

The Kashmir Talk

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PM Modi Hails GatiShakti as a Game-Changer for India's Infrastructure

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure and is driving faster and more efficient development across sectors.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) was launched on October 13, 2021 for providing multi-modal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones. PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development which is driven by seven engines – railway, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure. In a post on X, Modi said, "PM GatiShakti National



Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure. It has significantly enhanced multi-modal connectivity, driving faster and more efficient development across sectors."

Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure. It has significantly enhanced multi-modal connectivity, driving faster and more efficient development across sectors."

The seamless integration of various stakeholders has led to boosting logistics, reducing delays and creating new opportunities for several people, Modi said. "Thanks to GatiShakti, India is adding speed to fulfil our vision of a Viksit Bharat. It will encourage progress, entrepreneurship and innovation," the prime minister said. Modi tagged Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal's post in which he had lauded the GatiShakti initiative on completion of three years. "Today marks 3 years since the launch of the PM GatiShakti

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Rajnath Singh virtually dedicates 13 infra projects to J&K



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, today virtually dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of Rs 2,236 crore.

Of these, 19 are in Jammu & Kashmir. In his address, Raksha Mantri termed the projects as a testament to the Government's unwavering resolve to keep strengthening the border infrastructure and ensuring socio-economic progress of these areas. The Lieutenant Governor, J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble

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More Health Packages Focused On Elderly Care Likely To Be Added To AB-PMJAY



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

The National Health Authority, the implementing agency for the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), is assessing the need to add more health packages catering to the elderly as the government is set to roll out the

health coverage for all aged 70 years and above.

The expanded scheme, which will benefit an estimated six crore citizens in about 4.5 crore households, is likely to be launched by the end of this month, official sources said.

"The committee which decides on health-benefit packages under the scheme is deliberating on

the need for adding more health packages, which exclusively tend to geriatric care, as the number of such beneficiaries will go up with the launch of the scheme," an official source said.

The scheme presently offers a comprehensive coverage that includes 1,949 medical procedures across 27 medical specialties, such as general medicine, surgery, oncology and cardiology.

Hospital services, including drugs (covering 15 days' medication post-discharge), diagnostics (up to three days before admission), food and lodging, are provided at no cost to the beneficiaries. "The admissions necessitated due to

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BRO Infra Projects will be economic lifeline for far-flung areas: LG Sinha

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha flagged off the 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally, organised by Indian Air Force in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand War Memorial. Interacting with the Air Warriors at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor extended his felicitations and conveyed best wishes to all participants of the car rally.

"Indian Air Force has the proud legacy of valour, courage and sacrifice. Serving the nation and its people in difficult circumstances is in the DNA of Indian Air Force," the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor also lauded



the significant role played by the IAF in times of war, rescue operations and natural calamities. Enroute Air Warriors will address the local youths in various universities and colleges and inspire them to join armed forces.

"The nation is grateful to the armed forces for ensuring a more secure and peaceful environment to enable India's

speedy march towards all-round progress and prosperity," the Lt Governor said.

He further highlighted that in the last 10 years, infrastructure and connectivity of border areas has been strengthened under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Earlier, to mark the 92nd

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J&K Assembly Polls : At Least 13 New MLAs From Political Families

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

At least 13 newly elected MLAs in Jammu and Kashmir come from political families whose members have won or contested elections in the past, with the National Conference accounting for the maximum number of such legislators.

The National Conference, which has emerged as the single largest party in the assembly elections, is said

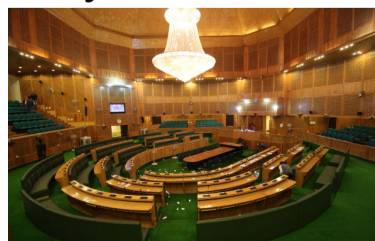
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Over 70% Of 90 Newly-Elected MLAs In J&K Graduates

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

More than 70 per cent of the 90 MLAs elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly have declared their minimum educational qualification as graduates, including three who hold doctorate degrees.

According to data compiled by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), all three doctorate degree holders who emerged victo-



rious in the recently-held Assembly polls belong to the BJP, which also has six graduates with professional degrees and four post-

graduate MLAs. The National Conference (NC), which emerged as the single-largest party in the polls with 42 seats, has 16 graduates with professional degrees and five post-graduates in their legislature party.

While eight MLAs from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have declared matriculation as their highest educational qualification, the number of such MLAs in

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PM Modi Hails ...

National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity by PM Narendra Modi ji. By streamlining logistics and advancing connectivity, this path-breaking initiative ensures faster and more efficient project implementation," Goyal said. It continues to play a pivotal role in developing a modern, interconnected infrastructure network, strengthening the vision of building a Viksit Bharat, he said.

Rajnath Singh virtually...

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh; BRO, BEA-CON, SAMPARK and everyone associated with the construction of the important roads and bridges in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

These infrastructures are strategically vital for both the Army and Civil Administration and will prove to be an economic lifeline for the people in far-flung areas, he said.

"In the last few years, the road infrastructure and connectivity in Jammu Kashmir, especially in areas of strategic importance have been transformed. This reflects the commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards inclusive and equitable development across Jammu Kashmir and ensuring 'last mile connectivity'," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said the much-awaited road and bridge projects inaugurated today will have a positive impact on the border tourism, creation of new employment opportunities, bringing economic prosperity in the society and enhancing quality of life in forward areas. These projects will improve operational capacity of the Indian Army and boost mobility and logistics support for the troops, he added.

The Lt Governor also lauded the important contribution of Border Roads Organisation to the socio-economic transformation and national integration in the border areas.

The road and bridges of J&K inaugurated today includes Mohura Baaz road; Tutmarigali Kaiyan Bowl road; Gurai Bridge, Bandipora-Gurez road; Garjun Bridge Tutmarigali Base to Top; Niru Nar, Dawar-Niru-Baraub-Chakwali-Kaobal Gali road; Bishnah-Kaulpur-Khojpur road; Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Galhar-Sansari road; Swan bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Sanu bridge, Domel-Jindra-Kharta road; Naigarh bridge, Dul-Galhar road; Channani bridge, Domel-Jindra-Kharta road; Natio bridge, Galhar-Sansari road; Kogra Bridge, Domel-Jindra-Kharta road; Biyalu bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Dersu bridge, Dhar -Udhampur road and Sewa-II bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road.

More Health Packages...

certain mental-health conditions, such as Alzheimer's and dementia, are also covered under the current scheme," the source said.

Be it the poor, middle class, upper-middle class or rich, every individual aged 70 years or above is eligible to receive the Ayushman card and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh at any of the AB-PMJAY-empanelled hospital once the expanded scheme is launched.

Till September 1, a total of 29,648 hospitals, including 12,696 private ones, were empanelled under the scheme, which is currently being implemented in 33 states and Union territories, except for Delhi, Odisha and West Bengal.

Anyone aged 70 or above according to the person's Aadhaar card will be eligible for applying under the scheme, another official source said. It is an application-based scheme and people will need to register on the PMJAY portal or the Ayushman app, the sources said.

"Those already having the Ayushman card will be needed to apply again for a new card and complete their eKYC again," the source said. Senior citizens

aged 70 years and above and belonging to families already covered under AB-PMJAY will get an additional top-up cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per year for themselves, which they do not have to share with other family members below the age of 70 years.

Senior citizens aged 70 years and above who are under private health insurance policies or the Employees' State Insurance scheme will also be eligible to avail benefits under the scheme, officials had said earlier.

However, those already availing benefits of other public health-insurance schemes, such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB-PMJAY.

The scheme has covered 7.37 crore hospital admissions, including 49 per cent women beneficiaries. The public has benefitted to the extent of over Rs 1 lakh crore under the scheme, the health ministry had said earlier.

The AB-PMJAY scheme has witnessed continuous expansion of the beneficiary base, it had said, adding that initially, 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families comprising the bottom 40 per cent of India's population were covered under the scheme.

In January 2022, the Union Government revised the beneficiary base from 10.74 crore to 12 crore families, considering India's decadal population growth of 11.7 per cent over the 2011 population.

The scheme was further expanded to cover 37 lakh ASHAs, AWWs and AWHs working across the country and their families for free healthcare benefits.

BRO Infra Projects...

anniversary of Indian Air Force, Hon'ble Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh gave warm send-off to 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally from National War Memorial, New Delhi. The Adventure Cell of IAF is leading and coordinating the rally.

Over 50 air warriors, who are undertaking an expedition from Thoise in Ladakh to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, covering a total of 7,000 kms, will raise awareness among the people about the glorious history of IAF and inspire the youth to join the armed forces.

The formal flag-off took place from Thoise, which is one of the world's highest altitude air force stations at 3,068m above mean sea level.

Air Officer Commanding Srinagar, Air Commodore Prabhat Malik (Vayu Sena Medal); Team Leader Wing Commander Vijay Prakash Bhatt; Rally Chairman, Sh Tarun Vijay and other senior officers were present.

J&K Assembly ...

to form the Government and had fought the polls in an alliance with the Congress.

Chief Minister designate Omar Abdullah is a third generation legislator from the Abdullah clan. His father Farooq Abdullah and grandfather Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah have both been MLAs and the chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir as well.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra comes from an influential political family of Srinagar. Although his grandfather Ghulam Mohiuddin Karra was never an MLA, he held considerable influence in the National Conference till he parted ways with Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah in 1954 to form his own party — Political Conference.

The JKPCC chief has been an MLA in the past. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Srinagar constituency in 2014 but resigned to protest the civilian killings during the summer unrest of 2016 in the valley.

However, the man expected to have a bright politi-

cal future among the second generation politicians is Salman Sagar, who has been elected to the assembly from the Hazratbal seat.

Salman Sagar's father, Ali Mohammad Sagar, will be sitting in the front row of the treasury benches in the assembly having won a record seventh straight term as an MLA — twice from erstwhile Batamaloos seat and five times from Khanyar segment.

A key player in tribal politics of Kashmir, Mian Altaf Ahmad — who is currently the Lok Sabha member from Anantnag-Rajouri constituency — has been replaced as the MLA from Kangan by his son Mian Mehar Ali. The 67-year-old Lok Sabha member would have been vying for a sixth straight term if he was not elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year.

Another relative of Mian Altaf Ahmad has been elected to the assembly this time. His brother-in-law Zafar Ali Khatana was elected from the Kokernag assembly segment, which has been reserved for the Scheduled Tribe candidates following the delimitation exercise in 2022.

Hilal Akbar Lone, the son of former assembly speaker Mohammad Akbar Lone, has been elected from the Sonawari seat. The senior Lone was a member from the Sonawari seat three times from 2002 to 2018.

National Conference chief spokesman Tanvir Sadiq, who was elected from Zadibal assembly segment, is the son of former MLA Sadiq Ali while party's MLA from Uri Sajjad Shafi is the son of former Education Minister Mohammad Shafi Uri.

Irshad Rasool Kar, who won on the National Conference ticket from Sopore assembly segment, is the son of veteran Congress leader and former JKPC chief Ghulam Rasool Kar.

The MLA from Srigufwara-Bijbehara Bashir Ahmad Veeri is the son of former Minister Abdul Gani Shah Veeri while MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad is the son of former MLC Sheikh Ghulam Qadir Pardesi.

Outside the National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance, PDP MLA Rafeeq Ahmad Naik, who won from the Tral segment, is the son of former speaker and National Conference leader Ali Mohammad Naik and MLA Langate Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh is the brother of Lok Sabha member from Baramulla, Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid.

Over 70% Of 90...

the NC is just one. The BJP has two MLAs who have not passed the Class-10 examination while there is one NC legislator in this category.

The BJP has four MLAs who have passed the Class-12 examination while the number of such legislators in the NC is six.

An overall analysis of the educational qualifications of the new Assembly members reveals that four MLAs have not passed the Class-10 examination while nine are matriculates. For a dozen MLAs, Class 12 is the highest educational qualification.

There are 16 graduates and 32 graduates with professional degrees who are members of the first Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while 12 members have completed post-graduate degrees. There are three doctorate degree holders and two diploma holders in the House as well.

The ADR data also reveals that nine of the 90 MLAs have criminal cases against them, with eight of them facing serious charges that carry a punishment of five or more years in jail.

Five of these MLAs belong to the NC, with four of them facing serious charges, while two BJP MLAs also face serious criminal cases. The other two belong to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The number of MLAs facing criminal cases has gone up this time. Only five MLAs had criminal cases against them in the 87-member Assembly of the erstwhile state, including two who were facing serious charges.

DLTFC approves 67 cases under JKREGP at Shopian

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today chaired a meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) to assess the loan cases under Jammu & Kashmir



Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) of KVIB. During the meeting, threadbare

discussions and one to one interaction with applicants was held as the process of approval. KVIB Shopian submitted 106 cases before DLTFC, out of which 67 cases were approved for establishment and upgradation of employment generation ventures or business enterprises. The Committee approved

cases for sponsorship under categories including milk production, handicrafts, provision stores, sheep farming, transport and other business sectors. Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed upon the line Departments and Banks to bring maximum unemployed youth under the ambit of

Government schemes launched to generate maximum employment avenues in the district.

He also stressed on the Bankers to ensure speedy sanction of bank credit so that the aspiring unemployed youth are in a position to establish their income generating units without any difficulties.

3 day Basohli Utsav begins; presents region's unique cultural heritage

Principal Secretary vows to preserve, promote historical glory of Basholi



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

The much-anticipated annual Basohli Utsav commenced today with a grand celebration, showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of the region.

The opening day was marked by a colorful cultural performance that captivated the audience and set a jubilant tone for the festival.

The event was inaugurated by Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, in presence of DDC Chairman Kathua, Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, and Director ACB, Shakti Pathak.

Suresh Kumar emphasized that the Basohli Utsav represents a dedicated effort towards restoring and preserving the historical glory of Basohli, particularly its rich traditions in art and heritage, which once served as the cultural epicenter of the region.

The Principal Secretary urged the local community, especially the youth, to take an active role in preserving and promoting this cultural legacy. He encouraged them to leverage social media platforms to share

the unique traditions of Basohli Ramlila, its world-renowned paintings, and exquisite pashmina.

Speaking on ongoing cultural preservation efforts, the Principal Secretary highlighted that the restoration work of the historic Basohli Mint will be completed in the coming months. He also mentioned the importance of Geographical Indication (GI) tagging for Basohli Paintings and Pashmina, which will ensure their authenticity and open new employment opportunities for local artisans and craftsmen.

"Basohli is evolving as a hub for Cultural and Pilgrimage Tourism, home to famous temples such as Chanchlo Mata, Jhode Wali Mata, and Dhola Mata," he added.

Suresh Gupta also introduced two new features of this year's festival—Archival and Heritage Exhibitions, which aim to reconnect people with the glorious past of Basohli and the larger Jammu & Kashmir region. He expressed his commitment towards positioning Basohli Utsav on both national and international tourism maps in the near future.

DDC Chairman Kathua, praised

the Basohli Utsav as an excellent platform for uniting various stakeholders to elevate Basohli's art, culture, and heritage to the global stage. He mentioned that with the establishment of a Water Sports Academy and the upcoming Rs. 3.5 crore Common Facility Centre (CFC) project, the region's adventure tourism and cultural profile will receive a significant boost. He commended the efforts of the Culture Department, the Academy of Art and Culture, and the Handloom and Tourism departments for supporting this annual event.

Director ACB also expressed his appreciation for the Basohli Utsav, noting its importance in preserving the rich cultural and heritage legacy of the region. He highlighted that Basohli's 113-year-old Ramlila, one of the oldest in the country, is a testament to the community's deep-rooted love for its traditions and heritage.

The first day of the festival also featured a vibrant cultural presentation that showcased the diverse facets of local folklore and music. A special Basohli Paintings workshop by Vishwasthali NGO was a key attraction, while local cuisine and handicraft stalls drew enthusiastic crowds. The three day Basohli Utsav promises two more days of cultural celebration, exhibitions, and workshops, as it continues to shine a spotlight on the unique and timeless traditions of the region.

Among others, Secretary in Culture Department, Deepika Sharma, Secretary Cultural Academy, Harvinder Kour, DC Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas, Director Archives & Archaeology K.K Sidha, Joint Director Handicrafts and Handloom, CEO BBDA Ajeet Singh, Director IGNCAs Shrutu Avasthi were also present.

CEO Samba organises assessment camp for Purmandal Zone

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

Under directions of Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K, Chief Education Officer Samba in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), started Assessment camp at GMS Smailpur for Children with Special Needs (CWSNs) under the age group of 06 to 18 years of Zone Purmandal on day 3.

The event witnessed a significant turnout, with participation of Zonal Education Planning Officer Purmandal Mohd. Rashid Alam and experts from ALIMCO Kanpur, along with numerous CWSN students, parents, District Coordinator IED, Zonal Coordinators, Special Education Teachers and District Level Samagra Shiksha Team.

Mohd. Rashid Alam, ZEPO Purmandal started the program and engaged in one-to-one interactions with CWSN students and their parents, emphasizing the critical importance of these assessments.

As of today, the camp has successfully assessed and 52 CWSN students of different categories i.e. locomotor impairment, hearing impairment, visually impaired, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities, mental illness, and autism.

Parents expressed their gratitude to the organizers for facilitating this beneficial initiative in district Samba, underscoring the positive impact of such camps on the community.

Faculty of Fisheries Rangil celebrates Graduation Day for 2024 BFSc pass-out students

VC SKUAST Kashmir urges pass-outs to think innovatively & contribute positively to society



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
GANDERBAL:

The Faculty of Fisheries, Rangil, Ganderbal, celebrated its graduation day today for the 2024 BFSc pass-out students with great enthusiasm and pride at Rangil Campus, here.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Vice-Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai as the Chief Guest, and Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal Shyambir, as the Guest of Honour.

Director Education SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Dean Students Welfare Prof. (Dr.) Neelofar Bandy, Dean Faculty of Fisheries Prof. (Dr.) Farooz Ahmad Bhat, as well as all Heads of Divisions, faculty members, officers of Faculty of Fisheries and the graduating students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking in the event, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai praised the graduates for their efforts and urged them to think innovatively and contribute positively to society. He emphasized their role as ambassadors of SKUAST-Kashmir.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the students and promised full support for the development of the SKUAST-K Rangil campus. He also acknowledged the university's excellence in producing top talent, especially in fisheries science.

Earlier, Dean Faculty of Fisheries, Prof. (Dr.) Farooz Ahmad Bhat delivered a warm welcome to the dignitaries and spoke about the vital role of the fisheries sector. He highlighted the achievements of the graduating batch and underscored the need for continuous learning and leadership in fisheries.

Director Education Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi stressed the importance of quality education in fisheries science and encouraged the students to use their skills for the betterment of society and the nation.

DC Rajouri chairs meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, who is also the chairman of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti, convened a meeting today to address various issues concerning the healthcare services in the region.

The meeting commenced with a detailed review of the performance metrics including the inpatient department (IPD) and outpatient department (OPD) services, major and minor surgeries, institutional deliveries, laboratory tests, ultrasounds, X-rays, and ECGs. Analyzing the data from the years 2019-2020 through 2024-2025, the DC emphasized the need for sustained improvements in all healthcare services offered at local medical facilities.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to discussing maternal health, where the Deputy Commissioner underscored the alarming rates of maternal mortality.

He directed the officers to implement effective measures aimed at reducing these fatalities, emphasizing the importance of proper coun-



selling and thorough screening for pregnant women. To foster awareness, the DC directed the organization of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities to educate women about maternal health.

Additionally, he called for stringent measures against touts—private individuals posing as facilitators within government hospitals—stressing the importance of safeguarding the integrity of healthcare services.

Regarding the non-communicable diseases, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the necessity for early screening and counseling for affected patients. He asked the healthcare providers to strengthen their out-

reach and support systems to ensure timely intervention and better management of NCDs.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation and progress of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, with a focus on expanding access to healthcare services for economically disadvantaged populations. The DC stressed the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation to enhance the impact of this crucial health initiative.

Several infrastructure challenges were also discussed threadbare, including the need for a dedicated generator set at GMC Mehra, demarcation of hospital land, and the handover of the newly constructed 180-bed public hospital.

DC Shopian felicitates best performing BLOs, students for SVEEP Awareness

Appreciates the work of stakeholders, praises people for record turnout during GELA, 2024



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SHOPIAN:

The District Election Office, Shopian today conducted a felicitation ceremony at GDC Shopian in order to recognise the exemplary

work of staff and students for their SVEEP activities and awareness generation in the district in the Assembly Elections, 2024.

The ceremony was presided over by the District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid

Saleem Dar who on the occasion expressed appreciation for all stakeholders who participated in the smooth execution of elections. He congratulated students and BLOs whose exemplary work was recognised on the occasion.

He also thanked the people of the district especially women, old aged and specially abled voters for massively coming out in numbers for exercising their franchise in the elections.

Best Performing BLOs of both Assembly Constituencies of Zainapora and Shopian who excelled in increasing voter turnouts, were awarded with appreciation certificates and mementos. Similarly, students who participated in SVEEP Reel, Painting and Quiz Competitions were also awarded with appreciation certificates and mementos.

The gathering was also addressed by ADDC, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz and was attended by other civil and police officers and a mammoth gathering of staff and students.

World Mental Health Day Observed at GHS Dablehar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

'THE - SARA' a Registered Non-Governmental Organization in collaboration with Counseling Cell of Directorate of School Education Jammu celebrated World Mental Health Day at Government Higher Secondary School Dablehar Jammu. World Mental Health is a global platform dedicated to the promotion of mental health education and support.

To address the growing concern of mental health among students a range of activities like yoga session, debate competition and poster making were held in the school. During the programme field volunteer at 'THE - SARA' Ms. Anita Solanki, a certified Yoga teacher and evaluator, mental health wellness instructor from the Ministry of Ayush conducted a yoga session to help students in concentrating, maintain emotional well-being and their physical health. Subsequently debate competition was held in which students delivered speeches on the significance of the day and various other topic pertaining to mental health.

DLSA Srinagar organises Awareness programme on 'World Mental Health Day'



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Human Rights and Anti Corruption forum J&K HQ-Delhi Thursday organized an awareness programme on World Mental Health Day at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, which was aimed to shed light on the importance of mental health and wellbeing. Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, served as the chief guest, while Prof. Dr. Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent, Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar was the guest of honor.

The programme was attended by Nusrat Bukhari, Principal, Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh, Srinagar; Mudasir Ahmed Naikoo, President of Human Rights and Anti Corruption J&K, Aejaz Bashir, Secretary Education wing of HRACF The chief guest highlighted the significance of mental well-being and emphasized the program's objective of empowering students with knowledge and resources to support their mental health. She urged attendees to break down stigmas surrounding mental health and encourage open dialogue about these issues and to respect human rights of fellow citizens and all.

Advocate Mujtaba, addressed the participants, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging and addressing mental health concerns. He shed light on the legal framework surrounding mental health rights and highlighted the crucial role of accessible legal aid in supporting individuals facing mental health challenges. Dr. Abrar Guroo, Senior Consultant at the Institute of Medical Sciences, shared valuable insights based on his experience. He discussed the multifaceted nature of mental health, highlighting various conditions and their impact on individuals and society.

Sampoornata Abhiyaan culmination marks milestone in Aspirational Block Khari

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAMBAN:

Aspirational Block Khari in Ramban district witnessed a momentous occasion as it hosted the Samapan Samaroh of the Sampoornata Abhiyaan.

The three-month-long campaign, conducted under the Aspirational Block Programme of NITI Aayog, concluded with a grand celebration at the Panchayat Ghar, marking a significant milestone for the region.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Ramban, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Block Development Officer Khari, Child Development Project Officer Khari, Block Medical Officer Khari, and representatives from various government departments, adding prestige to the ceremony.

The program commenced with the felicitation of frontline workers, who were applauded for their dedication and efforts in achieving the saturation of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under the Sampoornata Abhiyaan.

Their hard work played a crucial role in the successful implementation of multiple schemes, aimed at improving the overall quality of life in the region.

Director Agriculture visits Seed Processing Plant Malangpora Padgampora

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited Seed Processing Plant/Seed Multiplication Farm Padgampora Anantnag. During his visit, he inspected different sections of the Seed Processing Plant and had interaction with the technical experts and



A detailed presentation followed, showcasing the achievements made under the Aspirational Block Programme.

The audience was provided with insights into the journey of the Sampoornata Abhiyaan, including the challenges faced, innovative strategies employed, and the significant impact the campaign has had on the local population.

The event concluded on a high note with the launch of Akanksha Haat, a marketplace promoting the "Vocal for Local" movement. The market showcased locally produced goods, further empowering local artisans and entrepreneurs, and

strengthening the local economy.

In the event, the Director RSETI also aware the audience about the different schemes being sponsored RSETI, or Rural Self Employment Training Institute, is an initiative in India aimed at promoting self-employment among rural youth. It provides training programs to help participants develop skills in various trades, enabling them to start their own businesses or gain employment. He said that RSETI and Project Unnati work to uplift rural populations by fostering self-reliance and enhancing livelihoods through skill development and entrepreneurship.

concerned officers of the Processing Plant. While expressing his views, Director Agriculture reiterated the Department's commitment to ensuring the availability of quality seed to the farming community well in time. He asked the concerned officers to put in all the efforts to make sure that farmers and other stakeholder's interests are served by the Department. Iqbal highlighted the

importance of adoption and introduction of real time technologies during the seed processing operations. Seed processing is of significant importance in terms of overall performance of a particular seed, he added. Director Agriculture also took stock of the preparations for ensuring the availability and distribution of different varieties of Paddy seed to the farming community of the region.

Chief Secretary flags off longest cycling expedition 'Race Across India' from Srinagar

Cyclists to cover 3750 km across 12 States, UTs to reach Kanyakumari

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today flagged off India's longest cycling expedition from Polo View Ground that would be culminating at the farthest point of the country, Kanyakumari.

The expedition mainly sponsored by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is the 2nd edition of 'Race Across India' participated by 22 teams including national as well as international cyclists this year. The race is first of its kind in which participants of different age categories and professions are taking part.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary applauded the efforts of both J&K Sports Council and IOCL for their collaboration in organising this event in J&K. He showed optimism about the diversity and growth in number of participants registered for this year's event.

He maintained that the expedition is gaining fame internationally that has materialised into attracting cyclists from some



other nations besides a large number from different parts of the country. He observed that it gives him confidence that this event would become the annual affair, attracting highest number of participants in the years to come. Dulloo further pointed out that numerous events of international prominence are now being organised in the UT with large participation of sports persons of great repute.

He specified the ongoing Legends League cricketing event and the Kashmir Marathon event to be held on 20th of this month exuding hope that many more significant sporting events would be held in the times to come.

He said that last year

some of the cyclists covered this herculean task of reaching to Kanyakumari from here in just 6 days. He expressed hope that this year too they would register new records while extending best wishes to the athletes. Secretary, YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez, who was present in the ceremony, also bestowed his wishes on the participants. He remarked that this international event along with others has put J&K among the most sought of sporting destinations in the country.

He reiterated that the infrastructure and equipment has been largely upgraded in the UT to chisel the talent of local youth besides enabling hosting of events of such repute.

The Divisional Head, IOCL, called this event significant that would give opportunity to the cyclists to experience India in its true diversity. It would enrich individuals by giving a chance to come into contact with diverse weather, food and languages besides giving message about good health, environmental and oil conservation for overall good of the nation.

It is worth mentioning here that this cycling expedition is the largest organised event in the country with cyclists destined to start from Srinagar and conclude at Kanyakumari more than 3750 km away from here.

It has around 15 solo riders and 22 teams comprising two or four members categorized in different age groups. Cyclists including Doctors, Professors, Students along with those from Army and Paramilitary forces from different parts of the country are participating enthusiastically in this year's edition of 'Race Across India' to make it one of the famous sporting events of the nation.

DDC Samba reviews developmental activities under District Capex Budget 2024-25



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBHA:

The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Samba, convened a high-level review meeting today to assess the developmental activities and works taken under the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2024-25.

The agenda of the meeting focused on reviewing the Physical and Financial Status of ongoing projects up to September 2024, with a special emphasis on works that are currently underway.

Additionally, the meeting addressed the status of Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction (AAA/TS), Tendering, and the Allotment of New Works. Along with review of projects, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects, Bunker Construction, Panchayat Audit were some key topics discussed during the meeting.

The District Development Commissioner emphasized the importance of completing ongoing projects on time and ensuring that new works under the Capex Budget are executed efficiently, with proper financial oversight and accountability.

The officers were directed to provide the latest physical and financial status reports of all ongoing projects, as well as updates on the allotment of new works, ensuring transparency and accountability in all sectors. The meeting was attended by senior officers, including the ADDC, Assistant Commissioners from various departments, CEO, CMO and other key officers from departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Jal Shakti, Tourism, and Sports. The Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Samba was also present to provide updates on cooperative sector projects.

DC Bandipora chairs meeting on Change of Land Use Cases



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today convened a meeting of the District Level Committee to discuss Change of Land Use (CLU) cases within the district.

During the meeting, two CLU cases were presented for review. After threadbare discussions, the committee approved both the cases. The DC stressed the importance of adhering to established guidelines and policies while evaluating CLU applications. He directed the concerned to ensure the timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to applicants, after proper verification of all documents. He emphasized diligence and transparency in the processing of CLU cases to uphold the integrity of the change of land use policy. Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Zaffar Husson Shawl, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shabir Ahmad Wani, and other concerned officers were present besides Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh and other concerned officers from Sumbal Sub division participated virtually.

Congress faces crushing defeat in Jammu region due to years of misleading & discrimination: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, has strongly criticized the Congress party for its resounding defeat in the recently concluded elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the Congress party's

loss—winning only a single seat in the entire region—was a clear reflection of the public's growing disillusionment with the party's policies of misleading the people of Jammu Province and fostering regional discrimination.

In a statement issued here today, Kavinder Gupta said, "The Congress has always sought to manipulate the public, especially in the Jammu

region, where it has repeatedly failed to deliver on its promises. The people of Jammu have finally given Congress a befitting reply at the ballot box, rejecting their false narratives and discriminatory approach."

He further noted that the Congress has consistently relied on its allies to maintain political relevance, a strategy that has now backfired.

GMC Srinagar observes 'World Sight Day' with 'Love Your Eyes, Kids' Initiative



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar Thursday observed 'World Sight Day' under the theme "Love Your Eyes, Kids" by organizing a comprehensive medical and eye camp in Tailbal, Block Hazratbal.

The event was organized by the

Departments of Community Medicine and Ophthalmology, GMC Srinagar, in recognition of 'World Sight Day'. The camp aimed to screen and diagnose refractive errors and other ophthalmological conditions among school children and the general population.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Iffat Hassan,

Principal & Dean, GMC Srinagar, and mentored by Prof. Dr. S. Muhammad Salim Khan (HOD Community Medicine) and Prof. Junaid Salam Wani (HOD Ophthalmology). Dr. Kouser Sideeq and Dr. Sameena Yousuf, Assistant Professors in the Department of Community Medicine, coordinated the event activities. The camp was held at Government Boys Higher Secondary Institute, Tailbal, Block Hazratbal, and received support from Dr. Fara Shafi, Block Medical Officer, Hazratbal, ensuring provision of logistics and personnel.

A dedicated team of ophthalmological specialists provided expertise for the camp, including Dr. Sumedha Ghai and Dr. Shivali Sharma (Residents, Department of Ophthalmology), Shaheen Mushtaq (Refractionist) and Ateeqa Bashir (Optometrist, SDH Hazratbal).

DC Srinagar chairs meeting regarding launch of E-Arzi, an Applications Management Portal to facilitate Citizens

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR :

Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex regarding the launch of the E-Arzi, an Applications Management Portal to facilitate the Citizens.

The E-Arzi is a Portal being launched to effectively and efficiently manage applications the Deputy Commissioners Office receives.

During the meeting, the DC Srinagar remarked that this portal is a novel idea focusing on applications received and their redressal. All the line Departments of the District are integrated into this portal.

Through the E-Arzi Portal, Citizens no longer need to physically come to the DC Office to submit their applications.

They can log in to the Portal with their Phone number and submit applications. A Tracking ID will be provided so that citizens can track their application and know about the resolution.

Taking it a step further, the DC



also remarked about the WhatsApp Chatbot being launched as an integral part of the E-Arzi portal. Citizens can now message the Official Account of DC Srinagar on WhatsApp to log their applications. They can also track their applications from the same account by providing the Tracking ID.

Regarding this initiative, the DC Srinagar said that this Portal can potentially revolutionize the interaction between citizens and

Administration. Further, this portal will also help the District Administration to find the hotspots of issues and address them effectively by providing the administration with a bigger picture. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, SP Headquarter, Umer Shah, District/Sectoral Officers, Tehsildars and other concerned were presented in the meeting.

Chairperson DDC Ramban kick starts work on Hamsheela to Ghagra village link road

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC), Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan, today initiated the commencement of construction work on a crucial 3 km link road connecting Hamsheela to Ghagra village Bhimdassa block Dharam.

This significant infrastructure development project, with an allotted 5.91crore, is being undertaken under NABARD by the Public Works Department. Highlighting the importance of this endeavor, Dr. Shamshad Shan remarked that upon completion, the link road will address a longstanding demand of the area, substantially improving the lives of local residents by enhancing connectivity and accessibility. She urged the engineers of the PWD to uphold rigorous standards to ensure that the project benefits the multitude of individuals relying on the road network in the vicinity. The Chairperson also took the opportunity to engage with members of the community, attentively listening to their concerns and developmental needs, reaffirming her commitment to addressing their grievances and fostering inclusive development.

Assistant Engineer PWD Sub Division Gool Tariq Ahmed, Engineers of PWD, Haris Majeed, Nadeem Shah, prominent citizens, and the general public were present on the occasion.

'Int'l Girl Child Day': DLSA Srinagar organizes Awareness programme at GBHSS Mujgund



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In observance of 'International Girl Child Day,' the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the School Education Department, Srinagar, today organized an awareness program at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Mujgund.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The programme aimed to empower and educate young girls about their legal rights and opportunities. The objective was to promote awareness about issues like gender equality, child marriage and domestic violence, providing girls with the knowledge and resources they need to protect themselves and advocate for their rights.

The program was attended by the principal, staff members and students of Government Boys Higher Secondary School Mujgund, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Sehar Nazir, and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar.

Sehar Nazir, served as the resource person for the program. She captivated the students with her insightful speech, highlighting the significance of girls' education and their rights.

She also emphasized the importance of equal opportunities and encouraged the girls to pursue their dreams, breaking free from societal limitations, urging the participants to actively advocate for their rights and contribute towards a more equitable society.

The enthusiastic participation of the students showcased their eagerness to learn and contribute to a brighter future.

The program concluded with a Q&A session where students actively engaged with Sehar, seeking clarification on various legal and social issues.

DLSA Kathua observes "World Mental Health Day" with Jail inmates



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

In propos to the Action Plan issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) for the month of October 2024 and under the directions of Chairman District Legal

Services Authority, Kathua Jatinder Singh Jamwal (Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kathua) "World Mental Health Day" under the theme "Mental Health Challenges, their legal rights and issues related to mental health discrimination, confidentiality and access to treat-

ment" was observed by DLSA Kathua at District Jail here.

To mark the "World Mental Health Day" Secretary DLSA, Kathua Kamiya Singh Andotra joined hands with Government Medical College, Kathua to sensitize jail inmates of District Jail Kathua.

Medical Officer Dr. Mukal Ubbott, was the resource person in the program. The resource person threw light on the significance of expressing and being open in discussing mental health issues like anxiety, depression, stress or any disorders faced by anyone. He also assured the inmates that any problem shared with the doctor shall be kept confidential, further appealed them to freely avail the services as and when required.

DC reviews progress on Rajouri-Thananandi-Surankote Road Project

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, convened a crucial meeting today to address the pressing issues hindering the progress of the Rajouri-Thananandi-Surankote road project.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for swift action to resolve outstanding matters, particularly the assessment of structures at Hasplote and Atti. It was brought into the notice that some of these issues are currently Sub-Judice in court, where a ruling has been issued instructing adherence to the already submitted Detailed Project Report (DPR) concerning the alignment of the project. DC underscored the importance of complying with the court's directives



to facilitate the project's timely advancement. Addressing the Atti bypass, it was reported that the completion of Section 11 process has been done. However, objections have been raised and submitted. The Deputy Commissioner asked the AC Defence to expeditiously resolve these objections within the next fifteen days, thereby enabling to move forward with subsequent steps promptly. In a significant development, it was decided that a joint demarcation committee com-

prising officials from the Public Works Department, Police and the Magistrate will conduct a site visit to Atti. This collaborative effort aims to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the existing structures and execute peg marking to facilitate the progression of the project.

Furthermore, regarding the demarcation of state land under the jurisdiction of Government Degree College (GDC) Thanamandi that falls within the alignment of the Rajouri-Thananandi-Surankote road, a dedicated team of officials will visit the site to undertake the necessary demarcation activities within three days. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to ensure that the road project proceeds efficiently, recognizing its significance in enhancing connectivity and fostering economic development in the region.

World Mental Health Day

J&K LSA holds awareness prog on "Importance of Mental Health in Professional Efficiency" at JU

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a significant event commemorating "World Mental Health Day, 2024", the J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with the Department of Law, University of Jammu, organized an awareness programme on the importance of Mental Health in Professional Efficiency at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Tashi Rabstan, presided over the event which was attended by nearly 700 law students, faculty members and legal professionals.

The Chief Justice, who was accompanied by M. K. Sharma, Principal Secretary and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, was warmly received by Prof. Meena Sharma, Officiating Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Planning, University of Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Manju Jamwal, Head, Department of Law, University of Jammu, along with other esteemed HoDs and faculty members.

Addressing a large gathering of law students and faculty members of law department and School of Law, the Chief Justice

appreciated the eminent resource persons for their collective efforts in promoting mental well-being within the legal fraternity. He emphasized that maintaining good mental health is not only a personal responsibility but also a professional necessity, particularly in high-pressure fields like law and the judiciary. Highlighting the importance of self-care in preventing burnout and ensuring long-term well-being, the Chief Justice remarked "The mantra for healthy mental health is to spare time for yourself." He cautioned about the potential dangers of technology, stating that while it offers immense benefits, its misuse can be detrimental to mental health. Furthermore, he drew attention to the adverse effects of poor lifestyle choices, such as consuming junk food and inadequate sleep, which contribute to rise in mental disorders. "Effective time management is key to avoid stress and leading a healthier life, especially for judges and advocates who often have to work on weekends and holidays also", maintained the Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice called for a supportive work environment where open dialogue and mental health resources are readily available, enabling professionals to perform at their best while

breaking the stigma surrounding mental health issues. He concluded by encouraging all the participants to engage in creative and physical activities as a means to refresh their minds and promote overall well-being. In her welcome address, Prof. (Dr.) Manju Jamwal, Head, Department of Law, University of Jammu, highlighted the collaborative efforts between the University of Jammu and J&K Legal Services Authority in organizing today's programme which in the present scenario is of immense importance especially for the younger generation. Prof. (Dr.) Meena Sharma, Officiating Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Planning, University of Jammu, laid emphases on the role of mental well-being in both academic and professional success. She explained how maintaining a balanced mental state enhances cognitive abilities and contributes to sustained professional growth and resilience. She encouraged educational institutions to incorporate mental health support systems into their frameworks to foster a thriving academic environment and build resilience among students and professionals. Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Gupta, Department of Law, University of Jammu tracing the legal history about mental inadequacy of a litigant referred to various legislations

especially the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and pointed out the shortcoming therein. He highlighted the need of providing legal aid and assistance not only to the litigants but also to the students and working professionals.

He advocated for counselling and stress management workshops to overcome the menace of growing mental ill health in the young generation which ends to go astray due to mental stress levels. He highlighted the need for creating a culture of mental well-being within legal education institutions, where students are equipped with the tools to manage stress effectively. Prof. Sanjay also appoint that increased tendency of nuclear families is also a big cause for mental ill health.

Dr. Manu Arora, Head, Psychiatry Department, Govt. Medical College Jammu, presented an insightful overview of the mental health challenges faced by professionals in high-stakes fields like law. He highlighted common mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and emotional exhaustion, all of which negatively impact productivity and decision-making. Dr. Arora stressed the importance of early intervention and continuous support, recommending regular mental health check-ups and access to

mental health resources in the workplace. Dr. Rakesh Banal, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, Govt. Medical College, Jammu focused on practical strategies for managing mental health. He introduced techniques such as mindfulness, relaxation exercises, and cognitive-behavioral strategies that can help professionals maintain emotional balance. He emphasized the importance of self-care and work-life balance, warning of the detrimental effects of neglecting personal well-being on both professional and personal lives. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Smriti Sharma, Secretary, DLSA Jammu, who expressed gratitude to the distinguished dignitaries, faculty, and students for their participation. The proceedings were expertly conducted by Prof. (Dr.) Hardeep Kour.

Those who attended the programme included Y. P. Bourney, PDJ (Chairman DLSA), Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kumar, Dean, Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Jasrotia, Senior Professor, Basim Akhter, Legal Assistant, Anil Sharma, Chief LADC Jammu, other faculty members from the Department of Law, KC Law College, Dogra Law College and MIET Law College and the staff of J&K Legal Services Authority and DLSA Jammu.

Indian Army Organizes Stitching and Tailoring Course at Tandar, Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

In a significant move to contribute to the welfare of the local community and promote women empowerment, the Indian Army has successfully inaugurated a month-long 'Stitching and Tailoring Course' at Tandar, Kishtwar. This initiative is specifically designed to support unemployed women in the village, aiming to empower them economically and socially.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed an overwhelming response from the local populace, with 55 women registering for

the course. The enthusiasm shown by the participants reflects the community's eagerness to embrace new skills that can lead to greater financial independence and personal growth. This course will equip the women with essential skills in sewing and tailoring, enabling them to contribute financially to their families and foster a sense of self-reliance.

Throughout the duration of the course, participants will receive comprehensive training on various aspects of sewing. They will learn the fundamentals of using sewing machines, understanding

different types of threads and fabrics, taking accurate measurements, stitching patterns, and producing a diverse range of items. This hands-on training is designed to provide practical skills that can be directly applied in the marketplace.

Upon successful completion of the course, each participant will be awarded a Certificate of Excellence, recognizing their newfound skills and commitment to personal development. Additionally, they will receive sewing kits, empowering them to start their own sewing projects or small busi-

nesses. This initiative not only fosters individual growth but also aims to cultivate an environment of entrepreneurship within the community. The local residents have expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts in launching this initiative. Many community members see it as a positive step towards creating meaningful employment opportunities for unemployed women, thereby enhancing their quality of life. The course is expected to lead to better opportunities for these women, enabling them to pursue their aspirations and contribute to their families and communities.

In conclusion, the Indian Army's 'Stitching and Tailoring Course' is a commendable initiative that aligns with broader goals of women empowerment and community development. By equipping women with valuable skills, the program promises to create a ripple effect of positive change, fostering a brighter future for the participants and their families.

Gaining power not BJP's sole mission in J&K: Sat Sharma



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the only political party which works on the core mission of serving nation and its people. In Jammu and Kashmir, BJP has long history of struggle and sacrifices made for the full integration of the erstwhile state with the rest of the country. For BJP, strengthening nationalist forces in J&K is much more important than contesting elections for gaining power.

Sat Sharma, Working President, J&K BJP and the former minister, said this while discussing the increase in percentage of votes in its favour and also rise in tally of seats from 25 to 29, in UT in the recently concluded assembly elections and terming this gain as endorsement of pro-nation, pro-people programmes and policies of the BJP, with a group of party activists at party headquarter, Jammu.

"No doubt every political party works with the objective of contesting elections and coming to power but for BJP power is a mean to serve the nation and not to promote dynastic politics or encourage corruption", Sat said, adding that Nation First, Party Second and Self Last is the basic principle of politics of BJP. Sat Sharma further said that the people have themselves seen and realized that it is the BJP only which fulfilled its promise of abrogating Article 370 & 35A, granting citizenship rights to West Pakistan refugees.

Shifting Mandate

Cultural Language Recognition

In terms of cultural diversity and richness, India holds an incomparable place in the world. Our country, which has the distinction of 'water changes every mile, language changes every four miles', has many ancient languages, which are still in use. It is true that some languages are used for some special purposes including study and research, but they have not become extinct. Classical languages work as the guardians of India's deep and ancient cultural heritage, which is the essence of the historical and cultural milestone of every community. Recently, the Government of India has included five new languages in the category of 'classical' languages. These languages are Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali. Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Oriya are already in this list. Thus, now the number of recognized classical languages in the country has become 11. It is worth noting that this list was started with Tamil language on 12 October 2004. Sanskrit was given classical status in November of the same year and other languages in subsequent years. Now it has been decided to include these five languages. These decisions are taken on the basis of criteria prepared by the Expert Committee and Sahitya Akademi. However, this year some amendments have also been made in the criteria based on suggestions. There is a classification of Indian languages under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. During the census, speakers are counted on the basis of information given by the people. At the center and state level, many programs are going on to preserve various languages, translate and publish available literature and develop them. A lot of attention is also given to the collection and preservation of manuscripts. In such a situation, the expansion of the list of classical languages is an encouraging and welcome decision. This will help in increasing the cultural and academic importance of languages at the national and international level. In the year 2008, a central institute for classical Tamil was established, in which courses for teaching Tamil language are also run along with the translation of ancient Tamil texts. Special centers have also been opened for Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia languages. In the year 2020, three universities were established for Sanskrit. Programs and courses are being run in universities and colleges to increase interest in Indian languages. It can be expected that academic efforts will also be made for the development of languages that have been included in the classical category. Along with this, institutions and citizens should also contribute in this direction.

THE SIXTH QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT, HELD IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, ON 21 SEPTEMBER, FOCUSED ON GLOBAL SECURITY AMID ONGOING CONFLICTS IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND CHINA'S RISING ASSERTIVENESS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC. ORIGINALLY FORMED IN 2007 AS A COALITION FOR RELIEF WORK, THE QUAD HAS SINCE EVOLVED INTO A SECURITY DIALOGUE AMONG THE US, INDIA, JAPAN, AND AUSTRALIA.

AFTAB ALAM

The sixth Quad Leaders' Summit was held in US President Biden's hometown, Wilmington, Delaware, on 21 September, amid enduring wars in Europe and the Middle East, and China's growing belligerent activities in the Indo-Pacific. This was the sixth summit of Quad leaders since it was formalised in March 2021 by President Biden, who has always taken keen interest in the framework of cooperation and coordination among the Quad members.

Though originally conceptualised as a coalition of relief and rehabilitation work comprising America, Australia, India, and Japan in the backdrop of the devastating tsunami that hit Southeast Asia in 2004, Quad, or "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue," has evolved over the years into a forum for security dialogue between coalition partners. This coincided with the rise of China as a global economic and military power. In 2006, the then Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, mooted the idea of establishing a high-level strategic dialogue among the "Asia-Pacific Democratic G3 plus America." The first exploratory meeting of Quad leaders was held on the sidelines of the Asean Regional Forum summit in the Philippines in May 2007. The navies of the Quad countries conducted a naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal known as the Malabar exercise, which was originally a bilateral drill between India and the US. The latest edition of the Malabar Naval Exercise will be hosted by India in October with special focus on countering China's growing maritime challenges in the South China Sea and the broader Indo-Pacific waters.

However, the initial enthusiasm shown by Quad leaders was short-lived, and it fell apart with the resignation of its key driver, Japanese PM Abe, and new Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's decision to build good relations with China; he decided to pull out of the grouping. India was also not very comfortable with framing the Quad as an anti-China grouping. China's increasing assertiveness and claims over disputed areas in the South and East China Seas and ambitious regional maritime agenda played a pivotal role in the revival of the Quad in 2017 after a hiatus of nearly a decade.

Considering China's response and Australia's strategic uncertainty with regard to China, India was initially hesitant about reviving Quad. However, India's worsening relations with China after the 2017 Doklam standoff and the 2020 border clashes ended its hesitancy and provided further impetus to the revival of the Quad. The Quad's summit level meeting could take place only in 2021, first since its inception in 2007. The naval exercises involving Quad members became a routine affair aimed at enhancing operational coordination, information sharing, and naval interoperability among the member countries. The joint statement issued by the leaders of the Quad grouping in Wilmington touches upon a variety of issues.

The leaders reiterated their resolve to uphold the international order based on the rule of law and strong support for human rights, freedom, democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition on the threat or use of force in accordance with international law. The Indo-Pacific region, which Quad leaders consider an indispensable element of global security and prosperity, has from the very beginning been the primary focus of Quad. Voicing serious concern over increasing militarisation of disputed territories, and dangerous and intimidating manoeuvres in the South China Sea, Quad leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient. They re-emphasised the importance of maintaining and upholding freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce and other uses of

the sea consistent with international law.

While emphasising the importance of adherence to international law, Quad leaders stated that any maritime dispute, if it arises, must be resolved peacefully and in accordance with the basic principles laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea. The Quad leaders also agreed to push further the agenda of UN reform, especially making the Security Council more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic, and accountable through expansion in permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. On the sidelines of the summit, President Biden also supported India's case for permanent membership in the reformed Security Council. The joint statement expressed deepest concern over the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Gaza, the worsening political, security, and humanitarian situation in Myanmar, and the launch of ballistic missiles by North Korea. They underscored the importance of upholding international law and reiterated that all states must refrain from the threat of or use of force against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state. While remaining sensitive to the concerns of Israel, including the release of hostages held by Hamas, the leaders advocated for a sovereign, viable, and independent state of Palestine based on a two-state solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in a just, lasting, and secure peace. The Quad leaders were also quite focused on providing "public goods" that would deliver real, positive, and enduring impact for the Indo-Pacific and accordingly announced a wide range of cooperation initiatives such as vaccine roll-outs to combat the recent outbreak of Mpox, the Cancer Moonshot dealing with cervical cancer, and the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (QCHAMP) to enhance climate and clean energy and to achieve emissions reduction goals and energy security. The Quad Ports of the Future Partnership aimed at improving the region's connectivity through the development of quality, resilient infrastructure; and the Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AIENGAGE) was proposed to harness artificial intelligence, robotics, and sensing to transform agricultural approaches and empower farmers across the region. In order to mobilise investors in strategic technologies, including semiconductors, critical minerals, and quantum, the Quad Investors Network (QUIN) was announced. The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADRR) programme has been launched to enable Quad countries to rapidly coordinate in the face of natural disasters. The Quad leaders also emphasised strengthening the deep and enduring people-to-people ties, including the fellowship initiative for building a network of the next generation of scientists, technocrats, and policymakers. While India announced award of fifty Quad scholarships, worth \$500,000, to students from the Indo-Pacific to pursue undergraduate engineering programmes at government technical institutions, Japan decided to support Quad Fellows to study in Japan. While Quad has over the years positioned itself as an effective counterweight against China, the joint statement failed to offer any concrete and actionable blueprint for countering the challenges posed to the region by China.

The lack of any roadmap for close military cooperation among members to take on the emerging Chinese threat, surprises many critics.

The informal nature of Quad is often problematic. Quad needs a more coherent and tight-knit organisation with its own charter and a permanent secretariat. Despite many shortcomings, the achievements of the Quad cannot be completely dismissed.

The series of initiatives announced by Quad, ranging from health to infrastructure, at least, demonstrate the willingness of members to work together on a broad framework of cooperation that is not limited only to countering China but also undertaking projects beneficial to the people of the region. The developmental and people-centric initiatives may take along regional countries that have been sceptical of Quad's maritime security initiatives and reluctant to see the making of a new NATO type American-led military alliance in the region. PM Modi's statement that the grouping was "not against anybody" was reassuring.

(The writer is Professor and Head, Department of Strategic and Security Studies, Aligarh Muslim University)

New Govt must not discriminate against Jammu; continue PM's line of action in J&K: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday said that the upcoming government in J&K must not discriminate against the Jammu region like the successive governments in the past.

In a statement issued to media persons, he said that BJP after giving a phenomenal performance in the Assembly elections, which is its all time best with 29 seats is ready to take on the constructive role of opposition making it certain that government's action remain free from any kind of prejudice against Jammu region or its people.

He said that peace and prosperity in J&K have been achieved by the BJP Government-led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by visionary



steps and therefore it becomes imperative that the new government in J&K should continue to toe the same line as the centre is endorsing to ensure that J&K keeps moving on path of progress and peace.

He said that it would be advisable

for the new chief minister of the region to run the government amicably with the central dispensation as path of conflict will lead the UT to nowhere.

"The hard earned peace, prosperity and progress in J&K are all due to PM Modi's relentless efforts and it is in no way right to undo the good work of the centre by doing things contrary to the aforementioned.

Even the peaceful elections that took place in J&K are due to success of Modi Government's Kashmir policy therefore it would lead to a big blunder if the upcoming government will change its stance and stop toeing the line of action followed by PM Modi", he said adding that warm ties between J&K Government and the centre is the need of the hour and toeing any other line can prove disastrous as in the past when things had gone out of control.

Indian Army Organizes Lecture on Int'l Girl Child Day at Chakal Salta, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote community development and gender equality, the Indian Army conducted an insightful lecture at Gari High School, Chakal Salta, on the occasion of International Girl Child Day. The event, aligned with the nationwide "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) initiative, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of female education and gender equality.

The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign, launched by the Government of India, addresses critical issues like female foeticide, gender discrimination, and the need for girls' education. During the lecture, the Indian Army emphasized the significance of these issues, calling on the community to support the education and empowerment of girls. The lecture highlighted key areas including educational empowerment, gender equality, and the elimination of harmful gender stereotypes.

One of the most important aspects discussed was the issue of female foeticide and the devastating impact it has on society. The Indian Army's speaker stressed the need to change societal attitudes towards girl children, encouraging families to view daughters as assets, not burdens.

Community engagement and collective responsibility were also underscored as critical components in the fight against gender-based discrimination. Additionally, the lecture provided practical advice to students and parents on career opportunities available to young women, inspiring them to pursue education and become independent contributors to society. The speaker also shared success stories of women who have overcome obstacles and achieved remarkable accomplishments, motivating the students to aim high and break free from traditional gender roles. The Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of the local population was evident in their efforts to drive meaningful conversations on social issues. The lecture was well-received by both students and school staff, with the Principal and students expressing their gratitude for the Army's initiative.

DLSA Bandipora organizes Awareness programme on 'World Mental Health Day'

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

In accordance with the directions of J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in coordination with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal and in collaboration with Education Department Bandipora organized an awareness programme on 'World Mental Health Day' at Government High School Trigam Sumbal.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Chairman (Principal District and Sessions Judge Bandipora) and supervision of Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora,

Advocate Sheikh Ajaz, Panel Lawyer of TLSC Sumbal was the resource person.

He stressed that mental health has become the priority of the present day. Mental health is the growing concern of the fast developing societies and the focus of the programmes like this is always to devise the ways and means to cope with this salient killer. The speaker stressed upon resorting to spirituality to minimize these risks.

The programme was attended by officials, PLVs, panel lawyers and students of the said institutions, and other participants.

JMC Commissioner visits various Municipal wards

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr Devansh Yadav today visited various wards falling under the jurisdiction of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

During the tour, the Commissioner visited various areas including New Plot, Talimorh, Janipur, Roop Nagar, Muthi and other adjoining areas and took stock of activities being carried out by various sections.

Inspecting the morning sanitation being carried out by the sanitation workers of the Corporation, the Commissioner directed the concerned for regular sanitation of the allotted wards.

He asked the concerned for creating awareness among masses about the use of dedicated garbage vehicles ferrying in their respective wards for collection of garbage, besides not to throw the refuse in the streets, saying that it is the duty of every citizen to keep the city neat and clean.

Taking stock of functioning of Street lights installed at various locations in the Municipal limit, the Commissioner directed the con-

Takes stock of basic amenities issues



cerned for immediate identification of non-functional street lights and their repair for the convenience of general masses. He also appreciated the Electrical team for executing the repair of non-functional lights in no time.

Talking serious note of encroachments by the locals at various locations, the Commissioner directed

the concerned for taking immediate measures to remove these encroachments and take stringent action against the violators to prevent such encroachments in future.

Among others, Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma and other senior concerned officers accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

BJP has become more stronger in J&K: Tilak



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has achieved a historic victory in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections and it is indeed a big achievement of the party.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP senior leader & State Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta said this while congratulating the newly elected MLA from R. S. Pura, Dr. Narinder Singh, along with other activists at party head-quarter, on Wednesday.

Tilak Raj Gupta said that the

splendid victory is the reflective of BJP's growing popularity among the people in the U. T.

With voters turning out in large numbers in every part of the region, the BJP's success underscores the party's expanding appeal and its continued efforts to foster development, integration, and stability in the region, he said. Gupta further said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have voted for peace, development, and progress. The massive support to the party is a mandate for the policies which were framed for the welfare and development over the past few years.

He said that the credit for the splendid victory also goes to the concrete efforts of the party activists, who reached at the doorsteps of the people to make them aware about various welfare schemes and mega projects of development.

NC Women workers celebrate a huge victory in Assembly elections



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu 09th October, 2024: Mrs Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women wing Jammu and Kashmir National Conference celebrated victory of the National

Conference today at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu with a group of women workers. She expressed gratitude of the people for the mandate given to the National Conference. She said that the women workers played a crucial role in the party's

success, working tirelessly to mobilize support and ensure a resounding win.

While addressing the women workers she said National Conference is a premier political party and shall form the government in the coming days and ensure that the issues of the common people are mitigated. They ruthlessly danced on the dote with the slogan of Dr Farooq Abdullah Zindabad, Omar Abdullah Zindabad and National Conference Zindabad.

Those who were present on this occasion included:- Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Sunil Sharma, Joginder Kour District Vice President Jammu Urban women wing, S. Jatinder Singh Lucky, Sapna Gill, Bharti, Tilky, Ishtiaq Ahmad and others.

Under CSR, Keran block gets Solar Lights, School Bus, Life Saving Ambulance



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

The District Administration Kupwara today organized a meeting of authorities of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and concerned District Officers for commissioning of various equipment to block Keran under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. General Manager (HR-CSR) IOC, Arif Akhtar; Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Planning Officer and other concerned were present in the meeting. On the occasion, several Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) were signed between the IOC and concerned District Officers for commissioning of Solar Lights, School Bus and a Life Saving Ambulance to border block Keran of district Kupwara. These things are being provided by Indian Oil Corporation under its CSR initiative.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner expressed her gratitude towards the IOC for their positive gesture by way of facilitating the far flung area of border block Keran with essential equipment. She also expressed gratitude towards Divisional Commissioner Kashmir for prioritizing Kupwara district and facilitating the deal between IOC and District Administration. General Manager (HR-CSR) IOC, Arif Akhtar also spoke and highlighted various measures taken by the Corporation under its CSR initiative.

He also assured to extend more support to other areas of this far flung border district in future.

DC Udhampur chairs NCORD meeting to combat drug menace



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, convened a District Level Committee meeting of NCORD here at Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Additional SP Sandeep Bhat, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas and other district officers from various line departments.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned departments to intensify their outreach efforts to aid in the recovery of drug-affected individuals. She emphasized the need to upscale counseling, awareness across the district.

The DC called for a strict enforcement drive to seize drugs and prevent youth, especially students, from falling prey to drug abuse. She further directed the concerned to ensure a 100% computerized billing system in pharmacies.

The DC took review of installation of feedback boxes in educational institutions and emphasized the need for regular awareness sessions to educate students about the ill effects of drugs.

Training Program on Promotion of Niche Crops Under HADP Held at Ramban

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A one-day training program under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) on the "Promotion of Niche Crops in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir" was successfully conducted in Ramban in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ramban, SKUAST-Jammu on 09-10-24. The program aimed to educate and empower local anardana (wild pomegranate) growers by imparting knowledge on best practices for enhancing crop quality and marketability.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. Parshant Bakshi, Head of the Division of Fruit Science, SKUAST-J, and Principal Investigator of the HADP project. In his address, Prof. Bakshi emphasized the significance of the HADP project and its role in promoting niche crops like anardana in the region.

He spoke extensively about the optimal harvesting stage and drying techniques, which are critical in maintaining the quality of anardana. He also highlighted the economic potential of expanding the cultivation area for this crop, noting that both the fruit and its peel provide high returns for the growers, offering substantial economic benefits to the farming community.

Dr. RajKumar Gupta, Head of KVK, Ramban, addressed the socio-



economic importance of anardana cultivation, underscoring its contribution to the livelihood of local growers. He stressed that the promotion of such niche crops not only strengthens the agricultural economy but also enhances the living standards of the rural populace.

In her presentation, Dr. Kiran Kour, Professor, discussed various value addition techniques for anardana, encouraging growers to explore diversified products that could enhance their profitability in the market.

Dr. Parveen Kumar, Scientist at KVK, Ramban, provided insights into the various farmer-centric activities organized by KVK for the betterment of the region's agricultural community. His presentation showcased the ongoing initiatives aimed at providing technical and advisory support to farmers, fostering sustainable agricultural practices in

Ramban.

The training session also featured interactive discussions, with anardana growers from the region sharing their experiences and challenges in cultivation and marketing. Their active participation enriched the event, providing practical insights into the ground realities faced by farmers.

The resource persons were felicitated by momento.

The program was also attended by local experts Mr. Zahid Sheikh and Mr. Mohsin, who contributed to the discussions and shared their perspectives on the potential of niche crops in the region.

The training concluded with a positive response from anardana growers, who expressed their gratitude for the valuable information shared and vowed to implement the knowledge gained in their farming practices.

Sushil Singh Charak Congratulates Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal on Election Victory in Ramgarh

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Sushil Singh Charak, a prominent social activist and Founder of the Nations Development Association (NDA), extends his heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal on his recent election victory in the Ramgarh constituency.

Dr. Manyal secured an impressive 35,672 votes, achieving a significant lead of 14,202 votes. Charak com-

mented, "This victory is a testament to Dr. Manyal's dedication and commitment to the people of Ramgarh. His hard work has truly paid off, and I have every confidence that he will continue to champion the welfare of his constituents."

As a former Secretary of the International Human Rights Organisation in Jammu and Kashmir, Sushil Singh Charak has been an advocate for social justice and human rights, actively collabo-

rating with various organizations to promote development and equality in the region.

"Dr. Manyal's win represents a victory for the people of Ramgarh, and I look forward to the positive changes he will bring to the community," Charak added. Dr. Manyal is a seasoned politician and former Health Minister, previously serving as MLA from Samba, and is currently the BJP General Secretary for J&K.

DDC Poonch chairs DLRC meeting to review Bank Performance for FY 2024-25



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal chaired a DLRC & DCC meeting to review the performance of banks under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) for the financial year 2024-25 and assess government-sponsored cases for the April to June quarter. Lead District Manager (LDM) Poonch, Ashutosh Raj Koul, presented the performance report. He informed the committee that banks operating in the district had disbursed a total of ₹265.02 crore under the ACP against an annual target of ₹725.02 crore, achieving 37% of the target.

Of this, ₹91.44 crore was disbursed in the priority sector, achieving 16% of the target against an annual goal of ₹571.10 crore. Meanwhile, ₹173.58 crore was disbursed in the non-priority sector, exceeding the target of ₹153.91 crore by achieving 113%. The committee was also informed that the total deposits and advances in the district stood at ₹3,848.73 crore and ₹2,089.96 crore, respectively, as of June 30, 2024, compared to ₹3,574.41 crore and ₹1,837.59 crore during the same period last year.

This marks a year-on-year (YoY) growth of 7.67% in deposits and 13.73% in advances. The Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio of the district also improved to 54.30% as of June 30, 2024, up from 51.41% in the corresponding period of 2023, reflecting a YoY growth of 5.62%.

DDC Poonch and Chairman DLRC, Vikas Kundal urged all stakeholders, including officials from the banking sector, agriculture, horticulture, livestock, handicrafts, and other government departments, to foster an environment that encourages youth to explore opportunities beyond government jobs.

"To address the challenge of employment generation, we must strengthen avenues for gainful self-employment and support entrepreneurial aspirations through various credit facilities," he said.

The Chairman also stressed the importance of enhancing performance under priority sector lending and directed all participants to ensure that results are tangible on the ground.

DDC Reasi chairs DLRC meeting, seeks effective implementation of employment schemes



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU REASI:

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to discuss the achievements of the banking sector under district credit schemes. During the meeting, the DDC emphasised that the bankers should open Extension centers at far and remotest places like Thakrakote, Mahore etc to increase banking penetration and also organise maximum camps there in coordination with Government departments to increase financial inclusion.

DDC held discussion on various agendas like Flow of credit to priority sector, key indicators of bank, achievements. He highlighted that special emphasis should be given on two sectors housing loans under the PMAY scheme and Renewable energy and also to increase priority sector lending. DDC directed all the banks to take effective measures for encouraging small lending especially in Agriculture, Education and employment sectors so that the majority of the population was benefited under various schemes.

Platinum Jubilee of Territorial Army Celebrated with Blood Donation and Tree Plantation Drives in J&K

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KUPWARA:

The Territorial Army, also known as the "Citizens' Army," is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee this year, marking 75 years of dedicated service since its formation in 1949. To commemorate this significant milestone, various Territorial Army units across Jammu and Kashmir organized a series of events aimed at contributing to society, nation-building, environmental management, and ecological restoration. Staying true to its legacy of service, the soldiers of the Territorial Army—both as citizens and soldiers—voluntarily participated in blood donation camps and tree plantation drives, showcasing a perfect example of civil-military cooperation. These initiatives, conducted across multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir, underscored the important role the Territorial Army continues to play in the region.

In coordination with government medical colleges, district and private hospitals, and local NGOs, blood donation camps were organized at several locations, including Galuthi, Palma, Thanamandi, Udhampur, Ramban, Khundru, Khunmu, Srinagar, Baramulla, and Kupwara. These camps highlighted the motto, "A gift of blood is a gift of life." As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebra-



tions, citizen-soldiers of the Territorial Army donated an impressive 2,000 units of blood to benefit the local population, reinforcing their commitment to serving the nation both in military and civilian capacities. A major blood donation drive was held in Udhampur, where the Territorial Army Group Headquarters coordinated with the police, local NGOs, and Army personnel. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from civilians and security forces alike, strengthening the bond between the military and the local community.

In addition to blood donation, the Territorial Army also took significant steps towards environmental conservation. To mark this special occasion, 1,000 saplings were planted in various military stations across Jammu and Kashmir. These tree plantation drives were aimed at enhancing the region's green cover and promoting ecological restoration. Earlier in the year, as part of

the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Territorial Army also undertook a challenging cycle expedition from Siachen Base Camp to Indira Point, the southernmost tip of India. The expedition was organized with the dual aim of promoting national integration and raising public awareness about environmental conservation. Throughout the journey, the team engaged in activities to spread awareness about the Indian Army's role and its efforts toward nation-building and environmental sustainability. The Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Territorial Army serve as a testament to the unit's unwavering commitment to the nation, both in times of peace and conflict. Through their ongoing efforts in blood donation, environmental conservation, and public awareness, the soldiers of the Territorial Army continue to play a vital role in strengthening the fabric of the nation and contributing to the well-being of society.

DHSK conducts extensive tour of JLN Hospital, reviews functioning

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Dr Jehangir Bakshi along with the Divisional team, today conducted an extensive visit to Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital Rainawari here to assess the current status of hospital facilities and address key areas requiring immediate attention.

During the tour, Director visited the CT Scan section and highlighted

the need to expedite the delivery of the MRI machine, which has already been processed through the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd (JKMSCL).

The Director stressed the importance of ensuring that the hospital's Operation Theatres function 24x7 for conducting various specialized surgeries. He directed the concerned officers to prioritize the augmentation of both human resources and equipment required to make this possible, thereby enhancing surgical

care at the hospital. The Director conducted a detailed review of the work being done in the Surgical and Medical Intensive Care Units (ICUs). He examined the overall functionality of these critical care units and instructed to improve patient management and care delivery.

A thorough review of the Paediatric section was also carried out. The Director commended the efforts of the staff in managing patient care, recognizing the quality of services being provided to children.

CRC Jammu Hosts 2-Day CRE Programme on Developmental Disabilities

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jammu successfully conducted a two-day Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programme on the topic: "Assessment, Diagnosis and Rehabilitation of Developmental Disabilities" on October 7th and 8th, 2024. This initiative, approved under CRE-24070916011195 on July 18, 2024, attracted approximately 40 participants, including teachers from the Louis Braille Memorial Residential School, Roop Nagar, Jammu.

The programme featured a diverse lineup of 12 resource persons, comprising 10 internal experts and 2 external specialists, who delivered insightful lectures on various topics related to developmental disabilities. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, gaining valuable knowl-



edge and skills to enhance their professional practice.

Dr. Bishamber, Assistant Professor of Special Education (Consultant), expertly coordinated the event under the able guidance of the Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, Composite Regional Centre, Jammu. Each participant received a certificate for attending two day offline CRE Programme with 12 CRE Points which help in their RCI regis-

tration renewal process, recognizing their commitment to professional development in the field of rehabilitation.

The CRC Jammu is dedicated to advancing education and training in the field of special education and rehabilitation, ensuring that professionals are equipped with the latest knowledge and tools to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Social Welfare Deptt celebrate 'International Girl child Day'



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The Department of Social Welfare, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women- Mission Shakti Srinagar Friday celebrated 'International Girl Child Day' at GGHSS Kothibagh Srinagar under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).

International Day of the Girl Child is an annual day celebrated on October 11 in recognition of the rights of girls and the challenges they face globally.

The Day aims to promote girl's empowerment and human rights and to address the needs and challenges girls face. The Day is a time to celebrate girls, amplify their voices and advocate for their rights. The importance of this Day is educating girls can lead to them having healthier, more productive lives, earning higher income, and participating in decisions that affect them. It can also strengthen economies and reduce inequality. The programme started with the Welcome remarks by Ruqaya Ashraf, District Mission Coordinator SANKALP-HEW Mission Shakti Srinagar. Panel Discussion through Special Guests, interactive session and felicitation of Girl achievers from various fields was also held during the programme.

Panel Discussion on International Day of the Girl Child by various dignified Panelists emphasized on raising awareness about the challenges girls face and fostering empathy and understanding, empowering girls by inspiring them to pursue their dreams and become role models for others.

The various panelists invited for the programme were Dr. Mantasha Binti Rashid, Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation who threw light on the topic Women Supporting women: Gender Equality & Opportunities; Syed Sleet Shah, DySP Hqrs, who discussed about Crime, Policing and Gender-Do's & Dont's.

DC Doda flags off Interstate Bike Rally from Bhaderwah to Chamba



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU DODA:

In a remarkable initiative to boost tourism and promote adventure sports, Bhadarwah Development Authority (BDA) in collaboration with Adventure Hawks organized an interstate bike rally.

The rally was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh in presence of CEO BDA Bal Krishan from the Bhadarwah Tourist Reception Centre. The rally, which commenced from Bhadarwah aimed to touch several scenic tourism spots enroute to Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. A major stop was made at the breathtaking Padri Dhar, where the bikers were provided with packed lunches before they continued their journey via Saloni, eventually reaching Chamba.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Harvinder Singh, emphasized the importance of such rallies in promoting tourism. He noted, "This bike rally is not only a boost for tourism but also serves as an effort to keep our youth engaged in positive activities, keeping them away from the dangers of drug abuse." CEO BDA Bal Krishan echoed similar sentiments, adding that the rally organized by home grown group Adventure Hawks was a step forward in promoting adventure tourism in the region and shall significant contribute to the growth of tourism, making Bhadarwah a premier destination for adventure enthusiasts.

India's emergence as a hub for affordable, high-quality medicines is truly commendable: Dr Jitendra Singh

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU NEW DELHI:

The "Make in India" initiative is playing a pivotal role in reducing our dependency on imported Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). By strengthening our domestic manufacturing, we are not only bolstering self-reliance but also ensuring critical healthcare supplies are readily available. This was stated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh.

He was speaking at the 6th CII Pharma & Life Sciences Summit: 2024 here today. The Minister said, "This forum is a vital platform for the exchange of ideas among industry leaders, government officials, and academia, and exemplifies India's determination to lead in the global pharmaceutical and biotech arenas."

Appreciating the pharma industry, he said, "India's emergence as a hub for affordable, high-quality medicines is truly commendable. We now rank 3rd in pharmaceutical production by volume and 14th by value." One of the most remarkable

We must focus on vaccine equity and technology transfer to enhance global vaccination efforts: The Minister



shifts within the industry has been the transition from a generic-focused model to the development of biopharmaceuticals and biosimilars, he added.

Speaking about next industrial revolution, the Minister said, it will come in biotech sector. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wants us to lead it. Thanks to initiatives like the PLI scheme, India is well on its way to becoming a global leader in biopharmaceuticals, biomanufacturing, and life sciences by 2030. However, there is still much to be achieved. I congratulate CII and the life sciences industry on your success, but we must not lose sight of the immense opportunities ahead, he added.

Every third tablet consumed globally is made in

India. A recent Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) survey across 48,000 drug samples from all Indian states revealed a spurious drug incidence of just 0.0245%. However, as goods travel across diverse climatic regions, improving the infrastructure and efficiency of transporting pharmaceutical products is vital to ensuring their efficacy. India's leadership in global health is exemplified by the development of the world's first DNA vaccine for COVID-19 and the efforts to develop the first Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for adolescent girls, which will prevent cervical cancer. Furthermore, producing 65% of the world's vaccines, India has significantly transformed health

outcomes, especially for low- and middle-income countries.

India's bioeconomy has expanded 13-fold in just ten years, thanks to the thriving ecosystem of nearly 6,000 bio-startups. To sustain this momentum, industry must continue to invest in R&D, support young entrepreneurs, and foster a robust startup ecosystem. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), with a budget of Rs 50,000 crore over five years, marks a transformative step in building a knowledge-driven society. By addressing the infrastructure gap in universities, the ANRF will stimulate industry-academia collaborations, particularly in sectors like advanced materials, EV mobility, and health technology.

Yudhvir Sethi thanks people for landslide victory in Jammu East Constituency

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

In a historic win, Yudhvir Sethi has secured a resounding victory in the Assembly elections from East Constituency, amassing the trust of 1.08 lakh voters. Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Sethi dedicated his triumph to the people of the constituency and reaffirmed his commitment to working tirelessly for their welfare.

Yudhvir Sethi lauded the unwavering support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National President JP Nadda, BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina, Working President Sat Sharma, and the entire East Constituency team. He highlighted the collective strength and unity that drove this victory and reiterated his dedication to fulfilling the party's agenda of development and good governance.

While addressing a jubilant crowd during the Vijay Rally in East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi said, "This victory is a reflection of the overwhelming support of the people. I am deeply thankful to every indi-



vidual who voted and placed their confidence in my vision for a progressive and developed East Constituency. This win belongs to each of you, and I will honor your trust with relentless efforts to transform our region."

He further emphasized his focus on infrastructure development, youth employment, and social welfare, ensuring that the needs of the people would be his top priority. "My

mission is to turn East Constituency into a model of growth and prosperity, and I will work in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a 'New Jammu and Kashmir,' ensuring our region flourishes under inclusive development."

"Together, we can build a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir," Sethi said, calling for continued unity and collaboration in the path to progress.

Outstanding Performance of 'Mata Ki Kahani' Mesmerizes Navratra Festival Audience in Katra



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Principal Secretary Culture Suresh Kumar Gupta lauded the most outstanding performance of 'Mata Ki Kahani' at the Navratra Festival-2024, Katra. Joined by Secretary Culture Ms. Deepika Sharma and Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages Ms. Harvinder Kaur, he witnessed the entire presentation of Mata Ki Kahani on the 7th day of Navratra Festival. Prominent amongst those who graced the occasion Rayees Mohammad Bhat, IPS, DIG Reasi-Udhampur Range, Alok Kumar Maurya, IPS, Additional CEO, SMVDSB, Satish Kumar, JKAS, Joint CEO SMVDSB, Gaurav Sikarwar, IPS, SSP Reasi and Vipran Chandran, SP, Katra Applauding the mesmerising show Suresh Kumar Gupta said that seeing the professional class and standard of this power-packed performance, one can say with authority that such matchless shows can be considered at par with any international level shows. He complimented the writer and director of Mata Ki Kahani Padamshree Balwant Thakur and his talented team of Natrang for creating this mind blowing show which innovatively unfolds the entire story of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. He further said that such shows should be taken all-over. Earlier Natrang Director Balwant Thakur shared his experiences of the creation of this

mega theatrical wonder which took him three years in mounting this show.

History has perhaps never witnessed a production of this class at Katra which unfolds the entire legend in a highly spectacular manner. Balwant Thakur who is credited for having created theatrical wonders of world class once again established the fact that his magic spell will continue to mesmerize audiences through his mind-blowing ventures. 'Mata Ki Kahani' – a unique theatrical experience for the audience, beautifully showcased the popular legend of Mata Vaishno Devi. Magically it transported the entire audience to a mesmerising journey unfolding the story of Mata Vaishno Devi which is a classic narrative that echoes every Hindu household and is a part of every grandma's midnight tale. As per the legend, during the period when the Goddess was busy in annihilating the Asuras, Her three main manifestations viz. Mata Maha Kali, Mata Maha Lakshmi and Mata Maha Saraswati got together one day and pooled their collective Tejas or spiritual strength. Today Mata Vaishno Devi is worshiped by millions and trillions of people across the world. Mata Vaishno Devi has surfaced as an embodiment of will, strength and peace. In the present times, when the atrocities against the mankind is prevailing, the legend of Mata Vaishnodevi gives a guiding light to her followers to help her devotees to uphold inner

confidence and faith within themselves and on the strength of her healing and cosmic powers.

The most striking feature of today's performance was the demonstration of perfection in every creative department be it the stage action, design, lighting, scenic imagery and visual poetry which left a life-time impact of a highly vibrant presentation. Pan-India audience on the occasion appreciated the performance and termed this as their lives best memorable presentation which they desired to continue for the entire year so over one Crore pilgrims visiting Katra every year get benefited by such educative showcasing of artistic presentations. Majority of the audiences admitted that they were not fully aware of the whole story of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and after having witnessed this mind-blowing presentation they have come to know about various aspects of the story.

The artists who featured in this mega show included Neeraj Kant, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Kananpreet Kaur, Sana Chouhan, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma, Kavya Sharma, Aradhaya Sharma, Pihu Mehra, Aanya Sharma, Ayushi Nagotra, Anvi Thakur, Aayna Thakur, Sania Bhagat, Sonam Thakur, Jeevika Thakur, Vrinda Gujrallsha Gupta, Mehak Chib, Aradhana Soodan, Divyanshi Sharma, Mehak Singh, Suneha Angural, Sakshi Gupta, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Pratibha Verma, Mahi Verma, Simran Bhagat, Prerna Sharma, Simran Rajput, Ritika, Janvi Biloria, Harmandeep Kour, Arun Dev Verma, Sahil Narwalia, Arun Sharma, Lalita Devi, Shalini Bhagat, Kartik Kumar, Vansh Pandotra, Gopi Sharma, Sanket, Abhinav Sharma, Gourav Khajuria, Manik Sanmotra, Raghuvansh, Bhushan Kumar, Vedanshi Sharma, Deepak Saini, Mridul and Sunny Mujoo. The sets of the play are designed by Veerji Sumbli and lights by Shivam Singh. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

DC Poonch reviews Capex Budget, stresses timely completion of development projects



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a crucial meeting to review the progress of projects under the District Capex budget for 2024-25 at DC office.

Chief Planning Officer, SE PWD (R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development, ACP, XEN Pwd, XEN Jal Shakti XEN Rew, CEO Poonch and heads of other key departments were present in the meeting.

DC Poonch emphasized the importance of ensuring that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timeframes and maintained to high standards of quality. He directed district officers to accelerate the pace of work and ensure that pending projects are started promptly. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the officials to fast-track the tendering process for the remaining projects and ensure smooth execution moving forward.

DC Kishtwar approves 28 Rent Assessment Cases



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

The District Rent Assessment Committee, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today approved 28 rent cases.

The rent cases pertaining to Police, Army, Revenue, PMGSY, Education, Youth services and Sports, Health, cooperative, FCS & CA, ISM besides revenue department were approved by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of various structures in which various government offices are functioning across the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of land and structures on time and ensure safety of the Government/rented property.

He further asked the District Officers to pay the approved rent after proper verification of the records.

Besides, the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar instructed the concerned officers to ensure the participation of Building owners in the next meeting.

'Int'l Girl Child Day' celebrated at GGHSS Aishmuqam

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG:

A significant event aimed at raising awareness about the rights of girls and the challenges they face was today organized to commemorate 'International Girl Child Day' at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Aishmuqam.

The function was attended by Shyam Kumar, Chairman, Tehsil Legal Service Committee, and the Principal of GGHSS Aishmuqam. The event focused on the importance of gender equality and highlighted various laws enacted by the Government of India to combat gender inequality, sexual exploitation, malnutrition, and inadequate healthcare for girl children. In his address, Chairman TLSC, Shyam Kumar, emphasized, "It is our responsibility to provide opportunities for every girl to succeed." His speech underscored the vital role of education in achieving gender equality.

DLSA Kupwara holds awareness programme on Victims of Drug abuse, its eradication

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kupwara, in collaboration with Child Welfare Development, Kupwara, Social Welfare Department Kupwara and Education Department Kupwara today conducted an awareness programme on victims of drug abuse and eradication of drug menace at GHSS Nagri.

The programme was organised under the supervision and guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Chairperson, DLSA (Pr. District & Session Judge) Kupwara.

The programme was aimed to disseminate awareness amongst the masses regarding the



Legal Provisions, various Policies, Programmes and Schemes, in respect of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as to create awareness about the rights of children, ill effects of drug abuse amongst the children in schools and colleges, injective drug user(s), families, workers in unorganized Sector, etc. Resource Person, Adv.

Javid Ahmad Mir (Panel Lawyer DLSA Kupwara) gave an elaborative speech on comprehensive legislations viz.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, for prohibition, control, regulation, cultivation, manufacture, sale, transportation, consumption etc of narcotic drugs

and psychotropic substances.

He also highlighted that the drug menace continues to be on the rise with students and youth being notably affected. He emphasized on the importance of raising mass awareness with students speaking to their peers and helping each other by encouraging them to inform any untoward behaviour of their friends to teachers and parents.

The programme was attended by Dy. Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Officials of Child Welfare Committee, and Officials of social Welfare Department, Kupwara Officials of Women's Cell, and Para legal Volunteers of DLSA Kupwara.

The idea of an integrative system of Medicine Is becoming popular all Over the world: Prez Murmu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the 7th foundation day of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi today (October 9, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Ayurveda is one of the oldest medical systems in the world. It is India's invaluable gift to the world. Ayurveda emphasizes holistic health management while maintaining a balance between mind, body and spirit.

The President said that we have always been aware of the medicinal value of the trees and plants around us and have been using them. In tribal society, the tradition of knowledge of herbs and medicinal plants has been even richer. But as society embraced modernity and moved away from nature, we stopped using that traditional knowledge. It became easier to get medicine from a doctor than adopt home remedies. Now awareness among people is increasing. Today, the idea of an Integrative System of Medicine is

becoming popular all over the world. Different medical systems are helping to provide health to people as complementary systems to each other.

The President said that we have unwavering faith in Ayurveda from generation to generation. Some people take advantage of this faith and cheat innocent people.

They spread misleading information and make false claims, which not only harm the money and health of the public but also defame Ayurveda. She stated that more and more qualified doctors are needed so that people do not have to go to uneducated doctors. She was happy to note that in the past few years, the number of Ayurveda colleges and students has increased significantly. She expressed confidence that in the coming times, the availability of qualified Ayurvedic doctors will increase further.

The President said that the development of Ayurveda will not only be beneficial for humans but also for animals and the environment.

Many trees and plants are becoming extinct because we do not know

about their utility. When we know their importance, we will preserve them. The President said that people associated with different systems of medicine often claim that their system is the best.

It is good to have healthy competition among themselves but there should be no attempt to criticize each other.

There should be a sense of cooperation among people associated with different systems of medicine. The aim of all is to do good to humanity by curing the patients. We all pray 'Sarve Santu Niramayah' - everyone should be free from diseases.

The President said that we have to focus on research and continuous improvement in the quality of medicines to ensure the relevance of Ayurveda. We also need to empower the Ayurveda educational institutions.

She was happy to note that the All India Institute of Ayurveda, combining traditional education with modern technology, has made its important place in Ayurvedic medicine, education, research and overall healthcare in a short span of time.

CEO Poonch conducts surprise visits to schools, emphasizes quality education, hygiene

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Chief Education Officer Poonch, Lal Hussain, conducted a series of surprise inspections across several schools in the Poonch Zone today, including MS Dehrian, MS Sola Jugal, HS Degwar, and MS Degwar, among others.

The visits aimed to evaluate the overall functioning of the institutions and ensure that quality education is being imparted at all levels.

During his visit, CEO Hussain interacted with students, inquiring about their progress in completing the syllabus.

He emphasized the need for timely syllabus completion, especially in primary and pre-primary classes, to ensure that students in this border district receive a strong foundation for future learning.

He urged teachers to maintain high standards and directed them to prioritize the academic needs of younger students.

In addition to academics, Lal Hussain inspected several school kitchens, where he closely examined the hygiene standards and the quality of food being provided under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

He reiterated the importance of maintaining clean kitchens and ensuring nutritious meals for the students, as this directly impacts their health and learning capacity.

The CEO also met with teaching faculty and school heads, reviewing the status of local funds and the management of cash books.

He instructed the school heads to utilize funds judiciously and transparently.

Lal Hussain stressed the importance of financial accountability, stating that all resources must be deployed efficiently to improve the overall school environment and educational infrastructure.

Additionally, the CEO directed school heads to strictly implement the academic calendar issued by the Directorate of School Education.

DC Kulgam reviews physical & financial achievements under District Capex

Instructs Officers to ensure maximum utilization of working season & prioritize timely completion of all works without compromising quality



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KULGAM:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan chaired a meeting today to review the physical and financial progress made under the District Capex.

During the meeting, the DC instructed Officers to ensure maximum utilization of the working season and prioritize the execution of new works. He emphasized the need to complete all ongoing works in a timely manner.

The DC further directed that the audit process in the remaining Panchayats be completed without delay and urged the concerned departments to expedite their work. He stressed the importance of ensuring 100% expenditure of the funds already released, urging officers to put in extra efforts to achieve the desired targets.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bashir Ahmad Wani; Joint Director Planning, Zahid Sajjad; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Executive Engineers from REW, R&B, Jal Shakti, KPDC, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and other district officers.

Indian Army Organizes Coaching Classes for Students to Join Sainik and Military Schools in Lam, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In a significant step towards empowering the youth in the remote border villages of Lam, Laroka, Qila Darhal, and Bhowani in Rajouri district, the Indian Army has launched coaching classes to prepare students for entrance examinations to Sainik and Military Schools. This initiative, which began on October 8, 2024, aims to equip aspiring students with the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue a career in the armed forces.

A total of 32 students have been selected to participate in this coaching program. The Sainik and

Military Schools, established to prepare students for entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA) and other military institutions, play a crucial role in fostering leadership qualities, discipline, and patriotism among young minds.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by students in border areas, the Indian Army has tailored this coaching program to address the specific needs of the local youth.

Parents and educators have expressed their appreciation for the Army's efforts to provide quality education and guidance to these students. The coaching classes aim not only to prepare students academically but also to instill a sense

of pride and responsibility towards their nation. By encouraging students to aspire for a future in the armed forces, the program promotes a spirit of patriotism and a commitment to serving the country.

The Indian Army's involvement in education reflects its broader mission to contribute positively to society, particularly in areas that require special attention. This initiative not only addresses the educational needs of the youth but also strengthens the bond between the Indian Army and the local population, fostering trust and cooperation.

As the first batch of students embarks on their coaching journey, the Indian Army remains committed to nurturing the potential of young minds in these remote areas. This initiative is expected to have a lasting impact, encouraging more students to aspire to join Sainik and Military Schools and, ultimately, the armed forces. In conclusion, the Indian Army's efforts to launch Sainik and Military School coaching classes are commendable.

By providing educational opportunities and fostering a spirit of service, the Army is playing a vital role in shaping the future leaders of the nation.

SSP Railways Jammu holds Darbar at GRP Lines Jammu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Shri. Shailender Singh, SSP GRP Jammu today held a Darbar of Jawans of GRP Jammu which was also attended by Addl SP GRP Jammu, SDPO GRP Jammu, SDPO GRP Jammu and SHOs/ICPPs of GRP Jammu.

The main objective of the Darbar was to interact with the Jawans, listen their genuine grievances and redress them on priority. The

Jawans were told to remain extra vigilant in their area of responsibility. They were told that while on duty if they notice any suspicious movement same should be immediately shared with their senior officers and PCR GRP Jammu. They were also instructed to render all kind of help to the needy passengers especially old aged passengers and children.

The jawans were heard patiently and were given ample time to put forth their grievances.

They were assured that their grievances shall be addressed on priority.

All the section incharges present in the darbar were directed to process all the welfare related cases of Jawans on priority for early disposal.

The Jawans were instructed to remain in proper turnout while on duty. They were also assured that all those jawans who perform their duties with dedication and devotion shall be suitably rewarded.

UNFPA Honors India's Leadership in Maternal Health and Family Planning

Commends India's monumental efforts in reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by an impressive 70% between 2000 and 2020

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has recognized India's extraordinary progress in advancing Maternal Health and Family Planning. Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA, felicitated Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary, by presenting a plaque and certificate and underlined UNFPA's unwavering commitment to partnering with India toward women's health and well-being.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing a number of programmes to improve maternal health outcomes toward achieving zero preventable maternal deaths.

These include assured quality and respectful maternity care under the Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Yojana (SUMAN), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) and the Midwifery Services Initiative.

In the presence of Smt. Aradhana Patnaik, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Health Mission; Smt. Meera Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Reproductive & Child Health (RCH); Mr. Pio Smith, Asia Pacific Regional Director for UNFPA; and Ms. Andrea M. Wojnar, UNFPA India Representative, Dr. Kanem commended India's monumental efforts in reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by an impressive 70% between 2000



and 2020, positioning the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of an MMR below 70 before 2030.

This remarkable progress has saved the lives of thousands of women across the country, particularly those from marginalized communities.

India's Family Planning program has reached new heights, with the Total Fertility Rate reduced below the replacement level (TFR-2). Over the years, UNFPA has played a key role in expanding the basket of contraceptive choices, including the recent inclusion of Subdermal Implants and injectable Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate (DMPA).

The Ministry's leadership in global reproductive health forums was acknowledged with India holding key positions in the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) and the Family Planning

2030 (FP2030) global partnership. During the meeting, Dr. Kanem reaffirmed UNFPA's steadfast commitment to supporting India's efforts in advancing the health and well-being of women, girls, and young people.

As UNFPA commemorates 50 years of partnership with the Government of India, this event marks a significant moment in their shared mission to ensure the health and well-being of every woman and young person in India as the nation progresses toward the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. Dr. Indu Grewal, Additional Commissioner (Family Planning/Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques/ABP), Dr. Pawan Kumar, Additional Commissioner (Maternal Health & Immunization), Dr. Zoya Ali Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner (Nutrition & Adolescent Health), delegates from UNFPA and other senior officials from the Ministry were also present at the event.

Indian Army Organizes Dussehra Celebrations with Local Community in Mandirgala, Rajouri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army marked Dussehra celebrations with great enthusiasm in the Mandirgala region of Rajouri, southern Pir Panjal, bringing joy and unity to the local community, particularly the children. The event, designed to strengthen the bonds between the Army and the local population, showcased cultural performances, traditional music, and dance, which captivated the audience and encouraged active participation from children.

The Army took special care to create an inclusive and safe environment, organizing various activities aimed at both entertainment and education. Children were especially delighted by games, arts and crafts workshops, and storytelling sessions, all of which helped them learn in a fun and interactive way. These activities not only entertained but also provided an opportunity for children to explore their creative sides and engage with their peers. One of the key highlights of the event was the interaction between local leaders, community members, and Indian Army personnel. This open dialogue fostered a sense of mutual understanding and cooperation, promoting a spirit of peace and solidarity in the region. The Indian Army's efforts were lauded for helping bridge gaps between the forces and the local community, emphasizing the importance of collaboration for regional stability.

As part of the celebrations, sweets and refreshments were distributed among the attendees, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. Families expressed their gratitude for the event, noting that the Indian Army's initiative made the festival more meaningful for everyone. Children, in particular, cherished the opportunity to participate in the various activities, taking home not just treats, but also fond memories.

Indian Army Conducts Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan at Thandikassi, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army successfully conducted a Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan campaign at the Government Primary School in Thandikassi, Rajouri, fostering a sense of community and promoting cleanliness. The event attracted 87 participants, including local elders, school teachers, children, and villagers, all united in their commitment to improving hygiene and sanitation in their community.

The campaign kicked off with an informative lecture on cleanliness, delivered by a representative of the Indian Army, along with selected school teachers and students. This session aimed to instill proper waste disposal habits and encourage hygiene practices among the locals.

The discussion highlighted the importance of cleanliness in daily life and the collective responsibility of community members to maintain a clean environment.

Attendees were encouraged to adopt sustainable practices that contribute to the health and well-being of the community.

In addition to the cleanliness awareness program, the event featured the distribution of solar lights to 22 beneficiaries from Thandikassi village under Operation Sadbhavna.

This initiative is designed to promote environmentally friendly sources of energy, significantly enhancing the quality of life for residents in remote areas. By providing solar lights, the Indian Army not only fosters a cleaner environment but also empowers communities with sustainable energy solutions, making a tangible difference in their daily lives. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various segments of the local society, reinforcing the concept of a "Clean and Green India."

People's trust in BJP paves way for record victory: Nitish Mahajan

Congratulates all winning MLAs of BJP

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In what can only be described as a monumental victory, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has emerged victorious in 29 Assembly seats across the Jammu region, solidifying its position as the party of choice for the people. Nitish Mahajan, Co-incharge of the BJP Social Media Department, J&K, attributed this success to the unwavering support of the people and the inspirational leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP National



President JP Nadda. "The overwhelming response from the people of Jammu has been nothing short of phenomenal. This victory showcases the belief of the public in the development-oriented pol-

itics championed by the BJP under the guidance of PM Modi," he said, adding that the massive mandate reflects the people's desire for good governance, peace, and prosperity, which only the BJP has

been able to provide in recent years. Nitish also emphasized the importance of youth and social media in driving the party's message of progress and unity. "The youth of Jammu have played a critical role in spreading BJP's vision across digital platforms, reinforcing the message of a better tomorrow," he said. He expressed his deepest gratitude to every voter and assured that the BJP would continue to uphold the trust placed in them by delivering on its commitments to development, security, and social harmony.

Challenge for new Govt to administratively overcome political divide : Dr Karan Singh

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Expressing satisfaction over conduct of free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir nearly after a decade and appreciating the Election Commission along with the

security forces, former Member Parliament and veteran leader Dr Karan Singh on Wednesday said it will be challenging for the new Government to overcome the political divide between two regions administratively.

"The National Conference has per-

formed spectacularly in Kashmir while the BJP has done the same in Jammu.

However, the BJP has drawn blank in Kashmir and the Congress a virtual blank in Jammu," Dr Karan Singh here said in a statement.

IAF's Air Power & 'Aatmanirbharta' Shine at 92nd Anniversary in Chennai

Chief of Defence Staff Graces the Event; Chief of Air Staff Reviews Ceremonial Parade



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU NEW DELHI:

An immaculate ceremonial parade, a breathtaking demonstration of air power, and a spectacular static display of state-of-the-art equipment marked the celebrations of the 92nd anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Air Force Station, Tambaram in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on October 8, 2024. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan graced the celebrations, while the ceremonial parade was reviewed by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh. In his address, the Chief of Air Staff underscored the need for the IAF to remain prepared to meet any contingency that challenges national interests. He stated that the current global security environment is in a state of constant flux and ongoing conflicts have demonstrated an inescapable need for a strong and capable Air Force. He added that adopting the latest technology, along with innovative and out-of-the-box thinking, will play a decisive role in today's multi-domain environment. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh emphasized that the theme of Air Force Day 2024, 'Bhartiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Aatmanirbhar,' perfectly

describes the aspirations of the IAF. "Over the years, we have become more empowered with better technology and achieved new levels of operational exploitation of systems and weapons. Aatmanirbharta in the field of defence R&D and manufacturing is our priority. Concrete steps have been taken to support Make in India initiatives by engaging MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, professionals, R&D institutes, and academia," he added.

The Chief of Air Staff described Air Force Day as an occasion for the air warriors to rededicate themselves to the service of the nation, introspect on the previous year, celebrate achievements, recognize areas for improvement, and realign to the present and future requirements. Regarding last year's achievements, he stated that the IAF has proved its mettle on various fronts.

"One of our primary objectives is to deliver weapons on target, on time, every time, and this capability was aptly showcased during the fire-power demonstration exercise 'Vayu Shakti' at the Pokhran Range in February 2024," he said.

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh added that the IAF expanded its participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises with friendly countries this

year. He stated that the successful conduct of the largest multinational exercise on Indian soil, 'Tarang Shakti,' was a testimony to the competence and professionalism of India's air warriors.

The Chief of Air Staff asserted that the IAF has always been the first responder to calls for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief both within the country and abroad, highlighting various operations conducted in the last year. He reaffirmed the IAF's full commitment to providing a conducive working environment for air warriors, terming the welfare and well-being of personnel and their families as of utmost importance.

Parade

The parade commenced with the marching-in of the President's Colours, symbolizing pride, unity, strength, and esprit de corps. The atmosphere became even more melodious through the performance of a Tri-Services Band, which filled the air with patriotic fervor. The Air Warrior Drill Team captivated the audience with their sharp and synchronized movements, leaving a lasting impression on all present.

Airshow

The parade was followed by an aerial display, with various jets, including the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, Sukhoi-30 MKI, and Pilatus, performing daring low-level aerobatic maneuvers.

The skies over Chennai were painted in the colors of the national flag as the Suryakiran Aerobatics Team and Sarang Helicopter Team mesmerized the crowd with thrilling performances.

Static Display

The static display featured state-of-the-art equipment such as the ALH Mk-4, C-295 Transport Aircraft, Akash Missile Defence System, HTT-40, and Rohini Radar.

The event was a fitting tribute to the IAF's nearly a century of unwavering dedication and unparalleled service to the nation, embodying the theme of 'Bhartiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Aatmanirbhar.'

Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai': Nadda Hails BJP's Poll Victory In Haryana, Performance In J&K



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU NEW DELHI:

BJP chief J P Nadda on Tuesday hailed the party's victory in the Haryana assembly polls and said the people have rejected the Congress' pitch for casteism, nepotism and dynastic politics, and voted for the BJP's development model under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Addressing an event at the BJP headquarters here, Nadda also hailed the party's performance in Jammu and Kashmir, and said its vote share increased in the assembly polls as the people of the Union territory

reposed faith in Modi's leadership. "Congress leaders were engaged in spreading lies but people did not pay any heed to them. They gave a mandate to the BJP for a third consecutive term in Haryana," he said.

People have rejected the Congress' pitch for casteism, nepotism and dynastic politics, and voted for the BJP's development model under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. "This once again proves that 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai' (It is possible when Modi is there). And this is Modi's guarantee," Nadda added. He also urged party workers to stay united and ensure the BJP's victory in the upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi.

KCCI Congratulates Newly Elected J&K Representatives, Seeks Collaborative Growth

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has extended warm congratulations to the newly elected members of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly. KCCI acknowledged the trust and confidence that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have placed in their representatives through a democratic process, with a large turnout showcasing the people's active participation in shaping the region's future.

KCCI expressed its optimism about the upcoming collaboration with the new government and the elected representatives. The Chamber emphasized the need to address key issues affecting the region, particularly those impacting trade, commerce, and industry, which are crucial for the economic well-being of the region. KCCI is hopeful that under the leadership of the new administration, Jammu & Kashmir will see positive policy changes and initiatives that will bolster economic growth and create opportunities for

businesses to flourish. KCCI highlighted the importance of focusing on the promotion of local businesses, improving infrastructure, and creating a conducive environment for industries to thrive. The organization also pointed to the need for policies that support entrepreneurs and create sustainable development in the region. The Chamber believes that an open dialogue and cooperation between the government and industry stakeholders are essential for resolving challenges and achieving long-term economic stability.

The Chamber also reiterated its commitment to working with the government on initiatives aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the people, ensuring that the region's economic interests align with the welfare of its residents. The KCCI looks forward to contributing its expertise and resources to assist the government in creating strategies that will enhance trade, commerce, and industry, ultimately leading to a stronger and more resilient economy for Jammu & Kashmir.

Indian Army Conducts Lecture on Career Opportunities for Women at Naili, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAJOURI:

In a significant step toward women empowerment, the Indian Army organized a 'Lecture on Career Opportunities for Women' in Naili, Rajouri, aimed at spreading awareness and inspiring local females

about better job prospects. The lecture also focused on promoting gender equality and encouraging women to join the Armed Forces by highlighting various career paths available, including medical, engineering, and administrative roles.

The event was well-attended, with a total of 60 participants, compris-

ing ten women, ten men, and 40 children. Refreshments were provided to all invitees, creating a welcoming atmosphere for discussion and interaction.

The primary aim of the lecture was to educate girls and women, as well as the local populace, about various educational and career opportunity schemes offered by the Central and State Governments to address unemployment issues prevalent in the region.

A representative from the Indian Army delivered an insightful address, shedding light on various initiatives and scholarships available for women that have opened doors to pursue higher education and careers in traditionally male-dominated industries.