

# The Kashmir Talk

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## Lt Governor dedicates newly constructed Durga Bhawan to the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

- Durga Bhawan has the capacity to accommodate 3000 pilgrims per day and it will provide ease and comfort to the seekers, besides ensuring effective crowd management: LG
- Shrine Board has started various new initiatives for providing better facilities to the pilgrims: LG Sinha
- Spiritual & cultural heritage is being revived by building modern infrastructure and administration is committed to ensure that devotees on sacred pilgrimage are looked after well: LG

**KATRA**  
**Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the newly constructed Durga Bhawan at the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, today.**

The Lt Governor sought the blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and dedicated the facility to the devotees.

Congratulating the entire team of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and everyone associated with the project, the Lt Governor said the Bhawan with the capacity

to accommodate 3000 pilgrims per day, will provide ease and comfort to the seekers, besides ensuring effective crowd management.

"The Shrine Board has started various new initiatives for providing better facilities to the pilgrims. Spiritual and cultural heritage is being revived by building modern infrastructure and administration is committed to ensure that devotees on sacred pilgrimage are looked after well," said the Lt Governor.

It is our responsibility

to enrich the traditional values and facilitate the spiritual journey of the devotees coming from

will come up soon. I assure the local people, traders and all the stakeholders that the ropeway

added.

The Lt Governor also shared the efforts for bringing the prominent

and Skywalk will be ready by the month of June. Many more projects are in the pipeline to uplift the religious tourism sector in the region, he added.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the Lt Governor along with Board members and Chief Secretary taking part in the hawan and pooja rituals. Earlier, the Lt Governor paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum and prayed for happiness, peace and prosperity for all.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Members; Sh Anshul Garg, CEO SMVDSB, Donors and pilgrims in large numbers attended the inaugural ceremony.



across the country and abroad, especially those who are elderly, sick and specially-abled, he added. The Lt Governor said the interests of traders, pony walas, local business community and other stakeholders are being safeguarded while developing the facilities for the devotees.

A ropeway from Tarakote to Sanjhi Chhat

facility will be provided to only elderly, sick and specially-abled devotees. We have kept a limited capacity of devotees per day. There will be no impact on the livelihood of traders, business community and ponywalas, said the Lt Governor.

A committee has been constituted to discuss and resolve all the concerns of stakeholders, he

spiritual and religious places of the region on the spiritual tourism circuit which will also generate livelihood opportunities for the locals.

Shrine Board has also approved the reconstruction of Shankaracharya temple near Katra. Underground cabling works will be completed next month

## Jammu-Poonch MP chairs meeting to review progress of MPLAD works

**JAMMU:** Member of Parliament for Jammu-Poonch, Jugal Kishore Sharma, presided over a review meeting today at the PWD Guest House in Jammu.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the MP on the progress of various schemes and developmental projects being carried out in the district by different agencies. The MP conducted a thorough review of both the physical and financial progress of each work under MPLAD.

The MP emphasised the importance of making optimal use of available resources and instructed officials to regularly mon-



itor and follow up on all ongoing development works to ensure they meet quality standards. He also directed relevant agencies to complete any pending development works within their given timelines and to expedite their efforts so that targets can be achieved across the district.

Jugal Kishore urged officers and field func-

tionaries to work together as a team with close coordination in order to achieve better results and deliver public services effectively to local residents. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Avny Lavasa and other senior officials from relevant departments, including CPO Yoginder Katoch and ACD Preeti Sharma.

## People have different ways of worshiping god, it cannot be reason for conflict between communities: Bhagwat

**JAMMU:** *Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat has stated that, different ways of worship cannot be a reason for conflict between communities and people have different ways of worshiping God, but the destination is the same.*

Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat was speaking during a program organised for launching the first Urdu translation of the Samaveda, one of the four Vedas of Hinduism, by Bollywood scriptwriter and filmmaker Iqbal Durrani at New Delhi on Friday. Mr. Bhagwat, while praising the efforts of Mr. Durrani, stated that "different ways of worship cannot be a reason for conflict between communities".

"We must understand that there are several paths that are being taken by different people. Some worship land, some water and some fire. But the destination of every human being is one and the same," Mr. Bhagwat said, while quoting a story from Vedic texts.

Mr. Bhagwat, who in the past had maintained that untouchability and discrimination are grave threats to society and must be shunned, cited another story in which a student is being told how a person becomes "respected" because of his integrity and not by his birth. "Vyakti ka gotra uskey janam se nahi pehechana jata, uski satyanishtha se pehechana jata hai (the lineage of a person doesn't come from where he is born but from his integrity)," he said.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Durrani compared the time of Mughal ruler Aurangzeb and the present regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and maintained that the former had lost and the latter has won when it comes to saving the humanity.

The RSS chief, on several occasions, had maintained that it is important to take all the sections of society together, to make India 'vishwa guru' (knowledge giver).

On the Occasion those who represented Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh "Muslim Rashtriya Manch" included Gulshan Kumar Organiser Secretary J&K and Ladakh, Amir Iqbal Khan Spokesperson and Media/IT Incharge JKUT, Ch.Abdul Rahim, Ch.Murad Ali, Fayaz Wani, Tariq Ahmed and others.



## Samoon inaugurates ICT Lab at ITI Rajouri; Emphasizes imparting quality technical education

**RAJOURI:** *Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, today visited ITI Rajouri where he inaugurated an Information and Communication Technology Laboratory and inspected various sections of the institute.*

The lab has been established with an aim of providing better communication and information resources to the youth trainees.

During the event, Dr Samoon interacted with the trainees and emphasised the need for a special focus on providing quality technical education in the region. Principal Secretary also highlighted the importance of integrating technology into every aspect of life to fast-track development and progress. The Information and Communication Technology lab is expected to bridge the gap between knowledge and access for the



trainees, equip them with necessary technical skills, and open up new opportunities for their future, he maintained. During his visit, he held interactions with the students and faculty members of the ITI and inspected classrooms and labs.

While interacting with the students of the ITI, Samoon encouraged them to make best use of the resources that have been made available to them during their training period. He stressed upon the faculty to impart quality training to the students and focus on practical-oriented courses. Principal Secretary also interacted with the youth trainees identified during the 'Back to Village' program and

discussed their aspirations. He also provided guidance on how to maximize their potential in terms of the knowledge and skills. It is pertinent to mention here that 120 youth were identified for skill development in the district under B2V, out of which, sixty had been identified during B2V are undergoing training in ITI.

Later, Principal Secretary distributed certificates among the best trainees of the Industrial Training Institute and wished them good luck in their professional journey.

DC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal; Principal ITI, Rashid Sheikh; DO NRLM, Javed Ul Sofi and other officers were present on the occasion.

## DC Kathua reviews implementation of Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme

**KATHUA:** Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Pandey convened a meeting to review the implementation of the Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP) in the district today.

The meeting discussed selection criteria for the most backward panchayats based on aggregate scores obtained across 19 blocks of the district. The DC called for taking all stakeholders on board including respective Mentors of the Panchayat who visited during Back to Village (B2V). The APDP initiative aims to develop Aspirational Panchayats through convergence of various ongoing District/UT Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes. An additional financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh will be provided to selected panchayats under the scheme for further development after achieving satura-

tion in several parameters. On the analogy of

Activities, Health and Nutrition, Education,



Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP), Jammu & Kashmir has rolled out APDP with the aim to ensure expeditious improvement in the socio-economic status of most backward panchayats across Jammu & Kashmir.

A total of 100 measurable indicators have been identified across 9 sectors including Agriculture and Allied

Rural Development and Sanitation, Beneficiary-Oriented Schemes, Skill Development, Basic Infrastructure, Environment and Good Governance. These indicators will provide insight into existing status and incremental progress over time.

CPO Kathua, Uttam Singh, ACD, ACP, CEO and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## J&K all set to host Senior National Table Tennis Championship in Jammu: Sarmad Hafeez

**JAMMU:** Emerging as a most sought after sports destination, Jammu and Kashmir is all set to host the 84th Senior National Table Tennis Championship from 20th of this month.

"It is a matter of great honor and privilege to be hosts of yet another major event in the sports calendar of the country", Secretary Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Sarmad Hafeez said while briefing the media about the upcoming event.

The Championship is being organized by J&K table Tennis Association in coordination with J&K Sports Council.

Flanked by Sanjay Wahi, President J&K Table Tennis Association and N.Ganeshan, Competition Manager of the event, Secretary said that successful conduct of Veteran Masters National Table Tennis Championship in Srinagar last year has consolidated the claim of J&K to be one of the most sought after sports destinations in the country and the allotment of

84th Senior National Table Tennis Championship-2022 by Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) only substantiates the claim.

He said that J&K is hosting Senior National Table Tennis Tournament after a gap of almost 25 years and all the stakeholders especially the J&K Sports Council and J&K Table Tennis Association deserve all accolades for making it possible, adding that in past one year J&K has hosted 22 National level tournaments in various sports disciplines.

Attributing the rise in sports activities across the Union Territory to the boom in sports infrastructure, Sarmad Hafeez said that in the days to come sports activities will amplify manifold. Many former International stars and Arjun Awardees like Monalisa Mehta, S.Raman and Kamlesh Mehta are going to witness the event and this in itself should be a biggest motivation and inspira-

tion for our Table Tennis stars waiting in wings to realise their potential, Sarmad Hafeez added.



President J&K Table Tennis Association, Sanjay Wahi, said that many prominent paddlers of the country shall take part in the event which includes star players like Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra and Sathiana Ganaesekaran who collectively bagged 6 Gold medals in recent Commonwealth Games.

N. Ganeshan, competition manager of the event who hails from Kerala, appreciated the growing sports culture in the union territory of J&K. Recalling his first visit to J&K in 1997, Ganeshan said sports infrastructure has not only improved

but increased in number too and the facilities put in place during his recent visit last year during

Masters Table Tennis Championship motivated him and other participants to frequently visit J&K and contribute towards sports in whatever capacity they can. The event is all set to begin from 20th of this month and shall extend over a period of eight days in which more than 750 players and officials from 34 States, Union Territories, Sports Boards and Institutions are taking part. The championship carries a total cash prize of sixteen lakh rupees and for the first time the reward shall be equally distributed among the winners from women and

men categories also setting a standard to curb the gender bias in sports also.

Around 33 men and 32 women teams besides 65 technical officials from all over the country are going to take part in singles, doubles, mixed doubles, and team championship events.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, said that the championship will provide healthy competition to the participating athletes and send a good message of J&K hospitality for which is known world over. She said that J&K Sports Council is for the upliftment of sports in the union territory and it shall leave no stone unturned to change the sports landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

The championship will provide a platform to the Youth of J&K to showcase their talent and rub shoulders with the reputed players of the country and shall be an opportunity for them to hone their skills, said Ajay Sharma Organising

Secretary J&K table Tennis Association. He also said that adequate arrangement for boarding and lodging and local transportation has been put in place for all the participants.

Ajay Sharma, while addressing the locals through media, requested all in and around Jammu to visit the venue and support the participants.

Among others present on the occasion included Rakesh Mangotra, Special Secretary YSS, Rajeev Sharma Member J&K Sports Council, Dr Zaffar Iqbal Chief Accounts Officer, Parul Khajuria Under Secretary YSS, Sheikh Riyaz Ahmad Administrative Officer J&K Sports Council and office bearers of J&K table Association including Rajan Sharma Secretary, Satbir Singh Senior Vice-President, Narinder Singh Treasurer, IP Singh and Saleem Bandey Vice-Presidents, Vasu Dewan and Hanumat Sharma Joint Secretary.



## Delegation of Jammu Kashmir Shree Kashi Vidvat Parishad, Jammu meets Lt Governor

**JAMMU**  
**A delegation of**  
**Jammu Kashmir**

prised the Lt Governor about the efforts of the organisation to promote

ment of Shri Sharda Peetha International University in J&K UT.



**Shree Kashi Vidvat Parishad, Jammu met Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here.**

The members of the delegation led by Chairperson of the organisation Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri ap-

and preserve "Sanskaar, Sanskriti & Sanskrit". They discussed the establishment of vedic schools, library and granting scholarships to students through the organisation. The members of the delegation also submitted a proposal for the establish-

The Lt Governor appreciated the tireless efforts of the members for the promotion of the ancient vedic culture, teachings & tradition and assured all support from the UT administration in furthering their noble work for the welfare of society.

## India fast emerging as world's knowledge based economy: Dr Jitendra

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that India is fast emerging as the world's knowledge based economy and over the last few years, it has grown by leaps and bound when it comes to innovation and technology. India stands today as one of the leading nations of the world in terms of scientific and technological prowess, he said.

Addressing the plenary session of the 28th edition of The CII Partnership Summit being held in partnership with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Innovation prowess of any country is instrumental in shaping and sustaining its industrial sectors, delivering

economic growth, jobs, wealth creation and ensuring a strategic edge. The Covid-19 pandemic taught the business world an important lesson - 'innovate or perish'.

The Minister said that India is on a mission in the very first year of Amrit Kaal. This mission is technology-driven towards achieving its aspiration of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy. "Technology will therefore be at the centre-stage in this phase of socioeconomic growth and development", he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasised that the present Government clearly puts a strong emphasis on strengthening the Nation's ecosystem of Research, Innovation and Technology development to achieve this aspiration.

He added that the technology-driven, and innovation-focused enterprises that form the bedrock of an innovation nations have moved from being a buzzword to a critical component of national economic and strategic power.

## DC Doda chairs DLRC meeting; ask Banks for handholding of Innovative Entrepreneurs

**Government officials, MGNREGA & other beneficiaries to register for PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY: DC**

**DODA;** **District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) meeting was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Vishesh Mahajan here in the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex Doda, to review the performance of the Banks and other Financial Institutions.**

Underlining the demand of bank branches in the Tehsil Headquarters and other areas of the district, DC has urged the RBI officials and Bank authorities to rationalise the bank branches in accordance with the population and distance, rather than concentrating in the towns.

Chairman/ DC urged banks and sponsoring agencies to encourage and handhold innovative entrepreneurs and give them all the permissible help in setting up their business units.

While emphasising the need for penetra-

tion of social security schemes in society, the Chairman has asked all the DDOs to get their employees (eligible and willing) registered for PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY. Besides, directions have been made to enrol eligible/ willing beneficiaries of MGNREGA, Social Welfare schemes and other such beneficiaries for the said social security schemes, so that they can get the financial security by spending a meager amount of Rs 20 per annum as premium.

DC has called the lists of all the NPAs/ defaulters from the banks, so that recovery process can be initiated against them. During the meeting DC held threadbare discussion with regard to the lending in priority, non priority, agro sector, number of cases sponsored by the intending departments, the cases sanctioned, cases disbursed, pending for disbursement.

Besides, the committee also reviewed the implementation of Mumkin scheme, Te-

jaswani, PMEGP, MU-

DRA, NULM, NPAs, priority/non priority

lending to based sectors.

DC asked banks to



and progress of AD-HAAR linkage. The Deputy Commissioner

Doda took a sector wise performance review of the Banks in implementation of different Government initiatives

with respect to employment generation etc. He also reviewed the achievements of Banks

sectors under Annual Credit Plan.

Disbursement of pending cases of loan portal.

DC urged in Agro, Handloom, bankers and other financial agencies to lay

special focus on providing financial help to

unemployed youth so that they can earn their livelihood with dig-

nity. DC urged the

sponsoring agencies to conduct trainings/ Capacity Building under PMEGP and other schemes before the end of this month and upload the same on the designated portal. Regarding the establishment of R-SETI, it was informed that suitable land has been identified at Bhagwah road. Bankers were asked to earmark the share of CSR for the district and utilise it in improving the quality of education in government schools and in Swachhata sectors. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Doda Pran Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Suresh Kumar, Dy Director Employment Idrees Lone, LDM Parveen Kumar, Manager RBI, CAHO, CAO, DSHO, Zonal Officer JK Bank, District Manager KVIB, representatives of HDFC, ICIC, EDB, JCCB, JUDA, NLM, and other officers/representatives of various departments.



## Women proving their mettle in the field of entrepreneurship in J&K: Director JKEDI

**SRINAGAR:** Director, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Ajaz Ahmad Bhat interacted with aspiring women entrepreneurs and students of the Government Degree College for Women at JKEDI's Centre for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE).

In an effort to attract more women to choose entrepreneurship as a career choice and encourage enterprising women entrepreneurs, he also felicitated three successful women entrepreneurs with a commendation certificate. The felicitated entrepreneurs include Anam Siraj, owner of a renowned fashion label in Srinagar called Closet Cloud, Sumaira Shafi, a preschool owner from Budgam district, and Maisara Maqbool, owner of a distribution agency from Ganderbal district.

These entrepreneurs have been supported by JKEDI under various schemes. The visit to the Centre is a part of the ongoing efforts of the Direc-

tor, JKEDI to reach out to women and inspire them to take up entrepreneurship as a career choice.

The Director also informed the audience that such programs will con-

tends to make it more inclusive and friendly for startups from J&K and create 3000 startups within five years. "I am always eager to meet youth who are interested in tak-

tivities carefully after doing a market survey and not stick to traditional activities with limited markets," said Director, JKEDI. "We will also try to arrange mentorship



tinue and will be organized in all the districts of J&K.

During the past few months, the Director has held interactions with youth across the length and breadth of the Union Territory of J&K. These interactions are also significant because the Institute is planning to come up with various programs and initiatives for the youth of UT. The Department of Industries and Commerce is in the process of revising the Startup Policy 2018. It in-

ing up entrepreneurship as a career option. It is a known fact that women have proven to be successful entrepreneurs and there are a number of examples across the country and in our UT", Director Said and added that "I want them to explore various government initiatives and schemes available to aspiring entrepreneurs. Innovation and technology have revolutionized the Startup scene of our country." "I want women in J&K to choose their business ac-

programs for Startups where they can take informed decisions about funding, investments, and technology adoption to realize their aspirations," he added.

The program was attended by Nusrath Sayeed, Head of the Department, Botany, GDC for Women, In Charge, Centre for Women Entrepreneurship, Srinagar, District Nodal Officer, Srinagar.

Faculty members from JKEDI were also present on the occasion.

## DC Ganderbal chairs Vidyalaya Management Committee meeting at JNV Hatbura

**GANDERBAL:** Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired

and other committee members.

At the outset the Principal JNV, Hatbura gave a

Tullamula, Hariganwan and Kangan blocks of the district.

The Deputy Commis-



**Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC) meeting of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Hatbura here at School Campus Ganderbal.**

The meeting was attended by Principal JNV Hatbura, Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal, BMO Ganderbal

detailed overview about the functioning of GNV, Hatbura which has intake capacity of 441 candidates. He informed that 563 candidates have been registered for JNVST 2023 and JNV selection test for class 6th is scheduled to be conducted on 29 April, 2023 at various centers viz Ganderbal,

sioner stressed upon the school management to work for overall development of the students and laid emphasis to motivate the students to take part in extracurricular activities for physical and mental wellness.

The meeting also discussed other issues included construction of in-

ternal approach road, upgradation of play field, raising of boundary wall, installing of dust bins in campus, open gym and other issues of infrastructure development.

The DC advised the school authorities to submit proposal complete in all respects and assures all possible support from district administration for the development of the school. He also gave necessary direction to the concerned agencies for timely redressal of those issues which needs immediate attention.

Later, the DC took a round of school Campus and also interacted with students and enquired about their preparations for the upcoming exams and urged them to give their best to in their academics.

## AC gives nod for amendment of Pharmacy Act

**JAMMU:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, gives its assent for amendment in Section 32-C of Pharmacy Act, 1948 (Central Act)-Introduction of draft Bill.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The decision aims for amendment in Section 32-C, inserted in Pharmacy Act, 1948 (Central Act) through an Adaptation Order under S.O No: 3465(E), Dated 5th of October, 2020.

The instant proposal is for amendment in the existing Section 32-C of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 (Central Act) to the effect that notwithstanding anything contained in Section 32, any person whose name has been entered in the register of Pharmacists maintained under the Jammu and Kashmir Pharmacy Act, 2011 (1955 AD) or possesses qualification Medical Assistant prescribed under the said Act shall be deemed to have been entered in the register of Pharmacists prepared and maintained under Chapter IV of this Act, subject to an application to be made in this behalf within a period of one year commencing from the date of re-notification and payment of such fee as may be prescribed by the Administration of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The move is going to benefit hundreds of qualified persons and Medical Assistant trained persons for safeguarding their future and providing them the better career prospects in the field of medicine.

## DC B'la Inaugurates National Apprenticeship Awareness Workshop at Dak Bungalow

*Our endeavor is to promote apprenticeship training for Youth under Employment Oriented Schemes: Dr Syed Sehrish*

**BARAMULLA:** In a bid to create awareness among youth about the Apprenticeship Scheme and to promote apprenticeship training among them, the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today inaugurated National Apprenticeship Awareness Workshop" at Dak Bungalow here.

The Workshop was organized by Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, J&K, (GoI) in collaboration with District Administration Baramulla.

At the outset, Dr Sehrish Asgar highlighted the objective of the training and said that the workshop aims to create awareness among establishments on apprenticeship training, benefits under National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). She hailed for organizing the workshop and advised to conduct more such orientation programs to encourage skill up-gradation to meet the requirement of a qualified workforce for Industries. Elaborating further, the DC said that the industry provides training to the beneficiaries under the said scheme and recognize their skills by providing certificate recognized at National and Internationally level thereby enabling the youth to get a job at any organization. She urged the dropout school students in general and the unemployed youth in particular to get themselves registered with the industry and avail the benefits under the scheme. The Apprenticeship Scheme aims to provide a mechanism that will ensure availability of qualified skilled workers based on industry requirements and also can address the unemployment issue among educated youth" Dr Sehrish Asgar added. The DC welcomed the support provided by the Government of India to the Industries.

Meanwhile, the senior functionaries of Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the benefits of apprenticeship schemes and opportunities by the Govt. of India. They said that the workshop focuses on the registration of establishments in the J&K UT and advised the representatives of industries to accommodate ITI pass-outs /trainees under the Apprenticeship Act.



# Jammu to be promoted as holistic tourism spot through digital technology: Dr Syed Abid

*Holds interactive session with all stakeholders, officers*

**JAMMU:** Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today reviewed Tourism scenario of Jammu in a joint interactive session held with Tour Travel Operators, Hotel Associations and officers of the Tourism Department here.

Chairing the event, Secretary said the last few months have witnessed an encouraging tourist footfall due to coordinated efforts of all stakeholders and the department which has been appreciated and recognized at the highest forum. He reiterated that it is the endeavor of the government to promote the tourism potential of the UT which is blessed with picturesque destinations such as Bani-Basohli, Bhaderwah, Rajouri and Poonch on a larger scale in collaboration with all stakeholders.

Dr. Abid Rasheed sought support and cooperation from the stakeholders in further promoting the 75 offbeat destinations identified by the department across J&K. He also advised them to come up

with attractive and digital tourism promotional competitive packages so that campaign in the form of spots in recently held travel more and more tourists are videos, reels, social media, marts like SATTE, OTM, attracted to visit J&K. He said informational blogs and vlogs. FITUR (Madrid, Spain). They



that the main aim of this interactive session is to create a direct dialogue with the stakeholders on schemes, policies and steps being taken up to promote tourism in the region. He sought suggestions from all stakeholders towards making tourism industry the most lucrative venture in the region. He directed the officials of tourism department to come up with a vibrant and innovative

The Tour Travel Operators and hotel association members lauded the efforts of the Tourism Department in promoting Jammu at National and International level, which they said, has even won accolades from many quarters in the country. They appreciated the role of the department in actively promoting various regions of Jammu including Bhaderwah, Bani-Basohli,

brought many issues into the notice of the Tourism Secretary and sought their redressal.

Earlier, Secretary was felicitated by travel and tour fraternity who hailed his handholding and participatory approach.

Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, gave a resume of the Tourism scenario in Jammu region including highlighting the

efforts being made by the department to tap the potential of the region and promote it across the country.

Special Secretary Tourism Department, Amarjeet Singh, briefed the stakeholders regarding the newly launched Utsav and Nidhi Portal by ministry of tourism.

Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, while moderating the whole interactive session, briefed the stakeholders regarding the major achievements of department of tourism. She briefed all about the upcoming Sinthan Snow Festival being held at Sinthan Maidan, Kishtwar, on 19th March, 2023, which shall include bike rally, snow kayaking, fun snow activities and cultural performances.

Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf Course Sidhra, Manav Gupta, informed about the potential and scope of Golf Tourism in promoting the entire region for recreational sports.

Senior officers of the Tourism Department and representatives of various tourism trade bodies were present on the occasion.

## 2-Day Pashu Mandi thrown open at Lakhanpur

*DC Kathua, Director AHD jointly kick-off the event*

**KATHUA:** A two-day rural economy and exhibition of livestock and animal products event would facilitate farmers in getting quality livestock at a one-stop platform within Jammu and Kashmir. She said that Pashu Mandi would also promote the dairy sector and generate employment opportunities for local people. She highlighted initiatives taken by AHD to promote healthy animal rearing and ensure their welfare. She urged farmers to adopt modern animal husbandry practices

to enhance productivity. to provide quality live- otherwise have to venture so that their income can



Mandi at Lakhanpur will Kashmir, saving time and time aim is to provide and modern animal husbandry practices

be doubled.

The inauguration of Pashu Mandi was attended by senior officials from the Animal Husbandry Department, representatives from various farmer organisations and members of the local community.

Pashu Mandi is a sequel to earlier editions of Pashudhan Vyapar Mela and aims to promote the livestock sector in the region and generate awareness about animal welfare and modern animal husbandry practices.



## Div Com visits Transport Nagar to inspect ongoing upgradation works

**Also inspects Smart City Projects executed in Jammu city**

**JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar, conducted a tour of Transport Nagar and Narwal to inspect the ongoing up-gradation works executed under Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority.**

The Div Com was ac-

companied by Vice Chariman JDA, Pankaj Mago-

tra; Chief Engineer PHE, (Jal Shakti), Superintendent Engineer, JPDCL, Architect JMRDA, Davinder Gupta; and other concerned officers.



The Div Com inspected various ongoing works, including drainage systems, road improvements, construction of roads, internal lanes and dividers. The VC JDA and JMRDA officers apprised the Div Com of the project's components and status of ongoing works.

The Div Com instructed executing agencies to expedite the pace of all the ongoing works while maintaining quality parameters. He suggested corrective measures for the overall development of the busy business hub (Transport Nagar) and directed concerned officers

to ensure that the works are completed within fixed timelines. He also instructed the executing agencies to maintain interdepartmental coordination for any utility shifting works.

During his interaction with the traders and shopkeepers at Transport Nagar, they raised their concerns and requested strict action against encroachers who have encroached roads and dividers. They expressed gratitude to the government for executing im-

provement of infrastructure works in the area. The Div Com assured them that all their genuine issues would be redressed at the earliest and advised them to cooperate with the executing agencies to ensure timely completion of works.

The Div Com also conducted a Jammu city tour and inspected the ongoing pathways/foot-path and rotaries improvement projects executed under Jammu Smart City Mission. He inspected the progress of work at various locations, including Gandhi Nagar, Panama Chowk, University Road and Bahu Fort area.

The concerned officers apprised the Div Com of the present status of work and future work plan. The Div Com directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on all the executed works and complete the same in a time-bound manner.

The Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited, Rahul Yadav, project consultants and other concerned officers accompanied the Div Com.

## Govt launches pathbreaking interventions towards transforming education profile in J&K

**SRINAGAR: The pathbreaking interventions and concrete efforts by the government are transforming the educational scenario of Jammu and Kashmir.**

The School Education Department has taken up several initiatives like reducing dropout ratio, increasing enrolment rate and others.

The whole nation is witnessing significant transformation in the education system with implementation of new National Education Policy. The policy has put special emphasis on engagement and involvement in both classroom as well as field study.

Notably, Mentorship Programme: Student Teacher Engagement for Educational Reinforcement (STEER) will revolutionize the school education system by identifying learning gaps and understanding the constraints being faced by the children, their capa-

bilities besides providing the teachers an opportunity to bring changes in their teaching methods.

Under this mentorship program, more than 21,000 schools have been covered and five lakh students have been mapped. Moreover, 40,000 teachers have been trained to mentor the students in 1:10 ratio.

Further, efforts are being made to improve the quality of school education and employment-oriented higher education through the National Education Policy. Necessary changes have been made in the education system to cater to the human resource requirement of the fourth industrial revolution and digital economy of the twenty-first century. Under the policy, Higher Education Council will ensure that colleges and universities become hub of research and innovation and contribute in developing a highly skilled national human capital.

An innovative education system is being developed through a uniform academic calendar, updated curriculum, robust research ecosystem, institutional restructuring, implementation of a three tier feedback mechanism and digital initiatives like e-Samarth.

As per official data, 4841 students have been registered for general degree and professional courses under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme for the current financial year and after three decades of stagnation, schools were made operational for 200 days last year, reflecting seriousness of government to transform education sector.

Moreover, 70,000 children have joined classrooms through the "Aao School Chalein" campaign and recorded a 17.87 per cent increase in enrollment in the year 2022 through special focus on early child care and education.

## DC Ganderbal inspects work progress on Transit Accommodation Wandhama

**GANDERBAL: To have firsthand appraisal about the work progress on Transit Accommodation Wandhama, the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir today visited project site at Wandhama and assessed the progress of work there.**

During visit, the DC was accompanied by SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar, Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, ACD, Tehsildar Lar and other concerned.

During his visit to the site the DC was briefed by all the concerned officers of various departments regarding the progress of

works pertaining to their departments including electrification, Water Supply and other additional works. Ex.En R&B informed that 3 blocks are already completed having

works including internal pathways, parking, drainage work, lighting and landscaping.

All line departments were directed to ensure the completion of all the



48 flats besides, 4th block will be completed within the week.

On the occasion, the DC gave necessary instructions to the concerned departments for timely completion of allied

formalities for the activities proposed and shall expedite the work without compromising with quality and quantity parameters so that the prestigious project gets completed on time.

## District Level training programme on "Rainfed Area Development & Alternative Agriculture System" held in Reasi

**REASI: District Level Training cum Orientation Programme on "Rainfed Area Development & Alternative Agriculture System"**

change.

Head KVK Reasi, Dr. Banarasi Lal explained in detail the vision, goal, strategy, action and likely achievements of the or-

Husbandry Officer Reasi, P.P Sajotra, District Agriculture Officer, Ravinder Tripathi, SMS DL, Amit Sharma, ASCO, Varinder Dogra and Sub division



**was held today, here at Conference Hall, D. C. Office, Reasi.**

The programme was inaugurated by Chief Agriculture Officer, Reasi, Harbans Singh.

CAO Reasi while speaking on the occasion said that stress was being laid on developing climate resilient and nutritionally smart crop varieties to deal with constraints faced in Rainfed Agriculture.

With regard to the alternate agriculture system, J&K has huge potential for organic farming as it improves soil structure, low input cost, premium quality of products besides being eco friendly, he added.

He also informed that 60% of the area in the district is by default organic.

DAO, Extension, Rajesh Verma deliberated on objectives, approaches to follow while implementing Rainfed Area Development Project besides its outcome. He also highlighted various adaptive measures to mitigate the ill effects of climate

Topics like Certification of organic products (PGSystem), branding, marketing were also covered during the session.

Chief Animal Husbandry officer Reasi, Abdul Majid, District Sheep

Agriculture Officer Dhar-mari, Rupinder Pal Singh Bedi, SMSs, AEOs and field functionaries of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry Department participated in the training.

## KISCE for Fencing shortlists candidates for residential coaching in Jammu

**JAMMU: The Khelo India Centre of Excellence (KISCE) for Fencing shortlisted candidates for residential coaching in its Jammu Centre.**

The candidates were selected after a battery of tests held in five phases across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of the selection committee comprising Coaches, Manager and Physiotherapist from the related centre.

The selection trials were monitored by the team of officers from J&K Sports Council and Sports Authority of India headed by Joint Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Bashir Ahmad Bhat.

Following the selection, the shortlisted candidates have been directed to complete all the formalities including submission of original testimonials upto 25th March 2023 in the office of Divisional Sports Officers either in Jammu or Kashmir divisions. The selected candidates have been directed to submit the DOB certificate, Domicile certificate, Achievement/participation certificate, Parent consent form and Medical Fitness certificate to complete the admission formalities.

Pertinently, the centre is not charging any fee for the admission and training in the centre for all the selected candidates.



## Dvara KGFS wins award for risk & analytics - best analytics-driven project

### JAMMU

Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services Private Limited (Dvara KGFS), an NBFC operating in remote rural parts of India, has won the Risk & Analytics - Best Analytics-Driven project award under the subcategory of Micro Finance Company. The award was presented by Quantic India, an internationally recognised Business Media Company, at the 2nd Annual NBFC and FinTech Excellence Awards Mumbai - in the month of March,

2023. Dvara KGFS was recognised for their Location Analytics system, which helps wealth managers take the optimal route for collections. The system uses advanced technologies like Python, Java, Angular JS, ML clustering (K means algorithm), customized Dijkstra Algorithm, and Geo Analytics to extract insights and make decisions based on geographical data.

The Location Analytics system uses latitude and longitude to cluster data and provide optimised routes

for each branch, while also ensuring appropriate dates and times for centre collections. The system improves efficiency, increases productivity, enhances customer experience, aids in real-time adjustments, saves cost and helps in hyper monitoring.

Mr Bragadeesh, Chief Data Science Officer, Dvara KGFS, received the award on behalf of the company and expressed gratitude towards Quantic India for recognising their work. He also mentioned that this recogni-

tion will inspire Dvara KGFS to invest more time and effort in Data and Analytics in different areas of work for achieving better results and increased efficiencies.

Quantic India is a prestigious group with over 10 years of experience managing BFSI, Supply chain, FMCG and B2B Summits. Dvara KGFS is privileged to have received the award from them and will continue to work towards providing a secure platform for customers in remote areas of India.

IIL partners with ICAR-CIFA for development of vaccine against Hemorrhagic Septicemia in fish

### JAMMU

*Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) has announced partnership with Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institute for the commercial development of vaccine against Hemorrhagic Septicemia, also called Aeromonas Septicemia, Ulcer Disease or Red-Sore Disease in freshwater fish.*

IIL ventured into aqua business in October 2022 by launching products for aquaculture health market dealing with pond management and fish or shrimp gut management and subsequently announced commercial development of fish vaccines with ICAR-CIFA. Aquaculture sectors play a vital role in India's economy and fisheries sector is a means of livelihood for ~28 million people in the country.

India is the 3rd largest fish producer in the global sphere and more than 65% of India's fish is through Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The main constraint to aquaculture globally, however, is disease with an estimate that 20% of all cultured aquatic animals are lost because of infectious diseases, amounting to around 10 billion USD in losses annually on a global scale.

Hemorrhagic Septicemia in freshwater fishes is caused by *Aeromonas hydrophila*, an opportunistic pathogenic bacterium.

This infection is the scourge of fresh and brackish water fish farming worldwide and is considered as a significant economic problem in Indian aquaculture over the past decades. All the cultured freshwater fish species in India like rohu, catla, mrigal, silver carp, grass carp, common carp, medium carps, channel catfish, eel, etc. are susceptible to this disease.

## Amrita School of Ayurveda launches online portals for panchakarma & clinical e-learning

### JAMMU

*Amrita School of Ayurveda, a part of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, has launched two online portals for the Ayurveda community. While e-MAP is an e-module application for Panchakarma, AyurCel is tailor-made for clinical e-learning. The projects have been funded by the Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.*

The portals were launched at a high-powered event at Amrita University, attended by dignitaries like Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Vaidya Jayant Deopujari, Chairman, NCISM, and Dr. Kousthubha Upadhyaya, Advisor, from Ministry of AYUSH; Dr. Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda; Dr. Maneesha Vinodini Ramesh, Provost, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Dr. Venkat Rangan, Vice Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham; and Swami Sankaramirtananda Puri, Dean, Amrita School of Ayurveda.

The e-MAP project is an interactive portal that provides compre-

hensive information related to Panchakarma. It includes a learning module featuring lesson plans, sloka recitations, illustrative animations, and self-assessment aids on UG and PG Panchakarma syllabi. It also offers standardized videos of various clinically practiced Panchakarma procedures and a directory search for information related to faculties, postgraduates, publications, dissertations, and colleges offering Panchakarma PG, PhD, and equipment suppliers.

The project is led by team Dr. Parameswaran Namboothiri, Professor, Panchakarma, School of Ayurveda, Amritapuri.

The AyurCel project is a clinical learning tool to make the clinical experiences of successful Ayurveda clinicians available in a digital format to facilitate continuous clinical learning. It offers case studies, modules for post-publication review of published case reports, and a preprint server for fast-track publication of the first draft of case reports. The doctors can use the portal to share their treatment experiences. The project is led by a team under Dr. P Rammanohar, Research Director, Amrita Centre

for Advanced Research in Ayurveda (?C?RA), School of Ayurveda, Amritapuri.

Delivering the inaugural address, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, said: "Ayurveda has a wide range of research possibilities, and we should utilize them to the full. I welcome the launch of these two authentic digital reference initiatives related to studies in Ayurveda. The Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth of Ministry of AYUSH collaborate with Amrita School of Ayurveda in various fields related to Ayurveda treatment and research."

Swami Sankaramirtananda Puri, Dean, Amrita School of Ayurveda, said: "We are excited to launch the e-MAP and AyurCeL portals for the Ayurvedic community. These will help students, practitioners, and researchers access the latest information related to Panchakarma and Ayurvedic clinical practice. Our goal is to facilitate learning and innovation in Ayurveda through digital tools and platforms. These two portals are part of Amrita School of Ayurveda's commitment to promoting excellence in Ayurvedic

education and research. They are accessible to anyone interested in Ayurveda and are designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate."

Dr. Prem Nedungadi, Director, Amrita CREATE, Amritapuri | Chairperson, School of Computing, Amritapuri (Chair, EDT C20 Working group), said "The aim of the joint project by Amrita Centre for Advanced Research in Ayurveda (?C?RA) and Amrita CREATE is to develop a clinical e-learning platform. This platform will gather the real clinical experiences of physicians, transform them into data, and organize them in a structured manner. The result will be an interactive learning environment that will undergo a rigorous review by an expert team. The platform will provide continued clinical education in the field of Ayurveda through the contributions of experts, including the Panel of Contributors and Clinicians of Amrita School of Ayurveda Published Case Reports. Essentially, this project aims to create an ecosystem for the domain and for future generations of clinicians, practitioners, and researchers."



## Udhampur: KVIB organises awareness camp on PMEGP

**UDHAMPUR:** The Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) in Udhampur organised a one-day awareness camp on the flagship Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) at Khoon. The camp was attended by Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur Juhi Manhas Pathania as the chief guest.

Pathania appreciated KVIB's efforts in organizing such awareness camps and described PMEGP and JKREGP as beneficial schemes for rural unemployed youth. She added that such camps help guide youth towards earning income through self-employment ventures under various schemes.

The aim of the camp was to create general awareness about KVIB schemes with a special focus on benefits under PMEGP. Pathania said that the government is committed to extending support for the development of the micro-industrial sector in Jammu & Kashmir. She urged educated youths to come forward and benefit from the scheme. Sarpanchs Ramesh Chander Gupta, Mohan Lal Sharma, Raman Khajuria, Chain Singh; Naib Sarpanchs, Kewal Kumar, Namrata Bali; and Ex-Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh besides officials from KVIB and Handloom Department were present on the occasion.

## Former Minister calls on Lt Governor

**JAMMU:** Sh Surjit Singh Slathia, Former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan today.

The former minister submitted a memorandum to the Lt Governor pertaining to the demands of inhabitants of District Samba.



The demands included enhancement of infrastructure in GDC Samba, a degree college for Sumb area, besides augmentation of power supply and health facilities and widening of Samba to Dhabbi road.

Earlier, Sh Surinder Choudhary, former legislator also met the Lt Governor and discussed the issues of public importance.

The Lt Governor assured the former minister and former legislator of appropriate redressal of the genuine demands based on merit.

## SSP Doda inaugurates Police Martyrs Memorial Cricket Tournament at Bhaderwah

**DODA**

**SSP Doda Sh. Abdul Qayoom, today on 14th of March-2023, inaugurated Martyrs Memorial Cricket Tournament, organized by District Police Doda under Civic Action Programme (CAP) at GDC ground Bhaderwah in the loving memory of J&K Police martyrs who have laid down their lives to uphold the integrity and sovereignty of the Nation.**

While speaking on the occasion, SSP Doda said that Doda Police has been organizing number of events under Civic Action Programme every year with special focus to involve youth in sports activities to showcase their talent in the field of sports. SSP Doda also said that in this tournament total of (16) teams are participating. The tournament started with an exhibition match between the teams of Police and civil administration.

On this occasion, ADC Bhaderwah Sh. Dalmir Choudhary JKAS, ASP Bhaderwah Sh. Kameshwar Puri-JKPS, Superintendent District Jail Bhaderwah, Sh. Mohd Mushtaq Malla, Sh. Nishant 2/IC 4RR, Sh. Vaseem Mehmood SDPO Bhaderwah and other officers of Civil/Police administration, Army/CAPF were also present.

## Secretary visits Government Press, inspects functioning

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary (Technical) ARI and Trainings Department, Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar, today conducted maiden inspection at Government Press, Srinagar (Sempora).

Secretary had an extensive tour of different sections of the press complex where he inspected ongoing works.

He interacted with employees of the press enquiring them about the functioning of their respective units. He directed the General Manager, Government Press, to ensure total safety in terms of fire safety and security.

Dr. Kabir Dar also visited newly established building within the government press complex and inaugurated recently installed passenger cum goods lift.

## Atal Dulloo inaugurates staff accommodation at Sheep Husbandry Complex

**JAMMU:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today inaugurated staff accommodation at Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Complex, Jammu.

Director, Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Krishan Lal and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

ACS also had a brief feedback about the tar-



gets and achievements under various schemes like CAPEX and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). He enquired about the Artificial Insemination programme being initiated by the department.

Director apprised the Additional Chief Secretary of the achievements recorded by the department besides highlighting the farm activities.

## DIC Kathua organises workshop on Single Window System, Ease of Doing Business

**KATHUA:** District Industries Centre Kathua in collaboration with IT Team of SICOP Jammu organised a District Level Sensitisation Workshop on 'Ease of Doing business' and 'Single Window System' here today.

The Workshop was organised under the

Kathua at Common Facil-

The session was hosted

wherein government officers and officials besides 30 industrialists and entrepreneurs participated.

The IT experts of SICOP gave detailed information regarding availing of all industrial related services on single window system along with details of steps taken by the government to facilitate 'Ease of Doing Business'.



ity Centre, IID Centre chairmanship of GM DIC Govindsar.

by team of four IT experts from SICOP Jammu



# J&K's Oil Industry to witness significant transformation under HADP with an outlay of Rs 1290 cr

**JAMMU:** *Jammu and Kashmir's oil industry would be witnessing a significant transformation with implementation of multifarious initiatives under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) by the Agriculture Production Department.*

The recent release of final report by the Apex Committee, headed by Dr. Mangla Rai, Former DG ICAR, has charted out the roadmap for implementation of 29 projects under HADP. Significantly, among the approved projects, promotion of oilseed

cultivation has been given due consideration. The Oil seed project included several interventions aimed at increasing oilseed production and productivity, with an estimated annual output worth ₹ 1290 crore.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir's oil industry is about to receive a significant boost. The department will be implementing a multifaceted initiative aimed at promoting oilseed cultivation in the region with a project outlay of ₹ 31.00 crore. This three year project is expected to create

more job opportunities and contribute towards overall economic growth of the region.

Pertinently, oilseed production is an essential sector of agriculture in India, contributing significantly to the country's economy. India is one of the largest producers of oilseeds in the world, with an annual production of around 37-38 million metric tons. However, despite this, India is the largest importer of vegetable oils followed by USA and China.

Jammu and Kashmir is known for its diverse agro-climatic conditions that provide a suitable environ-

ment for cultivation of various crops, including oilseeds. To promote oilseed cultivation in the region, the J&K government has taken several initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The government intends to bring 210 Th Ha under oilseed cultivation from the current 140 Th Ha over the next three years.

About 202.50 Th Ha shall be covered under rapeseed and mustard cultivation and 7.50 Th Ha shall be covered under sesame seed cultivation.

Besides, 70,000 Ha of additional areas shall be

covered in potential oilseed districts like Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Budgam, and Ganderbal and districts like Shopian, Bandipora, Ramban, and Doda, by utilizing fallow lands, culturable waste lands and leveraging increased cropping intensity apart from promoting intercropping systems.

More than 50% of the net sown area in Jammu division is rain-fed. Therefore, this project aims to promote crop diversification by cultivating sesame seed as a Kharif crop in Kandi and rain-fed areas of Jammu division. The total requirement of edible oils in the UT is ₹ 14.20 lakh quintal, whereas the UT produces only 3.36 lakh quintal. Hence, this initiative is crucial for region's food security and economic growth.

The Union Territory (UT) is all set to witness a massive transformation in the agriculture sector with implementation of a ground-breaking project that promises to increase oil seed production and create employment opportunities.

The interventions, which included providing subsidized seeds and fertilizers, increasing the seed replacement rate and adopting innovative technologies like INM/IPM and micro irrigation, are aimed at boosting oil seed production from 11.20 lakh quintal to 25.20 lakh quintal annually, and productivity from 8 quintal per Ha to 12 quintal per Ha. This will also result in a significant increase in production of edible oils from 3.36 lakh quintal to 9.07 lakh quintal. The project is expected to reduce the deficit in oil seed production by 35% and substantially decrease the outflow of foreign exchange due to oilseed imports. As part of the project, farmers will receive 50% assistance with a subsidy

ceiling of ₹ 4000/- per quintal for purchasing high-yielding varieties of mustard and rapeseed. Similarly, 50% subsidy with a ceiling of ₹ 8000/- per quintal will be provided to beneficiaries for procuring hybrid rapeseed, mustard, and improved varieties of sesame seed.

Additionally, to improve the seed replacement rate of oil seeds, 50% subsidy with a ceiling of ₹ 2500/- per quintal will be provided for producing foundation and certified seeds to boost productivity and promote area expansion. To further increase cultivation, 11,200 Ha will be brought under cluster cultivation of oil seeds, with 50% incentives extended up to ₹ 5000/- per Ha under cluster demonstrations and up to ₹ 7000/- per Ha under front-line demonstrations to meet all input costs for the cultivation of mustard, rapeseed, sesame, and linseed.

The project also included the provision of essential production inputs like gypsum, pyrite, lime, supply of azobacter, rhizobium, etc., PP chemicals, bio pesticides, insecticides and bio agents at 50% subsidy, up to a maximum ceiling of ₹ 750/- per Ha. As a significant boost to automation, 300 power-operated spray pumps will be distributed at 50% subsidy with a maximum subsidy ceiling of ₹ 10000/- per unit and 180 power weeder/seed drill/multi-crop planter/multi-crop thresher, etc., will be distributed at 50% subsidy with a maximum ceiling of ₹ 75000/- per unit. The project also envisages establishment of 150 borewells and 150 sprinkler systems to upgrade the irrigation system.

Additionally, under post-harvest management, 50% incentive will be provided on the establishment of 70 oil mills with filter press, 30 oilseed extractors, and two branding and marketing units. The project is expected to lead to a net increase in the return to farmers by 10 to 12% and a reduction in input costs by 15 to 20%, besides creating 7800 jobs and 300 enterprises. This ambitious project is a significant step towards transforming the agriculture sector in the UT, and its success will contribute towards overall economic growth of the region.

## Sheetal Nanda reviews functioning of SWD units of Kathua, Samba

**KATHUA:** *Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, today chaired a meeting to review functioning of Social Welfare units of Kathua and Samba districts.*

The meeting was attended by Director General Social Welfare Jammu, Vivek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey, ADDC, Ankur Mahajan, Mission Director, Vatsalya Harvinder Kour, DPO Poshan Kathua/Samba, CEO, CMO Kathua and senior officials from Social Welfare Department including Deputy Directors, and Assistant Directors.

During the meeting, Sheetal Nanda reviewed progress on ongoing social welfare schemes and initiatives being implemented in Kathua and Samba districts. She emphasized the need for effective implementation of these schemes to ensure that the benefits reach the targeted beneficiaries.

She also stressed the importance of identifying and addressing any gaps or shortcomings in the implementation process for better results.

Commissioner Secretary also took notice of several issues faced by the Social Welfare De-

partment in twin districts, including issuance of Category Certificates, scholarships for SC/STs, district wise re-modeling

ment effectively and efficiently to achieve intended objectives.

DPO Poshan Kathua/Samba gave a



of CIIS and provision of staff therein, status of sponsorship cases, details of cases for adoption received by DC offices and many others.

Commissioner Secretary directed the officials to address these issues on priority to ensure smooth functioning of the department and timely delivery of services to the beneficiaries.

Sheetal Nanda also reviewed progress on various schemes launched by the department including National Social Assistance Programme, Integrated Child Protection Scheme and State Marriage Assistance Scheme.

She directed the officials to ensure that the schemes are imple-

mented effectively and efficiently to achieve intended objectives. She also enquired about the status of wall paintings, Poshan Vatikas, ECCE activities, pedagogical techniques employed by AWWs to

teach children enrolled in AWCs. Sheetal Nanda stressed for ensuring purchase of nutrition for enrolled children at local level besides ensuring regular supply of food stock to rule out any disruption of feeding of nutritional diet to children and pregnant/lactating women.

While reviewing outreach activities of field functionaries, Commissioner Secretary called for ensuring mobilization of ground staff for providing mandated services and recording of the parameters on regular intervals.

To ensure regular monitoring of attendance of Poshan staff in AWCs, Commissioner Secretary informed that a workable monitoring mechanism shall be put in place in coming days to fix responsibility and accountability of the staff on this account.

She also exhorted upon the officials to work with dedication and commitment to ensure that the social welfare schemes reach the targeted beneficiaries in the districts. She also stressed the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of these schemes and identify areas for improvement.



## JKRLM to host women led 'SARAS Aajeevika Fair' from March 15

**Fool proof arrangements to be ensured for visitors: Indu Kanwal Chib**

**SRINAGAR:** The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is all set to begin its second edition of the SARAS fair, also known as SARAS Aajeevika Mela, being hosted by Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), from 15th March this year at Srinagar.

The first edition was held in the month of February in Jammu, after a gap of a decade, which evoked great response from the artisan community from across the country. It will be for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir that the SARAS will have its second edition to be held in less than gap of a month. The women-led, National level food and cultural fair at Srinagar will run for 11 days and exhibit unique and famous indigenous products from various states and UTs of the country. The event will provide platform to the women SHGs to sell and promote their self-made products.

Mission Director, JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting to review the arrangements being put in place for the mela.

She issued specific instructions to the concerned officers to work in a synergized manner for successful conduct of the event. She said that the fair gives a platform to SHGs run by rural women to showcase their skills, sell their products and

platforms.

She asked the concerned line departments to make fool proof arrangements for the event so that the fair is held in a smooth manner. She also directed that no stall will have any kind of disposable items



help them build links with bulk buyers. The self help groups will display handicraft, handloom, and traditional food items from different rural areas across the country in these stalls.

The national level event will provide a platform for the participants to sell and promote their self-made products and create marketing linkages with the various selling

like plastics.

She said that the venue of the fair has been equipped with all basic facilities such as drinking water, toilets, security and medical facilities. Besides, all the necessary fire

safety protocols are being followed. The first aid kiosks and 24X7 ambulance services are also made available at the venue of the mega event.

A total of 70 stalls shall be put on display in the Mela, of which, the number of food stalls would be around 15 serving regional cuisines from different parts of the country.

Rajasthan, Odisha, Punjab, West Bengal, Telangana and Meghalaya are among the states which have confirmed their participation in the SARAS AAJEVIKA Fair at Srinagar.

Some of the handloom products that will be displayed at the fair included cotton and silk sarees from Bihar, Phulkari garment products from Punjab, Bamboo craft and decorative items from Uttar Pradesh, Zari Sarees from Telangana, there will also be an exclusive leather slipper stall from Maharashtra. Besides, the fair will have stalls that will showcase calico painting, jute bags from samba, laakh bangles from Bihar, Basholi paintings of kathua, Sozni shawls from Budgam, saffron from pampore, papermachie items from Bandipora and Pahloo, Black cumin from Gurez and many more.

A recreational activity area for children would also be set up at the Mela venue where the young ones would be made to understand their ancient culture, rituals, food, art & crafts, and the heritage through some activities like on-the-spot pottery making, fun activities and so on.

Another key feature of this national fair would be mesmerizing cultural events depicting cultural and traditional legacy of Jammu and Kashmir.

To facilitate the customers and the mela enthusiasts, the facility of cashless transactions would also be made available at the Mela venue. For this purpose, mobile ATMs of J&K Bank, SBI Bank and other online payment options are to be made available to our women SHGs to sell their products in the mela. SARAS Mela also aims at facilitating and motivating the beneficiaries of Self Help Groups (SHGs) supported by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) scheme of Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, to exhibit and sell their products at national level event. It also aims to provide them with an opportunity for additional income, exposure and interaction on a large scale.

## Theatre Festival "Trikuta Natya Ustav" begins at Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU

**JAMMU**

**Theatre Festival titled "Trikuta Natya Ustav" was inaugurated in Matrika Au-**

region.

Speaking on the inauguration of the festival Vice Chancellor SMVDU Prof. RK Sinha said that

their talent and inspire students towards theatre.

While speaking on the occasion, Narsingh Dev

Jammu and Kashmir.

Many prominent theatre personalities were also present on the occasion.

On the inaugural day, the theatre group Viraj Kala Kendra performed Shah-Shahni Dogri drama enthralling the audience. The other plays that are going to be performed during the festival included Pagla Ghoda (Hindi) by Young Hill Thespians, Bali and Shambu (Hindi) by Bhartiya Kaaa Sangam, Teeth (Nukkad-Dogri) by Ranhgyug, Ashad Ka ek Din (Hindi).

Chairman BCA, Dr. Rakesh informed about the activities to be carried out during the theatre festival.

Dr. Kamni, Vice Chairman Board of Cultural Activities (BCA) in her welcome address gave a brief about the different phases of theatre in SMVDU and urged upon all to contribute towards making the festival a success.



**ditorium SMVDU by Prof R K Sinha Padamshree Vice Chancellor SMVDU alongwith Sh Narsingh Dev Jamwal Padamshree.**

Theatre Festival "Trikuta Nataya Utsav", is being held from 13th to 21st March 2023 in the University Campus during which reputed Theatre groups of Jammu will perform.

The theatre festival will provide an opportunity to the audience to acquaint with the rich theatre culture of Jammu

cultural heritage is the spirit and soul of any society and the need is to project the same to the younger generation. He said that we have a rich tradition of theatre and the event will give opportunity to the students to relish the excellent performances. He said that there are challenges for revival of art, culture and languages but we have to work collectively and come up with more such events. Prof. Sinha said that the festival will provide an opportunity to the artists to showcase

Jamwal noted Dogri Play writer and Padama shree awardee said that Jammu has notable playwrights and the challenge is to do justice to their literary works. " Jammus theatre landscape has been enriched by noted playwrights , directors and theatre artists. " He paid tribute to Kavi Rattan in bringing modern theatre to Jammu and enriching the discipline of performing arts. He lauded the efforts of late Kavi Rattan in laying foundation of serious drama movement in



# Magicbricks launches India's first AI powered marketing solution tool

## JAMMU

**Magicbricks, India's leading real estate platform, announces the launch of India's first AI-powered marketing solution tool: Project Market Scanner (PMS) for developers and real-estate agents.**

This unique tool sets Magicbricks apart as the first in the industry to offer an artificial intelligence tool that matches buyers with the right properties in real-time. The AI-powered PMS tool helps developers access relevant and high intent homebuyers by using

sophisticated algorithms and data analytics to personalize and automate search results, increasing reach by up to 65%. Project Market Scanner (PMS) acts as a reach maximizer, predicting results based on customers' previous search history, so that each project reaches its maximum Response Generation Capacity. It also takes into account buyers' preferences for specific property attributes and optimizes images that they are most likely to respond to. This can lead up to 82% increase in lead-to-impression ratio and helps

close the gap between what buyers expect and the projects activated on the portal offer, creating a win-win situation for both. Commenting on the launch of Project Market Scanner, Rohit Manghnani, Chief Product Officer, Magicbricks said "The residential demand for homes increased 8.5% in 2022 and will continue to grow at a rapid pace in 2023 as well. With lots of available options, matching interested homebuyers with the right property is a classic Big Data problem for the real-estate industry. Project

Market Scanner is a customer-centric solution that enables developers to sell faster in this highly competitive market. This is a significant step forward for Magicbricks in the realm of proptech, delivering accurate and comprehensive search results to our users while maximizing returns for the advertisers." Ashu Gupta, National Sales Head at Magicbricks, believes that Project Market Scanner is a cutting-edge technology and a game-changer in the real estate industry. "We are constantly pushing the bar on innovation at

Magicbricks by bringing new tools at the disposal of our customers looking to sell their properties. One of the biggest challenges that developers face is to access high intent, relevant customers and we aim to improve their lead generation efforts with this high-utility innovation." Magicbricks has pioneered many industry-first innovations and with the PMS tool, it continues to empower its 55,000+ strong community of developers and real-estate agents to sell over 2 lakh projects and maximize their revenue.

## 'Blue economy' and AI prominent sectors, cannot be ingored: CAG HCLTech receives global recognitions for ESG performance

### G U W A H A T I :

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday said "prominent sectors" like 'blue economy' and artificial intelligence can no longer be ignored, as he urged delegates of the Supreme Audit Institutions-20 to come up with an auditing framework for these categories.

Murmu was speaking at the inaugural session of the SAI20 Engagement Group meeting, which is being hosted by the CAG as part of the country's G20 presidency.

"It will be imperative for leading SAIs to start working on an auditing framework and checklists so that auditors not only have broad guidelines, but also specific toolkits to audit these two sectors in a meaningful way," Murmu said.

Both 'blue economy' and artificial intelligence are emerging areas and "we as Supreme Audit Institutions cannot afford to ignore these prominent sectors", he said.

Recognising the importance of sustainability, growth and role of emerging technologies, the SAI20 has

identified 'blue economy' and 'responsible artificial intelligence' as the two themes to discuss at this forum, the CAG said.

'Blue economy' is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ecosystem

Responsible AI is a governance framework aimed at what data can be collected and used, how AI models should be evaluated, and how to best deploy and monitor models, it said.

The framework can also define who is accountable for any negative outcomes of AI. "These two priority areas represent the new-age opportunities and concerns, underline the need for genuine cooperation," Murmu said.

He noted that SAI20, with its collaborative commitment to an accountable, economic, efficient and effective governance, and a strategic partnership with the governments, has a crucial role to play. The SAIs have the mandate to provide independent and objective examination of public services and serve as the much-needed feedback mech-

anism for policymakers in identifying the areas for improvements and opportunities, Murmu said.

The Centre has come out with a National Strategy for AI, which includes policy and programmes, global partnership, upskilling, capacity building, safe and ethical framework.

"SAI's, too, must imbibe a data culture while simultaneously building data capability," Murmu added.

## 39 students from Aakash BYJU'S qualify for OCSC / IMOTC 2022

### JAMMU

Yet again inking another stupendous result, Aakash BYJU'S the national leader in test preparatory services, recorded 39 students qualifying for the Orientation Cum Selection camp (OCSC) of the prestigious Indian National Olympiad (INO) 2022 in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Junior Science, and for Asian Pacific Mathematics Olympiad (APMO) / International Mathematical Olympiad Training Camp (APMO/IMOTC). The examination is organized by the Association of Teachers in Biological Sciences in association with Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT) and Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE). Each year over 30,000 students of 12th Standard or below, sit for these examinations.

A total of 13 students Qualified for OCSC-Biology, 8 students for Astronomy, 3 each for Physics and Chemistry, 7 students for Junior Science, 4 students for APMO/IMOTC, including 1 student for EGMOTC and 1 student Qualified for Astronomy-Junior. This year a whopping 201 students of Aakash BYJU'S qualified for various INOs. Congratulating the students on the impressive results, Mr Abhishek Maheshwari, Chief Executive Officer, Aakash BYJU'S said: "We are very proud of our students who have qualified for OCSC/IMOTC.

### JAMMU

HCLTech, a leading global technology company, announced it has been recognized by globally-renowned research and ratings agencies for its strong environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance. These recognitions underscore the significant progress made by HCLTech in implementing its corporate sustainability vision. MSCI has rated HCLTech as an ESG 'Leader' in the software

and services industry. The MSCI ESG ratings evaluated 8,500 companies on their exposure to industry-material ESG risks and their ability to manage those risks relative to peers. The ratings range from 'leader' (AAA, AA), 'average' (A, BBB, BB) to 'laggard' (B, CCC). This year, HCLTech has been recognized as a leader with an "AA" rating, a significant move up from last year's "A" rating.

The coveted S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2023 has recognized HCLTech as an 'Industry Mover'. The Yearbook lists leading companies that have demonstrated sustainable business practices in their operations. The assessment is based on S&P's rigorous Corporate Sustainability Assessment framework. For the 2023 edition, over 7,800 companies across 61 industries were analyzed by S&P. HCLTech has also been included in 'Sustainalytics' 2023 Top-Rated ESG Companies list in the Software and Services Industry segment and in the Asia Pacific Region. HCLTech has been placed in the 'low-risk' category by Sustainalytics in an assessment of 15,000+ companies globally based on their ESG per-

formance. "Sustainability is at the core of HCLTech's business strategy and we are committed to supercharging progress for clients, our people, communities and the planet.

These recognitions are a strong endorsement of our sustainability agenda and the execution strategy of our teams," said C Vijayakumar, CEO & Managing Director, HCLTech. HCLTech's sustainability strategy is based on three guiding principles; Act in the most responsible and sustainable manner and ensure every resource is used efficiently to maximize value

PACT, Work for a sustainable future, in collaboration with our clients, partners, communities, and all stakeholders IMPACT Focus on creating sustainable impact through all initiatives and activities HCLTech aims to achieve net-zero emission target by 2040 and a reduction of 50% on absolute scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030. The company also targets to transition 80% of its electricity through renewable energy by 2030. Last year, the company launched its sustainability school, delivering a learning series on climate change for its 222,000+ employees.



## PALAASH: A new beginning for inmates of Bal Ashram Kathua

### Sheetal Nanda inaugurates remodeled Child Care Centre "PALAASH"

**KATHUA:** *Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, today inaugurated remodeled building of PALAASH 'Children Home' for Boys here.*

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Director General, SWD, Vivek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Rahul Pandey, Mission Director, Vatsalya/ Shakti, Harvinder Kour, DC State Taxes Ranjeet Singh, PO ICDS and other concerned officials.

While dedicating the revamped building of Bal Ashram which has been renamed as PALAASH, Commissioner Secretary said that the idea of remodelling these assets is to reflect the idea of new beginnings and growth, which is what Palaash stands for.

Sheetal Nanda further said, "Palaash is a place where children from vulnerable sections of society can come and receive care, education and protection. It is a space where

they can find hope and build a brighter future for themselves.

The renaming of Bal Ashram as Palaash is a symbolic step towards this goal."

tional training, recreational activities, and skill-building programs to prepare the children for a better future.

"The inauguration of Palaash marks a new be-

Secretary disclosed that every district across the UT of JK shall have dedicated Care Centres for Boys and Girls separately.

Commissioner Secretary appreciated the ef-

Commissioner Secretary further exhorted upon the team of Social Welfare Office Kathua to form committees of inmates so as to infuse among them the sense of ownership, belongingness and responsibility.

Earlier, Sheetal Nanda toured the remodelled PALAASH complex and suggested a number of measures to further improve the facilities for the inmates.

During the inaugural ceremony, inmates of PALAASH and PARISHA (Naari Niketan) presented a host of activities including Yoga, Zumba, Dogri, Punjabi cultural performances and sports activities wherein the participants were also awarded on the occasion.

It was informed that remodeled building has come up with a cost of Rs. 40 Lakh under the Mission Vatsalya of Social Welfare Department with the aim of providing state of the art facilities in Child Care Centres.



Palaash has been designed to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for children who are orphaned, abandoned or come from troubled backgrounds.

The Ashram has a team of trained professionals who provide counseling, education and healthcare services to the children. Palaash also offers voca-

beginning for the children who will call it home.

The Ashram is committed to ensure that every child who comes here receives the best possible care and support to achieve their full potential", she added

While throwing light on the upcoming initiative of the Social Welfare Department, Commissioner

forts of district administration and District Social Welfare Office for accomplishing the task of remodelling Bal Ashram within the set timelines. She further called for utilizing the facilities of care centres for better upkeep of vulnerable children besides supervising the needs of the deserving children.

## Mandeep Kaur visits Bari Brahmana block; Inaugurates Panchayat Ghar, Birpur Upper

**SAMBA:** *Commissioner Secretary, Department of Rural Development (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur, today conducted a tour of Bari Brahmana block besides visiting panchayat Palli to assess pace of development works underway in the panchayats.*

She was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta, other senior officers, BDC Chairman, Bari-Brahmana, DDC member, Bari-Brahmana-A, Sarpanchs and others elected representatives.

During the visit, Commissioner Secretary inaugurated newly constructed Panchayat Ghar in Panchayat Birpur Upper, which has been constructed under the

scheme RGSA with an allotted amount of Rs. 22.27 lakh.

She interacted with local elected representatives and citizens of the panchayat besides assessing functioning of SHGs under NRLM in the panchayat.

Commissioner Secretary also visited Panchayat Palli and took detailed overview of progress on several development works being executed in the panchayat. She assessed progress on Smriti Kaksh which is being constructed through convergence of funds under UT CAPEX- CD and Panchayat Plan in the panchayat.

She also visited the photo gallery on display regarding the events of National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April, 2022

when Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, visited the panchayat. She ascertained the progress made by the NOKIA Smartpur initiative which was

NOKIA Smartpur initiative underway in the panchayat there are 24 more such initiatives which are in the process of being established in the UT of

UMEED, SBM-G, PMAY-G, door to door waste collection, 14th F.C, 100% saturation in beneficiary oriented schemes with emphasis on self employment and sustainable livelihood etc. She also interacted with the local elected representatives.

Later, she visited 500 Kilowatt solar power plant in panchayat Palli and gave directions for proper maintenance and upkeep of the facility.

Among others present on the occasion



launched on the same day.

The said initiative intends to put in place a strong ecosystem of rural entrepreneurship designed to create ideas for smart villages in J&K. Apart from the one

J&K, 19 in Samba and 6 in Anantnag districts.

Commissioner Secretary gave directions for early execution of all developmental works underway in the panchayat like Amrit Sarovar, GOB-ARDHAN scheme,

were Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh, Assistant Commissioner Development, Sidharath Dhiman, ACP, District Officers, Engineers from project wing (PDD) and field officers.



## Atal Dulloo reviews progress on GI Tagging of J&K Agri products

**JAMMU:** *Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today convened a meeting of officers and technical experts to review GI tagging for identified crops and products at Civil Secretariat Jammu.*

Threadbare discussion was held on progress made by concerned on application of Geographical Identification (GI) tagging of agriculture products of Jammu and Kashmir.

Director, Agriculture Jammu, K K Sharma, Director, Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Krishan Lal, Director, Horticulture Jammu, Ram Sevak, Di-

rector Research (SKUAST) Jammu, R K Samnotra, Associate Director SKUAST, Mahital Jamwal and other officers attended the meeting while officers from Srinagar and technical experts of SKUAST-K participated online.

During the meeting, concerned officers and technical experts gave a presentation highlighting progress made on application of GI certification of identified crops. Various other aspects of GI application of identified crops were also discussed.

GI expert, Dr. Rajnikant also joined the meeting virtually and gave his feedback about requirement of the particular products during

GI registration certification. After threadbare discussion, 15 crops/commodities have been identified and decided to be forwarded to the consultant within period of one month. Besides, 5 new products were also identified in the meeting for GI tagging including Burfi of Thandi Khui, Badda of Lakhanpur, Patisa of Kud, Peacanut of Poonch and Queer of Jammu and these products will also be sent for GI tagging soon.

ACS emphasized upon the technical experts to focus on collecting historical evidence so as to make each case fool-proof for GI certification of these crops.

## Centre unveils Rs 1,18,500 crore budget for J&K

*Rs 41,491 crore for development expenditure; Rs 77,009 crore for revenue expenditure*

**NEW DELHI:** *Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday unveiled Rs 1,18,500 crore budget for Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory for the next financial year.*

As per documents laid in the Parliament today, the total budget estimates for the fiscal is Rs. 1,18,500 crore, of which

developmental expenditure is of the order of Rs. 41,491 crore. "The capital component of the budget has increased substantially.

The expected revenue receipts are Rs 1,06,061 crore whereas Revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 77,009 crore, thereby making available revenue surplus for capital expenditure to the

tune of Rs 29,052 crore," reads the budget document.

This was the fourth consecutive budget of Jammu and Kashmir to be presented in the Parliament. The budgets of 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 were also presented in the Parliament in absence of an elected government in the Union Territory.

## JK administration enhances ex-gratia relief of CAPF martyrs

**JAMMU:** *The Administrative Council (AC) which met under the chairmanship of*

Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Dr

vided to the martyrs of defense personnel.

The decision demonstrates the UT adminis-



**Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** *approved enhancement of ex-gratia relief to Next of Kin of Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) personnel who attain martyrdom in the line of duty.*

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief

Mandeep Kumar Bhandari were present at the meeting.

According to the decision, CAPF personnel from Jammu and Kashmir who attain martyrdom in the line of duty, within or outside the territorial jurisdiction of Jammu & Kashmir, will receive ex-gratia relief equivalent to that pro-

portion's commitment to supporting the NoKs of security forces who make the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation.

As per the decision, the NoKs of martyred CAPF personnel will now receive Rs 25 lakh as ex-gratia relief, a substantial increase from the previous amount of Rs 5 lakh.

## DC Jammu inaugurates 3-day training programme on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

**JAMMU:** *As part of the Annual Youth Club Revitalisation programme, a three-day training programme on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavasa, at Polytechnic College Bikram Chowk today. The programme has been organised in collaboration with Mission Youth and the District Social Welfare Office Jammu.*

The Deputy Commissioner, who was also the chief guest on the occasion, said that drug abuse is a serious problem that affects individuals, families and communities.

She stated that it is essential to tackle the issue from multiple perspectives, including deterrence, treatment and enforcement. The DC

reiterated that the district administration is committed to creating a drug-free environment in the district and will

effects of drug abuse in educational institutions of the District have also been conducted, she added.



continue to take all necessary steps to achieve this goal.

She apprised that deterrence initiatives have been initiated, including educational campaigns at schools and colleges to sensitise students and the common masses about the ill effects of drugs, as well as encouraging healthy activities and hobbies to discourage drug abuse.

Anti-drug seminars, rallies and other programmes on the harmful

Resource persons from school education, health and J&K police educated the youth regarding the ill effects of drug abuse and how to get rid of this social menace.

DySP Sultan Mahmood from Police Department, Dr Akhil Menia from Department of Psychiatry (GMC), Shafali Gupta from Education Department and Pallavi from NGO Mashwara (JKSPYM) were the resource persons on the occasion.

## Kala Kendra crucially instrumental in preserving, promoting cultural heritage of Jammu region: Secy Tourism

### Visits institution, reviews functioning

**JAMMU:** *Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited Kala Kendra here and took stock of its functioning.*

During the visit, Secretary had an extensive round of exhibition halls, archive sections and other blocks of the complex and inspected the working. He asked the Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) for proper maintenance of Kala Kendra as it is crucially instrumental in preserving and promoting pristine cultural heritage of Jammu region. He also asked him for proper landscaping, repairing and renovation of different sections of the building.

While inspecting different sections of the institution, Secretary praised the staff and artists for their hard work and dedication in promoting the diverse

cultural heritage of the region. He emphasized on importance of preserving the traditional art forms for larger interest of the posterity.

in the district library housed in Kala Kendra. He also directed the management for proper security of the institution as it houses the most sen-



Interacting with the officers, Dr. Abid highlighted that Kala Kendra is a prestigious institution playing pivotal role in promoting the rich and diverse culture of Jammu region.

He impressed upon the management of Kala Kendra for optimal utilization of this prestigious institution by holding handicrafts, handloom and photo exhibitions on regular basis. Speaking on other aspects of the institution, Secretary asked the Director Libraries to create space for reading room

sitive archival material. During the visit, Secretary was given a detailed briefing on the activities and programs being conducted by Kala Kendra for the promotion and preservation of art and culture in the region. He also had a first-hand experience of various art forms showcased in the Kendra's galleries and workshops. Among others, Secretary was accompanied by Director Libraries, Secretary JKAACL and other senior officers of Culture department.



# Lt Governor inaugurates, lays foundation stones of projects worth more than Rs 155 Cr under Jammu Smart City

*Intelligent Traffic Management System, equipped with latest traffic technology, will make the city traffic safer and more efficient. The technological solutions will improve integrated and networked mobility, increase road safety and congestion-free traffic flows on busy routes: LG*

*In the last three years, we have established a citizen-centric system in J&K. Our aim is to develop future-ready cities and ensure ease of living and ease of doing business: LG*

**JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated and laid foundation stones of projects worth more than Rs 155 Cr under Jammu Smart City today.**

Dedicating the projects to the public, the Lt Governor said, it is a historic day for Jammu and provides a significant opportunity to ensure that the City of Temples is ecolog-

ically sustainable, economically productive and socially equitable.

"New projects are part of our systematic effort to improve quality of life, create smart economy by fostering productivity and improved city services," the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor said, the Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC), as a nerve centre of civic

operations, will bring together all different departments to manage the city's utilities, civic services. ICCC will ensure

tion should be paid to the participatory approach to urban development. Each one of us has to discharge our responsibility

the CBI. "I assure the young aspirants anyone found guilty will not be spared. We have ensured transparent selection process. Some youth have raised questions and I want to tell them that certain people with vested interests are trying to derail the recruitment process," said the Lt Governor. In the last three years, 30,000 recruitments were made. We are hoping that a minimum 12,000 recruitments will be done this year, he noted.

The Lt Governor said the recent fast-track recruitment process by the Public Service Commission is an example of the transparent system. Within three hours of the interview of the last candidate, the results were declared. Such transparency is unheard of in any other region of the country, he added.

The Lt Governor said that government will ensure fair and transparent recruitment. Jobs will be given on the basis of merit and not on recommendation. If there is any irregularity the government will take strictest action, he added.

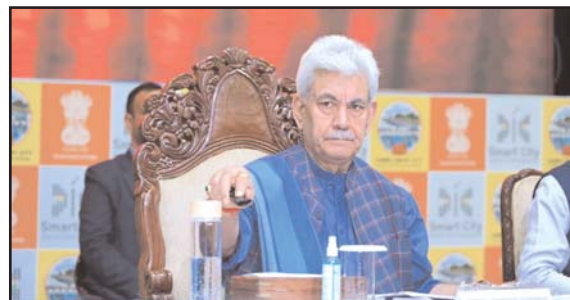
The Lt Governor also distributed QR Based Digital Number plates to the residents of

Jammu.

Unique digital IDs for residential and commercial properties will help in delivering efficient services in a sustainable manner, said the Lt Governor.

The projects inaugurated today by the Lt Governor also include various projects of Jammu Municipal Corporation under the AMRUT scheme worth Rs 23.83 Cr and construction/improvement of drains & nallahs under Languishing at a cost of Rs 7 Cr. These projects will improve the drainage system of Rameev Nagar, Sundar Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Nanak Nagar & other areas and benefit the lakhs of citizens. The Lt Governor also laid the foundation stone for a parking facility at Town Hall, JMC. Sh H Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department and Sh Rahul Yadav, Commissioner JMC gave a detailed briefing on the projects.

Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sh Baldev Singh Billawaria, Deputy Mayor JMC; ULB representatives; senior officials and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.



## J&K Bank ties-up with Seth Industrial Corporation

**SRINAGAR: With a view to facilitate its customers, J&K Bank today entered into an agreement with Ludhiana-based Seth Industrial Corporation (SIC) – one of the leading manufacturers in wide assortment of electric vehicles like e-Bikes, e-Scooters, e-Rickshaws in the country under the Brand name 'Neelam'.**

Deputy General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat signed the MoU on behalf of the Bank while as Rajesh Seth put in his signatures as Joint Director/Partner of SIC in presence of Business Head (SIC) Ranbir Singh Saini during a function organised at the corporate headquarters of J&K Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, DGM Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat said, "Through this tie-up we are happy to offer



easy, affordable and attractive financing solutions to our customers while encouraging electric vehicular transport in the country. As part of our green policy initiatives, we are already partnering with many such electric vehicle manufacturers throughout our operational geographies."

While commenting on the importance of affordable financing, Rajesh Seth said that the demand for electric vehicles was only growing but easy and hassle-free finance was the main supply-side constraint. "However, after signing the MoU with J&K Bank, which is the premiere financial institution in UTs of J&K and Ladakh with strategic presence across the country; I feel the partnership will enable us to scale our operations and provide eco-friendly ride besides sustainable livelihood to our common clientele."

Notably, the bank's customers can avail a range of concessions from SIC that primarily includes over the counter discount of Rs 3000 along with three free services without charge.

Also, the clients availing finance from J&K Bank can avail the company's extended warranty period of 3 years on Lithium Batteries instead of 2 years for general customers besides 21 months warranty time on other batteries instead of 18.

quick response in the time of emergency, he added. Intelligent Traffic Management System equipped with latest traffic technology will make the city traffic safer and more efficient. The technological solutions will improve integrated and networked mobility, increase road safety and congestion-free traffic flows on busy routes, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts made in the last three years to establish a citizen-centric system in J&K.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the modern infrastructure has improved access to government services. Our aim is to develop future-ready cities and ensure ease of living and ease of doing business, said the Lt Governor.

"Citizens are the heart of the city. Greater atten-

ties & contribute in protecting the civic amenities and preserving our heritage," the Lt Governor observed.

We have kept the interests of the citizens' paramount and have sought suggestions from the people on property tax. Better resources & sufficient funding will empower the Urban Local Bodies and people's representatives to serve the needs of the growing population, the Lt Governor said. Jammu city is emerging as one of the best cities of the country. It also provides a significant opportunity for development and growth, he added.

Speaking on the issues of the Services Selection Board, the Lt Governor said that earlier we had received complaints and without any delay the case was investigated internally and subsequently handed over to

## Ramban: Awareness cum employment camp held in blocks Sangaldan, Gool

**RAMBAN: The District Administration Ramban, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam, organised an awareness and registration programme for the livelihood generating schemes of Mission Youth as part of the Revitalization of Youth Clubs. The event was held at block headquarters Sangaldan and Gool and saw participation from a large number of youth, lo-**

**icals and PRIs.**

The programme aimed to educate the youth about opportunities for self-employment and the dangers of drug abuse. The event was organised in collaboration with various departments, such as Labour and Employment Department, Rural Development Department, EDI, J&K Bank, KVIB, DIC, Horticulture, Agriculture and Sheep and Animal Husbandry.

Experts from various fields and departments came together to share their knowledge and ex-

perience on drug abuse and livelihood generating schemes.

The event highlighted the various government and private initiatives that aim to provide livelihood opportunities to individuals and communities.

The programme emphasised the importance of creating awareness and spreading knowledge on these topics to prevent drug abuse and promote sustainable livelihood. It also highlighted the need for community involvement and

support in addressing these issues.

The Deputy Commissioner urged interested unemployed youth to take part in these programmes and register for different livelihood generation programmes. He also encouraged them to take a keen interest in self-employment and become entrepreneurs to generate livelihood for themselves and others. The Government is committed to hand-holding under the ambitious Mission Youth Programme, he underlined.



# Cultural Unit Kashmir of DIPR felicitates winners/ participants of events organized under 74th R-Day

**Div Com Kmr presides over as chief guest; says providing such platform to students gives them a chance to showcase their talent**

**SRINAGAR:** To acknowledge and felicitate the winners and participants of series of events organized in connection with 74th Republic Day celebration, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) J&K today organized a 'Felicitation Ceremony' at Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium of DIPR Srinagar.

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri was the chief guest on the occasion.

The Cultural Unit Kashmir of DIPR had organized Speech Competition themed 'India of My Dreams'; Quiz Competition on theme 'Know My India'; Patriotic Singing Competition on theme 'Ae Watan Tere Liye' and Patriotic Mushaira with theme 'Watan Ke Naam'.

Addressing the audiences, the Div Com lauded the efforts of Cultural Unit

Kashmir for organising competitions of big magnitude on patriotic themes. He said providing such a platform to students gives them a chance to showcase their talent and this also helps to tap the energy of youth in a positive direction.

Bidhuri said, rather than wasting time on unnecessary things students should explore their potential and polish it with the help of teachers who are always there to help them. He also congratulated the teachers for honing the skills of students and polishing these raw diamonds.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir, Bilal Mukhtar Dar highlighted some of the prominent steps taken by Cultural Unit Kashmir vis-à-vis providing budding talent of our valley a platform to present their talent to the outside world and at the same time come across prominent personalities in diverse fields to get ex-

posure through the medium of Gen 'Z' and Beats of J&K.

He said both of these programmes have been well acclaimed both on



national and at an international level.

Earlier, the Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain presented an overview of the programmes organized to commemorate 74th Republic Day. He said the programmes were organized to explore hidden talent in our educational institutions in Kashmir and provide them a chance to showcase it to the world.

Items songs were also presented on the occasion by Suhail an employee of Cultural Unit Kashmir,

who enthralled the audiences by his mesmerizing voice.

The event was attended by students from Institute of Music and Fine Arts

Kashmir University, Colleges, Higher Secondary Schools and High Schools (both Govt. and Private). Besides, Principals, Asstt Professors from various Colleges and Coordinators of Schools also participated in the event.

Among others, Officers/ Officials of the Information department were also present on the occasion.

Prior to the prize distribution function, the Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir and Cultural Officer Kashmir

presented a Shawl and

Muneer Ahmad Mir, Aijaz Sahir and Shabir Ahmad Saznawaz were felicitated for judging singing competition.

Quiz Master, Shadab Ali Geelani was felicitated for judging the Quiz Competition.

Sahitya Academy Award winner, Sagar Nazir was felicitated for judging poetry competition.

Beenish Wani, Burhan Hussain and Shakeel Ahmad Andrabi judged the speech competition. Meanwhile, in the speech competition,

Memento to the Div Com Kashmir.

Later, the Div Com felicitated the winners and judges of these events by trophies and certificates.

Wuska Farooq from JK Police Public School was adjudged winner of the competition. The 2nd position was bagged by Uzma Ishfaq of RP School and 3rd by Ruksar Hilal of Green Valley Educational Institute.

In patriotic singing (Group category), Girls Hr Sec School Kothi Bagh grabbed 1st position, while Green Valley Edu. Inst. bagged 2nd and JK Police Public School 3rd.

In patriotic singing (solo category), Arizo of GGHSS Nawakadal was adjudged as winner, while Rutba from GHSS Kothi Bagh bagged 2nd and Shahid Khan from Inst. of Music and Fine Arts got 3rd position.

In the Quiz competition, Army Public School was announced as winner while in patriotic Mushaira, Yamin Yousuf of Amar Singh College was declared winner.

Shakeel Ahmad Andrabi, AE&CO Cultural Unit Kashmir presented Vote of Thanks.

## AC approves land transfer for different public purposes

**JAMMU:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposals of different departments for transfer of land for various public purposes.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari attended the meeting.

The Administrative Council transferred land in favour of

Power Development Department for augmentation of power supply in different areas.

The AC transferred 42 Kanal 15 Marla situated at village Pohrupeth, Tehsil Langate, District Kupwara for construction of 315 MVA, 220/132 KV GIS Grid Sub-station, land measuring 02 Kanal situated at village Noorpora, Tehsil Awantipora, District Pulwama for construction of new 33/11 KV Substation in district Pulwama and land measuring 01 Kanal 10 Marla situated at village Odina, Tehsil Sumbal, District Bandipora for construction of 3.15 MVA,

33/11 KV receiving station for providing electricity to the transit accommodation for PM Package employees.

Moreover the AC also decided to transfer land measuring 80 Kanal 04 Marla (20 Kanal at District Srinagar and land measuring 60 Kanal 04 Marla at village Ranbirpora, District Anantnag) in favour of Department of Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) for construction of transit accommodations in district Srinagar and Anantnag for Kashmiri Migrant Government employees appointed under Hon'ble Prime Minister's Package.

## Parents Association Jammu strongly demonstrated with parents against the new education policy

**JAMMU**  
**Parents of school children today under the banner of All Jammu Parents Association, under the leadership of its President Amit Kapoor, protested strongly outside the Press Club of Jammu against the New Education Policy.**

A large number of association members and parents of the children participated in the protest. During this, the protesters were shouting slogans against the new education policy. They were raising slogans that the government will be ashamed of misbehavior with children, will not tolerate injustice to children, will not tolerate it.

Expressing his views on the occasion, Amit Kapoor said that some norms should be

adopted for the order not to be implemented immediately and changes should be made in the existing norms.

He said that the age criteria for children



should be implemented from nursery or pre-nursery. He said that the children who are studying in UKG or Upper KG and whose age is one day or two or three months or few days less than 6 years, they are not being admitted in the first class, we condemn it and why oppose it. We do.

He said that due to this the future of the children hangs in bal-

ance. He has demanded Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to personally intervene in this matter and save the future of the children from ruin. He hoped that Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha would intervene in this matter and find a solution because whenever he has intervened in any matter, he has found some solution. He said that if this policy has to be implemented then it should be implemented from pre-nursery level and the children who are currently studying should be exempted from it.



# Lt Governor addresses inauguration ceremony of Saran Dairy Producer Co. Ltd at Gopalganj, Bihar

**PATNA:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the inauguration ceremony of Saran Dairy Producer Co. Ltd at Gopalganj, Bihar today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor highlighted the role of Dairy Sector in uplifting the rural economy, lives of small and marginal farmers and strengthening the spirit of Cooperatives. "Dairy Sector has strengthened the rural economy and enhanced the economic condition of millions of small and marginal farmers of the country. This sector has empowered the women through Self Help groups and they are playing the key role in delivering social and economic bene-

fits to the rural economy," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor remembered the valuable contributions of great personalities like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Tribhuvandas and Verghese Kurien in strengthening the Cooperative movement and laying the foundation of Milk Revolution in India. After Independence, Gujarat and Bihar witnessed the rise of the Cooperative revolution. Cooperatives have worked as a strong pillar for economic and social development of the poor & marginalized sections, he added. Today, the Dairy sector is making enormous social and economic contribution and developing vi-

brant ecosystem of rural milk producers through Cooperative Societies & Self-Help Groups to gen-



erate significant economic activity & employment, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of the Saran Dairy Producer Co. Ltd for bringing together the unorganized rural milk

producers under the structure of Dairy Cooperative Societies, Self-Help Groups and provid-

ing them an opportunity to earn a better livelihood. He further called upon the women self-help groups to join this noble initiative in large numbers to become socially and financially empowered.

All the stakeholders,

Dairy units must come together to support small & marginal farmers, youth and women to create a strong and vibrant force of dairy entrepreneurs in the country, the Lt Governor observed. It will be a significant step to strengthen the spirit of cooperation. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's mantra of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi' will guide us on our path to improving the rural economy and protecting the interest of the farmers, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor called upon the dairy farmers & milk production units to focus on value-addition to meet the increasing market demand and to make the sector more lucrative. Total milk production had reached

221 million tonnes in 2022 from 138 million tonnes in 2013 which has also increased the income of the farmers and other stakeholders associated with the sector, he noted. The growth rate of milk production in India is more than 6% per year which is more than the milk production rate of other countries. There has also been an increase of 6% in the number of total milch animals which is an encouraging sign for the dairy sector, added the Lt Governor. Kumar Rakesh, Director Saran Dairy Producer Co. Ltd; milk producers, farmers and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

## DC Doda, SPD SAMAGRA Shiksha inaugurate 100 bedded Girls hostels at GHSS (Girls) Doda & GHSS Bhella

**DODA:** Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan and State Project Director (SPD) SAMAGRA Shiksha J&K Deep Raj Kanethia today inaugurated 100 bedded Girls hostel for poor Girls at Government Higher Secondary School (Girls) Doda and at Government Higher Secondary School Bhella.

SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, and ADDC Doda Pran Singh and other officers from concerned department were also present on the occasion.

Each hostel has been established at a cost of Rs 2.91 crore and shall accommodate 200 poor girls, reducing the girl students drop out after 10th standard, in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC compli-

mented SPD SAMAGRA Shiksha, CEO Doda, and other concerned for their

the hostel mess and laundry be outsourced and informed that he has asked

ject Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA emphasised that the poor girls from far off places must enroll in these hostels to continue their studies upto 12th and to make best possible utilization of time with sincere efforts to achieve their desired career goals.

He also assured full support to the institutions and urged the officers concerned to make these institutions best learning places in the district.

CEO Doda Prahalad Bhagat, DEPO Doda Ayaz Mughal, Principal DIET Doda Parshotam Kumar Gorla, Principal Govt

Higher Secondary School Girls Doda (At GHSS Girls Doda), Principal Government Higher Secondary School Bhella (At GHSS

Bhella), lectures, teachers, tended the inaugural staff and students at functions.

### DC Kathua reviews ongoing augmentation works of New Bus Stand

**KATHUA:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review augmentation works undertaken by different department and agencies at New Bus Stand.

At the outset, the DC was apprised by CEO Kathua MC that proper sweeping has been provisioned under which a dedicated team will ensure sweeping at New Bus Stand in morning and evening shifts. The CEO Kathua MC further informed that proper signages are being installed for proper depiction of amenities and regulation of traffic. Regarding the issue of proper lighting, CEO Kathua MC disclosed that High Mast Light has been made functional besides all points are properly lit. The Dy SP HQ Shammi Kumar informed that adequate deployment of Police personnel has been made to ensure proper traffic regulation besides taking care of law and order enforcement.

The XEN PHE disclosed that two Public Supply Points have been installed in New Bus Stand Area catering to the drinking water needs of the public.



efforts to make the residential hostels functional. The SPD informed that the hostels shall be made operational after 1st April. He further instructed that

the concerned to install CCTV cameras and take all measures ensuring safety and security of resident girls.

Further the State Pro-