

The Kashmir Talk

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Misusing the Constitution and destroying its spirit has been a part of Congress DNA: PM

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday charged the Congress with misusing the provision of the Constitution when it was in power while asserting that his government has also amended the Constitution but only for the sake of the country's unity.

"Misusing the Constitution and destroying its spirit has been a part of Congress' DNA. For us, the Constitution, its purity, and its integrity are of the greatest importance," Modi said during his nearly two hours marathon reply to a two-day special debate on the



75th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution of India in the Lok Sabha. "We have also made constitutional amendments... but for the unity of the country, for the integrity of the country, for the bright future of the country and with full dedication to the spirit of the Constitution," Modi

asserted.

He said that when the NDA got a chance to form the government in 2014, democracy and the Constitution got strengthened.

"It is our big mission and resolve to liberate the poor from their difficulties.

We are proud that today 25 crore people

have come out of poverty," Modi said.

Modi also placed 11 resolutions before the House which included that "the Constitution should be respected, the Constitution should not be made a weapon for political selfishness, Keeping in mind the spirit of the Constitution, those who are getting reservation should not be snatched away and every attempt at reservation on the basis of religion should be stopped, India should become an example for the world in women led development."

Other key resolutions placed by the Prime Minister also included that the country's politics should be freed

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BJP's Assembly Vote Share Higher Than Ruling Party In J&K: Dr Jitendra Singh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Even though we could not form the government in Jammu & Kashmir, BJP's vote share in the Legislative Assembly election was higher than the ruling party, National Conference. That is because we got more votes but lost a few seats by a very narrow margin. Our vote share in the Muslim dominated Kashmir Valley also showed a significant rise. This was stated by the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at the "India Economic Conclave" organised

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Congress Must Earn Its Place As INDIA Bloc Leader, Not Take It For Granted: Omar Abdullah



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Acknowledging growing discontent among INDIA bloc partners with the Congress, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has asked the party to justify its leadership role in the

alliance instead of taking it for granted.

Abdullah, while recognising the Congress' significant position as a pan-India party and the largest opposition in Parliament, emphasised that leadership "has to be earned" and cannot be taken for granted. He also

suggested that the party should raise the issue of restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir. "By virtue of being the single largest party in Parliament, and also having the leader of opposition in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the fact that they have a pan-India footprint, which no other party can lay claim to, they are natural sort of leaders of an opposition movement," Abdullah told PTI in his first interview after becoming the chief minister in October. Yet there is a sense of disquiet among some of the allies because they feel the Congress is "not doing enough to justify it or to earn it or to keep it. That's

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Indian forces going to all patrolling points in Depsang in Ladakh, Eastward limit: Jaishankar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday that security forces would be going to all patrolling points in Depsang in Ladakh and also to the eastward limit which are historically been India's patrolling limit.

He said in Lok Sabha that the last of the disengagement agreement with China was related to Depsang and Demchok.

"I want to convey that it was mentioned in my (previous) statement (in Parliament) that the understanding envisaged that Indian security forces would be going to all patrolling points in Depsang, and would be going to the eastward



limit which are historically been our patrolling limit in that part," he said during Question Hour.

The minister said in the same statement, he has made it clear that India had disengagement agreements with China in the past too. "Those disengagement agreements also had certain provisions where both sides on a temporary basis had agreed to put certain restraint on themselves.

So I think the position is very clear in that statement. I would urge the honourable member to read that statement again," he said replying to a supplementary question on India-China boundary agreement. Replying to a question on a picture of Nepal currency that allegedly showed a part of Indian territory as its own, Jaishankar said India's position regarding

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Lt Guv interacts with the Youth from Tamil Nadu, at Raj Bhawan

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the youth delegation from Tamil Nadu, who are on a five-day visit to J&K for Yuva Sangam, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.

The Lieutenant Governor welcomed the Youth and learned about the experiences and multi-dimensional exposure they gained during their visit to the UT of J&K.

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Army to host Soldierathon Marathon to celebrate 1971 War victory

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a stirring tribute to India's historic victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Government, is set to organize a



Special Edition of the Soldierathon Marathon

on December 15, at Central Park, Nava Raipur.

This landmark event promises to be a blend of athleticism, patriotism, and a heartfelt homage to the brave soldiers whose sacrifices reshaped the

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Misusing the...

from nepotism, there should be freedom from the mentality of slavery, there should be pride in the heritage of the country and there should be zero tolerance towards corruption, there should not be social acceptance of the corrupt. Launching a scathing attack on the grand old party, the Prime Minister said, "One family of Congress left no stone unturned in hurling a blow to the Constitution." He said when India was celebrating 25 years of the Constitution, it "was torn apart" and an Emergency was imposed. "It is 75 years of the Constitution. But 25 years also has an importance, so do 50 years and 60 years...When the country was witnessing 25 years of Constitution, at the same time the Constitution in our country was razed. Emergency was imposed, democratic systems were finished, the country was turned into a prison, citizens' rights were looted, and press freedom was curtailed," the Prime Minister said.

"This sin on the forehead of Congress can never be erased. Whenever democracy will be discussed across the world, Congress' sin will never be erased because democracy was strangled," PM Modi said.

Emergency was imposed on June 25, 1975 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Referring to the Nehru-Gandhi family, Modi alleged that it "has challenged the Constitution at all levels".

"Highs and lows occurred, there were difficulties too, there were obstacles as well. But I bow before the people of the country once again that they strongly stood with the Constitution...I do not want to make personal criticism of anyone but it is important to place facts before the country. That is why I would like to do that," he said.

"One family of Congress left no stone unturned in hurling a blow to the Constitution. I am mentioning that one family because in 75 years of our journey, they ruled for 55 years. So, the country has the right to know what happened. The tradition of this family's ill-thoughts, bad policies is ongoing continuously. This family has challenged the Constitution at all levels," he alleged.

BJP's Assembly...

by "Times Now" at Bharat Mandapam, here.

In response to a question, Dr Jitendra Singh accused the Congress party of spreading misgivings and false myths about the BJP among the people of the Kashmir Valley like it had done in the Northeast, but now, like the people of the Northeast, the people across J&K have begun to realise that the BJP is the only party which can provide justice to all without discrimination. There was a time, recalled Dr Jitendra Singh, when it was a taboo to utter BJP's name in Kashmir valley, let alone carry its flag. But today the BJP election campaign in Kashmir presents the same scene as in any other part of the country, he said.

Coming to the main theme of the Conclave, "Indian Economy, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in order to achieve the goal of 2047 and make India a global phenomenon, we need to follow global strategies and parameters.

India's Space, Marine and Himalayan resources, which remained inadequately explored before PM Narendra Modi took over, will contribute substantially to India's future economic growth. While answering to a question on how India can unleash benefits out of its natural resources in future in terms of creative growth, the Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has opened the Space sector for private players which offers an ample opportunity to harness benefits.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, India is on the path of raising its Space sector to global standards. He informed that India has made a quantum jump since 2014 in the Space economy. Presently India's space sector contributes eight to nine percent of the world space economy, said Dr. Jitendra Singh and added that the Indian economy will rise threefold in the next ten years. This could not have been possible without the active leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Minister said that though ISRO was born later than NASA but today it is no longer lagging behind any other organisation in the world. Its capacity is going up day by day. So far we have launched more than 432 Satellites out of which 397 were launched after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took over in 2014.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India will have its own space station by 2035. The Union Minister opined that we need to explore unexplored areas. There is no dearth of resources, potential, commitment and passion.

When asked about Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Jitendra Singh said, BJP's performance in the recent Assembly election has been the best so far and "our vote share has not only increased but our vote share is higher than that of the ruling Party there".

He said, over 2 Crore tourists visiting the Kashmir

Valley is a testimony to the return of normalcy.

Congress Must...

something the Congress might wish to consider."

Still, Abdullah praised former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, describing her as a leader of unparalleled stature within the opposition alliance. "When the INDIA bloc comes together, she plays an important leadership role," he added.

Abdullah chose not to give a direct answer to a question about statements made by leaders like Sharad Pawar or Lalu Yadav favouring West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as a better leader but highlighted the INDIA bloc's lack of consistent engagement, warning that the coalition risks becoming a mere election-time convenience.

Abdullah stressed the need for sustained interactions beyond the electoral cycle, noting that the alliance's current approach appears sporadic and ineffective. "Our existence can't just be about six months before Parliament elections. Our existence has to be something more than that. The last time we met was when the Lok Sabha results had only just come out. There has been no formal or informal sort of work that has been done for the INDIA bloc," he said.

Abdullah, who is the vice president of the National Conference, also stressed the importance of establishing a structured communication framework. "You need to have a programme of regular interactions," he explained, adding "not that you just come alive once Lok Sabha elections are announced and suddenly start talking and trying to work things out".

Abdullah's comments suggest underlying tensions within the opposition alliance, indicating that infrequent meetings could potentially magnify minor disagreements.

"If we had a more regular process of interaction, perhaps these smaller irritants wouldn't assume larger proportions," he added.

Abdullah has also not been very happy with the electoral alliance his National Conference party formed with the Congress before the Jammu-Kashmir assembly elections, where it failed to pull its weight during campaigning.

The NC won 41 seats while Congress got six. Observers noted that Congress leaders did little work during the campaigning, and left all the heavy lifting to the NC. INDIA bloc was formed as a combined opposition to stop the ruling BJP juggernaut but has failed to make much dent. Despite its good showing in the parliamentary elections, the Congress and its allies have failed miserably in two recent assembly elections - Haryana and Maharashtra.

Abdullah's comments are further proof of the discontent within the INDIA bloc and the challenges it faces in countering the BJP in future political engagements. In a candid assessment of recent electoral debacles for Congress, Abdullah highlighted the growing strains within political alliances, particularly focusing on the Congress party's electoral performance and seat distribution strategies. "The Congress needs to critically examine its strike rate and learn lessons applicable to future elections," he said. Recurring patterns of alliance discomfort have been observed across multiple states, including Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra, he said adding these tensions have reportedly contributed to the breakdown of potential alliances, such as the failure to collaborate between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress in Delhi, despite previous parliamentary election cooperation.

Army to host....

nation's destiny. The marathon will feature diverse race categories catering to all fitness levels, including a 21 km, 10 km, and 5 km run, alongside a 3 km walk. Adding to the event's significance, a Race Expo will take place on December 14, 2024, at the same venue. A key highlight of the event is a rare exhibit of war relics from the 1971 Indo-Pak War, offering participants and attendees a unique opportunity to delve into India's military history.

The display will feature artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia, serving as a vivid reminder of the courage and sacrifices of Indian soldiers during the decisive conflict.

General VK Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC, and former Chief of Army Staff, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. As part of the event, he will present a cheque of Rs 19,63,284 to the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre. This marathon is more than a celebration of fitness, it is a profound tribute to the valor of Indian soldiers and a rallying cry for unity and patriotism.

Through events like the Soldierathon, the Indian Army seeks to inspire citizens, particularly the youth, to honor the nation's glorious past while fostering a deeper bond with the Armed Forces.

The Soldierathon Marathon stands as a beacon of

national pride, combining the spirit of athleticism with a heartfelt remembrance of the 1971 War victory.

By participating in this historic event, citizens have the chance to pay tribute to the bravehearts who defended the nation's sovereignty while celebrating the indomitable spirit of India. This isn't just a marathon, it's a march of gratitude, patriotism, and collective resilience.

Indian forces....

the border is very clear.

He said if any of India's neighbours thinks that by doing something they want to change India's position, they should be very clear that it is not going to happen.

"I think the entire House is clear on that with me," he said.

On Myanmar, the minister said because of the very disturbed conditions in Myanmar, India had to review the Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people residing close to the India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents.

He, however, said the government is sensitive to the requirements of the border communities and is working something on that.

Jaishankar said part of the challenge along Myanmar border is that there is very little government authority on the other side of the border and whatever is required to do, India itself has to do on its own.

"But today definitely there is much greater presence there to secure our border, to monitor people across the border," he said.

On a question on India's neighbourhood first policy, Jaishankar said before Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Nepal, there was no visit by any Prime Minister to Nepal for 17 years but that did not mean that nobody in India cared for Nepal.

Similarly in case of Sri Lanka, before Modi visited the country, for 30 years, there was no bilateral visit, he said.

"Visits are important. I accept that. Visits are also subject of timing & convenience and of agenda. The honourable MP asked we give them priority, do they give us priority. The answer is yes," he said.

The minister said with regards to Maldives under the current government, the Addu Link Road and Reclamation Project, which was funded by India, was inaugurated and he himself was present.

"By the way, the President of Maldives was present at the oath taking ceremony of this new government," he said.

Jaishankar said if an opposition member desires to somehow show the foreign policy of this government in bad light for political purposes, that is the member's privilege.

"That is not my nature to make foreign policy partisan. But I would like to remind the member through you that the very Maldives which he was talking about was, Indian companies were driven out from there from an important project in 2012.

"In same Sri Lanka, Hambanthota was built by China in 2008. The same Bangladesh was giving support to terrorists till 2014. The same Myanmar was hosting Indian insurgent groups," he said.

The minister said for carrying out development projects, both India and the country concerned need to cooperate.

"If we look today at the number of projects, the volumes of trade, the exchanges which are taking place, I think the answer is very clear. Now, our neighbours also have their politics. They have ups and down in their countries. There are some implications on us. Relations are important. We are mature. We don't get into point score," he said.

Lt Governor interacts...

"Tamil Nadu and Jammu Kashmir are eternally connected since time immemorial. When I look at the two regions, I see the inspiring chapters of rich ancient Indian history, contribution of men and women who shaped the destiny of our country," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the Yuva Sangam initiative of Ministry of Education, aimed at strengthening people-to-people connect among youth across different States and Union Territories.

"I am truly grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for unlocking the power of diversity with the spirit of oneness," the Lieutenant Governor said. He also spoke on the Youth specific and youth-related policies and programmes launched in the last 10 years to create an enabling environment to realize their dreams.

"The social consciousness of our youth is sharp and they have big dreams not just for themselves but for the development of this great nation. Our youth have started thinking about the future that they want. They are also working towards constructive change for a prosperous society based on equality and social justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW organizes awareness session on "Sexual Harassment at workplace prevention, prohibition & redressal" in Khour

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu conducted an awareness session on Sexual harassment at workplace prevention in collaboration with JKNRLM at the Block Training Centre Khour. The program, which saw a large turnout of women from JKRLM including Cluster Coordinators, Mobilisers, Management Information System Multitasking staff and surrounding communities, highlighted the importance of empowering women through education, healthcare, safety, and economic opportunities.

The program featured comprehensive presentation by Advocate Meenu

Padha from High Court providing in-depth information about gender based violence, sexual harassment at workplace prevention prohibition & redressal act 2013. She highlighted the stigmas that are still prevalent in society about gender allocation and how the judiciary has come out with the various laws for the justice of women in every perspective whether it is her family, workplace or surroundings like Zero FIR. Furthermore, she corresponded 7 point Guide for sexual harassment at workplace prevention as they should have POSH POLICY in place, create a safe culture that promotes open communication, providing effective sexual harassment prevention training to all, not to wait for

complaint, the employees should have informal communication about sexual harassment.

Further Officials of Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW scattered the information on various government schemes and programs designed to empower women like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), NHM Health Schemes, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Ladli Beti, Scholarship Schemes, Skill Development Programs, Business Startup Schemes, Pension Schemes, SMAS for Marriage, Schemes for Women in Distress.

The event received positive feedback from participants, highlighting the program's success in raising awareness and providing valuable information to the community.

Indian Army Organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment at Mandirgala, Rajouri



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and empower women, the Indian Army organized an insightful lecture on women empowerment at the Government Middle School, Dhar, in Mandirgala, Rajouri. The event, attended by 25 students, 7 women, 4 men, and 4 senior citizens, highlighted the critical role of women in shaping society and their increasing contributions to the defense forces and various other domains.

The lecture aimed to raise awareness about the importance of women's empowerment as a vital element of societal progress. Military personnel, students, teachers, and civilians participated enthusiastically, creating an atmosphere of engagement and learning. The Indian Army sought to shed light on

the achievements of women in various fields, particularly in defense, while encouraging young girls to aspire to contribute to nation-building in diverse capacities.

The session began with a detailed discussion on the significance of gender equality and its impact on national development. Speakers emphasized how empowering women in education, employment, and decision-making roles can lead to a more inclusive and progressive society. The Army personnel shared inspiring stories of women excelling in the armed forces, breaking barriers, and setting examples of resilience and leadership.

Following the lecture, an interactive session was held, where participants engaged in thoughtful discussions about the challenges and opportunities related to women's empowerment in both military and civilian sectors. Attendees expressed

their views on various topics, including education, career opportunities, and the importance of fostering a supportive environment for women to thrive. The session provided a platform for open dialogue, enabling participants to voice their concerns and share ideas for collective progress.

This initiative reflects the Indian Army's broader commitment to integrating gender perspectives into its operational and strategic frameworks. By championing the cause of women's empowerment, the Army is not only contributing to gender equality but also laying the groundwork for a stronger and more united society. The Indian Army recognizes that empowering women is essential for building a robust, inclusive, and forward-looking nation. Initiatives like this lecture serve as a testament to the Army's dedication to social upliftment beyond its primary role of safeguarding national security. By reaching out to communities and addressing pivotal issues like gender equality, the Indian Army continues to strengthen its bond with the people while fostering a culture of progress and inclusivity in Jammu and Kashmir. Such events underline the importance of collective efforts to ensure women's active participation in all spheres of life, setting the stage for a brighter and more equitable future.

ACR Kishtwar conducts enforcement drive on unauthorized street vendors, traffic violations



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

In continuation to ongoing enforcement drive, a joint team led by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, (ACR) Kishtwar, Idrees Lone alongwith Tehsildar Kishtwar, Nirbhay Sharma and officials of Traffic Department, Police, NHIDCL, GREF conducted crackdown on unauthorized street vendors and traffic violators in the town area alongside the National Highway.

The drive was aimed to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and hassle free movement of pedestrians in the township of Kishtwar.

The vehicles besides stalls were removed to clear illegal occupations along the National Highway in the town area.

The vehicles were challaned and seized besides a fine of over ₹20,000 was realised from violators.

ACR issued strict warning, emphasizing that violations, including illegal parking will attract stringent penalties.

The DC Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan declared the stretches from DC Office to Malipeth and Girinagar to Kuleed Chowk, alongside the National Highway, as no parking zones and appealed to the public and shopkeepers to use designated parking spaces.

Director Agriculture Jammu reviews progress on Fertilizer License Updation and POS Device Distribution in J&K



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a bid to review the progress on Fertilizer License Updation and POS Device Distribution in J&K, Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen, chaired an important meeting at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan Jammu.

The meeting focused on the updation of fertilizer licenses for wholesalers and retailers, the procurement and distribution of L-1 POS devices by fertilizer companies, and the status of installation at retailer and dealer points across Jammu and Kashmir.

The discussions also included updates on the development of PACS as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Suvidha Kendra (PMKSK) in the Jammu and Kashmir UT. Additionally, the liquidation of POS stocks held on the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) portal was thoroughly reviewed to ensure smooth operations and transparency in the distribution system.

Director Agriculture underscored the importance of timely updation of fertilizer licenses and effective implementation of the POS devices, which are essential for streamlining the agricultural supply chain and promoting the welfare of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the need for continued collaboration between government agencies, fertilizer companies, and stakeholders to ensure that the required steps are taken swiftly for the benefit of the farming community in the Union Territory. Key participants in the meeting included Kuldeep Singh, Assistant Director Law Enforcement, Jammu, Santosh Bhat, SMS-III Fertilizer/Legal Section, Vimal Pal, DMM-Jammu Division (CFCL), Vivek Verma, FO-Jammu (IFFCO), Akhil, State Coordinator DOF/GOI, and Goutam, Marketing Manager of NFL.

Sham Lal Sharma, Commissioner JMC conduct Tour in Jammu North to inspect water bodies

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Sham Lal Sharma, accompanied by Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, conducted an extensive tour of Jammu North to inspect water bodies and other ongoing works under the jurisdiction of JMC. During the tour, they visited several important water bodies, including those at Janipur, Keran Upper Muthi, and Barnai.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sham Lal Sharma highlighted the issue of the depleting water table, attributing it to the lack of water recharging initiatives. He empha-

sized the importance of preserving rainwater to aid in the replenishment of the water table, stressing that collaborative efforts are needed for effective water conservation. Appreciating the efforts of the JMC team, led by Commissioner Dr. Yadav, MLA Sharma stated, "We are at the doorstep of the people, working to address their grievances and assess their developmental needs." The JMC Commissioner underscored that water bodies play significant role in recharging the water table, calling them the primary sources for replenishing groundwater. He assured that the government is focused on the rejuvenation, maintenance, and sanitation of these water bodies. He said that several water bodies within the Municipal limits will be included in

the AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) Scheme and the Jan Bagidari Scheme for further development.

The Commissioner also instructed the Health officer, JMC to ensure vigilance around these water bodies to prevent garbage dumping. "Any refuse found near the water bodies should be promptly lifted," he directed, emphasizing the need for maintaining cleanliness and protecting these vital water resources. Among others, Joint Commissioner, Works, Firdous Ahmad Qazi, Deputy Commissioner, North JMC Sanjay Badyal, Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Executive Engineers, Akhil Dutt and other senior officers of JMC accompanied during the tour.

Three-Day Training Programme for AWWs of Inderwal, Nagseni culminates under 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' initiative

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

A three-day training programme for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) of Inderwal and Nagseni blocks, organized under the 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' initiative of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), concluded successfully today.

The training was conducted under the overall supervision of Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma, Programme Officer, ICDS Kishtwar, with coordinated management by Dr. Najieb Latief, CDPO Nagseni, and Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, CDPO Inderwal.

During the training, a series of expert-led sessions provided Anganwadi Workers with valuable insights into teaching methodologies for pre-primary students and early childhood education practices at Anganwadi Centres.

Special emphasis was laid on Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM) and motor nerve development education, facilitated by Kidzee International School, Kishtwar. In addition, a dedicated session on pho-



netics was delivered by phonetics specialist Lokesh Sharma, enhancing the AWWs' ability to improve language skills among young learners. Food Safety Officer Farooq Ahmed delivered an insightful lecture on maintaining nutrition and hygiene standards at Anganwadi Centres, while Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Health Officer, provided guidance on health and wellness practices for children.

The programme also witnessed the active participation of CDPOs from Kishtwar and Drabshalla, including

Dr. Rahida Banoo, along with supervisors from both blocks, who ensured seamless execution of the event. Programme Officer ICDS Kishtwar, Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma emphasised the Anganwadi Workers, to implement the knowledge and skills acquired during the training in their respective centres.

He emphasized that initiatives like 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' aim to not only address nutritional needs but also provide a strong foundation for holistic childhood development.

Deputy Commissioner launches awareness programme on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today launched awareness programme on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana here at DC Office Complex. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a government scheme that aims to provide free electricity to households in all over India. Under the said scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the critical role of renewable energy, urging all citizens of Poonch to



embrace solar technology.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that beneficiaries can receive a 65% subsidy on the installation of 2KW systems, making renewable energy more accessible to the com-

munity. The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the importance of sustainable energy solutions in improving quality of life and supporting environmental sustainability.

DC Rajouri reviews functioning of Tourism Sector

Emphasises on heritage revival, infrastructure, and promotion strategies



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, chaired a comprehensive meeting at Chingus Tourism Hut to review the functioning of the Tourism Department and deliberate on strategies to enhance tourism in the district.

During the meeting, the DC assessed the potential of various tourism avenues, including religious, pilgrimage, heritage, adventure, and wellness tourism sites in Rajouri. He reviewed the status of key tourism assets such as the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) Rajouri, huts, base camps, parks, cafeterias, and other facilities.

Highlighting the need for financial transparency, the DC directed the submission of an audit report on the income and expenditure associated with these tourism sites. He also emphasized the installation of signages along the National Highway in coordination with the BRO, displaying details and distances to prominent tourist destinations. To enhance infrastructure and management, the DC instructed the preparation of a detailed plan categorizing assets as self-run, outsourced to private entities, or managed by government institutions. He also mandated the installation of CCTV cameras at all tourism sites to ensure security.

In a move to revive the district's heritage, DC Sharma visited

Chingus Sarai and directed efforts to restore forts under the Revival of Heritage Schemes. Additionally, he tasked ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, to convene a meeting with stakeholders, including the Army, tour and travel operators, restaurant owners, and youth interested in providing camping materials, to develop a collaborative approach.

Profiling and documenting all tourism sites through photographs and videos were emphasized, along with promoting homestays in Shahdara Sharif, Tata Pani, Doongi, and Mangla Mata.

ACP Rajouri, Sheraz Ahmed, was directed to coordinate with various departments to facilitate homestay promotion and ensure the availability of toilet facilities in these areas.

DC also stressed the beautification of tourism sites and instructed the display of travel packages and route plans to attract visitors and enhance their experiences. The meeting was attended by ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, CEO Tourism Development Authority Rajouri, Fareed Ahmed, ACP Sheraz Ahmed, AD Tourism Muzamil Choudhary, and other district and sectoral officers.

JKWDC holds awareness camp, loan Mela at Kupwara

Raises awareness on govt-sponsored initiatives to ensure equitable access to financial support for women

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

The Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC) in collaboration with the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India Saturday organized a one-day awareness camp and loan mela at BHSS, Nagri, Kupwara.

The event, held in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department Kupwara, attracted over 300 women participants, eager to learn about welfare schemes, financial opportunities, and empowerment programs tailored to support women from backward classes.

The initiative aimed to equip women with the knowledge and resources needed for self-reliance and economic independence.

Prominent dignitaries graced the occasion, including District Manager JKWDC Kupwara, District Manager Shopian-Kulgam, District Manager SC/ST Kupwara, Principal of Boys Higher Secondary School Nagri, and Women Welfare Officer Kupwara.

Their insights and encouragement motivated attendees to leverage the available resources for their personal and professional growth.

This camp reaffirmed the commitment of JKWDC and NBCFDC to fostering women's empowerment, financial inclusion, and social justice in Jammu and Kashmir.

highlighting government-sponsored initiatives, the program aimed to bridge the gaps and ensure equitable access to financial support for women in the region.

ADC Jammu reviews Christmas preparedness in district



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ansuya Jamwal chaired a meeting to review preparations for the upcoming Christmas celebrations in the district. The meeting was attended by district officers and public representatives, who discussed arrangements to ensure smooth and safe festivities.

The ADC directed the police to deploy adequate personnel along the designated Christmas procession route to ensure security and maintain public order. She also instructed the Jammu Municipal Corporation to ensure cleanliness and sanitation in and around the procession route and congregation areas. The Jal Shakti Department and JMC were asked to arrange drinking water facilities, while the Power Development Department was tasked with ensuring an uninterrupted power supply during the celebrations. The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs was directed to monitor the availability of essential commodities and prevent hoarding or overpricing.

The Public Works Department was instructed to complete necessary road repairs along the procession route to facilitate smooth movement.

The Health Department will establish medical aid stations, while the Fire and Emergency Services Department will deploy fire tenders as a precautionary measure. Additionally, magistrates will be stationed at key points along the route for effective coordination and quick decision-making.

Deputy Commissioner reviews development works in Municipal Councils of Poonch, Surankote

Also reviews Rent Assessment Cases in Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting today at the DC office to assess the ongoing projects and operational efficiency of the Municipal Councils of Poonch and Surankote.

During the meeting, it was reported that four significant projects are underway in Poonch town, including the remodeling of the bus stand, construction of clock towers at Nakha Wali Chowk, the city entrance gate at SK Bridge, and beautification initiatives throughout the town.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of installing a large screen television at the clock tower for traffic management, weather updates, and displaying a digital clock. He also instructed



officials to prioritize the cleaning of Nallahs and to explore internal revenue sources such as lorry adda charges, asset rentals, and shop leases.

Deputy Commissioner inquired about the implementation of the door-to-door garbage collection system and asked for details on the number of vehicles utilized for waste collection. He stressed the need for improved cleanliness in the drainage system of both Poonch and Surankote towns.

In alignment with bio-mining efforts, the Deputy

Commissioner directed the municipal council to expedite the clearance of all the waste.

Discussions also covered water supply schemes and the ongoing construction of public toilets, with seven projects in Poonch town and five in Surankote town.

The Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed the commitment to enhancing the infrastructure and sanitation of the towns, ensuring a cleaner and more efficient environment for residents.

The Deputy

Commissioner also chaired a meeting to evaluate rent assessment cases concerning various departments operating from rented accommodations across the district.

The meeting involved comprehensive discussions with representatives from concerned departments and property owners. Key topics included the rental agreements for departments such as Education, KVK, Health, Handicrafts, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Revenue, Sericulture, Social Welfare, Sports State Taxes and others.

After thorough deliberation, the committee reviewed 27 cases, ultimately approving 23.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to expedite the payment of rents in accordance with the rates established during the meeting.

Spiritual Meet held at Beerwah Budgam



TANVEER HUSSAIN
JAMMU:

Apna Ghar Beerwah organised Spiritual Meet Conference. On the special occasion renowned scholars Religious Preachers of India throw light on the idea of spirituality. The program was held virtually and best wishes were sent for the Spiritual Meet conference.

Motivational Speaker Basit Jamal was the Chief Guest of the program and the Lord Almighty was offered the presidentship of this divine program.

On this Occasion Chairman Apna Hameedullah Hameed while prominent members including Social Activist Javd Begh and Motivational Speaker Saima Tabassum and Firdous Nabi and other district bearers participated in the meeting.

On this Occasion Blank kits were distributed by the Chief Guest to the Orphan who are perceiving their education at Apna Gar Beerwah. Talking to media person on the Motivational Speaker Basit Jamal said that these programs should be highlands so that we could reach at the higher aspect of service. In the end, the Hameedullah Hameed expressed his gratitude to all the participants of the Program of Spiritual Conference. He also shared a message of love for country and humanity.

He also presented the doctorate degree in spirituality. Speakers said that such conferences are the most important need of the hour and Motivational Speakers across India should repeat such conferences.

ADC Kishtwar discusses District Environment Plan 2024



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal today chaired a meeting of the District Environment Committee to deliberate on the District Environment Plan 2024 and review its implementation strategies. The meeting focused on critical environmental issues, ongoing projects and compliance with regulatory guidelines to ensure sustainable development in the district.

During the meeting, directions were issued to the Chief Medical Officer Kishtwar for the identification of suitable land for the establishment of a Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plant in the district. This initiative aims to ensure the scientific disposal of bio-medical waste in adherence to prescribed environmental standards.

To monitor and implement the National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines effectively at dumping sites associated with various ongoing Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPPs) and NHIDCL projects, the ADC instructed the District Officer (DO) of the Pollution Control Board, District Mining Officer Kishtwar and Assistant Director Fisheries to conduct a joint site visit. They were tasked with furnishing a detailed status report on compliance with environmental norms at these sites.

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department was directed to provide an updated status on the completion of the Filter Plant and ensure the availability of clean drinking water facilities for the township.

SANY India Redefines Development with Revolutionary Equipment as 'Chariots of Development' at Bauma Conexpo 2024

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

SANY India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipment, have inaugurated its stall at the Bauma Conexpo 2024. With the theme 'Chariots of Development,' SANY India emphasizes its commitment to contributing to India's ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat at 2047 and further driving the infrastructure growth and development. The product showcase celebrates the pivotal role of construction equipment in enabling

efficient project execution, facilitating infrastructure development, and empowering the workforce, including engineers, operators, and technicians. By highlighting the synergy between advanced machinery, infrastructure projects, and the people behind them, SANY India reinforces its dedication to nation-building and creating a prosperous and sustainable future. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjay Saxena, COO Sales, Marketing & Customer Support, SANY HEAVY INDUSTRY INDIA PVT. LTD, said, "Our theme, 'Chariots of

Development,' underscores the pivotal role of construction equipment as modern-day enablers of India's journey toward becoming a developed nation.

At SANY India, we are committed to driving infrastructure growth with innovative and sustainable solutions, including advanced technologies, fuel-efficient machinery, and electric equipment.

These initiatives reflect our dedication to enhancing operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impact.

7th edition of SIH2024 grand finale concludes at NIT Srinagar

Director NIT praises 6 winning teams

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Grand Finale of the 7th edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 concluded on Thursday at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, with five teams emerging as top performers at the nodal center.

The valedictory session was presided over by Chief Guest Mr. Sushil Kumar, Chief General Manager of GAIL, and Guest of Honor Mr. Saheel Yaqoob, Assistant Director Branch MSME Srinagar. The event was organized under the aegis of Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanojiya, and saw the presence of several dignitaries including Deans, HOD's, HoC's and other dignitaries from various departments.

Prof. Roohie Naaz (Incharge Director NIT Srinagar), Prof. G.A. Harmain (Chairman Core Committee for SIH 2024), Registrar Atikur

Rehman, Dr. Pratap Sanap (Nodal Head 1 for SIH), Ms. Happy Debnath (Nodal Head 1 for SIH), SPOS- SIH-2024 Dr. H.S. Pali, and other coordinators were also present at the event. Hosting the Grand Finale for the first time, NIT Srinagar was one of 51 nodal centers across the country. The two-day event commenced on Wednesday and witnessed innovative ideas and solutions from young minds.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Kanojiya congratulated the winning teams for their exceptional performance and innovative solutions, applauding their dedication and hard work throughout the event.

He also extended his encouragement to the other participating teams, emphasizing that their efforts and ideas were equally valuable and demonstrated great potential. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Mr. Sushil Kumar said that over the past two days, we have wit-

nessed extraordinary talent, collaboration, and problem-solving skills that truly embody the spirit of the Smart India Hackathon.

"GAIL plays a significant role in fostering innovation and sustainable solutions through initiatives like Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024. We are committed to encourage young minds to contribute to the nation's growth while addressing pressing challenges," he said.

Guest of Honor Assistant Director MSME Saheel Yaqoob highlighted the importance of platforms like SIH in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth.

"Events like SIH 2024 not only provide young innovators with opportunities to solve real-world problems but also inspire them to think beyond conventional boundaries," he added.

Prof. Roohie Naaz, Incharge Nodal Head of NIT Srinagar, presented a detailed summary of the event during her valedictory address.

Modi Govt's 1,636 Cr Allocation to boost Tribal Welfare, Nutrition: Dr Tahir

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

J&K BJP Spokesperson and senior leader Dr Tahir Chowdhary said that the Modi Government's decision to allocate over Rs 1,636 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24, will boost the welfare and nutrition of tribal communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

"This historic funding boost will be directed towards two major programs—the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) and Mission Poshan 2.0—which are set to significantly improve the socio-economic conditions and nutritional standards in the Union Territory", said Dr. Tahir.

Dr Tahir Chowdhary thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed strong support for the Government's commitment to the development of tribal areas, noting that the increased allocation for DAPST, amounting to Rs 1,106.11 crore, marks a substantial rise from



previous years.

He highlighted that this funding will address key areas such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, electrification, skill development, and employment generation for tribal communities.

"The Rs 1,636 crore allocation is a testament to the government's resolve to empower the tribal population in J&K. It is not just a financial boost but a step towards ensuring

holistic development, including better healthcare, education, and improved living conditions," said Dr Choudhary.

The senior BJP leader also praised the progress of Mission Poshan 2.0 in the region, with J&K receiving Rs 530.88 crore under the program in 2023-24. This initiative, which focuses on tackling malnutrition, benefits over 8.25 lakh people in the region, including children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls.

Chowdhary emphasized that the government's persistent focus on addressing the nutritional needs and socio-economic upliftment of vulnerable tribal communities is a reflection of its commitment to inclusive development.

"These initiatives will ensure that J&K's tribal communities are not left behind in the broader development process and will have access to opportunities for growth and prosperity," he added.

Dy Chief Minister reviews winter preparedness of KPDCCL

Directs for seamless coordination across all levels



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the government is committed towards ensuring an adequate supply of electric power, especially in areas prone to harsh weather conditions.

He was chairing a high-level meeting held on winter preparedness convened by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) on Friday.

The meeting, convened to assess the Corporation's readiness for the harsh winter season, was attended by the Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD) and senior officers of KPDCCL. "Every effort must be made to address issues promptly and efficiently," Deputy Chief Minister said and maintained that a foolproof mechanism should be devised so as to address the power issues within the shortest possible time. The meeting reviewed the measures undertaken by KPDCCL to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the Kashmir Valley during the winter months. A detailed presentation on preparations, highlighting the proactive steps taken to address potential disruptions caused by adverse weather conditions was also presented.

The meeting was told that for ensuring a Extensive Maintenance large-scale branch cutting program is in progress across all sub-divisions to minimise power outages due to snowfall. Adequate buffer stock of distribution transformers (DTs) has been secured at central and divisional level. Besides, essential materials and high-speed diesel (HSD) for DG sets have been stocked to ensure uninterrupted operations, especially in critical and remote areas like Gurez. It was also given out that KPDCCL has formed specialized teams equipped with tools and vehicles to address faults promptly.

Also, control rooms at divisional and district levels have been activated to provide swift responses during emergencies. The meeting was informed that preventive maintenance measures have been intensified to reduce the likelihood of technical faults during the winter season.

Secretary J&K Pahari Board reviews Hostel Facilities in Rajouri, Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Secretary of the J&K Advisory Board for the Development of Pahari Speaking People, Sapna Kotwal conducted an intensive two-day tour of Rajouri and Poonch districts to review the functioning of Boys and Girls Pahari Hostels in the twin districts. During her visit, Kotwal inaugurated a state-of-the-art computer lab at the Pahari Hostel in Poonch. While inspecting the Boys Pahari Hostel in Rajouri, she expressed satisfaction with its management under the supervision of the Warden.

During her interactions with the students in all hostels, Kotwal noted their gratitude to the government for providing excellent facilities.

At the Girls Hostel in Poonch, the Secretary engaged with the inmates, who expressed their contentment with the arrangements and services offered by the J&K Pahari Speaking People Board.

The hostels in both Rajouri and Poonch were found to be well-maintained, providing a nurturing and educational environment for the students. The facilities include nutritious meals, proper uniforms, and recreational amenities.

She observed that the students are not only academically inclined but are also being encouraged to develop holistically in a dynamic and supportive environment.

Provocative utterances of Leaders helping anti-India forces: GL Raina



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The provocative and potentially dangerous statements by the leaders of Kashmir-centric political parties like NC and INDI-alliance are helping anti-India forces, stated Girdhari Lal Raina. Girdhari Lal Raina, former MLC & Spokesperson, J&K BJP, accompanied by party spokespersons Adv. Purnima Sharma and Rajni Sethi, was addressing media persons at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"Strong action against over ground workers (OGW) leading to snapping of the nexus between terrorists, ISI, stone-pelters and separatist sympathizing politicians along with shattering funding channels through

coordinated efforts of National Investigation Agency (NIA) and revenue intelligence were effective tools to substantially bring down terrorist violence in Jammu Kashmir post-2019", said Girdhari Lal Raina.

Raina said that Law enforcement agencies were able to work efficiently without bias or prejudice is also an established fact.

This situation is being sought to be reversed by 'vested interests' after elections and the formation of an 'elected government' in the UT, he cautioned.

Ministers, elected representatives, and leaders of NC and INDI-alliance are issuing irresponsible statements that are helping the narrative of ISI and the terrorist groups operating in Jammu-Kashmir. These statements

are used by enemies of the country to revive separatism and radical terrorism.

Speculative statements by raising doubts about terror incidents from people holding responsible constitutional positions or suggesting "Terrorists should not be killed, they should be caught and asked who is behind them" are actually aimed to deflect the attention of people and sort of payback to partners of 'same page' politics.

Official data corroborated by independent agencies have explicitly shown that there is a more than 70% decline in terror incidents.

Since 2020 there has been a steady decline and the number of such attacks on security forces fell to 95 in 2021, 65 in 2022, 15 in 2023, and five so far in 2024, the data shows. Civilian safety has been the prime concern for the Modi government and security agencies are putting maximum emphasis on that. This policy of maximum restraint has resulted in a significant decrease in civilian casualties.

Raina further said that Bharatiya Janata Party appreciates the role of security forces, including J&K Police, that are doing a commendable job in preventing Jammu Kashmir from being pushed back to the era of death and destruction.

76 Battalion CRPF, Health Department organises free medical camp at Bagh-e-Bahu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

76 Battalion CRPF in collaboration with J&K Health Department, under the guidance of IG Jammu Sector and DIG Range Jammu, organised a free medical camp under Civic Action Programme at Press Morh Saryara Sabha, Bagh-E-Bahu, Jammu.

The main objective of the camp was to reach out

to the needy people of the area to provide free health care and make them aware about their health.

In the Medical Camp, 01 Medical Officer Dr. Dimple Bhagat (NTPHC Bahu Fort) of Health & F.W, Jammu and Dr S. Sowmiya Medical Officer of 76 Bn conducted free medical check-up of around 275 civilians and provided free medicines.

Purshotam Lal,



President Saryara Sabha Bagh-E-Bahu, Jammu inaugurated the camp.

Jayram Prasad, Second-in-Command (Ops)-76 Bn appealed to

all people of the area to remain fit by doing physical exercises regularly and sensitized them to maintain a healthy lifestyle & hygiene.

Director Animal Husbandry Jammu launches 5th phase of FMD vaccinations under NADCP

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

The Department of Animal Husbandry Jammu officially launched the fifth phase of National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) today here at village Hakkal, Jammu which was presided over by Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Waheeda Parveen.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that NADCP is a flagship scheme launched by Prime Minister in September, 2019 for control and eventual eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by vaccinating 100 percent susceptible livestock population.

"FMD is highly contagious viral disease of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs etc. which leads to reduction in milk yield, infertility, reduced working capacity in bullocks, creates problems in international trade of livestock products, thus, causing huge economic losses to our farmers every year", she added.

The Director emphasized that control of FMD can be achieved by mass vaccination of susceptible live-



stock population repeatedly at regular intervals till the incidence of the disease comes down.

This will pave way for gradual eradication of the disease from the country by year 2030 thus benefiting the farming community immensely.

The Director further said that the NADCP incorporates mandatory ear tagging and online registration of vaccinated animals along with the owner details utilizing the Bharat Pashudhan or National Digital

Livestock Mission (NDLM) portal enabling proper monitoring.

She urged the farmers and local authorities to support and cooperate with the vaccination efforts of the department. The director further called on department officers and officials to ensure sincere efforts to make the campaign successful.

Joint Director (ARV Lab.), RS Pura, CAHO Jammu besides officers and staff of the Animal Husbandry department were present on the occasion.

DLSA Samba organises National Lok Adalat

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

As per the directions of Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority National Lok Adalat was today organised at District Court Complex, Samba. National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by R. N. Wattal, Worthy Pr. District & Sessions Judge (also Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Samba). Three benches were constituted for settling the cases referred (Pre and Post Litigation), Bench No.1 was comprising of R. N. Wattal, Worthy Pr. District & Sessions Judge (also Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Samba), Arvind Sharma, Addl District & Sessions Judge, Samba and S.K. Khanmotra, Senior Advocate, Samba; Bench No.2 was comprising of Sandeep Singh Sen, Secretary (Sub-Judge) District Legal Services Authority, Samba, Himani Parihar, Munsiff (JMIC) and Renu Bala, Senior Advocate, Samba; Bench No. 3 was comprising of Rashi Verma, Addl. Spl. Mobile Magistrate, Samba, Kritika Sethi, Addl. Munsiff, Samba and Ganesh Sharma, Senior Advocate, Samba.

The matters placed before the Benches included Civil, Criminal Compoundable, Cheque Bounce, Bank Recovery matters, MACT, Matrimonial, Pre-litigation matters, D.V. Act, Negotiable Instrument Act, 125Cr.Pc., and Petty Offence(s) including traffic challans. Beside this two more Benches were constituted for settling Revenue Cases, Cases under Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006, all cases of petty loans pending in all revenue Courts including the Courts of Tehsildar of District Samba, all Petty Public Utility Services related Cases, all Compensation Cases pending in the Courts of Assistant Labour Commissioner Samba.

A total number of 947 cases were taken up for their amicable settlement out of which, 683 cases were settled and an amount of Rs1,37,85,160 was realized as settlement amount.

Mission Director JJM holds maiden meeting after assuming charge



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurseed Ahmad Shah, today convened maiden meeting of core team of the Mission at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

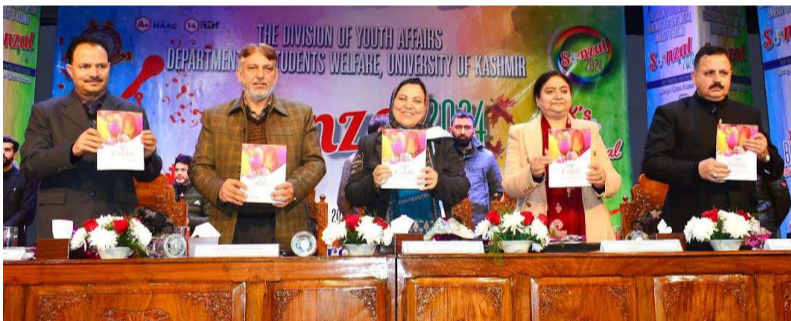
The meeting was attended by the officers of Mission Directorate and consultants while Jammu based officers and consultants participated online. Mission Director was apprised of the major components of JJM by Officer on Special Duty, Reyaz Bhat. He was informed that 3253 Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) are in different phases of execution under JJM against which 1402 have been completed, so far.

The MD sought the status of technical assessment of schemes which were assigned to the consultants and project Managers for ascertaining the technical and functional feasibility of different components of schemes completed and under execution including source sustainability. He was informed that 2382 schemes were assigned for verifications to consultants and District Project Management Unit's (DPMU's), of which, the reports of 2261 schemes have been received. The issues identified in these have been shared with the concerned Chief Engineers for taking appropriate action and verification of other schemes is under process.

The Mission Director directed the consultants to speed up the process and complete it within 10 days positively.

Sakeena Itooinaugurates, addresses Kashmir University's Annual Youth Festival-'Sonzal'

'Advocates for preserving, promoting Kashmiri culture, language'



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today stressed on the need for preserving Kashmiri culture and language, adding that we need to promote our mother tongue for our bright future.

The Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Kashmir University's Annual Youth Festival-'Sonzal' at Convocation Complex of Varsity here today.

The seven day festival is being organised by Division of Youth Affairs, Department of Students Welfare, University of Kashmir.

Addressing the massive gathering of Professors, Deans, HoDs, Research scholars and students, Sakeena Itoo advocated for safeguarding Kashmiri language and traditions, in the face of modern influences. "Our Kashmiri culture and language is very unique, we all need to be very proud of our culture and heritage and celebrate it to its maximum extent", Sakeena said.

"Language is the foundation of our culture. Without it, we lose touch with the narratives, stories and customs that have defined us for centuries. I urge the professors and students here to not only cherish the beauty of our Kashmiri language and culture but also ensure that it

thrives beyond academic spaces," she added. She called upon the student community that it is your responsibility to protect and promote our culture, while also using the power of knowledge to address the issues that affect us today.

"Kashmir University has provided you the knowledge and wisdom, now it's up to you to create a future where both our heritage and our progress walk hand in hand", Sakeena Itoo said.

Highlighting on the contribution of Kashmir University, the Minister remarked that the Varsity is the 'beacon of knowledge and social progress' of Kashmir, highlighting that the University has produced professors, scholars, researchers who are significantly impacting various sectors like education, governance, technology as well as for preservation of our cultural heritage.

"Kashmir University is not only a place of academic learning but a hub of social change and intellectual growth. It has produced individuals who have contributed immensely to the development of our society and preservation of our cultural heritage across the globe", Sakeena Itoo maintained.

Commending the University for organising this Youth Festival, the Minister said that the 'Sonzal' is a very unique platform to promote and preserve the Kashmiri language

which is an integral part of our cultural heritage. "Cultural outreach initiatives, like 'Sonzal', demonstrate University's commitment to nurturing creativity, preserving traditions and empowering the youth," Sakeena Itoo remarked.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan highlighted the significance of the festival in fostering creativity, unity and curiosity among young minds.

"Our university is committed to providing platforms like Sonzal to nurture the talent and potential of our students in various ways," she said. Prof. Khan also outlined the University's breakthroughs and achievements, including the implementation of the NEP 2020 framework at UG level.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, emphasised the University's holistic approach to education while as Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, described the event as a celebration of cultural talent.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dean Students Welfare KU, Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, stated that the festival is aimed at promoting social cohesion, cultural understanding, and artistic exchange.

The inaugural ceremony featured the live performance of the University Tarana by the DSW cultural group, release of the annual student magazine 'Gulala', and mesmerizing live cultural performances by student cultural groups.

The festival, running from December 12-20, brings together students from various colleges and universities across Kashmir to showcase their talents in wide range of competitions like quiz, debate, elocution, collage making, poster-making, painting, cartoon-making, clay-modelling and other categories during next seven days.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Culture of Giving

In India, the practice of donation has a different significance in the rituals of Hindu Sanatan culture. In India, the practice of donation by the rich citizens of the society at monasteries, temples, Gurudwaras and other places of worship on various festivals and birthdays of great men is a very ancient and common process. Helping the poor class is considered the biggest service to God. The practice of sharing food and drinks among the society is also found in India and this practice is very common in Indian society. The practice of sharing any happy event in the family among different sections of the society is also found in India. On this occasion, sometimes social and religious events are also organized on a very large scale. Such as celebrating birthdays, inviting relatives, friends and acquaintances in the society to special events after a wedding ceremony in the family, etc. are part of a very common process. According to an estimate, food is distributed as prasadi to more than 10 crore citizens every day at various monasteries, temples, Gurudwaras and other places of worship in India. Also, India is the only country in the world where every citizen, no matter how poor he is, definitely donates some amount from his earnings. It is mentioned in Indian scriptures that according to Hindu Sanatan culture, Maharishi Dadhichi donated his body to the gods for the purpose of victory over the demons, which is also called the highest sacrifice in history. In today's era when money is being given great importance, donating as much money as possible is considered auspicious. From this point of view, when we look at the global level, it comes to notice that the name of Shri Ratan Tata of Tata Industrial Group of India emerges at the top as the biggest donor in the world. In this list, the name of Shri Jamshedji Tata, the founder of Tata Group, is also taken with great respect, who had donated an amount of Rs 8.29 lakh crore in the field of education, health and social upliftment in his life. Similarly, under the leadership of Shri Ratan Tata, the Tata Group had donated an amount of Rs 8.59 lakh crore till the year 2021. You used to donate a large part of your earnings to help the poor class. Shri Ratan Tata did not only donate to institutions based in India but also provided donations to institutions working for the welfare of the society at the global level. During the Great Depression of the year 2008, you donated 50 million US dollars to Cornell University in America. Shri Ratan Tata established J. N. Tata Endowment, Sir Ratan Tata Scholarship and Tata Scholarship with the aim of providing financial assistance to students facing financial problems. Since Shri Ratan Tata used to donate a large part of his earnings, his name never rose very high in the list of the rich. You always remained at the bottom in this list. It is said about Shri Ratan Tata that he had donated such a huge amount in his lifetime that today even 2766 billionaires of the world do not have that much wealth. Though Tata Group has played a very important role in the formation of the Indian nation, but the contribution of Shri Ratan Tata during the period of Corona epidemic can never be forgotten. At a time when the whole world was struggling with the Corona epidemic, Shri Ratan Tata provided financial assistance as well as ventilators, personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, masks and gloves etc. to not only India but also to many other countries of the world. Under the direction of Shri Ratan Tata, Tata Group had made available in India more than 1000 ventilators and respirators, 4 lakh PPE kits, 35 lakh masks and gloves and 3.50 lakh testing kits imported from countries like China, South Korea etc. during this period. The ancestors of Shri Ratan Tata belonged to the Parsi community and had come from Iran and settled in India.

Can Trump pardon himself?

A piece titled "Most world leaders have pardon power. Few use it the way Trump has," appeared in The Washington Post on 20 January 2021, the day of Joe Biden's inauguration.

ATANU BISWAS

A piece titled "Most world leaders have pardon power. Few use it the way Trump has," appeared in The Washington Post on 20 January 2021, the day of Joe Biden's inauguration. It might have been an overly critical evaluation of Donald Trump, though, if we go back and look at the history of presidential pardons in America. A president may "grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment," according to Article II, Section 2 of the US Constitution.

Future acts are definitely not pardonable by a president. Nonetheless, a pre-emptive pardon may be granted. Also, although a few presidents have used their authority to revoke pardons, Article II contains no mention of doing so. On his first day in office, President Ulysses S. Grant revoked three of the pardons that President Andrew Johnson had granted. Washington Monthly cited Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Story's 1868 Constitution textbook, which states that a presidential pardon may be rescinded in the event that the president is impeached. However, although both Trump and Clinton were impeached in recent history, their pardons remained in effect after their terms. Meanwhile, George W. Bush rescinded one of his own pardons. In England, the king had a longstanding custom of granting compassionate pardons and the American founders borrowed this authority. It was Alexander Hamilton who pressed the constitutional convention to include a broad pardon power exclusively vested in the president, despite some disagreement over whether Congress should have to approve pardons. Let's revisit a few historical presidential pardons. In 1794, Gerald Ford gave his predecessor, Richard Nixon, a "full, free, and absolute pardon" over the Watergate scandal. Ford thought a possible trial would "cause prolonged and divisive debate over the propriety of exposing to further punishment and degradation a man who has already paid the unprecedented penalty of relinquishing the highest elective office of the United States." In 1795, two men who participated in the Whisky Rebellion – a bloody rebellion in Pennsylvania against a tax on whisky and other alcoholic beverages imposed by the fledgling federal government were pardoned by none other than George Washington.

In the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, Abraham Lincoln granted his sister-in-law, Emilie Todd Helm, who was the widow of a Confederate general, a pardon. President Andrew Johnson's decision to provide "a full pardon and amnesty" to everyone "who, directly or indirectly, participated in the late insurrection or rebellion" during the Civil War was a significant turning point in the pardon power. During his 13 years in office, Franklin D. Roosevelt granted the most countable pardons by a president: 3,687. Jimmy Carter issued a mass pardon for those who had evaded the draft during the Vietnam War in 1977. Former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was one of six individuals implicated in the IranContra scandal who George H.W. Bush pardoned at the end of his tenure in 1992. During his time in office, Barack Obama pardoned over 1,700 people, including hundreds who had been found guilty of nonviolent drug offences. Pardoning family members and friends is also not new. Yes, Abraham Lincoln certainly did so. In this millennium, in his final day in office in 2001, Bill Clinton pardoned his halfbrother Roger Clinton. Additionally, Marc Rich, a fugitive convicted of financial crimes whose ex-wife had been a significant fundraiser for the Democrats and the Clinton campaign, received a highly contentious pardon from Clinton. Trump granted his son-in-law Jared Kushner's father, Charles Kushner, a pardon. Additionally, Trump pardoned his friend, Roger Stone, Paul Manafort, a key figure in his 2016 campaign, and his political adviser Steve Bannon. Trump pardoned 29 people during his first term in office. Hunter Biden, on the other hand, is the 26th individual that Biden has pardoned. Drug offences are the subject of the majority of Biden's pardons, a procedure that Obama initiated. Since the beginning of his first administration, there has been a notion that Trump will pardon himself. However, scholars have long been captivated by the idea of whether a president can pardon himself.



The question has never been addressed because no president has ever done it. However, when Nixon was facing the prospect of being prosecuted and going into political exile during the Watergate scandal, he asked his lawyers what his alternatives were, and one of them was to pardon himself. Trump's hidden message was translated by his long-time friend Roger Stone in 2018: "The special counsel has awesome powers, as you know, but the president has even more awesome powers." And President Trump tweeted, "As has been stated by numerous legal scholars, I have the absolute right to PARDON myself, but why would I do that when I have done nothing wrong?"

Rudy Giuliani, Trump's attorney while he was in the White House, said that the president "probably" could pardon himself. According to the New York Times, Trump contemplated giving himself, his family, and associates pre-emptive pardons in 2020, shortly before he stepped down from office, on the grounds that his political rivals would pursue him in court once he left office. A self-pardon exception to the president's pardon authority was actually not discussed by the framers of the American Constitution. Edmund Randolph of Virginia sought to provide an exemption to the broad presidential pardon powers suggested for treason during the 1787 Philadelphia Federal Constitutional Convention.

Randolph was concerned that a president might be leading his supporters in a conspiracy and engaging in treasonous activity. However, founder James Wilson, who went on to become a justice on the Supreme Court, maintained that a president might be removed and impeached for treason, after which he may face legal action. Wilson's reasoning prevailed in the end. A president can't, however, absolve himself of state crimes. After his conviction in New York, Democratic Governor Kathy Hochul is unlikely to pardon Trump. And the only body in Georgia with the authority to give pardons is the five-member Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles. According to news reports, Biden is apparently thinking of granting officials and allies broad pardons in advance of Trump's inauguration. Some former officials are afraid that Trump and his supporters, who have boasted of enemies' lists and pursuing "retribution," may initiate investigations that, even in the absence of charges, would be financially and reputationally damaging to their targets. If Biden's pre-emptive pardons are granted, they may include infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, who helped fight the coronavirus outbreak and has been shunned by conservatives upset over mask laws and vaccinations.

In contrast, on "day one" of his second term, Trump pledges to pardon the January 6 rioters. Thus, it goes without saying that instances of presidential pardons occurring in the US across all political stripes are startling.

Even some supporters of Biden have widely criticised him for his "selfish move" in pardoning his son Hunter. Biden is criticised by several Democrats for creating a "bad precedent." In general, Biden's decision to pardon his son would, at the very least, set the Democrats back decades.

But a far more interesting question is whether President Trump can (or would) forgive himself for the felonies and misdeeds he has committed so far or would commit during his second term. And, what's more intriguing is that would a future Democratic president reverse that if he did?

DC B'la flags-off Vehicles carrying Rice Bins for distribution to 445 Schools under PM Poshan Scheme



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

The School Education Department Baramulla, under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme, launched an initiative to

enhance food security and hygiene in schools.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa in presence of Chief Education Officer flagged-off vehicles carrying rice bins for distribution to 445 schools

across the district.

These rice bins aim to ensure safe storage of rice used in the midday meal program, a key component of the scheme.

As part of the launch event, a symbolic distribution of rice bins was conducted on the spot among representatives from various schools. This gesture highlighted the district's commitment to ensuring quality and safety in the delivery of nutritional benefits to students.

On the occasion, DC emphasized the importance of safe food storage under the PM Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme, highlighting its role in ensuring health and nutrition for students through the midday meal program.

He stressed the administration's commitment to enhancing infrastructure in schools to support the overall well-being of children across the district.

The initiative is expected to strengthen the infrastructure of the midday meal program and improve the overall nutritional standards for students in Baramulla.

Div Com Kashmir reviews management of vehicular movement through Zojila Pass

Emphasizes on close coordination & synergy among agencies to regulate traffic according to weather conditions

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In view of plummeting temperatures and frosty condition of road connecting UT of Ladakh with UT of J&K through Zojila Pass, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers & agencies regarding the opening and closure of the Pass.

Addressing the meeting, Divisional Commissioner exhorted District Administration Kargil, District Administration Ganderbal, SSP Rural Kashmir, officers of BRO & BEACON to maintain close coordination to take a call of closure of the Zojilla Pass according to the weather conditions and position of road and in consultation with BRO & VIJAYK.

He emphasized on establishing the joint control room consisting of District Administration Ganderbal, Police, SDRF and CRPF.

Div Com said that in case of any eventuality, snow fall and closure of road, necessary accommodation shall be provided to the stranded passengers by Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal at Sonamarg and Gagangeer. Besides, the locations and list of the stranded passengers should be shared with Deputy Commissioner, Kargil. RTO Kashmir and SSP Rural were directed to ensure that the vehicles plying on the road shall wear anti-skid chains and must be mechanically sound. Besides, vehicles shall carry permissible tonnage.

Also, RTO Kashmir was instructed to ensure operationalization of weighing bridges enroute the road.

Div Com also stressed all the departments and stakeholders to adhere to the traffic advisories issued by the Traffic Department in consultation with the committee and directed that the advisory should be given wide publicity through media.

Further, Div Com gave instructions for stationing of recovery cranes enroute the Zojilla Pass.

Moreover, CMO Ganderbal was directed to ensure smooth functioning of the Hospital at Sonmarg during the closure of the road.

Among others, the meeting was attend by officers of IMD, MED, PW (R&B) Deptt., BSNL besides RTO, Kashmir, CEO, Sonamarg Dev. Authority, Executive Director, NHIDCL Srinagar/Leh, Manager of M/S MEGHA Pvt. Ltd & APCO Ltd and Business Heads of Jio & Airtel.

DC conducts spot inspection of 400/132 KV Sub Station at Trigam

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan visited 400/132 KV Sub Station at Trigam to review the ongoing work progress of the ambitious power project being executed by Sterlite Power Ltd.

The substation is a critical infrastructure project aimed at stepping down the dedicated power supply from the Dul Hasti Power Project to Kishtwar and Doda district.

Once completed, it will significantly enhance the power supply and meet the growing electricity demands of Kishtwar and Doda districts.

During the inspection, it was noted that 60 percent of the project has been completed, and the remaining work is progressing steadily. The project is slated for completion by March 2025.

While reviewing the overall status of the project, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar emphasized the importance of adhering to the stipulated timeline. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the work without compromising on quality to ensure the project's timely completion. He remarked, "This substation is vital for addressing the power supply needs of Kishtwar and Doda. The timely completion of this project will augment the existing supply and bring significant relief to the people of these districts by providing a stable and sufficient electricity supply."

The Deputy Commissioner assured that the district administration would extend all possible support to facilitate the project's smooth execution.

Pertinent to mention that DC has put a lot of focus on improvement of electric and water supply in the region.

DC Shopian convenes meeting on socio-economic development of District

Experts from SKUAST-K, KVK, line departments discuss way ahead for the introduction of new interventions in agri-economy

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today convened a meeting of the Officers of agri allied departments and university experts to discuss the socio-economic development of the district.

The meeting brought together experts from SKUAST-K, KVK Shopian, other agencies and line departments to explore new interventions in the agri-economy of the district.

The primary objective of the meeting was to prepare a policy document for the district's sustainable development.

This document aims to strengthen



the socio-economic parameters of the district, ultimately improving the lives of its residents. The participants engaged in brainstorming sessions and discussed HADP and other schemes and the need to strengthen the agricultural economy of the district.

tract.

Soil profiling is a key aspect while determining the potential of any area, the experts opined. It will help identify solutions and economic activities that can give the district a competitive advantage.

100 Days TB Mukat Bharat Abhiyan launched in Baramulla

Public Representatives, District Admin and Healthcare Experts unite in commitment to a TB-Free B'la



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In a major stride towards the elimination of tuberculosis (TB), the '100 Days TB Mukat Bharat Abhiyan' was

launched today in Baramulla district in alignment with India's commitment to achieving a TB-free status by 2025. Member Legislative Assembly (MLA), Baramulla, Javed Ahmad Beigh, was the chief guest at

the launch event, which was attended by the MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Uri, Sajad Shafi; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; ADC Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Principal GMC; representatives from State and District Tuberculosis Control Society; other officers; healthcare professionals; ASHA workers; and community representatives.

Speaking during the event, Javed Ahmad Beigh underscored that the '100 Days TB Mukat Bharat' Abhiyan in Baramulla serves as a call for collective action and stressed the need for the involvement of healthcare professionals, community leaders, and the public to make Baramulla a frontrunner in the fight against TB.

MLA Uri, in his address, emphasised the urgency of united efforts in combating TB and facilitating a proper education to eradicate TB, which still remains a significant healthcare challenge.

GDC Vijaypur organises group discussion on 'Awareness against Drug Abuse'

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBHA:

Nasha Mukht Bharat Committee of Government Degree College Vijaypur in collaboration with NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) and J&K Police organized a group discussion on the topic 'Awareness against Drug Abuse' to create awareness among the college students about the impact of drugs on mental, emotional and social health.

The event started with the welcome address by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer, Education).

Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Verma briefed the students about the aim of organizing such an event because drug abuse may lead to social, physical, emotional, and job-related problems.

A team from J&K Police, comprising of DSP Rohit Gupta, SHO Vijaypur Zaheer Manhas and PSI, Abbeer M. Khan attended the event. DSP Rohit Gupta (SDPO Vijaypur)



briefed students regarding various challenges that administration is facing in curbing the menace of drug abuse. He further shared various preventive measures that can be adopted by the civil society to keep a check on illegal and anti-social activities. He also interacted with students and also answered the questions raised by them.

Ten college students participated in the group discussion where students shared their views on the drug abuse and various preventive measures. The program received positive

feedback from the students, who found it informative and engaging.

Formal Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo. The event was coordinated by Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (Nodal Officer Nasha Mukht Bharat Committee) and co-coordinated by Prof Mamta Gupta, Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Prof. Poonam Kundan, Dr. Naseem Chowdhary and Prof. Meetu Sharma. The organizing committee comprised of Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Prof. Madhu Bala, Prof. Mazid Malik and Prof. Manisha Rani.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of Health Sector

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today reviewed the functioning of the Health department and progress of different schemes and projects implemented by Health Department in a meeting held at Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

CMO Bandipora briefed the chair regarding various indicators, schemes and projects of the Health Department. The DC took detailed review of various ongoing works including construction of Health Sub Centres at Kuhama, Laharwalpora, Aloosa, Sonerwani, Athwato, Gamroo, Zalpora Shilvat, construction of BMO office at Bandipora besides repair and renovation of Sumbal and Hajm Hospital under District CAPEX. During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held to evaluate the functioning of the health sector and developing strategic plans for its enhancement, besides discussed existing challenges, identifying key areas for improvement and formulating actionable solutions to elevate the quality, accessibility, and efficiency of healthcare services.

The meeting also discussed critical issues within the health sector, including state of healthcare infrastructure, optimization of staff deployment, sufficient medical equipment and the efficiency of service delivery. The DC, on the occasion directed the concerned to identify gaps in infrastructure and explore ways to enhance capacity, ensure optimal resource allocation, ensure the availability of essential medical equipment and improve overall service delivery to meet the growing needs of patients effectively.

Emphasises improving overall service delivery to meet the growing needs of patients effectively

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Gangyal Industry, Preet Nagar, Ext. Trikuta Nagar, Marble Market, Kunjwani, Gangyal Model Town and Industrial area Bari Brahmana will remain affected on December 15 from 9 am to 11 am. Similarly, the power supply to Ashok Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 15 and 17 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to 132/33KV Jhajarkotli Grid, Roop Nagar, Janipur, Muthi, Subash Nagar, Sheetli (PHE), New Secretariat, Rajinder Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 15 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Bhagthali and its adjoining areas will remain affected on December 15 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to IIDC Industrial area will remain affected on December 15 from 8 am to 3 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Barnoti, Sakta Chack, Mahi Chack Phalote and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 15 from 8 am to 11 am.

SWD Udhampur organizes awareness Programme on "child labour" & "Good Touch Bad Touch" at Govt. MS Barrian

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai and overall supervision of District Social welfare Officer, Kanika Gupta District Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Udhampur organised an awareness programme at Government Middle School Barrian in collaboration with OSC and CHL Udhampur.

In this programme, CHL Counselor Pinky Pathania aware the children about the aim and objectives of Child Helpline and scholarship programmes launched by the govt. for Children.

She also aware the participants about the evil practices in the society such as Child Marriage, Child Labour & Child Abuse etc. She laid stress on child labour and explained the disadvantages of child labour. They also share 1098 Child Helpline toll free no. for children. Later, OSC Paramedical Babita also aware the children about domestic violence against women.

Indian Army Conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjars and Bakarwals in Rajouri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army recently organized a Medical Patrol in Bambal, Rajouri, to address the healthcare needs of the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities. These nomadic groups, residing in remote and often inaccessible areas, face significant challenges in accessing basic amenities, including medical care.

Recognizing these challenges, the Indian Army undertook this initiative to provide much-needed medical assistance and support. The patrol not only ensured the safety and security of the residents but also extended vital healthcare services. A total of 38 individuals, including 21 women, 8 men, and 9 children, benefited from this outreach



program. The beneficiaries expressed profound gratitude for the medical aid and attention provided by the Army.

This initiative highlights the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of the population in far-flung regions. Such efforts are part of its broader strategy

to bridge gaps in essential services and ensure that vulnerable communities are not left behind.

By focusing on healthcare, the Army is addressing a critical need and demonstrating a humanitarian approach in its operations.

Medical patrols like this

one are a regular feature of the Indian Army's outreach activities in Jammu and Kashmir. These initiatives go beyond security responsibilities, showcasing the Army's dedication to improving the quality of life for local populations. The successful execution of the Bambal Medical Patrol underscores the importance of these efforts in fostering trust and strengthening the bond between the Army and the communities it serves.

The Indian Army remains steadfast in its dual role of ensuring security and supporting development in remote areas. Through its sustained efforts, the Army continues to uplift and empower marginalized communities, ensuring that even the most isolated populations receive the care and support they need.

Indian Army Distributes Solar Lights to Gujjar and Bakarwal Communities in Sindharah, Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

In a commendable effort to uplift marginalized communities, the Indian Army distributed solar lights to the Gujjar and Bakarwal populations in Sindharah, Poonch. This initiative is part of the Army's ongoing commitment to improving the living conditions of remote communities, particularly in regions south of the Pir Panjal range, where access to basic amenities remains a significant challenge.

Sindharah, home to a vibrant community of Gujjars and Bakarwals, has long struggled with the absence of reliable electricity. This lack of power has posed numerous hardships for residents, espe-



cially children who find it difficult to study after sunset and families striving to maintain their livelihoods and safety. Understanding the impor-

tance of sustainable solutions, the Indian Army stepped forward with the innovative distribution of solar-powered lights.

Javed Rana reviews progress on Cluster Tribal Model Villages



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today reviewed progress on Cluster Tribal Model Villages and various tribal welfare related works being executed in Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Poonch along with other officers from the district through video conferencing.

Javed Rana called for completion of all ongoing and pending developmental works and emphasised that work process on all projects be expedited and completed in a stipulated timeframe.

He directed the Deputy Commissioner to regularly review all

ongoing Tribal Welfare projects to ensure their timely completion.

The Minister reviewed the work wise status of works including DPR, tendering process and execution with focus on quality, convergence model and active efforts being made by the department in tribal areas with emphasis on education, health-care, soil conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

While reviewing progress on cluster model villages, the Minister said that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to uplift tribal communities by providing them with modern infrastructure and amenities.

The DC presented physical and financial progress on various works being executed under Cluster Tribal Model Village.

Regarding progress on Jal Jeevan Mission in the district, Rana asked the officers to maintain quality of work in execution of projects. He, while mentioning about certain complaints from various areas about implementation of the prestigious project, asked the concerned to sort out the same on priority basis.

Javed Rana asked the district administration to gear up to complete the projects that are nearing completion so that they can be dedicated to the public at an earliest.

During the meeting, Director Tribal Affairs was directed to monitor all projects in close coordination with all Deputy Commissioners so that maximum people are covered under the schemes and no eligible beneficiary is left out from availing the schemes.

While appreciating the officers for their dedication in reaching out to the tribals, the Minister asked them to take locals into confidence, before taking up works in the district.

During the meeting, Javed Rana also asked the DC to look into encroachments of Mendhar bus stand and also submit a detailed plan for traffic management in the town.

Javed Rana also asked DC to keep a strict check on overcharging by the transport vehicles saying that the issue is of huge public importance and should be addressed on priority basis.

BOPEE organises counselling cum awareness camp at Thanamandi



JAHANGEER KHAN
THANAMANDI:

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) under overall supervision of ARI & Trainings Department and in coordination with District Administrations through District Industry Centre, Rajouri organized a counselling cum awareness camp at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thanamandi, Rajouri to educate the aspiring candidates/students about the Entrance Examinations/ Counsellings Schedule for admission to various professional courses to be conducted by J&K BOPEE in UT of J&K for the session 2025-26.

The Camp aimed to address the issue of low enrolment and vacant seats in various Govt./Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K due to dearth of information and awareness among the students particularly from far flung areas/districts about various professional courses, eligibility criteria, admission processes and future prospects. BOPEE officials and experts interacted with students, addressed their concerns and provided insights on the benefits of pursuing professional education within the Union Territory of J&K. The Awareness Camp also highlighted the advantage of pursuing professional courses in local colleges of UT of J&K, including minimum fee structure as compared to other states outside J&K, and better job opportunities.

Prof. (Dr.) Minu Mahajan, Chairperson JKBOPEE in her message urged the students of the district Rajouri to avail the opportunity in securing seats of your choice in the professional colleges by participating in large number in the upcoming academic session. She said that the Board is committed to fill up all seats to avoid depletion of the resources and opportunities available in various Govt./Private Colleges/Institutions of J&K.

Secy RDD holds review meeting with DCs

Discusses formulation of MGNREGA Annual Action Plan 2025-26, land acquisition for Panchayat Ghars



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, presided over a meeting on Friday to discuss pivotal matters including the formulation of MGNREGA Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2025-26, land availability for new Panchayat Bhawans, providing of caste data to the OBC Commission, and identification of land for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs). The meeting was attended by all District Development Commissioners of J&K, Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat, Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, Director Finance, Umar Khan, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma, Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja, Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Er. Aamir Ali, Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Er Rajesh Kumar, all Assistant Commissioner Development (ACDs), ACPs and others.

DPO Rajouri inaugurates 3-Days Training Programme on 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi'



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

A three-day training programme under the theme 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' was inaugurated today by District Programme Officer, Poshan Rajouri, Fared Ahmed Kohli at Sunderbani in Rajouri district.

The initiative aims to equip Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) with the skills required to effectively implement the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) curriculum

in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).

During the event, the District Programme Officer also launched two handbooks, Navchetna and Aadharshila, designed as comprehensive guides for AWWs. These handbooks focus on early stimulation and early learning, providing a structured framework for enhancing the cognitive and developmental growth of children.

Speaking on the occasion, the DPO emphasized the importance of integrating nutrition with education

for holistic child development.

He stated that the ECCE curriculum under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi is a step forward in ensuring a strong foundation for children. This training will empower our Anganwadi Workers to create an engaging and stimulating environment for young learners, he added.

The programme witnessed active participation, with sessions focusing on innovative teaching methods, child-centered approaches, and practical strategies for implementing the ECCE curriculum in rural settings. The training programme will continue over the next two days, with interactive sessions and practical demonstrations aimed at enhancing the skills and confidence of the AWWs. Hanan Shawl, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Kalakote, and Daleep Kumar, CDPO Sunderbani, also participated in the programme, alongside Supervisors Veena Rani, Suresh Kumar, Vaishno Devi, Nirmal Kumari, Pitamber Kumari, and numerous Anganwadi Workers.

DC Samba reviews preparations for Ratkhada Mela at Narsingh Temple, Ghagwal

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, chaired a review meeting to assess preparations for the upcoming Ratkhada Mela at Narsingh Temple, Ghagwal.

During the meeting, DC Samba directed all concerned departments to ensure proper coordination and timely execution of arrangements.

Key areas of focus included security, sanitation, traffic management, and the provision of public amenities to facilitate a hassle-free experience for devotees and visitors. He emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order, cleanliness, and smooth vehicular movement during the Mela, which is expected to attract a significant number of attendees.

Additionally, arrangements for

public amenities such as drinking water, mobile toilets, and medical facilities were discussed to ensure visitors' convenience.

DC Samba stressed the need for seamless interdepartmental coordination to make the Mela a safe and successful event.

The meeting was attended by ADC Samba, ACR Samba, SDM Ghagwal, CMO besides other senior district officers from the line departments.

Six accused nabbed in attempted murder case, weapon Desi Katta, vehicle used in crime recovered within 48 Hours by Bishnah Police

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a significant breakthrough, Jammu Police have apprehended six accused involved in an attempted murder case in which one of the accused person fired with desi katta on victim with the intention to kill him at Ring Road Kunjwani in the JD of PS Bishnah.

The victim was thrown by the accused persons after firing on him with Desi Katta from the Ring road Kunjwani over the height of 50-60 Ft and fleas from the spot. thereafter local peoples shifted the victim in injured condition at SDH Bishnah for treatment.

Following the registration of FIR Number 207 /24 under Sections 109, 115(2), 191(2) BNS and 4/25 of the Arms Act in Police Station Bishnah, a specialized and dedicated team of officers/officials led by SHO PS Bishnah under the Supervision of SDPO RS Pura and SP HQ Jmu conducted multiple raids. Their efforts led to the arrest of all six accused persons.



During interrogation, the suspects confessed to their involvement in the crime. Based on their disclosure, weapon i.e katta was recovered. Additionally, the vehicle used during the crime Swift car bearing registra-

tion number JK02DL 6601 was seized.

The case remains under active investigation as police work to gather more evidence and determine the motive behind the attack.

DDC Baramulla chairs DLC meeting, reviews implementation of PMJVK scheme

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired a District Level Committee (DLC) meeting today to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) scheme in the district.

The meeting focused on presenting and reviewing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for various initiatives aimed at the socio-economic development of minority communities.

During the meeting, key directives were issued to ensure the timely initiation and effective implementation of essential projects. The DDC emphasized the need for efficiency and coordination among the concerned departments for the successful execution of these initiatives.

He directed the concerned officials to proceed with the construction of 52 Anganwadi centers, with two centers to be established in each block across the district. This initiative will enhance early childhood care and education facilities, benefiting communities throughout the region. The Principal of Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla was instructed to submit a DPR for the construction of a block for the Advanced Training Facility (ATF) and ANMT College. This infrastructure will improve healthcare training opportunities, addressing the need for skilled professionals in the medical field.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) was tasked with submitting DPRs for the creation of smart classrooms in middle schools, with three classrooms to be set up in each education Zone. This project will modernize the education system by integrating technology into classrooms, ultimately improving the quality of education. Minga Sherpa emphasized the importance of timely submission and review of these DPRs, ensuring their approval and smooth implementation. The projects will be reviewed by the District Committee and sent to the State Level Committee for final approval.

Transport Commissioner reviews progress on Inspection and Certification Centre Samba

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan today visited Inspection and Certification Centre Samba to take stock of the progress of installation of Hitech machinery in the Centre which is expected to arrive by the end of December.

Transport Commissioner was informed by the concerned executing agency that all the pending civil and allied work for installation of machinery / equipment will be completed by the end of February 2025 and the machinery which is in transit from Germany is likely to arrive at site in a couple of days and the center will be made functional after successful testing of Machinery/equipment.

RTO Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra who accompanied the Transport Commissioner, informed that operationalization of I&CC will play a crucial role in issuance of Fitness Certificates to the vehicles after being inspected through these specially designed machines.

This move will enhance the fitness-worthy vehicles on road and would minimize occurrence of accidents due to mechanical failures.

The Transport Commissioner stressed the executing agencies to complete the remaining work specially construction of ramps at an earliest so that the center can be made operational before the deadline fixed by the higher authorities. The Transport Commissioner said that after the operationalization of the Center, Fitness Certificates will be issued to the vehicles on spot which in turn will save the time of operators/owners avoiding their visits to RTO/ ARTO offices.

Transport Commissioner was accompanied by Vinay Samotra, Joint Transport Commissioner, Jugal Kishor Pandoh, Deputy Director, P&S, Accounts Officer TC Office, ARTO Samba, MVIs besides representatives from PWD and Electrical Divisions. Later, the Transport Commissioner held detailed discussions with Deputy Commissioner Samba regarding measures required for improvement of enforcement activities and strengthening of the last mile connectivity in the district.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojna for free electricity to households: Sat Sharma



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president, Sat Sharma (CA), shared that the problem of inadequate supply of electricity can be solved for all time by utilizing alternate sources at cheaper investment.

He was speaking at a function, after inaugurating the Easy Solar showroom in the Shastri Nagar area of Jammu city, in the presence of a large number of leading industrialists, shopkeepers, traders, intellectuals, educationists, and prominent

members of civil society.

Sat Sharma said that the Modi government has brought in PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana early this year to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households, factories, offices, schools, business establishments etc to generate their own electricity. It provides for a subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2KW capacity and 40 percent of additional system cost for systems between 2 to 3KW capacity. The scheme has provision of subsidy and a common person can get the

system installed. At current benchmark prices, this will mean Rs 30,000 subsidy for 1kW system, Rs 60,000 for 2kW systems and Rs 78,000 for 3kW systems or higher.

Any Indian citizen, having own house with a roof suitable for installing solar panels, has a valid electricity connection, and has not availed subsidy for solar panels is eligible to avail this scheme.

Sat Sharma lauded the showroom owner for promoting the idea, which will be a boon for the people. He said that in this showroom, the owner has provided jobs to many persons, thus fulfilling the needs of their families. He also asked the others to follow similar lines and come up with innovative ideas as the entrepreneurs to boost the local economy.

Owner Satish Kumar Sharma, BJP Professional Cell Incharge & retired Income Tax Commissioner, thanked all the dignitaries for their blessings on the occasion of showroom opening.

KTMF Leaders Extend Condolences to Farooq Ahmed Shah on His Mother's Demise

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

A delegation of the Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), led by its President Mohammad Sadiq Baqal, visited the residence of Farooq Ahmed Shah, former Vice President of KTMF and ex-President of Goni Khan Market, to offer heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of his mother.

The delegation included General Secretary Mohammad Altaf Dar, Senior Trade Union Leader Ayjaz Ahmed, and members Zubair and Sajad.

They joined the bereaved family in prayers for the departed soul and



expressed their solidarity and support during this time of grief.

Speaking on the occasion, President Mohammad Sadiq Baqal conveyed profound sorrow over the loss and prayed for Allah to grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

He also wished strength and

patience to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

General Secretary Mohammad Altaf Dar emphasized the invaluable contributions of Farooq Ahmed Shah to the Federation and the business community, affirming that KTMF stands united with him and his family in this moment of sorrow.

DC Jammu chairs meeting to discuss preparation of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-Sensitive Zone Master Plan



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also Chairman Monitoring Committee of Eco Sensitive Zone of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, held a meeting today regarding the preparation of Zonal Master Plan for the implementation of provisions of Eco Sensitive

Zone of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary. The meeting, attended by Wildlife Warden Jammu (Member Secretary) Vijay Kumar and other committee members, focussed on developing a strategic approach to protect and manage the 10 square kilometer Eco-Sensitive Zone notified in 2021. During the extensive deliberations, the committee comprehensively discussed activities

that will be prohibited, regulated and potentially promoted within the zone, in strict adherence to environmental protection guidelines.

The Chairman specifically directed that Jammu Development Authority and Jammu Municipal Corporation should be actively involved in the planning process. The objective is to preemptively protect the eco-sensitive zone from potential adverse developmental activities that might compromise its ecological integrity.

Eco Sensitive Zones are critical buffer areas surrounding protected wildlife habitats, designed to act as a transition zone between core wildlife areas and surrounding regions. These zones are established to minimise negative external impacts on wildlife and ecological systems, implementing regulated human activities to ensure environmental conservation.

Handicrafts, Labour Department jointly organise awareness camp at Samba



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

An innovative inter-departmental awareness camp was successfully conducted at Panchayat Chajjwal, Block Samba, aimed at promoting self-empowerment and sustainable livelihoods among local residents.

Key officials from the Handicrafts and Labour Departments, including Assistant Director Handicrafts Ekshu Sharma and Assistant Labour Commissioner Samba Himani Jerath, directly engaged with community members to provide comprehensive information about various government schemes and their potential benefits.

The strategic awareness underscores the administration's commitment to grassroots-level development and good governance. By bringing multiple departmental resources directly to the community, the camp sought to bridge information gaps and encourage local residents to leverage available governmental support for their economic and social advancement. Officials interacted closely with participants, explaining the nuanced details of departmental schemes designed to support and uplift local populations. The camp represents a proactive approach to community engagement and empowerment.

The initiative is part of the ongoing efforts to showcase Samba as a model of responsive and citizen-centric governance, emphasizing direct communication and accessible public services.

IGP Traffic assesses Traffic Scenario; Ongoing Construction Works in District Samba, Kathua

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

IGP Traffic J&K M. Suleman Choudhary today conducted a tour of District Samba and Kathua to assess the current traffic situation and inspected ongoing construction projects (DAK Express Way).

He was accompanied by Girdhari Lal, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, Sukhdev Singh, Dy.SP Traffic Samba-Kathua, DTIs concerned & other Traffic Police officers.

During the visit, the IGP reviewed key traffic hotspots across the NH-44 from Jammu to Lakhanpur.

He focused on areas where construction work of DAK Express Way has resulted in bottlenecks, leading to significant delays and congestion. He discussed with the officers the need for timely completion of projects, as well as measures to minimize the impact of construction on traffic flow.

The IGP also emphasized the importance of proper signage, alter-



native routes, and coordinated planning to reduce disruptions caused by these ongoing developments.

The primary focus of this visit was to resolve the ongoing traffic congestion issues on NH-44 from Jammu to Lakhanpur. Specific congestion points discussed included Balol Bridge near Hotel Sarover, Near JK Oil Mills Bari Brahmna, Sidco Chowk, main market Bari Brahmna, Bari Brahmna chowk towards Bishnah cut, Railway cut, sabji mandi Bari Brahmna, Near Marrygold Palace, Near Aracot, Palli

Morh, Dayalachack Chowk, Chann Rorian, Rajbagh, Sakhtachak, Barnoti, Hatli Morh etc.

The IGP Traffic J&K directed all officers to focus on ensuring that traffic does not come to a complete standstill, even if it involves slow movement.

The officers were instructed to maintain a constant flow of traffic, wherever possible, and avoid gridlocks besides, use their expertise in traffic management to divert traffic in congestion zones or resolve any traffic-related issues.

30 J&K artists selected for 28th National Youth Festival

Festival aims at empowering youth with skills, knowledge, confidence: Sarmad Hafiz



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The youth of Jammu and Kashmir possesses tremendous talent which needs to be explored at the grass-root level by ensuring quality education to them coupled with high moral values and ethical standards. This was stated by Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, while addressing the concluding ceremony of Inter-Division UT level competition for 28th National Youth Festival 2024-25. Sarmad Hafeez was accompanied by Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara and other officers of the department.

The Secretary said that the youth of present era is dynamic and energetic adding the only need is to channelize their energy in the right direction while guiding them to live a healthy lifestyle away from drug abuse and other social ills. Sarmad Hafeez thanked the department for providing him an opportunity to witness a wonderful display of art and culture and lavished praise on the organisers, parents, teachers and trainers for guiding them to do wonderfully well, thus making the event a grand success. While congratulating the selected artists/students, the Secretary said that participating in the upcoming 28th National Youth Festival in the benign presence of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi would be a dream come true for them.

JKEDI organizes Entrepreneurship Orientation Program for students of IUST

Students interact with star entrepreneurs, gain real time exposure



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Thursday organized a one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness program cum interaction for the students of Department of Economics, Islamic University of Science and

Technology (IUST).

The interaction program focused on providing the exposure related to J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and the development of the startup ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

During their visit, the students interacted with the faculty members and experts at JKEDI who briefed

the students about the evolving startup scenario, business plan modeling, DPR formulation, capacity building and providing financial and market linkage including handholding and mentorship support to the aspiring entrepreneurs.

The students were briefed about various verticals of JKEDI and their functions. The role of entrepreneurship as a career choice was also discussed during the visit.

The students interacted with two star entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani and Mir Faizan who shared their entrepreneurial journey and the challenges faced by them before achieving success.

Later, the students participated in the question answer session and put forth their understanding of various topics related to startups and entrepreneurship.

MLA Dooru launches Mir Maryam's debut novel 'Lost in the Journey of Magic' at GDC Women Anantnag

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU ANANTNAG:

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Dooru, GA Mir Friday released 'Lost in the Journey of Magic', the debut novel by Mir Maryam, a Class 7 student of Saint Xian's International School Anantnag, during a special event held at GDC Women Anantnag.

In his address, MLA, GA Mir commended Mir Maryam for her exceptional literary achievement at such a young age. He lauded the school's holistic approach toward education, emphasizing how its innovative curriculum fosters creativity, academic excellence, and personal development among students. "Students like Mir Maryam exemplify the power of a nurturing educational environment that encourages young minds to pursue their passions and dreams.

It is imperative to support and inspire our student community to shine on national and international platforms, bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir," MLA Mir remarked.

He also expressed his gratitude to the management of Saint Xian's International School for inviting him to share his thoughts with the students and congratulated the school for cultivating a culture of literary and artistic excellence.

The event concluded with an interactive session where Mir Maryam engaged with the audience, discussing various aspects of her novel and sharing insights into her writing journey.

The session inspired students and guests alike, leaving a lasting impression on all present. Earlier, the event began with a warm welcome address by Dr. Fahmeeda Akhter, Principal of Saint Xian's International School.

Secy RDD makes surprise visit to Kartholi Panchayat of Samba District

Takes stock of the punctuality of field staff, functioning of Panchayat 'Action being initiated against officials leaving field/office before notified closing time'

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SAMBA:

Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, conducted a surprise visit to Samba district to check the punctuality of field and office staff.

During the visit, Aijaz Asad contacted officials who were supposed to be in the field during duty hours. A few officials were found to have left the fieldwork before the close of office hours. Action under rules is being initiated against such officials.

Accompanied by Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja, the Secretary also inspected multiple ongoing works in Block Bari Brahmna, focusing on Capex works in Panchayats Birpur Lower and Kartholi Lower.

During the visit, the Secretary evaluated the implementation of the schemes to ensure adherence to quality standards and compliance with stipulated timelines.

Aijaz Asad directed officials to ensure that the works meet their deadlines and maintain high standards of execution.



During the visit, he reviewed the progress and parameters of various ongoing schemes, including MGN-REGA, PMAY-G, SBM-G, as well as the construction and status of Panchayat Ghars.

The Secretary directed officials to expedite the execution of projects under MGNREGA to ensure they are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Aijaz Asad also highlighted the importance of projects under MGN-REGA in providing sustainable employment to rural households and stressed the need for their effective implementation to benefit the local

populace. The secretary also urged officials to fast-track the construction of houses for eligible beneficiaries under PMAY-G.

He directed officials to ensure that beneficiaries receive the allocated support without delays and to address any grievances promptly.

The Secretary also assessed the progress of SBM-G in the district and emphasized the importance of enhanced sanitation measures, including regular cleaning and waste management. He directed officials to establish effective plastic waste management systems for proper disposal and recycling.

DC Poonch addresses developmental issues of Colleges

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, reviews various developmental challenges faced by colleges in the Poonch district.

The meeting brought together concerned officers who presented their respective issues, including land acquisition for hostel construction, drainage problems, boundary wall constructions etc. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner announced that the land for Mandi College will be officially awarded on January 3, 2025.

He emphasized the urgent need for the construction of the boundary wall at Mendhar College, instructing the concerned executive engineer to expedite the process.

IGP Traffic pins rank to newly promoted DSPs



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

A Piping ceremony was held at the Traffic Police Headquarters J&K Jammu, where newly promoted Deputy Superintendent of Police Sohail Ahmad and O.P Chib were pinned with new rank.

The event was officiated by M.Suleman Choudhary IGP Traffic J&K. Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughul, DIGP Traffic Range Jammu, Feisal Quareshi-JKPS, SSP Traffic City Jammu, Arvinder Singh Kotwal, Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu, Ravinder Singh, Dy. SP Traffic (Hqrs), Radhay Sham Koul, Accounts Officer, THQ J&K, Sunil Sawhney, Dy.SP, Pvt. Secretary to IGP Traffic J&K and Rakesh Pandita, PA to IGP Traffic J&K were also present on the occasion.

2 Reefer Trucks handed-over to beneficiaries under HADP at Shopian

DC terms it a great step to provide logistical support for strengthening agriculture marketing

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SHOPIAN:

The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Shopian today organised a distribution function at Aglar Shopian in order to hand over the keys of 2 Reefer Trucks to beneficiaries of the district under the Holistic Area Development Programme (HADP).

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar presided over the function and handed over the keys of trucks procured by beneficiaries with substantial financial support of the government.

Each Reefer Truck has a capacity of 26 MTs, and is a recent intervention in post harvesting management initiatives capable of transporting fruits and vegetables long distances with inbuilt controlled atmosphere. The services of these CA trucks are



increasing in demand for the local Cold Chain Industry for long distance transport keeping in view they enhance the shelf life and profitability of the fruit.

Under HADP, the government provides 75% subsidy on each unit costing 25 lac under the component 'Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing- Project 4' for providing logistics support to the fruit indus-

try. The DC on the occasion appreciated the department for the feat and appealed to others, especially unemployed youth to take the benefits of livelihood and employment generation schemes for their economic upliftment.

The event was also attended by AMO, HP&M and DIO Shopian along with other officials of the department and beneficiaries.

Chairperson DDC B'la reviews dev projects & Saturation of Schemes in Pattan

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BARAMULLA:

The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Beigh today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of developmental projects, ongoing works, and various schemes in the Subdivision, Pattan.

The meeting was attended by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Gulzar Ahmad, Block Development

Officers (BDOs), Tehsildar, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), and representatives from the Public Works Department (PDD), Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Roads and Buildings (R&B), among others. The meeting aimed to assess the progress of ongoing projects and discuss the timely completion of essential works across various departments.

During the meeting, the chair provided detailed updates on the

current status of the ongoing works and the achievements made in the project deliveries across the subdivision Pattan.

The Chairperson directed the concerned departments to expedite the delivery of services particularly in view of the upcoming winter season.

Special instructions were issued to PDD, PHE, and R&B departments to ensure efficient service delivery and preparedness for potential challenges posed by the winter months.

Modi Govt committed to 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' under JJM Scheme: Arvind



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West Constituency, reaffirmed the Modi Government's commitment to providing clean and safe drinking water to every household under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme.

He emphasized this while chairing a meeting with officers of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department to address water supply

issues in his constituency. The meeting was attended by Sunil Gandotra, SE Mechanical PHE; HS Reen, Executive Engineer Mechanical; Rajesh Sharma, Executive Engineer PHE Civil; Sanjeev Gupta, AEE PHE; and Anil Katoch, AEE Mechanical. Atul Bakshi, Mandal President was also present.

Arvind highlighted that the Central Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated JJM scheme with an aim to

ensure piped water supply to every household in the country, reflecting the government's focus on improving the quality of life for all citizens. "The Modi Government is determined to bring about transformative changes in the water supply infrastructure to achieve this goal," he said.

The senior BJP leader asked PHE officials to prioritize uninterrupted water supply and focus on maintaining water reservoirs in his constituency.

He emphasized that water reservoirs should be cleaned on a regular basis, with dates and locations properly maintained. "The cleanliness and upkeep of these reservoirs are not just about ensuring water quality but also maintaining them as exemplary sites.

These reservoirs should be maintained so well that parents can proudly take their children there to learn about the source of their drinking water," he added.

INM Trainees visit Directorate of Agriculture Jammu for Exposure on Soil, Fertilizer & Pesticide Testing



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

On the third day of the ongoing 15-day certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for agricultural input dealers, 30 participants from Jammu, Kathua, Kupwara, Anantnag, and Baramulla districts visited the Soil, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Testing Laboratory at Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan Jammu. The training program was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, SKUAST Jammu.

The exposure visit was organized to provide trainees with hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of soil testing, fertilizer management, and pesticide analysis. The visit also aimed to familiarize participants with the parameters of soil testing, soil health cards, and the process of making test-based recommendations for fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural inputs.

During the visit, trainees interacted with Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, who emphasized the crucial role that fertilizer/input dealers play in disseminating knowledge on fertilizer management to farmers. He highlighted the importance of making dealers more aware of the available natural resources, the balanced use of inputs, and the need to improve their professional competencies. By doing so, they can provide the best advisory services to the farming community. The trainees were briefed by Dr. Neeraj Rajwal, Assistant Soil Chemist Jammu, who explained the Soil Health Card scheme and demonstrated the various laboratory equipment and techniques used for nutrient analysis of soil samples. He also explained the process of collecting soil samples from farmers' fields and analyzing major and micro-nutrients in soil. Dr. Dolly John, Assistant Biochemist, provided insights into the Fertilizer Laboratory's operations, including quality assessments, nutrient analysis, contaminant detection, soil compatibility, and chromium analysis.

DDC Chairperson Poonch finalizes projects under PMJVK Scheme



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

DDC Chairperson, Tazim Akhter, along with Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to finalize projects under the PMJVK scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

This centrally-sponsored initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, focuses on improving the socio-economic conditions of minorities across India. The PMJVK scheme aims to bridge socio-economic gaps through targeted interventions in health, education, and skill development.

During the meeting, the Chairperson emphasized the importance of achieving the scheme's objectives, which aim to bridge the socio-economic gaps in various sectors, including health, education, and skill development.

A total of sixteen projects were discussed during the meeting, with twelve cases receiving approval from the committee. This initiative marks a crucial step toward enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Poonch and fostering inclusive growth in the region.

The PMJVK scheme is designed to improve living conditions in identified minority concentration areas through community infrastructure development and the provision of essential amenities.

Director Animal Husbandry launches FMD-CP Mass Vaccination under NADCP

Vaccination commences simultaneously in all the districts

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Vaccination under FMD-Control Programme of NADCP-V was launched today by Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Dr Parvinder Singh Sudan in a function held at Disease Investigation Laboratory Srinagar.

The program was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Srinagar, Deputy Director (Poultry) and other officers of the district Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Animal Husbandry Department urged all the field functionaries involved in the vaccination program for timely completion of vaccination and not leaving even a single eligible animal unvaccinated with 100% uploading on the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) Portal on daily basis.



The Director shared technical insight amongst the field workers about the right vaccination technique, and insisted all the functionaries to ensure maintenance of the cold chain at all levels right from lab to the farm.

He emphasised upon dedication regarding implementation of WHO guidelines under one health concept.

The teams meant for vaccination in Srinagar district were flagged-off

in a ceremonial manner by the Director.

The vaccination has simultaneously commenced in all the districts of the valley today and shall be conducted in a campaign mode.

Prevention of Animal Disease via vaccination has taken new dimensions in view of the large number of Zoonotic disease transmissible to Humans and emergence of new variants of pathogens.

Deputations call on Dy CM; raises issues seeking speedy redressal

Effective governance ecosystem; Govt's prime concern: Dy CM

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today said that the government is committed towards putting in place an effective governance ecosystem so that the problems faced by the public are redressed effectively within shortest possible time. The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with scores of deputations who called on him today to project several issues related to their areas and service related issues seeking speedy redressal of the same.

A deputation of Diploma Engineers projected several issues related to their career progression.

Another deputation of National



Health Mission raised the issue of regularisation, salary hike and formulation of service Bye Laws and

incorporation of financial assistance (Golden Handshake) and related issues.

Putting nation first sets BJP apart from rest: Sat Sharma



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir, BJP president, Sat Sharma (CA), while addressing a series of meetings of prominent activists of the party in Kathua, Jasrota and Hiranagar, said that BJP treats nation first and self-last, which has been its core ideology from day one.

Sat Sharma was accompanied by Kathua district Prabhari Munish Sharma, district president Gopal Mahajan, MLAs Bharat Bhushan, Vijay Sharma, Rajiv Jasrotia and other senior leaders.

Sat Sharma said that the BJP has distinguished itself in Indian politics through its unwavering commitment to the philosophy of "Nation First." This core principle underscores

every policy, decision, and action undertaken by the party, setting it apart from other political parties.

The BJP's "Nation First" ideology reflects its dedication to prioritizing national interest above partisan politics or individual ambitions. Whether it is safeguarding national security, promoting economic development, or fostering cultural pride, the party places India's unity, sovereignty, and progress at the centre of its governance model. This guiding philosophy has been instrumental in building a stronger, self-reliant India and addressing key challenges faced by the nation.

"While most of the parties promote dynastic politics or regional interests, the BJP's leadership remains firmly committed to the larger national good", Sat said, adding that

by putting the nation first, the party has earned the trust of millions of Indians. He said that the BJP's nation-first philosophy is not just a slogan but also a foundational principle that shapes its vision for a prosperous, united, and globally respected India.

He also stressed upon the party activists to put more efforts in completing the ongoing membership drive within the fixed time.

Kathua district president and other leaders also handed over thousands of membership forms to Sat Sharma filled through offline mode from the new members.

Meanwhile, Sat Sharma also welcomed dozens of people from different sections of the society into the party fold in a function held at Kathua district BJP office. He, on this occasion, said that the party graph is going up with each passing day and more and more people are getting inclined towards this party.

District president and other leaders also handed over thousands of membership forms filled through offline mode from the new members.

BJP senior leaders Kuldeep Kumar, Chaggar Singh, Raghunandan Singh Bablu, Dr. Narinder Jasrotia, Prem Dogra, Rekha Kumari, Inderjit Singh, Mehtaji, Karan Atri, Sudesh Sethu, also accompanied Sat Sharma.

DC Kathua presides over awareness camp on Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KATHUA:

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, today presided over an awareness camp on the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM SGMBY), organized by the Power Development Department (PDD) at the DC Office Complex.

The event was part of the ongoing outreach campaign by District Administration Kathua aimed at educating the public about the scheme's substantial benefits and encouraging participation.

Highlighting the lucrative incentives under the scheme, the DC informed that PM SGMBY offers a subsidy of over 65% on the installation of solar rooftop units. He noted that a 3 KW solar unit, priced at ₹1.60 lakh, requires a subscriber investment of only ₹65,000, ensuring zero electricity bills and free power generation. The solar panels come with a 25-year warranty, eliminating maintenance costs and ensuring long-term savings.

Dr. Minhas also urged the public to obtain legal electricity connections, refrain from electricity theft and be responsible citizens by availing themselves of the scheme's benefits. Executive Engineer PDD Kathua informed that the camp facilitated on-the-spot registration of interested households through government-approved vendors. He also informed attendees that Jammu & Kashmir Bank is offering financial assistance, providing loans at a 7% interest rate for up to 95% of the project's cost.

Among others present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Ranjit Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur, district and sectoral officers, PDD officials and a large gathering of the general public.

Semi Ring Road Phase II: DC Bandipora convenes meeting to resolve key issues

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, chaired a meeting on Friday at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to discuss various issues related to the Semi Ring Road Phase II project.

The meeting focused on critical concerns, including soil extraction at Chewa, land compensation, and procedural clearances for tree cutting.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized that the matter of land compensation has been taken up with higher authorities, and directed the concerned to maintain coordination with local stakeholders to prevent unnecessary delays.

He also instructed officers to initiate the acquisition process for kahcharai land and provide technical support to the executing agency as required. The meeting also discussed the necessity of obtaining proper permissions for cutting walnut and chinar trees, adhering to established procedures with geo-tagged photographs and accurate coordinates.

The DC assured that a joint survey and verification process would be conducted after completing all formalities. The meeting also reviewed the process of soil extraction at the industrial estate Chewa, with specific dumping spots already identified. Qadri highlighted the administration's commitment to monitoring the progress of the Ring Road project and directed all officers to expedite their respective tasks to ensure timely completion.

He reiterated the administration's full support in resolving challenges related to the project.



Recruitment for Dogri Posts Lacks Clarity, Says President Nami Dogri Sanstha

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Adv. Dogra Harish Kaila, President of Nami Dogri Sanstha, has voiced serious concerns over alleged irregularities and lack of transparency in the recruitment process for the position of Editorial Executive/Newsreader-cum-Translator (Dogri) conducted by Prasar Bharati. Adv. Kaila emphasized that these practices undermine the credibility of the institution and discourage talented candidates from participating in such processes.

During a detailed discussion with Mohd. Yaseen, a candidate in the process, Adv. Kaila raised several issues regarding the alleged lack of clarity in question paper preparation, the absence of qualified Dogri language experts in the interview panel, and the use of informal communication channels such as



WhatsApp for result announcements.

Adv. Kaila remarked, "The selection process appears to have overlooked the pride and integrity of the institution, seemingly catering to individuals who are either well-connected or possess little to no relevant experience. Such decisions reflect poorly on Prasar Bharati's commit-

ment to transparency and meritocracy."

He further stated that Dogri, a language deeply rooted in the cultural identity of the Duggar region, deserves a fair and professional representation in all processes concerning its promotion. "Dogri is not just a language but a heritage of millions of people in this region. Any compromise on its dignity is unacceptable," he added. Mohd. Yaseen, a cultural activist and National Scholarship holder in theatre, filed an RTI (PRBHA/R/E/24/01019) after being advised by Gulshan Raina, Assistant Director, RNU Jammu, to seek clarification on the recruitment process. Yaseen has raised pertinent questions regarding the fairness and transparency of the process, including the qualifications of panel members and safeguards against irregularities.

GDC Ramgarh organizes Open Forum on "Nasha Mukti"

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SAMBA:

An informative and impactful Open Forum on "Nasha Mukti" (drug de-addiction) was organized by the NCORD (National Campaign Against Drug Abuse) Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh under the aegis of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The event was conducted under the guidance and supervision of

Principal of the college Dr. Geetanjali Andotra.

The forum aimed to raise awareness about the serious consequences of drug abuse and provide students with a deeper understanding of how to prevent it. To ensure focused discussions, separate groups were formed for boys and girls.

The forum offered students a platform to share their thoughts on the issue, discuss various preventive strategies, and understand

the long-term consequences of drug addiction.

During the group discussions, students actively participated and expressed their thoughts on the increasing prevalence of drug abuse among youth and how to combat the growing concern.

The discussions highlighted the alarming impact of drugs on health and well-being and also the importance of education, personal responsibility, and community support in combating addiction.