flow of goods and services) strategic security, prosperity, stability and combating sudden challenges arising due to climate change and maritime and border threat. Further, the panel discussion focusing on "The Quad Squad: Power and Purpose of the Polygon," during early 2023 provided another step towards solving the expansionist plans. The member countries showed their commitment to support Pacific Island countries with regional institutions through cooperation in several areas along with the terror such as climate change, resilient infrastructure, and maritime security to strengthen the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The role of India's leadership in finalising the IORA in India-Pacific areas was greatly appreciated and became even more important due to its impeccable reputation. Further negotiation may lead to the creation of a strategic mechanism to provide a shield against maritime security, piracy, drug trafficking, armed robbery, terrorism, international crime, smuggling and cyber threats unleashed by any non-state actor as well. This may also accelerate maritime-friendly ties and bolster security around the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific areas which have lately become areas of concern. Hence, a collaborative partnership among the nations around the Indian Ocean Area through equity and access to those who are in need at the time of unprecedented crisis may show the level of insight in empowering and motivating people across the board towards extending a helping hand and saving lives. Besides, the pursuit towards the promotion of their well-being would lead to tremendous effort towards enhancement of the overall development scenario in India and neighbouring countries. The sum and substance of the idea is to ensure that the New structural Thinking and orientation changes through a fresh perspective and a framework for key demands while maintaining a synergy among various stakeholders to negotiate even on the issues of different perspectives. Since then, cooperation among Quad Group countries has set a new road map through diplomatic endeavours towards building a new apparatus for the management of terrorism. Foreign relations are operated through efficient diplomacy and diplomacy is all about the right gestures cooperation and coordination at times of crisis. India is indeed a leading partner in this regard. India is a mature democracy and its leaders are capable of cashing in on any opportunity and strategy that's a combination of tactical strength and resilience. (The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav award, is a professor and an expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

Remembering Johan Galtung: A pioneer in peace research

RAJDEEP PATHAK

The world of peace research and conflict resolution mourns the loss of one of its most influential figures, Johan Galtung, who passed away on February 17, 2024. Johan Galtung, born in Oslo, Norway, in 1930, was not just a visionary thinker but also a prolific writer and dedicated peace activist whose legacy continues to reverberate within the field today. Growing up amidst the turmoil of World War II, Galtung's experiences deeply influenced his worldview and spurred his lifelong dedication to understanding and resolving conflicts. He devoted his career to exploring innovative approaches

to peacebuilding, drawing from diverse disciplines such as sociology, psychology, political science, and economics. Galtung's pivotal contributions to peace research led to the establishment of the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO) in 1959. PRIO served as a pioneering interdisciplinary hub, fostering collaborative research endeavours aimed at comprehensively understanding conflict origins and developing effective strategies for conflict resolution and peacebuilding. His leadership at PRIO facilitated the exchange of methodologies and ideas among scholars globally, nurturing a vibrant intellectual community dedi-

cated to advancing peace. Initiatives like the Trondheim Network for Peace, Development, and Environment exemplified Galtung's commitment to fostering dialogue and cooperation among scholars, policymakers, and grassroots activists worldwide. Throughout history, leaders and activists have emphasised the transformative power of collaborative efforts in promoting peace and non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance mobilised millions during India's independence movement, showcasing the potential for collective action to bring about profound social and political change. Similarly, Nelson Mandela's emphasis on recon-

ciliation and collaboration across racial divides in South Africa led to initiatives like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, aimed at healing past wounds through dialogue and understanding. Archbishop Desmond Tutu's advocacy for the African philosophy of Ubuntu further emphasised the importance of recognising our shared humanity in promoting peace and justice. More recently, figures like Malala Yousafzai have championed education as a tool for peace, inspiring a global movement to ensure every child's right to education and opportunity. One of Galtung's enduring contributions is his concept of "structural violence," which highlights the underlying structural causes of violence such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination embedded within societal structures. This concept remains relevant today, as issues like racism and global economic disparities continue to fuel conflicts worldwide. Galtung's advocacy for non-violent conflict resolution continues to inspire peacebuilders and activists worldwide. His emphasis on dialogue, empathy, and cooperation offers practical tools for building sustainable peace in today's conflicted world. Contemporary movements for social justice and human rights, such as Black Lives Matter, draw inspiration from Galtung's ideas about the power of non-violent resistance and grassroots mobilisation to challenge systemic injustice. In reflecting on Galtung's legacy, we must draw upon his teachings to develop innovative approaches that promote peace, justice, and human dignity for all. His profound impact on education and social transformation persists beyond his passing, serving as a guiding light for future endeavours in the pursuit of a more peaceful and just world. As Galtung himself said, "Peace is not a fixed state, but a process that requires constant attention and effort." It is up to each of us to contribute to this ongoing work. (The writer is programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Sansthan, views are personal)

Scientists play key role in a nation's progress

BIJU DHARMAPALAN

The public always looks at the scientific community whenever they are in dire straits. Farmers seek help from agriculture scientists when serious pests affect their crops, or there is a drastic decline in productivity. Similarly, the public looks to medical scientists for help whenever a pathogen attacks humans. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen how, every day, the ordinary person eagerly looked at research work from various labs. Covid-19 reinstated the common man's confidence in scientists. The current generation that has overcome the COVID-19 catastrophe is deeply indebted to scientists for their lives. Even though there are hundreds of scientific fields, agriculture and health care are close to the day-to-day affairs of

ordinary people, and hence, scientists working in these areas need to communicate directly to the public. Scientists working in other fields like communication engineering, space research, civil engineering etc, though highly relevant to the day-to-day life of commoners, never come in direct contact with them. Whenever humanity is in disarray, scientists bring glee and a ray of hope through their discoveries. In many parts of the world, scientists also create confusion because of conflicts of interest and interference from policymakers. It's an open secret that most of the food products available in our market are adulterated, and in some cases, they contain toxic substances. Even scientists working in industries will secretly admit it, but they are not allowed to publish the results or speak publicly.



Most of the scientific work related to pesticides, drugs etc is linked with industry, and none of the industries will support a genuine scientist. Industries may influence the design of research studies to ensure outcomes align with their objectives. There is always a conflict between proponents of modern medicine and traditional systems of medicine. Many scientists blatantly state that Ayurvedic or Homeo-

pathic drugs have side effects, forgetting the fact that all modern medicines have severe side effects. Scientists should strive to be impartial in pursuing knowledge and understanding of the natural world. This dedication to objectivity is fundamental to the scientific method, which relies on systematic observation, experimentation, and analysis to uncover truths about the universe. However, scientists, like all humans, are susceptible to personal beliefs and biases that may subtly influence their work. These biases can affect everything from the questions scientists choose to investigate to the interpretation of their findings. Furthermore, external factors such as funding sources, societal pressures, and political climates can also influence scientific research. Research funding, in particular, plays a significant role in shaping the scientific agenda, as scientists often rely on grants from government agencies, private foundations, or industry sponsors to support their work. The priorities of these funding sources may align with particular agendas or interests, potentially influencing the direction and focus of research. Societal pressures and political influence can also distort scientific results. Despite these challeng-

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)

IIM Jammu's Education Leadership Training Program for College Principals of J&K concludes

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

The 'Education Leadership Training Program' hosted by the Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C) division of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, culminated on 15th March 2024, marking the successful completion of its intensive five-day schedule. Tailored specifically for the College Principals of Jammu and Kashmir, this program aimed at enriching participants with essential leadership skills crucial for navigating contemporary educational landscapes and meeting the evolving needs of students and communities. Dr. Yashoda Devi, Program Director at IIM Jammu, commenced the proceedings with a comprehensive presentation of the program report, setting the stage for participants to share their enriching learning experiences. Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Chairperson of Admissions at IIM Jammu, and Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of the Srinagar Campus, addressed the participants, underscoring the significance of the program and IIM Jammu's commitment to educational excellence in the region. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, expressed



his pleasure in engaging with fellow academicians and emphasized key aspects such as youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and the delivery of quality education. He advocated for a shift towards nurturing job creators and encouraged participants to inspire students to pursue academic excellence in esteemed institutions like IITs and IIMs. He assured unwavering support and emphasized the importance of collaboration and politeness in fostering a conducive learning environment.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, highlighting the program's significance, stressed the importance of continuous learning and collaboration among participating colleges. He urged the participants to disseminate the knowledge gained to their students, contributing to the broader educational community and nation-building efforts. The program aimed to achieve various objectives, including the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, enhancing instructional leadership, fostering effective communication, promoting cultural competence, encouraging innovation and adaptability, and instilling data-informed decision-making skills.

Sanjeev Verma, Dr Vijayata Verma pay obeisance at Tirupati Temple, participate in Abhishek Ceremony

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Today Commisnor Secretary GAD Sanjeev Verma (IAS) And Dr Vijayata Verma, RC Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple And sai Krishna Today And Amit Shukla paid obeisance at Tirupati Balaji temple. Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed. Sanjeev Verma expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and



this feeling is heavenly. He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obeisance here. He said that is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees. He said the temple is beautifully made in the Majee area. He Said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory. On this occasion Subramanyam the Superin-

tendent of temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector, RC Subramanyam, Superintendent Ramesh Babu Office incharge, Pradhana Pandit, Amit Shukla, Veda Pandit.

Former Legislators call on LG

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

Sh Mohd Syed Akhoun and Sh Ishfaq Jabbar - former Legislators called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today at Raj Bhawan. Sh Murtaza Khan, former MLC also called on the Lt Governor and put forth various issues concerning the Pahari community particularly the youth and students across the UT. Subsequently, Thakur Fallail Singh, senior political leader and Sh Sheikh Muzaffar, President, J&K Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF) also called on the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan today. A delegation of Bazigar community called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of several welfare issues of their community. The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegations of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues projected by them during the interaction.

IIM Jammu organizes One-Day Workshop to promote Hindi Rajbhasha

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu organized a one-day workshop dedicated to fostering the use and promotion of Hindi Rajbhasha within the institution. The event, held on March 15, 2024, saw enthusiastic and active participation from faculty, officers, and staff members alike. Present on the occasion were Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Chairperson Corporate Communications and Co-Chairperson, Hindi Rajbhasha, IIM Jammu, Shri Shailesh Lohiya, Librarian, IIM Jammu, Shri Rajat Jain, FACAO, IIM Jammu. The event commenced with the welcome by Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer and Shri Abhay Awasthi, Hindi Rajbhasha Adhikari, IIM Jammu followed by the introduction of the Chief Guest by

Shalin Sasidharan Nair, AO-PR & Admin. The workshop, aimed at enhancing proficiency and understanding of Hindi as the official language, was a significant step towards promoting linguistic diversity and inclusivity. Attendees actively engaged in various sessions designed to improve Hindi language skills, communication, and appreciation of its cultural significance. The distinguished presence of Shri Devanand Das, Senior Translation Officer from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, added great significance to the occasion. His insights and encouragement provided valuable motivation to the participants in their journey towards embracing Hindi as a Rajbhasha. Chief Guest Shri Devanand Das, Ministry of Education, Government of India, who joined online emphasized that

language is not merely a tool for communication; it is the essence of our cultural identity. He congratulated the institute for organizing this insightful workshop and encouraged continued efforts towards language promotion. He suggested various simple methods to incorporate Hindi Rajbhasha more effectively, including the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes learning in the mother tongue or Hindi language. He provided guidance on different approaches and suggested innovative ways to promote the use of Hindi language in daily life. He mentioned that the efforts made by IIM Jammu in promoting Hindi Rajbhasha are commendable and reflect a commitment to preserving our linguistic heritage. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, underscored the signifi-

cance of Hindi as the Official Language of India. He elaborated on how this language has played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the unity of India while nurturing the country's rich culture. He also highlighted the invaluable contributions of Hindi literature to the development of Indian culture. Encouraging all members of IIM Jammu to integrate Hindi into their daily official work, he emphasized the importance of striking a balance between our linguistic heritage and the demands of the modern age. He mentioned that language is not merely a means of communication but also a reflection of our identity and heritage. He reiterated the institution's commitment to promoting Hindi as a Rajbhasha and fostering a multilingual environment within IIM Jammu. He mentioned that during the recent visit of the Hon'ble Union Min-

ister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, his speech was delivered in Hindi, emphasizing the importance of the language. He expressed his appreciation for the idea of a table conference and thanked the Chief Guest for motivating the IIM Jammu fraternity and providing them with a clear roadmap for incorporating Hindi into their daily lives. The event culminated with the vote of thanks by Paramjeet Singh Bakshi, FAO, IIM Jammu. The event was meticulously coordinated by the Hindi Rajbhasha Committee at IIM Jammu, demonstrating their dedication towards language promotion and cultural integration. As India progresses towards greater linguistic inclusivity, initiatives such as these play a pivotal role in reinforcing the importance of regional languages and fostering a deeper sense of cultural pride and unity.

Where is Modi ji's guarantee to refugees: Congress

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Congress has questioned where is PM Modi's guarantee of 2014 to the POJK refugees, who feel betrayed and cheated after 10 years of BJP regime. The BJP and Prime Minister Narinder Modi ji had made several commitments to POJK refugees 2014 elections but nothing was fulfilled after 10 years except sanction of a meagre amount of 5.5 lacs out of 30 lac recommended by Congress coalition Govt. in J&K, besides several other recommendations for the youths. JKPC said that BJP had promised 30 Lac to each family, reservations to refugee youth in central forces and professional &

technical course all over India besides paying cash or making up deficiency of land to them. He had also promised reservation of eight assembly seats for POJK refugees out of 24 seats reserved for residents of POJK. Ten years of BJP rule, only meagre amount was sanctioned, through a cumbersome procedure for release, as a result several families are still left out but the scheme has been closed. Nothing beyond this has been fulfilled and the promises proved false & election Jumlas, the Congress said. Only one seat in assembly has been reserved for them in nomination category against promise of 8 seats under elected category while there is total refusal with regard to the left

out financial package of 24.5 lac, which needs to be revised after 10 years. They urged the refugee people to give a befitting reply to the BJP, as it betrayed the community and ignored the struggle of the community. They extended full support to the refugees organizations for their non-political struggle for the just cause of the suffering communities. The signatories included Ravinder Sharma-former MLC, Senior Vice President and Chief Spokesperson JKPC, Vice Presidents Yogesh Sawhney, Vinod Sharma, General Secretaries Pt. Pawan Raina & Amrit Bali, S. Amolak Singh, H.S. Mehta, Sahil Sharma, Badri Nath Sharma, S. Rajinder Singh Nathu and S. Gajan Singh.

NCC's Social Awareness Campaign galvanizes Towards Water Management and Harvesting at Suchani Village

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Lieutenant (Dr) Pankaj Mehta, leading the 4 J&K Bn NCC under the esteemed NCC Group Jammu and JK&L Directorate, spearheaded a groundbreaking social awareness campaign focused on Water Management and Harvesting strategies in the Kandi Belt. This initiative, held in collaboration with the National Institute of Hydrology Western Himalayan Region, Jammu, marked a pivotal moment in the community's collective effort towards climate consciousness. Gathering a force of 30 dedicated NCC cadets, Lieutenant (Dr) Mehta orchestrated the mobilization of approximately 200 stakeholders from the vibrant society of Suchani Village. The event witnessed a confluence of minds, including esteemed Scientists from the National Institute of Hydrology, Academicians from Central University Jammu, and members of the civil society, alongside research scholars and students deeply engaged in the subject matter. Dr. PG Jose, Head of Western Himalayan



Regional centre of national institute of Hydrology, in his address, underscored the paramount importance of collective participation from all stakeholders to rejuvenate the ponds, emphasizing a holistic approach towards sustainable water management. Professor Dhar shed light on the intricate dynamics of geology, hydrogeology, and physiology specific to the region, urging a deeper understanding for effective long-term solutions. This collaborative effort, driven by the NCC under the able guidance of Lieutenant (Dr) Pankaj Mehta, exemplifies the power of community engagement in addressing pressing climate issues. Through the platform provided by the NCC, disparate elements of soci-

ety converged to forge a united front against water scarcity and environmental degradation. Lieutenant (Dr) Mehta expressed his gratitude towards all participants for their unwavering commitment and emphasized the NCC's continued dedication to fostering such impactful initiatives. He reiterated the NCC's pledge to serve as a catalyst for positive change, empowering communities to confront and overcome the challenges posed by climate change. The success of this campaign serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring similar grassroots movements across the nation. It underscores the invaluable role of organizations like the NCC in galvanizing society towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

N S Bhau holds meeting at Chhamb Assembly Constituency



J I NEWS SERVICE
KHOUR, MAR 15

Narinder Singh Bhau, a prominent figure within the political sphere, recently convened a meeting with local representatives from the Chhamb Assembly Constituency. The gathering served as a platform to deliberate upon crucial matters in light of the impending MP elections, all in adherence to ethical codes of conduct. The interactive session saw Mr. Bhau and the assembled representatives engage in insightful discussions regarding strategic approaches aimed at bolstering support for their affiliated political party, the BJP. Deliberations centered on ways to proactively enhance their effectiveness in garnering public backing and ultimately

tipping the electoral scales in their favor. In leveraging this collaborative forum, Mr. Bhau and the attendees explored various pertinent issues and formulated action plans designed to galvanize their efforts in the lead-up to the forthcoming elections. The meeting underscored the significance of coherence, diligence, and strong leadership in steering the party's campaign endeavors towards a successful electoral outcome. As the political landscape continues to evolve, the commitment demonstrated by individuals such as Narinder Singh Bhau and the concerted efforts of the Chhamb Assembly Constituency representatives signal a concerted resolve to navigate the electoral terrain with integrity and purpose.

Tony asks EC to act independently on delayed Assembly polls in J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Member Suchetgarh, has voiced strong concerns regarding the much-delayed Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon the Elections Commission to uphold its duty independently, without resorting to vague excuses such as security concerns. Speaking at the public meeting held at Chatha here today, the senior Congress leader questioned the rationale behind delaying the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir while the country gears up for upcoming Parliament elections. "Why not hold the Assembly polls simultaneously with the parliamentary elections?" he asked, highlighting the resentment among the people who continue to suffer due to the absence of an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir. Expressing dissatisfaction with the lip service shown by the Elections Commission, Tony asserted "The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better. It's high time the Elections Commission moves beyond mere promises and takes concrete actions to restore democracy in the region." Furthermore, Tony



pointed out the lack of serious intent from the BJP regarding the Assembly elections, attributing it to the growing resentment among the populace. "The BJP has failed to fulfill its electoral promises and restore statehood, and this delay in conducting Assembly elections only exacerbates the disillusionment among the people," he stated. Tony emphasized the critical need for transparent and timely electoral processes, urging the Elections Commission to act swiftly and independently to address the pressing concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by announcing Assembly polls in J&K simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls in the country. Earlier, speaking at a meeting in the Chatha area, Taranjit Singh Tony addressed a long-pending demand of 25 to 30 years from the residents of Chatha Pind. He highlighted the successful efforts to shift high-tension wires

from rooftops and houses in the area, a feat achieved through collaborative endeavors with employees of the Power Development Department (PDD). Acknowledging the contributions of Taranjit Singh Tony, Ashok Bhagat and Bal Krishan Bhagat, prominent leaders of the area, emphasized the significance of fulfilling promises that had been neglected for over three decades. They mentioned that despite approaching previous administrations, including the former Deputy Chief Minister, who oversaw the Power Department, the issue remained unresolved. However, through concerted efforts and perseverance, tangible progress was finally made, bringing relief to the residents of Chatha Pind only due to the hectic efforts of Tony, they added. The meeting was organized by Mahiender Ch, Sarpanch Avtar Singh, and Kuldeep Singh Shanty.

Central Sanskrit University organizes Yuva Samvad India @ 2047 Program

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Yuva Samvad India @2047 program was organized by the National Service Scheme Unit of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu in which the volunteers and students of the NSS unit of the campus participated and learned about the Panch Pran. They took a pledge to become a partner in the prosperity of the country by imbuing the values dictated in Panch Pran. The keynote speaker of the program was Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi of the Kashmir Shaiva Darshan Department of the university campus. Dr. Shweta Sood, Kamal Kishore, Dr. Pradeep Dixit, Dr. Anay Mani Tripathi were present as judges.

While conducting the program, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Mishra said that the nation is shaped by



the work of youth power and the youth will have to come forward to realize the concept of the development of nation.

Dr. Tripathi, the keynote speaker of the program, said that the youth population of any country is the most precious strength of that nation towards which the nation looks with hope. The youth need to understand their importance and play a leading role in

nation's development. He said that no youth is useless and every youth has hidden talent on the basis of which he is capable of bringing glory to the country and society.

Speaking on the topic "The Goal of Developed India under Panch Pran in Youth Dialogue", the student of Shiksha Shastri Department said that the heroes of independence gave us independence and now it is our respon-

sibility to make the independent country a developed nation and world leader. Dr. Shweta Sood stressed on being proud of our national heritage. NSS volunteer Rohit said that when we unite and make efforts in any direction, we get meaningful results, hence unity and solidarity play an important role in the efforts being made towards a developed India.

More than 150 NSS volunteers and students participated in the program. In the Panch Pran competition, the winning students were given prizes by the guests and certificates were distributed to all the others. Program Officer Maninder Singh expressed gratitude to all the guests and participants.

Homestay Entrepreneurship Development Program for Youth of District Samba commences at CUJ

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

School of Business Studies under the patronage of Prof Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Sh. Abhishek Sharma, IAS Deputy Commissioner Samba jointly inaugurated the Skill development course on Homestay Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Youth of District Samba under SANKALP, the MoU for which was signed between District Skill Committee, Samba and School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu in the presence of Hon'ble LG Sh. Manoj Sinha last month during his visit to campus.

The present initiative of District Skill Committee Samba and The School of Business Studies shall focus on imparting practical training to youth entrepreneurs across



diverse skills. DC Samba further informed that this Project Skill Development and Youth Empowerment Programmes in Samba (SDYEP) under capacity building and skilling initiatives in Samba district shall mainly focus on "Homestay Entrepreneurship Development Program" and focus on preparing young entrepreneurs who wish to convert their homes into a homestay and develop career in hospitality industry.

This capacity building consultancy project

aims to create successful entrepreneurs who will in turn employ others for their business and continue the cycle of skilling and employment generation. The entrepreneurs can also cluster for different tourist activities including trekking, camping, glamping and many more depending on the local opportunities and offerings. It is pertinent to mention here that Project Team comprising of Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Dr. Neelika Arora and Dr. Anju Thapa have

submitted a comprehensive report on Skill Gap Survey Study in District Samba and present Project is another endeavour of Project Team to train the youth of District Samba for income and employment generation through entrepreneurial ventures. Dr Ranjeet Kumar Raman, HoD TTM along with Dr Asif Ali and Dr Rahul Thakur conducted sessions. District Tourism Officer Sh. Mumtaz Choudhary arranged the participants and provided administrative as well as logistic support for smooth conduct of the program along with Sh. Amanpreet Singh, Superintendent Govt. ITI Samba. Earlier Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, SBS welcomed all the participants and briefed them about the initiative and course. Dr. Shahid Mushtaq proposed a formal vote of thanks and Dr. Anju Thapa conducted the proceedings of the program.

Apni Party takes out protest march in Ramgarh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH (SAMBA), MAR 15

Apni Party on Friday staged a peaceful protest demonstration, demanding holding of Legislative Assembly Elections and restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir to mitigate the issues of the masses.

The protest march was led by Provincial President of the Party, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh at Ramgarh. The demonstration was organized by District President Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti.

To highlight the issues being confronted by the people, the Party leaders under the leadership of S. Manjit Singh took out a protest march while shouting slogans in support of their demands.

The protesters demanded that the public issues have multiplied with the non-serious approach of the authorities, especially because there is no elected Govt.

"The Election Commission of India should announce holding of Legislative Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir which have been delayed for the last several years," said Manjit Singh, addressing the Party's protesting leaders, and other workers in Ramgarh who were holding placards in support of their demands.

While seeking restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, he said that "The bureaucracy is not working in public interest, and the people have lost their voice in the Govt that has given rise to the feeling of alienation and widened the gap between public-administration."

As the sloganeering continues, he pointed out about the plight of the refugees/Displaced Persons whose issues remain unaddressed regarding the release of pending package amount and granting of ownership rights on the land allotted to them by the Govt.

He said that the Govt of India should release the pending package amount Rs 25 lakhs in favour of each refugee/DP family in Jammu and Kashmir, out of total, Rs 5.5. that has already been released for these families.

BJP all set to return to power with record number of seats: Kavinder



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASL, MAR 15

Upcoming polls are the real test for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cadre as nothing short of clean sweep is the aim of the party in the impending political battles and to achieve the goal hard work and dedication are the only keys.

This was stated by Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister while addressing Booth Management Meeting at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra constituency here today. In the meeting Booth Presidents and Shakti Kendra Parmukhs joined the meeting.

The BJP stalwart emphasized the BJP's potential to secure a resounding victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls with a record number of seats and gigantic margins across the nation. He said that the Party is poised to reclaim power at the

Centre and usher in a new era of transformative governance. With a dedicated team of passionate party workers, the BJP is geared up to exceed all previous electoral accomplishments by securing more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls.

Kavinder said that synergy between different committees and the ground level workers could be the game changer for the forthcoming elections and therefore frequent meetings and chalking out strategy on the basis of real time situation is significant to ensure victory of the party. He asked them to strengthen the organization from the booth-level, and reach out to prospective voters from all segments and age-groups. He also laid stress on strengthening organizational setup to the hilt so that the party's triumph at all the political contests could be ensured in the coming future.

The senior BJP leader

also asked the booth level workers to disseminate information about Modi government's flagship schemes among the common masses so that doubts if any can be warded off timely leaving no scope for the opposition parties to take undue benefits by swaying people by misleading them. He said that ground level workers are the real ambassadors of the party as their efforts can prove to be the game changer especially to get favourable results in elections.

Rohit Dubey, District President, Arvind Gupta Prabhari and Inderjit Sangathan Mantri also spoke in the meeting.

Among those who were present in the meeting include Shashi Gupta, ex President Municipality, Ajay Baru, Saraf Singh Nag DDC Chairman, Rajinder Mengi DDC member, Baldev Raj Ex MLA, Nirmla Devi DDC Member, Yog Raj Vistarak, Pawan Kumar and Ramesh Kumar.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR FOREST DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, MARWAH FOREST DIVISION.

E-TENDERING

Short Term Tender Notice: e-NIT No.: 72 of 2023-24 Dt: 14.03.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt./Central Govt.

Organizations for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lac)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving/ Opening Authority
1	Construction of view point at Aithpal Lopara under Bio Diversity Management plan 2023-24	4.50	9000	A,B,C & D	600	30 days	Tender Opening Committee
2	Construction of view point at Kuchhpal Bhatpora under Bio Diversity Management plan 2023-24	4.50	9000	A,B,C & D	600	30 days	Tender Opening Committee

Note:The timber item to be used for the construction shall be obtained/procured by the Tenderer/Contractor from the genuine source authorized by the competent authority. The Tenderer/Contractor shall produce the documents in support of timber after completion of work at the time of payment. A proper Measurement Book of the work has to be prepared against which work done payment is to be made to the contractor. The material viz tiles, paint, cement and allied items of good quality as well as of standard specification with its mechanical/head carriage including loading, unloading and stacking charges will be managed/procured himself by the contractor. A proper testing certificate with regard to the material has to be produced by the contractor before the execution of work. A proper Measurement Book has to be prepared of the work against which work done payment is to be made to the contractor.

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA/TS: Work Approved

Publishing Date	14.03.2024
Download Start Date	14.03.2024
Bid Submission Start Date	15.03.2024 at 10:00 AM
Bid submission End Date	22.03.2024 upto 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (online)	23.03.2024 at 1:00 PM in the Office of DFO Marwah
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	23.03.2024 at 3:00 PM in the Office of DFO Marwah

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 23.03.2024 in the office of DFO Marwah. In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bids must accompany cost of tender document as shown against work in the shape of demand draft or Treasury Challan (Remittance Head-0406-Forest) in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Marwah and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledge to Divisional Forest Officer, Marwah. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. (Vishal Choudhary)SFS

Divisional Forest Officer,
Marwah Forest Division.

No. /MFD Dated:

DIP/J-16132/23
Date: 15-3-24

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER DANSAL, DISTT, JAMMU email ld-cdpodansal@gmail.com CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the Advertisement Notice No:-6 of 2023 Dated 26-02-2024 published on 03-03-24 in State Times newspaper, the Corrigendum is issued with regard to following:-

S.no	Corrigendum	Remarks
2	At Annexure 'B' Age as on 01.01.2023 mentioned below Space for Photograph	The correction may be read as Age as on 01.01.2024

No: -CDPO/D/1618-26/2024

Dated: 12-03-2024

DIP/J-16096/23

Date: 15-3-24

Sd/-
Child Development
Project Officer
Poshan Project Dansal.

Representatives of Kashmiri Pandit organisations call on Lt Governor



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

Representatives of several displaced Kashmiri Pandit organisations called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today at Raj Bhawan. The members of the delegation

apprised the Lt Governor of various welfare issues of the community. They also presented several publications to Lt Governor including a book titled "Kashmir After Kalhana" written by Dr R L Bhat and 'Pavak' magazine of Jonaraja Institute of Genocide & Atrocities Studies. Members of Lalitaditya Sports Organization, led by its President Sh Anil Bhat expressed gratitude to Lt Governor for the support extended to the organisation for promotion of sports among the community youth.

Army distributes sports equipments to students at border village-Sher

JI NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, MAR 15

An outreach program was organized at Government High School Sher on Friday by Indian Army involving school girls, teachers and local leaders of Sher village along AIOS in Nowshera. About 130 students and teachers of Government School Sher village Sarpanch and VDC members were present at the event. Participants got the opportunity to engage in various sports activities. By providing necessary resources the Army equipped the youth with the sports items and encouragement to pursue their passion and achieve excellence in their endeavors. Cricket equipment including bats, balls, wickets, shin guards and helmets were also distributed to the school on the occasion. On this occasion, the local people who attended



the program wholeheartedly thanked the Indian Army Local people said that with the aim of providing basic facility to the people and school students living in the border areas, the Indian Army from time to time provides sports facility to the school students studying in the border areas. Sports material is distributed so that the students remain ahead in sports competitions along with studies and can bring out

Billawaria inaugurates lane, drain work at ward-56, Gangyal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Former Deputy Mayor Jammu & senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurated the lane and drain work at ward 56, Gangyal in Rs Pura-Jammu South constituency. Speaking on this occasion



On this occasion, former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria assured the people that the ongoing works in the ward will be expedited and other ongoing development works will be completed soon. He said that this development work was a long pending demand of the local people and now this demand has been fulfilled. He said that the construction of this lane will provide relief from the problem of water logging during rainy season. He said that the main objective of BJP is to provide every service at the

doorstep of the people and Modi government believes in development and not giving false assurances. Billawaria said that the administration under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has implemented a multi-pronged strategy with a strong focus on healthcare, education, infrastructure, transport, agriculture and industrialisation in Jammu and Kashmir. He further said that the abrogation of Article 370 has opened up new possibilities for the region, laying the groundwork for economic prosperity and social progress in Jammu and Kashmir. Billawaria further said

NYK Jammu conducts District Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu organized a dynamic District Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament at the Government College for Women in Gandhinagar, Jammu. The event, held on March 15th, brought together young minds from across the Jammu district to participate in insightful discussions and foster community engagement.

The program commenced with great fervor, graced by the esteemed presence of Sh. Bharat Bhushan, Chairperson of the District Development Council, who served as the Chief Guest. His profound address on democracy set the tone for the event, emphasizing the importance of youth participation in shaping the future of our nation.

In the second session, Dr. Gurpreet Kaur, NSS Program Officer, provided valuable guidance to the participants on utilizing the MyBharat Portal and understanding the concept of Viksit Bharat. Her interactive session aimed to empower the youth with knowledge and tools for contributing to national development through technology and

innovation. The event further enriched the participants with enlightening lectures by distinguished resource persons. Sh. Jatinder Pal Singh, General Manager of Jammu Smart City Ltd., shared insights on 'New India New Initiatives', highlighting transformative projects driving urban development and progress in the region.

Additionally, Dr. Subhash Chander Kashyap delivered a compelling discourse on the benefits of millets, urging the youth to adopt healthier dietary habits and make informed choices for a better lifestyle. A highlight of the event was the Mock Parliament Session focused on the Jammu Smart City Project. Participants engaged in lively debates and discussions, simulating the workings of a real parliament session, and reflecting the essence of democratic governance.

Chief Guest Sh. Bharat Bhushan, in his concluding address, lauded the efforts of NYKS in organizing such impactful programs and commended the participants for their active involvement. He emphasized the importance of democracy and civic responsibility in building a strong and prosperous nation. As a token of appreciation for outstanding performance, participants of the Mock Parliament were presented with gift tokens, recognizing their dedication and enthusiasm towards constructive dialogue and civic engagement. Furthermore, the resource persons were also honored for their valuable contributions and expertise, which enriched the event and inspired the participants. The District Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament in Jammu stands as a testament to NYKS's commitment to nurturing responsible citizenship and empowering the youth to become active agents of change in their communities. The program concluded with heartfelt gratitude expressed by the Mrs. Bimlesh Kaur, APA State Office NYKS J&K towards the Chief Guest and all resource persons. 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.

Empowering the OBC Community: J&K Congress Leaders advocate for Substantive Reforms

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU 15 MARCH 2024 -

In a significant move towards addressing the long pending demands of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community, a delegation led by S. Gurinder Pal Singh 'Billa', National Coordinator OBC Department AICC, Incharge J&K, visited the Congress headquarters Jammu today for an introductory session along with S. Tarlok Singh Bajwa Vice President JKPC, Sh. Bhushan Dogra Secretary JKPC.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman OBC Department, JKPC Madan Lal Chalotra, served as a platform to reaffirm the commitment to addressing the concerns and aspirations of the OBC community within Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape. Gurinder Pal Singh emphasized the key issues affecting the OBC community and rallied support for their cause within the political arena. The primary focus of the visit was to highlight the critical demands of the OBC community, including the implementation of a 27% reservation quota in educational institutions, government jobs, and public life. This reservation aims to provide equitable opportunities and representation to individuals facing historical socio-economic disadvantages and marginalization. Additionally, the



delegation advocated for the conduct of a comprehensive Caste Census to gather accurate data on the demographic composition and socio-economic status of various caste groups, essential for devising targeted policies to address specific needs and challenges faced by OBCs. Political OBC reservation was also underscored as a crucial aspect for empowering OBC leaders and ensuring their active participation in the political process, from panchayat to parliamentary elections. At the conclusion of the meeting, Madan Lal Chalotra expressed gratitude to Rahul Gandhi for his leadership in uniting marginalized sections of society and focusing on unresolved issues since the Mandal Commission. Chalotra highlighted the importance of advocating for the rights and welfare of marginalized groups and emphasized the com-

mitment of the OBC community to work alongside the Congress party for meaningful progress and social justice. The session concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and determination to advocate for substantive reforms that empower the OBC community and ensure their inclusion in all spheres of society. The prominent figures present during meeting were, Vice Chairman S. Mehar Singh, Aditya Dogra, Raj Mohd Salaria, Bodh Raj Godiya, Darshan Verma, Dharam Pal Dogra, S. Sham Singh, Capt Karamjeet Singh, Surinder Prajapati, State Coordinator/General Secretary Darshan Mehra, Joint Coordinators RashPal Singh, Raj Kumar Mehra, Jagdish Kashyap, Sham Lal Verma, Prem Sagar, Ajay Kashyap, Fafa Tundeep, Ajay Ahmed Ganai, and Sandeep Dogra (Senior JKPC Leader), Gurmeet Singh Sayan (Mohali).

Indian Army distributes "Combating Cold Tarpaulin Tents" for Gujjar-Bakkarwal at Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAR 15

Unable to move back to warm places owing to availability of grazing grounds for their herds of animal, many Gujjar-Bakkarwal families gets struck in upper reaches of south of Pir Panjal. As cold snap hits severely these communities caught shiver with only make shift tarpaulin tents for safety of their families and herd of animals

from severe cold and rains. Indian Army under Op Sadbhavna launched several welfare activities to improve the quality of life, distributed tarpaulins to these Gujjar-Bakkarwal at Mendhar Tehsil under district Poonch. The inhabitants whole heartedly expressed their gratitude and acknowledged for the role of Indian Army fulfilling the aspirations of these under developed villages.

GDC Kathua, JKEDI organize Awareness Programme on New Jammu and Kashmir Start Up Policy 2024-27



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MARCH 15

Department of Business Administration, GDC Kathua in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today organized an Awareness Programme on New Jammu and Kashmir Start Up Policy 2024-27 for the students of the college. Under the able guidance of Principal of the college, Prof. Seema Mir, the event was conducted with the view to encourage entrepreneurship, Innovation and inspire young brains towards their own Start up. She also appreciated the organising team for conducting such programmes for the overall development of the students.

Dr. Sanjay Kurlupia was the chief guest for the said event. He emphasized the need for organising awareness about the importance of startups in driving job creation. Speaking on the occasion Dr. R. K Pandita inspired the youth of GDC Kathua to turn their innovative ideas into the reality with the help of JKEDI that play a nodal role in overall implementation of new startup policy 2024.

The resource person for the todays event was Mr. Dheeraj Handoo District Nodal officer JKEDI Kathua and Mr. Hari

Bhushan, District Coordinator JKEDI Kathua. They emphasized on new jammu and Kashmir Start up policy 2024-27 recently launched by the UT govt. of J&K. And also highlighted on how the new entrepreneurs can avail the benefits from such schemes along with process of funding and conceptual framework for implementation of said policy. Dr. Jasvinder singh, Head Department of Business Administration presented the formal welcome address. Ms Nisha Manhas and Ms Tanisha conducted the proceedings of the event. Dr. Tajeshwar Singh, Department of BBA presented the formal vote of thanks to the gathering. More than 100 students from BBA departments of the college participated in the event. The overall event was coordinated by Dr. Jasvinder Singh, Head Department of BBA, Prof. Ajay Sharma, Dr. Tejeshwar Singh, Prof. Rohit Gupta and Dr. Supriya Gupta Prominent among others present on the occasion were Prof.R. K Pandita, Dr. Nelam Bhagat, Prof. Ravinder Kour, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Prof. Shiwani Kotwal, Prof. Ambica Rajput, Dr. Ram Singh, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Prof. Charandeep Handa, Prof. Rakhi, Dr. Rahul Gupta and other faculty members

BJP's proxy govt, a total failure in J&K: Congress

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, MAR 15

Jammu Kashmir Congress on Friday alleged that the BJP's "proxy" government has failed on all fronts in Jammu and Kashmir and claimed people are feeling betrayed by the saffron party. INC party workers organised a public meeting here at Nud under sambha constituency. Former Minister and Congress UT vice president Yash Paul Kundal was the chief guest. Distt President

Sanjav sharma, Distt President SC Department Vinod Kumar arrived as special guests. While addressing workers, Kundal said that only Congress party's rule in J-K can bring smiles back to the faces of people. The party also passed a resolution to condemn the government for not conducting the assembly elections in J-K. "The government in J&K, run by the administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has proved to be an utter failure on all fronts with common



people were left to fend for themselves. The people crumbled due to multiple miseries under the proxy government of BJP in J&K," Kundal said. While addressing Distt President Sanjav sharma said that the people of Jammu region, who were "promised the moon" by the BJP, today feel betrayed by the saffron party as it never proceeded beyond 'jumlas' creating merely false narratives to secure votes. Sanjeev said even the BJP leaders know quite well that people

of this region are waiting to teach them a lesson. "BJP fears losing the elections whenever they are held. This is the reason that the government has adopted delaying election tactics. Assuring the cadre of Congress that the party is fully geared up for the elections, he said people have now realised that only Congress can provide solutions to their problems and they will overwhelmingly vote for Congress candidates whenever assembly or parliamentary elections are held in J&K .

NOTICE

I, Gh Qadir Wani S/o Mohd Shaban Wani R/o Kumdalan Nadigam Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir 192303 am applying for transfer of electricity bill Consumer ID: 0101030018545 from Mohd Shafi S/o Chandia R/o Asrarabad Sidhra Jammu 180019. Objection, if any, may be conveyed concerned authorities within 7 days.

Div Com Jammu attends Exhibition and Symposium on Iconic Women of India

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar attended the Exhibition and Symposium on iconic women of India as the Chief Guest at Abhinav Theatre today.

The Exhibition featuring numerous women icons from ancient times to modern day India was put up by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, in the K.L. Sehgal Hall of Abhinav Theatre Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the significant role of Indian women icons in the social, educational and other fields.

The Div Com cited examples of towering women personalities from pre Independence India like Rani Laxmi Bai and other women icons and enumerated their supreme contribution towards upliftment and enlightenment of the Indian society. He further



said women continue to be on the forefront in diverse professional fields. "Since ancient times, women in our country have reached high positions in every field. Today, the world is witnessing their role in building a developed India in the 21st century. From Mission Gaganyaan to Chandrayaan, female scientists are not only playing a crucial role but also providing leadership. This showcases the strength of Indian women", he said. The topic of the symposium was Viksit Bharat Mein Mahilaon Ki Bhagidari. A number of speakers presented their views on the role of women in achieving the target of Atma Nirbhar and developed India by 2047. Earlier, the Div Com went round the exhibition 'Empowered in Form' and praised it. The Exhibition showcased the life and role of 75 women who made significant contributions in the socio-economic history of India. The Div Com commended Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts for organising such events to celebrate the International Women Day and assured support from the UT administration in such endeavours of highlighting the role of women. Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director IGNC, DIG Shakti Pathak, Dr Garima Gupta, from Jammu University other dignitaries and students were present.

Students meet Dr Jitendra Singh at Delhi during Bharat Darshan Tour



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 15

Students from various schools of District Doda, who are currently on Bharat Darshan tour-2024 sponsored 33 BN CRPF under Civic Action Plan, met Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, MoS PMO, at the Institute of Civil Service Office Delhi.

Under the Civic Action Program, 33 Battalion CRPF based at Sarna Bhardwah has organised Bharat Darshan tour-2024 for the under-privileged students of district Doda.

Dr Jitendra Singh interacted with students and also arranged lunch for them at PMO's Civil Service Office Institute, Delhi.

The students are being escorted by two teachers from the school education department namely

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul-Teacher & Associate NCC Officer (PM Shri GHSS Bhalra, Bhardwah) and Umesh Kumar-Teacher (GHS Pranoo).

It may be recalled that the tour has been organised to expose the students from underprivileged sections of the society to the external world and also acquaint them with the Socio-Historical perspective of the country.

District Level Committee approves 13 cases for change of land use in Udhampur

J NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 15

A meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use today approved 13 cases here

at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai. A total of 33 cases were presented for consideration regarding the change of land use. The DLC committee approved 13 cases, while 07 cases were rejected, and 13 were deferred for further review.

The DC inquired about the status of NOCs issued to applicants in earlier cases and the follow-up progress by the concerned departments.

Necessary directives were issued to ensure the timely issuance of NOCs after meticulous document verification. The DC emphasized the importance of field certification before finalizing the applications.

Among others, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, SDM Chenani Gurdev Kumar and other concerned officers.

Mega SVEEP program held at Ramnagar

J NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 15

To educate the voters, an awareness program under SVEEP was organised at Government High School Nalla Mallian, Assembly Constituency Ramnagar by Nodal officer Pawan Kumar Sharma, the Zone Educational Officer Ghordhi and Principal HSS Ghordi.

The event was part of a series of SVEEP programmes chalked out by ERO (SDM) Ramnagar Rafiq Ahmad Jaral on the direction of District Election Officer Udhampur Saloni Rai.

The event encompassed varied activities, including songs, street plays (nukkad natak) focusing on the public awareness particularly Nomads and Gadi tribal voters.

The Young and women voters were engaged in different sports activities



like Kho-Kho, Tug of War etc. The local residents of all ages participated in the programme and fervently advocated for achieving a 100% voter turnout in the forthcoming elections.

During the event, Nodal Officer elucidated the voting rights of citizens and highlighted the special provision of the Election Commission of India for elderly and disabled voters. He underscored the significance of active participation in the elec-

toral process. Booth Level Officers received directives to extend assistance to individuals encountering any challenges related to voting and the election procedures.

The primary objective of the programme was to educate and motivate voters to participate actively in democracy by exercising their voting rights, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every vote contributes to shaping the nation's future.

Meanwhile, a review meeting chaired by Dr. Manmeet Kumar, SDM Dudu was held today involving Officers/ Officials of allied Departments. The SDM Dudu gave necessary instructions regarding timely achievement of targets, prompt disposal of public grievances and holding outreach programmes to extend benefit of the government schemes to the public.

Dr. Rashmi Singh reviews progress of upgradation works at Tara Niwas

J NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 15

Commissioner Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol (H&P) department, Dr. Rashmi Singh today undertook a comprehensive tour of Udhampur district to assess the progress on upgradation works of department's Tara Niwas here.

Director, H&P, Tariq Hussain Ganai, Joint Director H&P, Naresh Kumar and other senior officers of the department accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during the visit.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary also convened a meeting with officers to evaluate



existing facilities at Tara Niwas. She emphasized on the need for continuous improvement in service standards and benchmark setting.

Dr. Rashmi urged the explore various avenues for making this place more visible on the ground for better utilization. Highlighting the pivotal role of Hospitality and Protocol department in extending courtesies to VIPs, dignitaries, and

State Guests, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the department's commitment to delivering quality hospitality services and promoting the J&K brand of hospitality.

Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai and SSP, Udhampur also participated in the meeting. They spoke in length about the potential of complex and assured full co-operation to the department.

Documentary on 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' screened at GDC Ramgarh

J NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, MARCH 15

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit-Prabha of Government Degree College, Ramgarh today screened a documentary on 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' under the aegis of 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The event was conducted under able guidance and leadership of Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

The documentary was screened to generate awareness among students about drug abuse and its catastrophic effects on the addicts, their families and the society as a whole.

NSS Program Officer, Prof. Braham Dutt shared his insights on the issue of drug abuse and motivated students to refrain from the drugs and related narcotics. He encouraged students to embrace

sports and yoga activities as a part of their daily lives to enhance their performance in sports and sharpen their minds, instead of falling into drug addiction. He added that all Indians must live up to the spirit of 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan'.

The students participated enthusiastically and patiently watched the documentary. All the faculty members attended the event.

Tarun Chugh, Dr Jitendra address public meeting at Udhampur

J NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAR 15

Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union MoS & party candidate for Kathua-Udhampur Parliamentary constituency addressed a massive public meeting at Udhampur.

It was organized by Bharatiya Janata Party, District Udhampur led by its President Arun Gupta.

J&K BJP Vice Presidents Pawan Khajuria & Chander Mohan Gupta, Udhampur Parliamentary In-charge Adv Sunil Sethi, co-Incharge Ramesh, former Minister Pawan Gupta, former MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia & RS Pathania were prominent among those present in the meeting.

While addressing the public meeting, Tarun Chugh said that today the



whole country is progressing under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and the wave of development and social welfare is visible in every area. He said that if we talk about Jammu and Kashmir, then 10 years ago, there was only terrorism, the youth were given stones instead of books and only nepotism prevailed in the political parties, which never allowed Jammu and Kashmir to progress. In the "Lal Chowk" in Kashmir city, people were afraid

to stand even for few seconds as there was uncertainty and fear of terrorist attacks. The previous governments used Article 370 for their own benefits and when the BJP government came to power at the Center under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the draconian Articles were abrogated and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir improved. Jammu and Kashmir started moving towards an era of peace, progress and prosperity.

A glance at the prevailing environment in Jammu & Kashmir, one can easily claim that the heaven on Earth has once again returned to its pristine glory. It has been possible due to the strong leadership, which took effective steps to curb terrorism and restore peace and normalcy. Like other parts of the country, J&K too has been given due share in mega development projects and welfare schemes, which has improved the existing infrastructure

of connectivity, power generation, health, and education sector which brought smiles on the faces of poor needy and marginalized class. He said that the people of the constituency have voted Dr Jitendra Singh to the Parliament for 2 times and now his work done here speaks that one more chance is needed to serve the people so that the development works continue and complete as per the needs and wishes of the people

Committed cadre real asset of BJP: Munish

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 15

Jammu and Kashmir BJP senior leader and district Prabhari, Munish Sharma, during his tour of different areas of Kathua district, held meetings with the local senior leaders and office bearers to discuss the good works of BJP-led NDA government under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

These meetings were convened to review the ongoing activities related to different programmes being undertaken across the district.

Munish Sharma, while addressing these meetings, said that BJP has a committed cadre, which is the real asset of the party. He said that the party activists need to devote more time in reaching every household and convince the people to support, vote and contribute in making



BJP candidate to win the Lok Sabha elections with thumping majority for the third term. He said that the BJP has too much to claim as achievements of government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party activists have to remain in regular touch with the people at all levels to keep sharing the same with them.

Munish Sharma expressed confidence that the dedicated efforts of ground level activists and the good works of BJP-led NDA government, will win support of majority of the people across the UT and opposition parties will bite dust.

Kathua District presi-

dent Gopal Mahajan, in these meetings, said that all the teams are working round the clock to ensure that the party achieves the desired success in the Lok Sabha elections.

Vishal Parihar, district organizational general secretary, Rajesh Mehta, district general secretary, Tilak Raj Bhagat, Vidhan Sabha Prabhari, Vicky Sharma, vidhaan sabha sanjyok, Shiv Dev Singh, district vice president, Rahul Dev, city Mandal president, Ajay Sharma, Lakhampur Mandal president, Mayank Kumar, media secretary, were prominent among those who attended the meetings.