

The Kashmir Talk

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President Murmu hails NIMHANS for its integrated medicine services

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BENGALURU:

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday hailed NIMHANS for its integrated medicine services as she considered it as a model for all.

According to her, the application of Yoga and Ayurveda in the promotion of mental health and well being is worth emulating. "The integrative medicine services of NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) has been a model for all to examine the applications of Yoga and Ayurveda in the promotion of mental health and well being, and in that treatment of psychiatric and neuro-



logical disorders," Murmu said during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Institute here.

On the occasion, she inaugurated the Psychiatry Specialty Block, Central Laboratory Complex and

Bhima Hostel at NIMHANS. The President also dedicated state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities - the advanced 3T MRI Scanner and DSA System to the nation.

She said different kinds of meditations are also useful in countering

negative mental forces, and added that they are being integrated in the Mental health care models. She underlined the importance of using traditional approaches that are beneficial for all.

Murmu said, "Our scriptures tell us that the mind is at the root of everything we perceive in the world." She underlined that greater focus on mental health promotions will become even more important in the years ahead.

In the past, issues and concern of mental health had not received enough attention in some societies, the President said, adding that in recent times, awareness about

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Art 370 sowed seeds of separatism in Kashmir; Modi Government ended terror in J&K: Amit Shah



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU NEW DELHI:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Article 370 sowed the seeds of separatism in the minds of the youth of Kashmir and the Narendra Modi government not only ended terrorism in the valley but also the ecosystem of terrorism. Shah said Article 370 and Article 35A, both of which were abrogated on August 5, 2019, were the key hurdles in the way of full integration of Kashmir into India.

Referring to Kashmir's relations with the rest of India, the home minister said India is the

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Normalcy not fully restored in J&K yet, says CM Omar Abdullah



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Normalcy has not been fully restored in Jammu and Kashmir yet as terror attacks continue to take place but the process for establishing peace is underway, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Friday.

Abdullah's remarks came a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah

said Article 370 had sowed the seeds of separatism in the minds of Kashmir's youth and that the Narendra Modi government not only ended terrorism in the valley but also the terror ecosystem.

"I do not want to say anything on that (Shah's statement). (But), today also, reports come from some places when attacks take place. Normalcy has not been

fully restored in Jammu and Kashmir even today. It is a process and we will have to see what happens in the coming days," Abdullah told reporters.

The chief minister also trashed rumours that Jammu and Kashmir's name was being changed to "Kashyap".

"There is nothing like that. Some media house ran it but then corrected it. No such proposal is there and it anyways cannot happen without the consent of the Jammu and Kashmir government," he added.

Asked about the government's preparations in view of the forecast of snowfall, Abdullah said the administration was ready to deal with it. "We will deal with it. We

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Dr Jitendra reviews 'Aspirational District' parameters, calls for targeted interventions

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KADAPA (ANDHRA PRADESH):

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh conducted a comprehensive review of developmental initiatives in Kadapa district during his visit as part of the "Aspirational Districts Programme" (ADP).

The review showcased remarkable achievements in health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and financial inclusion, establishing YSR Kadapa as a model district under the initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018. Dr. Jitendra Singh, appreciated the district's exceptional progress in improving socio-economic indicators.

The Minister emphasized the importance of targeted interventions and collaborative governance, which have been pivotal in transforming YSR Kadapa into one of the top-performing districts in



Andhra Pradesh. The district has achieved a 100% rate of institutional deliveries, surpassing both state and national averages, and reduced Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among children under six years to an impressive 0.6%. With full immunization coverage now at 99% for children aged 9-11 months and 96% of pregnant women receiving antenatal care in their first trimester, YSR Kadapa has set benchmarks in maternal and child health outcomes. These accomplishments

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Will make Jammu AIIMS beacon of hope, trust & excellence in healthcare: CEO

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Asserting that All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu has reached significant milestones in medical education, research, and clinical care, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO of AIIMS Jammu here on Thursday said that efforts will continue to make the institution a beacon of hope, trust, and excellence in the sector of healthcare. As we bid farewell to an eventful year 2024, and welcome the New Year, we

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Jammu Police registered 200 FIRs under NDPS Act in 2024

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Jammu Police undertook extensive operations throughout 2024, to combat the growing menace of drugs and to prevent narco-crimes in the district.

As part of its anti-drug drive, the spokesman on Sunday said that police registered 200 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and



Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested 300 individuals

involved in drug peddling.

As many as 83 vehicles involved in these cases were also seized during this period.

As many as 153 FIRs were registered in heroin recovery cases alone and 246 individuals were arrested.

Among those arrested, 19 hardcore drug peddlers were booked under the stringent PIT NDPS

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President Murmu...

mental health has been rising. She further said that the unscientific belief and stigma associated with mental illnesses are a matter of past, making it easier for those suffering from various ailments to seek help.

"This has been a welcome development, especially at this juncture, because a variety of mental health issues are taking epidemic proportions around the world. The COVID 19 pandemic in particular led to a spike in such concerns," Murmu pointed out.

According to the President, working professionals face more stress, and a large number of the elderly people suffer from loneliness due to social challenges.

"Women bearing the burden of domestic responsibilities and care giving for the family are prone to a range of mental illnesses that usually go unnoticed. However, it is truly heartening to note that the rising awareness has made it possible for patients to open up and share their problems," she said.

Stating that many organisations have started putting mechanisms in place to respond to such issues, Murmu lauded initiatives of NIMHANS like TeleMANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) which facilitates counseling anywhere at anytime.

She also appreciated the Institute's SAMVAD platform which addresses child and adults and mental health problems. The President also stressed upon the healthy marriage, saying it is the foundation of a healthy society.

Expressing her happiness about the gender ratio at NIMHANS, she highlighted that 79.7 per cent of the undergraduate students and 61.4 per cent of post graduate students are women.

"I believe that women can add a unique perspective in mental health care, in care giving, as well as in research," she said.

Art 370 sowed..

only country in the world which is geo-cultural and whose boundaries are formed by its culture. India can be understood only from the Indian perspective and not from the geo-political perspective, he said here while releasing a book 'Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh: Through the Ages'.

From the Silk Route to Central Asia and from Shankaracharya temple to Hemis monastery; and from trade to spirituality, strong foundations of both are present in and of Kashmir's culture, he said.

Shah said Article 370 gave the false impression that Kashmir's integration with India was temporary.

"Many people often ask me what is the relation between Article 370 and terrorism. They don't know that Article 370 sowed the seeds of separatism in the minds of the youth of the valley.

"There are Muslim populations in many other parts of the country. Why are those areas not affected by terrorism?" he said.

The home minister said some people say Kashmir is close to the border with Pakistan and hence, the problem came.

"But Gujarat is also close to the border with Pakistan. Rajasthan is also close to the Pakistan border. Why terrorism has not grown there?" he asked.

Shah said Article 370 gave the false impression that Kashmir's integration with India is temporary and that sowed the seeds of separatism which later turned into terrorism.

Unfortunately, over 40,000 people lost their lives due to terrorism in Kashmir, he said.

"The Modi government not only ended terrorism in Kashmir but also the ecosystem of terrorism," he said.

The home minister said Kashmir's development was delayed by decades and for years, there was bloodshed in Kashmir and the country had to watch it in silence.

"After the abolition of Article 370, there has been 70 per cent reduction in incidents of terrorism in Kashmir and it has proved that Article 370 fuelled the fire of terrorism. In 2018, there were 2,100 incidents of stone pelting in Kashmir but in 2024, not a single incident of stone pelting took place," he said.

Normalcy not...

are prepared, we have had several meetings and we also have experience after the last snowfall. If there were any lacunae last time, we will correct that this time," he said.

To a question about the electricity supply situation in the valley, the chief minister said whatever could be done was being done and the power situation this year was better than the previous years.

"(Power) cuts are taking place but attempts are being made to provide electricity to people according to the schedule. When there is a problem in the sys-

tem, it is rectified at the earliest," he said.

Dr Jitendra reviews...

are attributed to effective implementation of flagship programs like POSHAN Abhiyaan and Ayushman Bharat, complemented by a robust local health infrastructure.

In education, the district has reported a 100% rate of functional drinking water, electricity, and toilet facilities in schools. It also ensures that all students receive textbooks within one month of the academic year's commencement. Transition rates from primary to secondary levels stand at an impressive 98%, while female literacy has risen to 72.3%. The initiatives under the PM SHRI scheme, aimed at creating state-of-the-art learning environments, have further strengthened educational outcomes, fostering holistic development among students.

Agriculture in YSR Kadapa has seen a significant boost with the adoption of modern practices and technology. Micro-irrigation now covers 65.17% of the net sown area, a leap from 41.59% in 2018, while 6,950 soil health cards distributed this year have empowered farmers with essential knowledge for optimizing yields. Artificial insemination and animal vaccination programs have further enhanced productivity in allied sectors. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, ₹126 crores have been disbursed to 2,10,481 farmers, underscoring the government's commitment to supporting rural livelihoods.

The district has made remarkable progress in infrastructure development. Nearly 95% of households now have access to tap water under the Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring safe drinking water for over 2.7 lakh families. Housing projects under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) have provided pucca homes to over 96,000 families across rural and urban areas, with investments exceeding ₹1,159 crores. Additionally, YSR Kadapa has achieved 100% connectivity through all-weather roads, improving accessibility for remote communities and enabling better economic opportunities.

Financial inclusion efforts have empowered residents with 2.59 lakh Jan Dhan accounts opened and 94.7% linked to Aadhaar. Mudra loans worth ₹825 crores have fueled the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners, while skill development programs under the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana have certified over 17,500 youth, enhancing their employability and contributing to the district's economic growth.

During his visit, Dr. Jitendra Singh acknowledged the district's success as a testament to the effectiveness of the Aspirational Districts Programme. He highlighted how the convergence of government schemes, real-time data monitoring, and community participation has created a sustainable model for development.

Dr. Jitendra Singh has directed the district administration to organize workshops aimed at raising awareness about the benefits of various Central Government schemes. Emphasizing the need for effective outreach, the Minister highlighted the importance of educating the public, especially in rural and remote areas, about the opportunities and resources available under these schemes. The workshops will serve as a platform to bridge the gap between policy formulation and grassroots implementation, ensuring that the intended beneficiaries can avail themselves of the schemes efficiently and seamlessly.

The Minister emphasized the need to focus on flagship schemes such as PM Suryaghar, PM Kisan, and PM Vishwakarma, which aim to empower various sections of society. He stressed the importance of active involvement from public representatives to ensure greater public participation and effective implementation of these schemes. Highlighting the pivotal role of collaboration, the Minister urged all stakeholders to work together to maximize the benefits for the intended beneficiaries.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the need to replicate the best practices from YSR Kadapa across other aspirational districts in India to ensure balanced development nationwide. He assured the district of continued support from the central government to sustain its upward trajectory. The district's transformative journey, driven by a blend of policy innovation and grassroots implementation, serves as an inspiration for other regions, aligning with the nation's mission of achieving holistic and inclusive growth.

Will make Jammu...

reflect with immense pride and gratitude at the incredible progress AIIMS Jammu has made, the CEO said in a statement.

Continuing the journey of excellence in infrastructure, AIIMS Jammu launched its patient care services including OPD, Inpatient, Emergency, Trauma, and OT in August 2024 in a phased manner, he said.

Dr Gupta said that looking ahead, 2025 holds

immense promise for AIIMS Jammu, adding, "Our vision includes operationalising 750 beds, achieving complete healthcare digitalization, and expanding our patient care services to manage 2,500 daily OPD cases. With continued collaboration, we will set new standards of excellence, facilitating healthcare transformation in the region and beyond."

"We aspire to establish a Centre of Excellence in Precision Medicine with Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology, serving as a referral hub for Northern India," he said and added that AIIMS Jammu is also enhancing the residential complex with thoughtful additions such as a cycle track, soft music, and a crèche.

"As we continue our journey toward becoming a 'Global Village,' AIIMS Jammu is poised to welcome international students and establish a Counseling and Study Centre. We also plan to invite nationally and internationally renowned guest faculty to enrich our patient care, academic, and research arenas. Our upcoming Centres of Excellence including Telemedicine, Nursing, Cancer Care, and Hospital Administration will position us as a leader in healthcare and education," he said.

He added that AIIMS Jammu is indebted to the people of Jammu and Kashmir various stakeholders, well-wishers, and State and Central Administrative authorities for their trust and unwavering support.

Sharing achievements of 2024, he said that since launching OPD services on August 1, 2024, successfully catered to over 87,497 outpatient cases, including 65,993 new patients and 21,504 follow-ups, achieving an outstanding 99.61 percent patient satisfaction rate.

In Inpatient and Emergency care, AIIMS Jammu has already managed 679 patients in 100 operational beds, and we are set to expand to 250 beds within a month and 750 beds within six months, he said adding that the Trauma and Emergency Department has efficiently managed 3,135 cases, with 289 ICU admissions and 54 dialysis sessions performed to date.

"Surgical services have also shown remarkable progress at initiation, with 281 successful surgeries performed across multiple specialties since the launch of OT services on September 17, 2024," he added.

The state-of-the-art diagnostics at AIIMS Jammu, including 3 Tesla MRI, 128-slice CT, and advanced screening technologies, have supported over 3,409 USG scans, 554 MRI scans, 896 CT scans, and 5,926 X-rays, ensuring that our patients receive timely and accurate diagnoses, said the CEO.

"In 2025, we aim to further enhance innovation and collaborative research in actual patient care settings to set new benchmarks in healthcare excellence," said Dr Gupta.

He also extended gratitude to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for visionary leadership in sanctioning and commissioning AIIMS Jammu, Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Health Minister, Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha for the constant motivation and unwavering encouragement.

Jammu Police...

Act, reflecting the department's zero-tolerance approach toward habitual offenders, a Spokesman said.

The Spokesman added that in a remarkable move to dismantle the economic foundations of drug trafficking, the Jammu Police attached 11 immovable properties (residential/ commercial), worth Rs.4,69,91,369/- and three Movable Properties (Vehicles), worth Rs 12,50,000/- in the district under the NDPS Act seized during 2024.

The confiscation of these illegally acquired assets represents a critical step in disrupting the financial networks of drug syndicates.

Four drug hotspots were demolished during 2024 and Jammu Police is working seriously on all fronts to demolish the remaining drug hotspots with the active support of civil administration and the General Public, he said.

The spokesman stated that police also recovered contraband and psychotropic substances including 43.854 Kgs of heroin valued at several hundred crores in the black market and this recovery underscores the magnitude of the narcotics trade in the region and the police's relentless efforts to intercept and eradicate the supply chain.

"Recognizing the importance of public awareness in the fight against drug abuse, the Jammu Police conducted 19 Drug awareness programs, 52 PCPG meetings, 47 Thana Diwas and 62 Debates across the district in 2024," he said adding that these initiatives aimed to educate the public, especially the youth, about the dangers of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free society.

Dr. Narinder Singh holds public darbar at BJP headquarters

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Dr. Narinder Singh, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South & BJP National Secretary, held a public darbar at J&K BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Deputations poured in increasing numbers to share their issues with the senior leader of party and requested for the quick disposal of the issues.

Among other issues, a deputation from Gangyal requested for the construction of the Central drain. 2 deputations from Nanak Nagar, and Patel Nagar requested for repair of lane & drain. A deputation requested for the creation of a Wrestling Coach at Bana Singh Stadium, RS Pura. A deputation of Karan Bagh apprised the senior leader of the disrupted water supply for the last 3 days. A deputation requested for the removal of illegal occupation at Old Satwari. A deputation from Jallochak requested for the Land Compensation.



While listening to the grievances of the people, the BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh reiterated the party's commitment to the welfare of the people. He said that the BJP works with the sole motto of ensuring the welfare of the people who were left neglected and in the last division of the marginalized sections. He said that the Modi government has chalked out all its public

welfare policies to provide relief to those needy people, forming the basis of its ever-growing popularity among the masses.

While speaking on the public darbar, he shared that many issues presented by the people were sorted out on the spot and oral and written communications were made with the concerned departments for the rest issues.

Any ground level worker can rise to the top post in BJP: Abhijeet Jasrotia

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, Spokesperson, J&K BJP addressed a meeting of Basohli Mandal as the Returning Officer (RO) of BJP Pahari Zila in the party's 'Sangathan Parv'.

Meeting witnessed the threadbare discussions on the preparations regarding the elections at the Mandal level under the Sangathan Parv in Basohli for Mandal Representative.

MLA Darshan Thakur, District Vice President (ARO) Sumesh Spolia, District General Secretary (ARO) Sohan Lal Gupta, District Public Secretary Rajeshwar Singh and other senior leaders of the party were also present in the meeting.

Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, while reviewing the preparations regarding Sangathan Parv said that after the



Membership Drive under the Sangathan Parv of the party, the party leaders now have a new task to elect new office bearers for the party.

BJP is not like other political parties run by a single family.

BJP is a truly democratic party, where any ground-level worker can

rise to the top post with sheer dedication and hard work.

He asked the senior leaders of the party to make the election process fair and work to elect the right person for the right task, who can further increase and strengthen the party base.

Panchayat Electoral Roll revision: Disposal of claims, objections begins in Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

To ensure transparency and accuracy in the preparation of the Panchayat Electoral Roll 2025, Electoral Registration Officer Idrees Lone convened a crucial meeting, here today.

The meeting focused on reviewing and addressing claims and objections regarding the draft Panchayat electoral rolls 2025 for Kishtwar, Palmar and Trigam Blocks.

The ERO stressed the importance of maintaining inclusivity and precision in the electoral roll preparation process.

He urged the officials to strictly adhere to the guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India and ensure the timely resolution of all claims and objections.

The Panchayat Electoral Booth Officials (PEBOs) were instructed to conduct thorough verifications, promptly address any discrepancies highlighted by the public/Voters, if any in panchayats. He also emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to ensure that no eligible voter is left out. Idrees Lone underlined the importance of voter awareness initiatives, encouraging eligible citizens to actively participate in the electoral process and ensuring they are well-informed about the claims and objections mechanism.

The meeting witnessed the participation of AEROs/BDOs and PEBOs from block Kishtwar, Palmar, and Trigam, alongside election officials and other concerned staff.

MLA Ajaz Jan reviews development projects, public welfare initiatives in Poonch Haveli

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Ajaz Ahmed Jan, Member Legislative Assembly for the Poonch Haveli chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Saturday in the Conference Hall of Dak Banglow.

The meeting focused on assessing ongoing developmental projects and public welfare initiatives spearheaded by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, as well as the performance of the Agriculture Department in addressing critical issues within the constituency.

During the meeting, the MLA conducted an in-depth review of the developmental challenges related to the Rural Development Department and agricultural infrastructure, highlighting issues of public importance.

The Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) presented a detailed report on block-wise activities, including physical and financial progress under several key initiatives such as MGNREGA, PMAY-Grameen, District Capex, BDC Grant, CD&PYT, and the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G).

Notably, it was reported that a total of 75021 job cards have been issued under MGNREGA, achieving 75% of the target for the financial year 2024-25. Progress under PMAY-G was also commendable, with completion rates of 90% in Block Loran, 89% in Mandi, 89% in NSSB, 91% in Poonch, and 84% in Sathra Block.

In his address, the MLA urged the Block Development Officers (BDOs) to work diligently towards the welfare of the community and tasked the ACD with overseeing the initiatives. He emphasized the need for qualitative enhancements in the pace of various developmental and infrastructural projects and called for improved coordination among departments to ensure timely completion of these works.

The Chief Agriculture Officer provided insights into new initiatives aimed at enhancing farmers' income, innovative agricultural extension approaches, and the promotion of integrated farming and livelihood systems for sustainability.

The MLA raised several key issues during the meeting, including: Panchayat-wise work done in the Agriculture sector, Road access to Panchayat Ghar Loran, Construction of bunkers along the Line of Control, Pending MGNREGA wages and other infrastructural works

He stressed the importance of prioritizing public welfare and ensuring that benefits from various beneficiary-oriented schemes reach eligible individuals.

Ajaz Ahmed Jan reaffirmed his commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable development for the residents of Haveli Poonch, underlining the necessity for transparency and accountability in all schemes and projects.

The meeting was attended by the ACD Poonch, ACP, XEN REW, CHO, CAO, all BDOs of the Haveli Constituency, and other concerned officers and officials.

Indian Army Organised an Ex-Servicemen Meet At Rajouri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army organised an Ex-Servicemen Meet at Sarsoti, District Rajouri, highlighting its commitment to the welfare of veterans. The major highlights of the event were interactions with ESMs, Sparash registration, and a grievance counter. The event brought together over 28 Ex-servicemen and served as a platform to address grievances and disseminate information about various welfare schemes. An assistance booth was established to resolve queries and provide guidance on accessing benefits like the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme and Canteen Stores Department related issues.

The Indian Army expressed gratitude to the veterans and their families for their sacrifices, emphasizing the Indian Army's unwavering support.

The event also highlighted that such initiatives strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and its ex-servicemen, ensuring their welfare and honoring their legacy. The Ex-servicemen Meet was a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to its veteran community, demonstrating respect, gratitude, and an enduring commitment to their well-being.

JKBC Highlights Alarming Business Slowdown in Kashmir, Traders Express Concern Over Declining Sales."

"Traders Decry Sluggish Sales as Kashmir's Market Faces Business Slowdown": President JKBC - Jammu And Kashmir Business Confederation Mohammad Altaf Dar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Jammu and Kashmir Business Confederation (JKBC) President Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) has raised alarm over the ongoing business slowdown in Kashmir, with traders reporting a significant decline in sales across various sectors. The slowdown has left local businesses struggling to maintain operations and meet financial obligations.

JKBC emphasized the urgent need for government intervention to stimulate economic activity, including



policy reforms, subsidies, and incen-

tives for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The confederation also appealed to consumers to support local businesses during these challenging times.

"This slowdown has severely impacted our livelihoods. Immediate action is required to prevent further damage to the market and economy," said a President Mohammad Altaf Dar for JKBC.

The JKBC urged the administration to collaborate with stakeholders and formulate a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis and ensure long-term economic stability in the region.

Monthly NCORD meeting held at Kulgam

Instructions passed for implementation of Comprehensive Awareness prog

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KULGAM:

A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today held at Kulgam to discuss various measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting convened by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan reviewed the implementation of decisions and directives passed in previous sessions. A thorough discussion was held on several issues related to drug addiction, areas of concern, hotspots of drug use, and the actions taken by the concerned departments to combat the menace of drugs. The meeting also focused on the efforts of enforcement agencies in addressing drug abuse and narcotic trafficking within the district.

It was reported that 59 Panchayats in the district have been declared drug-free till date.

It was also shared that during the current month, 08 drug peddlers were arrested, and 07 FIRs were registered. The Chair instructed the concerned officials to convene regular meetings of Tehsil and Gram Panchayat level committees. The Assistant Drug Controller reported that they have conducted 104 inspections, suspending 02 licenses in this month and 19 samples were also lifted and sent for analysis to ascertain the quality parameters in the current month. It was also shared that the district achieved a 100% target in the installation of CCTV cameras, and efforts are underway to achieve a 100% target in CBS. The meeting was attended by ADC ACR, CMO, DSP- hq, Tehsildars and other NCORD Committee members.

AIIMS providing world class healthcare facilities: Rajni Sethi

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The establishment of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Vijaypur, Jammu, is a remarkable step by the Modi government and a significant milestone in the development of healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rajni Sethi, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this, while noting that Jammu and Kashmir is the only region in India to receive two AIIMS institutions, reflecting the government's commitment to improving the healthcare system in this Union Territory. Healthcare is a fundamental pillar of a thriving society, and the addition of AIIMS Vijaypur is a transformative development. AIIMS institutions are renowned for their state-of-the-art facilities, advanced medical technologies, and exceptional medical professionals. The inclusion of 750 additional beds and an expanded OPD facility with the capacity to serve 2,500 patients per day is a game-changer for the region. This will cater not only to the healthcare needs of the local population but also position AIIMS Vijaypur as a referral hub for North India. The people of Jammu and Kashmir will now have access to world-class healthcare facilities without needing to travel to metropolitan cities. From specialized treatments to emergency care, AIIMS Vijaypur is set to offer comprehensive medical services under one roof. The advanced medical infrastructure and availability of expert healthcare professionals will significantly enhance the quality of healthcare and reduce the dependency on other states for critical treatments.

Moreover, the establishment of AIIMS in Vijaypur is expected to boost medical education and research in the region. It will provide opportunities for aspiring medical students and researchers to train and contribute to the field of healthcare. This development aligns with the larger vision of equitable growth and development for all regions of India. The decision to establish AIIMS Vijaypur demonstrates the Centre's proactive approach towards addressing the health challenges in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a commendable initiative that will undoubtedly have a profound impact on the lives of the people in the region, ensuring better access to quality healthcare and fostering a healthier society.

High-Level Delegation of JKFTA Submits Memorandum to Minister for School Education

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Federation of Teachers Association (JKFTA) in presence of Chairperson DDC Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan, and MLA Banihal Sajad Shaheen, submitted a memorandum to the Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare Department, Sakeena Masood Itoo, at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, comprising Chairperson

The memorandum submitted by Gulzubair Daing, President JKFTA, highlighted pressing issues affecting teacher welfare and educational development in Jammu and Kashmir. Key demands included implementing a gender-sensitive transfer policy for Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers, filling vacant Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) positions, rationalizing staff based on the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR), and exempting teachers from non-teaching assignments.

The delegation also emphasized the need for time-bound promotions, regularization of in-charge lecturers, implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme, and creating master posts in upper primary and middle schools to



enhance teaching quality.

The delegation thanked the Minister for the recent adjustment of newly promoted Masters and urged further action to address the remaining challenges faced by educators.

Prominent members of JKFTA included Mr. Saleem Choudary, Mr. Sarjeet Singh Katoch (District President Ramban), Mr. Ikram ul Haq, Mr. Nayeem Rathore, Mr. Mohd Javed, Mr. Jamal Din, Mr. Jagdish Chander, Mr. Farooq Choudary, and Mr. Amit Sharma. Female representatives such as Miss Indu Sharma, Ms. Sunayna Bhagat, Ms. Mamta

Rani, Ms. Renu Bandral, Ms. Poonam Chib, and Ms. Neelam Rakhwal were also part of the delegation.

The Minister assured the delegation of her commitment to addressing these issues and comprehensive action.

JKFTA extended its gratitude to the Minister for her proactive approach. The Federation also thanked Chairperson DDC Ramban, and MLA Banihal, for their significant contributions and consistent support for advancing educational standards in the region.

Massive Railway link to different parts of JK UT: YV SHARMA

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

While extending New Year Greetings to all the people of J&K, YV Sharma spokesperson of BJP Congratulated the people for the massive Railway Link being envisaged by the Central Govt. In this connection, Said Sharma, Jammu Railway Division will be inaugurated virtually by the Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi on Jan 6.

The location of the Jammu Railway division



office at Jammu will not only provide a number of employments but will also extend the Railway infra-

structure to Almost all the parts of JK UT uncovered so far. It will connect different parts of the country to almost every part of JK UT. THE formation of this division will give great impetus to the 223 km long Railway connection to long long-awaited Jammu, Akhnoor, Poonch Railway line which will be a great boon for the residents of this area. This Railway link will come as a great opportunity for the Trade and Industry of the Jammu region. Sharma was hopeful that this area

will very soon develop as a great hub for trade and Industry resulting in great development and prosperity in the region. He was sure that this would give a great boost to the tourism sector in this region.

Sharma expressed his heartfelt gratitude to PM Narendra Modi for the formation of Jammu Railway Division which besides linking Railway link to Akhnoor and Poonch will also extend to many parts in the Kashmir Valley and Leh.

DC reviews implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) implementation in the district while chairing a multi department meeting. The Chief Executive Officer Kishtwar Development Authority, ACD and Executive Engineer PWD were directed to install male and female toilets, benches, and a kiosk near the FCI Store in Kuleed under the Town Beautification initiative.

Additionally, the DC discussed the action plan for maintaining clean, hygienic and plastic-free conditions in townships and rural areas. He directed the EO Municipality, NHIDCL, GREF, and Rural Development

Department to carry out the immediate desilting of drains in the town and surrounding areas, stressing the need for a modular and proactive approach while encouraging full community cooperation in rural areas. The ACD and Municipality authorities were instructed to submit a list of both functional and non-functional toilets along with a list of Non-Functioning street lights both in the towns and rural areas.

NHIDCL was directed to inspect the working of streetlights from Hasti to Malipeth and repair any non-functional units. Furthermore, they were instructed to construct drains from Thathri to Sinthan Top to prevent water stagnation on roads, while GREF was instructed to construct drains from Kuleed to Sansari Nallah.

The DC also emphasized the aesthetic beautification of public spaces and key crossings across the district, such as Hidayal Chowk, Viewpoint Malipeth and Bindraban. The meeting decided to create Selfie points at these sites. A committee headed by ACR and comprising GREF officials was formed to oversee removal of encroachments obstructing drainage from Kuleed Chowk to 5RR. To enforce SBM guidelines, the DC set a target of achieving 100% whitewashing in the district. He also called for imposing fine on shops, establishments and dhabas that fail to white-wash their shutters. NHIDCL and GREF were directed to ensure uniform drain lengths and to repair pot-holes after completing drain cleaning in a time bound manner. The discussion also included operation of community toilets in the town, removal of illegal and outdated hoardings, and overall sanitation improvements. The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal, CEO KDA Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACR Idrees Lone, ACD Phulail Singh, EO Municipality/Deputy Registrar Cooperative Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, BDOs, Executive Engineers of PMGSY, PWD and representatives from FSSAI, Health, GREF and NHIDCL.

Shiv Mandir Welfare Committee felicitates Arvind Gupta

Arvind vows to work tirelessly for upliftment of all sections of society



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Shiv Mandir Welfare Committee today felicitated Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, in recognition of his exemplary contribution to the development and welfare of the constituency.

The event was graced by prominent members of the committee, including Rakesh Bakshi (President), Yuvraj Chib (Vice President), Sanjeev Gupta (Secretary), Sanjay Gupta (Protocol Member), and Vinay Gupta (Cultural Member). Mandal President Atul Bakshi, along with Bubnesh Gupta and Pardeep Sharma, also accompanied the MLA during the occasion.

In his address, Rakesh Bakshi lauded Arvind Gupta's steadfast commitment to the betterment of the community, emphasizing his dedication to fostering development in Jammu West. "His leadership has transformed this constituency into a model of progress, and we are proud to honor him today," he said.

Arvind Gupta, expressing his gratitude, reiterated his resolve to work tirelessly for the upliftment of all sections of society. "The faith and support of the community inspire me to continue striving for inclusive development and ensuring the benefits of government initiatives reach every household," he stated. The gathering also discussed key issues concerning the constituency and explored avenues for collaboration to address these challenges.

Arvind Gupta assured the committee members of his continued efforts to strengthen civic infrastructure and enhance the quality of life in the region.

Javed Dar conducts 2 day tour of Rafiabab constituency



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, began a comprehensive two day tour of Rafiabab constituency in Baramulla district, aimed at strengthening public outreach, reviewing developmental works and addressing aspirations of the local population.

During his visit, the Minister interacted with several delegations comprising farmers, youth and community representatives, who highlighted pressing issues such as road connectivity, irrigation, rural infrastructure and healthcare services.

The Minister assured the delegations of government's commitment towards resolving their concerns in a time bound manner, emphasising inclusive and sustainable development.

The Minister inspected ongoing developmental projects including road construction, irrigation canals and housing schemes.

He reviewed progress on these works and directed the officials to ensure their timely completion with adherence to quality standards.

Ram Nath Manhas remembered on death anniversary

Sat Sharma, Dr, Nirmal Singh, Mahant Rameshwar Dass pay tributes



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

On the death anniversary of Ram Nath Manhas, a prominent leader of Praja Parishad, Jana Sangh and BJP, rich tributes were paid to him in a programme held at village Indri (Sujwal) in Jourian tehsil of Akhnoor assembly constituency.

It was organized by Sarpanch Bhopinder Singh, grandson of Ram Nath Manhas.

Sat Sharma (CA), Jammu and Kashmir BJP president, Dr. Nirmal

Singh, former deputy chief minister, Mahant Rameshwar Dass, led hundreds of people to pay tributes to Manhas.

Sat Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said that Ram Nath Manhas was one of the tallest and most respected leader of his times, who had the distinction of having worked in different agitations of Praja Parishad, Jana Sangh and BJP. As elected MLA, he was always at the beck and call of the people and was indeed the torch bearer of nationalist ideology. People still

remember his role in historic ek vidhan, ek nishan, ek pradhan agitation. He devoted his entire life for the cause of the nation in Jammu and Kashmir and had developed the faith of the people as son of the soil, who worked to strengthen nationalist forces.

"Ram Nath Manhas struggled hard to connect Indri village to main mainland and a bridge is being constructed to connect it with Pargwal", Sat said, adding that his dream is going to come true and the people will get proper road connectivity soon.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, while paying tributes, described Ram Nath Manhas as a mass leader, who left marks in the political and social fields of Jammu and Kashmir and would continue to inspire the young generations to devote life for the nation and the party. He informed that it was during the coalition government in J&K that he, being deputy chief minister, got approval for rupees 206 crore for construction of Indri-Pargwal bridge.

The bridge will connect Pargwal island with mainland, which will provide big relief to the people of the area.

ADC Poonch chairs meeting to verify SDRF relief cases

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch Tahir Mustafa Malik today chaired a meeting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Committee here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office in Poonch to review relief claims under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Revenue

Department and other members of the Committee. The meeting focused on the verification of relief cases under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in accordance with the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

The Committee conducted a thorough review of 78 cases related to relief and rehabilitation. Each case was meticulously discussed and scrutinized, leading to informed recommendations aimed at enhancing

the effectiveness of the relief process. The Additional Deputy Commissioner underscored the critical importance of adhering to SDRF guidelines.

stressing that it is essential to ensure that genuine beneficiaries receive the necessary support in a timely manner.

He called for a collaborative approach among all stakeholders to facilitate smoother operations and faster assistance for those in need.

NC running visionless, directionless government: Sunil Sethi



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

National Conference party is running a government that is visionless and directionless government, said Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP during a press conference at BJP Headquarters, Jammu.

Adv. Sunil Sethi, was accompanied by Spokespersons Dr Tahir Chowdhary, & Balbir Ram Rattan and Media Incharge Dr Pardeep Mahotra.

During the recent Assembly elections, the BJP got a major vote share in Jammu as well as in the Kashmir region. Even if the party is not in government, the BJP stands steadfast on all the promises it made with the voters in its election manifesto as those promises are the commitments of the party with the people of J&K

made after thorough discussions with all financial considerations, said Sethi. On the other hand, NC is heading a visionless, directionless government in J&K. He said that the party has failed miserably on all the fronts of public importance. It failed in delivering to its poll promises mentioned in its manifesto. In the past 2 months, the NC government has not paid any heed towards the public issues, be it water, electricity, jobs, tourism, or projects to be undertaken in Jammu & Kashmir. It lacks commitment and will to do work. Instead of working for the welfare of the people, NC is making lame excuses and jeopardizing the security and development progress in J&K.

NC has developed a leadership crisis in these times and may break down in the coming time. The CM has lost the faith of its senior leaders

as it miserably fails in its promises which were made without any roadmap to fulfil them. Promises without financial planning are doomed to fail like in Delhi and Punjab.

They tried to give a political angle to certain public issues like that of ropeway, and the role of Dy CM is questionable in these matters.

In 2025, the BJP will emerge as an even stronger force and popular among the people as it stands with them in all even-odds. The BJP will be victorious in all the upcoming polls like ULB, and Panchayat. BJP is taking many new steps for the development in Jammu & Kashmir like to ensure more tourists in the region with the increasing work on the roads and railways network. A Train develops many villages, towns, and cities in its course. The Katra-Delhi Road will help to improve the transport of people as well as the goods. Regarding youth, the BJP is also working with the Union government on increasing jobs in the region and making efforts for more recruitment drives. BJP has worked for the socio-economic welfare of women through a multi-pronged approach. The people support the party for its pro-people approach and have given massive vote shares in all the elections in 2024 and the party will ensure that this faith increases in 2025.

Kashmir Shines with Devotion at IFF's GRAND NAAT COMPETITION FINALE

TANVEER HUSSAIN BUDGAM:

The Incentive Foster Foundation (IFF) proudly concluded the month-long Grand Naat Competition - Kashmir, Chapter 1, with a spectacular finale at 'SIR- The Next Generation Tuition', near Railway Station, Budgam.

This celebration of spirituality and tradition, brought together 30 talented Finalists from across the Kashmir valley, enthralled the audience with their heartfelt Naats, marking a grand conclusion to the competition.

The event's seamless execution was made possible through the generous support and hospitality of the hosting tuition center. Special acknowledgment goes to the founder of SIR, Rayees Ahmad Sheikh, whose



active participation and unwavering support contributed significantly to the success of this remarkable event.

The Valley Grand Competition's success was made possible through

the visionary leadership of IFF CEO, Mr. Junaid ul Islam, and the tireless efforts of the entire team of IFF who contributed in various capacities to make the event a grand success.

Special recognition goes to the Event Manager Syed Irtiza Byhaqii and the team members present at the finale, including, Medhat Zaffar, Shaheen Ahmad Pala, Ishfaq Malik, Burhan, Bisma Bashir, Rabia Ashraf, and Toiba Ali Wani, who played a pivotal role in orchestrating this remarkable event.

This vibrant event showcased the deep connection between faith and art, inspiring the youth to honor their cultural and spiritual heritage. With its resounding success, the Grand Naat Competition has set a benchmark for future events celebrating Kashmir's rich traditions.

KTMF Leadership Welcomes J&K Bank's One-Time Settlement Scheme (SOTS-2024)

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) leadership, under the esteemed Leadership of Chairman Haji Mushtaq Ahmed Darial, President Mohammad Sadiq Baqal, General Secretary Mohammad Altaf Dar, and Treasurer Showkat Ahmed Bhat, has wholeheartedly welcomed the J&K Bank's One-Time Settlement Scheme (SOTS-2024) for Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and Restructured Loan Accounts (RLAs), titled "Karz Se Mukti."

The initiative was also supported by prominent trade leaders, including Umer Mukhter Bhat (Head, Market Strengthening, Bazar, and Affiliation Committee), including Prominent Leaders Sheeraz Ahmed, Showkat Ahmed Bhat, Ghulam Rasool Shah, Bashir Ahmed Siraj, Haji Mohammad Salim Khan, Haji Nissar Ahmed Mir, Ayjaz Ahmed Mir, Shahid Hussain Mir, Haji Mushtaq Ahmed Saghar, Bilal Ahmed, Haji Altaf Hussain Dar, Rayees Ahmed, Feroz Ahmed, Mehraj Ud Din, Mohammad Yaseen, Zahoor Ahmed Sheikh, Khalid Sidiq Dar, Mushtaq Ahmed Degloo, Sheikh Hilal Ahmed,

S.A. Rashid, Younis Nazir, Adil Hussain, Sardar Surjeet Singh, Deepak Manis Walia, Zahid Mir, Hilal Ahmed Kuchay, Waseem Ahmad, Ajaz Ahmed, and Mohammad Shadab.

The KTMF leadership appreciated the scheme as a positive step toward alleviating the financial distress faced by small and medium businesses in Jammu and Kashmir. They emphasized that the initiative provides a much-needed lifeline to traders and entrepreneurs struggling with debt burdens, helping them revive their businesses and contribute to economic growth.

RC Subramanyam Today To paid obsciance at Tirupati Balaji temple participated in the abhishek ceremony



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

RC Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple, Sai Krishna Temple Inspector, Amit Shukla, Today paid obsciance at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed.

Sai Krishna Lord Venkateswara is Abhishek Ceremony on Fridays. On this occasion, many devotees come and participate in this Abhishek. This Abhishek Ceremony is done every Friday at the Balaji Temple, Jammu. Along with this, Amit Shukla Pandit ji told that on the coming 10th January, on the occasion of Vaikunt Ekadashi, ceremony will be done at the Balaji Temple and this anointment will be done in the morning only. Its significance is very good, in which the doors of Vaikunt Prapti are opened.

Whoever participates in this Abhishek Ceremony attains Vaikunth and it has great significance because on this occasion the doors of Uttar are opened and darshan is done from there. It is an appeal to the people of Jammu to come to the Balaji Temple on 10th January and take part in the Abhishek This anointment will be done early in the morning only. Jai Govinda.

Hello said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obsciance here. He Said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism On this occasion RC Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

BJP pays floral tributes to Savitribai Phule



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Mahila Morcha, J&K BJP led by its President Sanjita Dogra, paid floral tributes to legendary social reformer Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, Priya Sethi, BJP NEM & Headquarter Incharge, Venu Khanna, Secretary, J&K BJP and many senior leaders of Mahila Morcha paid tributes on the occasion.

Sat Sharma, while paying tributes, said that born in 1831 in Maharashtra, Savitribai Phule led a strong movement against the unbending society, during a time when women and certain castes were not given education and oppressed. She began this process with reforms in education, caste equality, and women empowerment along with her husband, Jyotirao Phule. He said that the combined efforts from both of them were the beginning of progressive changes that are still occurring up to the present time. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also working on the mission mode to achieve a society that is free from the social evils.

Srinagar Admin gears up resources to deal with winter challenges



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In order to gear up the District Administration and machinery to deal with winter challenges particularly with regard to current weather advisory, necessary preparations and arrangements were reviewed in Srinagar for ensuring prompt snow clearance and unhindered supply of

essential services and supplies in the District.

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, senior Officers of District Administration Srinagar under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik today inspected their respective jurisdictions and took stock of the

arrangements made by the line Departments for prompt snow clearance and ensuring unhindered supply of essential services and supplies to the people. During their visit, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) West, Muzamil Maqbool and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Srinagar Aijaz Ahmad Shah stressed the line Departments on readying men and machinery to ensure timely redressal of weather vagaries and subsequent interruptions of power & water supply and road closure due to snowfall. They also asked the Officers to keep men and machinery ready for ensuring proper functioning of all essential supplies and services during snowfall, particularly timely snow clearance from roads leading to hospitals, Government offices, fire & emergency, power stations, WSSs and other vital installations.

Day 3 of NSS National Integration Camp: A Blend of Wellness, Sports, Creativity, and Cultural Exchange



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

NSS National Integration Camp continued its vibrant journey on day 3, showcasing a blend of wellness, sports, creativity and cultural exchange. The day began with a refreshing morning yoga session on the theme 'Finding inner peace and harmony' where participants engage in mindfulness and physical well-being under the able guidance of Dr. Vijendra Kumar, HOD Sanskrit and Zumba Session conducted by Zumba instructor Ms. Kritika Sharma.

This session was not just about fitness but also aimed to promote mental clarity and relaxation among the contingents at GCW Gandhinagar. Following the invigorating yoga, participants gathered for a hearty breakfast, fuelling them for the exciting activities ahead.

In the sports arena at GCW, Parade Ground, Jammu, the NSS camp burst with energy as participants showcased their skills in Badminton and Table-Tennis. These games not only promoted physical fitness but also fostered teamwork, sportsmanship and healthy competition bringing together participants from diverse background. In Badminton 8 contingents successfully qualified for the quarterfinals and in Table Tennis competition 4 contingents qualified for the semifinals. The final matches will be held tomorrow.

The creative spirit of the camp shown through in the Poetry writing on 'Her story, Her glory (uski kahani, uski shaan)' and Essay writing competition on 'Wings of Freedom-A Women's Journey' held later in the day. Participants were encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings which displayed a remarkable depth of creativity and emotional resonance, reflecting the participant's experiences and aspiration. PO's from Delhi, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Ladhak and Uttarakhand were the Jury members. In this competition victorious contingent were awarded with certificates.

Cadets from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh Shine at 67th National Shooting Competition

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh Directorate (JK&L Dte.) has celebrated a remarkable achievement as two of its cadets, Arushi Rajput and Krish Singh Chauhan, excelled in the prestigious 67th National Shooting Competition held in Bhopal from 15th to 31st December 2024. Their outstanding performances have brought pride to the region and highlighted the immense talent emerging from these northern states. The competition, which witnessed the participation of top shooters from across the country, saw only 45 cadets being selected from all 17 NCC Directorates nationwide. Cadets Arushi and Krish's inclusion in this elite group marks a significant milestone for the JK&L Directorate, reflecting their hard work, skill, and dedication to the sport. Cadet Krish Singh Chauhan achieved a remarkable feat by earning the coveted title of National Shooter. His exceptional performance at the competition has set him apart as a rising star in the field of shooting. His journey to this accomplishment underscores his unwavering commitment to excellence and the potential to achieve even greater heights in the sport.

Equally noteworthy is the achievement of Cadet Arushi Rajput, who has qualified for the India Trials for International Shooting Events.

This milestone positions her on the global stage, with the opportunity to represent India in international competitions. Arushi's qualification is a testament to her extraordinary talent, determination, and focus, showcasing her as a future star in the shooting arena.

Mission YUVA: Baseline Survey to identify potential entrepreneurs begins in Srinagar

DC urges youth to take advantage of initiative under Mission YUVA to get support to start business

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

With an aim to identify potential entrepreneurs and to promote entrepreneurship at grassroots level, the baseline survey under Mission YUVA, a critical exercise to gather real-time data on existing and potential entrepreneurs commenced in Srinagar District today.

The Mission YUVA initiative is aimed to foster sustainable employment by supporting the creation of new micro-enterprises, expanding existing businesses, and promoting innovative entrepreneurial ventures. The objective of Baseline Survey under the initiative is to encourage entrepreneurship culture and a desirable ecosystem for helping the youth to start new enterprises and

generate job opportunities for others. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has urged the aspirants particularly the youth studying in different Universities/Colleges to take part in this survey for making it a meaningful exercise by providing feedback about their ambitions regarding self-employment. He also urged the people in District to extend full support and cooperation to the designated Baseline Survey Enumerators visiting house to house for empowering youth of District to establish income generating units to earn livelihood with dignity and honour.

The DC also asked the educated youth to take advantage of this opportunity to get support to start their business and take the benefits under the scheme which includes a



25% government subsidy, 5% interest subvention, and an additional 10% subsidy for women and physically disabled persons for setting up business.

To conduct the Baseline Survey, the District Administration Srinagar has deployed a sufficient number of Supervisors and Investigators for the month-long survey under the Mission YUVA initiative.

4-Day orientation/ Training programme for implementation of NALSA Scheme 2024 commences at Bandipora

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora on Wednesday inaugurated a four days Orientation Training Programme for the implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024.

The event was held under the Chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Bandipora/Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora and under the supervision of Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Chief Judicial Magistrate/Secretary, DLSA Bandipora.

The four days Orientation Training Programme is being organized for the members of the Legal Service Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) and Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), aimed to enhance the understanding and implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024. The programme was

inaugurated at the Conference Hall of ADR Centre, DLSA Bandipora by Khalil Ahmad Choudhary Chairman DLSA Bandipora / Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora, in presence of Sushil Singh (Additional District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora, Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun (CJM/Secretary DLSA Bandipora, Amandeep Singh (Munsiff Bandipora) and LSUM members.

The inaugural session highlighted the importance of the scheme in ensuring access to justice for individuals with mental and intellectual disabilities.

Mehraj-ud-din Sofi, a retired judicial officer advisor/mentor of the committee, addressed the participants virtually. He emphasized the need for effective implementation of the scheme and provided valuable insights on the role of LSUM and LSUC in bridging the gap between the legal system and vulnerable individuals. The Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, further elaborated on the

objectives of the orientation programme, underscoring its importance in equipping the participants with the necessary knowledge and tools to implement the scheme effectively.

Asif Iqbal, a member of Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) and Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) for implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024, shared his practical experiences in the field, providing the participants with a firsthand perspective on handling cases related to mental and intellectual disabilities.

The programme facilitated interactive discussions, enabling participants to exchange ideas and explore effective ways to achieve the goals of the NALSA Scheme 2024.

The training session concluded on a productive note, with participants expressing confidence in their ability to implement the scheme in their respective jurisdictions.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Purity Under Threat

Recently, there has been news that fake ghee was being prepared in Agra in the name of 18 famous and big companies. The prepared ghee was supplied to many states including UP. Fast food is prepared in the market with this ghee. Earlier also, fake ghee has been caught from time to time. There are complaints of cheese, milk, mawa and other food items being fake in the market. Flour, pulses and other food items have also been caught of poor quality. For some time now, there have been complaints of spitting in food or water, urinating, washing food utensils in drain water. In such a situation, the question arises that what should a person eat outside the house now? What should a person do to fill his stomach while travelling? Do we have to go back to the old situation, when a person used to carry food from home. When the food at home was finished, he used to manage by eating fruits, but did not eat from the market. Or will he now have to carry readymade food packets of big companies from home? Fake Desi Ghee was being prepared in the plot of the newly developed colony on Maruti City Road in Tajganj, Agra and supplied throughout the state. Police and SOG team raided and seized fake Desi Ghee packed in the name of 18 famous brands including Amul, Madhusudan, Patanjali. It was being adulterated with refined oil and other chemicals. Five people including the factory manager have been arrested. DCP City Suraj Kumar Rai said that the factory was being run by putting a tin shed in the plot of a person named Rajesh Agarwal in Maruti Prabhassam Colony on Maruti City Road. The plot was taken on rent. During interrogation, it was told that Brijesh Agarwal, Pankaj Agarwal, Neeraj Agarwal, residents of Gwalior, have a brand of Desi Ghee named Pure It. They opened the factory about six months ago. Rajesh Bhardwaj of the colony was made the manager. The ghee was packed in tins and boxes by pasting stickers of the brand which was in demand in the market. The press was also told that a large quantity of ghee, raw material, stickers of many companies, machines used, packing machines etc. have been recovered from the factory. The value of the recovered goods is being said to be in crores. Police is registering a case against the factory operator and employees on its own. FSDA team has also been called for action. The accused are being questioned. Police said that a consignment of 50 tins of fake Desi Ghee was sent to Meerut shortly before the raid. Efforts are being made to recover this material. Police said that fake Desi Ghee was being supplied in the state as well as in the surrounding states. It was being prepared from palm oil, refined, vegetable oil and essence. The fragrance was like real ghee and the grains were also grainy, for a moment even the police team got the illusion of real ghee. DCP City Suraj Kumar Rai said that he himself reached the spot. The first question asked was how the ghee was made. The accused said that people do not recognize Desi Ghee. Some look at the fragrance and some look at the grains. They used to prepare Desi Ghee by mixing palm oil, refined, vegetable ghee, chemicals. They used to add essence to it. So that it smells. Expired date refined ghee was also found from the spot. Police asked the accused why they bought it. The workers told that expired goods are available at cheaper rates. When they used to make Desi Ghee, they used this refined oil as well. According to Agra Police, investigation of the bills revealed that fake Desi Ghee was sold directly in fast food markets of more than two dozen cities of Uttar Pradesh besides Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Assam and Bihar. Dosa, Bhalle, Samosa and Omelette were made from this ghee. According to Food and Drugs Department Gwalior, Ramnath Agarwal and his family members were earlier involved in the fake ghee business and were also booked under NSA. They had left Gwalior since 2010. Earlier on 24 November 2023, Delhi Police has busted a factory in Dwarka, where adulterated ghee was made and it was sold in containers with stickers of brands like Patanjali, Mother Dairy and Amul. The sample of Baba Ramdev's renowned company Patanjali brand cow ghee was collected by the Food Safety and Drugs Department from a shop in Ghansali of Tehri district on the occasion of Diwali in the year 2021.

ENJOY THE FROTH TILL IT LASTS

IN OTHER WORDS, WITH HUGE UNCERTAINTY IN THE GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION, FINANCIAL MARKETS HAVE BECOME SPECULATIVE, AS INVESTORS SEEK HIGHER RISK, SHORT-TERM RETURNS, EVEN AS THE FED HAS CUT INTEREST RATES FOUR TIMES SINCE SEPTEMBER BUT HINTED AT ONLY LIMITED CUTS NEXT YEAR.

ANDREW SHENG

With the return of the highly unpredictable Donald Trump as US President this month, how should anyone manage his or her risks? We define risk as the possibility of the occurrence of an event or condition which, if it occurs, would negatively impact our well-being. We scan risks in order to try to avoid or mitigate such risks.

Those who have wealth care the most because they have the most assets to lose. The first thing to remember is risk cannot be eliminated, only managed or hedged. In a static zero-sum system, one man's risk is another man's opportunity. You squeeze one side of a balloon, it will expand on other sides. However, the balloon may burst or leak, so such risks are not improbable. In a dynamic environment, the balloon is ever expanding, and any action by one party could affect not only other parties, but also the balloon (system as a whole) itself. There are always costs to hedging risks, and if you choose the wrong hedge, you could lose even more when an unexpected event occurs.

The World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report 2024 (published last January), based on a global risk perception survey of 1,500 experts, was remarkably comprehensive in laying out the fears of a rapidly accelerating technologically changing world beset by climate warming and conflict. In the short-term (two years), the top risks ranked by severity were misinformation and disinformation, extreme weather events, societal polarization, cyber security and inter-state armed conflict. Over a ten-year horizon, top risks include extreme weather events, critical change in Earth systems, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, natural resource shortage and misinformation and disinformation.

Surprisingly, involuntary migration, interstate armed conflict and geo-economic confrontation were ranked 7th, 15th, and 16th respectively over the next ten years, whereas at the end of 2024, migration, nuclear war risks and tariff confrontation all surfaced as headline concerns affecting elections and geopolitical tensions. As polarization occurs, misinformation and disinformation by warring factions caused a huge loss of trust in governance, resulting in populist and "strong men" leaders who promised to stabilize life for the confused electorate. Trump is promising to end the Ukraine war and seeks to have transactional deals, using the threats of tariffs on allies and enemies alike. Even as the fate of Ukraine and Gaza/Syria depends on the outcome of who is really winning the armed conflict, with Europe being the biggest eco-



nomie victim in terms of growth, the big picture depends on whether Trump can stabilize the US-China geopolitical rivalry.

The United States leads in GDP at market currencies at US\$29.2 trillion against China's \$18.3 trillion, together accounting for 43.2 per cent of the 2024 global GDP of \$110 trillion. In purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, however, China leads with \$37.1 trillion, whilst US has \$29.2 trillion, both accounting for 37.3 per cent of world GDP of \$185.7 trillion. India is ranked 3rd at \$16 trillion and Russia at \$6.9 trillion, whereas in market currency terms, India and Russia are ranked 5th and 11th respectively. With technological, military, economic and financial dominance, the United States still has a deciding edge in terms of power say, even as China has emerged as the leading manufacturing and trade power. As Trump has clearly recognized, American power rests on the mighty dollar, a position that the United States must defend.

The irony is that the more the dollar is weaponized, the more its global users feel uncomfortable for fear of sanctions, freezing, confiscation or medium-term devaluation. The recent CF40-Peterson Institute of International Economics conference showed how rational, scholarly and professional economists are trying to figure out ways to manage trade and tariff tensions on both sides, even as political rhetoric is reaching alarming levels. One of the most respected China economists, Professor Huang Yiping, explored potential outcomes, from fighting a full-blow trade war, China buying more from the US, voluntary export restraints, to decoupling in selected sectors and RMB appreciation (Plaza Accord II). The Peterson trade economists are predicting that tariffs will cost the United States in terms of higher manufacturing and import costs, with impact on inflation. If a full-blown trade war occurs, the world could be sent into a protectionist

recession. If you want to be scared by nuclear war, read the just published US Defense Department's China Military Power Report 2024. How are financial markets reading and hedging these global risks? The US stock market is at all-time highs, with the NASDAQ index up 29.1 per cent year to date (YTD), whilst the Dow Jones Index is up 15.3 per cent. Bitcoin is up 137.9 per cent YTD, whereas gold surged over 28 per cent.

In other words, with huge uncertainty in the geopolitical situation, financial markets have become speculative, as investors seek higher risk, short-term returns, even as the Fed has cut interest rates four times since September but hinted at only limited cuts next year. Since the Fed has begun cutting interest rates, the S&P US Bank index has delivered returns of 35.67 per cent YTD. Singapore bank stocks are up over 40 per cent YTD, with dividend yields of around 5 per cent per annum. So, risk-averse investors holding bank stocks have been rewarded just as much as those holding frothy tech stocks. In sum, the global risk picture looks fraught with shocking events and dramatic turns almost daily. Trump 2.0 will add to the bumps. And yet, the largest economy in the world is still printing money to finance its trade and fiscal deficits.

Thus, in dollar terms, investors are stuck between greed and fear. As long as the Fed has to cut interest rates to reduce the US fiscal burden, global investors will continue to bet on the financial sector leverage play. Will it all come to grief? The American economist Herb Stein said, "If something cannot go on forever, it will stop." But the music will not stop because reserve currency central banks can go on printing money to finance unsustainable fiscal deficits. So, enjoy the frothy music while it lasts.

(The writer, a former Central banker, writes on global affairs from an Asian perspective.)

Weekly Block Diwas: DC convenes public outreach camp at Ghordi Jagir



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU UDHAMPUR:

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today convened a public outreach programme at CFC Ghordi Jagir, as part of the weekly Block Diwas initiative. The event witnessed the participation of DDC Member Rakesh Sharma, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar Rajinder Singh, former BDC Chairman, Aarti

Sharma and officers from line departments, along with former PRI members and local residents. During the interaction, DDC Member Rakesh Sharma, former BDC Chairman Aarti Sharma, former Sarpanches, Panches and residents of nearby Panchayats highlighted several issues and demands seeking Tehsil status to Ghordi, establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the area, ensuring sustained progress

under the Jal Jeevan Mission, quality checks for works undertaken by the RDD, repair of link roads under PMGSY and PWD and resolving issues related to new ration cards, filling of vacant posts of doctors in PHC Ghordi, addressing staff shortages in the PHE and Education sectors and mitigating the scarcity of drinking water etc. The DC gave a patient hearing to the grievances and directed concerned officers to take immediate steps for their resolution. She emphasized the importance of proactive governance and urged officials to personally assess public issues and ensure their timely redressal. The DC stressed that public outreach programs are integral to effective governance, enabling direct interaction with the people to understand their needs and obtain feedback on developmental works. She encouraged officers to work with dedication, sincerity and accountability, ensuring that genuine grievances are addressed at the earliest.

Div Com emphasizes on close coordination & synergy among Engineering Departments during snow clearance ops

Asks SSCL to keep ITMS Cameras in readiness mode for effective service utilization

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

To address some urgent issues at hand including functioning of ITMS Cameras, relocation of KPTCL Towers at Sanatnagar, Snow Clearance and rehabilitation cases, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Saturday chaired a meeting of concerned departments & officers, here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL, Dr Owais Ahmad; ADC Srinagar, Khalid Hussain Malik; SSP Traffic Srinagar, Chief Engineers of R&B, MED, SSCL, KPTCL & concerned revenue officer. While chairing the meeting, Div Com took serious note of software glitches in the functioning of ITMS which affects the seamless implementation of traffic regulations and directed concerned officer to urgently rectify the issue so the services will be effectively utilized by the Traffic Department. Regarding relocation of KPTCL Towers at Sanatnagar for smooth movement of traffic over flyover, Div Com directed concerned to expedite the process of land acquisition under 3A National Highway Act for erection of new transmission towers. In view of weather advisory for snowfall, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir directed operationalization of Divisional Control Room at ICC to monitor & respond exigencies. He also directed related departments for the deployment of staff at the Control Room.

For the effective implementation of snow clearance plan, Div Com directed SMC, R&B, MED, ULB & PMGSY to maintain close coordination & synergy while ensuring snow clearance operation and restoration of road connectivity.

He urged them that they shouldn't keep their snowclearance operation confined to respective demarcated jurisdictions only rather they should act judiciously & respond promptly to nearby areas to assist in opening of roads.

Div Com instructed CE, MED to coordinate with SMC for providing assistance in view of the priority of restoration of City roads.

Meanwhile the meeting discussed the bottlenecks and acquisition of structures falling in the alignment of road at Habakadal and rehabilitation thereof.

On the occasion, Div Com directed district administration to identify ten plots at the outskirts of the city for the rehabilitation purpose of households.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KULGAM:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today convened a meeting with concerned officers to review the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The scheme aims to enhance the share of rooftop solar capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity, supported by significant financial contributions from the government.

During the meeting, it was informed that a substantial number of applications have been received for installation of rooftops in the district. Furthermore, five villages have been identified for the establishment of Model Solar Villages, which will be eligible for significant grants after



assessment to facilitate their transition to sustainable energy solutions. The DC emphasized the need to increase registrations under the scheme and directed the departments to launch massive awareness campaigns. The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) was specifically instructed to conduct door-to-door outreach for mobilizing maximum participation and raising awareness about the scheme. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Joint Director Planning (JDP).

Weather exigency: DC Pulwama reviews winter preparedness

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU PULWAMA:

To assess the district's readiness for the second spell of adverse weather forecast for this winter season, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired a meeting of Officers and officials here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the DC emphasised the need for proactive and coordinated efforts to mitigate the impact of severe weather conditions. He commended the concerned sectoral officers and their field teams for their effective response to the recent spell of snowfall and urged them to maintain similar coordination while preparing for potentially larger anticipated weather events.

Priority was given to maintaining essential services, including water and electricity supply and ensuring



prompt snow clearance, particularly on critical hospital roads. Departments such as MED and R&B were directed to ensure the continuous functionality of essential services.

Additionally, officers from MED, R&B, PMGSY, ULBs and RDD were instructed to maintain seamless

coordination to prevent any overlapping of jurisdictions or lapses in communication.

Dr. Basharat also focused on health sector readiness, stressing the availability of essential medicines and emergency services, particularly in remote and vulnerable areas.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of Sheep Husbandry department



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KUPWARA:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today held a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of the Sheep Husbandry department in the district.

It was informed in the meeting that 3184 applications under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) have been

approved by the Sheep Husbandry department through the HADP portal. Under DAKSH Kisan portal, 8000 registrations were made out of which 3125 farmer beneficiaries were enrolled for undergoing the learning course and 2067 farmers have completed the course so far.

It was also informed that a target of 6550 beneficiaries for completion of courses under DAKSH Kisan have been given to 13 Sheep Blocks of district Kupwara which include

Gulgam, Handwara, Kralgund, Kralpora, Kulgam, Kupwara, Machil/Kalaroose, Rajwar, Ramhall, Shartpora, Sogam, Tangdar and Teetwal. On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the concerned officers to gear up the pace of enrolment of farmers to achieve the desired targets under DAKSH Kisan and HADP. The officers were directed to facilitate the registration and enrollment of farmers to meet the targets as early as possible.

She impressed upon the officers to ensure 100% coverage of the HADP scheme adding that district Kupwara has a vast potential for agriculture and allied activities which will boost its employment generation scenario.

Meanwhile, the Officers were directed to mobilize field staff and Krishi Udayamis to achieve these targets in a time-bound manner and support farmers throughout the registration and certification process.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara, Block Sheep Husbandry Officers and other concerned.

Two days orientation programme for LSUM members concludes at Srinagar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) of Srinagar and Budgam successfully concluded a two-day orientation programme today conducted for the members of the Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM).

The event was held under the chairmanship of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar/ Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar and Om Prakash Baghat, Chairman DLSA Budgam/ Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar/ DLSA Budgam.

The training was organized as part of the implementation of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Scheme 2024.

The programme, which commenced on December 31, 2024, was aimed at enhancing the understanding and capabilities



of the LSUM members in delivering effective legal services to individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities.

On the second day of the programme, Secretary of DLSA Srinagar and Budgam, emphasized the critical role of the unit members in ensuring access to justice for this vulnerable section of society. She highlighted the importance of the NALSA scheme 2024 in promoting

inclusivity and legal empowerment for marginalized groups. Masarat Shaheen, a retired judicial officer, joined virtually and shared her valuable insights. She discussed the legal and social challenges faced by persons with disabilities and provided practical strategies for addressing these issues. Her experience and expertise enriched the training sessions and inspired the participants.

Advocates Suhaila Ali and Adv. Laila Khalid also actively contributed to the programme, emphasizing the practical application of the NALSA scheme and encouraging the participants to adopt a proactive approach in their roles.

Members of the Legal Services Unit from DLSA Budgam participated in the programme through virtual mode, ensuring comprehensive involvement despite geographical constraints. The two-day orientation programme aimed to equip the LSUM members with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement the NALSA Scheme 2024. It also sought to foster a deeper understanding of the legal rights and entitlements of persons with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities, ensuring that they receive the support and assistance they need. This initiative reflects the commitment of the DLSAs of Srinagar and Budgam in upholding the principles of justice and equality for all, especially the most vulnerable members of society.

First ever National Integration Camp held at PSPS GCW, Gandhi Nagar

Shantmanu emphasizes importance of national integration, youth empowerment in nation building

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The first ever "All Women NSS National Integration Camp (NIC), 2025" was organized here today under the aegis of Higher Education Department, on the theme "Women Empowerment and Emancipation" symbolizing "Nari Shakti" at PSPS, GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantmanu, inaugurated the event which was jointly organized by National Service Scheme (NSS), Government College for Women, Parade and Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

VC Cluster University of Jammu, Professor KS Chandra Sekar, was the guest of honour on the occasion.

The National Integration Camp is an annual event conducted as a part of National Service Scheme (NSS) to promote national unity, communal harmony and inclusive spirit among the youth of India.

This mega event brought together participants from diverse cultural, linguistic and geographical backgrounds, highlighting the country's rich diversity and collective identity. Nearly, 25 NSS Programme Officers, 200 NSS volunteers and 18 contingents participated in the NIC Camp. In his inaugural address, Shantmanu emphasized the importance of national integration and youth empowerment in strengthening the nation. He stressed that NSS encourages individuals to actively participate in various initiatives that address the pressing needs of the society. Whether, it be through education outreach, environmental conversation, or health awareness campaigns, their involvement has the potential to make a profound impact, he added.

MLA Saifullah reviews development profile of Trehgam constituency



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KUPWARA:

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Trehgam today chaired an interactive meeting with officers and people at block headquarter Kralpora to review the development scenario of Trehgam Assembly Constituency. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman; ACD, CMO, CAO, CHO, DSHO, Dy. CEO, Executive Engineers of R&B, PMGSY, I&FC, besides, block level officers and general public were present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, MLA Trehgam said that the aim of holding the joint meeting of officers and the

people was to bridge the gap between the people and administration for resolution of the public grievances and problems. He impressed upon the officers to work with utmost sincerity and dedication for the welfare of the common people to leave no gap for the grievances.

The MLA urged the Officers to increase their connection with the people at grassroots level to ease their sufferings. He emphasized the need for mass awareness of various Government schemes especially pertaining to Agriculture and allied departments and directed the concerned officers to monitor their schemes at ground level so that bene-

fits reach to the deserving people. On the occasion, the MLA took a detailed review of all departments and assessed their performance and progress.

Reviewing PMGSY, the Executive Engineer briefed the MLA about different ongoing road projects in the area. The MLA directed the Ex. Engineer to take up projects connecting unconnected habitations of Jumagund and Keran area which will facilitate the local population living in these pockets.

Regarding PHE, the MLA directed the AEE concerned to personally visit the areas having issues of water supply and fix responsibilities on his subordinate staff including

JEs and Linemen so that the people do not suffer due to non-availability of water supply.

Reviewing RDD, the ACD informed that estimates of around 1500 works pertaining to the area have been done and progress exceeding 100% have been registered for man-days generation. The MLA asked the concerned officers to ensure the work is distributed equally so that the income status of people in large numbers is improved. Reviewing Power sector, the MLA directed the concerned officials to ensure power supply strictly as per the curtailment schedule so that the people do not face any inconvenience in this bone chilling winter period. The MLA also took a review of other departments including Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry and firewood status. ADC Kupwara also spoke and assured all possible support from the District Administration regarding the redressal of grievances of the people.

Earlier, prominent and senior citizens of Trehgam constituency put forth various developmental issues of different villages before the chair which were heard patiently by the MLA.

Yudhvir, Surinder holds public darbar at BJP headquarters



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Yudhvir Sethi, Vice-President, J&K BJP & MLA Jammu East and Surinder Bhagat, MLA Marh held a public darbar at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. A number of deputations chiefly hailing from the areas 'in and around' Jammu approached the BJP headquarters and presented their grievances in front of BJP MLAs.

Among other issues, 5 deputations presented the issue of construction and repair of lanes and drains in Gole Gujral, Trikuta Nagar, Narwal, and Marh areas. 3 deputations presented the issue of repair and installation of street lights in Talab Tillo and Trikuta Nagar. A deputation presented an issue related to revenue department. A deputation raised concern of erratic water supply. The senior leaders of party, resolved many issues on the spot, while communicated in oral and written way with the concerned department officials. Yudhvir Sethi, while listening to the grievances of the deputations, said that the BJP believes in serving the people on the ground level and does not mislead the public on mere political sloganeering. "NC and other political parties have consistently misled people by making hoax promises. NC government in Jammu & Kashmir has also failed on all the fronts, while it promised moon to the people of Jammu & Kashmir in the Assembly elections through its political manifesto, it proves itself to be 'a bunch of lies' even after the 2 months of government formation in Jammu & Kashmir", said Yudhvir Sethi. Surinder Bhagat, on the occasion, said that the BJP stands fully committed to the people in serving them and mitigating their issues. He urged the people to come forward and present their issues in the public Darbar so that their problems can be resolved at the earliest.

New Year's Day: TB Awareness camp organized at Ganta Ghar Lal Chowk Srinagar

Event held under 100 Days TB Intensified Campaign - Nikshay Shivr



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In a significant move toward achieving the goal of a TB-free India, a TB awareness camp was held on New Year's Day, today at Clock Tower Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

The camp was organized by the District TB Control Society Srinagar under the 100 Days TB Intensified Campaign (Nikshay Shivr), and focused on promoting public awareness about tuberculosis (TB) and strengthening community participa-

tion (Janbhagidari) in TB prevention and care. The event was attended by officials from Health Services Kashmir, including Dr. Adhfar Yasein, State TB Officer Kashmir and Dr. Abdul Roof, District TB Officer Srinagar. They were supported by teams from the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) and the Urban Health Center (UHC) Maisuma Srinagar.

The initiative involved community-centric activities and featured targeted awareness sessions for police personnel, traffic police, and members

of the local community.

These sessions emphasized early detection and treatment of TB, prevention strategies to stop the spread of the disease. On the occasion, informational pamphlets were distributed to pedestrians, providing vital details about TB symptoms, free diagnostic facilities and available treatment options.

A special meeting was also convened with representatives from the Lal Chowk Trade Association, highlighting their role in disseminating information and fostering a TB-free environment. It is worth mentioning that this initiative is part of the government's 'Nikshay Shivr Initiative' which prioritizes accessible healthcare services and active community engagement to combat TB. With optimism and determination, the campaign concluded with New Year wishes from the health team, reflecting the shared commitment to eliminating TB and building a healthier future. Meanwhile, for more information on TB diagnosis and treatment, citizens are encouraged to contact their nearest healthcare center.

DCO inspects Medical stores in Gool

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAMBAN:

Drug Control Officer Ramban Imtiyaz Ahmed conducted inspection of Medical Shops at Main Bazaar Gool with the objective to ensure compliance with the directives regarding the installation of CCTV cameras and the implementation of computerized billing systems and to ensure compliance with regulations regarding the maintaining of sale records of psychotropic drugs. During the inspections, it was observed that Chemists had complied with the directions and installed CCTVs and started com-



puterized billing. The inspections primarily focused on verifying the installation of CCTV cameras and Computerized Billing System and it

was observed that all the inspected firms have installed CCTV cameras and adopted computerized billing systems.

GMC Srinagar launches QR-based Feedback System to enhance patient care service delivery

Service launched in SMHS Hospital, to be adopted in all associated Hospitals



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In a significant step towards improving the quality of healthcare and administrative services, Govt Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today launched a QR-based feedback system in Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital.

The initiative aims to provide patients and their attendants an easy, efficient and transparent platform to share their experiences and

suggestions for the hospital's overall development. The innovative system was launched by the Principal/Dean of GMC Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, who emphasized the importance of feedback in driving institutional improvement. Others present at the event included Administrator, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; HOD Urology deptt. Prof Dr Sajad Nazir; Medical Superintendent, Dr. Tasneem; Deputy Medical Superintendent, Casualty Medical Officers (CMOs), Resident Medical

Officers (RMOs), nursing staff, and key stakeholders of the hospital.

Prof. Dr. Iffat highlighted the hospital's commitment to leveraging technology to ensure patient satisfaction and operational efficiency. She stated, "The QR-based feedback system is a milestone in our continuous efforts to provide patient-centered care. This initiative will help us to understand the needs of the patients better and address their concerns effectively."

Administrator praised the collaborative efforts of the GMC IT Section in designing and implementing this user-friendly system. "The feedback platform is simple to use and will act as a direct communication channel between patients and hospital administration. We believe this will greatly enhance transparency and accountability." HOD Urology said that the initiative aligns with the vision of improving healthcare delivery by incorporating patient feedback into decision-making processes.

DM Baramulla chairs 16th NCORD meeting

Reviews anti-Drug initiatives, youth engagement plans

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BARAMULLA:

District Magistrate Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired the 16th meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee meeting, where a comprehensive review of the ongoing efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking was conducted. The meeting focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination and planning further strategies to mitigate the narcotic challenge in Baramulla, ensuring a safer environment for the youth. Principal GMC Baramulla, Prof.(Dr.) Majid Jahangir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore SA.Raina, Additional Superintendent Police Baramulla, Syed Yasir Qadri, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Arshad Ahmad Khan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pattan Gulmarg,Uri, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer and other concerned officers were attended the meeting.

The DM emphasized the importance of a unified approach to combat the growing drug menace and ensure a safer, drug-free environment for youth. "Our combined efforts are key to safeguarding the future of our youth from the adverse impact of narcotics," said the DM.

During the meeting, the Principal of Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, Majid Jahangir briefed the DM on the achievements of the Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India) initiative. In the first batch, 25 individuals were trained as master trainers, who are now responsible for training others, significantly expanding the reach of the drug awareness and de-addiction campaign.

In addition to anti-drug efforts, the DM addressed initiatives for youth engagement. He directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) and Youth Services Department to organize an annual sports schedule for the youth in the district. The DM emphasized that these sports events would focus on promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and providing positive alternatives for young people. The annual sports schedule will offer a variety of competitions and activities, ensuring year-round engagement and opportunities for youth to develop their skills.

DC Baramulla distributes Business Correspondent letters to Krishi Udyamis

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BARAMULLA:

In a significant move towards enhancing financial inclusion and promoting rural development, District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today distributed Business Correspondent (BC) letters to Krishi Udyamis working under the first phase of the Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in Baramulla. This initiative in collaboration with KAMCO Bank Sopore is aimed at expanding financial services in rural areas and ensuring maximum coverage under government schemes such as PM- KISAN, KCC, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PMKMY and PMFBY, while also promoting income-generating opportunities for KUs.

The Kisan Khidmat Ghars are designed to serve as hubs for all agriculture inputs and farmer oriented services. The initiative will also expand linking banks with critical services like money transfer orders and micro ATMs, thus ensuring financial inclusion and streamlining cash flow processes, especially for farmers.

Chief Planning Officer Baramulla Javed Ahmad, Chief Agriculture Officer Yadvinder Singh, Managing Director and General Manager KAMCO Bank Sopore and Daljeet Singh Nodal Officer for KKGs, were present during the event, highlighting the collective effort to drive this transformative initiative. With the launch of the KKG initiative, farmers in Baramulla will have better access to government schemes and financial services, empowering them to improve their livelihoods and strengthen the rural economy. The DC exhorted KUs to avail this opportunity in favour of their income and employment generation pursuit.

Policy-Technology synergy imperative for effective implementation of development initiatives : Dy CM

Visits Mechanical Engineering Department, Shalteng; reviews functioning



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Underscoring the significance of forging stronger ties between policy-makers and technocrats, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, said that this is imperative to bolster efficiency, service delivery and effective implementation of development initiatives.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated this while addressing the officers and officials during his visit to Mechanical Engineering Division, Shalteng. During the visit, he reviewed the functioning of Provincial Snow Clearance Control Room, inspected machinery fleet and assessed readiness of men and machinery for ongoing snow clearances operations. On the occasion,

the Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the newly procured state-of-the-art Spider Excavator, a highly advanced equipment set to revolutionise department's operational capabilities.

The Deputy CM emphasized the critical role of integrating policy decisions with technical expertise to optimize the department's functioning. He pointed out that robust collaboration between engineers and policymakers is essential for designing and executing infrastructure projects that cater to the region's current and future needs.

A detailed discussion was held on the challenges faced by the department including resource management, project delays, and the adoption of modern technologies. Opportunities to enhance efficiency

through digital tools, innovation and skill enhancement were also explored.

Surinder Chowdhary highlighted the importance of maintaining a continuous dialogue between government officials and engineers. This, he noted, would bridge existing gaps and pave the way for more responsive and effective governance.

Present in the meeting were senior officials including Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering Department, Superintendent Engineers and Executive Engineers.

They provided a detailed briefing on the department's ongoing and upcoming projects, operational challenges and the support needed from the administration to address bottlenecks effectively.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while commending the department for its efforts, assured them of administration's full support in overcoming challenges and implementing innovative solutions. He reiterated government's vision of prioritising infrastructure development as a cornerstone for regional progress and economic growth. Later, Surinder Chowdhary unveiled the annual calendar 2025 of JK Mechanical Engineering Graduates Association (JKMEGA).

Indian Army's Beautician Course Empowers Women in South Pir Panjal, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAJOURI:

The Indian Army has initiated a transformative beautician course in the southern Pir Panjal region of Jammu and Kashmir, empowering local women by providing them with skills to achieve financial independence and overcome societal barriers. This initiative is significantly impacting the lives of women in the remote area of Palma, Rajouri, by opening new doors of opportunity in a region where access to education, employment, and skill development has been historically limited.

The beautician course focuses on practical training in skincare, hairstyling, makeup artistry, and nail care. Designed to empower women from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, the course is offered free of cost, ensuring accessibility to those who might otherwise lack such opportunities. Participants also receive certification upon completion, adding to their credibility and enhancing their chances of finding employment or starting their own businesses in the beauty industry.

In a region where many women have traditionally been confined to household responsibilities, this initiative is proving to be a game-changer. By equipping participants with practical skills, the program enables them to contribute financially to their families and gain a sense of independence. Many graduates of the program have started offering beauty services locally or have plans to establish their own salons.

Omar prioritizing concerns of a terrorist's son rather than a terrorist's victim is highly condemnable: Pawan Sharma

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Pawan Sharma, senior BJP leader and Prabhari for District Doda, has criticized Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for prioritizing the concerns of a terrorist's son over those of a terrorist's victim. This criticism comes amidst Omar Abdullah's statement expressing concern for the son of a terrorist and those who have supported terrorism in Kashmir. Sharma condemned Abdullah's stance, emphasizing the importance of empathy towards the victims of terrorism rather than their perpetrators.

Sharma emphasized that Abdullah's statement is a stark reminder of the National Conference leader's priorities, which appear to be skewed in favor of those who have perpetuated violence and terror in the region. By contrast, the victims of terrorism and their families continue to suffer in silence, Sharma noted. Sharma's condemnation is part of a broader narrative of political tensions in Jammu and Kashmir. The region has witnessed significant developments in recent times, under the astute leadership of PM Narendra Modi at the Centre, including the launch of various developmental projects and initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region.

Sharma further remarked, "The NC government has been in power for almost three months, but their performance has been disappointing across the board. They have failed to deliver on their manifesto promises, which included 12 free gas cylinders, 200 units of free electricity, 10 kgs rice, one lakh jobs, and regularising daily wagers."

Sharma denounced the chief minister for making a U-turn on his commitments. "U-turns have been a long-standing tradition of Abdullah and NC governments. In opposition, they promised to dispose of electricity meters in the Tawi and Jhelum rivers. Now, in power, they assert that uninterrupted electricity will be supplied only upon achieving 100 per cent metering," Sharma noted.

DC Bandipora reviews MGNREGA convergence Plan for 2024-25; discusses plan for 2025-26

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, convened a meeting on Friday to review the Convergence and Action Taken Reports (ATRs) under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the financial year 2024-25. The meeting also deliberated on formulating the convergence plan for 2025-26.

On the occasion, threadbare discussions were held on fostering interdepartmental collaboration and optimizing resource utilization to enhance the implementation of MGNREGA projects across the district. DC emphasized the importance of aligning departmental efforts to achieve tangible outcomes



under MGNREGA. He stressed integrating livelihood, conservation, and developmental objectives to ensure projects address community needs while promoting sustainable development.

The ongoing initiatives under MGNREGA for the current year were also reviewed. DC directed concerned officers to expedite pending

works while maintaining quality standards.

Specific instructions were issued to ensure proper documentation and the timely submission of progress reports.

Additionally, M.A Qadri instructed officers to draft a comprehensive convergence plan for 2025-26. He said, the plan should leverage the strengths of various departments to maximize impact and foster holistic development across the district.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer (ICDS), Yaar Ali Khan, ACD, Irfan Bahadur, Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Maqbool Lone, DFO, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, and other officers and representatives from relevant departments.

District Ramban Gears Up for Weather Alert: Essential Departments on High Alert

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAMBAN:

In view of the weather advisory issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), forecasting significant rainfall and snowfall from January 2 to January 8, 2025, the District Administration Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, has put essential services departments on high alert to ensure public safety and uninterrupted services.

The public is strongly advised to adhere to safety guidelines issued by

the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and avoid unnecessary travel during this period to minimize disruptions and ensure safety.

Departments including Revenue, PWD (R&B), PWD (Mechanical Engineering), PMGSY, Urban Local Bodies, JPDCL, Jal Shakti, and Health & Medical Education have been directed to ensure readiness for snow clearance and related logistical support.

Field staff from these departments are instructed to remain stationed at their respective headquarters for immediate assistance. The District

Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), located at the DC Office Ramban, is operational 24x7 to address emergencies and provide assistance. The public can reach out for support through the helpline numbers: 01998-295500 / 01998-266790.

The Deputy Commissioner has urged residents to cooperate with authorities, prioritize safety, and limit outdoor activities during adverse weather conditions. Essential services and emergency response teams are on standby to mitigate any challenges during this period.

MVD organises medical, eye check up camp for drivers at Thathri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Doda, in collaboration with the Health Department and District Ayush Department, organized a Medical and Eye Check-up Camp today at Thathri.

The event was held under the direction of Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and supervised by ARTO Doda, Rajesh Gupta, in the presence of MVD Inspector Robin Singh and officials from the Motor Vehicle and

Health Departments.

A large number of drivers from the region participated in the initiative, which emphasized the importance of maintaining good health for the driving community.

Drivers underwent comprehensive eye checkups and general health screenings, ensuring their fitness for road safety. Qualified doctors conducted detailed vision tests, providing immediate feedback and recommending corrective measures where necessary. Participants were educated on the critical role of good eyesight in preventing road accidents and ensuring public safety. Doctors

gave drivers health tips, highlighting the significance of regular medical checkups for them.

After thorough medical check-up the drivers were provided free medicines.

The initiative reflects the commitment of the Motor Vehicle Department and its partners to promote road safety and driver well-being. By prioritizing health and fitness, the event aimed to reduce the risks of accidents caused by impaired vision and poor health among drivers, fostering a safer transportation environment in the district.

DDC reviews progress under Aspirational Block Development Programme in Reasi District

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

District Development Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik convened a high-level meeting in the video conference hall of the DC office to review the progress under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP). The meeting focused on assessing performance across key sectors, including Health, Education, Nutrition, Basic Infrastructure, Agriculture and allied sectors, to ensure the timely achievement of development indicators and overall improvement in services delivery.

Emphasizing the importance of efficient execution, the District Development Commissioner directed all department heads to hold regular departmental meetings to address bottlenecks and accelerate progress. She further instructed officials to ensure the timely upload of completed works on the official portal, stressing the need for accurate and updated data to reflect on the platform. The DDC emphasised on inter-departmental coordination to meet the developmental goals of the programme.

She urged all stakeholders to work in unison to make tangible improvements in the identified sectors, ensuring sustainable development and better quality of life for the residents of the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, PO ICDS Mohammad Anwar Bandey, ACD Pardeep Kumar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Education Officer, and other senior officials.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for celebration of Republic day



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KULGAM:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, convened a meeting today at the Mini-Secretariat to assess the preparations for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the necessity for comprehensive arrangements to ensure the seamless conduct of the significant national event. The discussions encompassed various logistical aspects, including security measures, seating arrangements, parking facilities, transportation, building illumination, refreshments, and accommodation for attendees. It was determined that the main function would take place at DPL Kulgam, where the chief guest will unfurl the National Flag to be followed by a parade featuring contingents from JKP, CRPF, NCC, the police band, and a women's contingent, among others.

The DC issued directives to all relevant departments to finalize preparations in advance for the Republic Day festivities. Additionally, departments were instructed to make heating arrangements in light of the current cold weather conditions.

The DC urged all involved officers and agencies to collaborate closely while organizing the national event. KPDC was tasked with ensuring a reliable power supply and providing standby generator sets at the venue.

The Municipality and Power Department were also directed to enhance the illumination of key buildings in the town. Furthermore, the DC called for the organization of vibrant cultural programs.

The Executive Engineer of MED was instructed to have men and machinery on standby to facilitate prompt snow clearance in view of inclement weather. The meeting was attended by the ADC, ACR, SDM Noorabad, Executive Engineers from PDD and R&B, as well as officials from the CEO, CMO, Police, and other relevant departments.

DC Kupwara emphasizes on upscaling therapeutic management, proper counseling of drug addicts

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

To review the progress made to curb drug abuse in Kupwara district, a meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination (NCORD) was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan at meeting hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal from concerned members of NCORD Committee regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, various issues related to menace of drug addiction, its control and rehabilitation and areas of concern.

The DC meticulously reviewed the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling in Kupwara District. She took feedback from the members of the Committee who presented the latest report related to action taken against drug-addiction and drug trafficking in the District. On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the Officers of all the line Departments to further intensify IEC activities, connecting communities including religious influencers and civil society members. The DC also emphasized the Officers including Enforcement agencies for identification and close vigil of entry points, hot spots of drugs, public places and abandoned buildings.



Similarly, the DC also laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns (seminars, rallies and other programmes on the harmful effects of drug menace) at Schools and Colleges levels to sensitize students and common masses about ill-effects of drugs and close coordination between Health, Education and other line departments. She also reviewed the functioning of Drug De-addiction Centre Kupwara and Addiction Treatment Facility Centre (ATFC) Handwara and stressed for upscale the therapeutic management and proper counseling of the drug addicts which can help the addicts to come out of the menace. The DC said in order to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged Rehabilitation, Counseling and Guidance policy is indispensable to be implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace so that sufferings of the drug-affected persons is mitigated.

The Police department was directed to share details of attached properties of drug peddlers with concerned Tehsildars who will mark red entries of these properties which cannot be sold.

The Medical Superintendent District Hospital Handwara was directed to conduct counselling sessions for families of drug abusers so that they may live a respectful life. Patrolling of police parties around the abandoned buildings shall also be intensified, besides, SHOs and Tehsildars shall conduct joint visits to these places to put strict vigil on drug abusers.

On the occasion CMO Kupwara Dr. Ramzan appraised the chair that 1221 cases of drug and substance abuse have been identified in the district, 703 are undergoing treatment, 388 cases fully recovered till date. It was given out that cent percent CCTV cameras have been installed in the medical stores of the district. Chair was apprised that as many as 69 FIRs were registered in police district Kupwara 105 drug peddlers were arrested. In Police District Handwara 30 FIRs were registered and 62 drug peddlers were arrested and lodged in different jails. The meeting among others was attended by ADC Kupwara, Mohammed Rouf Rehman, ACP Kupwara, ASP Kupwara, CMO, CEO, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara, Assistant Drug controller, Tehsildars, besides other concerned Officers.

Drive intensified against illegal mining in Rajouri

Several vehicles seized, heavy penalties imposed on perpetrators

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In a concerted effort to curb illegal mining activities and ensure the preservation of the natural environment, a team led by the District Mining Officer (DMO) Rajouri, in coordination with the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Headquarters, on Saturday conducted a series of raids in identified illegal mining zones. The raids resulted in the seizure of multiple vehicles involved in unauthorized mining operations and imposition of fines amounting to several lakhs of rupees on the perpetrators. This exercise was part of an ongoing and rigorous

campaign initiated by the district administration to uphold the law and safeguard the region's ecological balance.

The District Mining Office, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, is leaving no stone unturned in tackling the menace of illegal mining that poses significant risks to the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Earlier in the day, the Mining Department issued multiple notices to violators, including stone crushers and leaseholders, who were found in breach of their legal obligations. These notices are a prelude to strict legal action that will be initiated

against the offenders in accordance with the relevant provisions of law. The DMO emphasized that the department is committed to maintaining transparency and accountability in mining operations while enforcing the compliance to the regulations by all stakeholders.

He also reiterated that the district administration is determined to take strict punitive actions against individuals and entities involved in illegal mining, without exception. This joint action by the Mining Department and law enforcement agencies demonstrates the administration's unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting the region's natural heritage.

Jammu Police's remarkable achievements in the war against drugs in 2024

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

To facilitate treatment of Drug addicts, largest "Police Drug DE-addiction, Rehabilitation, Mental Health Care Centre" Channi, Jammu made functional since March-2024"

In a determined effort to combat the growing menace of drugs, the Jammu Police undertook extensive operations throughout 2024, achieving significant success in their mission to curb narco-crimes in the district.

As part of its anti-drug drive, the police registered 200 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested 300 individuals involved in drug peddling. 83 vehicles involved in these cases were also seized. It is pertinent to mention here that 153 FIR's were registered in heroin (Chitta) cases alone and 246 individuals arrested in these cases.

Among those arrested, 19 hardcore drug peddlers were booked under the stringent PIT NDPS Act, reflecting the department's zero-tolerance approach toward habitual offenders.

In a remarkable move to dismantle the economic foundations of drug trafficking, the Jammu Police attached 11 Immovable properties (residential/commercial), worth Rs.4,69,91,369/- and 03 Movable Properties (Vehicles), worth Rs 12,50,000/- in the district under the NDPS Act were seized during the year-2024. The confiscation of these

illegally acquired assets represents a critical step in disrupting the financial networks of drug syndicates.

04 Drug hotspots were demolished during 2024 and Jammu Police is working seriously on all fronts to demolish the remaining drug hotspots with the active support of civil administration and General Public.

The police also recovered contraband and psychotropic substances including 43.854 Kgs heroin valued several hundred crores in the black market. This recovery underscores the magnitude of the narcotics trade in the region and the police's relentless efforts to intercept and eradicate the supply chain.

Recognizing the importance of public awareness in the fight against drug abuse, the Jammu Police conducted 19 Drug awareness programs, 52 PCPG meetings, 47 Thana Diwas and 62 Debates across the district in 2024. These initiatives aimed to educate the public, especially the youth, about the dangers of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free society. The campaigns were well-received and have played a crucial role in fostering community support for anti-drug initiatives.

The Jammu Police's efforts in 2024 mark a significant stride in the ongoing battle against drugs. By combining enforcement with awareness, they have set a robust precedent for tackling the drug menace and safeguarding the future of the community. Jammu Police is working intensively to uproot the chains

of drug supply in the region and fully committed for rehabilitation of drug addicts. To facilitate the Drug DE-addiction/Rehabilitation of Drug addicts, J&K Police during 2024 made functional one of the largest and well equipped "Police Drug DE-addiction, Rehabilitation and Mental Health Care Centre Channi, Jammu." It is pertinent to mention here that Police Drug Deaddiction Centre was made functional by at DPL Jammu in 2013 and this year in the month of March, it was shifted to newly constructed building equipped with all the latest facilities for treatment of drug addicts at Channi, Jammu. Since 2013 till 31.12.2024, 16645 drug consumers/addicts visited OPD of Police Drug DE-addiction Centre Jammu for treatment and while as number of IPD patients/drug addicts is 1915 during the same period. In the year 2024 only, 1486 patients/drug addicts visited OPD of Police Drug DE-addiction Centre and IPD number during the same period was 287. J&K police is making serious efforts to further upgrade the DE-addiction facilities for victims of drug menace.

Jammu Police is striving hard and taking every possible step to make people especially youth aware to eradicate drug menace.

We request the General Public to come forward and share information about drug peddling or consumption on 100 with Police for the cause. Your identity will be kept confidential.

Rally Held For Safety of Gou Vansh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Today led a rally under the banner of the Kalki movement, demanding assurance of the safety of the Gou vansh.

The rally emphasized the significance of Ganga, Geeta, and Goumata, stating that these three are symbols of India's cultural and spiritual heritage. Ganga, the lifeblood of India, represents the country's purity and sanctity. Geeta, the sacred scripture of Hinduism, guides us on the right path and values of life. Goumata, the foundation of India's agriculture and culture, teaches us about compassion, kindness, and mercy.

These three are crucial in the making of India, teaching us about our country's cultural heritage, spiritual values, and the right path in life. Therefore, we should worship and respect them, and incorporate their messages into our lives. Ganga, Geeta, and Goumata are symbols of India's strength, prosperity, and heritage. We worship them and follow their messages to build a powerful, prosperous, and spiritually fulfilled nation.

The Kalki movement has been actively protesting for the safety and well-being of cows, demanding that the government establish a dedicated board to address issues related to Sanatan Dharma and preserve its sanctity.

They also seek to enforce stringent laws to prevent cow slaughter and promote the establishment of cow shelters, acknowledging the cultural and spiritual importance of cows. The movement aims to safeguard India's cultural and spiritual heritage, upholding the principles of dharma and promoting societal integration.

Yudhvir Sethi organises First-Ever Rozgar Mela in East Constituency

Asks youth to avail benefits of Central Sponsored schemes



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering the youth, Yudhvir Sethi, BNP leader and MLA East Constituency, today organized the first-ever Rozgar Mela in East Constituency.

The event witnessed the participation of representatives from various multinational companies, marking a significant step towards addressing the employment concerns of the constituency's youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for young people and equipping them with the

tools to achieve self-reliance. "This Rozgar Mela is a testament to our commitment to ensuring that the youth of East Constituency have access to meaningful employment opportunities. We are determined to bridge the gap between job seekers and potential employers, fostering a brighter future for our younger generation," he stated.

Sethi lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership, highlighting how the Central Government's initiatives have been instrumental in creating a conducive environment for employment generation.

Yudhvir Sethi also urged the youth to actively participate in and benefit

from the plethora of centrally sponsored schemes designed to enhance skill development, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

"The Central Government under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched transformative programs like Skill India, Startup India, and the PM Mudra Yojana. I urge the youth of East Constituency to come forward and take full advantage of these schemes to realize their potential and contribute to nation-building," he added.

Sethi further assured the gathering of his unwavering commitment to addressing local concerns. He promised to continue working tirelessly to bring similar employment-oriented initiatives to the constituency. "This Rozgar Mela is just the beginning.

We are planning to organize more such events and workshops to equip our youth with the skills and opportunities they need to excel in today's competitive world," he affirmed. The event concluded with participating companies shortlisting several candidates for various roles, giving a direct impetus to the employment drive.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi's initiative was widely appreciated by attendees, who expressed their gratitude for this much-needed effort to address unemployment in the constituency.

Indian Army Organised Medical & Veterinary Camp

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values, and traditions of the highest order. The professional and humane face of the Indian Army is well known and has always been praised and commended. To support people from remote areas of the Pir Panjal Ranges in Rajouri District, the Indian Army at Samote organized a Medical and Veterinary camp in Lower Bethane village.

The aim of the camp was to provide basic medical facilities to the people residing in remote villages. The Indian Army unit at Samote, along with medical and veterinary doctors from Rajouri District, carried out the Medical and Veterinary camp in the remote village of Lower Bethane in Rajouri. A total of 505 individuals (1 Civil Doctor, 1 Army Doctor, 3 Asha Workers) attended the camp. Five hundred locals, including 160 men, 130 women, and 140 children from Lower Bethane and nearby areas, availed the benefits of free medical treatment. In addition, 30 buffaloes, 5 dogs, 10 sheep, 20 goats, and 5 horses benefitted from the veterinary camp. The Medical and Veterinary camp was organized mainly to attend to the medical ailments of civilians and domestic animals reared by the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities during the winter season.

Generally, these migratory families and their livestock stay in their respective villages and face many problems due to the remoteness of their dwelling areas. The Medical and Veterinary camp carried out for the Gujjar and Bakarwal families has generated a lot of goodwill in the area. Locals have wholeheartedly appreciated the assistance given by the Indian Army to the people and have conveyed their sincere thanks and gratitude for this noble gesture.

Two day e-Office User Level Training for faculty and staff concludes at NIT Srinagar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The two day-long e-Office User Level Training program for faculty and non-teaching staff concluded on Friday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar. The initiative aimed to enhance digital capabilities and streamline administrative processes within the institution.

The training sessions were conducted by Himanshu Mathur from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), a key organization driving digital transformation initiatives in India. The program witnessed active participation from faculty members and administrative staff.

The event was attended by Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, senior faculty members and administrative staff of the NIT

Srinagar. In his key speech, Prof Rehman said that the e-Office platform, an integral part of the government's Digital India initiative, is designed to replace manual and paper-based workflows with a digital framework.

He emphasized the importance of adopting modern digital tools to ensure seamless operations and align the institution with the government's vision of a digitally empowered India.

Prof. Rehman said that the implementation of the e-Office system would not only optimize administrative functioning but also contribute to reducing environmental impact by minimizing paper usage.

During the session, attendees were introduced to essential features such as document management, file tracking, e-signatures, and real-time communication tools. These tools

aim to improve efficiency, ensure transparency, and reduce delays in institutional processes.

Participants expressed their gratitude for the comprehensive training session, appreciating its practicality and relevance to their daily work. Many stated that the training would significantly enhance their efficiency and simplify routine tasks, particularly in managing files and correspondence.

The two day training sessions concluded with question-answer discussion on the challenges of transitioning to a digital framework, with the resource person addressing queries and providing solutions to common issues.

Meanwhile NIT Srinagar is planning to conduct additional training workshops to ensure smooth implementation of the e-Office system across all departments.

Agriculture Minister calls for strict enforcement of norms to curb supply of substandard pesticides, fertilisers

Reviews functioning of Agriculture Production Department



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today reiterated government's commitment towards supporting the farmers and strengthening the agricultural sector through targeted initiatives and effective oversight. He stated this while chairing a meeting with Director Agriculture Kashmir, Joint Directors, Provincial Heads, Scheme Heads, Sectoral Officers and Chief Agriculture Officers from various districts at the Agriculture Complex, Lalmandi, Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the physical and financial progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX budget and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Besides, implementation of projects under HADP and the performance of allied departments was discussed in detail. Highlighting the importance of timely and efficient utilisation of funds, the Minister stressed the need for expeditious and judicious expenditure under HADP, CAPEX and CSS projects. He emphasised the need for maintaining highest standards of transparency and accountability throughout the expenditure process.

Dar directed the officers to ensure that only genuine and high-quality inputs including pesticides, fertilisers and seeds are made available to farmers. He also underlined the significance of stringent enforcement of norms to prevent circulation of substandard products that could harm agricultural productivity and farmer livelihoods.

Samba Police nab 2 peddlers, recover 3.5g heroin-like substance



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SAMBA:

Tightening noose against drug smugglers/peddlers, Samba Police has arrested two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and recovered 3.50 grams approximately heroin (chitta) like substance from their possession.

A Police party headed by SHO PS Vijaypur Insp Zaheer Mushtaq during vehicle checking naka at NHW AIIMS Vijaypur, intercepted a bike bearing registration No. JK21G-7239 for its checking. During checking, 3.50 grams approximately heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of rider and pillion rider. Both the drug peddlers identified as Raj Kumar S/o Mejoor Ram and Bittu Ram S/o Babu Ram both R/o Sarai Nud tehsil and district Samba have been arrested and contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No 04/2025 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Vijaypur and investigation started.

Mass RTI Filing Sparks Hope and Resistance in Mallabuchan Village

More than 50 RTI Applications filed on spot



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BUDGAM:

In a historic demonstration of collective action, residents of Mallabuchan village, supported by activists from the J&K RTI Foundation, filed mass RTI applications today, marking a significant step in their fight for safe drinking water and accountability. Over 50 RTI applications were filed on the spot, with more to be filed later due to the unexpectedly large turnout.

"We weren't expecting such a huge gathering," said Ishfaq Majeed, Membership Secretary of the J&K RTI Foundation. "While 50 applications were filed today, more will follow to ensure every household's voice is heard." The village, located at the intersection of Budgam and Baramulla districts, has suffered from a lack of safe drinking water for over two decades. While a few households have been provided access to

clean water, the majority of the village remains without this basic necessity. Despite repeated appeals, the authorities have failed to address the issue, and recently, an official escalated tensions by filing a police complaint against villagers, accusing them of raising baseless concerns.

"This is not just about water; it is about dignity and justice," said Er. Irfan Ali Banka, Chairman of the J&K RTI Foundation.

"The police complaint was an attempt to silence the villagers. Through RTI, we aim to restore their dignity and demand accountability from the authorities."

Prominent RTI activists, including Sajad (RTI Secretary, J&K RTI Foundation), Syed Farhat (Senior RTI Activist), Ishfaq Majeed (Membership Secretary, J&K RTI Foundation), and Momin Hussain Banka (Member, J&K RTI Foundation), were present at the event, guiding and supporting the villagers in drafting and filing

their applications. The RTI applications filed by each household address critical issues, including: The lack of consultation with Gram Sabhas and Panchayat Samitis in planning water supply schemes. The exclusion of women from decision-making processes, violating the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

The discrepancy between official records and the actual water supply situation. The lack of transparency in forming Pani Samitis and drafting the Village Action Plan.

Questions about the allocation and utilization of funds for water supply projects in the area.

Women played a central role in the event, stepping forward to file RTI applications and demand accountability for the first time. "We didn't know we had the right to be involved in these decisions," said one participant. "Today, we are demanding what is rightfully ours - safe water and respect for our voices."

The J&K RTI Foundation has also helped establish the "Action 4 Mallabuchan" group, a local initiative aimed at sustaining this momentum and ensuring ongoing pressure on the authorities to act.

RTI activists believe this campaign will expose administrative neglect and force the government to respond. Parallels were drawn to a similar effort in 2014, when RTI activists in Sonawari, Bandipora, organized mass RTI filings after devastating floods.

Distt Admin Shopian provides winter kits to frontline workers of essential services

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SHOPIAN:

District Administration Shopian today distributed winter kits among numerous frontline workers of essential services departments, demonstrating its commitment to their well-being and safety during the ongoing harsh winter. The distribution function was held at Town Hall, MC Shopian and was presided by DC Shopian, Mohammad

Shahid Saleem Dar. During the function, frontline workers of MC Shopian, Jal Shakti and KPDCL including drivers, line-men, sanitation workers and other staff associated with snow clearance and restoration of essential services were provided jackets, shoes and other essentials.

The aim of initiative was to acknowledge their selfless service in maintaining cleanliness & hygiene in the town and restoration of water and power

supply lines across the length and breadth of district.

DC Shopian appreciated the efforts of frontline staff who worked hard during the last spell of snowfall for the early snow clearance and restoration of services.

He said administration is committed for taking all possible measures for their upliftment and asked them to perform their services with utmost sincerity and dedication.

Sat Sharma inaugurates mega BME25 Exhibition



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president, Sat Sharma (CA) inaugurated the largest Building Material Exhibition-BME25 at JK Resorts Marble Market, Jammu, in presence of a large number of prominent traders, builders and architects. The event had the varied latest building material products from all over the country required from foundation to finishing of any construction.

Sat Sharma (CA), while commending the initiative taken by the Architects team of Indian Institute of Architects, and others, who contributed tirelessly for successfully

organising such an event of exhibition, said that Indian Institute of Architects, J&K Chapter, has been playing a major role in promoting the architectural profession in the Union territory by bringing the architects and allied business houses dealing with the construction industry on one platform. The chapter has been organising various activities like Building Material Exhibitions (BME), Symposiums, Conferences, etc. in order to increase the awareness about the profession amongst the common masses. The Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir has a functioning Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) J&K Chapter, comprising of dedicated team, which is itself a big

achievement for us.

He said that the present team has been working relentlessly for the promotion of profession and simultaneous awareness among the masses and deserve all the appreciation.

Architect Vikas Dubey, Chairman, Indian Institute of Architects (IIA), J&K Chapter, presented the welcome address for the event. He, on this occasion, shared that it is one of its kind of initiative by Indian Institute of Architects, J&K Chapter, to transform Construction Industry to reach each and every person related to the construction industry. He further told that the exhibition will continue till 6th of January 2025, having approximately 70 stalls with wide range of products. Mitsubishi air conditioner is the main sponsor of the event, he said.

The inaugural function concluded with a vote of thanks by Ar. Anil Verma, Joint Honorary Secretary, IIA J&K Chapter.

Besides Ar. Vikas Dubey, Chairman, Ar. Vishal Abrol, Vice Chairman, Ar. Anil Verma Jt. Hon. Secretary, Ar. Harbinder Pal Singh, Jt. Hon. Secretary, Ar. Sanjeev Mahajan Hon. Treasurer, with nine executive members and two co-opted members, also graced the occasion.

Satish Sharma reviews preparedness of FCS&CA, Transport Department for winters, interacts with delegations

Visits accident victim at SMHS hospital in Shireen Bagh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Transport, FCS &CA, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Satish Sharma, today convened separate meetings with senior officers to review the preparedness of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport Department in view of winter season. He also met with various delegations at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

While reviewing the preparedness of Transport Department, the Minister enquired about the maintenance of busses, revenue generation, transport services to remote areas etc.

He said besides bringing efficiency and transparency in working of the department, there is a need for providing better and efficient transport facilities to the public, especially people living in far flung areas and patients. He stressed the need for adopting and incorporating innovative ideas for further improving and streamlining functioning of the Transport Department. While reviewing the functioning of FCS&CA, the Minister assessed the stock and supply position of essentials in Kashmir division besides taking stock of extra arrangements made by the department for winter season. He expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the department saying that FCS &CA is directly linked with the people and it becomes mandatory on its functionaries to take every possible step to ensure that consumers do not face any kind of difficulty, especially during winter season. The Minister also met various delegations, led by MLA Uri Sajjad Shafi, MLA Chanapora, Mushtaq Guroo, MLA Lolab, Jamshaid Lone and MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie who raised many issues pertaining to their respective areas.

A delegation of Jammu & Kashmir Hotels and Restaurants Association (JKHARA) met the Minister and apprised him of various issues related to tourism sector and its upliftment. The Minister assured the delegations that issues raised by them would be taken up with the concerned authorities and would be addressed promptly.

Two notorious drug peddlers arrested by Bishnah Police Station, Jammu & 7 grams of Heroin (Chitta) recovered

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

J&K Police continued their relentless drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse under Operation Sanjeevani achieved one more success with the arrest of two notorious drug peddlers and the recovery of 07 grams of Heroin(Chitta) like substances. On 03-01-2025, a dedicated police team of Police Station Bishnah, conducted routine patrolling in the area. During patrolling, a naka was established at Sikanderpur kothey, Bishnah where two drug peddlers namely 01. Showkat Ali @Shonku S/O Mir Hussain and 02. Khadim Hussain @Tudiya S/O Alam Din both R/O Sikandar Pur, Bishnah were arrested and during a thorough search of the suspects, 07 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like substance was recovered from their possession. The accused were immediately taken into custody, and a case was registered under FIR No. 02/2025, U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act at Police Station Bishnah. This operation underscores the commitment of Jammu Police to eradicating the menace of drug trafficking and ensuring the safety and well-being of the local community.

Sat, Kavinder, Ashok, Sunil participates in Nagar Kirtan at Shivaji Chowk, Jammu

Highlight Guru Gobind Singh ji's teachings of Equality & Harmony

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth guru of Sikhs symbolizes Chardi Kala and righteousness as he relentlessly continued crusade for his mission and with his indefatigable spirit tread on the path of Dharma.

This was stated by Sat Sharma, BJP President J&K while speaking to media persons after participating in the Nagar Kirtan being taken out in Jammu in connection with the Parkash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh ji.

On the occasion, Sat Sharma along with Ashok Koul, Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta distributed eatables among the participants of Nagar Kirtan during the stall organized at Shivaji Chowk in Jammu.

Sat Sharma, while extending heartfelt greetings to the people on the eve of Gurburab, emphasized the profound teachings of Guru Gobind Singh. He highlighted the essential motto of the tenth Guru, encapsulated in the powerful message, 'Manas Ki Jaat Sab Ek Hi Pahnchanbo'—signifying that all of



humankind shares one common identity. Kavinder Gupta underscored Guru Gobind Singh's pivotal message of social equality, emphasizing that the revered Guru sacrificed not only his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, but also his four sons for a righteous cause. This selfless act led to Guru Gobind Singh being revered as Sarbansdani.

The BJP leader passionately conveyed that in the current socio-political landscape, there is a pressing need for every Indian to imbibe and follow the timeless teachings of Guru Gobind Singh. He urged fellow citi-

zens to contribute to the nation in whatever way and capacity they can, aligning their actions with the spirit of social harmony, justice, and the collective welfare advocated by the revered Guru.

Kavinder Gupta appealed to the citizens to uphold and strengthen communal harmony in the diverse fabric of the union territory. Emphasizing the importance of unity in diversity, he urged people from all walks of life, irrespective of caste, creed, or religion, to come together in a spirit of understanding and mutual respect.

Tehsildar Handwara reviews arrangements for Republic Day celebration

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner, (DC), Kupwara, and in order to ensure proper arrangements for ensuing Republic Day (RD) celebration in Sub Division Handwara, Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan

today convened a meeting of all concerned officers, at Environmental Hall Handwara.

Speaking on the occasion, the Tehsildar stressed upon the officers to ensure hassle free arrangements for smooth conduct of the National Event and instructed them to maintain proper coordi-

nation and follow a timeline for ensuring arrangements well in advance.

All the departments were asked to display Tableaus on the eve of Republic Day Parade to showcase government schemes and achievements of their respective departments during the current year. He also

stressed the need for proper seating arrangement and also issued instructions to the police department for security arrangements.

All the officers were asked that Republic Day celebration functions shall be held at Tehsil and Block levels with fervour and enthusiasm.