



Lt Governor Reviews Development And Security Scenario In Jammu Division



■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 11: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a meeting with the senior officers, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and discussed various issues

concerning development and security in Jammu Division.

The meeting emphasized the need for a comprehensive strategy for crackdown against drug smugglers, drug hot-spots and cross border smuggling.

The Lt Governor also took appraisal of the status of the key infrastructure projects and the steps taken by the District Administrations to facilitate industries, saturation of government schemes, implementation

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Amid No Snow In Kashmir, Dry Weather Predicted Till Jan 20

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 11: As Kashmir is witnessing a snowless winter after almost seven years, the Meteorological Centre on Thursday predicted a dry weather till January 20.

However, a feeble Western Disturbance is approaching on January 17, that may bring

light snow over isolated higher reaches.

"Dry weather is likely to continue till January 20 with cloudy on 12th & 17th evening," the MeT said.

It added that slight improvement in minimum temperature during January 12 and 17 is expected at all the weather stations

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NEWS BRIEF

6.0 magnitude earthquake hits Afghanistan, tremors felt in J&K

SRINAGAR, JAN 11: Earthquake of magnitude 6.0 hit Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan on Thursday with tremors felt across Jammu and Kashmir.

According details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the quake occurred at 02:50 pm. However, there were no immediate reports of any damage or loss of life reported anywhere. As per initial estimates the epicentre was recorded in Hindu Kush Region of Afghanistan.

Youth killed in Kulgam road accident

KULGAM, JAN 11: A 30-year-old youth was killed in a road accident in South Kashmir's Kulgam on Thursday, an official said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Javid Gulzar, a 30-year-old motorcyclist hailing from Sehpora Kulgam, lost his life in a road accident near PHC Katrasoo Kulgam.

He said the motorcyclist lost his control when a dog unexpectedly darted across his path, leading to the bike skidding off the road.

The official said the impact resulted in critical injuries to him, and he was immediately evacuated to the district hospital in Kulgam for emergency medical care but succumbed to his injuries.

Centre Directs J&K Admin To Seize Assets Of Tehreek-E-Hurriyat, Muslim League-JK

NEW DELHI, JAN 11: The Centre on Thursday directed the Jammu and Kashmir administration to seize all assets and freeze bank accounts and finances belonging to the pro-Pakistan separatist amalgam Tehreek-e-Hurriyat and Muslim League Jammu Kashmir headed by separatist Masarat Alam.

Both the organisations were recently banned by the government. Tehreek-e-Hurriyat was founded by late separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Issuing two identical notifications, the Union Home Ministry said the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) was declared unlawful

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Will Focus On Improving Access, Quality Of Education To Students: Piyush Singla

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 11: Newly appointed administrative secretary for School Education Department, Piyush Singla Thursday said that the government



will be focusing mainly on improving the access and quality of education to students.

Besides, the officer said that the department will be focused on creating a conducive environment

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Situation In Rajouri-Poonch Matter Of Concern; Army Enhancing Deployment: Gen Pande

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 11: The situation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri-Poonch region is a matter of "concern" and enhancing deployment of troops, boosting intelligence apparatus and reaching out to local people are part of measures being initiated to contain terrorist activities in the area, Chief of Army Staff

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Feedback about Agniveer from ground, units positive: Gen Pande

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 11: Stating that the feedback about Agniveers from the ground and units as positive, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande said

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NABARD Unveils Credit Potential Of Rs 37446.04 Cr For J&K's Priority Sectors In 2024-25

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 11: In a significant stride towards fostering inclusive growth and rural development, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Jammu and Kashmir, has projected an estimated credit potential of Rs. 37446.04 crore under the priority

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Dr Jitendra Presents 'Indian Of The Year' Award To Team ISRO

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 11: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh presented "Indian of the Year" Award for the year 2023 in the category 'Outstanding Achievement' to Team ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).

The award, instituted by a national TV channel, was received by

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Admin Takes Action Against Machine-Made Copper Manufacturers, Bringing Relief to Coppersmiths

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 11: Sajad Ahmad Dar, a coppersmith from Baramulla has dissociated himself from the art for the last two years.

After an invasion by machine made of copper, he moved to the hospitality sector by working as a waiter in a hotel in Srinagar.

While he regrets leaving the art which he imbibed from his ancestors, he calls his waiter's job a compulsion to make ends meet. He, however, is hopeful to return to his

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Dr Andrabi's Revolutionary Initiatives have worked for Welfare, Overall Growth of J&K Waqf Board

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 11: The Employee Union Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board convened a meeting yesterday regarding the resolution provided by the Hon'ble Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi G. The resolution was acknowledged with satisfaction. It was emphasized on this occasion that the manner in which Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi G has navigated through all technicalities to resolve this issue in favor of the

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- Embroidery
- Door Hangers

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Lt Governor.....

of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme and promotion of tourism.

He directed the district administrations to ensure saturation of schemes in all border villages and to connect youth of all Panchayats to self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The Lt Governor further instructed the officials to prepare regular outcome reports of Block Diwas, Thana Diwas and other Jan-Abhiyan programmes. Quality disposal of grievances and effective delivery of public services should be the priority of the administration at all levels, he said.

The meeting was attended by Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Sh R R Swain, DGP, other senior officers, Administrative Secretaries; DIGs, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs.

Amid No Snow.....

in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir is reeling under an intense cold and temperatures continue to be below freezing point during the night. However, days are relatively warmer.

Srinagar- the summer capital of J&K- recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, same as the previous night, MeT said.

Pulwama in south Kashmir was the coldest place as it recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius.

The tourist resorts of Pahalgam in south Kashmir and Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded minus 6.3 degrees Celsius and minus 3.5 respectively.

Kashmir's harshest 40 days winter period, "Chilla-i-Kalan", began on December 21 and despite that is almost halfway through, Kashmir has witnessed no snow. Even the ski resort of Gulmarg is bereft of any snow, leaving the tourists upset.

Scientists say the dry winters would mean higher mass loss of glaciers in this hydrological year, if the weather conditions do not improve and might impact hydropower generation, irrigation agriculture and dependent sectors. (UNI)

Will Focus.....

for better research and innovations.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Singla said, "In School Education sector, there are many areas to focus on but primarily the department will be focusing on improving the access and quality of education."

Singla further said that it will be also focusing on the welfare of human resources of the department and all other stakeholders.

"Besides our special focus would be on the quality of education in all rural and far flung areas," he said.

The administration added, "We will try to rationalize the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) so that a conducive environment would be created for research and innovation."

Singla said that the teachers in the school education department shall be disciplined.

Pertinently, on January-09, Piyush Singla, IAS, assumed charge as the Administrative Secretary of the School Education Department (SED).

On the same day, he took a comprehensive review meeting of the department at the civil secretariat in Jammu.

During the session, officers from the School Education Department presented a detailed overview of various aspects of the department to the newly appointed administrative secretary.

He was informed about the department's overall functioning of centrally sponsored schemes, the physical and financial progress achieved under UT Capex, human resource management (HRM) challenges, and the department's best practices and initiatives.

Singla on the occasion emphasized the importance of timely completion of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs), finalization of seniority lists, and the provision of quality infrastructure for students.

Situation In.....

Gen Manoj Pande said on Thursday.

At a press conference, he also said he has conveyed an unambiguous message to the soldiers and commanders that there will be "zero tolerance" to human rights violations and they must operate in a professional manner.

Three civilians were killed in Poonch last month allegedly during questioning by the Army in connection with an ambush of Army personnel by militants. Four Army soldiers were killed in the ambush.

"The situation in Poonch-Rajouri has been an issue of concern to us," Gen Pande said.

It is learnt that the terrorists operating in the Rajouri-Poonch area are very well-trained in carrying out terror attacks and ambushes.

The Army Chief said his force is focusing on strengthening the human intelligence which includes synergising the Army's efforts with other agencies, adding having support of the locals is also "extremely crucial" in anti-terror operations.

"We have already taken follow up action,"

he said.

The Chief of Army Staff said the Army is also looking at strengthening the ability to use technology to gather intelligence.

"We have enhanced our deployment and also reoriented some of the units," he said.

At the same time he said the troops have been told to operate professionally.

"My guidance to soldiers and commanders is unambiguous — in terms of respect for human rights, there will be zero tolerance for any actions on that account," he said.

"We have clearly laid out guidelines spelling out what you (Army personnel) must do and what you must not do in those areas and for the soldiers to be able to (operate) in a professional manner," Gen Pande said.

He said there has been an increase in terrorist activities in Rajouri-Poonch region in the last five-six months.

"In the last five to six months, in Rajouri and Poonch, there has been an increase in terrorism. Terrorism in that area was eradicated in 2003 and peace was there till 2017-18," he said.

"Because of the situation in the valley getting normal, this is one area, our adversaries have been active in, in terms of abetting terrorism, encouraging proxy tanzeems in operating in this area," he said.

The Army Chief said 45 terrorists were killed in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years. (Agencies)

Feedback about.....

that the integration of Agniveers is happening well.

Addressing the annual press conference here on Thursday, Gen Pande said that two batches of Agniveers have been inducted into the units. And the feedback from the ground and units has been positive.

When asked about former Army chief MM Naravane's view about Agniveeer, the CoAS said that it would not be fair on his part to comment on his predecessor, but said that Agniveer was getting a positive response.

On recruiting women officer, Gen Pande said that women are playing good roles in all areas.

The Indian Army currently has 120 permanent women officers, some in the rank of Colonel. Many have been deployed in forward areas like Leh.

The General said that the shortage of officers in the Indian Army has been addressed. Human Resource Management has helped in increasing the recruitment of officers.

He said that a cyber security wing has also been set up. The Indian Army is creating a pool of specialist cadre and commissioning officers as linguists, now cyber experts shall be inducted.

He also said that the Indian Army is committed towards Atmanirbharta and good progress has been done in this area. (UNI)

NABARD Unveils.....

sector for the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25.

This was announced during the UT Credit Seminar hosted by NABARD here today. The UT focus paper was launched in the seminar.

The event was attended by Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Baldev Prakash, MD, J&K Bank, Dr. B.N. Tripathi, VC-SKUAST, Jammu, Sandeep Mittal, General Manager, RBI, Ajay Kumar Jha, General Manager, SBI and officers of line departments and other distinguished dignitaries.

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, while addressing the event, commended NABARD in finalizing the Union Territory's focus paper for 2024-25 and highlighted suggestions in the presentations, as given by NABARD. He urged upon all stakeholders to synergize their endeavors for collectively realizing the credit potential outlined in the UT Focus Paper for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Bhallamudi Sridhar, Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD, Jammu & Kashmir, highlighted the pivotal role of NABARD in development of Jammu and Kashmir. In his address, CGM, NABARD emphasized on the need to boost priority sector credit through meticulous planning, credit delivery, monitoring and collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

"The focus of NABARD will be on community-based business entities like Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, SHG federations etc. Similarly, harnessing the potential of horticulture crops such as Walnut, Saffron and Apple through area expansion and productivity improvement will be of special significance and focus area for NABARD", he added.

Sridhar assured that efforts will be directed towards creating a conducive ecosystem for promotion of Handloom and Handicraft products through Off-Farm Producers Organizations (OFPOs), Marketing Assistance, and Geographic Indication (GI) registration. He said that the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) are being computerized on priority basis and efforts are on for their transformation to multifunctional societies.

A presentation was given by the CGM on the issues, challenges and status of KCC disbursement across the 20 districts of UTs. The presentation was based on the primary data collected by the NABARD officers from

5000 farmers in 175 blocks of 20 districts.

Anamika, General Manager, NABARD, Jammu & Kashmir, made a presentation on the trends in ground level credit flow in priority sector and the potential estimated by NABARD in 2024-25. She also highlighted the priorities for rural development to be emphasized by the NABARD in 2024-25.

On the occasion, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary also released a compendium titled "NABARD's Intervention on the Field" along with a booklet titled "Indicative Unit Cost for Investment in Agriculture and Allied Activities for 2023-24".

Sandeep Sharma, General Manager, NABARD, presented vote of thanks and assured that with support and cooperation of UT Government and all other stakeholders, NABARD will strive to achieve the set targets.

Dr Jitendra.....

ISRO Chairman S. Somnath and Project Director of Chandrayaan 3, Dr PVeeramuthuvel, at a glittering ceremony here.

The award recognised the remarkable contribution made by ISRO in pushing the boundaries of Space exploration, read the award citation.

"The year 2023 will undoubtedly be etched in the books of history as a period when India's Space agency demonstrated unparalleled prowess and resilience in the face of challenges. The pinnacle of ISRO's achievements in 2023 was the successful first-ever soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's uncharted South Polar region

In his brief remarks, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Chandrayaan-3 was not only indigenous but also a very cost-effective mission, with a budget of about Rs. 600 Crore. Even though talent was never lacking in the country, the missing link of enabling milieu was created under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said.

"With the "unlocking" of Space Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the common masses of the country have been able to witness the launch of the mega Space events like Chandrayaan-3 or Aditya. Over 10,000 spectators, over 1,000 media persons and a large number of common people had come to see the Aditya launch and an equal number were there during the Chandrayaan-3 landing on the moon," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, for the first time the whole of nation got involved when Chandrayaan-3 made a historic landing on the lunar south polar region.

"In a way, that has given the nation a sense of belonging, – owning these space missions," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, four-five years back, we had just one Startup in the Space sector, today we have 190 private Space Startups after opening up of the sector and the earlier ones of them have even turned entrepreneurs. There has been an investment of over Rs.1,000 crore by private Space Startups in the current financial year from April to December 2023, he said.

"So, there's huge pooling of both the financial resources as well as the knowledge resources happening. And that is what has now placed India as the frontline nation... I think these three successive success stories, which I would say is a trilogy of ISRO's success, are the first of their kind in one way or the other," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, when Prime Minister Modi talks of Amritkaal and India's ascent to that pedestal, that ascent has already begun via Space technology.

The distinguished jury panel for the IoT Awards comprised iconic figures, including former solicitor General of India, Harish Salve, screenwriter and Lyricist Javed Akhtar, Retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice Indu Malhotra, former Indian Athlete and Vice-President of Athletics Federation of India, Anju Bobby George, chairperson of RP Sanjiv Goenka Group, Sanjiv Goenka, and environmental activist and lawyer Afroz Shah.

Admin Takes.....

ancestral profession especially after the government started taking measures to check manufacturing of machine-made copper utensils in the valley.

"Designing copperware is my ancestral profession. I was hopeful that the government will take some measures to promote the art. I am now thinking of starting my work of making and designing copperware again," he told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Taking strict measures against machine made copper, the Director of Handicrafts and Handloom (H&H) Kashmir has been appointed by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir as the person in charge of implementing the J&K Prohibition of Manufacture of Specified Copper Utensils (by machine) Act.

The step is aimed to combat the introduction of machines in crafting copper utensils which has resulted in marginalization of traditional artisans, and has allowed individuals without specific copper working skills to enter the industry, adversely affecting traditional craftsmen.

"This move has given us hope for the future of our craft. We have seen a decline in demand for our handmade products, but

with the ban on machine-made copperware, we believe our unique craftsmanship will be valued once again," said Nazir Ahmad Wani, a coppersmith, who has been associated with the art for over 40 years.

Pertinently the handicrafts department has recently included copperware, along with 20 other crafts, in the category of 'Notified Crafts' to support local artisans. This inclusion facilitated the registration of copperware artisans, granting them access to various government support programs.

Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir Mahmood Ahmad Shah said the identification of deceptive artisans and manufacturers of copperware by the Quality Control Division will be given top priority.

He urged the public to purchase copper items labelled with QR codes, as this supports authentic artisans.

Dr. Darakhshan.....

employees is truly commendable and praiseworthy.

Employees, expressing their views, highlighted that during the past eighteen months, Dr. Sahiba's efforts to revitalize and make all sections of J&K Waqf Board active have been displayed with remarkable enthusiasm day and night. Employees affirmed that during the past few decades, the pace of progress of the Waqf Board had stalled, and negative perceptions had permeated the public. However, after Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi G took charge, her vigorous efforts have breathed new life into all threads of the BOARD, her dedicated initiatives have injected a new spirit into the Board, making them active and prompt responsive. The positive impact of her leadership is now evident not only to the general public but also to the employees of the board.

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general public but also to the employees of the board.

The Employee Union further stated that they are grateful for Chairperson Dr. Sahiba's initiatives, acknowledging the significant relief provided to the employees through her compassionate decisions. They expressed gratitude to other officers of the Board especially All diligent Board members, CEO Mr. MAJID JAHANGIR Sahib, Executive Magistrate Mr. ISHTAIQ SAHIB and others for their collaboration in resolving this critical matter. The Employee Union concluded by expressing confidence that Dr. Sahiba's decisions for the progress of the employees and the institution will continue to be consistently implemented in the future.

Centre Directs.....

outfit on December 27, 2023 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Jammu and Kashmir (TeH) was banned on December 31, 2023 under the same law.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 42 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the central government hereby directs that all powers exercisable by it under section 7 and section 8 of the said Act shall be exercised also by the state governments and the Union Territory administration in relation to the above said unlawful association," the notification read.

The Section 7 of the UAPA is related to power to prohibit the use of funds of an unlawful association and the Section 8 is related to power to notify places used for the purpose of an unlawful association.

While declaring the TeH outlawed for five years, the home ministry had said it was fomenting terrorism and spreading anti-India propaganda in the Union Territory.

The objective of the TeH is to separate Jammu and Kashmir from India and establish Islamic rule in Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

The group was founded by Geelani, who was succeeded by Masarat Alam Bhat. Bhat is also known for his anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda. Bhat is currently in jail.

Bhat's outfit Muslim League Jammu Kashmir, which he heads, was also declared a banned organisation by the government for its involvement in anti-national and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The home ministry had said the outfit and its members are involved in anti-national activities in Jammu and Kashmir, supporting terrorist activities. (Agencies)

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CMYK

DC Srinagar reviews arrangements for celebration of Republic Day-2024

Asks line Departments to ensure all preparations for smooth and peaceful conduct of the event

SRINAGAR JAN 11: In connection with celebrations of forthcoming Republic-Day-2024, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud Din Bhat here today at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to ensure smooth and flawless conduct of the national event.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Ashish Mishra was also present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a Department wise review about the arrangements to be put in place by the respective Departments.

The DC directed the Officers of the concerned Departments to ensure all preparations including Seating arrangements, March Past Parade, Cultural programmes, Transport & Parking facilities, Power & drinking Water Supply, deployment of Sanitation staff, Medical/First Aid & Fire and Emergency teams, Installation of Public Address System, besides Illumination of Government Building on eve of upcoming Republic Day.

On the occasion, matters related to Security, Media Management and entry of VVIPs, VIPs and other participants were also discussed in detail.

The DC stressed on making fool-proof security arrangements in and around the Stadium to ensure hassle-free celebrations of the function. He also enjoined upon the concerned Officers to maintain close coordination with each other for holding the function smoothly.

Regarding parking for vehicles, the DC asked the Officers of the Traffic Department to assess the capacity of the parking slots identified for the event and formulate an action plan so that the maximum number of vehicles of the dignitaries and other participants coming to attend the function are accommodated in a hassle free manner.



While SMC authorities were asked to ensure that all washrooms are functioning properly, besides establishing mobile toilets at the venue on January 26. They were also asked to take measures for dog menace around the venue.

The DC asked the Education Department and Cultural Academy to ensure all necessary arrangements for boarding/lodging of participating school children and Artists are taken care well in advance with concerned, while transport arrangements will be made by SRTC.

In order to ensure hassle free entry of the Officials of the line Departments, the DC asked the Departments to submit lists of the employees and identifiers by January 5th, 2023 so that their security passes are made well in advance.

The DC also stressed on making elaborate arrangements to tackle any water logging, if any caused due to rain/snowfall on the occasion of Full Dress rehearsal proceedings and the main event on 26th January.

The DC also asked the PDD for illumination of identified Government buildings and other prominent spaces on the eve of the Republic Day-2024. He also asked the Officers to hoist the national flag in their respective offices on the Day. With regard to showcasing of Jhankies during the Republic Day parade, the DC asked for setting up a control room.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineers of R&B & PDD, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM East, SDM West, Nodal Principal Colleges, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildar South, besides senior Officers of SRTC, Cultural Academy, Hospitality &

Protocol, RTO, YS&S, Sports Council, Mechanical Engineering and other line Departments were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner accompanied by the Officers later visited Bakshi Stadium to take on site review of the arrangements/preparatory activities to be put in place by the respective Departments on the eve of Republic Day-2024.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner along with officers went around the Stadium pavilions and VVIP Gallery to have first-hand appraisal of the preparatory activities. He took onsite review of the arrangements to be put in place for smooth conduct of Republic Day.

The DC was given appraisal about the preparations/arrangements being made with regard to seating arrangements, cultural programmes, march past parade, power supply, deployment of medical & first aid and firefighting system, installation of PAS. Besides Media management, security related matters and entry of VVIPs, VIPs and other participants.

The DC was also given brief about the security arrangements in and around the Stadium to ensure hassle-free celebrations of the function.

During the visit, the DC asked the concerned to make requisite arrangements for parade contingent passage and for the cultural activities at the Stadium to cope any situation arisen due to snowfall/rain on rehearsal day or main event of the Republic-day 2024.

On the occasion, the DC enjoined upon the Officers to maintain close coordination with each other for holding the function smoothly.

DC Srinagar visits SPS Library, interacts with library users, assures better facilities

SRINAGAR JAN 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday evening visited SPS Central Library here at M.A Road to oversee the functioning of the Library and facilities available there for the visiting aspiring students.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Deputy Director Libraries and Research, Sheikh Zahoor Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Mohammad Yaseen, Chief Librarian SPS Library, Ishrat Majeed and other concerned Officers.

The DC inspected various compartments of the Library and was apprised about the centuries old repository of Manuscripts section housing around 6000 scripts, Rare Books and Miniature etc.

On the occasion, the DC asked the Department of Libraries & Research to explore the possibility of keeping the Reading Areas of the SPS Library open 24x7 while issuing on-the-spot instructions for increasing the functional timing of the Reading Rooms by 7 hours immediately and keeping reading rooms and library open for 15 hours per day from January 13 (Saturday). He said the requisite manpower for this purpose shall be arranged from other Departments.

During his maiden visit to SPS Central Library here this evening, Dr Bilal expressed great satisfaction over a large number of students using the centrally located and well-maintained facility to prepare for various competitive exams. He said more such facilities need to be established in and around Srinagar City to cater to the large population of youth who don't have access to SPS Library due to space constraints and physical distance.

The DC said that the District Administration is committed to foster an ecosystem of learning in Srinagar and And provide space in the form of reading rooms in the

City so that our youth can compete in examinations.

He called for repositioning the Public Libraries as productive Career Development Centres through technological interventions supplemented with availability of updated online and offline resources regarding job opportunities, scholarships, admissions and Competitive Exams including Civil Services, NEET, JEE, AIPMT, CET, UPSC/JKPSC, NET/SLET, SSB, GMAT, CLAT, CAT etc.

To make the initiative more productive, Dr Bilal called for ensuring facilities like WiFi, printing, scanning and photocopy and cafeteria under one roof in Public Libraries.

The DC asked the Libraries Department to invite Career Counsellors and Subject Experts who will impart key tips to students on how to crack various competitive examinations. He called for sustained and extensive technological interventions in libraries including automation, e-cataloguing and e-circulation to make them more user-friendly.

"It is heartening to note that the Libraries Department has taken various initiatives, in the recent past, to give a refreshing look to the libraries in the UT and make them lively literary places," the DC said.

Responding to the demands put forth by the students, DC Srinagar issued on spot instructions regarding augmenting the reading space, maintenance of washrooms and better internet facility.

During the visit, the DC was informed by the Officers of the Libraries Department that during the past 3 years, the reading space in SPS Library has been increased from 90 seats to the existing 350 seats with a dedicated Reading Hall being established for the girls. The Department is also in the process of establishing an IT Hub at SPS Library Srinagar to facilitate the students.

As road accidents surge, week-long Road Safety prog begins to sensitize people

SRINAGAR, JAN 11: Amidst the rise in road accidents, the week-long National Road Safety programme has commenced in Srinagar while a series of activities are expected to take place in which the commuters and general public will be sensitized about the traffic norms that will help in reducing the fatal accidents.

The Traffic Police authorities as well as the Jammu and Kashmir Transport Department launched the National Road Safety Week in Srinagar. The inauguration ceremony at Srinagar saw the presence of officials and students from various colleges and other educational institutions.

Senior traffic police officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a series of events and initiatives are planned throughout the week to engage the community and promote responsible road behavior.



Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Srinagar City, while speaking to the media, highlighted the alarming rise in road accidents and stressed the importance of fostering a culture of adherence to traffic rules.

"The campaign aims to educate citizens about the significance of road safety, including the proper use of helmets, seat belts, and adherence to speed limits," he said.

Students from various Colleges told KNO that being a part of the inaugural programme was insightful for them and that everyone should play his or her part of driving discipline. Transport officials said that various interactive sessions and awareness drives will be organized across the city.

The traffic police official further said that the week-long initiative also involves deploying additional personnel for intensified traffic checks, ensuring strict enforcement of traffic rules

Ganderbal's Bonizill village without drinking water Locals say filtration plant awaits completion

GANDERBAL, JAN 11: People in Bonizil and other areas in Ganderbal district have complained about lack of drinking water due to non-completion of work at the filtration plant.

The work on the filtration plant was started some four years ago at the cost of Rs 5 crore and was stopped a few months ago due to unknown reasons, the locals told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

They said that to overcome the severe shortage of water in

several areas, it was planned to bring water supply for this filtration plant from the upper region of Chattergul.

"An underground water pipe was laid from the Chattergul area to Bonizil, while other buildings including water reservoirs were also constructed. However, after spending more than 4 crore rupees, the construction work on the filtration plant was suddenly stopped a few months ago, and nobody knows the reason," the locals said.



Since then, the people living in Bonizil, Mochan, Haripora, Reshipora, and other adjoining areas have been suffering a lot due to an acute shortage of potable drinking water.

An official Told KNO "there were some technical problems in the filtration plant due to which the work was stopped."

"The problem is being gradually resolved. It will take some time and the work on Bonizil Filtration Plant will be started soon.

Sopore Fruit Mandi president announces Rs 50,000 cash reward for information on spurious fertilizers

SOPORE, JAN 11: President, Sopore Fruit Mandi – Asia's second-largest fruit market – has announced a cash reward of Rs 50,000 for those providing crucial information about the sale of counterfeit fertilizers in the market. This comes in the wake of growing concerns about the rise of spurious fertilizers affecting crop yields in the valley.

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Fayaz Ahmed Malik, also known as Kaka Ji, expressed dismay at unscrupulous dealers compromising the integrity of the agriculture industry by selling fake fertilizers. "Farmers are the backbone of our community and it is our collective responsibility to safeguard their interests," he said.

Malik said the cash reward initiative aims to encourage locals to come forward with information that can assist authorities in identifying and curbing the circulation of duplicate fertilizers.

Expressing deep concern for the welfare of farmers and the agriculture industry, he said such actions not only jeopardize the

livelihoods of hardworking farmers but also pose a threat to the overall economic stability of the region.

"The generous cash reward is intended to motivate individuals to play an active role in maintaining the integrity of agricultural practices in the region. People are encouraged to provide details about suppliers or dealers suspected of dealing in duplicate or spurious fertilizers. Confidentiality will be maintained to ensure the safety of those reporting," Fayaz added.

Calling for immediate and decisive action, including the implementation of the Public Safety Act (PSA) against those found guilty of distributing counterfeit fertilizers, Malik reiterated his commitment to eradicating this issue.

The Department of Agriculture, Kashmir, recently seized around 620 bags of duplicate spurious fertilizers in Sopore and Kulgam districts during raids. The director warned of stringent action against those selling counterfeit fertilizers in the valley and urged people to report any such activities.

Committees constituted to probe pregnant woman's death at SDH Banihal, non-availability of medicines at DH Ramban

SRINAGAR, JAN 11: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday established two distinct committees to investigate allegations of negligence which resulted in the death of a pregnant woman at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Banihal and complaints of inadequate medicine supplies at the District Hospital Ramban. According to an official order accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the inquiry into alleged medical negligence will be led by the District Programme Officer, Poshan Ramban. The investigation into reports of medicine unavailability at DH Ramban will be spearheaded by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ramban.

The order stated, "Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of a committee to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the death of a lady, namely Afroza Begum, Wife of Zakir Hussain, Resident of Neel, due to the alleged negligence of Doctors and Hospital Staff at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Banihal."

The committee, chaired by Jahangir Hashmi, JKAS District Programme Officer,

Ramban Poshan, will include Zaheer Abass Bhat, JKAS Sub Divisional Magistrate, Banihal, Dr Kamal Jee Zadoo, Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Nasir Javed, Tehsildar, Pogal Paristan, and Dr G L Manhas as its members. The committee has been mandated to submit a comprehensive report along with recommendations within four days of its formation. The move follows the circulation of a viral video on social media in which an individual claimed that his wife experienced pain while travelling from Srinagar to Jammu and was admitted to the District Hospital Ramban. The complainant alleged that he had to procure medicines outside the hospital due to the unavailability of drugs within the facility.

A separate committee has been instituted to investigate these claims, as per the order. Giasul Haq, JKAS Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Ramban, will serve as the committee's Chairman, with Dr Kamal Jee Zadoo, Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Deepak Kumar, District Treasury Officer, Ramban, and Dr Varinder Trisal, MSDH Ramban, as members.

Name...HABIBULLAH KHAN
F/O.... ZAHID HABIB
R/O.... TANGWARI BALa Block....WAGOORA

Yasha Mudgal reviews working of Tourism Department, TDAs of Jammu division

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 11: Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting to review working of Tourism Department and Tourism Development Authorities of Jammu division here at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Director, Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai; Special Secretary Tourism, Amarjeet Singh; Director Finance Tourism, Satnam Singh; Additional Secretary Tourism, Sachin Dev Singh; JD Planning, Yasir Lateef; JD Tourism, Sunaina Sharma; CEOs of Jammu division and other concerned officers of Tourism department attended the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary stressed upon the officers to ensure that visiting tourists have a comfortable and

memorable stay in Jammu and Kashmir.

While reviewing progress on ongoing projects being executed under different schemes, the Commissioner Secretary emphasized upon the officers to ensure that the works tendered/ allotted under Capex, PMDP, PMRP Budget of the Directorate and Tourism Development Authorities should be completed in a time bound manner with proper planning and regular site visit by the executive agencies.

Yasha Mudgal exhorted upon the officers to conduct grand musical concert at Jammu as per the event Calendar. She asked the officers to lay special focus on adventures tourism besides exploring more trekking routes to give wonderful experience to the tourists.

Commissioner Secretary also emphasised upon the officers to adopt



innovative techniques to promote more and more tourist destinations. She also stressed upon them to set up hot air balloons at Katra and other tourist destinations.

She emphasized upon the officers to work in coordination to ensure that the set targets are achieved in full and involve local youths towards

utilising full potential of the tourist destinations.

She also stressed upon Chief Executive Officers to ensure proper upkeep of wayside amenities and necessary services at tourist destinations through effective liquid and Solid Waste Management Plans at the local-

tions.

Commissioner Secretary highlighted the importance of better facilities and services to the tourists while improving the conditions of all the assets at tourist resorts. She said that the present government is committed to give further impetus to tourism industry in Jammu region by creating eco friendly assets at the tourist destinations and resorts in Jammu division.

Earlier, Director Tourism briefed the meeting about the overall functioning of the department besides highlighting development activities being carried out by the Tourism Development Authorities to promote tourism sector in Jammu division.

Director Tourism also informed the meeting about ongoing development activities, physical status of projects sanctioned under PMDP-I, infrastruc-

ture development works completed under Capex Budget during last 2 years, development of water park in Jammu, physical and financial status of Tourist villages executed under PMDP scheme and other activities of the department through power point presentation.

Special Secretary Tourism and other concerned officers also apprised the meeting of various initiatives being taken up by the Tourism Department including guidelines issued under J&K Tourism Policy 2020, Film Policy 2021 and other initiatives like promotion of Niche Tourism Products, Border Tourism besides present status of Capex Budget 2023-24.

The CEOs of different Development Authorities of Jammu division also briefed the chair regarding major development activities besides physical and financial achievements.

Orientation on Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission held at AMNT School Ramban

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 11: One day orientation cum hand holding on Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was held today at AMNT School, Ramban under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer.

The aim of the workshop was to create awareness regarding ABDM which aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure in the country. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.

The implementation of ABDM is expected to significantly improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of health services delivery. Patients will be able to securely store and access their medical records (such as prescriptions, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries) and share them with health care providers to ensure appropriate treatment and follow-up.

They will also have access to more accurate information on health facilities and service providers. Further, they will have the option to access health services remotely through tele-consultation and e-pharmacy.

ABDM will empower individuals with accurate information to enable informed decision making and increase accountability of healthcare providers.

Katra earns recognition as "Best Clean City within Union Territory"

■ HT News Network

KATRA, JANUARY 11: In a significant milestone, Katra has been honored as the "Best Clean City within Union Territory" with population <1, 00,000, showcasing its commitment to environmental sustainability and community well being. The Holy Town was conferred the honour at Swachh Survekshan 2023 awards ceremony held today at Bharat Mandapam, Convention Center in New Delhi. This prestigious accolade is a testament to the tireless efforts put in to maintain highest standards of cleanliness, implementing effective waste management practices and fostering a sense of civic responsibility among its residents. Key highlights contributing to this achievement include innovative waste disposal initiatives and a sustained community awareness campaign. The award was received by Puneet Sharma, Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu along with Rajat Abrol, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Katra and Nitin Sharma, Sanitary Inspector, Municipal Committee, Katra. This prestigious accolade is a testament to the tireless efforts put in to maintain highest standards of cleanliness, implementing effective waste management practices and fostering a sense of civic responsibility.

Over Rs. 5 lakh penalty imposed on machinery involved in illegal extraction

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, JANUARY 11: Over 5 lakh penalty has been imposed by District Mineral Officer Kathua, Rajinder Singh on machinery involved in illegal extraction in Bhini River of Billawar areas, here today. On receiving information of illegal mining and transportation at Hotter area along the Bhini River, a joint team of mining department and Billawar police rushed to the spot and seized whole machinery which included two JCBs, two dumpers and one tractor trolley.

The DMO informed that while seizing the vehicles including JCBs, measurement of excavated area was recorded on the spot by officials of department and the penalty was imposed on the perpetrators as per extant rules and regulations. It was

also found that the machinery was illegally deployed by a contractor for extracting material from a location in the Bhini River which is almost three km away from a sanctioned minor mineral block only to evade the royalty. Strict instructions were issued to the contractor and other construction agencies for transporting minor minerals only from allotted sites and not to indulge in illegal mining which results in heavy loss to the natural resources and government exchequer. Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas has already directed the mining department to keep regular check on the mining activities and initiate stern action against those involved in illegal mining business. Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas has already directed the mining department.

Reasi: Grievances Redressal Camp organised at Kanthi Panchayat

■ HT News Network

REASI, JANUARY 11: A Grievances Redressal Camp was organized in Panchayat Kanthi, on the direction of District Development Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan, to address the concerns faced by the general public. This initiative marked the first of its kind, showcasing a commitment to reach out and assist people in the far-flung regions with limited connectivity.

The event saw the participation of SDM Dharmari and all sub-divisional officers, who dedicatedly listened to the grievances and issues raised by the people. Notably, the officers even travelled on foot for two



hours to reach the camp due to the lack of road connection in the region. SDM Dharmari, as the chairman of the Block Diwas, attentively heard the public grievances and assured them of support in resolving their issues.

Several key demands were projected before the

administration, prominently including augmentation of road infrastructure, implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme, repair of Power transmission lines, adequate teaching staff in schools, and the construction of essential infrastructures like bridges and additional rooms for

schools.

The SDM Dharmari took note of each matter and pledged to address them effectively. He also assured the public that efforts would be made to rationalize the distribution of teaching staff and expedite the construction of crucial infrastructure, ensuring that no issue was overlooked.

Furthermore, concerns related to pending payments, closure of work under various schemes, allocation of land to the landless, organization of Aadhar card update camps, and restoration of irrigation canals were also comprehensively discussed with the commitment to find prompt solutions.

Babila Rakwal reviews working of Cooperative department

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 11: Secretary, Cooperative Department, Babila Rakwal, today held a meeting with senior officers of both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir to review district wise progress of Cooperative Societies at Civil Secretariat here.

Registrar, Cooperative Societies J&K, Mohammad Shafiq, Director Finance, Cooperative Department; Additional Secretary, Cooperative Department, ARCS, Joint Registrar, Cooperatives (B&F); Joint Registrar Cooperatives Audit, Joint Registrar Cooperatives Special and all Deputy Registrars from both the divisions attended the meeting in person and virtually.

The Deputy Registrars from all districts of the UT gave a power point presentation regarding various issues including present status of functional and non-functional Co-operative Societies and deliverables in respect of new registration of PACS, FPOs, revival of defunct Cooperatives, audit of



Cooperative Societies, conduct of awareness camps and training of members.

The Secretary directed the Deputy Registrars to explore possibilities of utilizing existing vacant godowns of Cooperative department so that 5 grain storage godowns could be developed in each district. She also directed them to take necessary steps for setting up of five Jan Aushadi Kendras in each district through PACS by March 2024. The Secretary stressed upon the concerned officers to complete Capex works in a time bound manner. She said one PACS is to be identified per district and projected as a model PACS and Co-operatives have to identify GI tagged product.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: IEC Van Traverses across panchayats of block Nowshera, Seri in Rajouri District

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 11: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has become a driving force in the implementation of government schemes and ushering in comprehensive development in Rajouri district. This ambitious initiative is strategically crafted to transform Rajouri by extending its reach to underserved areas and ensuring the effective execution of government programs, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

Today, the VBSY IEC vans traversed through the panchayats of Dhanaka, Nonial Upper, Nonial Lower, Chowki, Dharat, Mangal Devi-B, Dabbar Potha-A and Dabbar Potha-B of block Seri and Nowshera. This strategic journey highlights the Yatra's commitment to reaching every corner of the



district and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives are felt at the grassroots level.

The impact of the Yatra is evident in enhanced access to healthcare, education, and basic amenities, contributing to the overall progress of Rajouri District. Meticulously planned and executed, this initiative aligns with the core objective of holistic development, leaving a lasting and positive impact on the community. The VBSY symbolizes

progress and collaboration, embodying the spirit of Viksit Bharat Sankalp. By bringing government schemes to the grassroots level and ensuring comprehensive coverage, it has created a platform for empowerment and upliftment. This transformative journey in Rajouri District stands as an exemplary model of effective governance, community engagement, and collective determination to build a better and prosperous India.

Aijaz Asad reviews working of PD&MD, Economics & Statistics deptt

Advocates added emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals

■ HT News Network

JAMMU 11: Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a meeting of officers of PD&MD and Department of Economics and Statistics, J&K, at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting was also attended by Kashmir based officers virtually.

A detailed presentation was displayed during the meeting highlighting various functions of Planning, Development and Monitoring Department.

The administration section of PD&MD informed the Secretary about the ongoing initiatives, court cases, RTI cases, SRO-43/ RAS cas-



es, grievances and other administrative issues. Besides, the physical and financial progress on Centrally Sponsored Schemes like BADP, PMDP and RMIS was also present-

ed to the Secretary.

The status of programmes like Pro Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), Project Monitoring Group (Central/ UT),

E-Smiksha, Prime Minister's Reconstruction 20 Points Programme, Aspirational District/ Block/ Panchayat Programmes, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), District Good Governance Index (DGGI) and Departmental Deliverables was also highlighted during the meeting.

Director General, Economics and Statistics, informed the Secretary that the DPCs have been convened both at gazetted as well non-gazetted level and a number of officers have been promoted to the higher ranks.

He further apprised the Secretary that the department has undertaken 100 per cent physical verification of completed works besides evaluation studies of schemes and projects.

Empowering Women through Awareness: Mission Shakti Event held at Kashtigarh

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 11: An impactful awareness program orchestrated by DHEW Mission Shakti Doda unfolded today at Zarger Mohalla, Kashtigarh. Under the insightful direction of the District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi, the event marked a collaboration between DHEW Mission Shakti Doda, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Department, and JKRLM.

The primary focus of the program was

to sensitize women about various women-centric welfare schemes such as Old Age Pension (OAP), Pension for Childless Parents (PCP), Widow/Divorce Pension, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), and Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). These schemes aim to provide financial assistance and support to women in different stages of life. Additionally, the awareness initiative shed light on women's income generation schemes like Tejaswini, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Jammu & Kashmir.

EDITORIAL

Salaat - Discipline, Consistency, Positivity

In the tapestry of Islamic practices, Salaat (prayer) stands as a cornerstone, weaving threads of discipline, consistency, and positive transformation. Beyond its religious significance, Salaat serves as a profound vehicle for self-improvement, fostering qualities that ripple through one's life and contribute to the greater good.

The regularity of Salaat instills discipline, creating a structured framework for daily life. The five daily prayers act as rhythmic anchors, grounding individuals amidst life's turbulence. This discipline permeates into other facets of life, cultivating a sense of order and purpose.

Through the commitment

to Salaat, individuals

learn to allocate time,

navigate the chaos with

Consistency, another

habits that extend

The regular connection

as a compass, guiding

fastness in their actions.

reinforces the idea that

yield significant results.

erful motivator, encour-

persistent in their pur-

societal excellence.

Salaat is a transfor-

individuals toward posi-

prayer promotes self-

a heightened aware-

becomes a catalyst

prompting believers to

and nurture virtues. The

sparked by Salaat

growth, radiating out-

communities positively.

The ripple effect of disciplined and consistent prayer is

evident in the broader social landscape. Individuals who

engage in Salaat become beacons of compassion, empathy,

and justice. The values instilled during prayer translate

into actions that contribute to the welfare of society. Salaat,

therefore, becomes a catalyst for collective progress,

fostering a community grounded in principles of fairness,

kindness, and cooperation.

Salaat in Islam is not merely a ritual, it is a dynamic force

that shapes individuals and communities. Through its

emphasis on discipline, consistency, and positive change,

Salaat acts as a transformative journey towards a better

self and a more compassionate society. The regular practice

of Salaat is a beacon, illuminating the path to a life of pur-

pose, discipline, and a commitment to the greater good.

HT FRIDAY COMPASS

prioritize tasks, and

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pillar of Salaat, shapes

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Consistency in Salaat

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This principle is a pow-

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for self-improvement,

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transformative journey

transcends individual

wards to influence com-

Allama Shaykh Dr. Ghulam Rasool Hami: An Epitome of Knowledge

■ [Shajaat Hussain Ahanger](#)

Every Sufi admirer loves to hear the name Allama Shaykh Dr. Ghulam Rasool Hami, a well-known figure from the Kashmir Valley who remains a symbol of Sufi knowledge and culture. His whole life has been devoted in promoting Sufi culture and fortifying the ties that bind many social groups in the society for peace, harmony and brotherhood. Also, he is the founder and chairperson of Karwani Islami International, the largest non-profit Sunni socio-religious organization in Jammu and Kashmir which is a great resource for credible work in Islamic research and thought working for the promotion of peace and harmony between communities and the revival of spiritual endeavour based on the true teachings of Islam. Dr. Hami is a real-life example of deep classical knowledge, humanism, love, harmony, pure spirituality, and intellectual enlightenment. He is renowned for his passionate efforts to build closer ties between people by promoting tolerance, communication, integration, and education. He creates an inspiring relationship between the past and his vision of the future and provides solutions to the current issues. He has been educating thousands of people worldwide; including ulema, scholars, students, intellectuals in Hadith, Tafsir, Sufism, Seerah, Islamic philosophy, Dars-e-Masnavi, and many other logical and traditional sciences, additionally he delivers extremely educational and motivational weekly Friday lectures to large gatherings in Kashmir because in his speeches he is able to relate Islamic teachings in a way that local Muslims find it easy to understand. Dr. Shaykh Hami has been widely recognized by governmental and non-governmental organizations for promoting peace and harmony across the globe and has always served as a global ambassador for Kashmir's unity and multicultural diversity. He is noted for the construction of numerous mosques, Islamic schools, Madrasahs, libraries and diagnostic centres across Jammu and Kashmir. His key educational goals are knowledge acquisition, which include raising moral and spiritual awareness, possessing good character and divinity awareness. Keeping these ideas in mind the estab-



lishment of Shaikh Ul Alam Research University of Kashmir (SARUK), with the name of renowned religious scholar Hazrat Sheikh Ul Alam Sheikh Noor Ud Din Noorani (RA) under the educational program "Minaz Zulumaat-i-Ilan Noor" of Karwani Islami International which would develop Islamic research and character development, was proposed by Dr. Hami as an example of how Islamic ideals and principles influence the educational system. In an effort to stop the drug problem from getting worse quickly, Karwani Islami International-affiliated educational and religious institutions are taking on a significant role in Kashmir by acting as counselling and spiritual centres. These infrequent actions coincide with the Valley's ongoing battle with drug addiction; as in 2022, the Jammu and Kashmir government officially classified nearly 10 lakh individuals as drug addicts across the

region. Dr. Hami believes that spiritual centres should be implemented more often than Drug rehabilitation centres throughout the valley since they can offer addicts more relief by establishing a spiritual connection with the supreme Allah. Dr. Hami is a multi-linguist and can fluently speak Urdu, English, Arabic and Persian which makes him popular amongst religious scholars from multiple regions. He has written several books that have been published and delivered thousands of lectures on a range of topics that have been broadcasted on local and national networks. Also Dr. Hami has received numerous honors, awards and degrees in recognition of his ongoing contributions to a variety of fields, including international conferences, charitable endeavours, and Islamic teachings. Mewar University, an Autonomous body, set up by the Government of Rajasthan and promoted by the Mewar

Education Society (MES) recently awarded the HONORARY DOCTORATE (Ph.D) degree to him for exhibiting extraordinary success in propagating Sufi culture, peace and harmony throughout the country. This award is an appropriate honour to his exceptional work over several decades in the field of Islamic teachings, encouraging harmony, peace, and brotherhood in Kashmir. Also, his spiritual teaching and support have encouraged hundreds of young people in the society to relapse from drug addiction. Dr. Hami always stresses on the need of understanding the current environment and the methods used to acquire knowledge and moral character. He is not only just a gifted preacher but also a skilled administrator, experienced teacher, and a spiritual leader of Sufism who is an epitome of knowledge.

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Voice Of Voiceless Rehbari Khail Teachers



■ [By Mool Raj](#)

A country that aspires to be a fully developed nation, global power and the strongest economy by 2047 cannot exploit its youth by giving a salary of 100 /day. Yes, I am talking about the scheme in vogue, namely the REK scheme. The biggest tragedy is that PHD NET SET & JRF qualifiers have been engaged under this scheme. These prestigious national level exams make one eligible to teach at university level but here the fate is reversed. Isn't it a shame?

Keeping in view the growing career options in the field of sports and the momentum the sports field was gaining, a new hope rejuvenated and thousands of students from Jammu and Kashmir switched to higher studies in the physical education subject during the last one decade. But in reality only hopelessness is reigning and the colossal statements about the sports culture look contrast to the tall claims about the sports ecosystem of the country. The sports teachers, who encourage, trains and teach the students in hundreds of institutions across the country are hopeless about their future.

Observing that the unemployed youth with the degrees in physical education are mounting in alarming numbers. The then Govt in the year 2018, decided to absorb these degree holders in youth services and

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sports department. A scheme namely Rehbari-Khail was introduced, and consequently almost three thousand degree holders were engaged across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. Most of the engaged candidates are postgraduates, and there are a considerable number of NET, SET, M.Phil and PhD pass out as well. I being a PHD with JRF, NET, SET feel dejected and disappointed choosing it as a career option because the terms and conditions laid down in the scheme are two harsh, cruel, inhuman and unjust. According to the scheme, a Rehbari-Khail teacher is given a stipend of rupees three

thousand per month that too for seven long years.

What could be more bizarre and cruel than this! Besides adding insult to injury, there is no service inclusion of these seven years for these unfortunate and unprivileged teachers. It is more like forced labour than a profession. We have been knocking different corridors of power since 5 year so as to get the scheme modified. From protests to meetings, we did everything in a democratic manner but in response we got assurances from the higher authorities only. Our applications are biting dust in the official shelves

of the secretariat.

Very recently, some Rehbari-Khail teachers with extraordinary sports achievements staged a unique way of protest in Jammu. These teachers put their national and international medallions and certificates on sale. It was an attempt to mock and ridicule the official insensitivity towards the teachers who have glorious sports and academic backgrounds to their credit. When a labourer, a carpenter or a mason is paid rupees seven to eight hundred a day, isn't it shocking that an REK teacher is being paid only one hundred rupees a day. Is it possible to manage our

families on this amount with old parents at home.

We don't have money to buy even life saving medicines for them. Majority of the teachers are married and facing depression. They are hardly able to meet their personal demands and their families are craving for pennies because of this official apathy and discrimination.

The well-being of every individual in the state is the moral responsibility of a government, but if the government is exploiting its workforce, then who will come to their rescue? Handsome salary is a great motivation for a person to give his/her best.

The Rehbari-Khail teachers are dejected and sad. People at the helm of affairs should take a Humanitarian look at the matter, and the Rehbari-Khail scheme must be modified to benefit thousands of poor Rehbari-Khail teachers. The monthly stipend should be increased to a handsome level which would uphold labour laws of our erstwhile state and the country. The quantum of our unrecognized service should either be changed or at least reduced to two years.

We deserve compassion and mercy. The recent cabinet decision to cancel the SRO 202 have sent waves of optimism among the physical education teachers and their families. It has rather paved the way for the resolution of their genuine demands. When the government has delivered justice to SRO 202 appointees, why can't it resolve the issue of these poor teachers? The way developmental works are prioritised and getting a new impetus under the present regime, we hope that the Lieutenant Governor will listen to our plight and announce some relief for this unfortunate lot.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2023?

A TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS IN INDIA

India had a lot to celebrate this year – a new Parliament, two successful space missions and an effective rescue mission to drill out people stuck inside a collapsed tunnel. But the ethnic violence in the Northeast that led to hundreds of people losing their lives, multiple natural disasters and accidents killing scores and reputed women wrestlers of the country fighting against sexual harassment also dominated the headlines this year.

Here, we look at some of the key stories that shaped the country this year:

January

2023 kicked off on a rocky start as the country was hit by several Indian wrestlers levelling allegations of sexual misconduct against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Led by Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and Bajrang Punia, several wrestlers staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, demanding that WFI be disbanded, its president be sacked, and a probe be conducted into the matter.

February

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was arrested after around eight hours of interrogation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding the alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. The chain of events culminating in Sisodia's arrest by the CBI began in July 2022, when Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar submitted a report to Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, accusing Sisodia of providing undue benefits to liquor vend licensees in lieu of "kickbacks" and "commissions", which were allegedly used by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Punjab Assembly elections in February that year.

March

Elections in the Northeast and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha is what grabbed the headlines throughout March.

The BJP emphatically won the Tripura Assembly elections and returned to power in Meghalaya and Nagaland as a junior partner in ruling coalitions. The party overcame a Left-Congress alliance and the TIPRAMotha, which had emerged as a force to reckon with in tribal seats, to bag 32 seats in Tripura, one more than the majority mark. It retained power in Nagaland along with senior alliance partner Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party. In Meghalaya,

the National People's Party emerged as the single-largest party. The NPP and the BJP ruled the state together for five years but contested the elections separately. However, they decided to tie up again to form the government in the state.

Later in the month, the Congress party was dealt a severe setback as Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from the Lok Sabha, a day after he was convicted in a defamation case by a Surat court. A notice issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat said he stood disqualified from the House from March 23, the day of his conviction.

April

India officially surpassed China to become the most populous country in the world, estimating to touch 142.86 crore by the middle of this year, marginally ahead of China at 142.57 crore. According to projections by the United Nations, India's population is expected to grow for the next three decades after which it will begin declining.

In April, the country also saw the encounter of a gangster-turned-politician in Uttar Pradesh and the arrest of a Khalistani separatist. While Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf were shot dead in the presence of police personnel and media persons on April 15 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, a few days later, radical Sikh self-styled preacher and Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh was arrested by the Punjab police from the Moga district after a month-long chase.

May

The month started off with violent clashes breaking out at various places in Manipur during the course of a 'Tribal Solidarity March' called on May 3 by the All Tribal Students' Union. The development reopened an old ethnic faultline in the state between the plain-dwelling Meitei community and the hill tribes.

However, later in the month, India got a new Parliament building, 'embodying the culture, pride and spirit of the entire nation'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech, the centre-piece and concluding note of the inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28, sought to place this moment in a longer and wider national imagination. Built at an estimated cost of Rs 971 crore, sitting adjacent to the existing Parliament House, the building can accommodate 888 parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha and 300 in the Rajya Sabha,

up from the existing 543 and 250, respectively.

June

Over 280 people killed, more than 850 injured — India was mourning after a horrific collision involving the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express, the SMVT Bengaluru-Howrah Express and a goods train took place near Bahanaga Bazar station on June 2. The Coromandel, instead of going past the goods train on the main line, entered the loop and smashed into the goods train from the rear. Pictures from the spot show the Coromandel's locomotive perched atop the goods train.

July

Tragedy continued into the next month for India as a video showing two women from the Kuki-Zomi community being paraded naked by a mob of men and being sexually assaulted began doing the rounds, bringing to light an incident which took place in Manipur more than two months ago, when violence first started. Barely two days before a police complaint was filed in connection with incident, another zero FIR in another case was registered at the same police station — in connection with the alleged abduction, rape and murder of two Kuki-Zomi women.

Added to this was Himachal Pradesh enduring a tumultuous period battling extreme weather situations leading to devastating landslides, widespread damage and collapse of several buildings. Three spells of excessive rain wreaked havoc in Himachal. Extreme events such as flash floods, cloudbursts, landslides, subsidence, and sinking of land devastated lives and property especially in Mandi, Kullu, Manali, Shimla and in some parts of Kangra. According to the government's assessment, the state suffered a loss of Rs 12,000 crore.

However, a silver lining to the tumultuous month was the launch of India's moon mission — Chandrayaan-3 — on July 14.

August

India was celebrating this month as its Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 scripted history by successfully landing on the lunar surface on August 23. With the Lander accomplishing a 'soft landing' on the Moon's south pole, India became the only country to have ever done so.

On the political front, the Congress breathed a sigh of relief as their senior leader Rahul Gandhi returned to Parliament after the Supreme Court stayed his conviction in a 2019 criminal defamation

case over his remarks on the 'Modi' surname. The Lok Sabha Secretariat notified the restoration of Rahul's membership, about four months after it was revoked.

September

This month was all about the G20 Summit in New Delhi as leaders from the most powerful nations in the world flocked to the capital. The culmination of India's year-long presidency of the G20, the summit concluded with the adoption of a G20 Leaders' Declaration. India's presidency came at a time when the world was undergoing a geo-political churn. The Russia-Ukraine war had impacted the global economy after two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. The economic shock of these twin events had a deep impact on developing and under-developed countries — the war came at a time when these countries were just trying to get back on their feet with the post-pandemic economic recovery.

It had been nearly five months since the first clashes broke out in Manipur during a tribal solidarity march but the situation continued to remain tense. Intermittent violence — emerging from an ethnic conflict between Meitei and Kuki communities — has continued to keep the state on the boil, claiming over 175 lives and injuring more than 1,000.

October

Over 70 people were killed, including Army personnel, in Sikkim after the South Lhonak Lake — a glacial lake situated in the state's northwest at 17,000 ft — burst due to incessant rains, leading to the release of water in downstream areas. This caused the rise of water levels in Teesta river that flooded at least four districts, including Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi on October 4.

Later in the month, the Supreme Court unanimously declined to recognise same-sex marriages, saying it can only be done by the legislature and that any attempt by the court to do so would amount to encroaching upon the field set for the legislature. The month also saw a series of blasts at a Sunday prayer convention of the Christian denomination Jehovah's Witnesses near Kochi in Kerala. At least 7 people died and over 30 were injured.

November

The election fever returned to the country as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram

went to the polls this month. From high-octane campaigning to poll promises, parties went all out to set the tone ahead of the big 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

1.4 billion people across the country suffered a heartbreak this month as India fell short of winning the ODI World Cup after a terrific campaign. For 40 nights since their first win against Australia in Chennai, India strode like the invincibles, but would stumble on the 41st night to a tame defeat.

The highlight this month, however, was the mammoth rescue operation to drill out 41 workers who were trapped following a tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand. A collective sigh of relief coursed across a nation after rescuers reached the 41 workers trapped, capping an operation that lasted over 400 hours. It was a test of resolve, grit and perseverance — for those on both sides of the 57 metres of debris — as the rescue operation suffered one setback after another. In the final lap over the weekend, the drilling machine gave way, and, in the end, it was 14 "rat-hole miners" who dug through the last 12 metres and reached the trapped men.

December

The month kicked off with Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram getting new governments as the results of the Assembly polls were announced on December 3 and 4. With its landslide win in Madhya Pradesh, and having overturned Congress governments in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is now in power in 17 states and Union Territories.

For the Congress, after a disappointing counting day, its win in Telangana was just a consolation prize. The Congress's strong performance, with 64 seats and 39.4% of the vote share, however, solidifies its presence in the South.

On the 22nd anniversary of the Parliament attacks, in a major security breach, two men jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery on December 13, raised slogans and opened canisters that emitted yellow smoke, triggering panic among those present and raising questions of what if. The two men held in Lok Sabha were seated in the visitors' gallery and took out canisters from their shoes. Television footage showed them jumping from desk to desk, and they appeared to be headed towards the Well of the House.

2024 WILL WITNESS MASSIVE SPACE LAUNCH PROGRAMMES BY INDIA, CHINA AND JAPAN

Japan Is Following India's Chandrayaan-3 Success Soon Through Its Landing On Moon

■ By Girish Linganna

In 2024, the global space launch landscape is expected to see increased activity from both public and private sectors in countries like China, India, and Japan, following a year dominated by SpaceX.

Chinese startup LandSpace Technology is set to introduce reusable rockets by 2025, following a strategy similar to SpaceX. Meanwhile, India is preparing for a sequence of flight tests leading to a manned space mission, also targeted for 2025.

Japan is striving to become the fifth country to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon this month. This follows India's achievement with Chandrayaan-3, which landed on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023. India has reportedly returned the propulsion module used for Chandrayaan-3 to Earth's orbit, potentially setting the stage for a future mission to bring back lunar samples.

Japan's involvement in space exploration dates back to 1970 when it became the fourth nation to launch a satellite into orbit, following the Soviet Union, the United States, and France. In recent times, China and India have emerged as significant players in space exploration. China announced its goal to send astronauts to the Moon by 2030. Meanwhile, India has ambitious plans for establishing a space station by 2035 and aims to send its first astronaut to the Moon by 2040.

Shogo Yakame, a business consultant at Nomura Research Institute, expressed to the Financial Times his belief that India is likely to become a more formidable competitor in space to Japan than China. He pointed out the dynamic nature of India's commercial space sector as the basis for his opinion.

Japan is set to demonstrate its advanced space technology with a groundbreaking lunar mission scheduled for January 20. The mission involves the Smart Lander for Investigating the Moon (SLIM), which aims to achieve the world's first "pinpoint" lunar landing. SLIM is expected to land within 100 meters of a designated target, located near the Shioli Crater by the Sea of Nectar, just south of the Moon's equator.

To achieve a precise lunar landing, Japan's SLIM spacecraft employs a combination of a radar altimeter and a vision-based navigation system. This system identifies crater patterns and compares them with existing map data in real-time, aiding in obstacle avoidance and locating a smooth landing area. The 2.4-meter lander is uniquely designed to fall onto its side if it lands on a slope, a feature intended to stabilize its position upon touchdown.

The precision landing ability of Japan's SLIM and the surface data it gathers will play a crucial role in future lunar missions. This includes a collaborative mission between India and Japan in 2025, aimed at exploring water resources in the Moon's polar regions. Additionally, Toyota Motor

and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries are developing a pressurized rover for astronaut use on the lunar surface. The development of this rover is set to begin in 2024, with a planned launch in 2029.

The escalating rivalry in the space sector is underscored by SpaceX's impressive achievement of launching nearly 100 rockets in 2023, propelling commercial space endeavours to unprecedented levels. On November 2, CEO Elon Musk announced on platform X that Starlink, the company's satellite phone service, had reached cash flow break-even. This service, relying on a network of over 5,500 satellites, offers global broadband connectivity. It garnered widespread attention for its role in assisting Ukrainian forces during the conflict with Russia.

Yakame remarked on the once-unthinkable feasibility of a service like Starlink, highlighting the immense challenges and costs associated with constructing, launching, operating, and maintaining a large number of satellites, as well as the complexity of establishing connections with rapidly orbiting satellites in low Earth orbit. He mentioned the attempt by Iridium, a company based in the United States, to offer a comparable service in the 1990s, which ultimately did not succeed.

Space activities have evolved through various phases, beginning with the creation of launch vehicles, followed by the deployment and use of satellites, and then the exploitation of space

environments, for instance in space stations. Seiji Izumisawa, CEO of Mitsubishi Heavy, conveyed to the Financial Times, that the forthcoming phase would be centred on commercialization.

On February 15, Japan is set to launch the H3, its next-generation rocket, aspiring to rival SpaceX's Falcon 9. This launch comes after an initial attempt on March 7 was unsuccessful due to an electronics problem. Mitsubishi Heavy, the company behind the H3, aims for the rocket to be competitive with the Falcon 9 in cost, even if not in launch frequency, and plans to achieve up to six launches annually.

Since Russia's Soyuz rocket became unavailable due to the country's invasion of Ukraine, businesses seeking satellite launches have increasingly turned to SpaceX as their preferred provider.

In 2023, the United States led in space launches with a total of 103, while China followed with 61, and Russia with 18, as per Space-Track.org data, a satellite data platform run by the US Department of Defense. Atsushi Murakami, president of Satellite Business Network, a consultancy firm, noted that the United States and China are prevailing forces in the space sector and are further extending their lead, raising the question of whether Japan can make a significant entry into this competitive arena.

Japan, in contrast to countries like the US, India, or China, lacks the financial capacity to independently execute large-scale space missions. Therefore, its primary strategy is to focus on technology

development and become a crucial partner in the space sector.

In the realm of space launches, a key emphasis is on reusability, a concept spearheaded by SpaceX. The company achieved a milestone by successfully landing a rocket booster post-launch in 2015, and later, in 2017, it launched a reused booster. Currently, SpaceX is working on the large-scale Starship cruise ship, which is intended for human missions to the Moon and Mars. The Starship is designed to be refuelled and relaunched after returning from space.

SpaceX continues to be the sole commercial company with reusable rockets in operation. However, China's LandSpace, which successfully completed its initial satellite launch in December, has announced plans to launch a reusable rocket by 2025.

LandSpace's rocket, similar to SpaceX's Starship, will utilize methane as its fuel source. This choice is gaining interest due to the possibility of producing methane-based fuel on Mars using local resources like carbon dioxide and water from ice, which could make return missions from Mars more practical. Additionally, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy are working on a methane-powered rocket, aiming for a potential launch around 2030. (IPA Service)

The author is a Defence, Aerospace & Political Analyst based in Bengaluru

Prerna Puri chairs public darbar in Budgam

Asks district admin to ensure timely resolution of public issues, prompt service delivery

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, JANUARY 11: Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology, Prerna Puri, today visited Budgam and presided over a public darbar to take stock of public issues besides reviewing developmental activities in the district. Deputy Commissioner, Akshay Labroo, Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Akhramullah Tak, Assistant Commissioner Development, Sub District Magistrates, Executive Engineers of different wings besides other district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion. The locals from different villages and towns, social activists, youth delegations and other prominent figures participated in the event and raised issues concerning their respective areas besides giving their suggestions on further streamlining of government functioning.

Addressing the public darbar, the Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon the district administration for ensuring timely resolution of public issues besides extending prompt service delivery to common masses.

Prerna Puri said that aim of conducting this people friendly event is to bridge gap between the administration and the people ensuring effective implementation of all government programs and policies. She said such events provide opportunities for government representatives and general public to share the same platform, listen to each other and discuss things threadbare to take them to their logical end.

Commissioner Secretary appreciated the district administration Budgam for its commitment towards sustainable development of the area specifically beautification of Budgam. She hoped that the administration shall continue to work with same spirit ensuring holistic develop-



ment of all towns of the district. She maintained that all issues and concerns projected by the participants during the public darbar shall be taken up with concerned quarters for prompt redressal. Prerna Puri instructed the officers of different departments to deeply examine all issues raised by the public and ensure timely action on the same. She urged upon general public to avail benefits of online services and opt for services through Digi- Dost application at their doorsteps. Commissioner Secretary emphasised on sensitization and awareness regarding online services through CSCs and other digital platforms for better and hassle-free service delivery to the general public. Prerna Puri also distributed sanction letters among

beneficiaries and felicitated various other beneficiaries under different schemes. She maintained that all issues and concerns projected by the participants during the public darbar shall be taken up with concerned quarters for prompt redressal. Prerna Puri instructed the officers of different departments to deeply examine all issues raised by the public and ensure timely action on the same. She urged upon general public to avail benefits of online services and opt for services through Digi- Dost application at their doorsteps. Commissioner Secretary emphasised on sensitization and awareness regarding online services through CSCs and other digital platforms for better and hassle-free service delivery to the general public.

Secretary Health & Medical Education makes surprise inspection at SMGS Hospital

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 11: Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today conducted a surprise inspection at Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital to assess the medical facilities provided there.

Accompanied by Principal GMC Jammu & Associated Hospitals, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Medical Superintendent SMGS Hospital, Dr. Dara Singh, EXEN, Heads of Departments, Senior Professors, Doctors, Paramedics, and other stakeholders, Dr. Abid Rasheed in detailed examined various departments. The Secretary's inspection covered ENT Head & Neck Surgery wards, NICU, Triage, Ayushman Bharat facilitation center, ICU of Gynecology & Obstetrics, and MICU. During his visit, Dr. Rasheed actively engaged with patients, their attendants, doctors, and paramedics, seeking valuable feedback on the quality of services and healthcare facilities at the hospital. Addressing the medical professionals, he emphasized the importance of promptly addressing any issues flagged by the staff. The Secretary



assured that the government considers the health sector a top priority and is committed to resolving identified concerns. Dr. Abid Rasheed also inspected the new block building, assessing key infrastructure components such as the oxygen plant, laundry, and parking space. He issued on-the-spot instructions to prioritize works in civil and mechanical engineering aspects.

Highlighting the hospital's potential to become a state-of-the-art facility, he expressed optimism about its growth. Dr. Rasheed inspected a 240-bedded maternity hospital and directed executive agencies to complete pending work within stipulated time, pledging enhanced maternity care services for the population of Jammu division.

The Secretary also reaffirmed the administration's commitment to delivering the best possible treatment and health facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The department continues to work tirelessly towards this goal, striving for excellence in healthcare provision, he added. Dr. Abid Rasheed also inspected the new block building, assessing key infrastructure components such as the oxygen plant, laundry, and parking space. He issued on-the-spot instructions to prioritize works in civil and mechanical engineering aspects. Highlighting the hospital's potential to become a state-of-the-art facility, he expressed optimism about its growth. Dr. Rasheed inspected a 240-bedded maternity hospital and directed executive agencies to complete.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma attends Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Panchayat at Seri

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 11: Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, Jammu-Poonch constituency, today joined the nationwide Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra public outreach campaign at Panchayat Seri in Block Bhalwal of Jammu District. He was warmly welcomed by the local residents and members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions who expressed their support for the initiative. The MP led a collective Sankalp pledge, instilling a sense of shared commitment towards making India a developed nation by 2047. He also interacted with the beneficiaries of various central government schemes and witnessed a live streaming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video message at the Government High School Seri, the venue for the day's event.

Addressing the gathering, Jugal Kishore Sharma highlighted the transformative impact of government flagship schemes like PM Awas Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Ujjwala Yojana and PM Jan Dhan Yojana on the lives of the citizens. He urged the people to spread awareness and avail the benefits of these schemes for maximum participation and empowerment. He also invited officials from different departments to explain their respective schemes and facilitate on-the-spot services for the people. Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasised the necessity for united efforts across society to realise the vision of a developed Bharat by 2047. He called upon the people to actively contribute to the nation's progress and support the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, which aims to bridge the gap between the government and the grassroots.

Secy Tourism reviews functioning of JKTDC; Asks Corporation to make their assets profitable

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 11: Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, after taking the charge of the department, recently chaired a meeting to review the functioning of J&K Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC).

Besides Managing Director JKTDC, the meeting was attended by other office bearers of the corporation and senior officers of the Tourism Department here.

The Commissioner Secretary had a holistic overview of business of the corporation. She enquired about its assets, their upkeep and utilization in realizing the revenue for JKTDC. She also asked about the staff strength of the corporation and their roles and responsibilities in running the business of the entity successfully.

Describing tourism business as highly profitable, the Commissioner Secretary asked the officials to explore the ways for optimum utilization of all assets of the corporation so as to fetch a good revenue and make the business profitable.

Yasha Mudgal directed the officers to hold the board meetings on regul basis for deciding the matters of the corporation and carrying out its activities smoothly. She asked them to be proactive in realizing all their outstandings besides being competitive in doing the business in the market.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

H Rajesh Prasad leads event in Jandore, seeks public feedback on govt schemes

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, JANUARY 11: Principal Secretary Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad, attended Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) events at Panchayat Jandore in Block Keerian Gandyal, Kathua today. The Yatra, aimed at highlighting government development initiatives, assessing progress and creating awareness about public welfare schemes, witnessed active participation and engagement from local residents. During his visit, the Principal Secretary interacted with the local community and sought their feedback on government schemes evaluating the ongoing development works in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Prasad highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision behind VBSY, emphasizing the importance of widespread awareness among rural masses, reaching the unreached population, and facilitating the utilization of government welfare schemes. He highlighted the transformative impact of VBSY in fostering development, promoting engagement with government schemes, and achieving saturation under citizen-centric initiatives. The symbolic arrival of the Viksit Bharat Rath (IEC Van) reflected



the government's commitment towards continuous public welfare and improved facilities at the grassroots level. The participants listened attentively to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recorded message, emphasizing their connection with the government's initiatives.

On the occasion, various beneficiaries shared their success stories under "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani," highlighting the tangible benefits derived from government welfare schemes such as PMAY, Ayushman Card, KCC, PMKISAN Nidhi, and Janani Suraksha Yojana.

Principal Secretary administered the "Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat" pledge to officials, PRI members and citizens, reinforcing the collective commitment towards nation's development.

Flipkart's F1 Info Solutions & Services Opens Dedicated Service Centers for Apple in Srinagar and Chennai

■ HT News Network

Srinagar - January 11, 2024: Flipkart's subsidiary and service arm, F1 Info Solutions & Services Private Limited, announced the opening of ded-



icated service centers for Apple in Srinagar and Chennai. At these dedicated service centers, one in each city, F1 Info Solutions & Services will deliver comprehensive post-purchase services for all Apple products, from mobile phones to laptops and beyond. At the dedicated service centers in Chennai and Srinagar, customers can get their Apple products, both in-warranty and out-of-warranty, repaired by highly qualified Apple-

certified technicians. Apart from these dedicated service centers, customers using Apple products can enjoy post-purchase services by trained technicians at 25 other service centers across the country. With a reputation for excellence, these tech-

nicians guarantee a swift turnaround time for repairs and services. The engineers undergo certified technical courses by the company. With a collaboration spanning over a decade, Flipkart and Apple have cultivated a relationship built on trust and unparalleled customer service. Currently, F1 supports Apple customers through 27 centers across the country. These centers offer walk-in services, on-site repair services for all Apple products under warranty & out of warranty and help desk support for enterprise customers. Customers can also buy genuine accessories and warranty extension packs (Apple Protect+) from these centers. Commenting on the collaboration, Dr. Nipun Sharma, CEO at Jeeves Consumer and F1 Info Solutions & Service, Flipkart Group, said, "We are thrilled to announce the inauguration of dedicated service centres for Apple in Srinagar and Chennai. This strategic expansion reflects our commitment to providing excellent and reliable post-purchase services to Apple users. With our team of highly skilled Apple-certified engineers and a decade-long partnership with Apple, we are confident in delivering swift and comprehensive support. We look forward to enhancing the overall customer journey and reinforcing our position as a trusted post-purchase service provider for Apple devices across India."

F1 Services has an extensive network of proprietary services and partner networks. It offers a wide range of comprehensive solutions such as repair, maintenance, installation, demo, and VAS (Value-added service), including protection and extended warranties, inbound, outbound, and non-voice customer care services covering over 40 product categories.

Mandeep Kaur reviews functioning of Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu Smart City Limited

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 11: Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today convened a comprehensive review meeting regarding functioning of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL). Commissioner Secretary directed the officers to ensure completion of all the projects undertaken by JMC and JSCL within fixed timelines. She emphasized the importance of transitioning towards a paperless work environment through full utilization of e-office potential. This move is expected to not only reduce bureaucratic hurdles but also enhance data security and facilitate faster decision-making processes within the department, she added. She laid emphasis on



implementation of online solutions to streamline administrative processes within the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Jammu Smart City Limited. She underscored the importance of embracing technology to enhance workflow efficiency, reduce paperwork and ensure a more responsive and agile municipal administration. Commissioner Secretary highlighted the importance of implementing effective revenue enhancement strategies to ensure financial sustainability for Jammu Municipal Corporation

and Jammu Smart City Limited. She also emphasized on increasing validity/ renewal period for different licenses/NOC as part of ease of doing business. The meeting discussed innovative approaches to boost revenue streams, ensuring that the municipal bodies are well-equipped to meet the growing demands of urban development while maintaining fiscal responsibility. In a move to streamline sanitation issues and garbage collection processes, Commissioner Secretary asked to ensure 100 per cent.

Secretary Revenue visits Kulgam, conducts public darbar

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, JANUARY 11: Secretary Revenue, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, today visited Kulgam and convened a public darbar, under the ambitious public outreach initiative of the government, to take stock of public welfare and development issues. Deputy Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner, Showkat Ahmad Rather, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vikar Ahmad Giri and other district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion along with scores of public delegations, activists and others. Transporters delegation, Fruit Growers and Traders Association, Tribal delegation, Aukaf Committee Kulgam besides deputations from Kund, Devsar, Brazloo, D.H.Pora, Manzagam, Pombay, Pahloo, Qaimoh, Frisal, Yaripora and other areas participated in the camp and projected various issues and concerns relating welfare and development of their areas. The issues included transfer of land for augmentation of fruit Mandi Kulgam, establishment of Eklavya Model School at Kund, provision of adequate water supply at Pahloo, augmentation of power infrastructure, Cardiologist in DH, road constructions.

DEO Shopian reviews Spl. Summary Revision Directs maximum enrollment of new voters

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb, who is also District Panchayat Election Officer today, chaired a meeting of BLOs, VLWs to review the preparations for Revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll.

The meeting discussed various modalities for revision of Electoral roll.

The DC on the occasion, instructed officials to work dedicatedly and urged the participants to expedite the process of registrations with full efficiency and give 100% accuracy. He emphasised for door-to-door survey and said that no laxity of any kind will be tolerated in this regard.

Haseeb instructed the concerned to conduct revision strictly in accordance with the guidelines and complete the process within the given timelines. He also emphasised



sized upon the concerned to take utmost care while making the addition of new voters/left out voters.

On the occasion, SDM, Zainapora, Mush-taq Ahmed insisted on making the electoral process voter friendly and assisting

citizens at every stage for greater participation and said that the special camp dates should be made successful with good enrollment and making voters informed and empowered.

Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmed explained the

process and methodologies to be adopted for 100% coverage by door-to-door visit of the households and also briefed about the forms to be used during the revision process.

He urged the PEBO's to take all the stakeholders on board by ensuring that no voter is left behind. It was also advised to the PEBO's to take help from assembly BLO's in identifying voters who are enrolled in mother roll but are not included in Panchayat roll and the same need to be included in Panchayat rolls.

It was urged that special focus should be given to PWD voters, migrant voters and senior citizens and other vulnerable sections of the society and special camps should be organised with much publicity.

The meeting was attended by SDM Zainapora, Mushtaq Ahmed, Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmed, BDOs, PEBO's and other concerned officers/officials of the election department.

SMC hosts Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Camp at Daulatabad

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 11: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has success-

fully expanded the scope of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) by organizing a camp at Daulatabad within the SMC jurisdiction. The event, held at the Social Welfare Office, brought together officers and officials from various departments to engage with the local community and promote a spirit of collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

The gathering provided a valuable platform for representatives from diverse departments to interact with the citizens, with a focus on elucidating the core objec-

tives and procedural intricacies of their respective schemes. This initiative was designed to bridge the information gap and ensure that the local populace is well-informed about the numerous benefits and support systems available to them. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has successfully expanded the scope of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) by organizing a camp at Daulatabad within the SMC jurisdiction.

The event, held at the Social Welfare Office, brought together officers and offi-

cials from various departments to engage with the local community and promote a spirit of collaboration and knowledge-sharing. The gathering provided a valuable platform for representatives from diverse departments to interact with the citizens, with a focus on elucidating the core objectives and procedural intricacies of their respective schemes. This initiative was designed to bridge the information gap and ensure that the local populace is well-informed about the numerous benefits and support systems available to them.

DC Kupwara chairs Revenue Officers meeting.

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, Jan 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, Thursday Chaired a Revenue Officers meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the revenue matters.

At the outset, ACR Kupwara, Irfan Bahadur appraised the chair, regarding functioning of the revenue department.

The DC reviewed all agenda points including Digitization of Jammabandies, their Quality Check, digitization and Geo-referencing of Cadastral maps, SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas), inheritance mutations, PM Kisan related mutations and verification, generation and distribution of pass books.

The DC while stressing for better service delivery,



directed the officers and field functionaries for improving their performance and ensuring sticking to the timeline.

While reviewing the status of Jamabandies and quality check, DC gave a deadline of one week to officers to complete the process.

DC said that digitized Jammabandies should be 100% error free and emphasized upon the Officers to complete this process.

DC directed Officers to dedicate one week time for

verification of Jammabandies. DC asked Tehsildars to establish a control room in every tehsil, monitor this process and get it completed.

The DC also reviewed the status of court cases and directed Revenue officers to focus on Revenue Court Cases and get them uploaded on RCCMS (Revenue court Cases Monitoring System) Portal.

She stressed upon the officers to dispose of the PSGA cases within the timeline as per the rules.

DC Bandipora tours Main Market, interacts with Traders

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather, Thursday undertook a comprehensive inspection of the Main Market including Gulshan Chowk Bandipora, followed by visits to the under-construction multi-storey car parking and the S K Sports Stadium. On the occasion, the DC interacted with shopkeepers and members of the market association, assessing their concerns and needs for the continued development and beautification of the Main Market, especially Gulshan Chowk. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, urging shopkeepers to adopt sustainable waste management practices. He also assured them of full support from administration in addressing infrastructural challenges and promoting beautification within the market. The DC also visited the under-construction multi-storey car parking facility, a much-anticipated project aimed



at alleviating traffic congestion in the town. He reviewed the progress of the construction work, urging contractors to adhere to the set timelines and ensure quality standards.

He also toured the S K Sports Stadium, where he took stock of the condition of the old pavilion besides proposed site for new pavilion which is set to enhance the overall ambience and spectator experience. The DC was accompanied by ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandit, Tehsildar Bandipora Sheikh Tariq besides oth-

ers. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, urging shopkeepers to adopt sustainable waste management practices. He also assured them of full support from administration in addressing infrastructural challenges and promoting beautification within the market. The DC also visited the under-construction multi-storey car parking facility, a much-anticipated project aimed at alleviating traffic congestion in the town. He reviewed the progress.

District Mountaineering Association Srinagar body formed.

■ HT News Network

Srinagar 11 January 2024 District Mountaineering Association Srinagar conducted an election of district body for office bearers and executive members under the supervision of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat businessman and a reputed social worker of the area at Athwajan Srinagar. Mr Syed Mohammad Hussain president District Mountaineering Association Pulwama was observer in the elections. Representatives from different clubs of the district took part in the election process. The objective of making this association is to promote a sense of responsibility,

qualities of leadership, nature study development, human relations and preservation of the environment among the young generation. Voting was held and members present there showed great enthusiasm in electing the dedicated team for the development of adventure sports in the district. All the members were unanimously elected unopposed. The candidates who were declared successful in the elections include: 1. Muzaffar Ahmad Mir (PRESIDENT) 2. Mushtaq Ahmad Parrey (VICE PRESIDENT) 3. Irshad Ahmad Mir (GENERAL SECRETARY) 4. Adil Basir Rather (JOINT SECRETARY) 5. Tanveer Ahmad (TREASURER)

S U R E R) EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 1. Muzamil Akhter 2. Roshni 3. Irfan Sofi 4. Amin Ul Aziz 5. Arshad Majeed Bhat Mr Syed Mohammad Hussain President District Mountaineering Association of Pulwama thanked all the elected body members for participating in the elections and requested them to work with great zeal and interest for the upliftment of adventure sports in the district. He also assured the members all possible help from the mountaineering association of J and K. The meeting ended at 11 pm with a word of thanks to the chair.



VBSY Workshop held at GDC Boys Anantnag Sparks Youth Engagement for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 11: In a collaborative effort aimed at fostering youth participation in nation-building, Govt. Degree College Boys Anantnag (GDCA), in partnership with the District Administration, today organized a workshop themed "Viksit Bharat @ 2047 Voice of Youth" at the college's conference hall.

The workshop, held under the patronage of Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat, Principal of GDCA, sought to sensitize students about ongoing development activities at both the Union Territory and National levels. It served as a platform for planning developmental initiatives, envisioning a fully developed India by 2047.

The event witnessed participation from District Administration officials, NCC and NSS officers of GDCA, NCC and NSS student members, faculty, staff, and a large number of students who actively regis-



tered on www.mygov.in, sharing their visionary perspectives.

Commencing with an enlightening session, the workshop encouraged interactive discussions on crucial developmental aspects. Dr. Sartaj Ahmad Ganie, NSS Programme Officer and Head of the Department of Water Management, expressed gratitude and delivered a formal vote of thanks.

This initiative marks a significant stride towards channeling youth

energy and ideas for a progressive and developed India by 2047. GDC Anantnag is committed to empowering youth for active contribution to the nation's growth.

The Yatra, symbolizing unity and commitment, represents a collective aspiration towards achieving developed status by 2047. It highlights that the journey to a developed India transcends individual actions, emphasizing a shared vision for a stronger and more prosperous

Revolutionizing Public Services: DC Pulwama's extensive tour enhances Health & Water Infrastructure in Kakapora

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JANUARY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom took proactive strides to bolster public health and water services during a comprehensive tour of Block Kakapora. The focal points of the official visit were the Primary Health Centre Kakapora and the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme Kakapora, with an overarching commitment to advancing community well-being.

At the Primary Health Centre Kakapora, DC underscored the pressing need for operational efficiency. Delivering lucid directives to company officers, he stressed for the swift completion of essential works, prioritizing the delivery of enhanced health facilities to local residents.

Accompanied by Executive Engineer R&B, Chief Medical Officer, and other District and Sectoral officers, the DC meticulously surveyed all floors and rooms of the hospital building.

District Development Council Bandipora calls on Deputy Commissioner

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 11: The District Development Council (DDC) of Bandipora Thursday made a formal call on the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather to accord him a warm welcome and apprise him about the various developmental priorities of the district.

Led by Chairperson Abdul Gani Bhat and Vice-Chairperson Kousar Shafeeq, the DDC delegation, along with other DDC members, also apprised newly joined Deputy Commissioner about series of developmental strides made in the district in last 3 years and also about the close coordination and cooperation with District Administration Bandipora and assured similar support in future also.

Deputy Commissioner assured the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other members that he would prioritize addressing their concerns and work diligently to find solutions.

He also emphasized the importance of open communication and collaboration between the administration and the DDC.

Several Delegations call on DC Baramulla

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today met with various delegations from Baramulla district who extended their warm welcome to the commencement of his new assignment.

The delegations representing key sectors of development such as Fruit Mandi Sopore, Chemists and Drugists Association of Baramulla, Teachers Association Baramulla among others expressed their wholehearted support for the DC towards his endeavour for development and progress in the district.

The DC conveyed his gratitude for the warm welcome extended by these delegations. He acknowledged the significance of collaborative efforts in achieving development goals and emphasized the district administration's commitment to working in tandem with various stakeholders.

Minga Sherpa reiterated his openness to sustained dialogue and collaboration, underscoring the administration's firm belief in the transformative power of community engagement for the greater good of Baramulla district.

perous nation. The yatra leaves an indelible mark, reminding us of the collective effort needed to progress hand in hand towards a brighter future. Commencing with an enlightening session, the workshop encouraged interactive discussions on crucial developmental aspects. Dr. Sartaj Ahmad Ganie, NSS Programme Officer and Head of the Department of Water Management, expressed gratitude and delivered a formal vote of thanks. This initiative marks a significant stride towards channeling youth energy and ideas for a progressive and developed India by 2047. GDC Anantnag is committed to empowering youth for active contribution to the nation's growth. The Yatra, symbolizing unity and commitment, represents a collective aspiration towards achieving developed status by 2047. It highlights that the journey to a developed India transcends individual actions, emphasizing a shared vision for a stronger and more prosperous

Joint Director Employment Kashmir inaugurates Job Fair at Town Hall, Kupwara

07 Companies participated; 04 Unemployed youth provided on-spot offer letters, 60 candidates shortlisted for next rounds, 25 trainees provided skill development certificates

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 11: In an endeavour to provide a convenient platform to the educated unemployed youth/Job seekers and facilitate their interaction with Private Companies and Employers for Training, Skilling and placement, District Employment & Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Kupwara today organized a day-long Job Fair at Town Hall, Kupwara here. The Job fair was inaugurated by Joint Director Employment Kashmir, Ms Zeenat Ara in presence of Assistant Director Employment, DE&CC Kupwara, Ms Shabnam Arif Mir and other staff members of the department. Around 07 Private Companies from

diverse sectors including M/S P R AMERICA, M/S CAMPUS DIAL, M/S WEPS CIVIL AVIATION, M/S KOCHAR BPO, LTD, LIC and M/S MIRS JOB PLACEMENT participated in the event. The event saw an overwhelming response from Job seekers and companies. Joint Director Employment Kashmir visited the stalls and interacted with the participating youth and representatives of private companies. While addressing the youth, Joint Director Employment Kashmir emphasized upon them to come out of the traditional mindset and participate in such kinds of events to extend their horizons of vision and wisdom. She further briefed the audience about the options available in



the private sector, public sector and incentivized schemes under the self-employment sector. The Joint Director Employment appreciated the AD Employment and her team for organizing such a programme, where an educated unemployed youth is being offered an opportunity to interact and understand the opportunities in the private sector. The CEOs/Managing Directors and representatives of the participating

private sector establishments also spoke on the occasion and acquainted the participants regarding the job opportunities, skill development and employment-oriented courses offered by these companies. The 25 certificates of completion under the Skill Development Course "Domestic IT Helpdesk Attendant" offered by DE&CC Kupwara in collaboration with Wyath Service Pvt Ltd were distributed among the enrolled trainees who completed the training module by Joint Director Employment Kashmir. It is worth noting here that 04 trainees were already placed by the skill training partner in different private sector companies. Later 02 vehicle keys were also handed over to the beneficiaries under the Mumkin scheme by the JD

Employment. Career Counseling Officer, DE&CC Kupwara deliberated on the scheme and programmes of the department and opportunities available under the Mission Youth Framework. Young professional DE&CC Kupwara deliberated on the importance and preparation of a well-organized resume and was sensitized about the NCS portal an UT-level Employment portal. On the occasion, 04 Unemployed youth were provided on spot offer letter, 302 fresh registrations were made and 60 candidates were shortlisted for the next rounds. The programme was moderated by Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Employment Officer DE&CC Kupwara. Job seekers expressed their satisfaction and gratitude to the organizers for providing a suitable platform.

DC Baramulla conducts surprise visit of PHC Sheeri Takes stock of the healthcare facilities provided at the centre

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 11: In a concerted effort to ensure optimal functioning of the healthcare facilities, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today undertook a comprehensive visit to the Primary Health Center (PHC) in Sheeri. The visit, which spanned across all sections of the hospital, aimed at obtaining a first-hand appraisal of the services being provided to patients. During the visit, Block Medical Officer (BMO) provided the DC with a detailed overview of the healthcare facilities available at PHC Sheeri including the current infrastructure, medical staff, and the array of services offered to the community. As part of the assessment, the DC inspect-



ed the duty roster, emphasizing the significance of efficient workforce management to ensure round-the-clock healthcare

delivery. Later, Sherpa directly engaged with the local community, addressing their concerns and assured them that all genu-

ine grievances raised would be taken up in a time-bound manner. The DC expressed a firm commitment to improving healthcare services in the region, acknowledging the crucial role of PHC Sheeri in catering to the health needs of the local populace. The visit reflects a proactive approach to governance, with a focus on continuous improvement and community well-being. During the visit, Block Medical Officer (BMO) provided the DC with a detailed overview of the healthcare facilities available at PHC Sheeri including the current infrastructure, medical staff, and the array of services offered to the community. As part of the assessment, the DC inspected the duty roster, emphasizing the significance of efficient workforce management to ensure round-the-clock healthcare delivery. Later, Sherpa directly engaged.

Police observes "Thana Diwas" in various Police establishments

HT News Network

GANDERBAL :-As a part of public outreach programme and an initiative by Government of J&K, Police organized "Thana Diwas" at various Police establishments in Ganderbal, Kulgam, Pulwama, Budgam and Handwara Districts/PDs.

These programmes were chaired by the respective jurisdictional police heads/officers besides, SSP Ganderbal Shri Nikhil Borkar-IPS chaired the meeting organised in Kangan. These meetings were attended by respectable citizens, representatives of Traders Federation, Aukaf Committees, Panchs, Traders Federation and Transporters, DDCs, BDCs and Sarpanches. Besides, police officers and officials were also present on these occasions.

In these events, the participants highlighted various issues of public importance and they were assured by the chairing officers that their genuine grievances pertaining to police will be resolved on priority and that of civil administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal. Besides, the grievances were heard patiently and were segregated on the basis of area of action and jurisdiction. While speaking on these occasions, the chairing officers reiterated that the main aim of organising "Thana Divas, is to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in policing at grass-root level and to develop confidence among the people. The participants were impressed upon to co-operate with Police in maintaining Law & Order and crime free atmosphere in their respective areas.

The participants were also stressed upon to co-operate with Police in curbing the drug menace and in identifying anti-national and anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment.

Outgoing Director, Prof. Yedla bids emotional farewell to NIT Srinagar with deep love, satisfaction

HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 11: In a heartfelt departure, the outgoing Director of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Sudhakar Yedla on Thursday expressed his deep love for the institution as he gracefully stepped down from his position on January 09.

"I am leaving with a heavy heart, but also with immense satisfaction. Srinagar is a stunning campus filled with talented and enthusiastic people. It was an honour to work alongside them, and their unwavering support during challenging times means the world to me," he said in a message.

Prof. Yedla expressed gratitude to the NIT Srinagar community and offered heartfelt wishes for its continued success under the leadership of the new Director, Prof. Ravindranath.

"While I move on, the positive changes we initiated together will hopefully leave a lasting mark. I wish each one of you at NIT Srinagar happiness and great accomplishments in the years to come," he added.

The departing Director received a heartfelt farewell from the NIT Srinagar administration. The ceremony



was graced by the presence of Registrar Prof. Aatikur Rehman, senior faculty members, and administrative staff at the campus.

Prof. Yedla's departure was necessitated due to his parent institute regulations which restricted the extension of his Lien after the expiration of the approved leave by January 9, 2024. In compliance with these regulations, Prof. Yedla formally submitted his resignation before the Department of Higher Education, Government of India, seeking release from his responsibilities as the Director of NIT Srinagar.

Although reluctant to see him depart, the Department of Higher

Education, Government of India, acknowledged Prof. Yedla's commitment and facilitated his release, allowing him to resume his duties at his parent organization.

The outgoing Director, Prof. Yedla leaves behind a legacy of discipline, accountability, and positive change. During his eight months at the helm, his strict yet fair approach to discipline and commitment to rule-driven administration earned him both respect and admiration.

He successfully implemented reforms that brought greater accountability and transparency to the institute, laying the foundation for its continued growth.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra empowers residents at Sarai Nud in Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, JANUARY 11: Far Flung Panchayat Sarai, Block Nud, District Samba, on Thursday played host to a remarkable Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra amid enthusiastic participation of local residents and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). This Yatra, part of a nationwide initiative led by the Government, is dedicated to educate and empower citizens about flagship schemes and programs, with a focus on achieving 100% saturation of welfare initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, and more.

The residents of Nud warmly welcomed the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van and actively participated in various activities. They absorbed the message of the Prime Minister with keen interest, took the Viksit Bharat pledge, aligning themselves with the vision of a developed and prosperous India. Notable beneficiaries also shared their success stories through the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" initiative. The festive atmosphere was further heightened by cultural programs performed by school students, while on-site service stalls offered health camps, blood donation drives, eye check-ups, and various other facilities. The event garnered tremendous success, earning positive feedback from all segments of society.

NSUI seeks the redressal of students' issues from Jammu University administration.

HT News Network

JAMMU, NSUI JU held a press conference where they raised the issues faced by students in hostel allotment and submitted a memorandum to the university administration. While addressing the conference President Jatin Dogra, mentioned that yesterday, on January 10, 2024, the NSUI team submitted a memorandum to the university's provost. In the memorandum, they criticized SRO127 and explained how the administration's decision is causing difficulties for students.

Further Dogra mentioned that this year, the university's DSE committee has implemented SRO127, which affects hostel allotment. However, many students are not getting hostels due to the lack of consideration for distance.

As a result, students who live far away are facing problems with their studies. They also mentioned that the university administration is not responding appropriately when students try to communicate with them.

While addressing media Salik Ali Shah said it's a very genuine demand and University shouldn't neglect the Students of various reserved categories like SC, ST and OBCs and also they should consider the distance criteria. Even he raised that when students try to talk with the provost hostel his behaviour was not appropriate so at least he should take cognizance. Jatin Dogra's message was that the university administration should resolve this issue within a week, otherwise NSUI will protest against this decision. In this Press Conference Vice President Salik Ali, Media Incharge Sneha Kundal, Harris Ali, Nishyat Iqbal, Akshit

Nehru Yuva Kendra conducts awareness activities in connection with National Road Safety Week

Farooq Rather

Anantnag/Kulgam, January 11, 2024 Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) conducted a series of activities today across Kashmir division in connection with the National Road Safety Week. In Anantnag, NYK conducted an awareness campaign in collaboration with Traffic Police Department. Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic, Anantnag Shri Idrees Ahmad was the chief guest on the occasion. He flagged off an awareness rally on the occasion along with Deputy Director NYK Anantnag Sh Mohd Khalil. A large number of volunteers and Mahila Mandal members took part in the awareness rally. The members marched from District Police Lines to Mendi Kadal Anantnag.

In Kulgam, a similar programme was organized in collaboration with Traffic Police Department. Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic Kulgam Sh Majid Ahmad successfully flagged off the awareness rally in the district. Youth club members, volunteers and members of Mahila Mandal participated in the rally in large numbers.

DLSA Ganderbal organizes training programme for PLVs on POCSO Act

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 11: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora today organised training programme for PLVs and members of Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Board of District Ganderbal and Bandipora on POCSO Act, at conference hall District Court Ganderbal.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Chairman DLSA, Ganderbal; Amit Sharma, Chairman DLSA, Bandipora and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Ganderbal and Bandipora, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The programme was attended by the PLVs and members of Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Board of District Ganderbal physically, while as PLVs and members of Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board of District Bandipora attended the said training programme



virtually. Adv. S.M Mustehseen, trainer of the said training programme, educated participants about their role while dealing with victims of sexual abuse under the POCSO Act, 2012. He taught members of the Child Welfare Committee about their role in dealing with such victims as per the provisions of the Act. He said, in sexual abuse cases Child Welfare Committees have to ensure immediate assistance in terms of counseling, medical, shelter, etc. to the victim child and Statement of the child should be recorded by Child Welfare Committees and trustworthy person.

JKRLM & Food Safety Department collaborate to empower SHGs with Food Safety Training

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 11: Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) in collaboration with the Food and Safety Department Kashmir conducted a comprehensive training program on food safety for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of JKRLM.

The training program was conducted on the directions of Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib at Kashmir Haat, here.

The objective of the training program was to enhance the understanding and implementation of food safety practices among members of the SHGs involved in food-related businesses. The idea was to equip them with essential



food safety practices and standards. More than 30 SHGs of JKRLM, especially those dealing with the food sector, participated in the one-day training session, held under the supervision of District Program Manager Srinagar, Madina Bukhari. The program aimed to provide practical knowledge and skills to ensure the production, handling, and

storage of safe and hygienic food products. Various aspects of food safety were covered, including hygiene, prevention of cross-contamination, temperature control, and labeling requirements. The training program highlighted the importance of maintaining food safety standards to protect consumer health and enhance business credibility.

