

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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### One killed, another injured in road accident in Doda

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

One person was killed and another injured in a road accident in J&K's Doda district on Monday, officials said. Officials said that a car went out of the driver's control and dropped into a gorge on Khilani Marmat Link Road in Doda. "One person identified as Roshan Lal died on the spot while another, Tanveer Ahmad sustained injuries. The injured person was shifted to the government medical college hospital in Jammu city for treatment. Police have registered a case in this incident," an official said.

### Rusted mortar shell found in Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

A rusted mortar shell was found on the banks of a stream in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, police said. The mortar shell was spotted by a villager in the stream near a primary school in the Muglian area of Mendhar sector, they said. Officials said a police team along with a bomb disposal squad rushed to the spot on getting information about the shell and defused it safely.

### MeT predicts wet spells in J&K during this, next week

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR MAR 18

With two more days expected to remain dry in J&K, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Monday predicted light spells of rain or snow in parts of UT during this and next week. As per the news agency CNS, the MeT Centre Srinagar said that many places in J&K would likely receive light rain or snow during this week's 21st and 22nd, with weather to be expected generally cloudy. During the period, it also said that thunder/lightning and gusty winds over the plains of Jammu and Kashmir divisions would be observed followed by dry skies on the 23rd of March. Another wet spell of light rain or snow at a few places of J&K has been forecast for this coming Sunday and next week's 25th. However, the next two days have been predicted by MeT to remain "generally dry" as was mentioned in its previous forecasts.

## INDIA bloc's manifesto talks about finishing 'Shakti': PM Modi



AGENCIES  
JAGTIAL (TELANGANA), MAR 18

Alleging that the INDIA bloc's manifesto talks about finishing 'Shakti', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the fight is between those who

want to destroy 'Shakti' and those who worship them. Addressing a rally here, Modi said, for him, every mother and every daughter is a form of 'Shakti' and that he worships them. He said the nation dedi-

cated 'Chandrayaan's' success to 'Shiv Shakti' and the opposition parties are talking of destroying 'Shakti'. "On Sunday in Mumbai, there was an INDI alliance rally after the announce-

ment of the schedule for elections. They announced their manifesto to the rally. In Mumbai's Shivaji Park, they said their fight was against 'Shakti'. For me, every mother, every daughter is a form of 'Shakti'. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Entire JK lives in Jammu, city deserves quality infrastructure: Ghulam Nabi Azad

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Democratic Progressive Azad Party-Ghulam Nabi Azad has said that while all the 22 districts of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state reside in Jammu, the city is facing official neglect and merits serious concern. Speaking at a public gathering organized by the Azad Party at Hari Singh Park in Jammu on Sunday, Azad reiterated, "The entire Jammu and Kashmir resides in Jammu. This is not the case even



in metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Delhi, where people from 22 districts reside in makeshift homes." He emphasized the pressing need for essential amenities such

as electricity, water, and roads to be prioritized in the region. Azad, who is viewed as a formidable contender for government CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## In 5 years, MHA bans 9 separatist groups in J&K

'2 banned in 2019, 3 in 2021, 4 in 2024 under UAPA'

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 18

In the past five years, the Government of India has banned 10 separatist groups in Jammu & Kashmir. Details available with news agency reveal that the Union Home Ministry has declared nine separatist groups in J&K as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-1967, since 2019. On February 18, 2019, the Union Home Ministry

banned Jamaat-e-Islami, a cadre-based organisation with pan-Kashmir presence. The MHA said that the outfit was involved in activities aimed at disrupting India's integrity. Nearly a month later, on March 22, 2019, the MHA declared Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) as an unlawful association for "supporting extremism and militancy" and indulging in "anti-national activity". On October 5, 2023, the Union Home Ministry

banned jailed separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah's Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) for its "anti-India" and "pro-Pakistan" activities. Two months later, on December 28, 2023, the Union Home Ministry banned the Masarat Alam-led Muslim League, a separatist organisation, for "anti-national and secessionist" activities in J&K. On December 31, 2023, the MHA banned Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) which was earlier headed CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Jammu and Kashmir Government to Fill Over 12,000 Vacancies to Tackle Unemployment

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 18

To address the longstanding issue of unemployment, the Jammu and Kashmir government is going to initiate the recruitment process to fill more than 12,000 vacant positions across various government departments. As per an official document available with the news agency, the Jammu and Kashmir administration will fill 12,264 positions that are lying vacant in various government departments for many years. The document said

that the government since 2019, has filled as many as 31,830 vacancies in various government departments through multiple recruitment drives. "These 31,830 selections have been made in fair, transparent, and expeditious manner. Interviews have been dispensed for the posts upto the pay level-5," it said. Official sources said that the vacancies are to be filled in departments including health, Jal Shakti, social welfare department, rural development department and others. "The government

has already enlisted the number of vacancies in various departments. We have a large number of vacant posts in health department. Multiple recruitment drives shall follow this year and all the vacant posts will be filled in a speedy manner," they said. Officials said the recruitment drive will prioritize transparency and efficiency, adhering to established guidelines and procedures. The selection process is expected to be conducted rigorously, ensuring merit-based appointments to maintain the integrity of

the civil services. "By filling these vacancies, the government aims to strengthen its workforce, streamline service delivery, and promote inclusive development across the region," they said. Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir as per the Ministry of State for Labour and Employment has recorded a decrease in the unemployment rate for graduate persons of age 15 years. As per the ministry, during 2021-22, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) in Jammu and Kashmir was 22.8% CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## J&K narco-terror financing module case: SIA files charge-sheet in against LeT Terrorists

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 18

The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Monday filed a charge-sheet against two people, including a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, accused of operating a narco-terror financing module in the Union Territory, officials said. The charge-sheet was filed in the special-designated UA(P)A court under the NIA Act against Zaheed Ahmad Khoja and Zameer Ahmad Lone under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, they said here. Lone, who hails from the Kashmir Valley, is an active terrorist of the LeT operating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the officials said. They said Khoja was arrested in September last year when he was transporting a consignment of heroin weighing 3.565 kg. The value of the seized narcotics was estimated to be more than Rs 25 crore, the officials added. Khoja and Lone along with members of terrorist organisations had

hatched a criminal conspiracy to raise funds by illegally smuggling and trafficking narcotics from across the border, the SIA said. The proceeds from the sale of the drug were used to financially support terrorist acts and fund the terror ecosystem, the agency said. In pursuance of the larger criminal conspiracy, Khoja and Lone, and their associates through conversations over encrypted messaging applications systematically planned spreading communal disharmony through terrorist acts tar-

geted at minority communities in Kashmir, the SIA said. "The terror funds were used for personal enrichment and for furtherance of terrorist acts, including setting ablaze government buildings, residential houses of minority communities and police personnel, and office of a political party, as directed by various terrorist organisations, active in Jammu and Kashmir," the agency said. It said further investigation against other associates of those charge-sheeted in the case will continue.

## Modi gave women 'ease of living' with dignity: Dr Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE  
RAMNAGAR, MAR 18

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and BJP Candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency said here today that Prime Minister Modi gave women 'ease of living' with dignity. The evidence of this, he said, is seen in a series of women centric reforms and schemes rolled out by Prime Minister Modi in the last 10 years with an extreme degree of sensitivity which was missing during the earlier regimes for almost six decades after independence, he said.



Addressing a series of election meetings comprising mostly Women Self Help Groups and a large number of women PRIs, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that Modi made history when as Prime Minister in his very first Indepen-

dence Day address from the Red Fort he gave a call for construction of toilets for women. No one had realised the seriousness of this but in the very first year nearly 4 lakh toilets for women had CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Northern Army commander visits high altitude areas of Ladakh, reviews operational preparedness

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar on Monday visited the high altitude forward areas and reviewed the operational preparedness in Ladakh sector. The Northern Army Commander appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) for their relentless efforts in maintaining highest standards of operational effectiveness under challenging



conditions, the Northern Command said. "Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander Northern Command, visited formations deployed in super high altitude areas

of Ladakh to review the operational preparedness and border infrastructure development," the Northern Command said on X. Lieutenant General CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Army raises elite unit to work on critical technologies having Military applications

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 18

The Indian Army has raised an elite unit that will undertake research and evaluation of futuristic communication technologies like 6G, artificial intelligence, machine learning and quantum computing for military use in view of the changing nature of the field. The Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group or STEAG is mandated to nurture technologies spanning the complete spectrum of wired and wireless systems, officials said.

The setting up of STEAG is part of the Army's efforts to develop technologies considering the future battlefield, they said. "It will be a premier organisation, the first of its kind equipped with the capability to harness niche technology, leverage cutting-edge solutions and identify suitable cases for defence applications by fostering collaboration with academia and industry," one of the officials said. The elite unit will focus on all upcoming critical technology domains including electronic exchanges, mobile com-

munications, software defined radios, electronic warfare systems, 5G and 6G networks, quantum technologies, AI, machine learning, etc., he said. The hi-tech unit will carry out technical scouting, evaluation, development, management of core ICT solutions, and provide user interface support by maintenance and upgradation of contemporary technologies available in the environment, the official added. Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande has been highlighting the need for acquiring new technologies by the force in view of the chang-

ing nature of warfare. "Aligning itself with the tenets of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Start-Up India, STEAG will help bridge the divide between the armed forces on the one hand and industry and academia on the other," the official said on condition of anonymity. The new Centre of Excellence is expected to be a game changer in fostering self-reliance in high-end communication technologies, which have thus far been a monopoly of select countries with advanced economies and research ecosystems, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Job Oriented Skill Development Programmes inaugurated at IIIM

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

As part of CSIR Integrated Skill Initiatives, two job-oriented skill development programmes under the theme "Industrial Microbiology" and "Cloning and Protein Expression" commenced at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, here today, in which, 50 participants drawn from all over India, including states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Bihar, Goa, Ladakh and UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Kuldeep Krishan Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Himalayan University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, was the chief guest at the inaugural event. While addressing the participants on the occasion, Prof. Sharma appreciated the efforts of the organization for conducting such types of hands-on training for youngsters, which would indeed



have a significant impact on their career and job opportunities. Highlighting the initiatives of skilling laid down in the New Education Policy 2020, he underscored the need of imparting practical viz-a-viz hands-on-training so that, the trainees obtain the real skill which will immensely benefit them. He also advised the young participants to work hard to excel in their lives, irrespective of the area or field they adopt to make their career. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM in

his address to the participants, spoke about the legacy of IIIM and the present-day major R&D and Societal Mission Programmes being implemented here. He also informed that the team of scientists at CSIR-IIIM besides having focus on core research on various disease areas, has been executing societal mission programmes such as the CSIR Aroma Mission, Floriculture Mission, Sickle Cell Anaemia Mission, which have a direct relation with the local economy.

Er. Abdul Rahim, Head, RMBD&IST division gave insights into the CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative. Dr. Asha Chaubey, Head of Fermentation Technology Division and Dr. Kuljit Singh, Scientist, Infectious Diseases Division, who are the coordinators of these programmes, shared the workshop modules, being conducted back-to-back. Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Sumit Gandhi, Head, Infectious Diseases Division, introduced the chief guest to the participants and presented an outline of the three days programmes. The workshops are being organized under the patronage of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM and the supervision of Er Abdul Rahim. Dr. Nasir-ul-Rasheed, senior scientist assisted in the coordination. Ms. Arushe Tickoo conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session and Dr. Nasir ul Rasheed presented a formal vote-of-thanks.

# GCoE, IASE organises '4 days Martial Art Camp' for female students of college



J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 18

The Department of Physical Education in collaboration with Women's Studies Centre, of the Government College of Education (GCoE), IASE organised '4 days Martial Art Camp' for the female students of the college. Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz on this occasion encouraged the participating female students and also highlighted the importance of martial art and self defensive skills especially for women in day today life.

A total number of 31 female students of the college participated in the camp. The focus was on developing self-defensive skills, increased confidence and flexibility, better coordination, improving mental stamina, improving social skills, developing self-discipline and stress relief to the female participants. The trainee Azmat Khan trained the female students for four consecutive days. She was assisted by Zahid Khan, a student of the college during days of training. The camp was orga-

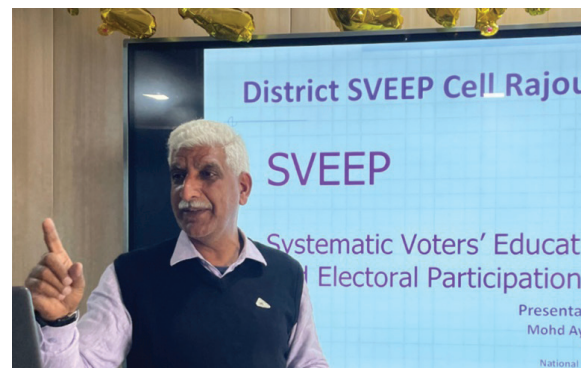
nized from 4th to 7th March, 2024, and the valedictory function of the camp was held on 16-03-2024 in the multi-purpose hall of the college. On valedictory function, Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz along with Dr. M Yasin Pir (convenor sports), Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Wagi, Dr. Tawheeda Rasool (convenor W.S.C), Prof. A.G Kumar, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malla (PTI) and M.S Daljeet Kour Dutta distributed Trophies and certificates among the participants and trainers of the camp.

# Police conducts training programme for Sector Police Officers in Sopore

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SOPORE, MAR 18

Police in Sopore conducted a training programme for Sector Police Officers for forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024 at DPL Sopore. The training program focused on equipping sector police officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively manage their sectors during the General Lok Sabha Elections. The training session was conducted by DySP DAR Sopore Shri Dr. Hilal Ahmad Hilal-JKPS. Addressing the officers about their role, the speaker also urged them to adhere to the rules/regulations/guidelines of Election Commission of India and ensure that elections are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. Sector Officers were also familiarized with Vulnerability Mapping, Fulfilment of Vulnerability Mapping Form 2 and Vulnerability Mapping Form 3, Role of Sector Officers, concept of critical polling stations and the role of police to provide level playing field for all the stakeholders and in ensuring peaceful elections.

# Awareness Programme under SVEEP held at DIET Rajouri



J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 18

In an effort to promote voter awareness and participation, an awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was conducted today at DIET Rajouri, under the guidance of District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Parkash Bhagat. The event saw active participation from approximately sixty teachers representing fifteen educational zones across the district, along with faculty members from DIET Rajouri. Mr. Mohammad Ayaz Raina, a member of the District SVEEP Cell, deliv-

ered an insightful presentation on SVEEP, emphasizing the importance of mass participation of electorates in the upcoming elections to strengthen democracy. Participants were encouraged to carry the message of SVEEP to their respective communities. The programme concluded with the distribution of informative pamphlets among the attendees, reinforcing the message of ensuring no voter is left behind, in line with the mission to achieve maximum voter turnout. Professor Mohammad Iqbal Raina, the District Nodal Officer (DNO) for SVEEP, supervised the programme to ensure its success.

# General Elections-2024

# CEO issues guidelines for Printers, Publishers of J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 18

In view of the ensuing elections to Lok Sabha, the Jammu and Kashmir Election Office has issued guidelines with regard to printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters and related material across the Union Territory. The Chief Electoral Officer today issued a public notice to all the registered printers and publishers of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, informing that the printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters etcetera is being governed by the provisions of section 127-A of Representation of Peoples Act, 1951. As per "127-A Restrictions on printing of pamphlets, posters etcetera; no person shall print or

publish, or cause to be printed or published, any election pamphlet or poster which does not bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher thereof. No person shall print or cause to be printed any election pamphlet or poster; unless a declaration as to the identity of the publisher thereof, signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he is personally known, is delivered by him to the printer in duplicate and, unless, within a reasonable time after the printing of the document, one copy of the declaration is sent by the printer, together with one copy of the document "Where it is printed in the capital of the state, to the Chief Electoral Officer and in any other case, to the District Magistrate

of the district in which it is printed". For the purposes of this section; any process for multiplying copies of a document, other than copying it by hand, shall be deemed to be printed and the expression "printer" shall be construed accordingly; "Election pamphlet or poster" means any printed pamphlet, hand-bill or other document distributed for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of a candidate or group of candidates or any placard or poster having reference to an election, but does not include any hand-bill, placard or poster merely announcing the date, time, place and other particulars of an election meeting or routine instructions to election agents or workers.

Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 127-A (2) and the above directions of the Commission would be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both. It is, therefore, enjoined upon all the printers and publishers to indicate clearly in the print line the names and addresses of printer and publisher of any election pamphlet or posters or such other material printed by them. Besides, all printing presses have to send the copies or the printed material (along with three extra copies of each such printed material) and the declaration obtained from the publisher as required under section 127-A (2) within three days of its

printing. Also, any violation of the provisions of section 127-A (2) and the above directions of the Commission would be viewed seriously and stern action, which may in appropriate cases include even revocation of license of printing press under relevant laws of the state, would be taken. Before undertaking the printing of any election pamphlets or poster etc, printer shall obtain from the publisher a declaration in terms of section 127-A(2) in the proforma prescribed by the Commission in Appendix IX-A hereto, this declaration shall be fully signed by the publisher and attested by two persons to whom the publisher is personally known. It should also be authenticated by the printer when it is forwarded to

the Chief Electoral Officer or District Magistrate, as the case may be. Likewise, the printer shall furnish four (4) copies of the printed material, along with declaration of the publisher, within three (3) days of the printing thereof, along with such printed material and the declaration. The printer shall also furnish the information regarding the number of copies of documents printed and the price charged for such printing job, in the proforma prescribed by the Commission in Appendix-B hereto. Such information shall be furnished by the printer, not collectively but separately, in respect of each election pamphlet poster etc., printed by him within three days of printing of each such document.

# Adhere to MCC: DEO Bandipora, holds meet with political party representatives

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, MARCH 18

The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Monday convened a meeting of political party representatives to discuss various measures under Model Code of Conduct (MCC) to ensure fair and transparent elections in the district. The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer MCC Umar Shafi Pandit, Dy DEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, ARO Bandipora Shabir Ahmad wani, ARO Sumbal Amir Choudhary, Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring Sheikh Aabid Manzoor, Nodal Officer MCMC Dr. Naseer Ahmad, DLMT, representatives of different political parties including Bhartiya Janta Party, Congress, DPAP,

JKAP, JKNC, JKNPF, AIP, NYP, PDP, AAP and other concerned. The DEO on the occasion said that district administration has made all the necessary preparations to conduct the upcoming parliamentary polls in a free, fair and transparent manner. He stressed strict enforcement of the model code of conduct across the district. The DEO emphasised maintaining peace and order during the electoral process and urged political parties to adhere to the model code of conduct. He stressed the importance of maintaining a peaceful and conducive environment for campaigning and urged political parties to refrain from any activities that could incite violence or violate the model code of conduct.

# DEO Reasi chairs meeting with Nodal Officers on Election preparedness



J I NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MARCH 18

The District Election Officer Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting with all nodal officers to discuss and review the preparedness for the upcoming elections. Key points addressed included the establishment of a control room, maintenance of law and order, coordination for the movement of polling parties, provision of parking facilities, EVM training, and transport management systems. DEO Vishesh Mahajan emphasized the significance of these aspects in ensuring the smooth conduct of the electoral process. He emphasized that

each polling station should be decorated, clean, well-equipped with electricity, water supply, and proper toilet facilities to ensure the convenience of voters and polling staff. DEO Reasi urged all nodal officers to continue their concerted efforts to uphold the integrity and transparency of the electoral process in Reasi district. ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Kulbhusan Khajuria Nodal officer for MCC, PO Poshan Mohammad Anwar Bandy Nodal officer for training, ACD Pardeep Kumar Nodal officers for logistics, Dy. DEO Rakesh Kumar, DIO Nasir Ahmed Nodal officer for SVEEP and other Nodal officers were present in the meeting.

# RO-4 Udhampur PC chairs meeting with political parties

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, MARCH 18

Returning Officer-4 Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Rakesh Minhas (DC Kathua), chaired a meeting today with representatives from various political parties in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, 2024. The objective of the interactive session was to emphasize the strict adherence to the ethical standards outlined in the Model Code of Conduct and other pertinent guidelines established by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The meeting provided a platform to sensitize political parties about the paramount importance of maintaining integrity, fairness, and transparency throughout the electoral process. Various pertinent issues were deliberated upon, including adherence to MCC provisions, obtaining permissions for media advertisements and campaign vehicles, as well as the initiation of candidate bank accounts as per the prescribed timeline. In the discussions held, there was a unanimous acknowledgment of the collective responsibility of all political stakeholders in fostering an environment characterized by ethical



conduct and respect for democratic principles. Returning Officer disclosed that Single Window facility has been put in place for facilitating Political parties/ Contesting candidates to get timely permissions and relevant certificates from fully equipped Election Control Room where all facility have been put in place for smooth conduct of Election related activities. On the occasion, relevant material issued by ECI was also distributed

among the representatives of political parties. Dr Rakesh Minhas reiterated the pivotal role of political parties in upholding the democratic fabric of the nation and stressed the imperative of cooperation and adherence to the guidelines delineated in the Model Code of Conduct by the ECI. He urged all parties to exhibit unwavering integrity and responsibility, thus setting a positive precedent for a credible, fair, and peaceful electoral process.

Dr Rakesh Minhas expressed confidence in the cooperation and compliance of all political parties, fostering an environment conducive to the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections. The meeting was attended by Additional District Commissioner, Ranjit Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Deputy DEO, Nagesh Singh, Nodal Officer MCMC & SVEEP Neeraj Bhargav and representatives from various political parties.

## DEO Samba chairs meeting with Political Parties ahead of Lok Sabha Elections 2024



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, MARCH 18

District Election Officer, Samba, Abhishek Sharma today convened a crucial meeting with representatives from various political parties in preparation for the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections in 2024. The primary objective of the meeting was to emphasize on the significance of upholding the highest ethical standards as outlined in the Model Code of Conduct and other relevant guidelines established by the Elec-

tion Commission of India (ECI). Key discussions during the session included issues such as adherence to MCC provisions, obtaining permissions for media advertisements and campaign logistics, as well as initiating candidate bank accounts in accordance with stipulated timelines. The meeting served as a platform to sensitize political parties about the imperative nature of maintaining integrity, fairness, and transparency throughout the electoral process. It emphasized

the collective commitment of all stakeholders towards fostering an environment characterized by ethical conduct and adherence to the guidelines outlined, thereby fostering a conducive environment for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections. Among the attendees were distinguished officials including SSP Vinay Sharma, ADC Suresh Sharma, GM DIC Gurpreet Singh, Deputy DEO Harvinder Singh, DIO Ashiq Rafiq Malik, and representatives from various political parties.

transparency, and ethical conduct. He expressed confidence in the cooperation and adherence of all political parties to the guidelines outlined, thereby fostering a conducive environment for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections. He assured the press that the district administration is fully prepared and has meticulously organized all necessary arrangements for the seamless conduct of the elections as per the schedule announced by the ECI. He emphasized the significance of voting, Minga Sherpa appealed to the public, urging them to exercise their democratic right by casting their ballots. Speaking at the conference, the SSP said that

## Lok Sabha Election 2024: DEO Baramulla holds press conference

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MARCH 18

In view of the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO), Baramulla today held a press conference at Dak Bungalow here to disseminate essential information regarding the do's and don'ts during Model Code of Conduct (MCC) along with the guidelines established by the Election Commission of India (ECI). He was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Nagpure, Additional District Development Commissioner, Syed Qamar Sajad and SP Sopore, Divya Dev. The DEO informed the media about the nationwide enforcement of the MCC following the announcement of the election date by the ECI and stressed that it is mandatory for every individual, including government employees, members of



political parties, and any ordinary citizens, to strictly adhere to these guidelines during the election period. He assured the press that the district administration is fully prepared and has meticulously organized all necessary arrangements for the seamless conduct of the elections as per the schedule announced by the ECI. He emphasized the significance of voting, Minga Sherpa appealed to the public, urging them to exercise their democratic right by casting their ballots. Speaking at the conference, the SSP said that

the police department is taking every possible security measure to make the environment conducive for the free and fair conduct of the elections in the district. Earlier, the DEO, accompanied by SSP, ADDC, and SP, held a meeting with the representatives of the political parties at the Dak Bungalow to brief them about the guidelines mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and emphasized the paramount importance for every political entity to strictly adhere to these guidelines, ensuring a fair, transparent, and democratic electoral process.

## DEO Bandipora addresses press conference, briefs media regarding Election Schedule

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, MARCH 18

In view of General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024 scheduled to be held on 20th May 2024 in Bandipora district being part of the Baramulla-1 Parliamentary Constituency, the District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today addressed a press conference at Mini Secretariat, here today.

The DEO said that all the necessary circulars detailing the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct to maintain the sanctity of Electoral Process have been issued. He said that Bandipora district as part of the Baramulla-1 Parliamentary Constituency has 3 assembly segments including 14-Sonawari, 15-Bandipora and 16 Gurez comprising of a total of 312 polling stations with 137 polling stations in 14-Sonawari, 144 polling stations in 15-Bandipora and 31 polling stations in 16-Gurez with assured minimum facility available at all polling stations across the District. He revealed that the Gazette Notification will be issued on 26th of April, 2024 for Baramulla-1 Parliamentary Constituency.

The DEO said that 3rd May, 2024 is the last date for filling Nominations and on 4th May, 2024 scrutiny of Nomination shall be held while as 06th May, 2024 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature. He said 20th May is the poll date for Baramulla-1 Parliamentary Constituency and counting of votes shall be held on 4th of June 2024. The DEO informed that Bandipora has 258675 Electors as on 18th of March 2024 with 131761 Males, 126908 females and 06 TG's.

Giving details regarding SVEEP activities, the DEO said that 213 camps were conducted during special Summary revision, in which 3743 new voters were added. He also highlighted various activities conducted under SVEEP including Screening of documentary on Electoral participations, Youth Rally for generating Awareness about Voter Registration, Booth Level Camps for demonstrating Saksham application for PwD Voters and involving youth icons for generating voter awareness.

## Returning Officer Udhampur PC held interactive session with Flying Squad teams

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, MARCH 18

The Returning Officer for the Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Rakesh Minhas (DC Kathua) chaired a meeting today with the Flying Squad Teams assigned for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections- 2024.

The primary objective of the session was to acquaint the teams with their roles, responsibilities, and the adherence to the stringent ethical standards mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

During the meeting, Dr Rakesh Minhas emphasized the pivotal role of the Flying Squad Teams in ensuring the integrity and fairness of the electoral process. He underscored the importance of impartiality, diligence, and adherence to the Model Code of Conduct in all their activities.

The discussions encompassed various aspects, including the identification and monitoring of suspicious activities related to electoral malpractices, enforcement of election-related laws, and swift action against any violations detected. Additionally, the teams were



briefed on the proper procedures for handling complaints and reporting incidents promptly to the concerned authorities. Dr Rakesh Minhas reiterated the significance of upholding the democratic principles and ensuring a level playing field for all candidates and political parties. He urged the Flying Squad Teams to discharge their duties

with utmost diligence and impartiality, thereby contributing to the conduct of free, fair, and transparent elections. The session also witnessed the clarification of queries or concerns raised by the Flying Squad Teams. The Returning Officer expressed confidence in the dedication of the Flying Squad Teams and urged them to perform

their duties diligently to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal, ADC Ranjit Singh, ASP Kathua, ACR Kathua, SDM Hiranagar, Dy DEO Kathua, DIO Kathua and other concerned officers.

## District SVEEP Cell Rajouri organized awareness programme for young voters at Himalayan Super School Dhangri

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MARCH 18

Team of SVEEP Cell Rajouri organised awareness for young voters at Himalayan Super School Dhangri under the able guidance and direction of District Election Officer Om Parkash Bhagat. The team was headed by Nodal Officer SVEEP Cell Rajouri accompanied by Dr. Khalid Rayaz

and Prof. Ajaz Nazir. The programme started with the welcome address by Dr Khalid Rayaz, one of the member of SVEEP cell. Speaking on the occasion Prof Mohd Iqbal Raina Nodal Officer for SVEEP said that the objective of SVEEP is to encourage young voters to participate in the electoral process and make informed decisions while casting

your votes. He urged the young voters to exercise their franchise without fail and contribute to the strengthening of democracy. The programme was attended by staff and good number of students. At the end the formal vote of thanks was presented by Principal Iqbal Shawl of Himalayan super School Dhangri Rajouri.

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## Lok Sabha Elections 2024: DEO Ganderbal chairs meeting with Political Parties



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 18

The District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired a significant meeting with representatives from various political parties at the V.C Room, here. During the session, DEO underscored the paramount importance of adhering to the highest eth-

ical standards delineated in the Model Code of Conduct and other pertinent guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI). He emphasized the need for political parties to uphold democratic values and urged them to demonstrate integrity and responsibility, setting a positive precedent for a free, fair, and peaceful electoral process.

Master trainers provided insights into essential aspects of Lok Sabha elections, including the process of lodging complaints as per MCC provisions, obtaining permissions for media advertisements, campaign vehicles, and other pertinent matters. Discussions throughout the meeting highlighted the collective commitment of all political stakeholders

towards fostering an environment characterized by ethical conduct, accountability, and respect for democratic principles. DEO expressed confidence in the cooperation and adherence of all political parties to the outlined guidelines, thereby ensuring a conducive environment for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections.

## Training for polling staff held in Reasi



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MARCH 18

In order to equip the polling staff about their roles, duties and necessary guidelines of Election Commission of India to be followed during Lok Sabha Election in segments, Nodal Officer for Training, Mohammad Anwar Bandy, (District Programme Officer ICDS, Reasi) presided over a training session for polling staff under the overall supervision of the District Election Officer, Reasi

Vishesh Mahajan. During the training, collection of polling material, collection and installation of EVMs, setting up of polling stations and commencement of polls was thoroughly discussed with the trainees. The process of sealing, installation and functioning of the EVMs was also demonstrated by the master trainers besides the procedure to be followed in case of challenge vote, refuse vote and vote under declaration was also briefed to the trainees.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024 DEO Kulgam chairs meeting with Political Parties



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MARCH 18

The District Election Officer (DEO) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting with representatives from various political parties at the mini-secretariat, here. The meeting was attended by representatives from BJP, CPIM, INC, JKNC and other political parties. The objective of the meeting was to underscore the importance of adhering to the highest ethical standards outlined in the Model Code of Conduct, and other applicable guidelines of ECI in view of the forthcoming Lok

Sabha Elections, 2024. The representatives of political parties were also apprised about the Apps like cVIGIL, which enables citizens to report violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC), Suvidha Candidate App, Voter helpline App, Saksham-ECI App, Ncore App, RTI Online portal and other Apps to ensure a smooth and transparent elections. Election manuals and related material was also distributed among the representatives of these political parties. The meeting was also attended by SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal; Dy-DEO, AROs and other officers.



# BSP assails govt decision on OBC reservation

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

In a meeting held today in our party office, state unit of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) hereby assailed the tall claims of present Govt in J&K regarding OBC reservation. Members questioned as to what is the basis of 8%. When the issue is already settled in 1992 by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that states/UT shall grant the OBC reservation according to their population. The population of OBC castes (including 14 more castes) in J&K beomes more than 40%, then why 8% instead of 40%. Govt has included 14 more castes/ classes some of which donot qualify for the inclusion in OBC list. The arbitrary figure of 8% is without any logic and it is purely politically motivated. BJP is playing with sentiments of innocent OBC people just to create a big vote Bank. Members further said that OBCs were deprived of their constitutional rights



first by Congress for fifty years and now by BJP on the same pattern. In the discussion on abrogation of article 370, BJP leadership had promised that OBC shall get their due share after formation of UT. It is unfortunate that they are betrayed. Now, OBC should understand that only and only BJP can stand by them. BSP has been fighting for the rights of OBC and other weaker sections since 1985. There is no alternate of BSP. It is high time that OBC should understand the anti SC/ST/OBC mindset of BJP and join BSP in large number to achieve the due share. OBCs should clearly understand that Reserva-

tion is a political issue and it cannot be achieved fairly till SC/ST/OBC form their Govt in the leadership of BSP. It was also pointed out that Sh Rajaram, Hon'ble MP of BSP, as per the directions of party Supremo Behan Mayawati, had raised this OBC issue in Parliament and it was direction of Hon'ble Chair that OBC issue should be addressed at the earliest but all in vain. BSP has always highlight that OBC people of J&K are worst sufferers. How Govt can claim Good Governance. BSP declares that if Govt doesnot grant 27% reservation to OBCs, as per Mandal Commission, BSP

will escalate its mission for the same and appeal general public to beware of opportunistic approach of BJP led Govt and vote and support for BSP. The meeting was chaired by Sh Darshan Rana, President BSP along with Charanjeet Chargoira, Vice President. Others who spoke include Gourav (State Coordinator), Adv Shashi Thapa (State Gen Secy); Jagdish Verma (Gen Secy); Mangal Dass (Distt Pres. Udhampur); Sunil Majotra (Gen Secy); Kartar Gandhi (State Secretary); Kuldeep Chalotra (Pres Bhaichara Committee); Om Kataria, Tilk Raj Bhagat, and many others.

# ANTF Jammu recovers commercial quantity of narcotics, arrests 01 notorious drug peddler

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

To Wipe out the menace of drug abuse from society under the programme on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, ANTF JAMMU achieved a major success and apprehended one notorious drug peddler namely Ravi Raj S/O Shambu Ram R/O Aghar jitoo Katra Reasi and during the search of his car Alto bearing regd No JKO2AW 5900 recovered commercial quantity of narcotics from his possession at Circular road near Panjthirthi, Jammu.

Trap was laid by team of P/S ANTF Jammu led



by Insp Meenu Sharma headed by Shri Tanveer Ah -JKPS, Dy SP ANTF Jammu under the overall supervision of SSP ANTF J&K Shri Raj Kumar -JKPS. In this regard case FIR No. 05/2024 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act has been registered at P/S ANTF Jammu and investigation is set into motion.

Anti Narcotics Task Force "J&K" Jammu has appealed the general public to come forward regarding any information related to drugs so that this menace could be uprooted completely from the society and our young generation could be saved from this deadly menace.

# Ravinder Raina chaired Booth Sammelan, party worker meeting in Reasi

JINNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MAR 19

Stating that the BJP lives in the blood of the people of Reasi, BJP President Ravinder Raina asked the party activists to ensure that every single vote from 3 Assembly constituencies under Reasi District should be polled in favour of the Modi government.



Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir chaired a Booth Sammelan of Reasi Assembly constituency and workers meeting of Reasi District at Swastik Resort in Reasi. Former Minister Ajay Nanda, Prabhari Reasi District Arvind Gupta, President District Reasi Rohit Dubey, senior leader Kuldeep Dubey, former MLA Baldev, Sheel Magotra, Sudesh Puri, Shashi Gupta, Romel Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Kabla Singh, Pawan Dev Singh, Shiv Kumar and other party leaders were also present on the occasion.

While addressing the prominent party workers of Reasi District, Ravinder Raina said that this belt has always held the flag of BJP in high esteem. He remembered the works of great leaders like Rishi Kumar Kaushal and others who have contributed lot for the organizational growth, for the betterment of the people and the development in the area. He said that the BJP, while going into the Parliament election of 2024, is working on the vision of

"Bharat of 2047". "BJP lives in the blood of the people of Reasi. The people here have seen that how the BJP activists have fought for the rights of the people. The people here have lived the times of great struggle and know the sacrifices made by the party stalwarts in the service to the nation, J&K and Reasi. Now, the party leaders and ground-level activists must ensure that every single vote from 3 Assembly constituencies under Reasi District

should be polled in favour of the Modi government to elect it for the 3rd time in series and ensure a better future for the youth and continue with the unprecedented spree of development. Ravinder Raina, in the meeting, also took review of the ongoing organizational works with respect to the Parliament election in Reasi Assembly constituency, Gulabgarh Assembly constituency and Shree Mata Vaishno Devi constituency falling under Reasi District.

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 13

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also the party Incharge of J&K, today warned PDP president Mehbooba Mufti against spreading a divisive agenda among the people for her petty political reasons in view of the coming Lok Sabha elections.

In a statement Chugh



took strong exception to the manner Mehbooba has been spreading anti-

India narrative in J&K and said it is time that Muftis and Abdullahs along with the Gandhis realize that the people in J&K would not accept nepotism and family rule in the Union Territory.

Chugh said raking up the Pulwama issue at a time when the J&K was moving towards a new era of development and progress only indicated frustration in the Mufti family.

It seems that Mehbooba is trying to seek help of her mentors across the border to once again create a situation of disturbance in violence in J&K to garner votes, he said.

Chugh said the way the Modi government has written a new chapter of peace and amity in J&K there are all indications that Abdullahs and Muftis would only lick the dust in the coming elections.

# BJP tourism cell organizes Viksit Bharat program in Nud, Samba

JINNEWS SERVICE  
NUD (SAMBA), MAR 19

Viksit Bharat program organized by the tourism cell BJP JKUT in coordination with the Mandal Committee Nud in Samba District at Sarna.

Convener of Tourism cell, Ravi Bakshi said that tourism is back bone of the UT economy. Tourism contributes 8% GDP and economy 8000 Crore. It Provides directly or indirectly to 70000 people. He shared his experience of beautiful slowly developed places such as Mohargarh Fort and found maintenance work is in progress for their previous efforts.

Jorawar Singh executive member tourism cell expressed vision of many components from economic growth to all-inclusive development and ambitious Technologies



innovations, The economy that is inclusive of job and entrepreneur opportunities. The people were told various schemes by PM Modi for farmers such as PM KISSAN SAMMAN NIDHI YOJANA which is minimum income support to the farmers, 6000 thousand per annum is being provided. He mentioned a steadfast commitment to honoring & supporting our farmer experience, the

rise of low class to upper class and mentioned PM Fasal Bima yojana and modified interest subverting scheme.

DDC member Kartar Chand said that work is in full swing from historical building Mohargarh Fort to bridge. He emphasizes the food and supply department issuing new ration card and (BIFURCATION) of ration card as some deserving family's

are deprived of government scheme. He further demand for Sport Stadium Parthagarh Village which is dire need of youths of the locality.

BJP Kissan Morch representatives from Nud Gurdev Singh expressed his pleasure for existing forthful scheme for the farmers. He demanded from the administration to develop Durl as beautiful tourist place and road from Balda to Janda is required Shakti Kendra Head Bishan Singh demanding road constriction from Durai to Nagar.

In the 3rd session the people were told regarding the Manifesto of the BJP which has to be prepared from the views from the people residing even far flung area. We requested the people to give your feedback to frame the manifesto.

# PMEGP empowering Jammu youth to become entrepreneurs: Sat Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 19

PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme) is empowering the youth of Jammu to become entrepreneurs, said Sat Sharma and added that the major hurdle to start one's dream venture to arrange for the necessary finances, has been met by Modi government's 'ease of doing business' and the schemes like PMGEP.



Former president J&K BJP, Sat Sharma (CA) accompanied by J&K BJP media Incharge, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Jaideep Sambyal, Yashpal Shivgotra, Krishan Lal Sharma, and others inaugurated a restaurant 'Frespresso' in Talab Tillo.

Restaurant owner Anubhav along with family members Dr. Jeet Raj Bajjala, Zeeshan, DSP Anubhuti and Manisha Magotra were present on

the occasion. Highlighting the thrust of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve the aim of 'Viksit Bharat', Sat Sharma said that the Modi government has successfully encouraged the youth to take the path of 'Start-Ups' and chase the dream of entrepreneurship. He said that the schemes like PMGEP have provided financial assistance to self-employment ventures to generate sus-

tainable employment opportunities for unemployed youth. He appreciated the young owner who after pursuing BTech, has chosen to become self-employed and at the same time provided employment opportunities to 3 persons. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, stressing on the massive scope of business opportunities in private sector, said that Jammu has got lots of business opportu-

nities to explore including the late night 'alive markets' to attract investments and tourists in and around Jammu. Wishing good luck to owner, he added that India is becoming the world's fastest-growing startup ecosystem with more than 100 Unicorn Startups under visionary leadership of PM Modi.

Restaurant owner Anubhav thanked the former BJP president for inaugurating the restaurant and stated that the Restaurant will provide the best and hygienic recipes to people. He also stated that coffee, and various take away food items are available at the restaurant. Lokesh Bhagat, Omark Verma, Bhubesh, Rakesh Sharma, Jitendra Khajuria, Bhanu Sambyal, Bachan Lal, S. Jagdip Singh, Kewal Sharma, Ashish Magotra, Pankaj Gupta and others were among the prominent present on the occasion.

# BJP holds media relation Meeting Ahead of Parliamentary Elections in Srinagar

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 19

Amidst heightened anticipation for the upcoming parliamentary elections, a significant meeting convened at the party headquarters in Srinagar under the guidance of Sunil Sethi Chief Spokesperson J&K BJP. Members of Media relation committee Adv Parimoksh Seth, Altaf Thakur, and Sahil Aggarwal, served as a pivotal platform to strategize for the future political landscape.

The post-meeting atmosphere buzzed with media attention, with both local and national press turn-



ing their focus towards the proceedings. Central to the discussions was the paramount role of the media as the third pillar of democracy, bridging the

gap between the populace and government policies. At the heart of the agenda was a concerted effort to galvanize media awareness surrounding

the impending parliamentary elections. Recognizing the profound influence wielded by media channels, the gathering underscored the vital role they play in disseminating information and fostering public engagement with governmental affairs. As preparations intensify for the forthcoming elections, the outcome of this meeting promises to pave the way for a dynamic exchange of ideas and strategies, ensuring a robust democratic process that remains grounded in the principles of transparency and accountability.

## EDITORIAL

## Need for addressing Ladakh's demands

The recent developments in Ladakh, particularly the announcement by the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) to hold a massive protest rally on March 20, highlight the urgency and importance of addressing the region's long standing demands. The demand for Statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution is not just a matter of political discourse but a crucial issue that impacts the lives and aspirations of the people in the region. The decision by the KDA to take to the streets in support of their demands is a reflection of the growing frustration and disillusionment among the residents of Ladakh. Despite several rounds of talks and meetings with government representatives, including the Union Home Minister, there has been a lack of concrete progress on fulfilling the legitimate aspirations of the people. One of the key points of contention is the refusal by the Centre to accept Ladakh's demand for Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule. These demands are not unfounded; they stem from a desire for greater autonomy, representation, and protection of the region's unique cultural and environmental heritage. The ongoing hunger strike by Sonam Wangchuk, an eminent education reformer, further underscores the gravity of the situation. Wangchuk's determination to bring attention to Ladakh's four-point agenda, including the demand for the Sixth Schedule, deserves serious consideration and action from the authorities. The solidarity shown by thousands of individuals, including students and activists across different cities, reflects a widespread concern for the rights and well-being of the people of Ladakh. The support rallies, hunger strikes, and peaceful protests are not mere expressions of dissent but a call for justice and empowerment. It is imperative for the government to engage in meaningful dialogue with the representatives of Ladakh, including the KDA and Leh Apex Body (LAB), to find a viable and acceptable solution. Ignoring or delaying the resolution of these issues will only exacerbate tensions and deepen the sense of alienation among the people of Ladakh. Furthermore, the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections should not be used as an excuse to delay addressing the genuine grievances of the region. The MCC should not become a barrier to dialogue and progress; rather, it should serve as a framework for ensuring fair and transparent engagement with all stakeholders. The government must prioritize a constructive and inclusive approach to address Ladakh's demands for Statehood and Sixth Schedule inclusion. It is time to seriously listen to the voices of the people and work towards a future that respects their aspirations and secures their rights within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

BKP SINHA

Land, the foundation of our existence, is often overlooked in the discourse on sustainable development. Yet, it is this very land that cradles life, harbours resources, and sustains us all. As we stride forward in our quest for progress, it is crucial to remember that every step we take leaves an imprint on the land beneath us.

As a developing nation, India's relationship with land is complex and multifaceted. It is deeply intertwined with cultural, social, and environmental aspects, embodying the country's rich heritage and biodiversity. However, it is also a highly coveted resource, often the subject of conflicts as various stakeholders, each with their unique vision of development, compete for its possession.

India's terrain, once a vibrant mosaic of lush fields and flourishing ecosystems, is confronting a transformed paradigm. The ceaseless progression of urbanisation and industrialisation is swiftly altering the landscape, leaving a trail of unintended consequences in its wake. This shift is diverting fertile land away from its traditional agricultural use, posing serious challenges for food security and causing harm to eco-sensitive areas, thereby disrupting wildlife habitats and biodiversity on both micro and macro levels. Rivers, once brimming with life and vitality, are now enduring relentless assaults. Encroachments and diversions are strangling their ability to sustain us, while the toxic deluge of industrial waste is poisoning their essence. This contamination is turning these once vibrant waterways into barren stretches making it unfit for aquatic life, diminishing their aesthetic value and cultural significance and impeding their natural self-purification capabilities.

Mining, particularly in forested regions, is inflicting deep wounds on the earth, causing extensive land degradation and disturbing the fragile ecological balance. Meanwhile, rapid urbanisation, although promising improved living standards often lacks environmental sustainability in its construction processes. Development, despite its promise of progress, tends to exploit nature's bounty and displace indigenous communities, severing

## Addressing the complexity of land use



the sacred ties that have bound them to the land for generations. These competing and conflicting land uses along with evolving land rights issues are igniting conflicts between local communities and administrative entities.

With India's rise as the world's most populous country, accounting for nearly 18% of the global population, the per capita land availability is dwindling. This decline, especially in areas vital for human life, agriculture, ecosystems, and natural resources, carries significant implications. The task ahead is to unlock the potential of the land in a way that harmoniously accommodates the diverse needs and impacts associated with different land uses.

The agricultural landscape of India has also experienced significant transformations over the centuries, evolving from traditional farming to modern techniques. Initially, Indian farming was subsistence-based, relying on indigenous knowledge and techniques like mixed cropping, crop rotation, and organic manure use, which fostered a healthy relationship with the environment. Agroforestry, the harmonious integration of trees and shrubs within farmlands had further enriched this tapestry which contributed to the overall health and productivity of the land.

However, the British era marked a shift towards commercial agriculture, focusing on cash crops and monoculture farming. This period also witnessed the introduction of land revenue systems, often marginalising small farmers and disrupting rural communities.

Post-independence, the Green Revolution emerged as a beacon of hope, aiming to alleviate hunger and poverty by increasing food grain production. While this revolution successfully doubled the output of staple crops like wheat and rice, it came at a cost. Overuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides led to widespread soil degradation and water pollution. The dependence on water-intensive crops, aggravated water scarcity challenges, particularly in regions like Punjab. Moreover, the focus on specific high-yield varieties overshadowed the importance of other vital food sources like varieties of rice and millet, threatening the diversity and resilience of India's food security. While the Green Revolution brought prosperity to many, unfortunately, it also overlooked small and marginal farmers.

Traditional practices like shifting cultivation in some regions are contributing to deforestation and the conversion of agricultural land into less productive ones. This alteration of land use, particularly

the conversion of forests for agriculture or industry, is further amplifying the effects of climate change. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events are disrupting agricultural production, posing immense challenges for farmers and making it difficult for them to predict yields and plan effectively. Climate change is also worsening the existing water scarcity, creating a vicious cycle that threatens the very foundation of agriculture in many regions.

Beyond these environmental challenges, socioeconomic changes like rapid urbanisation, labour migration, and evolving societal attitudes are also reshaping the agricultural landscape. Increasing fuel costs and a looming energy crisis further squeeze the profitability of farming, making it a less attractive livelihood for many. Farmers often face unfair market practices, including receiving low prices for their crops and delayed payments.

These multifaceted challenges culminate in a tragic reality - the distressing issue of farmer suicides. Driven by crippling debt, crop failures, and difficulties in securing a sustainable livelihood, many small and marginal farmers are pushed to the brink of despair. This sombre consequence casts a long shadow on the future of

Indian agriculture, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive and empathetic solutions that address not just the economic aspects but also the social and emotional well-being of the farmers who are the backbone of the nation's food security.

While initiatives like the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana and PM-KISAN Yojana offer crucial financial support to the farmers, they fail to address the fundamental issue of farming being non-remunerative. A market-driven approach, guided by demand and supply, is often proposed and was reflected in the Centre's response to the pandemic-induced economic crisis. However, the pandemic has also challenged previous notions about the agricultural economy and exposed vulnerabilities in supply chain-dependent food security.

Given the complexity and diversity of these challenges, it's clear that a holistic and integrated approach is essential for sustainable land management. However, the current strategies are plagued by sector-specific focus, decentralised decision-making, outdated data, and unclear land records, often leading to conflicting land uses and unsustainable practices. We need to prioritise both economic growth and environmental sustainability while ensuring social equity.

The key to sustainable land management lies in open discussions and collective decision-making among a diverse group of stakeholders. To realise this vision, it's essential to empower all stakeholders, with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions. In this context, building a comprehensive Land Information System becomes vital, especially for small landholders. Farmers often face challenges in decision-making due to the lack of comprehensive land records, particularly during land transactions. Establishing systems that provide crucial data, such as soil conditions, water availability, past crop yields and pricing trends can enhance their decision-making capabilities. Addressing land rights issues and empowering marginalised communities are also crucial for societal robustness and equity. It's equally important that land acquisition strategies balance the need for public projects with the provision of adequate compensation and rehabilitation support for displaced individuals.

Efficiency and effectiveness in land management can also be significantly improved by streamlining regulations, eliminating redundancies, and enhancing data accessibility and transparency. It's also important to cultivate environmental consciousness, promote climate-smart strategies, and encourage forward-thinking in land use planning.

Protecting resource-rich areas, particularly Eco-Sensitive Zones must be prioritised. Establishing clear boundaries and integrating these areas into land use planning will ensure their continued bounty and ecological significance. Enforcing sensible restrictions on the acquisition and conversion of arable lands is fundamental, given their significant role in food security and sustaining agricultural communities.

With these comprehensive strategies and mindful practices in place, we can begin to address the multifaceted challenges of land management. This sets the stage for India to navigate its complex land use challenges and secure a future where development and environmental preservation flourish in harmony.

(The author is Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP, views are personal)

## Feasting and fasting: The right balance

RAVI VALLURI

It always depresses me when people moan about how commercial Christmas is. I love everything about it. The tradition of having this big feast, slap bang in the middle of winter, is an essential thing to look forward to at the end of the year, writes Richard E. Grant.

Indians practice multiple faiths; Holi and Ram Navami are Hindu festivals interspersed with Good Friday and Easter. I have several Christian friends and my maternal uncle is married to a Christian, so he will present me with a cake(eggless).

This will be followed by Muslim friends celebrating Eid and we savour sevyain (a delicacy). Festivals follow festivals and our stomachs seldom get the time to recuperate. Then there is party time, family togetherness, picnics,

office staff celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. We are not anti-social people, so keep attending marriage festivities and innumerable birthday bashes. A relative drops in from the US and there is a customary family get-together. The company achieves certain corporate objectives and there is all-round celebration. All of us should feel grateful for the abundance that nature has provided us with; but do we pause to think about our abdominal region?

Ayurveda has imparted this quintessential knowledge that what we partake of determines our health and quality of life. The ancient seer Sushrut says, 'Food builds and supports the body, improves complexion and general appearance.'

Overeating causes heaviness in the body



and makes us sluggish and uncomfortable. Over some time, our metabolic rate gets disturbed and the process of elimination gets disrupted and warped.

Taittareya Upanishad succinctly puts it - 'Food is the cause of creation, preservation and destruction. Therefore, food is all

in all - Anna Brahma. It is life itself. It is God'.

Yet, do we care in this age of junk and packaged food? Do humans care about a wholesome diet? A wholesome diet provides energy (prana) and helps in the restoration of balance. It does not clog the channels (Nadis). Two

harmful substances consumed are excessive salt and sugar.

The human body is a sublime gift of God, it sends us important signals - when to fast after feasting!

Amas or toxins are to be necessarily released from the system. This can be done through the method of fasting. Our seers and rishis advocated fasting (during certain festivals and certain days like Ekadashi) to provide adequate space for digestion. Fasting is nature's method of cleansing the system. It detoxifies the body by throwing out all waste matter and impurities that get accumulated through heavy splurging, improper eating patterns and adopting harmful lifestyles (lack of exercise, smoking and drinking). The body gets diseased through the accumulation of toxic substances and acids. It invades the digestive process. Fasting once in 15 days is

indeed a therapeutic measure as it cleanses our blood and replenishes the depleted vitamins and other important reserves to be stored in the body. To purge the body from all things negative, it would be worthwhile to have plenty of liquids juices.

Good health is man's inherent nature - 'A sound body with a sound mind!' Gandhiji used to take immense care of his body through regular fasting. Of course, in a lighter vein, Sarojini Naidu used to say that it cost a fortune to keep Gandhiji in poverty. Along with fasting, one needs to maintain a schedule of exercise. Long walks, yoga, pranayama and breathing practices like Sudarshan Kriya help in the restoration of balance in the system.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)



# IIM Jammu launches Nurturing Future Leadership Program, under aegis of MMTTP

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu launches the Nurturing Future Leadership Program, Under the Aegis of, "The Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme" in an inaugural session held at its permanent campus in Jagti. The leadership training program is one of the unique residential programs designed to develop the leadership skills of educators at different levels and create a pool of potential leaders for generational transition. The program will be conducted by the faculty of IIM Jammu from March 18th to 22nd, 2024, with the aim of enabling institute administration to assess the leadership quality of their faculty members. Prof. B. S. Sahay, the Director of IIM Jammu, presided over the inaugural ceremony. The first batch consisted of 25

participants is fully funded by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, addressed the participants, emphasizing the institute's distinguished contribution as one of the premier management institutions in the country. He encouraged active engagement in the program's sessions and discussions, fostering connections with fellow educators and IIM Jammu faculty, and reiterating their commitment to excellence, innovation, and leadership in education. He remarked, "Today marks a significant milestone in our journey towards educational excellence and leadership development. As we gather here to unveil this program, as initiated by the Ministry of Education, we embark on a transformative initiative aimed at cultivating academic leaders who serve as catalysts for positive change."



Further, he also highlighted the achievements of the IIM system, including the institute's consistent ranking among the top 15 IIMs in the NIRF Rankings for two consecutive years. He expressed aspirations for IIM Jammu to emerge as a leading business school nationally and globally. Reflecting on the institute's journey, he recounted the challenges and milestones, such as the increase in student intake and the significant rise in female representation. He emphasized

the collaborative efforts among institutes of national importance in Jammu (IIM, IIT & AIIMS), particularly in implementing programs like MBA HA-HM and B.Tech + MBA, aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020. He also highlighted IIM Jammu's commitment to supporting research scholars through its generous scholarship program and outlined the institute's revenue model.

The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp and a welcome

speech from Dr. Kulwinder Kaur, Program Director. She extended a heartfelt welcome, mentioned the program's unique features and the structure in which it would be held, and mentioned her happiness on the launch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program. This program is essential for developing the next generation of academic leaders. Our goal is to provide faculty with the leadership skills they need to excel in their academic journey and create effective learning environments for their students.

Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-chairperson, Executive Education & Corporate Consulting (EE&C), shared the institute's unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality executive education by means of such leadership training and development programs. He highlighted the program's features and IIM Jammu's role in creating educational leaders

through such initiatives. Present on the occasion were Dr. Praveen Kumar, Program Director, IIM Jammu. The residential training program will be divided into four broad themes, such as leadership, communication, skill development, and recent government initiatives, and will feature four sessions each for the next five days. These sessions will include lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises to ensure active engagement and application of concepts. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with other educators and IIM Jammu faculty.

Dr. Vaseem Akram, Program Director, concluded the event by extending a vote of thanks to everyone involved with the program. Finally, the inaugural program culminated with the National Anthem, followed by a group photo.

## DM Jammu mandates weapon deposit for 4914 Arms Licence holders

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 18

A Screening Committee, led by District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, has scrutinised 4914 Arms Licences and instructed the holders to submit their weapons to ensure the peaceful conduct of the General Elections for Lok Sabha. An order has been issued by the DM in this regard and the Senior Superintendent of Police has also been asked to ensure implementation of the order.

The arms/ weapons are to be deposited within a period of 7 days and the concerned SHOs shall int-

mate the licence holders for compliance.

These licence holders fall under the categories—  
a) Arms License of the persons released on bail.  
b) Arms License of the persons having criminal offences.

c) Arms License of the persons involved in rioting at any time but especially during the Election.  
d) Other licence holder(s) having potential to disturb the Election Process.

The list of the licence holders shall also be published in the media and displayed at the office of SSP, SDMs, Tehsildars and Police Stations.

## Forest Department organizes pre-event to celebrate 'International Day of Forests'

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 18

The Urban Forest Division, Srinagar, J&K Forest Department in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar today organised a pre-event to the main function to celebrate the International Day of Forests on March 21st 2024.

On the occasion the department organized several events under the theme 'Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World'.

This dynamic event saw enthusiastic participation from various stakeholders including Officers and officials of Forest Department, educators, staff and Para-legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, students of several school and community members. The students of Amar Singh College Srinagar also participated in the event.

The event commenced with Green March rally kicked-off by Pradeepchandra Wahule, Conservator of Forests, Srinagar Circle in presence of Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Dr. Mehraj Ahmad Sheikh, DFO Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar, Aarif Nazir Assistant Soil Conser-

vation Officer, Javid Ahmad, Range Officer, S. Park, Zulfi Tasneem Deputy LADC Srinagar, Nazir-be-Nazir, Chairman National Society for Protection of Water Resources, Wetland and other officers of the Urban Forest Division Srinagar.

The rally, a symbol of unity and commitment to environmental conservation, resonated with the spirit of the International Day of Forests.

Following the rally, participants converged at Bal Van, where Pradeepchandra Wahule, CF Srinagar Circle, spearheaded a plantation drive, underscoring the vital importance of tree planting in sustaining our ecosystems. Together with the enthusiastic involvement of students, officials of Forest Department and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, the initiative aimed to foster a culture of environmental stewardship among the youth. Simultaneously, the vibrant energy of creativity filled the air as students showcased their artistic talents in a Painting Competition centered on the theme of 'Forests and Innovation'. Their compelling artworks served as poignant reminders of the critical role forests play in driving innovation for a sustainable future.

## Isuzu Motors India to roll-out 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Camp' across India



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 15

In a constant endeavour to reaffirm ISUZU's commitment to provide best service and ownership experience, Isuzu Motors India will be conducting a nation-wide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Camp' for its range of ISUZU D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs. This service camp is aimed at offering customer exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks for a hassle-free driving experience during the season across the country.

An initiative of 'ISUZU Care', the Pre-Summer camp will be organised

across all ISUZU authorised dealer service outlets, between 19th to 24th March, 2024 (both days inclusive). During this period, customers can also avail special offers & benefits for their vehicles.

Customers visiting the camp will receive the following:-

The Pre-Summer Camp will be organised at all authorised service facilities of ISUZU located in Ahmedabad, Baramulla, Bengaluru, Bimavaram, Bhuj, Bhubhaneshwar, Calicut, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Dimapur, Durgapur, Gandhidham, Gorakhpur, Gurugram, Guwahati, Hyderabad

(Kukatpally & L.B.Nagar), Indore, Jaipur, Jaigaon, Jalandhar, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Kolhapur, Kurnool, Leh, Lucknow, Madurai, Mandi, Mangalore, Mehsana, Mohali, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, Nellore, Noida, Pune, Raipur, Rajahmundry, Rajkot, Siliguri, Surat, Tirupati, Trivandrum, Trichy, Vadodra, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam.

Customers can call the nearest ISUZU dealer outlet or visit <https://www.isuzu.in/connecttoservice> for service booking. Customer can reach 1800 4199 188 (Toll-free) for more information.

## Shiv Sena demands exemption of teachers from non-academic work

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded that teachers should be allowed to remain teachers and educated unemployed youth should be given opportunity. Party State Chief Manish Sahni along with Vice President Sanjeev Kohli today met the Atal Dullu Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the above demands and submitted a memorandum.

Party state chief Manish Sahni said that voices of protest have been continuously raised regarding the posting of teachers on special duty.

The Right to Education Act also prohibits teachers from doing any kind of non-academic work. According to the Election Commission of India, there is a provision for



appointment of Anganwadi workers, Patwari/Amin/Lekhpal, health workers, contract teachers, meter readers, mid-day meal workers etc. as BLOs, there is no mention of teachers anywhere in these.

Sahni said that teachers are performing an important responsibility. Those who are being forced to compromise with their real duty by getting

entangled in other special duties. Sahni said that the literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir

is only 68 percent which is a matter of deep concern.

Sahni said that it has been suggested to give such special duty to the educated unemployed youth, which can curb the increasing unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir to some extent.

## KVK Kishtwar conducts Farmer Training programme at Kewa

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu today conducted one day farmer training programme at Village Kewa Tehsil Bounjwan of the district on Scientific nursery raising in vegetables crops. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr Amrisha Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. Dr Narinder Paul Incharge KVK Kishtwar, Ajay Chander Agriculture Extension Officer Bounjwan and 40 farmers and farm women participated in the programme.

During the programme Dr Narinder Paul Incharge KVK Kishtwar highlighted the mandates of KVK and described about on farm testing, front line demonstrations and other extension activities of KVK for farming community. The participants were imparted training on scientific nursery raising and of vegetables. It included selection of varieties, agronomic practices and management of pests and



diseases. Ajay Chander, AEO Binon, Department of Agriculture stressed upon adoption of recommended cultivation practices of vegetables for increasing production and produc-

tivity. He also highlighted on different programmes under HADP, Daksh Kissan and Kissan Sathi portals. Sunil Singh, Ghulam Qadir, Ashish Kumar, Parveet Kumar, Arjun Kumar, Asif Ahmad, Sourav Singh

Ravinder Kumar, Kailash Chander attended the training programme. At the end of the programme vegetable seed kits of cucurbits were distributed among the participants.

## NYK Udhamapur organizes Neighbourhood Youth Parliament, hundreds of youth participated

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Nehru Yuva Kendra Udhamapur, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India organised "Neighbourhood Youth Parliament" on the theme "Nasha Mukh Bharat" in collaboration with NSS Unit of Govt College For Women, Udhamapur at Riwaayat on 16-03-2024. Worthy District Development Commissioner Ms. Saloni Rai (IAS) inaugurated the event along with Chief Education Officer Ms. Geeta Bangotra, District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta, District Panchayat Officer Dr. Preeti Sharma (JKAS), DSWO Ms. Kanika Gupta (JKAS) NSS PO Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma and NSS PO Sh. Atul Rasyal. The programme witnessed participation of more than thousand youth belonging to different parts of the district. Deputy Commissioner Ms. Saloni Rai (IAS) presided over the event and lead the signature campaign of SVEEP. She urged the new voters to get registered and motivate others to participate mandatorily in voting. Focussing on the theme,



she deliberated on various measures being taken by the district administration to curb the menace of drug addiction. The event started with the traditional lamp lightening ceremony followed by the welcome address by District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta. He briefed the audience about the objectives of organising such programmes and urged the youth to get registered in MY Bharat portal. All the participants were given MY Bharat badges and they registered themselves on MY Bharat portal. Prof. Preeti Sharma from GCW Udhamapur

delivered an awareness lecture on Nari Shakti, Prof Pardeep Singh delivered lecture on New India - New Initiatives focussing on the various developments made by the nation during the recent years. Prof Ajay K Sharma (NSS PO) delivered lecture on Viksit Bharat whereas Sh. Atul Rasyal gave an awareness lecture on SVEEP. The teams of GCW Udhamapur participated in the Mock Parliament organised on "Nasha Mukh Bharat" thereby propagating important message of parliamentary procedures and steps taken by the

govt. to make India, a drug free nation. Cultural teams from GCW Udhamapur and I.T.I Udhamapur also made the programme colourful by their performance in various cultural activities. Prominent among others present on the occasion included Prof. Yash Kumar, Sh. Kuldeep Singh, and Prof. Shama Rani. The entire event was anchored by Ms. Barsha Sharma and Ms. Bharti Devi. At the end mementoes and certificates were distributed among the guests and participants. The event ended with vote of thanks by APA Souravdeep Singh.





## India's Culture is rooted in Sanskrit only: Prof. Shreedhar Mishra

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

A one-day Saral Manak Sanskrit Workshop was organized on Monday under the joint aegis of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu; Government Women's College, Parade Ground, Jammu; and Indian Language Committee, Ministry of Education. Speaking as the keynote speaker on this occasion, Sangathan Mantri of Sanskrit Bharati, Rishi Kumar said that the effort to present Sanskrit to the common people in a simple form is commendable by the Government of India. Such workshops are required to bring Sanskrit into public practice.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof. Ram Bahadur Shukla of Sanskrit Department of Jammu University said that Sanskrit is a very simple language. Sanskrit contains very simple words. Therefore, it can be used very easily. Human values are inherent in Sanskrit, it makes every human being humble. In his Presidential address, Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar



Mishra said that the culture of India is rooted in Sanskrit. Sanskrit language can be learned easily through practice and it can be easily made the language of the people. He further said that Sanskrit is employment oriented. Hundred percent employment is available in the field of Sanskrit.

Principal of Women's College Parade, Dr. Ravindra Kumar Tikku, speaking as a special guest, said that at present there are immense employment opportunities in Sanskrit. Therefore, there is a need to popularize Sanskrit among the people.

The workshop was inaugurated by lighting

the lamp. The students of Women's College invoked Goddess Saraswati and sought Her blessings. The guests were duly welcomed with flower bunches and mementos. The welcome speech was delivered by Dr. Mamta Sharma of Sanskrit Department. Dr. Praveen Mani Tripathi, Dr. Khemnarayan Regmi were present as facilitators in the program. Other professors and students of the college were also present. Workshop coordinator Dr. D. Dayanath expressed the vote of thanks. Certificates were distributed to the participants in the concluding session. The program was conducted by Dr. Tejnath Paudel.

## Lagan Society for Art & Culture elects EB, unveils vision for Cultural Promotion



JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

In a significant development for the cultural landscapes of Jammu & Kashmir, the Lagan Society for Art and Culture held its executive body meeting and unveiled its memorandum during a special event organized by the society. The Lagan Society for Art and Culture operating from the past six years, has been steadfastly dedicated to promoting the rich cultural heritage and diversity of the Jammu & Kashmir region. With a mission to preserve and celebrate the artistic traditions of the state, the society has been actively engaged in various cultural initiatives.

Speaking to the media, Adv. Sandeep Gupta (Patron, LSAC) expressed profound gratitude and

pride on behalf of the executive members. He highlighted the momentous occasion of the society's registration under the Society Registration Act of Jammu & Kashmir. This official recognition signifies a new chapter for the society, empowering it to pursue its cultural objectives with greater vigor and legitimacy.

The elected executive body comprises dedicated individuals committed to advancing the society's mission. Looking ahead, the Lagan Society for Art and Culture pledges to intensify its efforts in promoting and preserving the diverse cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. Through collaborative projects, cultural events and community engagement initiatives, the society aims to enrich the cultural fabric of the region and foster a deeper

appreciation for its artistic traditions.

As it embarks on this new chapter, the society invites artists, cultural enthusiasts and the wider community to join hands in nurturing and celebrating the vibrant cultural tapestry of Jammu & Kashmir.

On the occasion, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Verma (President, LSAC), Mr. Suresh Dogra (Vice-President, LSAC), Sh. Girdhari Lal (Gen. Secy.), Ms. Sonia Dogra (Treasurer), Mr. Rohit Bains (Publicity Secy.), Dr. Atyant Shobna Sharma (Advisor), Mr. Sunil Mahajan (Advisor), Mr. Suresh Kumar (Joint Secy.), Mr. Shubham Manmar (Media Incharge), Mr. Anil Kumar (Advisor), Sh. Yash Paul Yash (Renowned Writer & Composer), Mr. Vikas Khajuria (Media Incharge) were present.

## Cleanliness Drive organizes by NSS unit of GDC Marheen



JINews SERVICE  
KATHUA, MAR 18

The NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College Marheen, organized a cleanliness Drive under the Swachhata special campaign in the college. The programme was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta, esteemed principal of the college. In her address, she talked about the importance of better hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness of our surroundings. She appreciated the efforts of NSS unit for organizing a cleanliness drive in

the college campus. She encouraged and supported the NSS volunteers who were actively involved in the event. She also advised the NSS volunteers to carry out the message of cleanliness and its importance to every nook and corner of the society. The entire event was organized under the supervision of Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme officer. A large number of NSS volunteers participated in the drive, cleaned and collected garbage from the college campus by setting an example of cleanliness and hygiene in the society.

## SMVD University organizes Trekking to Devi Pindi Mata Mandir



JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University embarked on a journey towards holistic student development with an exhilarating trekking event to Devi Pindi Mata Mandir near Panthal (Katra). Organized by Dr. Varun Dutta, Assistant Professor, SMVDU, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Coordinator and Mr. Gourav Jamwal, the event aimed at fostering personal growth and enhancing the overall personality of the students. The event received an enthusiastic response from the student body, with participants gearing up for an adventurous expedition amidst the picturesque landscapes of this route. Flagger off the event, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, extended his heartfelt wishes to the participating students. He emphasized

the significance of such initiatives in nurturing a well-rounded development for the student community. Prof. Singh highlighted the importance of outdoor activities in instilling resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills among the students. During the trekking event, students had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich local culture surrounding this trek route. From interacting with villagers to experiencing their culture, the students gained invaluable insights into the vibrant cultural tapestry of the region. This experiential learning not only deepened their understanding of the local heritage but also fostered a sense of appreciation and respect for diverse cultures. Through such interactions, students not only expanded their horizons but also forged meaningful connections

with the communities they encountered along the way, contributing to their holistic development and cultural awareness. Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar expressed heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated efforts put in by the organizing team in orchestrating such a remarkable event. He lauded their commitment to providing students with enriching experiences beyond the confines of the classroom, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in fostering holistic development. With the successful culmination of the trekking event, SMVD University reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing the holistic development of its students. Such initiatives not only enhance academic learning but also cultivate essential life skills that are crucial for success in the ever-evolving global landscape.

## DoFP&G Jammu organizes Flower Show of all varieties of region at Jammu

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

A Flower Show comprising of all the prominent flowers of the region was organised by the Department of Floriculture Parks and Gardens Jammu at Green Belt Park Jammu

The Flower Show was organized by all the Officers of the Floriculture Department under the able guidance of S. Jatinder Singh JKAS, Director General Floriculture Parks and Gardens Jammu.

The special attractions of the show were the pots, arrangements of different annuals of more than 30 varieties, pot arrangement of foliage plants of more than 10 varieties, different Selfie Points and Rangoli arrangements were also made in the Flower Show.

Director General Floriculture highlighted the importance of flowers and he beautifully linked the person's character with flowers and appreciated the efforts of the officers and staff of the Department for their hard work to organise the Flower Show as one of the deliverables of the Department.

A huge number of visi-



tor's form adjoining areas as well as from far off areas, visited the Flower Show. Prominent among others present were Smt. Gurneet Kour Deputy Director (Planning), Sh. Vikrant Kumar Joint Director/Landscape Officer

Floriculture Jammu, Sh. Sunil Singh Deputy Director/Floriculture Officer Jammu, Sh. Ishfaq Ahmad Malik Floriculture Officer HQ and Assistant Floriculture Officers of the Department were also present in the said Flower Show.

## Mahesh Gupta unanimously elected as Chairman of ABMBS

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Suneel Mahajan, President Election committee convened a supreme council meeting of Akhil Bhartiya Mahajan Biradari Sangh in the Press Club of Jammu to officially declare and certify Mr. Mahesh Gupta as unanimously elected Chairman of the A.B.M.B.S.

To start with, Adv. Vaibhav Gupta, Secretary election committee appraised the house with the agenda of the meeting & the meeting started with the three time chanting of holy Gayatri Mantra. After lighting of the lamp, floral tributes were paid to Sher e Duggar Lala Hansraj Mahajan ji.

Suneel Mahajan, in his address, initially greeted



all the esteemed members of the ABMBS for gracing the meeting & presented his heartfelt gratitude to the members of supreme council for setting up a healthy precedence of Election by unanimously electing their Chairman. Finally he officially declared Mr. Mahesh Gupta as the first unopposed elected CHAIRMAN of Akhil Bhartiya Mahajan Biradari Sangh and the Certificate of election result was handed over to Mr. Mahesh Gupta by the members of the Election committee. The senior

and prominent members from different sub castes congratulated and garlanded the newly elected Chairman and the presidents and the official representatives who offered felicitations to the newly elected Chairman were M/s Ravi Gupta, Bharat Bhushan Gupta, Dr. Lalit Gupta, yash pal jandial, Manohar Gupta, Rajkumar Gupta, Sanjay Pargal, Devi Dass Gupta, Rakesh Singh Gupta, Ashok Gupta, Ashok Mahajan, Dinesh Gupta, Ram Langer, Bharat vaid & Ashwini Mahotra.

## Luxmi Cricket Club organizes cricket tournament of U-14 players at MAM stadium

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 18

Luxmi cricket club organized a U-14 players tournament at MAM stadium today on dated 18.3.2024. The tournament was sponsored by KPT Piping solutions pvt. ltd Dehradun and supported by KhanaKhazana Restaurant and J&K Sports council. The tournament was inaugurated by chief Guest Divisional Sports Officer J and K sports council Sr. Baljinder Pal Singh. The players were introduced to the chief



guest and he appreciated the event being conducted by the club and told them to work hard and achieve their goal in future. He also told that such an event will definitely enhance the crick-

eting skills of the young budding cricketers.

The match was played between Green field star Blue and Green field Star Green in which all the young budding players showed their talent.

## Police organises awareness programme on New Criminal Laws in Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, MAR 15

Police in Ganderbal organised an awareness Programme on the New Criminal Laws at Govt. Degree College Ganderbal. The programme was chaired by SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS.

The Programme was attended by DySP Hqrs Ganderbal Shri Gh Hassan JKPS, Sr. PO Ganderbal Shri Abdul Aziz Zaidari, DySP DAR DPL Ganderbal Shri Nazir Ahmad, SHO PS Ganderbal, Lecturers & Students of Degree College Ganderbal. The event also witnessed significant participation from renowned educationists, social workers and respectable citizens.

On the occasion, SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS talked about the amended criminal laws and asked the participants that these new laws are being implemented for speedy justice and



are time bound. Moreover, Sr. PO Ganderbal provided the participants with a basic understanding of the new Criminal Laws, namely Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhinyam. Prosecuting Officer Dr. Tabasum also throw light on the said theme.

The participants present in the event appreciated the role of Ganderbal Police for organising such an important programme & applauded in providing the much needed awareness to the participants.



