

The Kashmir Talk

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India's young will power its rise to becoming developed by 2047: PM

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that the capabilities of India's young population will power the country's rise to becoming developed.

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue here, he said some people may find the goal of India becoming developed difficult but it is not impossible.

No power can stop India from becoming a developed country if the spirit of 'Viksit Bharat' guides its every step, policy and decision, he said, highlighting the strength and numbers of the country's young popula-



tion.

"Big targets have to be set for a country to march forward... This is what today's India is doing," Modi said, adding that the country is accomplishing numerous goals in different sectors ahead of time.

India has set the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2030 and will meet the goal before that, he said.

The prime minister added that the government alone cannot drive the country forward and told youngsters drawn

from across the country that the ownership in 'Viksit Bharat' is not Modi's alone but also of them.

Their ideas will be part of the country's policies and give it direction, he said.

Achieving ambitious goals requires the active participation and collective effort of every citizen of the nation, he added.

The prime minister cited the rise of the USA following its economic crisis in the 1930s and Singapore's rise from a backward region lacking basic facilities to a major economic power to stress the need for setting big goals and sincerely working towards them.

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WARM LOHRI WISHES TO OUR ESTEEMED READERS!

PM Modi to inaugurate Z-Morh Tunnel: Security Forces intensify area domination exercise in Kashmir

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The security forces on Sunday intensified sanitization efforts and area domination exercise in Kashmir, a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the valley for inauguration of the strategically important Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district, officials said.

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Youth must transform ideas into reality for a Viksit Bharat: Jitendra Singh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Youth must transform ideas into reality for Viksit Bharat, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Sunday. He was speaking at a dinner hosted for a group of around 100 students from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on

the sidelines of the ongoing "National Youth Festival 2025", organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

"Programmes like the National Youth Festival 2025 provide young individuals with an unparalleled national platform to channel their creativity, aspirations, and energy into tangible contributions toward a developed India," said Singh.

Underscoring the importance of youth-driven initiatives in shaping India's developmental journey, the MoS called upon youth in the state to explore regional resources for livelihood and startup opportunities. "The involvement of youth from these regions is a testament to their eagerness to contribute to India's growth story. Your ideas and actions have the potential to bring about transformative changes not only for your communities but for the entire nation," Singh said. He also highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Science and Technology to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among youth. Singh emphasised

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Z-Morh Tunnel will turn Sonamarg into winter sports destination: CM Omar

'All arrangements in place for PM Modi's Kashmir visit'

WARIS FAYAZ
GULMARG:

Ahead of Z-Morh tunnel inauguration, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said that Sonamarg is all set to become a winter sports destination.

Talking to the reporters here in North Kashmir, Omar, according to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Tomorrow PM Modi will inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel. It will provide all weather connectivity to Sonamarg and turn it into a winter sports destination."

He said, "All arrangements are being put in place in connection with



PM Modi's visit to Kashmir tomorrow."

Omar said, "I will try my best to ensure that in the next 5-years Sonamarg also becomes like Gulmarg and becomes another skiing destination in Kashmir."

He said that tourism is the backbone of J&K's economy. "More tourists mean more earning for

people. I have come to Gulmarg to record a program so that it helps in its promotion."

Describing Gulmarg as the best winter sports destination in the country, Omar said, "It's easily accessible to all and skiers love to come here."

Pertinently, Prime Minister Narendra

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J&K Police freezes over 100 bank accounts linked to drug trafficking

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In its intensified financial investigations into multiple narcotic smuggling cases, Jammu and Kashmir Police have frozen more than 100 bank accounts allegedly linked to drug trafficking in Srinagar, officials said.

The individuals holding these accounts have been arrested in connection with cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Srinagar District, police said on Sunday.

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Rajnath, Gen Chauhan to attend Armed Forces Veterans' Day event in Jammu on Jan 14

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan will attend the ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day event here on Tuesday, a Defence Spokesman said. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor



Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah along with senior military and civil officials will also attend the event to be held at the Tanda artillery brigade in Akhnoor under the aegis of the army's Northern Command to honour the force veterans and "veer naris", the spokesman said. About 1,000 armed forces veterans from

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1...

India's young will..

He noted how India became an open defecation-free country, manufactured Covid vaccines and inoculated its population against the virus.

Asserting that the 25 years till 2047 are India's golden period (Amrit Kaal), Modi said he has full confidence that the young population will realise the dream of 'Viksit Bharat'.

This is the time for a quantum jump, he said.

The country also hopes to host the Olympics in the next decade and is working towards it with full dedication, he added.

Swami Vivekananda had a lot of faith in the young generation and said the youth will find solutions to all problems, Modi said. He added that he has absolute faith, "blind faith" in his words.

The event was held on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, which is observed as the National Youth Festival.

Stressing the role of high growth in India's development, Modi recounted how the country's capacity and budget in different fields have risen with the growth of its economy.

The budget for infrastructure has grown six times in 10 years, he said.

Asserting that the Indian economy is on its way to becoming the third biggest in the world, the prime minister said it will cross USD 10 trillion by the next decade.

PM Modi to...

The deployment of security personnel has been increased in the vulnerable areas and dozens of checkpoints have been set up at important intersections in various districts to ensure that anti-national elements are not able to move around freely, they said.

The officials said that random checking and frisking of people and vehicles, including two-wheelers, has been intensified while patrolling is also taking place.

"Security has been tightened near the Z-Morh tunnel. Multi-layered security arrangements have been put in place and the PM's security team, comprising the SPG personnel, has taken over the venue," they said.

The prime minister is likely to address a public rally after the inauguration of the tunnel at Gagangir, the officials said, adding the venue is now off-limits for the public.

Jammu and Kashmir Police, paramilitary forces and the Army are part of the security apparatus for Monday's inauguration. Extensive area domination exercises, searches and patrols are being conducted for the smooth conduct of the event, the officials said.

The sharpshooters have been deployed at vulnerable points while aerial and technical surveillance, including through drones, is also being undertaken. The area is being monitored round-the-clock, they added.

Earlier on October 20 last year, seven people, including a local doctor, were killed in a terrorist attack near the tunnel site in the Gagangir area.

The authorities have closed the Srinagar-Leh national highway from Saturday to Monday "due to icy road conditions caused by inclement weather and to facilitate maintenance work by road maintenance agencies".

However, it is widely perceived that the arterial road link between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has been shut for the prime minister's visit.

Built at a cost of Rs 2,400 crore on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, the strategic 6.5-km Z-Morh tunnel will be a major step towards making the Ladakh region accessible by road throughout the year. The work on the project began in May 2015 and was completed last year.

The soft opening of the tunnel was done in February 2024.

The tunnel is vital in terms of the defence needs of the country in the Ladakh region and also connecting the youngest Union Territory to the rest of the country.

Situated at an altitude of 8,650 feet, the Z-Morh tunnel is a two-lane road tunnel equipped with a parallel 7.5-metre-wide escape passage for emergencies.

The tunnel ensures seamless connectivity between Gagangir and Sonamarg, and will ease summer travel to Ladakh.

Along with the under-construction Zojila tunnel, the Z-Morh tunnel will ensure uninterrupted connectivity to Baltal and Ladakh regions for civilian and military traffic.

The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), which oversees the project, has said the "engineering marvel" is a game changer for the region.

"The Sonamarg Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir is a game-changer for the region, offering more than just a connection between Gagangir and Sonamarg. This engineering marvel is poised to unlock the full potential of the region's trade and tourism sectors," the NHIDCL said on X.

It said the tunnel is equipped with cutting-edge technologies that provide real-time updates and seamless connectivity for users. This futuristic infrastructure will not only enhance the travel experience but also set a new standard for road connectivity in the region.

Along with the Zojila Tunnel, set for completion by 2028, it will reduce the route length from 49 km to 43 km and boost vehicle speed from 30 km/hr to 70 km/hr, ensuring seamless NH-1 connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh. This enhanced connectivity will boost defense logistics, drive economic growth and socio-cultural integration across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the officials said.

Youth must transform...

how these programmes have catalysed the growth of startups, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, where young entrepreneurs have ventured into fields like lavender cultivation under the Aroma Mission.

The MoS urged the youth to explore opportunities in areas such as biotechnology, agritech, and renewable energy, while assuring the students that the Ministry of Science and Technology would provide them with full support.

"Focus on harnessing innovation and technology to address pressing challenges and use their participation in the festival as an opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives from across the country," the Minister said.

The "National Youth Festival 2025", being held in New Delhi from January 10-12, celebrates the energy and potential of India's youth. It serves as a vibrant forum for young leaders to voice their ideas, collaborate on solutions for national development, and align

with India's collective vision of progress.

Z-Morh Tunnel..

Modi will visit Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal District on Monday to inaugurate the 6.5 km long Z-Morh tunnel.

The tunnel project has been constructed at a cost of over Rs 2,700 crore. It comprises the Sonamarg main tunnel, an egress tunnel and approach roads. Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, it will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute to Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche routes and ensuring safer and uninterrupted access to the strategically critical Ladakh region.

Along with the Zojila Tunnel, set for completion by 2028, it will reduce the route length from 49 km to 43 km.

The Prime Minister will also meet the construction workers who have worked meticulously in the harshest conditions, acknowledging their contribution to this engineering feat

J&K Police freezes...

"These accounts collectively contain deposits amounting to several lakhs of rupees", police said adding "All transactions associated with these accounts are under detailed scrutiny to trace the flow of illicit funds".

The freezing of these accounts has effectively blocked access to financial resources used by drug trafficking networks.

Those apprehended have been involved in the trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, posing a significant threat to the community, particularly the youth.

"Comprehensive investigations, conducted under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, have led to the freezing of these bank accounts containing substantial sums, prima-facie identified as proceeds of illegal narcotic trade", they said.

"Furthermore, moveable and immovable properties valued at crores of rupees, found to be acquired through these illicit activities, have been attached under the applicable legal framework", police added.

This action has been set into motion under Section 68F(2) of the NDPS Act.

Police have urged the public to join hands in this fight by providing any information related to drug peddling or drug abuse and requested the people to contact their nearest police station or dial 112 to report drug-related suspicious activities.

Rajnath, Gen Chauhan ...

Jammu, Akhnoor, Pallanwala, Rakhmuthi, Naushera and Sunderbani are likely to attend the function, which will also include the hoisting of a 108 feet national flag and the inauguration of a heritage museum in Akhnoor, the spokesman said.

The J&K Culture Department will present cultural performances reflecting the region's rich heritage, he said.

As a special gesture, mobility equipment like motorised wheelchairs, e-scooters, and autorickshaws will also be distributed to the veterans, he added.

The event reflects the army's respect and unwavering commitment to care for the war widows and veterans who served the nation with pride and dedication, the spokesman said.

All J&K Jat Sabha felicitates Dy CM, MLA Vikram Randhawa

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

All Jat Sabha, J&K, today held a grand felicitation ceremony in honor of Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister and Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu Constituency, during an event at RS Pura. The program was organized by Manjit Singh, President of the Sabha and former Minister, and saw the participation of numerous esteemed leaders and community members.

The event was graced by distinguished guests including Ch Sukhnandan, former Minister, Ch Gharu Ram, former Minister, DDC Member Taranjit Singh Tony, Geetu

Aulakh, former Corporator Gurmet Kaur, Amarnath Choudhary, former President, Dwarka Choudhary, Choudhary Jagar Singh, Choudhary Jeet Raj, Partap Choudhary, Rakesh Choudhary, Shamsher Choudhary, and Sonam Singh. Kamal Randhawa skillfully conducted the proceedings of the ceremony. In his address, MLA Vikram Randhawa thanked the Jat community for their unwavering support during the recent Assembly elections in the Bahu constituency. He acknowledged the pivotal role played by the community in his electoral success and assured the gathering of his continued commitment to their welfare. Randhawa emphasized that he would work tirelessly to address

the concerns and needs of the Jat community, particularly focusing on improving access to essential resources, bettering educational opportunities, and ensuring economic upliftment. He reiterated his determination to make their voices heard and work relentlessly towards their holistic development.

Manjit Singh, President of All India Jat Sabha, congratulated the honored guests and took the opportunity to highlight key issues faced by the community.

He emphasized the need for a piece of land to build a Jat Bhawan and for providing accommodation to students from far-flung areas studying in Jammu.

ADGP Vijay shifted to Delhi, may join as Special Commissioner

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has transferred Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Law and Order of J&K Police, Vijay Kumar, an IPS officer of the 1997 batch, to the Delhi segment of the AGMUT cadre, amid speculations that he may join Delhi Police as Special Commissioner.

"With the approval of the competent authority, Vijay Kumar, IPS (AGMUT: 1997) is hereby transferred from Jammu and Kashmir to Delhi segment of AGMUT cadre with immediate effect or until further orders," an order issued by MHA said.

Kumar had played a major role in combatting terrorism during his tenure as IG and ADGP of Kashmir, official sources said.

He also has vast experience in handling anti-terrorism operations in sensitive districts like Pulwama, Awantipora, Kulgam and Anantnag. His service record includes a unique combination of



Ambedkar's Vision of Justice and Equality Reflects in Schemes of Modi Govt: Dr. Narinder Singh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Modi Government, inspired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of social justice and equality, has implemented a range of transformative policies and initiatives that align with his ideals. As the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar championed the rights of marginalized communities, emphasizing economic empowerment, social dignity, and equal opportunities for all.

Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA, R. S. Pura, said this, while addressing a review meeting of the "Samvidhan Gourav Abhiyan" programmes being undertaken at booth and mandal levels

with prominent activists of the constituency on Sunday.

Dr. Narinder Singh said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has frequently expressed his admiration for Dr. Ambedkar's vision, ensuring that the government's development agenda upholds these principles. Various schemes and initiatives demonstrate the government's commitment to fulfilling Dr. Ambedkar's dream of an inclusive India. "Dr. Ambedkar believed in economic independence as a cornerstone of true empowerment", said Dr. Narinder Singh, adding that, the Modi government's flagship initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, has provided financial support to small entrepreneurs,

many from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, enabling them to establish businesses and become self-reliant.

Dr. Ambedkar often stressed the transformative power of education. Reflecting this, the government has focused on improving access to quality education for underprivileged communities. The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs ensures financial assistance for higher education. The Modi government's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) echoes Ambedkar's call for dignity through adequate housing. Millions of families, including those from backward and marginalized communities, have been provided with affordable homes. Programmes like Jal Jeevan Mission and Ujjwala Yojana ensure access to clean water and cooking gas, improving the quality of life for the disadvantaged.

Dr. Singh said that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been further strengthened under Modi's leadership, ensuring justice for vulnerable communities.

Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar's vision remains a guiding light for his government. By focusing on social justice, economic empowerment, and equal opportunities, the Modi administration ensures that Ambedkar's ideals continue to shape India's progress.

RTI activist Balvinder Singh applauds CM Omar Abdullah for launching online RTI portal

Says Dual Power Centres a threat to elected democracy

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

S. Balvinder Singh, a prominent RTI activist in Jammu and Kashmir, has lauded Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for launching the much-awaited online RTI portal. Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Jammu and Kashmir, this digital initiative marks a significant step toward simplifying the RTI application process for citizens across the Union Territory. Singh highlighted that the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 led to the replacement of the State RTI Act 2009 with the Central RTI Act 2005. While welcoming the integration with the central framework, he expressed concerns over certain gaps in the Central RTI Act. Notably, he pointed out the absence of a fixed timeframe for disposing of second appeals, unlike the 60-day period mandated by the now-abolished State RTI Act. Balvinder recalling his own participation in the RTI Conference organized by the Central Information Commission (CIC) on September 3, 2013, Singh commended Omar Abdullah's unwavering support for transparency. During the valedictory session, Abdullah, the then Chief Minister of State, had openly criticized political parties for their double standards on transparency, stating, "It's a little strange. We want transparency for others but not for ourselves." Abdullah further emphasized in the conference that transparency should be the guiding principle across all spheres of governance, including politics and administration, to ensure the rule of law and justice prevail. Singh also expressed his disappointment with the central government, which, despite championing RTI while in opposition, has failed to uphold its principles.

This concern was validated by the Supreme Court on January 7, 2025, which criticized the prolonged delay in appointing Information Commissioners to the Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions (SIC).

The apex court directed the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and state governments to set clear timelines for filling these critical vacancies. Balvinder Singh expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for fulfilling a long-standing demand of both RTI activists and citizens by introducing the online RTI portal.

Indian Army Organised Medical Camp for Veterans

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHERA:

In a strong demonstration of the Indian Army's dedication to its veterans and their families, the Gurj Division organized various outreach initiatives, including an interaction cum medical camp for veterans and their families in the village of Kathera as a run up to upcoming Veteran's day. The event witnessed participation from ex-servicemen and their dependents from Kathera, Rour, Kadiyar, Khurri, Ped, and Janglot villages. Celebrated annually on January 14th, Armed Forces Veterans' Day commemorates the retirement of Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Army, in 1953. Observed since 2017, this day honors the nation's veterans, reinforcing bonds between retired personnel, serving members, and the country, while paying tribute to the sacrifices made by the armed forces. The event at Kathera brought together over 150 former servicemen and their families, making it a remarkable success.

The program extended heartfelt gratitude to veterans, war widows, and mothers of fallen soldiers for their invaluable service to the nation.

It also served as a platform for resolving issues and fostering communication between military and civilian agencies. A dedicated medical facility provided crucial healthcare services to participants.

This initiative reflects the Indian Army's enduring commitment to honoring veterans, their families, and the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

ABVP Jammu Mahanagar Celebrates National Youth Day

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Jammu Mahanagar organized a vibrant event at Dogri Sanstha, Jammu, to commemorate National Youth Day. The program honored the invaluable contributions of youth in shaping the nation's future and aimed to inspire young minds.

Chief Guest Yudhvir Sethi (MLA, Jammu East) and Guest of Honour Pawan Sharma (Ex State Org. Secretary), Rahul Rana (National Secretary, ABVP) graced the occasion. They shared profound insights on youth empowerment and its pivotal role in advancing the nation's progress.



Yudhvir Sethi emphasized that "The youth are the backbone of our nation and their proactive participation is vital for building a self-reliant and prosperous India."

Pawan Sharma (Ex State Org. Secretary) underscored the importance of unity and collective effort for

achieving the vision of a developed India. Rahul Rana National Secretary ABVP highlighted ABVP's vision of youth-driven change, stating, "Through education, leadership, and social involvement, the youth can bring transformative change to society."

Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society kickstarts 3-day long Lohri-cum-Makarsakranti fest

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society (RBRWS) joyously kicked off the first day of the much-anticipated 3-day Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival. The festive spirits were high as the community gathered to celebrate with fervor and enthusiasm.

The event commenced with a vibrant rally featuring traditional dhol and bhangra performances that electrified the atmosphere. The nimantrana pheri, a procession inviting blessings, added a touch of cultural authenticity to the celebrations. The female residents showcased their devotion through soulful bhajan and satsang sessions, filling

the air with a serene and spiritual aura.

In his opening address, RBRWS President Deepak Sharma remarked, "This festival is a testament to our unity and cultural heritage. It brings immense joy to see our community come together to celebrate and uphold our traditions."

Vice President Sameer Bhasin added, "The Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival is not just about celebrations; it's about fostering bonds and creating lasting memories. We are proud to continue this legacy."

General Secretary Sanjeev Kumar Gupta echoed similar sentiments, "The participation and enthusiasm shown by our residents are truly heartwarming. This event is a reflection

of our collective spirit and camaraderie." The festivities concluded on a sweet note with the distribution of parsad and sweets, symbolizing the sharing of joy and prosperity.

The event was graced by the presence of advisors and executive members of the RBRWS, including Sanjeev Grover, Madan Gopal Tony, Gurdeep Singh, Dheeraj Arora, and others, who expressed their delight and support for the festival.

The Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants and volunteers who contributed to making the first day of the Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival a grand success. The celebrations continue with more events and activities lined up for the next two days.

Natrang's Winter theatre workshop concludes with vibrant performance of 'Parampara'



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Natrang's most sought after Winter Theatre Workshop for children culminated here today with a vibrant performance of Habib Tanveer's 'Parampara' at the auditorium of the Government College for Women Parade, Jammu which collaborated this rare showcasing. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant and was assisted by Kanan Kaur Mohd. Yaseen coordinated the workshop. Earlier welcoming the gathering the Director of Natrang Padamshree Balwant Thakur dwelt in detail about Natrang's unique initiative of popularizing theatre amongst children. Terming theatre as one of the most effective, tried and tested medium of personality exploration and development, Balwant Thakur cited many examples of magical changes which he witnessed amongst children during his last Thirty-six years of work with Children. Majority of Natrang products are now either top actors in the Tinsel Town or holding prominent

positions in professional spheres, civil services and corporate world.

"Theatre should not be seen as an art of making faces but it's amazing power has the unlimited potential to transform personalities" Balwant Thakur added.

The play 'Parampara' opens with two children lamenting their lack of followers on social media. Desperate for attention, they beg the audience to follow them and enthusiastically perform a reel dance. Encouraged by another child boasting 5 lakh followers, they attempt to replicate the trend by dancing to a new song. However, their energetic display is interrupted by Nati, who questions their awareness of their own culture and literature. Nati urges them to look beyond these social media trends and explore the rich heritage of Indian culture and history. Inspired by this, the children resolve to stage a play on India's history.

The play "Parampara" presents a vibrant retelling of Indian history through a series of key events and characters. It begins with a humorous debate between the narrators

and actresses about the play's theme, ultimately settling on the name "Viraasat."

The story unfolds with the arrival of Aryans and the symbolic union of Bharat Mata and Arya, followed by pivotal episodes like Lord Ram's exile, Arjun's moral dilemma in the Mahabharata, and Emperor Ashoka's transformation after the Kalinga War.

As the narrative progresses, it touches upon India's rich cultural heritage, from Bharata Muni's "Natyashastra" to Kalidasa's literature. However, the play also delves into the complexities of Indian history, portraying the arrival of the British, the struggles for independence led by Mahatma Gandhi and the painful partition that led to the creation of Pakistan.

Through the allegory of children representing future generations, the play emphasises unity and the shared heritage of India and Pakistan. It concludes with a call for harmony, with Bharat Mata and Arya vowing to stand by both nations. "Parampara" is a compelling blend of history, culture and a message of peace.

Those who acted in the play included Aarna Gaur, Adira Gupta, Advik Sharma, Amayra Mahajan, Anuvi Sharma, Araiya Shan, Daiwik Shan, Deeher Gupta, Deshna Jain, Dhanak Chandan, Dwijesh Dutta, Jayaditya Singh, Kamakhya Bali, Kavish Sharma, Kavya Jandial, Mehak Chib, Mrigasya Shan, Nandita Mahajan, Nyra Gandotra, Priyal Gupta, Ruhaan Chandan, Saanchi Dutta, Sianet Magotra, Supria Gorka, Tapas Shikhar Midtada, Vaibhav Mahajan and Daivansh Singh Rakwal. The music of the play was scored by Kartik Kumar and the show was ably conducted by Sumeet Sharma.

Kabir Panthi Samaj of Rakh Manghal facilitate newly elected body of All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

All J&K Satguru Kabir Sabha State President Sh. Shamsher Chand, Former President & Retd JKAS Sh. Joginder Lal Bhagat and General Secretary Sh. Janak Raj was welcomed and honoured by the Sanghat and Kabir Panthi of Rakh Manghal during their visit to Village - Rakh Manghal of Samba District.

Further they are proud to announce the construction and renovation of a Kabir Temple in village Rakh Manghal of district Samba. This temple will serve as a place of worship and reflection for the local community and visitors from around the district.

The Kabir Temple will be designed

in the traditional style of Indian architecture, with intricate carvings and ornate details. The temple will feature a large central dome, surrounded by smaller domes and arches. The interior of the temple will be adorned with beautiful frescoes and sculptures, depicting scenes from the life of Kabir and his teachings.

The temple was built on a beautiful site, with ample parking and easy access for visitors. The site will also feature a large garden, with walking paths. The temple will be open to the public, and will host a variety of religious and cultural events throughout the year. "We are thrilled to bring this beautiful temple to Village Rakh Manghal of Samba district," said Sh. Shamsher Chand State President All JK Satguru Kabir Sabha. "Kabir

was a great spiritual leader and thinker, and his teachings continue to inspire people around the world. We hope that this temple will serve as a place of peace, reflection, and inspiration for all who visit."

"We are committed to building a temple that is not only beautiful, but also environmentally responsible," said Sh. Janak Raj General Secretary All JK Satguru Kabir Sabha. "We believe that it is important to preserve the natural world, while also creating spaces that inspire and uplift the human spirit." The Kabir Temple will be a welcome addition to Village- Rakh Manghal of Samba district, and will serve as a symbol of peace and unity for the local community. All JK Satguru Kabir Sabha looks forward to welcoming visitors from around the district to this beautiful and inspiring temple. The Prominent person on the occasion are Sh. Joginder Lal Bhagat (Retd JKAS & Former President)

Sh. Janak Raj (Ex-Sarpanch Chak Chimana) Sh Subhash Bhagat (President Kabir Mandir Committee Makhanpur), Sh. Shiv Ram, Sh. Durga Dass, Sh. Pritam Lal, Sh. Girdhari Lal, Master Kirpal Singh (Ex-Chairman), Sh. Mohan Lal, Sh. Satpal, <Sh. Narinder Singh and others.

Central University of Jammu Organizes 10-Day "Yuva Shakti Mahotsav"



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Department of Educational Studies, in collaboration with the Dean of Students Welfare, launched the inaugural session of the 10-day "Yuva Shakti Mahotsav" at the Malviya Shiksha Bhavan, Central University of Jammu. The event was held under the esteemed patronage of Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Dr. Kiran, Convener of the Co-curricular Committee, outlined the structure of the programme, which will unfold in several stages: Baahu Shakti, Mann Shakti, and Kala Shakti leading up to 26th January 2024.

The event was chaired by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students Welfare and Prof. Uday Pratap Singh, Associate Dean Academics, both of whom shared insightful perspectives on youth empowerment.

Prof. Uday Pratap Singh was the guest of honour in the inaugural address. He emphasized the importance of empowering young minds through innovation and skill-based education. He further highlighted the value of spiritual intelligence, advocating for its role in youth development, and encouraged students to study the teachings of Swami Vivekananda to inspire a spirit of awakening within them.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi spoke about the significant role of youth in societal development, urging students to be mindful of their responsibilities to help strengthen the nation. She stressed that the energy and potential of youth should be properly channelized into various fields, boosting creativity, knowledge, and innovation.

Prof. J.N. Baliya echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that youth is the cornerstone of society and national progress. He encouraged students to discover and nurture their inner talents for their personal growth and the development of the nation.

Adjust youths engaged during COVID under emergency response package by NHM: Kavinder Gupta



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAMBAN:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today urged the J&K government to adjust nearly 70 nurses who were engaged in emergency response package during the critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic under the National Health Mission.

After meeting the disengaged lot of these healthcare workers, Kavinder made a fervent appeal to the LG Manoj Sinha claiming that these young individuals had played an essential role in the fight against the coronavirus and now, the government must fulfill its responsibility by providing them with stable employment opportunities. It is pertinent to mention that the J&K's administration has disengaged the aforesaid lot after the pandemic was over leaving these dedicated young healthcare workers lurching for a stable career.

Jasrotia pays floral tributes to Martyr Rifleman Mangal Singh at Ladoli

Participates in Shoba Yatra to mark first anniversary celebrations of Ram Lalla idol consecration ceremony



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JASROTA:

BJP MLA Jasrotia Rajiv Jasrotia today paid floral tributes to Martyr Rifleman Mangal Singh of 15 JAK RIF, who got martyrdom on January 12, 2002 in Poonch sector while fighting with the enemies. The prominent persons and villagers including Capt Gian Singh Pathania, Capt Madan Lal, Mandal Pradhan Deepak Sharma, Sarpanch Kewal, Sarpanch Kuldeep Gupta, Sarpanch Yogesh, Sarpanch Raj Kumar besides others paid tributes and garlanded the statue of Shaheed Mangal Singh. While lauding the supreme sacrifices of the Police, Army and Para-military personnel for the peace and integrity of the country, Jasrotia said that the Dogras have made immense sacrifices. They had given their precious lives to preserve the unity and integrity of the country by exhibiting tenacity, courage and bravery. He said that the people hailing from

Kandi border belt and hilly areas of Jammu division have rich tradition of serving in Army and other Paramilitary forces which reflect their courage, spirit of nationalism and love for the country. He said that martyrs are the real heroes and we must acknowledge their sacrifices. He also extended his gratitude to the family of Shaheed Mangal Singh and assured every possible help.

Jasrotia further said that society bears social responsibility to remember the sacrifices of the soldiers, which will remain inspirational for the generation of coming times. Paying rich tributes to the martyr, he said Mangal Singh is a role model for many youths of the area and he set true example of honesty, dedication and love for his country by sacrificing his life. He further said for a nation to prosper it should never forget its martyrs and also war veterans and stated that it's our duty to remember and honour the supreme sacrifices made by Duggars during the wars of

1947, 1965, 1971, Kargil war and present proxy war led by Pakistan in J&K. He thanked the war veterans present during the function and said we people should feel proud and blessed that such great people are within us who served country in tough times and make the Dogras and people of state proud.

Jasrotia exuded confidence that the sacrifices of valiant heroes will serve as an inspiration for the youngsters to be part of the world's bravest Indian Army that has a track record of record of heroism. The stories of valour scripted by brave hearts has made every Indian proud, he said, adding their saga of valour remain inked with golden letters in the country's military history. Jasrotia said that the best tribute to the martyrs would be to join the efforts of rebuilding India and making it the Vishwa guru, the mission initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Later Jasrotia also participated in Shoba Yatra in connection with first anniversary celebrations of the Ram Lalla idol consecration ceremony in Ayodhya at Barwal wherein Sarpanch Shiv Dev, Sarpanch Sukhdev, Capt Sandeep Singh, Ranjeet Pathania, Kulthaar Singh, Mandal Pradhan Surinder Singh, Vansh Sharma were also present. Jasrotia said that large number of devotees reaching the holy city to take part in events. Religious and cultural programmes have commenced in the Ram Temple complex. He said those who were not able to reach the Ram Janmabhoomi when the Pran Pratishtha was done in January 2024, are fortunate enough to reach the court of Ram Lalla on the first anniversary."

GDC Thannamandi celebrates National Youth Day with fervor



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with NSS and NCC Units, Sports Department and the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi celebrated National Youth Day with fervor and enthusiasm as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 Abhiyan here today.

On this occasion a symposium cum quiz and sports activities organized under the patronage of College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed. Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Nodal Officer Red Ribbon Club in the college co-ordinated the event wherein Dr. Ashaqa Malik, Co-ordinator IQAC, was the Resource person. Prof. Farooq Ahmed, the main inspiration behind the Youth Day celebration, emphasized upon the development of qualities displayed by Swami Vivekananda within youth for a stronger and healthier nation and the world. He appreciated the entire organizing team for paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda by organizing varieties of activities and spreading message of inspiration, unity and confidence building among the youth. In his comprehensive lecture, Dr. Ashaqa Malik deliberated upon the life history, works and contribution of Swami Vivekananda in promoting universal brotherhood and tolerance among all sections of society.

The 1893 historic speech of Swami ji at World Parliament of Religions at Chicago that started with "sisters and brothers of America" and other stories of confidence, self-realization, tolerance, spiritualism, unity and patriotism, and his contribution to take Vedanta and Yoga to western world were part of presentation. In the symposium, Zia Ul Rehman stood first whereas Muskan Mir and Zara Fatima bagged 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Prof. Altaf Hussain and Dr. Gulshan Bhat were judges in the symposium which was followed by an instant feedback quiz. Prof. Supriya Gupta NSS Programme Officer and Anuj Bali, Vice President IIC coordinated the quiz competition.

In the sports activities, tug-of-war and arm wrestling were organized in which students and faculty members participated. Rakesh Puri, Physical Director in the College along with Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Altaf Hussain and Dr. Junaid Ahmed co-ordinated the sports event.

Indian Army Provided Chairs & Tables For The Primary School At Upper Sindhra Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

In a significant step toward improving educational facilities. The Indian Army has provided tables and chairs to students at the Primary School located in Jabra Mohalla, Upper Sindhra, Poonch District. The school, situated in a remote region, has long lacked basic amenities. This initiative aims to promote educational development by providing better facilities. The provision of these items by the Indian Army was met with enthusiasm from both students and faculty. Teachers expressed hope that this gesture would inspire students to embrace an enhanced learning environment, which is essential for their overall development.

This project, under Operation Sadbhavana, is part of the Indian Army's broader efforts to contribute to the upliftment of communities through education. It aims to bridge the gap in access to essential resources for students in remote and disadvantaged areas. Locals have wholeheartedly expressed their gratitude, acknowledging the Indian Army's role in establishing lasting peace in the region and lauding its efforts to fulfill the aspirations of underdeveloped villages.

Address safety concerns in Mazdoor Basti on priority: MLA Arvind urges JMC Commissioner



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Highlighting the urgent safety concerns of over 200 households in Mazdoor Basti, Ward No. 13, Resham Ghar, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, today conducted an inspection of the deteriorating Nallah in the locality. The Nallah, which has been in a poor state for over 40 years, poses an imminent threat of collapse, especially during the monsoon season.

During the visit, residents apprised the MLA of the crumbling state of the Nallah, which poses a major hazard during the monsoons, and urged a swift resolution. They highlighted the potential risks posed by the 40-year-old deteriorating structure, which serves as a critical water channel for over 200 households in the area.

Arvind Gupta personally inspected the dilapidated condition of the Nallah running through the locality, which is on the brink of collapse. He

expressed concern that the condition of the Nallah has been ignored for decades, endangering the lives and properties of residents. He urged the JMC Commissioner to prioritize the reconstruction of the Nallah to avert a potential disaster. "The lives and properties of hundreds of families are at risk due to the prolonged neglect of this vital structure. The JMC Commissioner must initiate immediate action for its reconstruction," he said. Reassuring the residents of Mazdoor Basti, Arvind Gupta assured them that the reconstruction of the Nallah would be prioritized and taken up with the relevant authorities without delay. "No stone will be left unturned to safeguard the lives of the people in Mazdoor Basti. I will ensure that the necessary funds and resources are allocated to complete this project at the earliest," he added.

Arvind Gupta reiterated the BJP's commitment to ensuring safe and sustainable infrastructure for all citizens. He assured that he would personally monitor the progress of this critical project and ensure its timely completion. He also called upon the JMC authorities to adopt a proactive approach to addressing such long-standing issues across the constituency.

DC Poonch visits Fruit and Vegetable Market to review progress of upcoming project

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal, conducted an on-site visit to inspect progress of work on ongoing developmental projects at the upcoming Fruit and Vegetable Market in Kankote today.

The visit focused on the progress of several key initiatives, including the construction of an auction platform, shops, an organic composting unit, and a toilet block. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by officials from PWD, PHE and Revenue department. The Deputy Commissioner received a detailed briefing from AGMO Charan Kamal Singh on the planned facilities at the market. Following the review, the Deputy Commissioner expressed his



appreciation for the advancements made and stressed the importance of completing the projects in a timely manner to improve the market's infrastructure and services for the community.

Operation Sadbhavana: Gurj Division Brings Smiles to Border Villages



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KATHUA:

In a remarkable demonstration of goodwill, the Gurj Division of the Indian Army recently carried out a community outreach initiative under Operation Sadbhavana, bringing joy and hope to the border villages of Kathua district. The program aimed to support education and sports among children in remote areas while fostering a sense of trust and collaboration between the armed forces and local communities. The outreach effort included the distribution of stationery and sports items to schools in the villages of Mandial, Kadiyala, and Maniyari. These villages, located near the border, often face challenges related to resources and infrastructure.

By providing essential supplies, the Army aimed to motivate students and encourage their holistic development through education and physical activities.

The program witnessed an overwhelming response from both children and villagers. Students, delighted to receive the much-needed items, expressed their excitement about utilizing the resources in their academic and extracurricular pursuits. Villagers also conveyed heartfelt gratitude to the Army for recognizing their needs and taking meaningful steps to address them.

This initiative under Operation Sadbhavana showcases the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to fostering harmony and inclusivity. Beyond their core responsibility of safeguarding the nation, the Army actively contributes to the social and economic upliftment of communities living in challenging environments. Programs like this emphasize the human side of the armed forces and their dedication to nation-building.

Over the years, the Gurj Division has consistently undertaken similar initiatives to bridge the gap between the military and the civilian population in border areas. These efforts have not only enhanced trust and cooperation but also inspired local youth to dream bigger and strive for better futures.

District Admin Rajouri celebrates National Youth Day



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAJOURI:

The District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), celebrated National Youth Day at Dak Bungalow here today. The event commemorated the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, focusing on inspiring youth to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while SSP, Gaurav Sikarwar, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of different institutions who delivered thought-provoking speeches and

actively engaged in discussions.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of the My Bharat Portal, recently launched by the Government of India, as a platform to channelize youth contributions. He highlighted how the portal can help young minds understand the implementation procedures of government schemes and assist in their effective execution.

The DC also elaborated on Mission Yuva, a government initiative aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among youth. He encouraged the young participants to actively engage in the ongoing district-wide surveys to ensure the proper implementation of welfare schemes. On the occasion of National Youth Day, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the time-

less message of Swami Vivekananda, advocating for communal harmony, brotherhood, and unity. "Our youth must draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's teachings to contribute to the nation's progress," he remarked.

An interactive session followed, where the youth posed questions about career-building and development opportunities. The Deputy Commissioner patiently addressed their queries, providing valuable insights and guidance. Nitin Hangloo, District Youth Officer, NYK, spoke about the initiatives undertaken by NYKS to develop leadership and organizational skills among youth and encouraged them to participate in community development programs actively.

The event concluded with a pledge for Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India), reaffirming the district's commitment to eradicating drug abuse. Students who excelled in various activities during the program were felicitated for their efforts. Prominent attendees included ACP Sheraz Ahmed, ACD Vijay Kumar Verma, ALC Pradyot Gupta, Principal HSS Rajouri, Muslim Wani, and other district and sectoral officers, along with teachers and students from different institutions.

9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day to Be Celebrated at Tanda Artillery Brigade, Akhnoor

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU AKHNOOR:

The 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day will be celebrated at the Tanda Artillery Brigade in Akhnoor, Jammu & Kashmir, under the aegis of the Northern Command, on January 14, 2025. The event aims to honor the sacrifices and contributions of Armed Forces Veterans and Veer Naris, showcasing the Indian Army's deep respect and commitment to those who have served the nation with pride.

The distinguished ceremony will be attended by Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, who will be joined by a host of dignitaries, including the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, the Chief Minister of J&K, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), along with other

senior military and civil officials. The gathering is expected to attract around 1,000 veterans from various regions, including Jammu, Akhnoor, Pallanwala, Rakhmuthi, Naushera, and Sunderbani. The event promises to be a memorable occasion, celebrating the valor and service of veterans from across the state.

One of the key highlights of the day will be the hoisting of a 108-foot National Flag, symbolizing the pride and patriotism that the Armed Forces instill in the country. Additionally, the event will feature the inauguration of the Akhnoor Heritage Museum, which will serve as a tribute to the region's military history and the contributions of local heroes to the nation's defense.

The Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Department will present an array of cultural performances that reflect

the rich cultural heritage of the region.

These performances will not only provide entertainment but will also celebrate the vibrant traditions of Jammu & Kashmir, connecting the present with the past through music, dance, and local art forms.

As a special gesture to honor the veterans, mobility equipment such as motorized wheelchairs, e-scooters, and autorickshaws will be distributed to those in need, ensuring that veterans and Veer Naris continue to lead lives of dignity and independence after their years of service to the nation. The 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day is an important occasion to acknowledge the sacrifices made by the men and women of the Armed Forces, especially those who have faced the hardships of war and military service.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Program Held at ITI Gool

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAMBAN:

The Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness Program today at ITI Gool to encourage self-employment and entrepreneurial initiatives among the local youth and community members.

The event, presided over by Director RSETI Harvinder Singh, was conducted under the supervision of Marketing Officer KVIB Ramban, Sudhir Singh, and Field Officer DIC, Bansilal. Resource persons provided valuable insights into various government schemes and support mechanisms for budding entrepreneurs. Over 100 participants, including students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and locals, attended the program. They were introduced to schemes like PMEGP and JKREGP, which offer financial aid and technical guidance to small businesses. The Director highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and self-reliance. He urged participants to utilize government schemes and training programs offered by institutions such as SBI RSETI Ramban.

In his address, Superintendent ITI Gool, Er. Pervaz Iqbal Bhat, praised the initiative for empowering youth and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset in the region. The program concluded with an interactive session where experts addressed participants' queries and provided practical advice on business planning and management.

Eco-friendly endeavours essential for sustainable future on Earth: Sat Sharma

Sat Sharma inaugurates SS Enterprises, store of Himalayan Pine Company



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP inaugurated SS Enterprises, the distribution store of Himalayan Pine Company at Bakshi Nagar.

Sourab Sharma, owner of SS Enterprises the family members of owner, Abhinav Talwar from Himalaya Pine Co, and other prominent locals including the BJP leaders were present on the occasion.

Adv Rajesh Gupta, General Secretary BJP District Jammu, Keshav Chopra, & Atul Bakshi, former Mandal President, BJP and other leaders of party were present on the occasion. While inaugurating the store, Sat Sharma said that the market of Jammu is fast evolving itself to the varying trends of the contemporary world. He said that this store will gain the trust of the public in providing quality, eco-friendly products with reasonable prices.

Sat Sharma expressed his delight and said that it is heartening that Pine Needles will now be used to make and supply everything from dental kits in Jammu hotels to trays for canteens and tableware for our households. He expressed hope that people will take up this product and have a pleasant experience. He wished successful future to Sourab Sharma, the owner of SS Enterprises in his eco-friendly endeavour, terming it as tremendously essential for sustainable future on Earth.

Indian Army Distributes Computers to Foster Digital Literacy in Gambir Mughlan, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAJOURI:

In a progressive step toward fostering digital literacy and academic growth, the Indian Army distributed computers to students of three schools in Gambir Mughlan, Rajouri district. The event was held at Higher Senior Secondary School, Gambir Mughlan (02 computers), Government Middle School Kakora (02 computers), and Government High School Dhargloon (01 computer). This initiative aimed to integrate technology into education, enabling students to access digital resources and enhance their academic capabilities. The event emphasized the role of technology in shaping the future, urging students to utilize these tools for self-development and achieving excellence in education.

The distribution ceremony was not just about providing resources but also instilling a sense of pride and purpose in the students. A series of engaging activities were organized to celebrate patriotism and national pride.

Students delivered powerful speeches highlighting the invaluable role of the Indian Army in nation-building and safeguarding the country.

Javed Dar visits Chijhama Rafiabad, offers condolences to Ramban victims' family

Assures support to bereaved family of late Danish, Yaser

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BARAMULLA:

Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, Javed Ahmad Dar, today visited the bereaved family of Danish Imtiaz Khan and Yaser Imtiaz Khan, two siblings who tragically lost their lives in a road accident in Ramban.

The Minister visited the family's residence in Chijhama village, located in Rafiabad area of Baramulla district, to express his heartfelt condolences and offer support during their time of grief.

Expressing profound sorrow over the untimely demise of Danish and Yaser, sons of Imtiaz Ahmad Khan, the Minister extended his deepest sympathies to the family and



acknowledged the immense pain caused by this irreparable loss. He also prayed for eternal peace to the

departed souls and strength for the grieving family to endure this tragedy.

World's First Robotic Cardiac Telesurgeries Performed Over a Distance of 286 Km

Using Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System, SSI Mantra

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

SS Innovations, the developer of India's first indigenous surgical robotic technology, has made history in global healthcare by successfully performing two world-first robotic cardiac telesurgeries in just two days, a feat that has never been accomplished before. This achievement, made possible by the SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System, involved connecting SS Innovations' headquarters in Gurugram with Manipal Hospital in Jaipur, Rajasthan, spanning a distance of 286 kilometres. This historic milestone paves the way for a future where advanced surgical technology becomes a key component of accessible and efficient global healthcare.

The Telerobotic-assisted Internal Mammary Artery Harvesting procedure conducted remotely was successfully completed in just 58 minutes. Led by Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of SS Innovations International, Inc., from the SSI Headquarters in Gurugram, and supported by Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Manipal Hospital, Jaipur, along with his expert team at the remote location in Jaipur, the surgery demonstrated exceptional precision with an incredibly low latency of just 35-40 milliseconds (1/20th of a second). This groundbreaking procedure was followed by another world-first, a Robotic Beating Heart Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB), a procedure known as one of the most complex Cardiac Surgical procedures; performed via telesurgery under the same collaboration, with an incredibly low latency of just 40 milliseconds. Both surgeries, connected Gurugram to Jaipur, and showcased seamless teamwork across long distances, setting a new standard for remote surgical interventions.

These achievements underscore the transformative potential of telesurgery in overcoming geographical barriers, enabling timely, high-quality medical care with unparalleled accuracy.

The SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic



System is the only robotic system in the world to have received regulatory approval for telesurgery and teleproctoring. Approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), this validation opens the door to remote surgeries and medical education, enabling healthcare professionals to collaborate across distances.

It highlights the transformative potential of technology in enhancing the accessibility and precision of healthcare, revolutionizing how surgeries are performed on a global scale.

By bringing world-class medical expertise to even the most remote corners of the globe, it sets a groundbreaking precedent for the future of remote healthcare, reshaping patient care. Expressing immense gratitude for this historic feat, SS Innovations Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, said, "We are extremely thrilled to have advanced the capabilities of surgery to benefit humanity, especially in areas that need it the most."

By enabling telesurgery, we can bridge gaps in access to medical expertise and deliver the highest standard of care, regardless of geographical barriers.

For a country like India, with its vast rural population and significant healthcare disparities, this innovation is transformative. Telesurgery brings world-class surgical expertise directly to underserved communities, eliminating the need for patients to travel long distances to urban centres for specialized care. It ensures timely interventions while reducing logistical and financial bur-

dens on families.

With the recent CDSCO approval for telesurgery using SSI Mantra, we have not just advanced technology; we have fulfilled our mission to democratize access to robotic surgery. Our goal has always been to make advanced surgical care affordable and accessible, and telesurgery now allows us to extend the reach of skilled surgeons to every corner of our nation, fundamentally changing the way healthcare is delivered."

Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Manipal Hospital, Jaipur, said, "This groundbreaking interstate robotic cardiac telesurgery marks a significant leap in enhancing patient care through innovation. The remote robotic-assisted CABG on an elderly patient from Jaipur exemplifies how technology is bridging geographical gaps to provide accurate and timely medical interventions."

This achievement underscores our dedication to offering world-class healthcare and ensuring patients have access to the most advanced treatment options available." Commenting on this milestone, Dr. Fredric Moll, Father of Surgical Robotics, and Founder of Intuitive Surgical and SS Innovations International, Inc Vice-Chairman, said, "I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Srivastava and the entire SSI team on the successful achievement of performing the world's first robotic cardiac telesurgeries."

It is delightful to see just how far we have come since the inception of surgical robotics more than 20 years ago.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Path of Progress

At present, the way the country is progressing, in the same way some people are also getting away from Indianness. However, for this purpose many organizations are making efforts to spread Indian values among the people. This was the work done by the saints of India, due to which the whole world got to know Indian philosophy. The flow of inspiring words that Swami Vivekananda spread in Chicago, America, many spiritual thinkers of the world were seen to be overwhelmed at that time. This address of Swami Vivekananda, which was listened to with concentration, shows a path that gives positive feeling to the person and the nation. Those thoughts of Swami Vivekananda not only hoisted the flag of Indian knowledge, but were also capable of manifesting that feeling, where the evidence of India being the world guru emerges. Swami Vivekananda's Chicago lecture was such a philosophy, which contains the feeling of India's Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The tradition and idea of considering the whole world as one family is not reflected in any philosophy of the world, but this philosophy has been embedded in Indian culture since ancient times. The essence of India is embedded in the oldest authentic texts of the world. Swami Vivekananda made a successful attempt to spread this essence on the soil of America. We know that many kinds of difficulties have to be faced to spread good thoughts among the people. Swami Vivekananda also had to face many kinds of problems to go to Chicago. However, by the grace of God, these problems went away and Swami Vivekananda presented his thoughts in front of many scholars present in the religious conference to spread his resolution. When Vivekananda opened his heart in front of the scholars and said with all his heart, my American brothers and sisters. The feeling of intimacy, the feeling of belongingness that this word gave, was a new thing for the wise men present there. They had not even imagined this and neither was there such a thing in their philosophy. Vivekananda's speech was going to touch everyone's heart, it was going to reach everyone's heart. That is why after listening to the initial words, the entire auditorium reverberated with thunderous applause. The time allotted to Swami Vivekananda passed with these applauses, but after listening to Swami Vivekananda's thoughts, the intellectuals present there asked to give Swami Vivekananda more time. After that, Swami Vivekananda gave such an enlightenment based on Indian philosophy and Indian values, which was new for everyone. This is the form of Indian culture. At that time, the wise men of the whole world accepted that India is actually the world guru in terms of knowledge. At the beginning of the Chicago lecture, Swami Vivekananda had said that my heart is filled with the affection with which you have welcomed me. I thank you all on behalf of the world's oldest saint tradition and the mother of all religions. I express my gratitude to you on behalf of millions of Hindus of all castes and sects. In his lecture, Swami Vivekanand Ji says that just as rivers originating from different places take different paths and finally merge into the sea, similarly, man chooses different paths according to his will. These paths may look different, but they all lead to God. Therefore, it can be said that all the religions of the world have only one suitable path, that is, we should start attaining God. Swami Vivekanand Ji's speech was full of Indianness.

Jobs Challenge

THE WEALTH OF A NATION LIES IN ITS PEOPLE, AND IN INDIA, 1.4 BILLION ASPIRATIONS DRIVE THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS.



GOURAV BALLABH

The wealth of a nation lies in its people, and in India, 1.4 billion aspirations drive the country's progress. Over the past decade, the Government of India has made job creation a central focus of its governance, yielding transformational results. However, as with any significant endeavour, there is much to celebrate, but there are challenges that require greater attention in the years to come. India is at a remarkable crossroads. With the largest population in the world and one of the youngest workforces globally, the nation enjoys a unique advantage.

Approximately 68 per cent of its population is of working age. India's median age is 29.5 years, which starkly contrasts with China's 39.8 years and the United Kingdom's 40.6 years. This emphasizes the tremendous potential of a dynamic, innovative, and youthful workforce. This demographic dividend presents a fleeting opportunity that, if effectively harnessed, could propel the country into unprecedented economic growth. Job creation has been a central focus of the government over the past decade, driven by an explicit acknowledgement of its importance for economic development and social stability. The statistics highlight this progress: between 2014 and 2024, India created 17.19 crore more jobs, compared to the previous decade's creation of just 2.9 crore jobs (2004-14).

Notably, 4.6 crore jobs were added in the year 2023-24 alone, demonstrating the scale and ambition of the government's policies. These initiatives have been transformative in terms of numbers and their impact on reducing unemployment and increasing workforce participation. The unemployment rate fell from 6 per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24, while the labour force participation rate rose from 49.8

per cent to 60.1 per cent during the same period. Notably, progress has been significant at the sectoral level. A 19 per cent increase in agricultural employment between 2014 and 2023, reversing a 16 per cent decline in the previous ten years (2004-14).

In manufacturing, employment rose by 15 per cent (2014-23), more than double the growth in the prior decade. These outcomes are indicative of the effectiveness of targeted policies. But these are not both sides of the same coin. Manufacturing, for instance, is a sector with enormous job creation potential. But its share of GDP has persisted at around 15 per cent - a far cry from the target of 25 per cent that the National Manufacturing Policy had set. In contrast, manufacturing accounts for 28 per cent of China's GDP and 25 per cent of South Korea's. Though the Rs 1.97 lakh crore outlay under the Production Linked Incentive scheme has ensured sizeable investments in electronics manufacturing and \$15.6 billion in exports of mobile phones in FY 2022-23 - employment generated remains well below expectation. The PLI scheme needs recasting to align the incentives more directly with job generation. Fiscal stresses are another inhibiting factor.

The tax-to-GDP ratio in India stands at 11.7 per cent, limiting its investment in job-generating sectors. Although GST collections have consistently crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore every month, structural reforms are needed to widen the tax base and reach the 20 per cent tax-to-GDP ratio of peer economies. Improvement in tax compliance, modernisation of property taxes, and use of AI in GST analytics can bring in much-needed fiscal space. The MSME Sector represents the most significant opportunity for achieving inclusive growth in this decade. To put this in perspective, with 63.4 million enterprises contributing 30 per cent to GDP and employing

over 100 million people, the MSME sector's economic footprint is much larger than the entire economy of countries like Thailand or Sweden. MSMEs have a Rs 20-25 lakh crore credit gap. Access to credit for this sector should be ensured as it has immense employment generation potential.

At the same time we should also focus more on high-skill, high-pay employment opportunities. India has one of the world's most significant numbers of graduates in STEM - science, technology, engineering, and mathematics - fields. Closer connections between India's technical colleges, employers, and investors can help support better job-matching, continued skills development, and start-up growth - which can turn job seekers into job creators. What the government needs to do now is future-proof the Indian workforce through recalibration of the PLI scheme, scaling up investments in green energy, and fostering innovation in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, automation, and electric mobility.

For instance, India's ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030 is good for the environment and will become one of the biggest job generators. Likewise, the Indian space economy, valued today at \$8.4 billion, is supposed to reach \$44 billion by 2033 and would create thousands of specialised roles in that field. In the long term, India needs to invest in better education and support women in entering the formal workforce to shift more of its population away from precarious work.

That will support income growth and, in turn, drive further job creation. Partnerships will be necessary to achieve this. Public-private collaborations, community engagement, and citizen feedback may help refine their strategies and bring inclusive growth in their wake. Global disruptions - the Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and economic slow-downs - have tested India's resilience. But more importantly, they brought home the message that the strategic policy to create employment has to be strong and responsive. And this is why we, reflecting over the past ten years, must realize that this journey for a prosperous India has just about begun. The government has laid the foundation, and it laid the right direction. Sustained effort, strategic reforms, and collective will can ensure that India converts the demographic dividend into a demographic boon and an opportunity for every citizen, fulfilling the promise of a truly "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

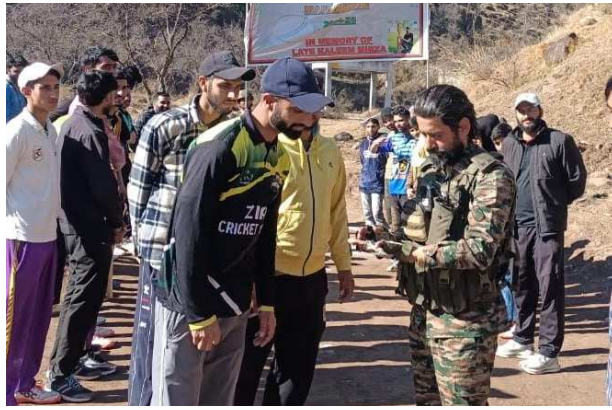
(The writer is Professor of Finance - XLRI Xavier School of Management and a BJP leader)

Indian Army Organizes Cricket Tournament to Promote Youth Development in Manjakote, Rajouri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army has launched a cricket tournament in Manjakote, Rajouri, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote physical fitness, foster sportsmanship, and encourage youth development in the region. The week-long tournament, which began today, features eight teams from the area competing in T-20 format matches. This initiative is aimed at providing the youth with better opportunities for growth, instilling a sense of discipline, and promoting a healthy and competitive spirit among them.

The tournament has generated significant enthusiasm among the local population, drawing a large audience comprising residents, village elders, and cricket enthusiasts. The event is not only a platform for showcasing talent but also a celebration of community spirit,



bringing people together in a shared love for the game.

The Indian Army's initiative has been widely appreciated by local leaders, including the Sarpanch and Panches, who expressed their gratitude for the Army's efforts in organizing such a meaningful event. "The Army's support in promoting youth activities and sports in our region is invaluable," said one local leader. Cricket coaches and sports enthusiasts have also praised the initiative, highlighting the

positive impact of sports on young minds.

"The Indian Army's efforts to promote sports and physical fitness among the youth are truly commendable," said a local cricket coach. "Through events like this, young individuals learn essential values such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, which are critical for their overall development."

The cricket tournament is part of the Indian Army's broader strategy to engage with local commu-

nities and foster social welfare. It reflects the Army's commitment to building a harmonious relationship with the population and inspiring the younger generation to channel their energy positively.

By providing a platform for youth to showcase their talents, the Army hopes to encourage them to pursue their dreams while contributing positively to society. Events like these not only nurture future sports talents but also create a sense of national pride and integration among the participants and spectators.

The cricket tournament is a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to fostering community development and youth empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir. By using sports as a medium to unite and inspire, the Army continues to play a pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for the

DDC Reasi reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the progress under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, aimed at transforming the power sector in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasised the importance of metering all unmetered electricity connections across the district as a top priority. She directed officials to expedite the process, ensuring transparency and efficient energy usage for all households.

The DDC instructed Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to closely monitor the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in their respective areas and oversee the metering of households. She also called for a district-wide mass Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign to raise awareness about the scheme. The campaign will be conducted under the supervision of the SDMs, with coordination between the Rural Development Department (RDD), Education Department, Revenue Department, and the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) Reasi.

To further amplify outreach, the DDC directed the Education Department to conduct symposiums, debates and discussions on the scheme during morning assemblies in schools. Additionally, all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) in the district were instructed to provide JPDCL Reasi with details of employees whose households remain unmetered. This collective effort underscores the district's commitment to achieving 100% metering and ensuring equitable access to affordable power for all residents under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD, SDMs and other officials were present in the meeting.

DIG, DC Rajouri and SSP visit Badhaal to assess ground situation

Health, Police and Multi-Departmental Teams Deployed for Assistance



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Tejinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Gaurav Sikarwar, visited Badhaal today to assess the prevailing ground situation and ensure im-

mediate support to the community.

As part of the relief measures, the DC Rajouri deployed ambulances, health teams and ASHA workers to provide essential medical assistance to the residents. Furthermore, other departments have been activated to ensure seamless coordination and cooperation with the general public.

Samples have been collected from

ill patients and investigations have been initiated to determine the cause of the ailments. The administration is closely monitoring the situation and will take necessary action based on the outcome of the investigations. The general public is advised not to panic and to follow any advisories issued by the authorities. It is pertinent to mention that, apart from health teams, the police has also started a fresh investigation in this matter. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals to understand their immediate concerns and emphasized the importance of timely intervention and joint departmental efforts to address their needs. SSP Gaurav Sikarwar assured the residents of enhanced security measures and prompt action on any emergent issues.

The district administration remains committed to ensuring the safety, health, and welfare of the residents of Badhaal. All necessary steps are being taken to address their concerns and provide comprehensive support.

Baba Kailakh Temple Prabandhak Committee releases Panchang Calendar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Baba Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, under the auspices of the Baba Kailakh Temple Prabandhak Committee, has unveiled its annual Panchang calendar for the year 2025-2026. The launch ceremony was held today at the temple premises, with prominent community members, scholars, and devotees in attendance. The Panchang, a comprehensive almanac based on Hindu astrology, serves as a guide for important dates, festivals, and auspicious timings throughout the year.

Speaking at the event, Mahant Rohit Shastri, head of the Baba Kailakh Temple, emphasized the significance of the Panchang in Hindu traditions. He noted that it is an invaluable resource for planning religious ceremonies, social functions, and other significant life events. This year's edition of the Panchang has been meticulously prepared by a team of experienced astrologers and scholars, ensuring accuracy in its predictions and calculations.

The calendar incorporates details about Hindu festivals, fasting days, planetary movements, and other astronomical phenomena. The release of the Panchang was marked by a brief religious ceremony, including a havan and prayers seeking blessings for peace, prosperity, and harmony. Mahant Rohit Shastri also highlighted the temple committee's efforts in promoting Vedic traditions and providing spiritual guidance to the community.

The attendees expressed their appreciation for the temple's dedication to preserving cultural heritage. Copies of the Panchang were distributed to devotees, with many expressing gratitude for the initiative.

Indian Army Organizes Outreach Programme for Gujjar and Bakarwal Communities in Assar, Doda

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The Indian Army conducted a significant outreach program at Assar in Doda district to engage with the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities and educate them about various government welfare schemes. The initiative aimed to bridge gaps, promote awareness, and address the aspirations of these tribal communities, thereby fostering social harmo-

ny and mutual understanding in the region. During the program, the focus was on disseminating information about government schemes tailored to the needs of the tribal population.

Key among these were educational initiatives, such as scholarships and National Fellowship programs for tribal students.

The attendees were also briefed on the availability of dedicated hostel facilities and smart schools designed

to provide safe accommodation and quality education for their children. These initiatives aim to empower the younger generation of the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities by creating better educational opportunities and ensuring their holistic development.

The event also sought to strengthen ties between the communities and the security forces, emphasizing the importance of peace, collaboration, and mutual respect for the progress of the region.

Equitable, holistic development; Govt's top priority: Dy CM



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Endorsing people centric policy of present government, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that ensuring appreciable socio economic empowerment coupled with holistic development forms

top priority of present dispensation. The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a function organised by Jatt Sabha at R.S.Pura here today. MLA Jammu East, Vikram Randhawa, former Ministers Manjit Singh, Choudhary Sukhanandan, Gharu Ram, DDC member TS Tony and senior office bearers of Jatt

Sabha and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

While referring to the people centric initiatives been undertaken, the Deputy Chief Minister said that we are ensuring development on equitable basis without any preferential basis.

"Instructions have already been passed to speed up the developmental initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir. Regular monitoring is also being done so that the pace of work is speeded up on these," he added. While speaking on the occasion, the members of the Jatt Sabha expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for giving representation to their community.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also participated in a function organised by Jatt Sabha in connection with the Lohri celebrations.

While interacting with people there, he exuded hope that lohri would usher peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army Organizes Medical and Veterinary Camp in Behinambal, Rajouri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army, known for its commitment to serving the nation and upholding humanitarian values, organized a Medical and Veterinary camp at Panchayat Ghar Behinambal in the remote Pir Panjal Ranges of Rajouri District. This initiative aimed to provide essential medical services to the residents of isolated villages and veterinary care for their livestock.

The camp, organized by the Indian Army unit at Samote, witnessed active participation from medical and veterinary doctors from Rajouri District. A total of 531 individuals, including 3 civilian doctors and 1 army doctor, contributed to the success of the event. The camp catered to 527 locals, comprising 250 men, 150 women, and 50 children from Behinambal and surrounding areas. In addition to addressing human health needs, the camp extended its services to animals, benefiting 4 buffaloes, 10 dogs, 6 sheep, 50 goats, and 7 horses. This veterinary assistance was particularly significant for the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, who rely heavily on livestock for their livelihood.

The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, predominantly migratory in nature, face significant challenges during the harsh winter months due to the remoteness of their settlements. By providing free medical care to these communities and their animals, the Indian Army demonstrated its dedication to the welfare of the people in this region.

The initiative received an overwhelmingly positive response from the locals, who expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for its noble gesture. The camp has fostered goodwill and strengthened the bond between the Indian Army and the communities residing in the Pir Panjal Ranges.

GDC Marh celebrates National Youth Day

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda the Viksit Bharat Committee and NSS unit Government Degree College Marh, under the aegis of Higher education department, celebrated National Youth Day by organizing plethora of activities under the supervision Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The Principal of the college, in his profound speech, said that Swami Vivekananda was a spiritual leader and youth icon. "This day serves as a call to action for young minds to embrace their potential and contribute to building a better future" he said and added "His timeless message will continue to inspire the youth to lead with courage and conviction."

To inculcate the sense of selfless service among the students, as Shramdaan Mahadhan is a noble endeavor that embodies the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, a cleanliness drive was organized on the campus in which NSS volunteers



collected waste with proper segregation and disposal of the waste.

Meanwhile a movie was screened for students by Anjana Chib (Convener Viksit Bharat Committee) showcasing the biography and indispensable teachings of Swami Vivekananda such as Compassion, Optimism, Faith, Humor, and Mindfulness which will help youth to inculcate the qualities such as self-reliance, self-discipline, courage and inner strength among the present youth so that they can achieve the greater goal.

Programme was also posted on "My Bharat Portal" by Sachin Kumar Bhagat (NSS PO&HOD Political science). My Bharat Portal is a vital initiative promoting patriotism, nationalism, and community service.

It fosters national unity, community spirit, and civic engagement, empowering Youth to contribute to national development. By encouraging volunteerism and community service, the portal helps develop leadership skills, promotes civic awareness, and supports education, health, and environmental

conservation. College has registered a total of 87 Volunteers on the portal.

Later, the students and faculty of the college attended the live streaming of the National Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Shakun Sharma (HOD Sociology).

Other faculty members present during the event was Prof. Asha Kumari (HOD Geography), Dr. Priya Sharma and Prof. Surbhi Gupta. The technical support was provided by Mohit Kalotra (MTS).

DC Poonch inspects progress of work on Water Supply Schemes in Kankote, Kojra Bandichechian

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, conducted a visit today to the Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in Kankote and Kojra Bandichechian to assess progress and implementation.

During his visit to WSS Kankote, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti to ensure that every



household receives a reliable water supply. He emphasized the importance of addressing community needs promptly.

At the upcoming WSS Kojra Bandichechian, currently under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Deputy Commissioner

noted that a borewell had already been drilled. He instructed the Executive Engineer to install the necessary pumping machinery within 15 days and expedite the commissioning of the water supply scheme.

This includes ensuring the installation of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) for every household to enhance access to clean water.

Indian Army Organizes Employment Awareness Camp at Chas, Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

The Indian Army conducted an Employment Awareness Camp at the remote village of Chas in the Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir, reaffirming its commitment to empowering the youth of the region. This initiative aimed to provide career guidance and create awareness about various employment opportunities, particularly for young individuals aspiring to join the armed forces or seeking careers in other fields. A total of 47 youths from Chas and surrounding areas participated in the camp. Representatives from the Indian Army conducted interactive sessions to guide attendees on the recruitment process, eligibility criteria, and the various career paths available in the armed forces. These sessions provided valuable insights to the participants, helping them understand how to prepare for a career in defense services. In addition to information about joining the armed forces, the camp also highlighted other career avenues. Guidance was offered on government-sponsored vocational training programs, self-employment schemes, and opportunities in the private sector. By sharing information about these options, the Indian Army aimed to equip the youth with the knowledge to make informed career decisions.

The Employment Awareness Camp is part of the Indian Army's larger initiative to engage with communities in remote and underserved areas. Through such programs, the Army seeks to bridge the gap between rural communities and mainstream development opportunities.

The camp served as a platform to motivate and inspire the youth to contribute to nation-building, while also addressing the aspirations of individuals from these remote regions.

Randhawa emphasizes BJP's unwavering focus on development, public welfare



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Reinforcing BJP's unwavering focus on development and public welfare, senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa today inaugurated the much-anticipated Nallah wall construction project at Ward No. 53, Trikuta Nagar. The project will be completed with an estimated costs of Rs 1.21 crore.

Addressing the gathering, Randhawa highlighted the BJP's

dedication to delivering impactful development initiatives. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP is transforming dreams into reality. This project is not just a construction effort; it is a symbol of our commitment to building a better tomorrow for every citizen. We are determined to ensure that no area is left behind in the march towards progress," he asserted.

He asserted that the project aims to resolve the long-standing water-logging problems faced by Trikuta

Nagar residents, particularly during monsoon seasons, and will contribute significantly to ensuring a cleaner and more organized urban environment.

Randhawa reaffirmed BJP's vision of transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a model of growth and prosperity. "Every initiative we undertake is a step closer to realizing the dream of a self-reliant and vibrant J&K. I urge the public to continue their support for these endeavors, as together, we can achieve monumental progress," he said. On the occasion, Madan Gopal (AEE, UEED), Supriya Khajuria (JE, UEED) were present to oversee the technical aspects of the project, assuring timely execution and adherence to high-quality standards. Besides, BJP leaders Nitish Mahajan (Mandal President), Lucky Puri, and Ajay Gupta (Ex-Corporator), along with other prominent individuals of the area were also present.

The residents of Trikuta Nagar expressed gratitude to Randhawa for his consistent efforts in improving civic amenities and enhance the quality of life.

Eco-friendly endeavours essential for sustainable future on Earth: Sat Sharma

Sat Sharma inaugurates SS Enterprises, store of Himalayan Pine Company



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP inaugurated SS Enterprises, the distribution store of Himalayan Pine Company at Bakshi Nagar.

Sourab Sharma, owner of SS Enterprises the family members of owner, Abhinav Talwar from Himalaya Pine Co, and other prominent locals including the BJP leaders were present on the occasion.

Adv Rajesh Gupta, General Secretary BJP District Jammu, Keshav Chopra, & Atul Bakshi, former Mandal President, BJP and other leaders of party were present on the occasion. While inaugurating the store, Sat Sharma said that the market of Jammu is fast evolving itself to the varying trends of the contemporary world. He said that this store will gain the trust of the public in providing quality, eco-friendly products with reasonable prices.

Sat Sharma expressed his delight and said that it is heartening that Pine Needles will now be used to make and supply everything from dental kits in Jammu hotels to trays for canteens and tableware for our households. He expressed hope that people will take up this product and have a pleasant experience. He wished successful future to Sourab Sharma, the owner of SS Enterprises in his eco-friendly endeavour, terming it as tremendously essential for sustainable future on Earth.

Seminar on immunity boosters through a Yogic Way of Life



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Vichar Kranti Manch International organized an insightful seminar on enhancing immunity through adopting a yogic lifestyle.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, was the keynote speaker. He highlighted how a disciplined yogic routine, incorporating practices such as pranayama, meditation, and a sattvic diet, can significantly strengthen the body's immune system.

Dr. Jain elaborated on the critical role of pranayama (breathing exer-

cises) in improving oxygenation, enhancing lung capacity, and reducing stress, which directly impacts immunity. He stressed that regular practice of Anulom-Vilom, Bhastrika, and Kapalhati pranayama helps purify the blood, improves circulation, and stimulates the lymphatic system, which is vital for fighting infections.

Further, Dr. Jain emphasized the importance of Asanas (yogic postures) such as Surya Namaskar and Bhujangasana, which not only improve physical flexibility but also enhance the functioning of vital organs like the heart, lungs, and digestive system. He advocated that consistent practice of such asanas

strengthens the immune response by boosting metabolism and eliminating toxins.

The chief guest, Mr. Vinod Mahajan, a reputed businessman, Manohar Khajuria, Former Director planning, presided over, he praised the initiative and shared his views on how a balanced yogic way of life could mitigate modern lifestyle diseases and promote overall well-being. The seminar witnessed active participation from prominent members, including Narinder Wadhera, a noted social activist, Manohar Khajuria, former Director of Planning, and Prerna Nanda, Shelja, Ajay Jamwal, Sajan and Vishal Kumar, who shared their insights on maintaining physical and mental health through yoga.

During the event, members congratulated Nitish Mahajan on his appointment as Trikuta Mandal President (BJP).

In honor of the occasion, Dr. Jain presented a meticulously prepared life sketch of Mr. Nitish, acknowledging his contributions to society and the community.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers for making the event a grand success. The session inspired attendees to adopt a yogic lifestyle for a healthier and more resilient life.

Indian Army Distributes Computers to Foster Digital Literacy in Gambir Mughlan, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In a progressive step toward fostering digital literacy and academic growth, the Indian Army distributed computers to students of three schools in Gambir Mughlan, Rajouri district. The event was held at Higher Senior Secondary School, Gambir Mughlan (02 computers), Government Middle School Kakora (02 computers), and Government High School Dhargloon (01 computer). This initiative aimed to integrate technology into education, enabling students to access digital resources and enhance their academic capabilities. The event emphasized the role of technology in shaping the future, urging students to utilize these tools for self-development and achieving excellence in education.

The distribution ceremony was not just about providing resources but also instilling a sense of pride and purpose in the students. A series of engaging activities were organized to celebrate patriotism and national pride.

Students delivered powerful speeches highlighting the invaluable role of the Indian Army in nation-building and safeguarding the country.

Study Tour to Enhance Planning and Monitoring of Development Works Concludes at Block Singhpora

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SINGHPORA, PATTAN:

In a bid to strengthen effective planning and monitoring of development works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Office of the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla organized a day-long study tour at block Singhpora. The tour, led by ACD Baramulla, Shabir Ahmad Hakak, witnessed the participation

of 10 Block Development Officers (BDOs), 22 Assistant Engineers (AEs), 9 Program Officers, and 26 Technical Assistants from all 26 blocks of the district. The visiting teams inspected a variety of development works carried out under MGNREGA, including children parks, playfields, roads and inner links, kitchen gardens, agricultural land development, eco-parks, irrigation channels (khuls), and other individual and community assets. Speaking during the event, ACD Shabir

Ahmad Hakak emphasized the importance of preparing a comprehensive Annual Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26, ensuring alignment with the aspirations of the local populace while focusing on sustainable asset creation.

He elaborated on the range of permissible works under MGNREGA and discussed strategies for effective planning and monitoring aimed at building durable assets and generating employment for the local population.

Satish Sharma calls on Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

Discusses initiatives to make J&K as sports hub in India

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Minister for FCS & CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology Science and Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, called on Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, in New Delhi and discussed issues related to overall development of J&K, especially Youth Services and Sports.

The Minister expressed heartfelt gratitude and admiration for the remarkable initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI.

Satish Sharma said that proactive efforts, unwavering commitment and consistent support being extended by the Ministry to Jammu and Kashmir has significantly bolstered the sports ecosystem in the region.

The Minister asserted that events/initiatives under various flagship programs like Khelo India have played a pivotal role in identifying and nurturing young talent. Besides, the projects to upgrade sports infrastructure have brought new hope and enthusiasm to the youth of



J&K.

Satish Sharma, further added that, Jammu and Kashmir with its unique geographical and cultural diversity, has immense talent across various sports disciplines. There is a significant sports potential and aspirations of youth of the region to excel in sports, which require enhanced infrastructure and focused developmental initiatives. He emphasised the pressing need for state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and implementation of central schemes to nurture the talent effectively.

The Minister urged for

establishing Khelo India centres and infrastructure support in the rural/border areas of J&K, SAI centres focussing on handball in Border/rural areas like Akhnoor, Rajouri, Poonch, Kupwara, promotion of adventure and winter sports across the famous destinations to utilise J&K's unique geography, augmentation of facilities at Gulmarg and other potential hubs like Sonamarg, Pahalgam and snowfall bound parts of Jammu province for winter sports to attract national and international events.

Satish Sharma also

brought attention of Union Minister towards some important measures like high performance coaches to support football, wrestling, table tennis, water sports, hockey, implementation of scheme as given to north east for equipment under peace and development initiative, special focus on talent identification by conducting Khelo India Talent Identification Camps in remote areas to ensure inclusivity and tap into untapped potential, introducing skill development programs for coaches, trainers and sports administrators to ensure professional management to enhance the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Minister listened to all the issues and demands put forth by Satish Sharma and assured to consider them for prompt action.

He said that Centre government is committed to provide better sports infrastructure and modern facilities in the UT. He assured unwavering support from the Ministry for brighter future of the youth of J&K through sports.

Ceilometer Lidar Observatory established at Central University of Jammu



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, inaugurated the Ceilometer Lidar Observatory in the university campus today. This state-of-the-art facility has been established in collaboration with Physical Research Laboratory, Department of Space, Government of India, Ahmedabad (PRL) as a part of PRL's ambitious Indian Lidar Network (ILIN) Program. While inaugurating the observatory, Prof. Jain congratulated the Atmospheric Science Research Group of Department of Environmental Sciences, CU Jammu and Space and Atmospheric Sciences Division, of PRL for setting up this unique facility which is first of its kind in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized upon the importance of atmospheric and climate science research particularly for the Jammu & Kashmir region and encouraged the stakeholders to conduct research for societal good and sustainable Himalayan environment. He also extended full support for strengthening this collaboration for further augmenting the already existing advanced instrumentation facilities for Atmospheric Science Research in Central University of Jammu.

Prof. Som Kumar Sharma, Deputy Head, Space and Atmospheric Sciences Division, PRL, Ahmedabad led the delegation from PRL. He apprised that under this ILIN program, several Lidar laboratories are being set-up, covering different regions of India. These Lidar laboratories will focus on the investigation of the Atmospheric Cloud Characteristics, Atmospheric Boundary Layer Dynamics, and other Atmospheric Processes. Dr. Ankit Tandon, Nodal Faculty for Ceilometer Lidar Observatory at CU Jammu shared that the primary objectives of this observatory includes Long-Term Real-Time Monitoring of Cloud Layers Height and Cloud Vertical Structure, Understanding Atmospheric Boundary Layer Dynamics, Studying Rain Droplets Size Distribution and other Rain Characteristics and Real-Time Monitoring of major Weather Parameters, covering the Jammu Region of North-Western Himalayas.

Deptt of Journalism & Media Studies JU, conducts skill training program for Udhampur Students

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu organized a Hands-on Skill Training program for students of PM Shri Higher Secondary School, Chowki Jandore, Udhampur. The program aimed to introduce students to the evolving field of journalism while emphasizing the significance of skill development in shaping their future careers. During the program, the Head of the Department, Prof. Garima Gupta, enlightened the students about the growing opportunities in journalism and stressed the importance of developing essential skills.

"This initiative is designed to stimulate curiosity and provide the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions as students' progress in their academic journey and future careers," Prof. Gupta said.

The session was followed by a visit to the Department's Multimedia Lab, where students gained hands-on experience in applying their learning to real-world scenarios under the guidance of Dr Pardeep Bali. The interactive environment allowed participants to better understand the practical applications of journalistic skills.

Indian Army Distributes Sewing Machines to Families of Gujjars and Bakarwals in Darhal, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In a commendable demonstration of goodwill and community outreach, the Indian Army distributed 20 sewing machines to needy families belonging to the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in the Darhal area of Rajouri district.

This noble initiative, part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to foster harmony and support the local population, highlights the humanitarian role played by the armed forces beyond their traditional duties.

The program was designed to address the specific challenges faced

by women in the higher reaches of Darhal. Due to the remote locations and lack of nearby tailoring services, women often had to travel long distances to Darhal market to have their daily clothing stitched. Recognizing this difficulty, the Indian Army took the initiative to distribute sewing machines, particularly to women residing in these isolated areas.

Special consideration was given to include differently-abled women in this outreach, ensuring that the benefits reached those most in need.

The distribution of sewing machines was conducted at the doorsteps of the recipients, emphasizing the Army's commitment to

reaching even the most inaccessible parts of the region. This thoughtful gesture not only provides a means for self-reliance and livelihood but also empowers women by enabling them to contribute to their households.

The initiative was met with heartfelt appreciation from the local community, including the village sarpanches and elders. The recipients expressed their gratitude for the Indian Army's thoughtful effort, which directly addresses a pressing need in their daily lives. By facilitating access to sewing machines, the Army has taken a step towards reducing hardships and improving the quality of life for these families.

Such goodwill gestures by the Indian Army go a long way in building bridges of trust and reinforcing the spirit of unity between the local populace, or "Awam," and the armed forces.

The effort also strengthens the Army's role as a key contributor to community welfare, beyond its primary responsibility of ensuring security in the region.

The sewing machine distribution program is a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to addressing the unique challenges faced by remote and marginalized communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

By fostering trust and goodwill, the Army continues to uphold its commitment to regional development, social harmony, and national integration.

Chugh, Sat pay tributes to Shaheed Bhikhm Singh, Shaheed Bihari Lal at Hiranagar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Hiranagar: BJP organized a tribute ceremony on the martyrdom day of Shaheed Bhikhm Singh Ji and Shaheed Bihari Lal Ji on their Samadhi Sthal at Hiranagar.

Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary, BJP & Prabhari J&K BJP, Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Shrikant Sharma, Observer for Organizational elections of J&K BJP, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal General Secretary J&K BJP & MLA, Dr Bharat Bhushan, Vijay Sharma, & Rajiv Jasrotia, MLAs, Gopal Mahajan, District President, Th Ranjit Singh, DDCs, BDCs and other senior leaders of the party paid floral tributes to the martyrs. Union

Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh also addressed the program virtually.

Tarun Chugh, while paying floral tributes to the martyrs, embarked upon the commitment of Modi government to strengthen the nation. He said Modi government won't let anyone disturb the peace and progress in J&K as Praja Parishad, Jana Sangha and BJP were born with the principle of 'Nation First'

"BJP is indebted to all the martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the nation. We won a small war on 5th August, and have to keep fighting a long battle to fulfil the vision of Thakur Baldev Singh, and Prem Nath Dogra, and to realize the sacrifice of Shyama Prasad Mookherjee. 28 MLAs are the guardians of ide-

ology to save J&K. The 3 families of Nehru, Abdullah, Mufti crusaded for self-rule, but J&K will remain integral part of India till the last breath of last BJP activist, he said.

He condemned former CM of UP Akhilesh on questioning the status of PoJK and those who warned of a 'river of blood' on 370. He also quoted Ruhulla for his utterances on the repetition of 1947, and 1990. The Modi government won't allow such mischief, Chugh said.

"The spark of 'Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan' was ignited in Hiranagar, when they used bullets to silence 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and wouldn't allow 'Tiranga' to be flown. Negative role of Pt Nehru in conspiring against Jammu & India and favoring Sheikh Abdullah and subsequent betrayals are known to all", he said.

Sat Sharma, in his tributes to tribute to the martyrs of 1953, Shaheed Bihari Lal Ji and Shaheed Bhikhm Singh ji, said that the Jammu region has never bowed before the tyrants. He said that Jammu has a rich history of sacrifices and the valor for the soil and the principles. He said that these martyrs have stood as the role model for generations and the BJP is principally committed to carrying these virtues in the letter and spirit working on the principle of 'the Nation First' policy.

J&K's development, welfare is prime concern of present govt: Javed Rana

Assesses development needs of locals of Bathindi Inspects restoration process of tube well at Karyani Talab



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today visited several places in Bathindi to assess the development needs of the locals.

He was accompanied by MLA Vikram Randhawa besides officers from Jal Shakti and Forest, Ecology & Environment departments.

During his visit to the area, Javed Rana interacted with the locals and listened to their issues and concerns. While speaking with the locals, the Minister said that tremendous development and welfare of people of J&K is prime concern and the only priority for the Omar Abdullah led government.

"Safeguarding people's interest is the main motto of our government and we are duty bound for their welfare," maintained the Minister. He said that the purpose of his visit was to assess the ground level development status of the area so that the planning is done accordingly.

Locals raised several issues including regular water supply, upgradation of roads in their locality, improvement in sanitation facilities besides other matters.

IIM Jammu successfully concludes second module of Life Insurance Professional Program



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu), under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, successfully concluded the Second Module of the Life Insurance Professional Program

(Management Development Programme) for PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited. The valedictory ceremony, held on 12th January 2024 at the Kautilya Block of IIM Jammu's permanent campus in Jagti, marked the culmination of a transformative journey designed to enhance managerial expertise

among life insurance professionals. The event was graced by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu; Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Program Director and Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu; Dr. Baljeet Singh, Program Director, IIM Jammu; Shri Rajesh Verma, Senior Regional Head, Jammu and Kashmir, PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd.; Shri Amit Sharma, Regional Training Manager, PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd. and other officials of both organizations. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized the value of industry engagement on campus and highlighted the valedictory as a starting point for transformative journeys. He encouraged participants to reflect on key takeaways, implement insights for organizational growth, and reconstruct their professional paths. He also thanked the program directors and faculty for co-creating a rich learning experience. Shri Rajesh Verma, Senior

Satish Sharma attends 2nd meeting of IWDC at Kaziranga, Assam

J&K gets special projects for waterways, urban water transportation for tourism



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU ASSAM:

Minister for FCS & CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma today attended the 2nd meeting of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) being organised by Inland Waterways Authority of India under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways at Kaziranga, Assam.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal presided over the event in presence of MoS Shantanu Thakur, Chief Minister Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma besides Ministers from States and senior officials.

During the event, the Ministry announced various development projects for Jammu and Kashmir including jetties for river cruise tourism and urban water transportation ecosystem in River Jhelum, repair of Chhatabal weir for proper navigation and operationalization of River Chenab and River Ravi for waterway tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Satish Sharma expressed gratitude for inviting him and blessing J&K with special projects.

Shivali Sharma meets LG Sinha, raises key issues for Rajouri. Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU HIRANAGAR:

Shivali Sharma, District Convener of the Press Core Council, JK-UT, who is actively working to address societal concerns and promote social awareness under Article 51A of the Constitution of India, met Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Sh. Manoj Kumar Sinha. During the meeting, she appreciated the Hon'ble LG for his visionary gov-

ernance, public-friendly approach, and dedication to the welfare of the people. She also conveyed her gratitude on behalf of the residents of Rajouri and Poonch for various developmental initiatives, including granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to deserving communities. Ms. Sharma highlighted the need to bring the ancient Veerbhadreshwar and Rishiwah temples, located in Block Doongi, onto the religious pilgrimage and tourism map. She

emphasized that such recognition would not only preserve the cultural heritage of the region but also boost its economic development. She further pointed out the long-pending establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Block Doongi, which was sanctioned in 2019 but remains non-operational. She raised concerns about young children from the area being forced to travel over 100 kilometers daily to access quality education in Rajouri town.

Convey BJP's message, PM's vision to grassroots level: Pawan Sharma to party workers



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

Senior BJP leader and Incharge returning officer for Poonch district, Pawan Sharma, addressing party workers following the election of BJP Mandal Presidents for District Poonch, exhorted them to work tirelessly and with dedication to convey the BJP's message and the Prime Minister's vision to the grassroots level, ensuring the party's triumph in future elections and consolidating BJP's position as the preeminent political force in Poonch.

He expressed gratitude for the support extended by the people of Poonch to the BJP during the recently held assembly elections, which led to a significant rise in the party's vote share. Nevertheless, he stressed the importance of introspection to convert this support into electoral

victories.

Discussing the future prospects of Poonch district, Sharma highlighted the significant untapped potential of religious tourism, urging the Jammu and Kashmir government to focus on its development.

He pointed out the presence of world-renowned pilgrimage sites of various religions in the district, including Dashnami akhara, Nangali Sahib, Gurudwara Dherisab Chakan Da Bag, Ziarat Sain Baba Miran Sahib (Gunthrian), Ziarat of Chote Shah (Mendhar), Ram Kund, Lohar Devta Mandir, Baba Budha Amarnath, and Navgreh Mandir.

He pointed out that Poonch district also possesses considerable potential for eco and nature tourism, featuring majestic snow-capped mountains, serene lakes, meandering streams, lush forests, and historical monuments. Notable tourist

attractions in the region include: Noori Chamb, Nandishool, Beram Galla, Dera Gali, Girjan Valley, Dhoks and Seven Lakes: Neel Sar, Bag Sar, Katoria Sar, Nandan Sar, Gunn Sar, Sukh Sar, and Kaldashni Sar (situated at an altitude of 12,000 feet) Sharma stressed that the government should prioritize the development of infrastructure and all-weather road connectivity to these destinations, which he is convinced will have a profound impact on Poonch's socio-economic landscape by providing employment opportunities for local youth.

Sharma highlighted the district's strategic location as a border area and strongly requested the government to enhance the security grid in Poonch to ensure peace, stability, and the safety of its residents. He stressed the significance of robust security measures to facilitate development and tourism in the region.

He also stressed the smooth implementation of centrally sponsored schemes in sectors such as Jal Shakti, roads, and electricity in Poonch. He reiterated BJP's pledge to improve the road network and attain rail connectivity in the region, which is currently under active consideration and expected to be realized soon.

Sharma acknowledged the BJP government's accomplishment of granting ST status to the Pahari community, a long-pending demand and notable achievement.

Lok Sabha MP enlightens J&K MLAs during orientation program at LA, Jammu



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

In continuation to 3 day orientation program for newly elected MLAs, MP Lok Sabha, N K Premachandran, today shared his experiences with the Legislators of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing upon them to deeply understand the rules pertaining to the Legislative and Financial Business. Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, legislators, dignitaries were also present during the second day orientation program. Detailed discussions were also held on the legislative process including Private Members Bill and Financial Business including Demand for Grants.

Premachandran thoroughly explained the basic concept of the legislature.

In the second session, Joint Secretary, Santosh Kumar gave presentation on "Executive Accountability through Questions in Legislature". He also gave details on other aspects including Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Short Notice Question (SNQ), Question to a Private Member, Notice and Examination of Question etc. Director, Lok Sabha, Partha Goswami, highlighted the objectives of Executive Accountability through Questions and other Devices in a legislatures. He also elaborated the role of Speaker during the proceedings.

Director, PRIDE Lok Sabha Secretariat, P K Mallick, gave lecture on Information Management in the Legislature. He also gave details and overview about Functions and Responsibilities of Information Management, Information Resources and Knowledge Management, Serving the Informational Needs of Parliamentarians etc.

The Legislators also raised their queries regarding Legislation and threadbare discussion was held during the session.

Ayodhya chairs "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyaan" Programmes Meeting



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU AKHNOOR:

Ayodhya Gupta, Secretary, J&K BJP and Co-Convenor of the party's "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan," chaired an organizational meeting in Akhnoor district at BJP office Akhnoor. Rajeev Sharma, BJP District President & former MLA, Krishan Lal Bhagat, former MLA. The presence of these prominent leaders underscores the importance of the meeting in strengthening the party's presence in the region and mobilizing support for the ongoing "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan." While addressing the meeting, Ayodhya discussed key party initiatives, including the constitutional awareness campaign, and laid out strategies for reaching out to the local population. He said that their leadership roles in the meeting would be critical for coordinating party activities, engaging with grassroots workers, and ensuring the effective dissemination of the campaign's message of constitutional pride and awareness. Ayodhya also said that the "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan" aims to educate citizens about the Indian Constitution, highlighting its significance and fostering pride in the democratic values it enshrines. He also outlined the upcoming activities under the initiative, including constituency-level public meetings involving local MLAs, district teams, and SC Morcha leaders, with state leaders serving as keynote speakers.

Road Safety Month: Free Medical Camp held for Driver Community at Ramban

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAMBAN:

As part of the ongoing Road Safety Month, the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD), Ramban, in collaboration with the Health Department, organized a free medical camp exclusively for the driver community under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary.

The camp, held at Koubagh Ground, Ramban, focused on promoting the health and well-being of

drivers, who play a vital role in ensuring road safety. Medical professionals conducted comprehensive health check-ups, including blood pressure and blood sugar tests, and provided free consultations. Additionally, necessary medications were distributed to attendees at no cost.

Addressing the gathering, ARTO Ramban, Sheetal Sharma, highlighted the importance of the initiative, stating, "Road safety begins with healthy and alert drivers.

Through this medical camp, we

aim to support their health and encourage a safer driving environment for all."

The event witnessed the active participation of over 180 drivers and conductors, who expressed gratitude for the effort to address their health concerns as part of Road Safety Month.

The ARTO further reiterated the commitment of the Motor Vehicle Department to organize similar initiatives in the future to improve driver health and contribute to safer roads in the district.

ADGP Jammu Felicitates SPO Manpreet for Winning Silver at National Strength-Lifting Championship

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, IPS, today felicitated SPO Manpreet of Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ), Jammu, for his remarkable performance at the 34th National Strength Lifting and Inclined Bench Press (IBP) Championship held in Loharu, Haryana. Manpreet clinched a silver medal in the prestigious event, showcasing his dedication and exceptional talent.

The felicitation ceremony was held at ZPHQ Jammu, where the ADGP



presented a memento to Manpreet, commending his hard work and encouraging him to continue excelling in sports and other fields. Anand Jain emphasized that such

achievements by police personnel serve as a source of inspiration for the youth and reflect the dedication of the police force to excel in multiple spheres beyond their pro-

fessional duties. "The Jammu and Kashmir Police department is committed to supporting its personnel who excel in extracurricular activities and contribute positively to society," the ADGP stated during the event. The championship, organized by the Haryana Strength Lifting Association, witnessed participants from across the country competing in various categories. The accomplishment of SPO Manpreet highlights the spirit of perseverance and commitment, bringing laurels to the Jammu and Kashmir Police. SO to ADGP Jammu Zone was also present on the occasion.

Driving Skill Tests to be conducted at Driving Training Institute Khaink from Jan 14, 2025: RTO Jammu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra today announced that the driving skill tests, which are currently being conducted at Khanpur Nagrota, will be shifted to Institute of Driving Training & Research (IDTR) at Khaink, Kot Bhalwal from January 14, 2025.

Addressing a press conference here today, the RTO emphasized that the IDTR is a state-of-the-art facility established by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). It



features six specialized testing tracks designed as per the mandates outlined in the Central Motor Vehicle (CMV) Rules. The RTO further informed that the slot booking process for driving tests is entirely

online and facilitated through the Sarathi portal. "Applicants are encouraged to book their test slots online at their convenience, based on availability" he added.

He also highlighted that

the driving tests at IDTR will be conducted under the surveillance of video cameras, ensuring transparency and fairness. The video recordings will be stored for 90 days for any review or dispute resolution purposes.

The Regional Transport Officer Jammu appealed to the general public to avail 58 services offered by the Transport Department from the comfort of their home.

He encouraged applicants to access these services independently through the official portals without seeking assistance from intermediaries.

Indian Army Organizes Motivational Lecture by Gallantry Awardee at Parat, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In an inspiring initiative, the Indian Army conducted a motivational lecture at Government Higher Secondary School, Parat, delivered by Hony Capt Swaran Singh, VrC. The event aimed to ignite a spirit of patriotism and leadership among the youth and local community by sharing real-life examples of bravery, resilience, and dedication.

Hony Capt Swaran Singh, a decorated war hero and recipient of the Vir Chakra, captivated the audience with his firsthand accounts of valor and sacrifice exhibited by the Indian Army during wars and critical operations. His stories highlighted the courage and determination of soldiers in safeguarding the nation, leaving a lasting impression on the attendees.

During his address, he emphasized the importance of hoisting the national flag at every home, symbolizing unity, pride, and patriotism. This call to action resonated deeply with the audience, creating an atmosphere charged with national pride.

The lecture not only motivated the students but also served as a reminder to the community about the dedication and sacrifices of the armed forces in ensuring the country's security.

The event was well-received, with 80 students and 12 teachers from Government Higher Secondary School, Parat, in attendance.

The interactive session provided a platform for students to engage with the veteran, ask questions, and draw inspiration from his experiences.

The program also aimed to encourage the youth to consider a career in the armed forces, fostering a sense of responsibility and service to the nation.

Such motivational lectures by gallantry awardees play a significant role in shaping the outlook of young minds, instilling qualities of discipline, leadership, and patriotism. They also serve as a bridge between the armed forces and the local population, reinforcing mutual respect and cooperation.

The Indian Army's initiative to organize this event underscores its commitment to engaging with communities and nurturing the next generation of responsible citizens. The event concluded with a renewed sense of unity and a collective pledge to support the nation and its security forces.

DC Jammu, Mission Director JJM, review progress of Jal Jeevan Mission works

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah today conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing JJM projects in district Jammu.

During the meeting, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Jammu, Bodhraj Bhagat briefed the officers about the progress in implementing JJM. A detailed presentation on the ongoing schemes and targets set for completion by March 2025 was also delivered.

Addressing the house, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Executive Engineers and Junior Engineers to resolve site-specific issues promptly and expedite works to adhere to stipulated deadlines.

The Mission Director stressed the urgency of completing all pending



schemes and achieving 100% "Har Ghar Jal" certification for covered villages.

He emphasised the importance of ensuring timely execution to meet the mission's goals.

Key directives were issued to fast-track the drilling of tubewells, procurement and installation of machinery, construction of overhead tanks, pump rooms and pipe-laying activities.

He urged all stakeholders to work

diligently to achieve the set targets and ensure smooth implementation of JJM in district Jammu.

The review meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer Mechanical Urban Circle Jammu, Sunil Gandotra; AEE Mohinder Manhas; consultants (Civil and Mechanical); Executive Engineers; Assistant Executive Engineers; Junior Engineers (Civil and Mechanical); DPMU Jammu officials and TPI representatives.

Financial literacy camp held at Haila in Gumdi-Dharam Block

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

A Financial Awareness Program was successfully organized at Haila Dharam in Block Gundi-Dharam by the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL) in collaboration with SBI RSETI Ramban. The event, attended by 50 participants, aimed to promote awareness about key financial inclusion schemes launched by the Government of India.

Led by Director SBI RSETI Harvinder Singh, the session introduced flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). Participants were educat-



ed about the benefits of these schemes, including universal banking access, life and accident insurance coverage and pension security for retirement.

Addressing the attendees, the Director emphasized the transformative potential of financial litera-

cy in ensuring economic empowerment. He highlighted the importance of these schemes in mitigating financial risks and building a secure future for rural families.

Interactive sessions provided detailed guidance on enrollment processes, eli-

gibility criteria, and scheme benefits. CFL representatives offered on-the-spot assistance, enabling participants to register for the programs.

The Director remarked, "Financial awareness is the first step towards financial empowerment. Programs like this enable individuals to access government initiatives that ensure a safer and more secure future."

The participants expressed gratitude for the insightful session and pledged to share the knowledge within their communities.

This initiative by CFL and SBI RSETI Ramban underscores their commitment to financial inclusion, rural development, and empowering individuals to secure their financial well-being.

LBDBCC holds public outreach program at Akhnoor

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Jammu & Kashmir Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission (LBDBCC) chaired by Justice (Retd.) Janak Raj Kotwal and its Members, R.K. Bhagat IAS (Retd) and Professor M. S. Bhadwal, on Friday visited Block Akhnoor in District Jammu as a part of their outreach initiative.

The Commission met with the stakeholders from different panchayats and surrounding blocks to assess the implications of backwardness among OBCs in direct elections to the local bodies.

The Commission was apprised by the delegations about the problems faced by the OBC community in getting representation in the local bodies and the circumstances that prevent them in getting elected to the rural local bodies.

The delegations expressed their concern about the absence of a comprehensive census of OBC classes so far and stressed that the OBC classes survey should be done in light of more castes that have been included in 2024. The Commission gave a patient hearing to the views and grievances of the delegations and, assured to accord consideration to their concerns.

Swapping trains at Katra will ensure safety: CM Omar Abdullah

Hits Gulmarg ski slopes says will mend tracks in summer Z&Morh Tunnel will open news avenues make commuting easy



WARIS FAYAZ SRINAGAR:

Terming security of passengers as a priority Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said that people should not object to swapping trains at Katra Railway Station if it ensures their safety.

Talking to reporters the Chief Minister according to the news agency said. "If there are security concerns then I don't think there should be any objections- After all whosoever travels by train wishes for their safety and security and so do we."

Omar said that until the region achieves complete normalcy such measures should be acceptable- If it's to avert any threat then it's fine- At the end of the day safety must come first he said adding that it's

ultimately up to the railway authorities to decide and I hope whatever decision they take is made keeping the people in mind.

HITS SKI SLOPES IN GULMARG

Omar an avid skier after hitting the ski slopes in Gulmarg said though snowfall is less this season it's still good- We need more snow for better skiing experiences but for now we'll work on mending the ski tracks during the summer.

The Chief Minister pointed out the untapped skiing potential of other destinations like Sonamarg and Dodpathri- While Sonamarg has great scope for skiing Dodpathri too could be utilized for other activities- We've engaged a consultant to assess and suggest the best activities for each location he added.

Omar said that the setting up of a convention center in Gulmarg would

attract international conferences and meetings- We lacked a convention center here but now we'll have one- This will not only bring national leaders but also position Gulmarg as a prime international destination for events- It's going to be a significant asset for the region he stated.

Inviting tourists to Kashmir Omar encouraged them to experience the Valley's unmatched hospitality and scenic beauty- We hope they leave with unforgettable memories he said.

Z&MORH TUNNEL WILL OPEN NEW AVENUES

The Chief Minister said that long awaited Z&Morh Tunnel would open new avenues for the people living near Sonamarg and would make commuting easy on Srinagar&Leh National Highway.

He extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will be visiting J&K tomorrow to inaugurate the Z&Morh Tunnel- This tunnel will open new vistas- We are now eagerly awaiting the completion of the Zojila Tunnel which will further enhance connectivity in a few years he said.

The Chief Minister also stressed on the importance of improving infrastructure to meet international standards- To host international events we need to upgrade our ski slopes and infrastructure- This is essential for Kashmir to stand out on the global tourism map he noted.

Rajouri: Hi-Tech Ply Green House established at Village Saranoo under HADP

DC pushes for achieving maximum coverage under flagship schemes



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAJOURI:

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa today visited Village Saranoo in Block Dhangri to inspect the Hi-Tech Ply Green House established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The inspection was carried out with a team from the Agriculture Department to review the field-level implementation of HADP initiatives. During the visit, the DC interacted with progressive farmers of the area, emphasizing the importance of utilizing government schemes to enhance agricultural productivity. He issued instructions for the on boarding of all beneficiaries under HADP on the Daksh Kissan portal to ensure specific training related to various projects.

"This will enable farmers to fully reap the benefits of the scheme and empower them with the knowledge required for its effective implementation," said Mr. Sharma. The Deputy Commissioner urged all stakeholders to actively encourage participation and ensure widespread awareness about the schemes offered under HADP to maximize its outreach.

He reiterated the District Administration's commitment to promoting agriculture and allied sectors through HADP and other flagship schemes, aiming to improve the economic prospects of farmers and entrepreneurs in the region. Mr. Sharma also directed the accompanying officers to focus on projects that have a direct impact on enhancing agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

He stressed the importance of adopting innovative solutions and ensuring the timely implementation of schemes to address the needs of the farming community effectively.

Surya Kiran 18: Strengthening Indo-Nepal Defence Partnership

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The 18th edition of the Indo-Nepal Joint Exercise Surya Kiran is currently underway in Nepal, reinforcing the robust and long-standing partnership between the Indian and Nepalese armies. This military exercise is a symbol of the shared commitment of both nations to regional peace, mutual cooperation, and military excellence.

Surya Kiran 18 primarily focuses on honing counterterrorism skills and enhancing the ability of troops to operate in challenging terrains. Soldiers from both nations are participating in a range of demanding drills designed to prepare them for modern combat scenarios. These drills include jungle survival tactics, combat first aid, ambush planning, and execution, as well as heliborne operations for swift troop movement and supply in remote areas. A key feature of the exercise is urban warfare training, where participants practice close-quarter combat, room-clearing operations, and tactical maneuvers in confined spaces. This aspect is particularly relevant in the evolving landscape of modern warfare, where urban combat has become increasingly significant.

Additionally, lane training sessions simulate real-world tactical challenges, providing troops with practical exposure to situations they may encounter in the field.

Central University of Jammu Organizes 10-Day "Yuva Shakti Mahotsav"

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Department of Educational Studies, in collaboration with the Dean of Students Welfare, launched the inaugural session of the 10-day "Yuva Shakti Mahotsav" at the Malviya Shiksha Bhavan, Central University of Jammu. The event was held under the esteemed patronage of Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Dr. Kiran, Convener of the Co-curricular Committee, outlined the structure of the programme, which will unfold in several stages: Baahu Shakti, Mann Shakti, and Kala Shakti leading up to 26th January 2024.

The event was chaired by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students Welfare and Prof. Uday Pratap Singh, Associate Dean Academics, both of whom shared insightful perspectives on youth empowerment.

Prof. Uday Pratap Singh was the guest of honour in the inaugural address. He emphasized the importance of empowering young minds through innovation and skill-based



education. He further highlighted the value of spiritual intelligence, advocating for its role in youth development, and encouraged students to study the teachings of Swami Vivekananda to inspire a spirit of awakening within them.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi spoke about the significant role of youth in societal development, urging students to be mindful of their responsibilities to help strengthen the nation. She stressed that the energy and potential of youth should be properly channelized into various fields, boosting creativity, knowledge, and innovation. Prof. J.N. Baliya echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that

youth is the cornerstone of society and national progress. He encouraged students to discover and nurture their inner talents for their personal growth and the development of the nation.

The session was coordinated by Dr. Kiran, whose efforts ensured smooth organization and enthusiastic participation. The event concluded with a special vote of thanks by Mr. Arvind Kumar, who expressed gratitude to all the faculty members, research scholars, and students for their contributions. Dr. Aman, Dr. Sanjay, Dr. Arushi, Dr. Disha, and Dr. Shivali were also present during the session.