

The Kashmir Talk

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Lt Governor addresses the closing ceremony of Audit Week at Jammu

Appreciates the efforts of the audit community towards transparent and accountable governance

Government departments in the era of reforms must take quick action on the shortcomings: LG Sinha

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the closing ceremony of 'Audit Week' at Convention Centre Jammu, today.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the audit community towards transparent and accountable governance.

He said the week-long audit day celebrations provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the critical role the audit community plays in contributing to good governance and shaping the governance landscape of our Nation.

"Public audit ensures that every rupee is well spent for the purpose to bring about a change in the lives of the people standing in the last queue of development," the Lt Governor said.

One of the earliest institutions established to bring transparency, accountability

and honesty in public life is the Institution of Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Our forefathers while drafting the Constitution had a clear

vided for in the Appropriation Bill of the Parliament, the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor impressed on the Government depart-



ments to take quick action on the shortcomings. In the era of reforms, it should be the endeavor of audit community to present the audit report and necessary facts immediately so that action related to the evaluation of policies and programmes is

opinion that the Auditor General would be the most important officer in the democratic processes, he said. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said that the position of the Auditor General is the most important in the Indian Constitution and he will be the only person who will see to it that there is no expenditure in excess of what the Parliament has voted for or what is pro-

taken without any delay, he added. "Audit observation and recommendation should be seen as a guide so that every penny of public exchequer improves the living standards of the common man," the Lt Governor said. All officers should change their thinking of looking at audit reports and audit observations as criticism of their work.

If you read these reports carefully and follow the recommendations of the audit community, necessary improvements can be brought in governance, he added.

At the ceremony, the Lt Governor talked about the significant change taking place in the administrative and business processes due to e-governance and digital penetration.

He said, this change has

brought new challenges and opportunities for audit community to pay special attention to the safety and security of the IT system and also make institutions and youth partners at the Panchayat level.

On the one hand, the use of artificial intelligence and knowledge-based expert systems has facilitated audit risk evaluation, internal control evaluation, and audit planning, while on the other new challenges have also emerged due to concerns about data security and minimum human control, the Lt Governor said. We have to strike a balance and use every tool available to ensure proper utilization of resources and make life easier for the beneficiaries of the schemes, he added.

Chugh mourns the death of four security official in Rajouri encounter, says that PM leading the fight to finish militancy in J&K

JAMMU: BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh who is also the party incharge of J&K, today



said that the Pakistan sponsored terrorism in J&K would be decisively wiped out shortly.

Mourning the death of four security officials including two Army captains, the gunfight with militants in Rajauri Chugh said the Modi government stands by every security official and the entire nation joins us to pay homage to the jawans who have laid down their lives fighting the militants.

Chugh said Pakistan sponsored terrorism has been wiped out of J&K to a large extent but still there are elements within the union territory which provide support to such anti-national forces.

He said the sacrifice of the security officials would not go waste and the militants would have to pay with their blood for trying to spread terrorism in J&K.

DAUSA (RAJASTHAN): Former Deputy Chief Minister J&K Kavinder Gupta on Thursday claimed that winds of change are blowing in favour of BJP in Rajasthan and it is now matter of days when the state will witness change of guard.

Kavinder was addressing various meetings in five assembly seats in Dausa District on the last day of election campaigning ahead of poll day. He took feedback from the party activists and expressed satisfaction that BJP is doing phenomenally good in the State with change in power becoming evident with each passing day as Congress is struggling to find any takers.

He asked the party cadre to remain cautious on the poll day and raise voice against any attempt of rigging or booth capturing. He said that by ensuring maximum polling the party workers can help BJP to win with

thumping majority. He also asked the workers to provide adequate assistance to old and infirm population to ensure that they don't face any difficulty while exercising

people-friendly things done by the Central government led by PM Narendra Modi for the State. He asked the party cadre to make maximum out of the favourable wind blow-



ing their right to franchise. He said that welfare schemes implemented by the Centre were evoking a positive response from the people, and it will augur well for the BJP.

He claimed that there is a political vacuum in Rajasthan, and people are prepared to give BJP an opportunity to fill that void as they can clearly see the

ing in support of BJP in the State by remaining proactive and through making a meaningful connect with the electorate. He said that grassroots level association with the people can do wonders in the election time and therefore the workers' presence in streets, Mohallas and booths holds the key to win Rajasthan to serve it better than anybody else.

Modi govt has earned the trust of common masses: Sham Sharma

Sham Sharma, Chander Mohan hold public grievance camp at BJP headquarter

JAMMU: "The Modi government has earned the trust of common masses with the dedicated selfless efforts at the ground level", Sham Sharma.

J&K BJP Vice-Presidents Sham Sharma (former minister) and Chander Mohan Gupta (former Mayor), accompanied by BJP Incharge Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Dil Bahadur Jamwal, were listening to the grievances of a large number of people from different areas of Jammu and Kashmir at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Deputations and individuals from R.S. Pura, Doda Bhalessa, Sidhra, Naali Kishtwar, Gandhi Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Batote, Khag Budgam Srinagar, Sangali Mandi Samba, Bara Samba, Patta Marjali, Bawe Wali Mata Mohalla, Maira

Mandrian Akhnoor, Khour, Sunderbani and other places visited party head-

BSF, bush cutting in park, repair of lanes/ drains, issuance of revenue record,

speaking on the occasion, said that the entire family of BJP activists is working day

living in the most difficult situation are adequately met. He said that the dedicated cadre of the party is augmenting the efforts of PM Modi. Owing to these dedicated selfless efforts at the ground level, the Modi government has earned the trust of common masses.

Chander Mohan Gupta said that a BJP activist is infused with an unwavering commitment to serve society and take the nation to new heights. He said that party workers have always reached the needy people at their doorsteps to know their issues and provide them with the solution.

Dil Bahadur Jamwal said that aggrieved people visit party headquarters with various issues and party leaders sincerely try to find solution to every single issue.



quarter to share their problems.

They presented issues related to mandir space, resettlement of pension in

repairing of link road, arms licence, scarcity of water, installation of new electric poles etc.

Sham Sharma, while

and night to serve the society. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government has ensured that the needs of a person

Ashok Koul, Arun address Yuva Morcha sammelan at Srinagar

SRINAGAR (KASHMIR): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by its General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul accompanied by BJYM President Arun Prabhat Singh, addressed a Yuva Morcha sammelan at Residency Road Church lane, Srinagar.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the sammelan stressed on the important role of youth in the society. He said that a nation's future is defined by the grit, hard work and futuristic vision of the youth.

The youth play an important role in nation building and economic development, as they are the future leaders of the country. They have the potential to bring about positive change and make a significant contribution to soci-

ety, he said.

"In the last nine and half

to take the PM's mission forward and the BJYM activists

Abhiyaan at the ground level successfully in Kashmir. He



years a lot has been done and the Modi government intends to do much more for the country. The youth now has the Prime responsibility

need to carry this message to the society" said Ashok Koul and asked the activists to carry on dedicatedly with the Mandal Sashaktikaran

shared with them that it would be held from 25 Nov to 3 Dec 2023.

Arun Prabhat shared more details on the Mandal

Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan. He said that 225 vistaraks from the BJP Youth wing will camp in 225 mandals for 10 days to strengthen the organizational structure of the party in the whole of Jammu Kashmir. He emphasized to take the youth oriented schemes and achievements of the Modi government to common young masses. He also urged the vistaraks to aware the first time voters about the importance of their vote for the holistic development of the nation.

Prominent leaders who were present on the occasion were Asim Rashid, BJYM Vice president, Umar Jan, Secretary, Luv Deval Sharma, State Secretary and PRT Incharge, Khalid Bakkal, Publicity secretary, Sagar Kotwal, Social media secretary, Abid Nengroo, Mahroof Bhat and others.

Empowering Girls through Self-Defense: Gujjar Bakarwal Girls Hostel inmates imparted training at Doda

DODA: In a significant step towards fostering empowerment and resilience among young girls, the District Hub for Empowerment of Women in Doda joined hands with the Sports Club Doda to organize a one-day self-defense training program in Gujjar Bakarwal Girls Hostel. A group of enthusiastic girls gathered to equip themselves with essential skills to tackle challenging situations.

Addressing the audience Humerah Balwan Gender Specialist, DHEW encouraged the girls to actively participate in sports activities and developing physical skills alongside academics.

"You should focus on skills and also hold discus-

sions on situational awareness, risk assessment and the importance of personal boundaries," she added. Empowering young women with knowledge and practical tools contributes not only to their individual well-being but also to the overall safety of the community. The training program aimed not only to teach physical self-defense techniques but also to instill a sense of confidence and awareness.

The girls were guided through practical and effective self-defense maneuvers, emphasizing the importance of personal safety and the ability to respond assertively in difficult circumstances.

The collaboration between the District Hub for Empowerment of Women and the Sports Club Doda highlights the community's commitment to

nurture the potential of young women. The collaboration between the District Hub for Empowerment of Women and the Sports Club Doda serves as a beacon of inspiration, illustrating the positive impact that community-driven initiatives can have on the lives of young individuals. Participants engaged in a variety of hands-on exercises, learning how to break free from holds, defend against common attacks, and use their surroundings to their advantage.

The instructor and coach Bhushan experienced in self-defense techniques provided valuable insights and tips, creating a supportive environment for the girls to build both physical and mental strength. As the day unfolded, a great sense of empowerment filled the atmosphere.

Ashok Koul holds organizational review meeting in Srinagar

Ashok Koul directs comprehensive preparations for upcoming parliamentary elections

SRINAGAR: BJP General Secretary (Organization) Jammu and Kashmir Ashok Koul convened a significant meeting with the District Presidents of Kashmir division, Incharges of Kashmir, Seh Prabharis, Party Spokespersons, Media Incharge Kashmir, Social Media Incharge Kashmir, Morcha Presidents, and BJYM Vice President. The focus of this pivotal gathering was to strategize and prepare for the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Koul emphasized the need for meticulous planning and readiness underlined the



importance of conducting an organization-wide review meeting.

He articulated the imperative to update existing Booth lists and thoroughly

prepare the groundwork for the imminent electoral process.

"This meeting marks a pivotal moment for our party's preparations for the

upcoming parliamentary elections. It is imperative that we conduct a comprehensive review of our organization and gear ourselves up effectively for the challenges

ahead," stated Ashok Koul.

The meeting underscored the BJP's commitment to proactive and strategic measures in ensuring robust representation and effective engagement in the electoral process within Kashmir.

Furthermore, Ashok Koul reiterated the significance of thorough preparation, emphasizing the need for coordination and synchronized efforts to secure a strong position in the forthcoming elections.

The BJP General Secretary's directives have set the tone for a focused and determined approach within the party, signaling a proactive stance in gearing up for the upcoming political landscape.

Modi govt has zero tolerance policy towards terrorism: Ashwani

Ashwani holds public darbar at BJP headquarter

CONDEMNING the recent terrorist attack at Rajouri, BJP senior leader and former MLA Ashwani Sharma said that no terrorist would be spared under zero terrorism policy towards terrorism by the Modi government.

Ashwani Sharma said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union government has a zero tolerance policy towards the terrorism and insisted that our brave soldiers would spare no terrorist alive. He said that the Modi government has worked on the principle of peace with prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir in all these years. He said that the train to development would not be derailed by these heinous acts and soon J&K would top the charts of development tables.

Ashwani Sharma, accompanied by BJP Health &

Medical Cell Convenor Puneet Mahajan, was listening to the problems of a large

ly and taken up with the senior officials of the concerned departments for proper and

and other areas.

A deputation of farmers from Majua, Bishnah



number of people and various deputations who had reached party office to seek intervention of the former MLA in getting their problems resolved. Their problems were listened to patient-

early redressal.

Deputations and individuals from Tourist Guide Association Gulmarg, Majua Bishnah, RS Pura, Talab Tillo, Kishtwar, Jammu Railway Station, Shahpur

requested for the grant of ownership rights of the agricultural lands gifted by Maharaja Pratap Singh ji. A tourist association asked for the relaxation of Gandola fee for tour operators in

Gulmarg. Deputation also requested the permission to increase the number of permitted operators there.

Various other deputations presented different issues like repair of lanes & drains, Ayushman Bharat Cards, installation of electric poles, construction of road at Mori, Kishtwar etc.

Ashwani Sharma took up the public issues with the concerned department officials for their solutions. He made the telephonic and written communications for the same.

Puneet Mahajan, who steered the darbar proceedings, shared that many of the problems shared by the deputations were resolved on the spot. He also shared that the issue of stoppage of Ayushman Bharat Golden Card through CSCs has been discussed with officials to ease out the process.

KPDCL disconnects 1117 defaulters, realises Rs 30 cr revenue in four days

SRINAGAR: In a drive against 'illegal' power connections and delinquent payments, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has disconnected 1117 defaulters, raking in an impressive revenue of Rs 29.89 crore over a span of just four days, officials said today.

The crackdown, part of KPDCL's ongoing efforts to curb energy theft and address financial irregularities, witnessed an intensified inspection process, including increased night patrolling to detect and rectify power-related violations. KPDCL spokespersons highlighted that the initiative aimed to tighten the noose on consumers engaged in widespread hooking, violation of agreed load, and bypassing of meters.

In an official statement, the KPDCL emphasized its commitment to providing relief to gen-

uine consumers, ensuring that they are not burdened by the actions of erring individuals. The power distribution company further underscored the need to crack down on practices such as energy pilferage, which not only lead to outages but also result in damage to transformers, causing inconvenience to legitimate consumers.

During the four-day operation, KPDCL collected a substantial revenue of Rs 9.18 crore in pending arrear dues on Friday alone, reflecting the severity of the issue and the determination to address outstanding payments promptly.

The inspection covered various circles in the Kashmir Division, with 98 inspections in Circle I Srinagar, 233 in Circle II Srinagar, 367 in Circle Ganderbal, 140 in Circle Pulwama, 142 in Circle Bijbehara, and 154 in Circle Sopore. As part of these efforts, 228 KW load was added across the six circles.

The crackdown also included penalties amounting to Rs 7.81 lakh imposed on those found to be unauthorizedly using power, in accordance with Section 126 of the Electricity Act.

Additionally, KPDCL disconnected 1117 domestic, commercial, and industrial connections due to non-payment of energy dues pending for more than three months. This included 886 domestic, 212 commercial, and 17 industrial consumers. The corporation expressed concern over the increasing number of damaged Domestic Transformers (DTs) at its workshops, putting strain on meeting government-fixed timelines for repairs and replacements.

The KPDCL urged consumers to settle their pending bills promptly to avoid power disconnections, emphasizing that it remains committed to providing uninterrupted and reliable power supply to those who fulfill their financial obligations.

BJP's Kashmir Displaced District Delegation Holds Summit with DC Jammu, push for Development Initiatives in Kashmiri Migrant Camps

A delegation representing the displaced district of Kashmir under the leadership of Chand Ji Bhat, District President, along with Chetan Wanchoo, Vice-president, P K Bhat, Treasurer, and Chaman Lal Pandita, Office Secretary, met with the Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya at Jammu.

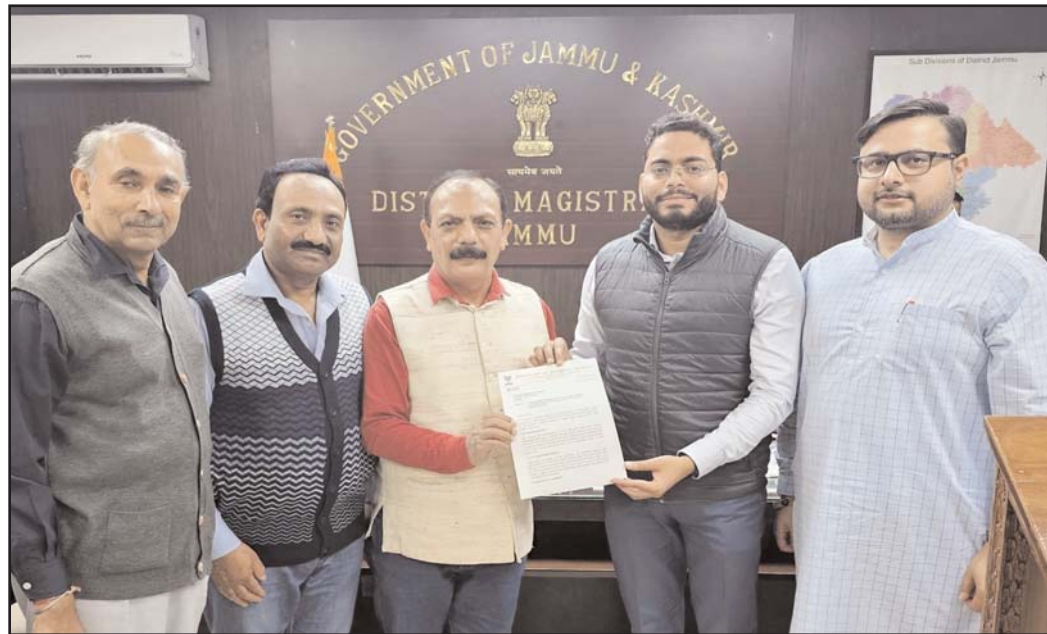
During the meeting, the delegation submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, drawing his attention to critical issues concerning the well-being and development of Kashmiri migrants residing in Jagti camp, TRT Nagrota, TRT Purkhu, and TRT Muthi.

One of the key requests made was for the implementation of a Smart Bus service connecting Jagti Township and TRT Nagrota to Jammu aimed at enhancing trans-

portation facilities for the residents.

for a swift response in the unfortunate event of a fire.

Jagti, Nagrota, Muthi, and Purkhu camps.



Prioritizing the safety of the camp residents, the delegation urged the Deputy Commissioner to establish a 24x7 Fire Brigade station in or around Jagti Township

Additionally, the delegation emphasized the need for the installation of an open-air gym in all Kashmiri Pandit camps, enhancing the recreational facilities in

Responding to these concerns, the Deputy Commissioner has instructed his staff to allocate a sum of rupees Two lakh for open air gym for each camp in the

next financial year. This financial support aims to address the pressing needs and enhance the overall living conditions of the residents.

Furthermore, the delegation successfully secured the agreement of the Deputy Commissioner to conduct a personal visit to all migrant camps.

This commitment reflects the DC's dedication to understanding the on-ground realities and fostering a direct connection with the residents.

The BJP delegation expressed gratitude for the Deputy Commissioner's responsiveness and commitment to addressing the concerns raised during the meeting. This collaborative effort signifies a step forward in ensuring the well-being and development of Kashmiri migrants in the region.

J&K BJP holds Social Media volunteers' meet at Jammu

Synergy between BJP social media activists, central leadership vital for resounding victory

It is the time to optimally use the potential of social media through a comprehensive campaign as in today's digital world the onus of BJP's clean sweep in 2024 Lok Sabha polls mainly lies on Party's strong Social Media Department.

This was asserted by Ravinder Raina, President J&K BJP while addressing BJP's Social Media volunteers' meet here at Hotel Ritz Manor on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Ravinder Raina said that social media is likely to play a pivotal role in chiseling narratives to influence electorate objectively and create public opinion in favour of the party. This, he said will help party to shine in the ensuing Parliamentary polls and other political contests coming in the way in J&K in the times to come. He asked the Social Media Department volunteers to rope in more technical savvy workforce and ensure that their commitment towards strengthening the party base remains extraordinary.

Raina asserted that BJP under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi is already doing fine but by mobilizing all the resources the leadership will become doubly sure to set record margins in the upcoming polls.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, in his address,

stressed upon party's Social Media Department for remaining focused with regard to generating the pub-

under the changed scenario of elections, party's upper hand on social media means its resounding victory there-

immense potential as a powerful tool for reaching out to voters and achieving electoral success.



lic opinions through social media platforms as he was of the opinion that this medium is the powerful tool to change the public mind and also disseminate information among masses without the fear of any kind of discrepancy as it reaches at the grassroots level directly. Jugal said,

fore the stakeholders should gird up loins to leave no gaps or shortcomings as clean sweep in Lok Sabha polls in J&K is significant for the party to show its mettle.

Priya Sethi, Incharge Social Media Department, J&K, in her address, said that social media holds

The former minister asked handlers of Party's Social Media Department to leverage the power of social media to effectively connect with voters, promote party policies, and garner support for the BJP. By utilizing a strategic approach across various social media plat-

forms, we can create and disseminate engaging content, respond promptly to comments, manage online communities, and ultimately mobilize voters to support our party and its candidates in the upcoming polls, she added.

Ankit Gupta, Convenor J&K BJP Social Media Department, assured to work with utmost dedication to ensure historical victory of the party in J&K in ensuing Lok Sabha polls. He said that social media department of the party will totally rely on the ethical practices prevalent in the society to convey and convince the electorate to vote for the party and also act as the ambassadors of the biggest political outfit in the world.

He said that prospects of the party are quite bright but the social media department will leave no stone unturned to sway the people to this nationalist organization as bringing BJP to power is imperative for steering India towards pinnacle of development, progress and prosperity.

Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge Social Media Department, J&K, conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Others present in the meeting include Manjeet Singh Jasrotia, Satish Jandyal, Poonam Mahajan, Saleem Choudhary.

Sumcham Village near Paddar Sapphire Mine celebrates Telecom Connectivity

KISHTWAR: *In yet another momentous stride towards ensuring comprehensive development in the far-flung regions of District Kishtwar, the remote Sumcham village in the Paddar Subdivision, nestled close to the Kargil region and adjacent to the renowned Paddar Sapphire Mine, today celebrated the inauguration of telecom-*

Marking this pivotal occasion, a JIO mobile tower has been successfully installed at the Dangail area.

Through the use of VSAT technology, the en-

tire vicinity of Dangail and its surroundings now revel in seamless connectivity through the JIO network.

With the seamless efforts of LG Administration J&K and under the close guidance of District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, the District Administration has effectively spearheaded the provision of mobile network facilities to this previously isolated region.

Situated at an elevation of 3250 meters from Mean Sea Level (MSL), Sumcham, a segment of Losaini village, has undergone transformative interventions, having re-

ceived solar power packs earlier from the district administration.

The installation of the mobile tower has solidified telecommunication accessibility to this high-altitude region.

53 infiltrators killed in 28 gunfights in J&K

SRINAGAR: *Joint Forces this year till date neutralized 53 infiltrators in Jammu and Kashmir. These infiltrators were killed in at least 28 gunfights.*

The data available with the news agency Kashmir News Trust reveals that joint forces foiled 11 infiltration bids in different sectors of the Kupwara district followed by 7 in Rajouri, 5 in Poonch, 3 in Uri Sector of Baramulla and one in Reasi district of Jammu. The data reveals that 9 infiltrators were killed in Poonch, 26 in Kupwara, 10 in Rajouri, 7 in Baramulla, and 1 in Reasi. [KNT]

Assuring further advancements, JIO authorities have indicated plans to connect the mobile tower through fiber optics, promising an even more enhanced connectivity experience.

Constitution Day Celebrations Illuminate Reasi and Katra

REASI: *In commemoration of Constitution Day, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi marked the occasion with an enlightening Awareness Programme. The event aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the Constitution of India and its fundamental provisions among partici-*

pants. At Government Model Higher Secondary School Katra, TLSC Katra orchestrated an impressive celebration of Constitution Day. The program's objective was to instill awareness about the Constitution's significance, emphasizing the legal rights and duties enshrined within.

The Distinguished resource persons illuminated the gathering on the importance of Constitution Week celebrations and elucidated the participants on their constitutional rights. An integral part of the event included the reading of the Preamble of the Constitution, skillfully organized by the resource persons at the aforementioned schools.

The Principal, Fateh Singh, alongside PLV's, students, and staff, actively participated in the program, reflecting the community's commitment to understanding and upholding the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India.

As the celebrations unfold, these initiatives not only foster awareness but also contribute to empowering individuals with knowledge about their constitutional rights and responsibilities.

Advisor Bhatnagar reviews progress of works on major projects of GMC Jammu, associated facilities

JAMMU: *Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing works on major projects of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu and its associated hospitals and institutions at Civil Secretariat here.*

The meeting was attended by Principal GMC Jammu, Chief Engineer R&B Jammu, Chief Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Department Jammu, Medical Superintendent GMC, Jammu, Medical Superintendent SMGS, Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Jammu and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar took comprehensive review of works of ongoing health projects at GMC Jammu and its associated health facilities like State Cancer Institute, Jammu, Bone & Joint Hospital, Jammu, Upgradation of Sir Col.

R.N. Chopra Nursing Home at GMC, Jammu, Construction of multilevel parking at Super Specialty Hospital, Jammu, Const./Extension of Labour Room at SMGS Hospital Jammu and other facilities. Address-



ing the officers during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar maintained that the present LG led Administration is focused on enhancing the medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir with an aim to provide advanced health care services to the public here. He called upon the officers for effective monitoring and supervision of these prestigious projects to ensure their timely comple-

tion. The Advisor also asked the Principal GMC to conduct quality test of all the completed projects and report any kind of defect in the project to the concerned executing agency. He also called upon the officers and

they can be dedicated for public use.

The Advisor, during the meeting, also called upon the officers to upgrade the capacity of existing oxygen generation plants at some health facilities of GMC Jammu. During the

management of stakeholder departments to maintain synergy and coordination between them so that the projects are executed without any hindrance. While reviewing the progress on deployment of medical machinery and other equipments in completed projects, Advisor Bhatnagar delved upon the officers of executing agency to handover the completed projects immediately so that

review, Advisor Bhatnagar acknowledged the pivotal role played by GMC Jammu and associated facilities in providing best and quality healthcare services to the public. He reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring the well-being of the citizens and affirmed continuous support for further advancements in healthcare infrastructure and services.

DDC Reasi chairs public outreach camp at Lithium Village

REASI: *To get first-hand account of the public grievances, District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today presided over the weekly Block Divas programme, here at Lithium Village in Arnas block. Scores of delegations and individuals apprised the DC about the problems being faced by them in day to day life.*

The main demands highlighted by the locals were related to augmentation of supply of water and Power supply, release of land compensation, better road connectivity, cleanliness and sanitation in the area, interrupted water and power supply, shortage of staff in Health and education sector, renewal of gun license, replacement of underground water pipes.

In a collaborative effort to enhance public awareness and promote citizen engagement, various line departments came together during the Block Diwas. The event served as a platform for officers from different departments to provide comprehensive briefing on numerous Central and Union Territory-sponsored schemes.

District Industries Centre (DIC) Manager Mohmad Anwar Bandy took the stage to provide a comprehensive briefing to the public about the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Schemes. This initiative aimed to empower the community by offering strategic insights into schemes fostering industrial growth and skill development.

The public of the

Lithium village requested the DDC to ensure that fair compensation is paid to the persons whose assets might be coming within the zone of lithium reserves.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the delegations and passed on the spot directions to the concerned



officers for early redressal of their genuine grievances. He also impressed upon the officers to work with zeal to achieve the targets and the delivery of the benefits to the rural masses.

The DDC assured that the Government shall take all possible steps and measures to ensure that the people have their genuine grievances redressed on priority.

During the Block Diwas, the District Development Commissioner Reasi directed the Jal Shakti Department to ensure a regular and timely supply of water to the residents of the area. Additionally, a dedicated emergency contact number was circulated among the public to address any issues related to water supply promptly.

Aimed to promote animal health and ensuring the well-being of livestock in the district, the District Development Commissioner Mahajan, during the Block Diwas directed the Chief Animal Hus-

bandry Officer to organize special health check-ups for animals. A dedicated team of veterinarians will be deployed twice a week for comprehensive health assessments.

DDC Mahajan during the Block Diwas called upon the public to actively utilize online services for

accessing government schemes and services. The emphasis on digital engagement is aimed at streamlining processes, increasing efficiency, and ensuring wider accessibility for the community. He passionately urged the public to join hands in the collective endeavor to make Reasi district free from the scourge of drugs.

During the event DDC Mahajan said that 24x7

NCC Cadet selected for Foreign Visit under Youth Exchange Programme

DODA: In the series of Youth Exchange Programme, NCC Cadet Sameer Singh of far flung village Mangalthatha Dessa of NCC Directorate, JK&L has been selected to visit Bhutan from 12-18 Dec 23.

The Cadet belongs to 2 J&K Bn NCC and studies in the Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu. Cadet Sameer Singh was selected for the Youth Exchange Programme during Republic Day Parade 2023 at New Delhi after undergoing a series of tough competitions amongst cadets from all NCC directorates of the Country.

Maj Gen Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva, ADG, NCC Dte JK&L complimented the cadet on his selection and for bringing laurels to the UT of JK&L. Such visits of NCC cadets enhance their understanding of other country traditions, Culture, ethos and facilitate holistic development of cadets and further enhance relationships of our country at strategic level.

Chairperson DDC Kulgam meets Tribal Delegation, interacts with them & listens their issues

KULGAM: *A delegation of tribal community from Sail Khanjan, DK Marg, Dragdan, DH Pora and other far-flung areas today met Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohd Afzal Parray at Kulgam.*

The delegation of tribal people living in the notified forest area for centuries raised various issues, concerning them before the Chairperson.

The DDC Chairperson listened to their grievances patiently and assured them that the issues highlighted by them will be taken up with the authorities at an earliest.

Doda: DLIC approves 22

Mumkin, 2 Tejaswini cases to provide gainful livelihood to unemployed youth

DODA: *The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) met here today to evaluate the implementation of Mission Youth schemes, including Mumkin, Tejaswini, and Spurring Entrepreneurship.*

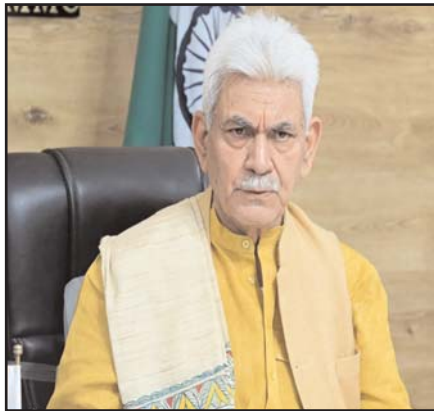
Chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Harvinder Singh, the meeting aimed to assess the impact of these youth-centric initiatives.

In the opening discussions, the committee scrutinized the status of the Mission Youth schemes. Notably, the committee granted approval to 22 cases out of 26 applications received online under the Mumkin scheme. 3 cases under the Mumkin scheme were deferred, and one was rejected by the DLIC.

Under the Tejaswini schemes, two women received approval for the financial assistance to start their own business establishment for gainful livelihood. The meeting was attended by key officials, including the ADC Doda Dr R K Bharti, General Manager DIC Doda, LDM, District Coordinator JK Bank, DNO EDI, Employment Officer Doda, and other concerned officers.

Lt Governor reviews Power supply situation in Jammu Kashmir

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a



review meeting on the overall Power supply situation in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Finance Department; Dr Mandeep

Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and other senior officials.

Detailed discussions took place on various aspects to meet the high electricity demand in both Kashmir and Jammu Division. During the meeting, the Lt Governor asked the Principal

Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad for strict compliance of curtailment plans, uninterrupted and quality power in 100% smart metered feeders and timely replacement of damaged transformers to avoid any inconvenience to the people.

He said the team on the ground must closely monitor the situation and take proactive actions to meet the peak electricity demand. The Lt Governor also took appraisal of the status of the installation of smart meters, manpower and power infrastructure.

SKUAST-Jammu holds 'Seed Treatment Campaign' under farmer FIRST Project.

JAMMU: Under the guidance of Dr. B.N.Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu organised "Seed Treatment Campaign" at village Sarain of district Samba under the project entitled "Exploring Economic Opportunities for Farmers of Kandi Villages through Application of proven Scientific Technologies" funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi.

The Programme was started by Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Principal Investigator, Farmer FIRST Programme. He welcomed all the farmers and highlighted the importance of seed treatment in agriculture crops particularly in Samba district. He said that the seed is the basic input of Agriculture so seed treatment is necessary to get a good product. He told the farmers that Farmer FIRST

Project has decided to launch a campaign to make the farmers aware about the benefits of Fungicide seed treatment in wheat crop as it helps to reduce losses caused by seed-borne diseases of Wheat.

Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, CO-PI of the project informed farmers that the core objective is to create awareness among the farmers regarding the importance of seed treatment and this

campaign is expected to ensure that no seeds of major crops be sown without seed treatment by the farmers.

A live demonstration of Fungicide Seed treatment was given to farmers. The Campaign was attended by 20 farm men and womens. Neeru Sharma (SRF), Manmohan Singh (Field assistant), staff under the project helped in smooth organization of the Seed Treatment Campaign.

College On Wheels

J&K students visit Mumbai Naval Base, Dockyard; witness maritime wonders

JAMMU: A pioneering move, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has launched the "College on Wheels" initiative, an extraordinary educational odyssey aimed at uplifting and empowering young minds hailing from various parts of the Union Territory. This innovative program, inspired by the transformative spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, has garnered praise for its commitment to fostering holistic education and experiential learning.

A contingent of enthusiastic students from the Varsities and Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, on Day 5 of their College on Wheels odyssey today visited the Mumbai Naval Base and Naval Dockyard and got a briefing on India's naval prowess.

The expedition provided the enthusiastic students an extraordinary opportunity to delve into the maritime world, with highlights including a visit to the heritage hall and up-close encounters with INS Vikrant, INS Deepak, and INS Visakhapatnam.

The students were privileged to receive detailed briefings about the intricacies of the naval vessels, gaining insight into the cutting-edge technolo-

gy and historical significance that these ships embody. The immersive experience extended to exploring a submarine, adding an extra layer of fascination to the educational sojourn.



One of the standout moments was the contingents visit to the heritage hall, where they absorbed the rich naval history and its glorious ethos. The Naval Base and Dockyard, usually off-limits to the public, opened their gates to the aspiring minds, allowing them to witness firsthand the operations and infrastructure that safeguard the country's maritime interests.

The hallmark of the day was the first hand encounter with cutting-edge technology as the contingent toured a submarine. This experience left an indelible mark on the participants, fostering a deeper appreciation for the significance of the nation's naval forces.

Following this enriching experience, the contingent transitioned to the historic Gateway of India in the heart of Mumbai. Against the backdrop of this architectural marvel, students had the chance to

absorb the city's cultural and historical significance, further enhancing their holistic learning experience.

The Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai, who is constantly monitoring the journey of students from Jammu, conveyed in a message, "I am sure that this trip was truly an amazing experience for our students to step into the usually restricted domains of the naval forces.

The insights gained and memories created during this visit will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on their academic and personal journeys."

The contingent that visited the Naval Base, Naval Dockyard and Gateway of India

comprised 780 students along with their mentors and the administrative staff from the University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, Cluster University of Jammu, Cluster University of Kashmir, Shri

approach to education.

Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha flagged off "Gyanodaya Express- College on Wheels", the first-of-its-kind mobile educational endeavor, from Vaishno Devi Railway Station, Katra on November 19.

The train will travel through different states, and it will be an educational pilgrimage for the students.

This first-of-its-kind mobile educational endeavor is specifically designed to empower approximately 700 girl students, breaking down traditional boundaries of classrooms and streams. The journey, spanning various states, is crafted to provide immersive, collaborative, and project-based learning experiences, reflecting the government's commitment to a progressive and inclusive education system.

Drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's historic train journey across the country, the "College on Wheels" initiative seeks to instill universal values such as Satya (Truth) and Ahimsa (Non-Violence). This endeavor is not just about academic exploration but also a journey of self-discovery for the students, offering them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in diverse cultures and gain profound insights into different aspects of life and wisdom.

DC Kupwara reviews District Export Plan

KUPWARA: *With a vision to enhance the Export of Goods from frontier district Kupwara and make it an export hub to boost the local Economy, a meeting of Export Promotion Committee was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, here to discuss the modalities for formulating a detailed Export Action Plan for the Kupwara district.*

The DC took a detailed appraisal about the measures undertaken for boosting exports of various products that are being produced or manufactured in the district.

A comprehensive discussion on the subject was held wherein various issues pertaining to the finalization of the District Export Action Plan were discussed.

The consultants to J&K Trade Promotion Organization (Industries & Commerce), Syed Mujtaba and Asif Rashid shared a blue-

print regarding the District Export Plan and it was given out that Walnut and Red Rice have been identified under ODOP (One District One Product) (a government of India initiative) in Kupwara



District.

Consultants said that construction of CFCs, Organic certification and laser based grading, hi-tech packing etc. have been proposed in the District Export Plan.

They further said that 72 farmers have been identified and are registered for organic certification.

The DC asked all the concerned to undertake concerted efforts to finalize a comprehensive Dis-

trict Export Plan to initiate exports with adequate market linkage.

She emphasized that the district has huge potential for Export business, especially in Horticulture products and

trained to deal with all issues related to Export business and can create awareness among local entrepreneurs of the district.

DC asked JKTPO to organise a mega workshop in Kupwara in the Month of December for awareness of e-marketing platforms, packaging technology and organic certification etc.

The frontier Kupwara district has recorded 37,010.299 metric tons of walnut production this year, making it the highest across all districts of Kashmir.

Besides, traditional Kashmiri rice variety 'Zag Tumul' (red rice) is being revived and its mass production is being planned in Tangdhar and other areas of the district.

Meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, Gh.Nabi Bhat; GM-DIC, FM DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer Kupwara, District Horticulture Officer Kupwara, LDM J&K Bank, representatives of JKTPO and other concerned officers.

NC condemns Rajouri terrorists attack, salutes brave-heart martyrs

Pay heed to resurgence in militancy in Rajouri-Poonch: Rattan Lal urges centre

JAMMU: *Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu, strongly condemned the Rajouri terrorist attack, saluting the four brave-heart martyrs including two Captains and a JCO who made their supreme sacrifice in this terrorist attack. He expressed grief with the bereaved families and prayed to God to give courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.*

In a statement issued to media here today, Rattan Lal Gupta said that it is an irony of the people of J&K as well as the nation at large that the incumbent Govt at the Centre as well as the Union Territory

Administration has been making tall claims of having ended terrorism and restored peace in J&K while the reality on ground is absolutely contrary to the Govt claims.

He asserted that this stands evidenced by the fact that four army personnel were killed by the terrorists at village Bajimaal, Kalakote in Rajouri district during an operation against the terrorists by the security forces.

Recalling the previous incidents, the senior National Conference leader said that on May 5, 2023, five soldiers were martyred in Rajouri; on 1st Jan 2023 many precious lives were lost to terrorists' bullets at Dhangri, in another terror attack five soldiers were martyred in Poonch and now this terror incident of today in

which four army personnel embraced martyrdom beyond any doubt falsifies the Govt's claims of ending terrorism and restoring peace and normalcy in this sensitive region.

Rattan Lal Gupta mentioned that after 15 years of peace, Rajouri and Poonch districts have witnessed some of the deadliest terror attacks.

This alarming trend has shattered the sense of security and tranquility that had prevailed in these regions for over a decade.

The sudden eruption of violence has left people of Rajouri and Poonch districts fear-stricken and has cast a pall over the once peaceful landscape.

The brazenness and severity of these attacks serve as a stark reminder

of the lurking threat posed by terrorism and the fragility of peace in this region due to failure of the government at the Centre, he added.

The Provincial President asserted that all these incidents point towards gross negligence on the part of various agencies entrusted this significant duty. He said that instead of making tall claims the Govt must awaken and rise to the occasion to address this serious issue.

He said that today there is a dire need for the Central Govt to take adequate steps to control terrorism and last but not the least be transparent enough in presenting the real ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir before the people of J&K and the nation at large.

DC Kupwara reviews CAPEX Budget, BADP

KUPWARA: *In order to review the progress of the Capex Budget 2023-24 and BADP, a meeting of Officers and engineers was on Thursday chaired by the District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan at the Meeting Hall of DC Office, here.*

The DC reviewed tendering, execution and completion of projects under District Capex, UT Capex, NABARD and BADP. Ayushi took strong note of the gap in authorization of projects and their allotments despite lapse of ample time of working season and directed concerned engineers to submit the list of works authorized but not tendered out yet.

She emphasized upon Officers and engineers to expedite the pace of projects as a short working season is left. The DC directed the engineers to ensure that lapse of funds is avoided in the district. She also directed SE, PWD to monitor the progress of projects, closely and ensure that all projects are completed within stipulated time frame.

DLSA Gbl organises Awareness programme on Constitutional Values & Fundamentals of Indian Constitution

GANDERBAL: *The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal today conducted the second awareness programme on constitutional values and fundamentals of the Indian Constitution and Reading of Preamble, in honor of Constitution Day at Government Middle School Mammer, Hariganwan.*

It is worth mentioning here that the Constitution Day is celebrated nationwide on November 26, 2023. The programme was held under the guidance of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Gupta and under the chairmanship of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey and under the guidance of the Civil Judge (Sr. Division) /Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak. The programme witnessed the presence of Adv. Sajad Ahmad Khan, teachers, students of Government Middle School Mammer, Hariganwan, and para-legal volunteers of DLSA Ganderbal.

During the programme, Advocate Sajad Ahmad Khan and students of Government Middle School read the preamble. Understanding of the preamble leads to a better understanding of the constitutional framework and empowers individuals to act as responsible citizens of the nation.

The awareness programme proved to be a valuable opportunity for the students to gain knowledge and a deeper appreciation for the constitutional values that shape the fabric of our society.

DLSA Ganderbal, remains committed to organizing such initiatives that promote legal literacy and empower individuals with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: District Prabhari Officer visits Pulwama, Reviews preparations of the Programme

PULWAMA: A comprehensive review of the preparations of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) was held at the Circuit House in Pulwama by Binay Kumar Jha, Director SBM (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI) and District Prabhari Officer VBSY to District Pulwama.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, ADDC Pulwama, SSP Pulwama, SSP Awantipora, ADC Awantipora, ACD, ACR, ACP and various District and Sectoral officers.

The program commenced with a warm welcome extended by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama to the District Prabhari Officer VBSY.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama underscored the tangible progress

made within the district, emphasizing the successful saturation of various schemes. He expounded on the work accomplished and the preparations that have been carried out



within the District.

He informed the chair about the establishment of social media channels, committees at block and panchayat levels, all geared towards facilitating effective communication and successful execution of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the Dis-

trict.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner assured that the objectives and the vision that the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme encompasses

will be fulfilled in the District.

Earlier, The Assistant Commissioner Development provided a succinct overview of the meticulous preparations made by District Pulwama for the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. He outlined a series of planned activities in

Gram Panchayats, encompassing mobilization, awareness campaigns, community engagement, and cultural performances.

Additionally, he highlighted the successful execution of activities conducted thus far within the district.

In his address, the District Prabhari Officer VBSY commended the District Administration for their exemplary work and stressed the dual objectives of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Programme - reaching the unreached and transparently communicating the undertaken initiatives are fulfilled during this programme.

He emphasized the importance of leaving no one behind and outlined plans for widespread dissemination of information, ensuring awareness across both rural and urban areas.

Modi used technology to give citizen-centric governance: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had successfully used technology to give citizen-centric governance.

The overall impact of this in the last nearly ten years is the emergence of a new work culture which makes optimum use of latest technology, including Artificial Intelligence, to curb corruption, increase transparency, promptly address grievances and finally enable the citizen to become a core participant in governance, he said.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, was addressing the 'National Conference on Public Administration and Citizen Centric Governance: Priorities, Policies and Strategies', organised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), here.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Modi's policy of 'Maximum Governance - Minimum Government' has been translated into reality by Digital Empowerment of citizens.

"If technology is now the hallmark of the entire governance process in the last 9-10 years under Prime Minister Modi, each of these components of Good Governance has been used for better functioning with use of technology," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India was the first country to use Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to get rid of middlemen and check pilferage with the help of technology.

DBT also ensured the farmers and poor people were not denied the benefits of social welfare schemes even during the peak of Covid pandemic. "Governance reforms introduced by Prime Minister Modi are not confined to governance, they have a huge socio economic implication as well," he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Modi abolished Interviews for recruitment to lower posts within the first year of his tenure, eliminating human and administrative interface to the extent possible. Similarly, the practice of attestation of documents by Gazetted Officers was abolished.

"Besides, nearly 2,000 obsolete rules have been scrapped that were proving to be detrimental to the convenience of the citizens," he said. Referring to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Modi government amended it after 30 years in 2018 with an aim to punish bribe givers for the first time.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, technology is an important tool in improving Services as deployed in the Integrated CPGRAMS portal and Face Recognition Technology being rolled out by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare.

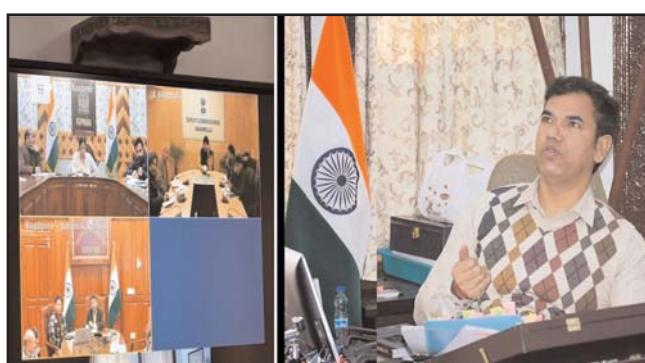
Div Com reviews availability of basic facilities inside fenced areas along LOC

Says border villages are first priority villages for development

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday convened a meeting, here to review availability of basic amenities and services to the people living in the habitations ahead of the fenced line along the LOC in border districts of Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora along with district officers of PMGSY, Health, Education, PDD and PHE besides officers of BEA-

CON. Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed officers to ensure that border villages are provided all the basic facilities viz. roads, electric-



ity, mobile connectivity and internet services besides educational institutions and health centres so that these areas are not left behind on the developmental front.

He enjoined concerned PHE officers to connect every household through JJM Schemes to provide potable water to residents of fenced areas.

Bidhuri maintained that border villages should not be treated as last habitations but these are our first priority and are considered first villages.

The Div Com impressed

the officers to conduct frequent field visits to these villages to address the developmental requirements so the residents of these areas do not face hardships.

The Deputy Commissioners on the occasion informed the meeting about the number of villages of their respective districts falling in this zone and the current scenario of basic amenities available to the people there.

To execute all the developmental works ahead of the fencing line, Div Com instructed HoDs to work in close synergy with the security agencies.

DLS Doda organises orientation training programme on Leprosy

DODA: To raise awareness about prevention and treatment of Leprosy, the Zonal Leprosy Officer DHS Jammu, in collaboration with District Leprosy Society Doda, on Thursday organised a day-long orientation programme for health workers and ASHAs here in the Conference Hall CMO Office Doda.

Zonal Leprosy Officer DHS Jammu Dr Sushma Mattoo graced the training programme which was attended by health workers including MM-PHWs, FMPHWs, MLHPs and ASHAs from Assar, Thathri and Gan-

doh block besides Yogeshwari Sharma, Budget & Finance Officer ZLO Jammu, Para Medical Supervisor, Surinder Bijyal and staff from Leprosy Ram Raj, Krishan Chand & Sajad Hussain were also present in the orientation training programme.

Dr Sushma Mattoo, the Resource Person, while speaking on the occasion, educated the participants about Leprosy disease and said that aim of holding orientation programme was to create awareness among health care workers and masses on Leprosy, to reduce stigma and discrimination in the community and for early detection of

Leprosy cases in the District.

Dr. Mattoo sensitized the health staff including ASHAs that Leprosy is totally curable at all stages, exhorted them about finding such cases in their areas, so as to detect the disease at early stage, followed by timely treatment.

Further, she urged the participants to know the strategy to control Leprosy and also threw light on NLEP.

She said that highly effective treatment is available to cure leprosy adding that early detection and timely treatment and dosage are essential to eradicate leprosy.

On this occasion, IEC

material on Leprosy was also distributed among the participants.

Earlier in his welcome address, Surinder Bijyal underlined the objective of organizing the orientation programme and briefed the participants about Leprosy disease.

Meanwhile, the ZLO Jammu along with concerned staff of DLS Doda also visited HWC- Sub Centre Ramgarh in Medical Block Assar, where she distributed footwear and self care kits among the old Leprosy cases, besides generated awareness among the masses about Leprosy.

DC Reasi reviews implementation of JKRLM, PMAY urban scheme

REASI: District Development Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan conducted a thorough review of

DDC directed JKRLM officers to set up information counters at key locations and tourist destinations in the dis-

trict. These counters will serve as focal points for disseminating information about livelihood programs. Emphasizing attractive packaging, he also instructed officers to ensure product expiration dates are prominently displayed.

To empower self-help women, the DDC directed the identification of suitable locations for home stays, aiming to generate

income and empower women in the community.

In addition to JKRLM, DDC Mahajan reviewed

PMAY, urging efficient completion of works by December 31.

The emphasis was on ensuring beneficiaries



the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) department's operations in Reasi. The meeting covered various aspects of JKRLM's initiatives, discussing ongoing projects, achievements, challenges, and future plans to assess the department's overall effectiveness.

During the meeting, the

trict. These counters will serve as focal points for disseminating information about livelihood programs. Emphasizing attractive packaging, he also instructed officers to ensure product expiration dates are prominently displayed.

To empower self-help women, the DDC directed the identification of suitable locations for home stays, aiming to generate

the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Urban in Reasi. He emphasized transparency and accountability by instructing Municipalities' Executive Officers to collect mobile numbers of PMAY beneficiaries and conduct video calls for real-time monitoring of ongoing works on alternate days.

Furthermore, the DDC issued a directive to line departments involved in

promptly access the benefits of these schemes. The initiatives reflect a comprehensive approach to rural livelihoods and urban housing, with a focus on effective implementation and accountability.

Present in the meeting were ADDC Jyoti Slathia, CPO Sunita Kanchan, CEO KDA Gopal Dass, SDM Katra Deepak Dubey, DIO Rajinder Diga, EO MC Katra.

Vinay Kumar reviews preparedness for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Srinagar District

SRINAGAR: The Director (SBM), Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Central Prabhari Officer for Srinagar District), Vinay Kumar Jha today chaired a comprehensive meeting here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the action plan and preparations for ensuring the seamless and successful conduct of "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" in Srinagar District.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad and SSP Srinagar Ashish Mishra were present on the occasion.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar briefed the Central Prabhari Officer about the Department wise Action Plan prepared by the District Administration Srinagar for smooth conduct of the proceedings under forthcoming "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" in the District. He highlighted the fundamental objectives of the Viksit Bharat Yatra, encompassing critical aspects such as reaching out to the vulnerable sections eligible under various welfare schemes not yet covered, disseminating information and fostering awareness about the schemes. The DC apprised the Prabhari Officer that the District Administration Srinagar is fully geared up to conduct the Yatra in a hassle free and seamless manner in all 21 Panchayats, 35 Municipal Wards and 7 Cantonment Wards of the District.

On the occasion, Prabhari Officer, underlined the main objectives of Viksit Bharat Yatra and stressed to reach the unreached and cover them under the Government welfare and flagship schemes to achieve saturation. He said the nationwide campaign seeks to raise awareness through outreach activities covering all Panchayats and Municipal/Cantonment Wards of the District in order to benefit citizens from the Government schemes.

While interacting with the Officers present in the meeting, Vinay Kumar got detailed feedback from the concerned District Officers about their role and plan for VBS Yatra. He impressed upon all the concerned Officers to ensure utmost coordination at different levels for the smooth and successful conduct of the activities under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the District. He asked them to ensure effective implementation of the activities planned to be conducted during the Yatra.

He also laid emphasis on enhancing provisions of sanitation facilities on Aspirational toilets model to provide modern facilities to the citizens. He also stressed the need to implement a comprehensive waste to energy mechanism system in Srinagar District to manage the issue of waste.

Vinay Kumar expressed satisfaction with the preparations made by District Administration Srinagar and emphasized the importance of reaching the last uncovered beneficiary with effective projection to the schemes to maximize their impact on the ground.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, who is the District Nodal Officer for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, presented a comprehensive outline through a PowerPoint Presentation (PPT), discussing the District Profile, action plan, formulation of Committees, establishment of Control Rooms, and Training on operating the designated Portal.

During the meeting, the route plan for the Yatra Van, deployment of staff for capturing video testimonials and other aspects were also discussed.

DC Jammu asks Medicos, civil administrations to promote Jan Aushadhi Kendras

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today reviewed the working of Jan Aushadhi Kendras, - the outlets that provide affordable medicines to the public in different hospitals and health centers across the district.

The DC reviewed the sales perform-

ance of the operational Jan Aushadhi Kendras and discussed the factors affecting them. He exhorted the officers to make concerted efforts to boost the sales of medicines through these outlets and sought reports on the types of medicines, the number of prescriptions and other details.

The DC instructed the concerned of-

ficers to identify and eliminate the problems that deter people from buying these medicines and said that there is a need to motivate both the shopkeepers and the public to use these medicines.

Sachin Kumar asked the Sub Divisional Magistrates to support the Block Medical Officers, while the latter

were asked to monitor the progress of these outlets, their sales and give feedback to him.

The BMOs were also told to ensure the availability and sufficient stock of medicines in these outlets and order more when needed. The DC also addressed some issues related to the procurement of medicines.

NDRF conducts mock drill on flood rescue at Kot Bhalwal

JAMMU: The National Disaster Response Force along with other stakeholders, including State Disaster Response Force, Civil Defence, Fire Services Department and Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted a mock exercise on flood water rescue in the district.

The practical mock exercise was demonstrated at a pond in Kot Bhalwal in the presence of Assistant Commissioner (General) Manisha, Assistant Commissioner Development, Preeti Sharma, Sub Divisional Magistrates and other officers.

The mock exercise was held for two days to test the preparedness and co-

ordination of the stakeholder agencies involved in disaster management. A tabletop exercise on flood water rescue was organised in the Deputy Commissioner's office



yesterday, which was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sandeep Seointra.

Around 500 people, in-

cluding students of Government Higher Secondary School Kot Bhalwal, witnessed the mock exercise. The NDRF team demonstrated various techniques and skills of

flood water rescue, such as boat operation, life jacket use, rope rescue, casualty evacuation, first aid etc. The mock exercise

was aimed at enhancing the capacity and response of the district administration and other agencies in case of any flood situation. It also created awareness among the public about the dos and don'ts during floods.

The NDRF team also interacted with the students and the public and answered their queries regarding disaster management. They also distributed pamphlets and stickers on flood safety tips.

The mock exercise was appreciated by the district administration and the public for its professionalism and effectiveness. The NDRF team was also thanked for its valuable service to the nation.

ADDC Shopian inaugurates Orientation programme under Yuva Vani

SHOPIAN: To sensitize the youth about agri-business, the Department of Horticulture, Shopian today kick-started a series of 'Yuva Vani' programmes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in three blocks of the district.

The Yuva Vani programme is specially designed for youngsters, to lure them towards the agriculture sector.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone at Block Shopian with the aim to empower youth of the dis-

trict about the scope of entrepreneurship in the Agriculture sector.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that un-



employed youth of the district Shopian should come forward and avail benefits of various schemes of agri-allied departments.

He said that the programme is committed to reaching every corner of the district starting at the block levels.

ADDC added that once

the youth are informed about the schemes of the department, they would be encouraged to take part in entrepreneurship

to create job opportunities. Chief Horticulture Officer, Shopian, Mohd Ramazan War who is also Nodal Officer HADP in the district, sensitized the participants about the 'Yuva Vani' programme and Daksh Kissan during an interaction session. He said that there are ample business opportunities

available in agriculture and allied sectors for the youth.

The participants showed keen interest in opting for Agricultural entrepreneurship which has been designed exclusively for the youth within the age group of 18-35 years.

The programme was also attended by Principal Imtiyaz Memorial Govt. Degree College Shopian, Prof. Mohammad Shafiq; Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian, Farooq Ahmad Reshi; PC, KVK, Shopian, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Badri; AD Fisheries, Zahoor Ahmad Mir; AMO Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone and representatives of different line departments, besides a large number of youth.

DDC Reasi reviews performance of I&C, POSHAN Departments

REASI: District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan today conducted a thorough review of the POSHAN Department's performance here in the DC office Complex. The meeting focused on the implementation of different components of Poshan Abhiyan, aiming at comprehensive nourishment of children, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls. The Project Officer provided a detailed overview of ongoing initiatives, achievements, and future plans within the district.

The DDC instructed officials to ensure saturation under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna (PMMVY) by cross-checking health department data on pregnant and lactating mothers. This step is essential to guarantee that all eligible women benefit from the



scheme. Furthermore, officers were directed to collaborate with the health department in identifying unvaccinated children.

In a strategic move, the DDC issued directives for the relocation of Anganwadi Centers to non-functional government buildings, maximizing existing infrastructure for efficient Anganwari service delivery. CDPOs were tasked to conduct comprehensive visits to every Anganwadi Center by December 20, strengthening monitoring and evaluation processes.

Encouraging collective responsibility, DDC Mahajan urged district officers to adopt one Anganwadi Center each, emphasizing the shared goal of enhancing child nutrition. Later, a meeting to review the working of Industrial and Allied Sectors in the district was also chaired by the DDC. The General Manager of the District Industries Centre provided insights into industrial units, employment generation, and schemes under the New Industrial Policy.

DDC stressed on the importance of meticulous planning to position Reasi as a favorable investment destination nationwide.

SDRF imparts rescue training to Volunteers at Assar

DODA: State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), today imparted hands-on training to volunteers from Al Khair NGO in Assar. The insightful training session took place in a deep gorge near Jatthi on the banks of the Chenab River.

The initiative has been directed by Deputy Commissioner, S Harvinder Singh.

Under the supervision of Dy. SP Davinder Singh, Dy. Controller Civil Defence cum

I/C SDRF Doda, 25 trainees from Al Khair (NGO) were instructed in the practical aspects of climbing, rappelling, and the intricate task of lifting bodies from deep gorges using the zip wire method when conventional methods fall short.

The training included comprehensive lessons on the tactics of climbing and rappelling, with a focus on utilizing the necessary equipment for these maneuvers.

Special attention was given

to the zip wire method, an innovative approach to extracting casualties from challeng-



ing terrains.

The session not only equipped the volunteers with

essential skills but also highlighted the significance of these techniques in scenarios

where traditional methods prove insufficient.

In addition to the core training, emphasis was placed on accident care and road safety measures.

Recognizing the critical need for preventive measures in road safety, the participants were briefed on

strategies to avert accidents and mitigate their impact.

The importance of prompt and effective responses to accidents, coupled with the significance of adhering to road safety guidelines, was underscored throughout the training.

This holistic approach ensures that the volunteers are not only adept in rescue operations but are also well-versed in accident prevention and emergency response protocols.

Inspection, disconnection drives by KPDCL intensified

Rs. 8 cr pending arrears from consumers realized in 1 day; 1082 consumers disconnected for non-payment of bills

SRINAGAR: *Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has further intensified its inspection drives across all district of Kashmir Division to check incidents of hooking and power theft, which are primarily responsible for power outages and distress cuts.*

As many as 566 drives were conducted across all 19 Electric Divisions and a penalty of Rs.7.84 lakh was

imposed on those found hooking wires on bare conductor and bypassing the meters. Meanwhile, 64 Domestic Transformers (DTs) were also reported damaged on Wednesday due to overloading.

Giving details about the inspections conducted, a KPDCL spokesperson today stated that 183 drives were conducted in Circle II Srinagar, 60 in Circle I Srinagar, 123 in Circle Ganderbal, 71 in Circle Pulwama, 35 in Circle

Bijbehara and 94 in Circle Sopore. The spokesperson further stated that 1082 domestic, commercial and industrial connections were also disconnected for non-payment of energy dues for more than three months. This includes 371 domestic, 549 commercial and 157 industrial consumers.

Exhorting consumers to treat DTs as their own assets, the KPDCL spokesman said 64 DTs were reported damaged across all Electric Divisions.

"While those fully damaged are being transported to Central Workshop at Pampore, the rest are being repaired at divisional-level workshops," he said, adding that KPDCL is committed to replace the damaged transformers within the stipulated timelines.

KPDCL has also urged all domestic, commercial and industrial consumers to pay their long-pending energy dues or face disconnection. "The Corporation is actively pursuing recovery of pending arrears and Rs.8.00 crore were collected on Wednesday alone from the consumers," he said, adding that KPDCL will make all out efforts to achieve the target of revenue realization fixed by the Government.

J&K SSB to conduct PST, PET for Sub-Inspector post from Dec 2

JAMMU: The J&K Service Selection Board has scheduled conduct of Physical Standard Test (PST) and Physical Endurance Test (PET) for the post of Sub-Inspector (Home Department), tentatively from December 2, 2023 at Jammu and Srinagar centres. According to a notice issued here today by SSB in this regard, all candidates, who have opted for Kashmir as test centre for the post of Sub Inspector, Home Department (as per the application form) and are desirous of appearing in PST and PET at Jammu centre, have been called upon to represent before the Board through offline mode only at J&K Services Selection Board office Zam-Zam Complex, Rambagh Srinagar, within 03 days from issuance of this notice i.e. up to 25-11-2023, in the prescribed format.

The document reads that no further request in this regard shall be entertained beyond 25-11- 2023.

DC Reasi reviews working of Legal Metrology & Mining Departments

REASI: *District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vishesh Mahajan today conducted a thorough review of the working of Legal Metrology and Mining Department in two separate meetings.*

Giving an overview of the LMD, Assistant Controller Pushkar Raj provided a comprehensive presentation on the department's schemes and programs for the fiscal year 2023-24.

Emphasis was placed on routine checking along the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi track to ensure compliance with Max-

imum Retail Price (MRP) regulations, particularly in shops dealing with dry fruits and Parshad.

The DDC urged the Legal Metrology Officer to take action against violations, creating a fair marketplace for pilgrims.

Concerns about the quality of fuel at petrol pumps were addressed, with the DDC advocating for regular inspections and mandating CCTV installations for transparency.

Additionally, hotel pricing within the district was scrutinized, prompting inspections and assessments to ensure fair rates for tourists.

In another meeting with the Mining Department, the DDC reviewed the formulation of the District Mining Plan. The District Mineral Officer outlined the current status of mining blocks, detailing plans for their renewal.

The DDC emphasized adherence to specified timelines for approving new mining plans and urged strict action against illegal mining activities in the district.

These initiatives aim to uphold standards, protect consumer rights, and ensure a transparent and fair business environment in the entire Reasi district.

OSC Ganderbal organizes awareness camp at Anganwadi centres

GANDERBAL: *On the directions of District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, One Stop Centre (OSC) Ganderbal, implemented by the She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHS-FWE), Ganderbal today organized an awareness camp at several Anganwadi centres in Halqa Theru of the district.*

The event garnered significant participation and enthusiasm from Anganwadi workers, helpers, and beneficiaries towards the initiatives of the Sakhi club. District Programme Officer, G R Wani played a key role in the awareness program, enlightening the participants about the pivotal role and responsibilities

ties of the Sakhi club. Approximately 60 individuals actively engaged in the camp, demonstrating a keen interest in the cause.

Advocate Malik Shugufta, the Centre Administrator of OSC Ganderbal took the opportunity to inform the participants about the various services offered at the OSC for distressed women.

She also highlighted the essential roles and responsibilities of Sakhi club members, emphasizing the crucial support they provide to women in need. Overall, the event proved to be an informative and engaging platform, promoting awareness about the OSC's services and the vital role played by the Sakhi club in the community.

Union Joint Secretary reviews preparedness for launch of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Doda

DODA: *Union Joint Secretary, Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), and Prabhari Officer for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) for Doda, Angshuman Dey, to-*

schemes, in Doda town, near Clock Tower and in Bhaderwah at new Bus Stand, on 24th of November 2023. He was further informed that 6 IEC Vans shall arrive in the district on 26th of November for rural areas, which shall

PM PRANAM Yojana, PMEGP, Ujjwala Yojna, Urea Subsidy Scheme, Atal Pension Scheme, Jan Dhan Yojna , Integrated Sheep Husbandry Scheme, Mission Poshan, PM Vishwakarma, PMVY and others.

During the meeting, ADDC Doda Pran Singh, briefed the Visiting Officer about the roadmap and plan for conduct of the Yatra.

He informed that district level control room, block level nodal officers and village level committees have been established for smooth conduct of the yatra.

ADDC Doda Pran Singh also briefed the Prabhari Officer about transport and security plan.

Threadbare discussion focused on evaluating the impact of initiatives on various aspects such as infrastructure development, community engagement, and overall socio-economic upliftment across the district.

Prabhari Officer expressed confidence in positive impact of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and reiterated the government's commitment towards holistic development of Doda.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, ADC, ADC Bhaderwah, ASP, ACD, SE Hydraulics, GM DIC, other district officers and representatives of concerned departments.



day visited the district and reviewed preparations for launch of 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'.

Angshuman Dey interacted with the district officers and other stakeholders involved in the Yatra and had detailed assessment of the arrangements required for successful celebration of viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra across the district.

Union Joint Secretary visited the urban site at Town Hall Doda and rural site for the yatra in Bulandpur Panchayat to assess the arrangements and preparedness of the stakeholders for the upcoming mega outreach programme, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

He was informed that two IEC Vans will arrive and display the message of Prime Minister and awareness/success story videos under various centrally sponsored welfare

Union Joint Secretary urged upon the stakeholders to organise camps and reach the unreached and vulnerable sections of the society.

He emphasised dissemination of information through the success stories, pamphlets, small videos and IEC material regarding various government sponsored schemes. The detailed deliberation was made on the achievements and further course of action to reach the saturation in implementation of welfare schemes in the district.

The schemes which were discussed included Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana,

J&K integrates all 17 functional mandis on eNAM, raises eNAM trade to over 300 cr this year

SRINAGAR: The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing in collaboration with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), today organized an outreach programme for Warehousing Registration and integration of CA stores with eNAM portal at SKICC, Srinagar. Chairman WDRA, TK Manoj Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion.

Kumar informed that WDRA was constituted in 2010 under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 with a mission to regulate and ensure implementation of provisions of the Act for development and regulation of warehouses, regulations of negotiability of warehouse receipts

and promote orderly growth of warehousing business in the country.

He explained the advantages of registration of warehouses and emphasized that the e-NWR issued by WDRA registered warehouse shall act as a prime tool of trade and loan.

He also elaborated the process of generation of e-NWR which is a potent instrument for securing credit. He announced waiver of registration fee till 25th Oct 2025, besides emphasizing that PACS in J&K can take due benefit for registration from WDRA.

Sharing the perspective, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Vikas Sharma, in his address, informed that the meet was organized with the twin objective of raising awareness on registration of warehouses under

Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act and bringing CA Stores in the fold of eNAM for giving

ing maximum returns to the farmers for their produce. National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. He shared that a similar event was organized in August in Jammu.

It was informed on the occasion that J&K has now integrated all 17 functional mandis on eNAM. The Department is keen to facilitate registration of CA stores in J&K with Yadav, AD, WDRA made



tional mandis on eNAM.

The Department is keen to facilitate registration of CA stores in J&K with Yadav, AD, WDRA made

WDRA, paving way for their integration on e-NAM Portal. The Department has recently provided for declaration of CA stores as sub-yards of Mandis for carrying out e-NAM Trade to facilitate the farmers to reap maximum returns for their produce. From only 89 lakh eNAM trade till 2021-22, J&K up scaled it to 32 crore last year and during this year, it has raised manifolds to

presentations on Warehousing Act/Rules and detailed the Registration Process, e-NWR, scientific storage practices, assaying procedures etc. The eNAM and SFAC teams made the participants aware about the procedure for integration of warehouses and CA stores on eNAM and welcomed the initiative of the Horticulture (P&M) Department and WDRA in this regard.

over 300 crore.

H.K. Dabas, Under Secretary, WDRA and B.P. Yadav, AD, WDRA made

The event was participated, among others by, G.R. Mir, Director Horticulture

Kashmir, R.A.Wani, Special Secretary, Imam Din MD, JKHPMC, Khalid Majeed, Director I&C Kashmir, Mohammad Iqbal Choudhary, Director Agriculture Kashmir, CGM NABARD, Shahid Kamili, President, FCIK, Vicky Shah, Chairman, PHDCCI, representatives of KCCI, various stakeholders including officers of Horticulture (P&M) Department, DMI, NABARD, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, FCI, Industries and Commerce, SIDCO, SICOP, Cooperatives, SKUAST, banks.

Besides, CA stores owners, owners of warehouses, farmers, and Presidents of major fruit Mandis also attended the event.

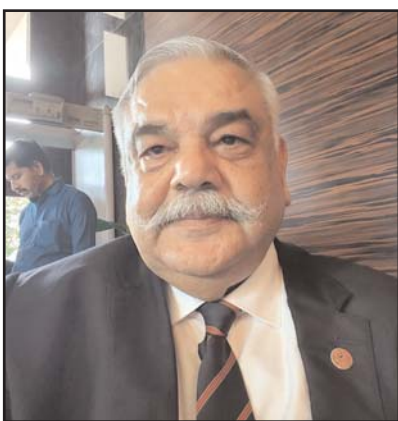
Cricket Extravaganza Unfolds in Jammu as JKCA Gears Up for National Matches

Season of Thrilling Encounters and Star-Studded Cricket

JAMMU: In a spectacular showcase of sporting fervor, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has announced its readiness to host a series of national cricket matches, marking a significant moment for the cricketing landscape in the region. The Science College Hostel ground in Jammu is meticulously prepared for the mega event, stands as a testament to the association's commitment to promoting and fostering cricket talent.

Brigadier (Retd) Anil Gupta, Member Administration of JKCA, expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming cricket season. He revealed that the much-anticipated cricketing spectacle would kick off tomorrow, November 24th, with the opening match of the U19 Cooch Behar Trophy tournament. The host, JKCA, will face off against Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) in what promises to be a thrilling encounter. Highlighting the comprehensive preparations, Brigadier Anil Gupta affirmed that the association is not only

geared up for the U19 Cooch Behar Trophy but also ready to host matches in the prestigious Col CK Nayudu and Ranji Trophy tournaments. The cricketing festivities are expected to continue until mid-February, providing cricket enthusiasts in Jammu with an extended season of excitement. Cricket aficionados in Jammu are in for a treat as they will have the opportunity to witness top-notch talent from various parts of the country.



Teams such as MP, Hyderabad, Karnataka, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Pondicherry, and Vadodara are set to participate. Moreover, the local heroes, including Umran Malik, Yudhvir Singh, Abid Mushtaq, and Shubham Khajuria,

will take the field, adding a local flavor to the competition. Brigadier Anil Gupta assured that the matches would commence at 9:30 am, allowing fans to start their day with the excitement of live cricket action. With national and international players gracing the field, the cricketing extravaganza promises to be a mega festival, captivating the hearts of fans and showcasing the talent and passion that cricket brings to the region.

Chain Singh Clinches Triple Gold at 66th National Shooting Championship

Dominates in 50 m Rifle Prone Event, Sets New National Record

JAMMU: Renowned Olympian shooter Chain Singh, hailing from the District Doda in Jammu and Kashmir, etched his name in the annals of Indian shooting history today by securing three gold medals at the 66th National Shooting Championship held in New Delhi.

Singh's remarkable feat was highlighted by his exceptional performance in the 50 m rifle prone event, where he not only clinched the gold medal but also set a new national record with an astounding score of 629.9.

This achievement broke an eight-year-old record, previously held at 628.7 by Sushil Ghaley. Singh's precision and skill in the 50 m rifle prone event showcased his dominance in the field, solidifying his reputation as one of the country's premier shooters.

In addition to his individual triumph, Chain Singh played a pivotal role in securing two more gold medals for his team in the 50 m rifle prone team event and the 50 m rifle 3 positions team event. His contributions were instrumental in leading his team to victory, reaffirming his prowess in the competitive shooting arena.

Chain Singh's journey in competitive shooting has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Boasting a rich track record, he has proudly represented the nation in prestigious events, including the 2016 Rio Olympics in Brazil and

the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia. Notably, Singh clinched the bronze medal at the 2014 Asian Games in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event and secured an individual gold medal in the 7th Asian Airgun Championship held in Kuwait.

The latest triumph at the 66th National Shooting Championship in New Delhi adds another feather



to Chain Singh's illustrious cap, bringing his total international medal count to an impressive 20, comprising 12 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze medals.

Domestically, he boasts an outstanding record of 78 medals, including 40 gold, 22 silver, and 16 bronze medals.

Chain Singh's dedication, skill, and consistent success on both national and international stages make him a formidable force in Indian shooting, inspiring aspiring athletes and bringing pride to his hometown in Jammu and Kashmir. As he adds three more gold medals to his collection, the nation celebrates the continued excellence of this shooting prodigy.

Bharat Sankalp Yatra Unveils Success of Government Schemes in Reasi District

REASI: In a significant event organized in Panchayat Mari-A of block Reasi, a program under the Bharat Sankalp Yatra unfolded, bringing together community, government functionaries, and beneficiaries to celebrate the success of different government schemes implemented for socio economic development of the masses.

The event was organised under the chairmanship of Sangeeta Gupta, the Director of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, and the designated Prabhari Officer for District Reasi under Bharat Viksit Yatra.

On the occasion, Sangeeta Gupta, the Visiting Officer, interacted with Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and government functionaries.

The dialogue aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the on-ground impact of government

schemes and initiatives.

Further, she emphasized to focus on enhanced mobilization and reaching out to those left out to include them under welfare schemes. She asked of-



ficers to ensure maximum public participation, particularly engaging Youths, aimed at raising awareness about the Government's schemes and achievements.

District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan stressed on the significance of flagship schemes, and exhorted the need for effective projection to maximize

their impact on the ground. He termed the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra as an opportunity to penetrate the flagship schemes at the gram panchayats for maximum saturation of

the schemes.

DDC said Bharat Sankalp Yatra is a nationwide initiative that aims to foster a spirit of unity and collaboration among citizens, promoting the collective responsibility for the development and progress of the nation.

A notable highlight of the event was the testimonies shared by beneficiaries, each narrating their success stories

stemming from the diverse range of government schemes facilitated by different departments. These stories underscored the tangible impact of these initiatives in transforming lives and uplifting communities.

The program served as a platform for constructive discussions, emphasizing the collaborative efforts between the government and local communities to achieve inclusive development. Sangeeta Gupta applauded the dedication of PRI members and the resilience of beneficiaries, recognizing their pivotal role in realizing the vision of Bharat Sankalp Yatra. The event exemplified the commitment of the government to empower and uplift marginalized sections of society, especially in tribal areas. It showcased the success of collaborative efforts in implementing welfare schemes that directly contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

India needs 2 bn sq ft of additional healthcare real estate: Knight Frank

NEW DELHI: India needs 2 billion square feet of healthcare space to cater to its current population base of 1.42 billion, a report released on Thursday said.

Currently, India is facing a deficit of 2.4 million beds to achieve the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to the Global Healthcare Report, released by real estate consultancies Knight Frank and Berkadia, India's bed-to-population ratio, including both private and public facilities, is 1.3 per 1,000. According to WHO, it should be 3 per 1,000.

It is much lower than 13 in Japan, 4.3 in China, 2.9 in the United States of America (USA) and 2.5 in the United Kingdom (UK).

This shortfall is crucial given the rapid growth of India's healthcare market. In 2022, the size of the Indian healthcare market was estimated to be \$372 billion, significantly higher than \$73 billion in 2012.

Furthermore, there are two factors contributing to the rapid expansion of the industry's size.

First, the rise in India's population (1.42 billion), which, according to the World Bank, has already exceeded China's (1.41 billion). However, India's official numbers cannot be ascertained as



the Centre has yet to undertake the Census exercise originally scheduled for 2021.

Second, India is among the top destinations for healthcare tourism, further necessitating more investment in the sector.

In the pre-pandemic years between 2014 and 2019, the inflow of foreign tourists on medical visas grew 30 per cent annually. According to the Medical

Tourism Index (2020-21), India ranked 10th out of 46 destinations worldwide. The Centre also launched the "Heal in India" initiative in 2022 to promote medical tourism.

According to the data shared in the report, the cost of medical procedures in India is much lower than that of its Asian peers. For example, a coronary artery bypass costs \$26,000 in South Korea and \$17,200 in Singapore. It costs \$7,900 in India.

Another procedure, heart valve replacement, costs \$39,990 in South Korea, \$17,200 in Turkey and Thailand, \$16,900 in

Singapore, and \$9,500 in India. Joint replacement, including knee and hip, costs \$21,000 in South Korea and \$17,000 in Thailand. In India, the cost is \$7,200.

"Addressing this demand necessitates nearly doubling the current real estate capacity to adequately meet the expanding healthcare requirements of the population," said Shishir Bajjal, chairman and managing director at Knight Frank India.

"Post the pandemic, healthcare ranks amongst the mainstream avenues for investors looking for investments into long income generating assets."

According to the report, the sector also expects to see high demand because of changing global demographics.

"The global healthcare sector remains buoyant and is expected to grow despite a challenging economic outlook. This comes as the global population shifts rapidly towards an ageing demographic, which is anticipated to drive demand for elderly care beds, particularly for full-time nursing care delivered in specialised facilities," it said.

DC Poonch chairs DLC meeting on HADP, approves 58 Cases for Agricultural Development

Emphasises speedy implementation of initiatives under Holistic Agriculture Development Program

POONCH: In a significant stride towards advancing agricultural development in the region, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today chaired a District Level Committee (DLC) meeting on the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) in the conference hall of the DC Office.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Sandesh Kumar Sharma; General Manager DIC, Dr. Mohd. Tanwir; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Zaheer Ahmed Kaifi; Divisional Forest Officer(S), Naveed Iqbal; Chief Agriculture Officer, Rakesh Kumar; Chief Horticulture Officer, Sanjeev Kumar; Deputy Registrar Cooperative/District Information Officer, Vishal Deep Chandan; LDM,

Ashtosh Koul Pal; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Younis; AGMO, Charankamal Singh; District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Dr. Ashish Mahajan; District Sericulture Officer, Jatinder Krishadar; Assistant Floriculture Officer, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar; District Incharge NABARD, N Chander, along with other concerned officers.



During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner received an update on the progress made in implementing the components of HADP across the district by the Agriculture and allied departments. Furthermore, a draw-off-lot was conducted to

select the applications received for benefits under different components, specifically in relation to the Sheep Husbandry Department, while adhering to the criteria set by other Line departments under HADP.

The committee approved a total of 58 applications, including 25 un-

der the Animal Husbandry sector, 20 applications of Sheep Husbandry sector, 10 for Horticulture, and 03 for Horticulture Planning & Marketing sector under different projects/components, respectively.

While granting approval to the applications, the Deputy Commissioner urged all sectoral officers from the Agriculture and allied departments to expedite the completion of assigned targets under the HADP in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon stakeholder departments to work closely together to implement various initiatives at the district level.

He directed officials to disseminate information about the latest agricultural technologies to farmers residing in remote areas and ensure their access to these advancements.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri presides over Public Outreach Camp at Siot

RAJOURI: To address public concerns, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a highly impactful public outreach camp at Siot block under the weekly Block Diwas Program. The event served as a platform for a constructive dialogue between the public and their representatives, covering a spectrum of issues.

Discussions ranged from the pressing need for road renovations, up-gradation and adequate staffing of government institutions, addressing water scarcity, to bolstering healthcare infrastructure, among other crucial topics.

Government officers took advantage of this opportunity to inform the public about various schemes and programs aimed at improving the well-being of the community, encouraging active participation and utilization of available benefits. Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed the commitment of the district administration to delivering quality essential services directly to the people. He expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in achieving government objectives and urged them to continue their hard work for the common good.

During the public outreach camp, locals expressed appreciation for the commendable efforts of the administration in implementing schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission, recognizing the significant impact and positive changes brought about by these initiatives.

Promptly addressing concerns regarding the shortage of staff at veterinary centers raised during the event, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal directed concerned officers to implement effective measures to address the shortage of staff at Veterinary centers.

In response to the issue of sanctioning HSS at Siot, he assured that he would take up the matter with the concerned quarters. In a pivotal move towards infrastructure development, the Deputy Commissioner has directed the concerned officer to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of a bridge from Bal Shama to Salheri. DC affirmed the swift implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across all eleven Panchayats in the Siot Block. He assured prompt resolution of issues concerning irrigation canals, emphasizing commitment to addressing community needs.

In a bid to uplift the living standards, the DC motivated the public to expedite the construction of their homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G). Simultaneously, he also highlighted the ongoing progress of the Mother and Child Care Hospital (MCH) in Lamberi, underscoring the priority given to healthcare infrastructure.

Turning attention to connectivity, the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal updated on the full-scale advancement of various projects.

The dedication to enhancing local infrastructure is evident, signaling positive prospects for the region. Addressing the power scenario, the DC urged the public to adhere to timely payment of electricity bills, emphasizing the collective responsibility for a sustainable power supply.

Swift and decisive actions were taken to address some issues on the spot during the event, making the Weekly Block Diwas at Siot a resounding success with the discussion and resolution of numerous public issues.

JKAACL organises one day seminar on Life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Wednesday organized a one Day Seminar on Life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji here in the K.L. Saigal Hall.

The Seminar was inaugurated by lighting of traditional lamp by the Guests. The Inaugural session of the seminar was presided over by Khalid Hussaun, Eminent Punjabi writer, S. Ajeet Singh Mastana presented the keynote address on "Life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji".

S. J.P. Singh, former IGP J&K shared the presidium with Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi JKAACL. Special numbers of Sada Sahit Punjabi and latest Sheeraza publications of JKAACL were also released on the occasion by

the dignitaries. The exhibition of JKAACL publications was also displayed on the occasion.

At the outset, Dr. Shah Nawaz, Editor Cum cultural Officer, JKAACL



welcomed the guests on behalf of Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL.

In his presidential address, Khalid Hussain appreciated the efforts of JKAACL specially the Secretary Bharat Singh for taking JKAACL to the new heights by organising such literary and cultural activities.

He said that the teachings of Baba Nanak Ji are the message of peace and harmony and we all

should follow them.

Chief Guest S. J.P. Singh, in his address, said that the teachings and philosophy of Guru Nanak Dev Ji which he spread in 15th Century are

still relevant and applicable. He further said that under the leadership of Bharat Singh, Secretary, JKAACL is doing commendable job. The inaugural session was conducted by S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi JKAACL.

The inaugural session was followed by paper reading session in which Dr. Pritam Singh and Dr. Jasbir Sama presented

papers on different shades of Life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The session was presided over by Dr. Jitender Udhamपुरi while Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, former Additional secretary, JKAACL was guest of honour.

The paper reading session was followed by Kavi Darbar in which poets Bachan Bharti, Bhupinder Singh Bhargav, Devinder Singh Dhanjal, Balkar Singh, Balwinder Singh, Devinder Singh, Baljit Singh Raina, Surinder Kaur Neer, Amarjit Kour Neer, Amnprit Kour, Harbhajan Singh, Suraj Rattan, Suraj Singh, Saran Star, H. S Uppal, Nirmal Vinod, Manjit Singh Kamra, Amrjit Kour Neer, Satwant Singh, Dr. M.P. Prabhjot Kour, Amin Banhali and others presented their poetry.

Mega job fair organised at Reasi

Students, unemployed youth turn up in huge numbers to avail job opportunities

REASI: District Development Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan today inaugurated a day-long job fair at the District Employment and Counseling Center (DE&CC) in Reasi. The event, organized by DE&CC Reasi, aimed to provide placement opportunities to skilled and unskilled youth across various companies.

The job fair attracted considerable attention, drawing a robust turnout from both government departments and private companies/agencies. This collaborative effort established a dynamic platform, facilitating connections between job seekers and

potential employers. The event showcased a diverse array of opportunities spanning sectors such as Education, Banking, Automobile, IT, and skilling.

Participation in the job fair was widespread, with youth from different colleges, including ITI institutions, actively engaging in on-the-spot interviews for potential recruitment.

DDC Vishesh Mahajan, addressing the participants, underscored the exclusive nature of the job fair, designed to facilitate employment opportunities for the students and youth of the district.

Throughout the event, DDC Mahajan personally interacted with job providers, inspecting stalls set up

by various departments and companies. He expressed satisfaction over the initiative and committed to organize similar events in other parts of the district in the future.

In addition to job fairs, DDC Mahajan emphasized the District Administration Reasi's commitment to address unemployment through the implementation of the District Skill Development Plan. This plan aims to bridge the gap between the skill levels of the youth and the requirements of job-providing companies. Unemployed youth will receive training to enhance their skills, thereby increasing their employability. DDC Mahajan expressed optimism about the positive impact of such initiatives on the employment landscape of Reasi, ensuring a brighter future for the youth and contributing to the overall development of the district.

During the occasion, ADC Abdul Star, AD Employment Rekha Bali, and students from various institutions were also present, further enhancing the diversity and engagement of the event.

Disconnection drives aimed to stem power theft, stabilize curtailment plan: KPDCL

Inspection drives breach 1K mark on Thursday; 1048 defaulting consumers disconnected for pending arrears; Rs.6.63 cr collected against energy dues

SRINAGAR: Continuing its pursuit to obtain pending arrears from defaulting consumers, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) collected a revenue of Rs.6.63 crore on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Corporation's inspections to check power pilferage breached 1000 mark with penalties imposed to the tune of Rs.7.95 lakh on Thursday.

Elaborating on details, a KPDCL spokesperson today stated that out of 1017 inspections carried out in Kashmir Division, 161 were conducted in Circle I Srinagar, 182 in Circle II Srinagar, 301 in Circle Ganderbal, 147 in Circle Pulwama, 66 in Circle Bijbehara and 160 in Circle Sopore. Around 245 KW load was added across 6 Circles of the Corporation during the drives.

A penalty of Rs.7.95 lakh was imposed across all 19 Electric Divisions on those found hooking wires on bare conductor and bypassing the meters. Meanwhile, 52 Domestic Transformers (DTs) were also reported damaged on Thursday due to overloading, down from 64 reported on Wednesday.

The spokesperson further stated that another 1048 domestic, commercial and industrial connections were also disconnected for non-payment

of energy dues which were pending for more than three months.

This includes 731 domestic, 266 commercial and 31 industrial consumers.

The spokesman stated that the inspection and disconnection drives against power theft and defaulting consumers respectively will help the Corporation in sticking to the curtailment schedule.

While KPDCL received 52 damaged DTs in its various workshops on Thursday, 61 transformers were also repaired for replacement, to comply with the stipulated timelines fixed by the Government.

"As many as 74 transformers are in different stages of repair, 27 others are in ovens at Central Workshop Pampore," the spokesperson added, while quoting Executive Engineer, CWS, Pampore.

Expressing concern over the repeat damage of repaired transformers, the spokesperson urged the consumers to use power judiciously within their agreed load, failing which the DTs will get damaged again, thus causing inconvenience to genuine consumers. "Cases of repeat damage to repaired transformers has been reported from Central Workshop at Pampore and a few of the divisional-level workshops. This trend will affect replacement timeline

fixed by the Government," the spokesperson warned while advocating strict adherence to load capacity of DTs.

KPDCL advised all domestic, commercial and industrial consumers to pay their pending energy dues or face permanent

disconnection. KPDCL collected Rs.6.63 crore as pending energy dues on Thursday from the consumers. With the Corporation going into overdrive, the revenue realization figures are likely to go up further in the coming few weeks.

Sunakshi Balgotra Sharma has purchased a plot on the Moon

JAMMU: Following the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission by the ISRO, a woman from Jammu & Kashmir, Sunakshi Balgotra Sharma has purchased a plot on the Moon. She received the documents after completing the process of registration from the 'International Lunar Registry'. She shared the details of his land property on moon. She said that he bought land at "Luna Earths Moon, Tract L-LAFE-55, Lot (s) 115040 and 115041 known as Lacus Felicitatis (Lake of Happiness)."



According to the sources, Sunakshi Balgotra Sharma wife of Sunil Sharma from Jammu. She is working in a skilling sector as a centre head of Jammu.

After learning that registration for land on the Moon can be done through a website pertaining to the 'International Lunar Registry' in New York, she decided to buy a piece of land on moon.

On 1st September she had applied for one acre of land on the Moon with Lunar Registry

Sunakshi Balgotra Sharma got the registration documents regarding the lunar plot purchased 1 acre land after 2 months.

10 day capacity building training for Sheep, Goat breeders begins at Reasi

JAMMU: Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu today started a 10 day training programme for Sheep/Goat breeders under the Capacity Building component (Shearing Training programme for breeders) of "Promotion of Wool & Pelt for effective processing and marketing" project under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The training program is being held in Gov-



ernment Sheep Breeding Farm Reasi under the overall supervision of Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu.

Sheep/Goat breeders drawn from different districts of Jammu Division shall be trained in Machine Sheep Shearing through live demonstration.

The Training programme is aimed at providing farm exposure on Machine Sheep Shearing to the Sheep/Goat breeders. The Sheep/Goat breeders will perform machine shearing in the field for 06 days.

Among others who were present at the programme were Dr R. K. Manhas (Deputy Director, Government Sheep Breeding Farm Reasi), Dr Pritam Manhas (Principal Training Class Kartholi), Dr Vijay Kumar (Officer Incharge Training Class Kartholi), Dr Naresh Kumar (VAS Wool Board Kartholi) and Asheesh Sharma, Publicity Officer, Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu.