



With Emphasis on Strengthening Industry-Academia Connect, Building Strong Relationship with Corporate

LG Manoj Sinha Chairs the Maiden Meeting of ABCDE at Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 18: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the first meeting of the Advisory Board for Creating and Developing Entrepreneurship (ABCDE), constituted under the aegis of J&K Higher Education Council, at Raj Bhawan today.

The meeting, attended by Prof Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council; Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Higher Education Department; Dr Mandeeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Vice Chancellor



of various Universities, Director, CIC Delhi University; Director Colleges and other Board members,



emphasised on strengthening of industry-academia connect and building new partnership with corporate.

The Lt Governor exhorted Higher Education Institutions of the Union

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Prolonged Dry Spell Sparks Surging Interest in Snowfall

Google Trends Reveals Increased Searches for Kashmir's Winter Wonderland

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 18: As an unexpected and prolonged dry spell grips the valley, Google Trends data has revealed that there has been a significant surge in Google searches for snowfall in Kashmir over the last month.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the unprecedented spike in virtual interest has been attributed to the extended period of dry weather, leaving locals as well as tourists yearning for the snowfall.

Google's search analytics depict a notable increase in queries related to "snowfall in Kashmir," "best time to visit Kashmir for snow," and similar snow-related topics.

For instance Google search related to the "snow forecast in Kashmir", which the Google Trends shows hit 14 mark on December 31 reached 100 on January 15.

Similarly searches which include "best time to visit Kashmir for snow" and "expected snowfall in

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NEWS BRIEF

Police attaches property of militant associate in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, JAN 18: Police on Thursday attached the property of militant associate in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Police along with concerned executive magistrate attached the residential property belonging to Abdul Salam Rather at Tangpawa Kokernag in Anantnag during the investigation of a case registered under sections 307 IPC, 7/25 I A Act, 16,18,19,20,23,38,39 UA (P) Act of Police Station Kokernag of 2022.

Police said during the investigation of the case, it had surfaced that Zahoor Ahmad Rather son of Abdul

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2-2.5 Hour More Power Curtailment In Offing In Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JAN 18: Kashmir Power Distribution Company Limited (KPDCL) Thursday announced the likelihood of an increase in electricity curtailment by 2 to 2.5 hours across Kashmir Valley during peak hours.

"This is for the information of the general public that due to a drastic reduction in power generation resulting in reduced availability of power, KPDCL shall be forced to temporarily increase the curtailment by 2 to 2.5 hours across Kashmir Valley during peak hours," KPDCL said in a post on X, according to GNS. "The temporary

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Ganderbal village grapples with monkey menace

GANDERBAL, JAN 18: The tranquil village of Ganie Mohallah Fraw in Ganderbal is grappling with a rising concern as monkeys from the nearby forest invade, prompting local residents to abandon their homes.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), over the past several years, a substantial number of these monkeys have infiltrated the village, seeking refuge near the power house and causing havoc in homes and fields.

Despite repeated pleas from residents to trim the overgrown vegetation around the power house, authorities have yet to take action.

The monkeys, now entrenched

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

PM Modi likely to inaugurate Jammu IIM complex in February

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to



inaugurate the modern technology laced new complex of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) constructed at Jagati in Nagrota area in the city outskirts.

The new building has come

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CS For Ensuring Functionality Of Assets Created For Rural Sanitation

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 18: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today while reviewing the updated scenario of Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) here impressed upon the concerned authorities to carry out frequent field visits to the nook and corner of the UT for having first hand appraisal about

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ED Attaches Rs 36.57 Cr Properties In J&K Medical Insurance Scam Case

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 18: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable and movable properties worth Rs 36.57 Crore in the alleged medical insurance scam case, officials said.



The immovable and movable properties were provisionally attached in the case of M/s Reliance General Insurance Pvt. Ltd. (RGIL) and M/s Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Private Limited (TRBL) related to fraudulent awarding of tender

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'Viksit Bharat Yatra' Raised Aspiration, Esteem In Common Citizen: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 18: "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" (VBSY) has raised aspiration and esteem in common citizen, and brought about change in the work culture both at political as well as official level, said Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh here on Thursday. The Minister was addressing media-persons after participating in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's



virtual interaction with beneficiaries of VBSY.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Panzath spring a source of drinking water for over 50k souls faces official apathy

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG (PANZATH), JAN 18: Amid the dry spell in Kashmir, numerous water bodies are grappling with alarming lows. Similarly, Panzath Nag, situated in the Qazigund belt of South Kashmir's Anantnag district, emerges as a crucial source, providing 6,720,000 liters of water daily and sustains a population of over 50 thousand residents during these challenging times.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

All Citizens Are Invited At Republic Day Function: Div Com Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 18: To celebrate Republic Day in a befitting manner and to make the national festival a radiant occasion, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting of galaxy of officers from Civil and Security departments at TRC, Srinagar.

The objective of the meeting was to fix responsibilities to departments regarding

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



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- Calendars
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers

DC Pulwama chairs DLRC meeting

Emphasizes Financial Inclusion & focus on Social Security Sectors

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JANUARY 18: The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting convened today at the Circuit House Pulwama chaired by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom highlighted significant strides in the banking sector's development.

The Lead Bank Manager provided a comprehensive overview of the banking sector's performance, showcasing notable increases in deposits, advances, and the CD ratio for the quarter. The meeting was informed of a substantial rise in the priority sector.

Dr Basharat conducted a meticulous sector-wise performance review,

focusing on the banks' implementation of various Government initiatives aimed at employment generation. The chair was appraised that in the current financial year, 5640 cases were sanctioned, with 4983 cases disbursed, totaling 1236 crores and benefiting 27,193 youth in the District.

The meeting addressed the disbursement of pending cases in agriculture, handloom, and allied sectors, with a directive to expedite clearance. The DC engaged in a detailed discussion on lending in priority and non-priority sectors, agro sector, and cases sponsored by various departments.

A comprehensive review of schemes such as Mumkin, Tejaswani, NRLM,



Mudra, PMEGP, REGP, PMFME, PM-Svannidhi, among others, was conducted. Clear directives were given to expedite case processing, ensuring a timely boost to self-employment in the district. Highlighting the success of earlier initiatives on financial and digital inclusion, the chair was appraised that digital coverage in the District has reached an impressive 99.62%. Reviewing the KCC scheme, the DC emphasized a micro-analysis to maximize benefits for every farmer. Stressing on financial inclusion and prioritizing social security schemes, the officials were directed to ensure maximum benefits for the community. The meeting, attended by key officials, including ADDC Pulwama,

ACR Pulwama, CPO Pulwama, ADDC Pulwama, Lead District Manager, bank representatives, and District and Sectoral officers, concluded with a commitment to continued collaboration for the District's holistic development. Highlighting the success of earlier initiatives on financial and digital inclusion, the chair was appraised that digital coverage in the District has reached an impressive 99.62%.

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DC Baramulla chairs DLEPC meeting, approves DEAP

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 18: In an endeavour to boost export prospects of the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of District Level Export Promotion Committee at the DC Office Baramulla. The focus of the meeting was to review and approve the District Export Action Plan (DEAP) for Baramulla district. During the meeting, a comprehensive presentation was provided by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) consultant, highlighting both hard and soft measures crucial for enhancing exports. The meeting comprehensively discussed One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, with special attention to positioning Baramulla as an Export Hub, particularly for products like apples and carpets. The DC while approving the DEAP provided by JKTPO, exhorted upon committee members in the meeting to meticulously examine the plan, emphasizing the need for realistic data like accurate production and export figures in finalizing potential export products for the district.

Minga Sherpa further directed the JKTPO team members to conduct a physical survey in the district, focusing on production trends and other relevant data related to products identified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to gather precise information.

Republic Day-2024: DC Kulgam finalises celebration arrangements

Instructs Officers to ensure adequate arrangements to make remarkable celebrations across the district

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JANUARY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan today reviewed and finalised the arrangements for the celebrations of Republic Day function 2024 during a meeting of officers held at the mini-secretariat, here.

The DC on the occasion instructed the officers to put in place impactful and adequate arrangements for smooth conduct of this National function.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on finalisation of arrangements to be



put in place at the venue including security, seating, car parking, transportation and illumination of buildings, PAS, Cultural programmes, March past, power, water, heating, snow clearance, sanitation etc.

The concerned departments were instructed to make heating arrange-

Besides the main function at District level, sub-divisional, tehsil and village levels celebrations shall also be held across the district. The DC also called upon all to take due care in celebrations and honour the National Flag and National Anthem as per protocol. The DC also instructed the concerned to arrange relevant cultural programmes and also to illuminate the town on the occasion.

All the heads of the departments and institutions were also directed to unfurl the National Flag within their offices and institutions.

DLTFC approves 34 cases under JKREGP at Ganderbal



■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 18: A District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) meeting under JKREGP Scheme of J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board was today held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani at Mini Secretariat, here. All the beneficiaries attended the DLTFC meeting and were interacted/ interviewed by committee and were selected for Sponsorship under different Industries sectors including, Shuttering and Mixer, Shawl Embroidery, Zari Embroidery, Cutting Tailoring Boutique, Dairy farm, Sheep farm, Rural transport, Departmental Store etc. Out of 43 applications, 34 cases were approved by the DLTFC Committee, the rest of 09 Cases were deferred for the next DLTFC meeting

DC Pulwama chairs Preparatory Meeting to forward Achievements for PM's Awards in Public Administration

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JANUARY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom today chaired a pivotal preparatory meeting at Administrative Complex, here to streamline and showcase the remarkable achievements of Pulwama District under various Government schemes. This concerted effort is in

preparation for the prestigious Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration.

The meeting focused on highlighting the District's success in schemes such as Har Ghar Jal Yojana, PMAY, Mission Indradhanush, PM-JAY, Ujjawala, PM-Svanidhi, Vishwakarma, Poshan, and others.

District heads presented comprehensive overviews of their respective achievements, showcasing Pulwama's

commitment to effective governance and public welfare. Recognizing the significance of accurately portraying these accomplishments, DC directed the concerned departments to ensure meticulous documentation. The preparatory meeting serves as a crucial step in presenting a compelling narrative for Pulwama's nomination in the Prime Minister's Awards, reflecting the District's exemplary performance in public administration.

DDC Shopian chairs DLRC meeting, emphasises on saturation of beneficiary oriented schemes

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, JANUARY 18: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today presided over the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of financial institutions of the district for quarter 2nd ended 30th September, 2023 of FY 2023-24, at Mini-Secretariat, here.

The meeting held in-depth discussions regarding the performance of banks during the fiscal year 2023-24.

DDC emphasized the importance of identifying beneficiaries and ensuring the smooth flow of credit to them through the convergence of assistance from government-sponsored schemes. He instructed banking institutions to increase credit flow in the priority sectors.

It was intimated that the deposits of the district increased from Rs. 1273.01 crores as on September 30, 2022 to Rs. 1373.61 crores as on September 30, 2023 thereby registering a growth of 7.9% on YOY basis and has shown decrease of -6% on quarterly basis from Rs. 1468.64 crores as on 30th June 2023.

The advances of the district increased from Rs. 1901.46 crores as on September 30, 2022 to Rs. 2117.40 crores as on September 30, 2023 thereby registering a growth of 11.35% on YOY basis and 6% on quarterly basis from Rs. 2004.21 crores as on 30th June 2023.

The priority sector advances of the district have decreased from Rs. 1429.30 crores as on September 30, 2022 to Rs. 1185.36 crores as on September 30, 2023 thereby registering a decline of -17% on YOY basis and 2% decrease on quarterly basis from Rs. 1209.21 crores as on 30th June 2023.

Non-priority sector of the district increased from Rs. 472.24 crores as on September 30, 2022 to Rs. 932.11 crores as on September 30, 2023, thereby registering a growth of 97% on YOY basis and 17% on quarterly basis from Rs. 795.92 crores as on 30th June 2023.

The DDC advised bankers and line departments to enhance credit flow under the priority sector, with special attention given to education, women's, development, and agriculture-related sectors.

ADC Kupwara reviews arrangements for celebration of Republic Day-2024

■ HT News Network

Kupwara, Jan 18. In connection with celebrations of forthcoming Republic-Day-2024, On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, ADC Kupwara, Gh. Nabi Bhat held a review meeting here today at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to ensure smooth and flawless conduct of the national event. District Officers and Senior Police Officers were present in the meeting. At the outset, the ADC took a Department wise review about the arrangements to be put in place by the respective Departments. The ADC 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.

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ADEEBA AFZAL D/O MOHAMMAD AFZAL SHEIKH R/O WALRAMAN Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 30/11/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at S.D.H Kreeri for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
kreeri

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my son's Date of birth (DOB) is 21 /09/2022.....Now I am applying for his date of birth certificate (DOB) if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file His /her objection in the (BDO) office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

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NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned candidates who have applied for engagement against the following positions under different schemes in response to notifications shown against each that their written examination will be held in Government Medical College Srinagar, Government Nursing College GMC Srinagar, AMT School GMC Srinagar and Government Dental College Srinagar on Wednesday the 31st January, 2024 as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Advertisement Notice No.	Name of the scheme	Name of the position	Time of examination
1.	PSY/HOD/2023/IMHANS/ATF/1074-86 Dated. 25-10-2023 and No. Psy/2024/Adv/DTC/1180-91 Dated. 02-01-2024	Establishment of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) and Establishment of Drug Treatment Centre Scheme (DTC) at IMHANS Srinagar.	Nurse	11:30AM to 12:30PM
2.	PSY/HOD/2023/IMHANS/ATF/1074-86 Dated. 25-10-2023 and No. Psy/2024/Adv/DTC/1180-91 Dated. 02-01-2024	Establishment of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) and Establishment of Drug Treatment Centre Scheme (DTC) at IMHANS Srinagar.	Medical Officer	02:30PM to 3:30PM
3.	PSY/HOD/2023/IMHANS/ATF/1074-86 Dated. 25-10-2023	Establishment of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF)	Counsellor	02:30PM to 3:30PM

The applicants are advised to visit official website of Government Medical College Srinagar i.e. www.gmc.s.edu.in w.e.f. 28-01-2024 onwards to download their admit cards/roll no slips.

On the actual day of examination i.e. 31-01-2024 the candidates shall report at the venue of the examination one hour before the commencement of examination alongwith the identity proofs:-

Photo ID card issued by the competent authority like Aadhaar Card, Driving License etc.

No candidate shall be permitted to carry the Mobile Phone, Laptop or any other electronic device in the examination hall.

No parking space for vehicles will be available on the day of examination and the candidates are advised not to bring their vehicles to the examination venue.

DIPK-15367/23
Date: Jan 18 2024

Sd/-
HOD Psychiatry
Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences

EDITORIAL

Harmony in Chaos -Rediscovering Islamic Essence of Humanity

In the tumultuous landscape of today's world, where chaos often overshadows compassion, the Islamic perspective offers a profound understanding of the purpose of humans and the significance of humanity and empathy. Islam, as a comprehensive way of life, emphasizes the intrinsic connection between purpose and empathy.

The purpose of humans, according to Islamic teachings, transcends individual pursuits and encompasses a collective responsibility towards the well-being of society. The chaos prevalent in the world underscores the urgency for humans to rediscover their purpose, grounded in empathy. Islam places great importance on cultivating compassion for others, fostering a sense of brotherhood and unity.

In a time where division and conflict seem to dominate, the Islamic perspective calls for a return to the core values of humanity. Empathy, in particular, stands as a beacon guiding individuals to look beyond differences and acknowledge the shared human experience. The Quran teaches that "the believers are but brothers," emphasizing a universal bond that transcends borders, cultures, and ideologies.

In navigating the chaos of today's world, Muslims are encouraged to embody empathy as a means to promote justice, peace, and social harmony. By understanding the significance of humanity through an Islamic lens, individuals can actively contribute to a more compassionate and interconnected global society, fostering a collective purpose that transcends the chaos of the moment.

Parvaiz Hussain Khan: A Distinguished Figure in Martial Arts from Kashmir

Situated in the alleys of Mohalla Alamgari Bazaar Hawal in Srinagar City, the martial arts journey of Parvaiz Hussain Khan, an India International athlete, commenced. His narrative stands as a testament to dedication, resilience, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence, nurtured in this vibrant locality.

Initiating his karate career at the age of 13 in 1994, Parvaiz ventured into both Taekwondo and Thangta Martial Art. His inaugural national appearance in 1996-97 marked the beginning of a transformative journey that saw him evolve into a coach of distinction.

Presently, Parvaiz presides over the Tiger Martial Art Academy, a symbol of his commitment to the art and his aspiration to disseminate knowledge. Offering classes not only in his hometown, Srinagar, but also in Thailand, where he imparts training, Parvaiz has ascended to a revered status in the global martial arts community.

Establishing his own classes in 1997, Parvaiz expanded his skills by delving into Goju ryu in 2000, augmenting his extensive repertoire. A notable milestone is the organization of the 2nd state Taekwondo championship in the indoor stadium of Srinagar in 2002, a demonstration of his dedication to the promotion and growth of martial arts in the region.

In 2017, Parvaiz's journey took an international turn with his embrace of Sqay martial arts, culminating in a master's degree earned in Thailand the same year. His proficiency in self-defense and combat sports led to his appointment as the General Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir branch by the Self Defense and Combat Sports Federation.

Continuing to broaden his horizons, Parvaiz ventured into Korean martial arts, Hangul Do, in 2018. His dedication did not go unnoticed, as the World Hangul Do Federation appointed him as the Secretary General of the Hangul Do Federation of India, solidifying his standing as a distinguished figure in martial arts.

With a remarkable 26 years in martial arts, Parvaiz has amassed a wealth



of knowledge, spanning various disciplines such as Taekwondo, Sqay, Thangta, Karate, Muay Thai, and more. His international exposure includes representing India in countries like Thailand, Macau, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Today, when the discussion turns to the present martial arts scenario in Jammu & Kashmir, Parvaiz Hussain Khan's name resonates among enthusiasts and practitioners. An admired figure, Parvaiz continues to leave an indelible mark on the martial arts landscape.

As he adds accolades to his already illustrious career, including participation in the Pencak Silat Nationals and the International Hero's Cup in Thailand, we extend our heartfelt wishes to Parvaiz Hussain Khan for his future endeavors. May his journey continue

to inspire aspiring martial artists and contribute to the growth and recognition of martial arts in the region and beyond.

Parvaiz Hussain Khan: A Leader in Martial Arts Education and Advocacy

In 2019, Parvaiz Hussain Khan, already an esteemed figure in the realm of martial arts, expanded his repertoire by immersing himself in the world-renowned Indonesian martial art, Pencak Silat. This significant endeavor marked a pivotal juncture in his illustrious career, culminating in participation across 3 districts, 3 states, 3 nationals, and the Federation Cup in Pencak Silat. Notably, he also embraced the discipline of Hogam, subsequently assuming the esteemed role of President within the Indian Hogam Federation.

Possessing an enviable tally of

approximately 55 medals achieved at district, state, national, and international levels, Parvaiz's journey is emblematic of unwavering dedication and unparalleled skill in the martial arts arena.

Parvaiz's martial arts odyssey commenced in Taekwondo, and over the course of time, his academy underwent transformative evolutions.

Originating as the Tiger Martial Arts Club, it progressed into the Tiger Martial Arts Academy before achieving affiliation with an esteemed international organization, ultimately rebranding as the International Tigers Martial Arts Organization. For a commendable 26 years, Parvaiz has spearheaded Team Tiger, etching an indelible mark in the annals of martial arts history.

Under his discerning guidance, the academy has successfully trained an impressive cadre of students, numbering more than 5000 individuals. Notably, several of these students have subsequently established their own academies, a source of immense pride for Parvaiz. Beyond individual training, he has also shared his expertise with approximately 15 schools, contributing significantly to the dissemination and enrichment of martial arts education.

The strategic shift towards an international organization underscores Parvaiz's unwavering commitment to aligning his academy, now bearing the appellation of the International Tigers Martial Arts Organization, with global standards. This deliberate move not only reinforces his dedication to excellence but positions his academy as a preeminent hub for martial arts enthusiasts seeking superlative training on a global scale.

As Parvaiz continues to guide Team Tiger into the future, his legacy extends beyond the tangible realm of medals and accolades. It permeates the countless students who have benefited from his tutelage, with many of them establishing their own academies—a testament to the enduring impact of Parvaiz Hussain Khan's visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to the advancement of martial arts education.

The Shadow Side of Greatness



■ **Jaswinder Pal Sharma**

Greatness, often revered and celebrated, carries a shadow side that is seldom discussed. Behind the achievements and accolades lie complexities and challenges that illuminate the nuanced nature of success. Exploring the shadow side of greatness reveals the struggles, sacrifices, and ethical dilemmas that individuals may grapple with on their journey to the top.

One aspect of the shadow side is the intense pressure and expectations that accompany greatness. High achievers often face relentless scrutiny, both from themselves and society. The fear of failure becomes a constant companion, driving individuals to push their limits while navigating the fine line between success and burnout. The weight of maintaining an exceptional performance can take a toll on mental and emotional well-being.

Another facet of the shadow side emerges in the sacrifices made in the pursuit of greatness. Long hours, missed family gatherings, and strained relationships are common themes. The commitment to one's craft can lead to personal and social sacrifices that are sometimes irreversible. As the pursuit of greatness consumes attention and energy, indi-

viduals may find themselves isolated or disconnected from the very support systems that once nurtured them.

Ethical dilemmas often cast shadows on the path to greatness. The pressure to succeed can tempt individuals to compromise their principles or make questionable decisions. The pursuit of power, fame, or wealth may lead to moral quandaries, leaving those in the limelight to grapple with the consequences of their choices. Balancing ambition with ethical considerations becomes a delicate dance that tests the character of those on the quest for greatness.

Furthermore, the shadow side includes the isolation that can accompany success. Achieving greatness can create a sense of separation from others who may not share the same level of accomplishment. This isolation can breed loneliness and a lack of understanding, making it challenging for individuals to find genuine connections with peers who comprehend the unique challenges they face.

In conclusion, the shadow side of greatness unveils the intricate tapestry that lies beneath the surface of achievement. It is a realm of pressure, sacrifice, ethical quandaries, and isolation that often remains hidden from the public eye. Recognizing and addressing these challenges is essential to fostering a more compassionate understanding of the individuals who attain greatness, reminding us that behind every triumph is a human experience fraught with complexities and dilemmas.

Jaswinder Pal Sharma, SS Master, GSSS HAKUWALA, Sri Muktsar Sahib

DEAR AND NEAR TO HEART AND EYES- J&K BANK CALENDAR-2024



■ **By Mool Raj**

I am not a think tank but simply a common man who would like to express his views on the released Jammu and Kashmir Bank Calander 2024 through the medium of your esteemed daily English newspaper for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and hope little space is given to my opinion on most humanitarian ground

I feel immense pleasure that this time once again our Chotta Kashmir/Minin Kashmir Bhaderwah's Jia tourist destination place found space in Jammu and Kashmir Bank Calander 2024. This step of Jammu and Kashmir Bank boost the economy of Bhaderwah in general and people of Jia Valley in particular.

JK Bank calendar 2024 will give information about bank holidays. These holidays will be applicable for all banks & their branches in the Jammu Kashmir region. For managing 365 days and decorating the kitchen walls, Jammu and Kashmir alone consumes almost three million wall calendars a year. The calendars in the home are mounted diaries of accounts and important dates – cell phone numbers, peculiar sign numbering to record the milk supply, the encircling of dates when the LPG cylinder was refilled and double circling of dates suggesting when the new edible oil canister was opened. Nobody can understand the importance of a calendar in my life. I usually forget things like I mostly misplace papers and diaries but calendars have always proven helpful.

In the first week of every year, I says every person becomes restless until they gets the J&K Bank Calendar. You will always find a J&K Bank calendar in kitchen, bed room, office and dining hall. It seems that the bank also knows the significance of these wall calendars for the housewives so they give us the privilege of having space between the dates so that we use it to remember. Over the years the wall calendars have become a craze in Jammu and Kashmir, part of a routine life for every household. Even though Jammu and Kashmir people are major users of smart-phones but the little instrument has not replaced the importance of a wall calendar. This importance has sent almost all companies to ensure a calendar at the end of the year and it has emerged a huge business. With a theme of 'Timeless Treasures', the Bank has showcased the fast-emerging scenic spots on the tourist-maps of J&K and Ladakh UTs in its Wall Calendar-2024. The J&K Bank Calendar continues to be the most sought-after thing in J&K and Ladakh during this time of the year, for, people consider it as a prized souvenir worth round the year presence in their homes and offices. The Calendar besides a great tool of brand promotion for the bank. This time Jammu-Kashmir Bank calendars have showcased Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh along with their diversity to exhibit the nature's charming beauty weaving different cultures and varied geographies together into a uniquely beautiful tapestry. I think that this Calendar has acknowledging the overwhelming public sentiment as validation of the love and trust for the bank in J&K and Ladakh I think that due to annual tourist arrival numbers burgeoning over two crore, the theme of 'Timeless Treasure' for Calendar 2024 is also an attempt to further showcase and popularise some of the fast-emerging tourist destinations in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The Jammu- Kashmir and Ladakh being significant stakeholders in the development of tourism and its allied industry, the idea also is to

leverage the brand appeal of the bank to engage the larger public attention towards these fast emerging destinations so that these places also get important spots in the itinerary of major tour and travel companies beside e-Calendar has also been continued to mark the bank's presence on every digital platform and ensure that the people have access to J&K Bank calendar on the go.

Notably, the fast-emerging tourist spots on the scenic-map of J&K and Ladakh covered in the Calendar are Tulip Garden in Sanasar Jammu, Hanle Village in Ladakh, Bangus Valley in Kupwara Kashmir, Botapathri in Gulmarg Kashmir, Tso Moriri Lake in Ladakh and Jai Valley in Bhaderwah Jammu. Here I would like to express my deep concern Jai Valley also,

Jai Valley is one of the most beautiful valleys of Doda, situated at a distance of about 35 km from Bhaderwah. The meadow extends over 6 km, and the 7000 feet height makes the climate conducive for many sporting activities. Jai Valley offers nice "igloo huts" to the tourists visiting the Bhaderwah town making it an ideal holiday destination.

Many visitors also bring their gear and erect tents for days' altogether and enjoy the frequently changing weather. The tourists take pleasure in horse-riding and trekking alongside the blue streams pouring in from the mountains.

Visitors with religious bent can easily visit the Roshera Mata Temple, just 2 km away. Similarly the Subar Naag Temple is just 4 km away. Both the temples are easily accessible.

This Jai Valley also finds itself popular for the wild herbs it possesses such as Aconitum, Digitalis Pura and Podophyllum to name a few. The meadows present in the vicinity add beauty to the valley. Last but not least I would like to extend my thanks Managing Director Jammu-and Kashmir Bank from the core of my Heart.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

DDC Reasi finalises arrangements for R-Day celebration

■ HT News Network

REASI, JANUARY 18: District Administration Reasi today finalized the arrangements for the celebration of Republic Day 2024, here at a meeting chaired by District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan held in the Conference Hall of DC office complex.

The meeting decided that the main function will be held at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium, where the chief guest will unfurl the National Flag, while similar functions would be held at sub-division and Tehsil levels also.

The celebration of the National Day event will start with the playing of 'Shehnai Vadan' at Mini Secretariat Complex by



District Information Centre Reasi.

The DC issued directions with regard to the arrangements viz security, traffic management, cleanliness and sanitation, seating arrangement, drinking water, power supply, Medicare facilities, refreshment, arrangement of prizes, road clearance, arrangement of fire tenders, distribution of

invitation cards etc.

The Chief Education Officer was directed to ensure arrangements for the March Past, cultural programme for the Day.

Security agencies were instructed to ensure fool-proof security arrangements at all the venues where functions in this regard will be held across the district.

Heads of departments were also instructed to organise march past / rally of their respective departments showcasing their schemes and allied activities for the general public.

It was also given out that the contingents of JKP, CRPF, NCC, students from educational institutions will participate in the march past parade. Besides various cultural programmes would also be part of the celebrations

The Municipal Committee was entrusted with cleanliness in and around the venue and in the town as well and Tricolour illuminating of key areas viz Main Market, prominent Chowks, Bhim Ghar Fort along with their official Building.

DC Rajouri lays foundation stone for Jhulla Bridge at Argi in Dhangri Block

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 18: In a significant development for the region, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, today laid foundation stone for the much-anticipated Jhulla Bridge at Argi, spanning over Dalhori Nallah. This vital infrastructure project, estimated at a cost of 9.5 lakh, aims to enhance connectivity and accessibility in the area.

Executive Engineer of the Rural Engineering Wing (REW), Zahir Khan, shared insightful details about the project. Notably, the construction is anticipated to be concluded by 31st March, marking a milestone towards the development of local infrastructure.



The significance of this initiative extends beyond the construction itself, as it is poised to bring about a transformative impact on the lives of residents in seven villages located in the vicinity. The completion of the bridge promises to facilitate smoother commutes and improved connectivity, fostering economic and social development in the adjoining areas. The Deputy Commissioner expressed optimism about the positive impact this development will have on the lives of the local population, ushering in a new era of connectivity and accessibility for the region. He highlighted the significance of the bridge in improving connectivity and accessibility for the local residents and stressed the commitment of the administration to meeting the infrastructural needs of the community for inclusive growth in the region.

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Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of completing the Jhulla Bridge project well before the set deadlines. He directed the concerned officer to expedite the construction process in order to provide necessary benefits to the public as soon as possible.

As the wheels of progress set in motion, the Jhulla Bridge project stands as a testament to the dedication of the administration to foster inclusive growth and addressing the infrastructural needs of the community. Among others, the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing, Zahir Khan; Block Development Officer Dhangri, Heena Kouser, concerned officers and locals were present on the occasion.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri inaugurates Medical Camp at Dalhori



■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 18: In a commendable initiative aimed at promoting community well-being, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat on Thursday inaugurated a Medical Camp organized by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) here at Dalhori.

As the chief guest, Deputy Commissioner underscored the significance of such health camps for fostering a culture of preventive healthcare within the community. He eloquently outlined the primary objectives of the camp, emphasizing the crucial role it plays in ensuring accessible healthcare services for the residents of Dalhori and its surrounding areas.

The Medical Camp served as a vital platform for the screening of individuals, enabling timely detection of health issues and provision of necessary medical services. The dedicated medical professionals and support staff worked tirelessly to cater to the diverse healthcare needs of the attendees.

National Road Safety Month: MVD promotes responsible driving at Bhaderwah

Deputy Commissioner delivers motivational lecture on traffic rules

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 18: In alignment with the ongoing 'Road Safety Month' themed 'Sadak Suraksha - Jeevan Raksha', the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Doda has proactively taken steps to elevate road safety awareness, specifically addressing challenges related to driving on challenging hilly terrains. An awareness program unfolded at the new Bus stand in Bhaderwah, with a particular focus on enlightening new license seekers.

Under the guidance of ARTO, Rajesh Gupta, the initiative extended its impact to New Bus stand Kotli, where a tailored awareness program targeted new license seekers.

Chief Guest, Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder



Singh delivered a motivational lecture on safe driving, encouraging participants to pledge their commitment to adhere to traffic rules for their safety and the well-being of others.

ARTO emphasized the critical issue of road accidents in the hilly Doda district, underlining the devastating impact on numerous families. He stressed the importance of obeying traffic rules and avoiding rash driving, particularly in consideration of the families eagerly waiting at home. The use of seat belts and compliance with vehicle fitness guidelines

were also highlighted for safer driving. The celebration witnessed positive interactions between Deputy Commissioner, the newly licensed drivers and officials from MVD Doda. ADC Bhadewah Dilmir Choudhary along with other officials actively participated in the event, underscoring the significance of the National Road Safety Month.

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The celebration witnessed positive interactions between Deputy Commissioner, the newly licensed drivers and officials from MVD Doda. ADC Bhadewah Dilmir Choudhary along with other officials actively participated in the event, underscoring the significance of the National Road Safety Month.

In the broader context of the National Road Safety Month in India, the organizers urged citizens to prioritize precautions while driving. The initiative aimed not only to raise awareness but also to actively engage stakeholders in addressing road safety as a critical societal concern, with a focused approach on preventing accidents and ensuring responsible driving habits.

DC Ramban finalizes R-Day arrangements

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 18: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today finalized arrangements for the celebration of 75th Republic Day here at a meeting attended by the senior civil and Police officers.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma, ADDC, Rajinder Sharma, PO, ICDS, Jahangir Hashmi, ADC, Harbans Lal Sharma, Sub Divisional Magistrates and other senior officers attended the meeting.

Reiterating the importance of the National Event, the Deputy Commissioner said that Republic Day will be celebrated at Sub Divisional, Tehsil, Panchayat, institution and school levels. He directed the district heads of all the departments to hoist National Flag and illuminate the building of their respective offices and other Government buildings, besides ensuring maximum public participation to make National function more attractive and joyful.

IIT Jammu conducts Entrance Exam for AVSAR Scheme in Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 18: In a significant development, the Institute of Science and Technology, IIT, recently organized an entrance examination for candidates aspiring to join the government-sponsored AVSAR scheme. The exam held at Government Higher Secondary School Boys Doda, was conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh. The event also received guidance from Employment Officer Imtiyaz Ali of the district employment and counseling centre in Doda, as well as District Panchayat Officer Suraj Singh.

A total of 111 candidates, comprising 92 males and 19 females, actively participated in the examination. The AVSAR scheme, operating under the mission youth, aims to uplift and enhance the skills of the youth. This entrance exam, orchestrated by IIT Jammu, serves as a crucial selection step for students aspiring to be part of the AVSAR scheme. The initiative underscores a commitment to fostering skill development and providing opportunities for individuals in the region to showcase their talents.

Labour Commissioner interacts with representatives of Trade Unions

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 18: Labour Commissioner J&K, S. Charandeep Singh Thursday chaired an interactive meeting with the representatives of Trade Unions here to discuss issues related to workers' overall socio-economic well-being.

The representatives of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh Jammu, Centre of Indian Trade Union, Jammu, ASCOMS



Employees Welfare Association, Jammu (J&K), Indian National Trade Union Congress and Jammu Marble Workers Union participated in the interaction.

Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jammu,

Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), J&K, Deputy Director (Planning) and Assistant Labour Commissioners were also present.

The Trade Union representatives, while welcoming S Charandeep

Singh on assuming charge of Labour Commissioner J&K, assured their support in raising awareness among the workers regarding the Government schemes being implemented for their welfare in the UT. They gave a brief about their working and union constitutional mandate.

Detailed deliberations were held on issues of common interest with Labour Commissioner J&K reiterating that welfare of labour.

Secretary Cooperative conducts surprise inspection of Super Bazaar, Jammu

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

JAMMU, JANUARY 18: Secretary, Cooperative Department, Babila Rakwal, today paid a surprise visit to Jammu Cooperative Wholesale Limited, Super Bazar and medical shops of Super Bazar at Government Medical College, Bakshi Nagar and SMGS Hospital, Shalamar, Jammu.

Registrar Cooperatives Societies, J&K, Mohammad Shafiq Chak besides other officers accompanied the Secretary.

During her visit to medical shops, she instructed the concerned officers to create awareness among the general public about fair price medical shops of



Super Bazar wherein medicines are available 24x7 at discounted rates. She also visited the Super Bazar outlet at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar.

While visiting Super Bazar Jammu, the Secretary inspected all the sections and directed the staff to work out strategies to further increase the sales through expansive promotional activities on all platforms.

Dheeraj Gupta spearheads Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, holds public darbar at MC Lakhanpur

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, JANUARY 18: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Forest, Ecology and Environment, Dheeraj Gupta, today spearheaded the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra besides conducting a mega public darbar at Municipal Committee Lakhanpur.

Chairman District Development Council Kathua, Retired Colonel Mahan Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Minhas, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ankur Mahajan, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Ranjeet Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ranjeet Singh, ASP Paramanjeet Singh and various departmental heads and officials were present



on the occasion. Dheeraj Gupta participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra proceedings and inspected the departmental stalls exhibiting citizen-centric beneficiary schemes. He administered the VBSY pledge to the participants reaffirm-

ing commitment towards nation building.

In his address, ACS underscored the importance of collective efforts of people, youth, officers and PRIs towards materializing the vision of a transformed and developed India by 2047. He emphasized the

crucial role of all stakeholders in achieving this goal, highlighting the need to focus on infrastructure revamping, human resource development and social unity as the pillars of national development.

The event featured screening of Prime Minister's message on Viksit Bharat besides distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) material through VBSY Van.

Dheeraj Gupta also shared the department's roadmap towards enhancing forest cover and outlined steps being taken up to augment the green cover across the region. He exhorted upon the executing agencies to obtain prior clearances from the forest department before commencing any work in protected areas.

DC/ DEO Bandipora reviews preparations for upcoming LS elections

Put in place all the necessary arrangements as per guidelines of ECI: Rather

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather who is also District Election Officer (DEO) on Thursday convened a meeting of election nodal officers, EROs, and other officers to take stock of the preparation for upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting discussed threadbare various aspects of the District Election Management Plan to ensure proper and timely preparations for upcoming LS elections.

Various issues viz. availability of drinking water, ramp facilities, electricity, toilet facilities, and mobile network connectivity at various polling stations were also discussed in the meeting.

The DEO on the occasion took stock of manpower management plan, movement plan, material management plan, communication plan, SVEEP activities besides other election related activities and gave many necessary guidelines to all the concerned nodal officers.

He enjoined upon officers to be ready with all necessary arrangements to provide the best possible "electoral experience" to all stakeholders.



He said district administration is committed to taking all necessary measures for successfully conducting "free, fair and participative elections" in the district.

The DEO enjoined upon officers to ensure effective SVEEP Campaign across the District to improve enrol-

ments. He emphasized upon participants to put in their best efforts through various means of awareness under the SVEEP programme to motivate all young eligible electors for registering their name in electoral rolls and ensure that no eligible voter remains un-regis-

tered. Rather also directed the concerned to conduct physical verification of each and every polling station/ locations to ensure the availability of all assured minimum facilities, so as to ensure that no voter or poll staff faces any kind of difficulty during elections.

He emphasised upon the concerned officers to put in place all the necessary arrangements as per guidelines of ECI.

In addition to the election preparations, the meeting also discussed preparations for the upcoming National Voters Day celebration.

The meeting was attended by ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani, Dy DEO Mohammad Rafeeq, SDM Sumbal Amir Choudhary, DIO Bandipora, Tehsildars and other concerned officers. He emphasised upon the concerned officers to put in place all the necessary arrangements as per guidelines of ECI.

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DC B'la reviews modalities for Delimitation of Municipal Wards



■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) BARAMULLA, JANUARY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting of officers to discuss the impending delimitation process in the wards of two municipal councils and five municipal committees of the district.

The meeting held a comprehensive discussion covering a range of challenges, including population slabs, voter numbers, and geographical considerations.

A proposal for demarcation of municipal wards while taking natural boundaries into consideration was thoroughly dis-

cussed, with a primary objective to establish an equitable and representative governance structure for the municipalities.

During the meeting, it was deliberated that population distribution should be rationalized in every Municipal Committees/ Councils (MC) ward in accordance with the established guidelines in the district. This strategic consideration aims to ensure a balanced and proportional allocation of population across MC wards, aligning with the prescribed norms and regulations.

The DC underscored the paramount importance of a transparent and impartial delimitation process to ensure equitable represen-

tation in the Municipal Wards of Baramulla district.

The DC further directed the officers of Municipalities of Watergam, Kunzer, Pattan and Uri to formulate a delimitation plan in a week's time while Baramulla and Sopore Municipal Councils were asked to finish the process in 2 weeks time.

Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf; Deputy District Election Officer, Chief Executive Officer MC Sopore, Tariq Ahmad Mir; Naib Tehsildar Election, Executive Officers of all Municipal Councils, Committees and other concerned were present in the meeting.

VBSY transcends boundaries, forges a path of Inclusive Progress across Pulwama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JANUARY 18: Undertaking an unprecedented odyssey through the heart of Pulwama District, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has reached a transformative zenith, seamlessly encompassing all 190 Panchayats, 69 Municipal Wards, and continuing through villages.

Today, the Yatra advanced its impactful trajectory, delving into grassroots communities to disseminate vital information about Government schemes.

At its core, this groundbreaking Yatra exemplifies meticulous focus on saturating Government schemes, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits. The unwavering commitment to inclusivity radiates, ensuring that no individual remains uninformed about the catalytic initiatives designed to foster monumental change.

In a program spanning five villages, the Yatra showcased its unwavering dedication to micro-level



engagement. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans, akin to mobile beacons of progress, played a pivotal role in delivering the Hon'ble Prime Minister's message effectively, enlightening the populace about the diverse spectrum of Government schemes.

A standout facet unfolded in the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" segment, where beneficiaries shared poignant accounts of their journeys, underlining the life-altering impact of Government interventions. This personalized touch served as a powerful testament to the positive transformations realized through these initiatives.

In a notable development, today's

events included an impactful interaction as the Hon'ble Prime Minister engaged with the public across the Nation through virtual mode.

The people wholeheartedly acknowledged and embraced the Prime Minister's words, adding a significant layer to the resonance of the VBSY's mission. This virtual connection further solidified the nationwide unity and commitment towards the transformative journey unfolding in the heart of Pulwama.

Beyond traversing the District, the Yatra actively architects positive transformations, leaving an indelible mark on the socio-economic landscape.

Director Agriculture inaugurates Awareness programme for fertilizer, pesticide companies of central Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 18: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated an awareness programme for the fertilizer, pesticides companies of central Kashmir's Budgam, Ganderbal and Srinagar districts at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The programme was organised by the Law Enforcement Wing Srinagar and was attended by Deputy Director Law Enforcement Wing, Mujtaba Yahyah; Assistant Director Law Enforcement, Feroz Ahmad Shapoor; District Law Enforcement Officer South Kashmir, Sheikh Imran; District Law Enforcement Officer North Kashmir, Dr Amarjeet Singh, fertilizer/pesticides dealers/ distributors of central Kashmir districts, representatives of fertilizer, pesticides companies operating in central Kashmir and other concerned officers.

In his address, Director Agriculture reiterated the department's commitment to uphold the farmers' interests.



He impressed upon the participants (fertilizers, pesticides dealers) to ensure that only the genuine, quality inputs (fertilizers, pesticides) are provided to the farming community of the region. He said that any violation of fertilizer control order (1985) and insecticides act (1968) would not be tolerated and the action as per law will be initiated against the erring parties/ individuals.

Iqbal directed the officers of the enforcement wing of the department to accelerate the frequency of visits by marketing checking squads so that

only the quality fertilizers, pesticides reach the consumers. He marked the importance of a coordinated approach among the stakeholders, in order to safeguard the economic interests of the farming community.

He said the poor quality inputs (fertilizers, pesticides) is not only an economic burden to the farmers but is environmentally a disaster for the region. He concluded that all the stakeholders including department, fertilizer/pesticides dealers must collaborate for the well being of the farming community.

VBSY in full swing across Ramban, 92000 participate in ambitious Yatra so far

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 18: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, is making a significant impact in Ramban district. With 92,000 participants, including 35,000 women, the 51-day journey is a huge push for district administration ambition to saturate beneficiary oriented-schemes in the district by year-end.

Today, the Yatra reached the Panchayats of Trigam Lower A and B and Trigam Upper, and ward no-7 Mundas Mohalla in Batote town, emphasizing its commitment to inclusivity. Covering the entire district during the last 51 days, the Yatra has proven to be a powerful platform in informing the people about various Government schemes. Further substantial numbers of beneficiaries have been sharing stories under Meri Kahani Meri Zubani, an important component of Yatra narrat-



ing heart-touching stories of change in their lives after taking benefits under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Under the guidance of the DC, all departments are actively engaged in promoting and extending the benefits of their respective schemes. This includes widely recognized initiatives such as PMAY-G, PMAY-U, PM-JAY Ayush-

man Card, Poshan ICDS, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, MUDRA Yojana, KCC, and PM Kissan Nidhi. Special emphasis is placed on healthcare accessibility, with over 3360 PM-JAY Ayushman Cards issued and regular health check-ups, including TB monitoring.

Various attractive events including cultural programs celebrated Ramban District's diverse heritage,

enriching its cultural tapestry. The collective Viksit Bharat Sankalp Pledge-taking ceremony at the heart of the Yatra unified the community, symbolizing shared aspirations.

The event included awareness about government schemes and motivational speeches by the Prime Minister. The Yatra's success lies in its broad outreach, ensuring the message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister reaches every corner of the district. Under the guidance of the DC, all departments are actively engaged in promoting and extending the benefits of their respective schemes. This includes widely recognized initiatives such as PMAY-G, PMAY-U, PM-JAY Ayushman Card, Poshan ICDS, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, MUDRA Yojana, KCC, and PM Kissan Nidhi. Special emphasis is placed on healthcare accessibility, with over 3360 PM-JAY Ayushman Cards issued and regular health check-ups, including TB monitoring.

VBSY: IEC Van Traverses through panchayats of block Rajouri & Sunderbani in Rajouri District

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 18: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) traversed through the panchayats of Lower Bajwal-A, Upper-Bajwal-A, Upper-Bajwal-B, Talla Tanda, Muradpur-B, Mubarak Pura, Dassal and Meari Gujran of block Rajouri and Sunderbani, here today. This strategic journey highlights the Yatra's commitment to reach every corner of the district and

ensure that the benefits of government initiatives are felt at the grassroots level. The Yatra has become a driving force in the implementation of various government schemes and ushering in comprehensive development throughout the 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.

Central to this endeavor is an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van, a dynamic mobile platform designed to effectively communicate and create awareness about the diverse initiatives undertaken as part of the Yatra. The van plays a pivotal role in engaging with local communities, imparting crucial knowledge, and empowering residents to avail themselves of the benefits offered by government schemes.

Road Safety Awareness Campaign organized by MVD Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 18: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Kishtwar organized a comprehensive awareness program at Helipad Kishtwar.

The event, which witnessed the active participation of over 200 individuals including transport union Presidents and other stakeholders, aimed at promoting responsible road practices.

DTI Traffic Navneet and ARTO Mohammed Saleem Manhas played pivotal role in imparting valuable insights to the participants, emphasizing the importance of adhering to road



safety precautions.

MVI Azad Hussain, President All

Transport Association Kishtwar Bansi Lal Shan besides staff of MVD Kishtwar also remained present on the occasion.

The program was held as part of the month-long National Road Safety campaign- a national initiative to foster a culture of responsible road behavior.

The awareness campaign addressed various aspects of safe driving and highlighted the potential consequences of negligence or deliberate violations of traffic rules.

The District Administration, in collaboration with the Motor Vehicle Department, is committed to creating a safer road environment through continuous awareness and education.

VBSY reaches Shatgund bala of Mawar Block

DG C&WDD chairs mega event, emphasizes for 100% saturation of beneficiary oriented schemes

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 18: In connection with Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a mega VBSY event was today organized at Government High School Shatgundbala of Block Mawar Qalamabad in Kupwara district. The Director General, Child & Women Development Department (DG C&WDD) J&K, Mir Tariq Ali, today visited Shatgundbala to chair the Mega event.

The event aimed to raise awareness about government-sponsored public-centric schemes; extending outreach to remote areas for community engagement and ensure 100% saturation of various beneficiary-oriented schemes, was attended by DDC Member Mawar, Khursheed Ahmad Dar; ADDC Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan; ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir; ACP Kupwara, Dr. Mudasir Ahmad, other Senior Officers besides a large gathering of people were present on the occasion.

The DG C&WDD while addressing the event said that the Yatra aims to bring together government officers, local leaders, and communities to ensure outreach and



last mile delivery of the developmental initiatives of the government to all the people. The DG stressed on achieving 100% saturation of all beneficiary-oriented schemes. He urged all departments and officials to work diligently and collaboratively to ensure that no one is left behind in the journey towards progress and prosperity. He congratulated different departments for reaching out to the unreached

and ensuring everyone gets benefited. While responding to the demands/grievances, Ali directed the concerned departments to examine these demands raised for prompt disposal. DDC Member, Mawar Qalamabad, Khurseed Ahmad Dar, while Congratulating the Officers and Field functionaries of different departments said that Public Representatives are fully Cooperating with all departments, as a result,

no funds of this territorial constituency lapsed till date. On the occasion, he demanded NTPHC, a stadium and a J&K Bank Branch for the area. Earlier, the DG inspected the stalls set up by various departments to showcase their achievements and services. He interacted with the beneficiaries and scheme implementing agencies and appreciated their efforts. He also took part in plantation drive along with the other Officers and handed over sanction letters to various beneficiaries pertaining to welfare and income generation schemes.

The event witnessed screening of the Prime Minister's message and other videos played through the IEC van.

Ali along with the officers of District Administration and locals actively took part in the Viksit Bharat pledge, reaffirming their commitment towards development of the nation. The Yatra featured a segment called 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani', where the beneficiaries of various schemes and local successful entrepreneurs shared their success stories and experiences of how they have personally benefited from Government schemes.

PM Award of Excellence: DC Bandipora discusses achievements under various schemes

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather on Thursday chaired a meeting at Mini-Secretariat Bandipora to discuss registration on PM's Award web portal for PM Award for Excellence in Administration.

The scheme for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration aims to recognize the contribution of civil servants/Districts under two categories viz. Holistic Development of Districts and Innovations.

The award is designed to acknowledge, recognize and reward exemplary work done in various fields.

The meeting discussed achievements under various schemes including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), Mission Indradhanush, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), PMSVANidhi, PM Vishvakarma Yojana, PM MUDRA Yojana and Kisan Credit Card Scheme for Farmers,



Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

During the meeting It was given out that the district Bandipora has achieved 100 percent target under mission Mission Indradhanush and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed upon all District Officers to submit detailed achievements of their respective schemes so that proper evaluation is made for submission for PM Award. The officers were further directed to complete the process of evaluation and submission within given timelines in close coordination with CPO Bandipora.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for celebration of National Voters Day

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: With the ED asking him to appear for questioning on Thursday after he skipped summons thrice in the Delhi excise policy case, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said here he will do whatever needs to be done as per law.

Sources in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Delhi government, however, said on Wednesday that he is unlikely to appear before the agency as he is scheduled to leave for Goa on a three-day tour to take stock of party's preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Earlier, he was supposed to embark on a two-day tour of Goa from January 11 but had to postpone it due to preparations for the Republic Day programme in the national capital. Mr Kejriwal was issued the ED



summons last week for the fourth time and asked to appear before the agency on January 18.

At an event, where he interacted with elderly pilgrims leaving for Dwarkadheesh in Gujarat, the AAP national convener was asked about the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons asking him to appear on Thursday in connection with the Delhi excise policy linked money laundering case.

"We will do whatever needs to be done according to the law," he told reporters, in response to the query.

Earlier in the day, Delhi cabinet minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had echoed similar views.

"He is clear that whatever he will do he will do in accordance with the law and the advice of the legal counsel," he told news agency PTI.

Jammu admin discusses activity plan for National Road Safety Month

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 18: District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya presided over a meeting today to discuss and plan activities and awareness programs on traffic rules in light of the ongoing National Road Safety Month-2024, scheduled from January 15 to February 14. In attendance were SSP Traffic Faisal Qureshi, RTO Jammu, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Chief Education Officer Jagdeep Kumar Padha, representatives from GREF and other concerned officers.

The District Magistrate emphasised the pivotal role of youth participation for the successful execution of the awareness campaign while noting the role of volunteers in spreading awareness during the Road Safety



Month. Officers from the Public Works Department were directed to address road conditions by filling potholes and installing safety measures such as reflectors and mirrors to prevent accidents. The DM proposed workshops and awareness sessions targeting college students to enhance road safety awareness. Sub-Divisional Magistrates were encouraged to conduct

special enforcement drives in their respective areas to ensure strict adherence to traffic rules. The DM underscored the importance of enforcing helmet and seat belt regulations in rural areas as well. Prioritising education and sensitisation over punitive actions, the District Magistrate expressed that a balanced approach is more practical.

Anantnag hosts Viksit Bharat@2047 Voice of Youth Program, 2024

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 18: The District Administration Anantnag in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Kokernag today hosted the 'Viksit Bharat@2047 Voice of Youth' program, marking the inception of a transformative era focused on holistic development and progress. This collaborative initiative united students, faculty, and experts in a shared commitment to contribute to the visionary 'Viksit Bharat 2047' plan by the Government of India, aiming to shape the nation into a developed entity by its 100th independence anniversary. Prof. Imtiaz Ahmad Lone set an inspiring tone for the event with a keynote address that resonated with the audience, instilling a sense of purpose and commitment. The primary objective of the program was to foster growth and awareness among the students of GDC Kokernag, emphasizing the pivotal role of education in contributing to the development of Bharat. A meticulously planned approach was executed, including strategic planning, outlining the purpose and goals, appointing a dedicated team, and launching a social media campaign to maximize engagement.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi with Benefit Enhancer

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 18, KNT: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi with Benefit Enhancer, industry's first annuity plan that provides customers with the option to receive a 100% refund of premiums paid at any time starting from the date of purchase. This product comes loaded with features which address all apprehensions customers may have around retirement planning. Customers can choose from an array of annuity

Retirement planning is a non-negotiable goal and unexpected financial emergencies have the potential to disrupt this goal. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "We are delighted to introduce ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi with Benefit Enhancer, a versatile annuity product designed to address the uncertainties that individuals may face when planning for their retirement."

Given the increasing life expectancy, changing family structures and rising healthcare costs, individuals must plan for retirement with products that provide guaranteed income throughout their lives. ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi offers customers the certainty needed for a financially secure retired life." (KNT)

DC Rajouri finalises arrangements for JKSSB Exams

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 18: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, chaired a meeting here today to finalize the arrangements for the JKSSB examination for the post of Accounts Assistant Finance scheduled for January 28, 2024.

The meeting focused on various crucial aspects to ensure a seamless and fair examination process.

The examination will take place at 22 examination centres and 10352 candidates are appearing in the examination. To maintain the integrity of the examination and provide a conducive environment for the candidates, several measures have been put in place.

The meeting emphasized the deployment of an adequate number of Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and supervisory staff to oversee the examination. This step is crucial in upholding transparency and fairness throughout the examination process. Additionally, a strict invigilator-to-student ratio has been established to ensure close monitoring during the examination.

Magistrates will be appointed at all examination centers to guarantee a peaceful and orderly conduct of the examination. A comprehensive security plan has been devised to safeguard the examination venues, ensuring the safety of both the candidates and examination personnel.

In an effort to prevent any unfair means during the examination, it was decided that mobile phones and other electronic devices would be strictly prohibited within the examination centers.

Deputy Commissioner expressed his commitment to ensuring a smooth and fair conduct of the JKSSB examination on January 28, 2024. He urged all candidates to fully cooperate with the examination guidelines and adhere to the instructions provided by the examination authorities.

DC B'pora chairs DRAC meeting; approves 12 cases, 02 cases sent for reassessment

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather on Thursday chaired a meeting of District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) at Mini-Secretariat, Bandipora.

The DRAC approved 12 rent cases pertaining to different departments, including Handicrafts, Industries, Social Welfare, Education, FCS&CA, Health, ISM, and revenue.

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

In all, 14 cases were taken up for consideration in the meeting, out of which 12 cases were approved and 02 were sent for reassessment.

Addressing the meeting, the DC enjoined upon officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of land and structures on time and ensure the safety of the government/ rented accommodation.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shabir Ahmad Wani, Chief Planning Officer Mohd Maqbool, Superintending Engineer R&B, and other concerned officers of various departments.

MVD Anantnag organizes one day Seminar on Road Safety

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 18: Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Anantnag in collaboration with Radiant Educational Trust Anantnag today organized a day long Seminar on Road Safety, here.

The seminar was attended by more than 200 students apart from officials of MVD, Traffic and district Police personnel.

The thrust of the seminar was to sensitize the students about the golden rules of Road Safety and the importance of obeying traffic rules and regulations while being on roads.

Celebration of Republic Day- 2024

Forest Department plans Massive Plantation Events across all Gram Panchayats

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 18: The J&K Forest Department has chalked out an ambitious program to conduct massive plantation drives involving PRI representatives, local people, NGOs, school children, NCC & NSS cadets, Paryavaran/Van Mitras, Eco guides, Paramilitary forces and other stakeholders, around all the Gram Panchayats/villages and Urban Local Bodies on the eve of Republic Day celebration-2024.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Roshan Jaggi convened a high level meeting at Forest Headquarter, FRMC Building Jammu in which the senior officers

of Forest & allied wings participated. The Conservator and DFO level officers from all districts were also present during the stock taking meeting.

It was decided that in all the 20 districts, the Forest Department shall organize programs of plantation drives, plastic free drives in forests, green marches, debates, symposiums and other awareness creation activities to mark the occasion. It was also decided that special ceremonial plantation and awareness programs shall be organized near Amrit Sarovars and other water bodies, river banks and other iconic places along with the flag hoisting at different establishments of the department. Awareness activities shall be organized involving

educational institutions, Para-military forces and Government departments.

Special plant distribution drives shall be organized in the Urban Local Bodies and in Gram Panchayats under different flagship Programs like HarGoonHariyali, Ped Lagye in Beti Ke Naam, One Village One Beat Guard Program, Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan etc. The main buildings of the department shall be illuminated in the evening. It is pertinent to mention here that the department has a target of planting 175 lakh plants & adoption of low cost greening interventions upto 90 lakh during 2023-24 under "Green JK Drive". The department has been laying emphasis on innovative schemes like Van Se Jal, Jal Se

Jeevan to enhance ground water recharge for enhancing productivity.

The PCCF (HoFF) on this occasion reviewed the district-wise preparedness and issued directions for active participation of the field staff in different events shortlisted for the celebration of Republic Day, 2024. Special plant distribution drives shall be organized in the Urban Local Bodies and in Gram Panchayats under different flagship Programs like HarGoonHariyali, Ped Lagye in Beti Ke Naam, One Village One Beat Guard Program, Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan etc. The main buildings of the department shall be illuminated in the evening. It is pertinent to mention here that the department

