

# Pol parties, edu institutes remember Pulwama martyrs

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: Different political organisations and educational institutions here on Tuesday remembered the 40 CRPF Jawans who laid down their lives in the service of Nation on February 14, 2019. While some organisations observed silence to pay homage to the martyrs others paid floral tribute to the Jawans killed in the dastardly terror attack on this day in 2019. In a statement, J&K Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Executive Member Raman Suri said that the Nation will always remain indebted to the supreme sacrifice made by the brave soldiers on this day back in 2019. "The entire Nation is standing with the families of those soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of common Indian," he said. Suri said that Pulwama attack was a Black Day for India. "We pay our heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of the Pulwama attack and ensure that their sacrifices will never be forgotten," he said. The activists of Aam Aadmi Party Jammu Province also paid homage to the 4 Jawans here at

party office Laxmipuram-Chinnore, Jammu. On the occasion, the speakers remembered the sacrifices of the brave jawans in the service of the Nation. They expressed dismay and regret that till date the culprits have remained at large and nothing has been told as to how the terrorists managed to smuggle 300 kg of the RDX into the Indian Territory. Kundan Kashmiri, President Kashmiri Pandit Community

**\* Watch video on [www.excelstornews.com](http://www.excelstornews.com)**

(KPC) said that four years back, "our great Nation was brought to a standstill when our 40 brave Jawans were martyred". "This day was another black day for whole of the Nation," he said in a statement. He further said that it is the need of the hour for all the political parties to support the central Government to foil the nefarious designs of the terrorists. The Department of Botany and Zoology, School of Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu also paid homage to the

# Rs. 176 cr project approved to boost fish production across J&K

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: To make Fish farming a prosperous sector, the UT government has approved a Rs. 176 crore project to boost fish production. The project involves importing genetically improved fish seed, upgrading existing hatcheries and fish rearing units, introducing species diversity in aquaculture through R&D, and commercializing trout and carp fish production using modern technologies such as RAS and Biofloc. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, who leads the Agriculture Production Department of J&K, said that the aim of the project is to promote sustainable development of fisheries for nutritional security, employment generation, and economic prosperity in the UT of J&K. The programme aims to increase fish production, productivity, and growth rate, as well as to strengthen social security and welfare measures for the fishing community, facilitate improved post-harvest practices and value addition, and create market linkages, he added. "One of the prime requisites

for successful aquaculture is the availability of good quality fish seed. The Technical Programme under the project includes importing genetically improved varieties of fish seed to ensure the overall success of fish farming practices. Quality fish seed determines the health, size, growth rate, disease resistance, and other physical and physiological characteristics of the fish, which in turn affect the overall fish production", Dulloo said. The ACS further remarked that in addition to importing genetically improved fish seed, the Technical Programme also aims to establish new hatchery units and upgrade existing ones on modern scientific lines. This will improve the quality and quantity of fish seed available for fish farming, and enable the production of a more diverse range of aquaculture species, he added. Notably, under the programme, the UT government also plans to establish 10 new trout hatcheries and two carp hatcheries, and upgrade 8 carp and 10 trout units. "Technological Interventions for Fish Seed and Trout Production in UT of J&K" is one among the 29 projects, which were approved by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after being recommended by the UT Level Apex Committee for holistic development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in UT of J&K.

# Voice of Patnitop Range Police Hqrs Batote hosts musical festival cum singing competition

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: A colorful musical festival and singing competition under the title "Voice of Patnitop" was on today organised by the Range Police Headquarters Batote at Padora Patnitop. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Sunil Gupta, DIG Doda Kishitwar Ramban (DKR) Range Batote as the chief guest. Abdul Qayoom SSP Doda; Lt. Col Roshan, AG 11 Sector; AC Rishi Prashar, 84 Bn; AEE PDA, Bhishan Dass; Tahir Sheikh, SDPO Chenani; Pardeep Sen, DSP Hqrs Ramban; Kewal Kishore, DSP RPHQ were present on the occasion. The event was organised under Civic Action Programme which is envisaged by the Government of India and Jammu and Kashmir Police to act as a bridge between the security forces and the local public. At the outset of the program, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom welcomed all the guests and the participants. Before the start of the event, 2 minute silence was observed in the memory of Pulwama Martyrs. The competition witnessed overwhelming response from the budding artists of all the three districts of the Range. Both male and female participants belonging to different age groups participated in the competi-



Winners of musical event with organizers at Patnitop.

tion and showcased their talent of singing. A total number of 28 participants, under two different age group categories, Senior and Junior category, took part in the event. Hazik Haq of Doda was adjudged winner in the senior category, while Shivya Vishishth of Kishtwar was adjudged winner in the junior category. They were awarded with Rs 7000 cash and trophy, while Alyas Ahmed in Senior and Aahil Farooq in junior category were awarded with the runners up award of Rs 5000 cash and trophy. Third prize was cash of Rs. 3000 and trophy. The highlights of the programme were the melodious songs performed by Samridhi Sen, Singing Super Star Sony TV, Mool Raj, devotional song competition. Katra fame, Divya Bharti Chhooana Hai Aasman fame, Raghujeet Katoch Chhooana Hai Aasman fame, who enthralled the audience with their songs. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Dr. Sunil Gupta, DIG DKR Range Hqrs. Batote congratulated the awardees and the participants. He praised the contestants for their exemplary skills and talent. He added that the main objective of these programmes was to provide a platform to the children and the youths who were otherwise unable to explore the opportunity for showcasing their talent before the world. The programme was adjudged by a team of experts comprising Divya Bharti, Raghujeet Katoch and DSP Kewal Kishore, while Inspector Rakesh Jamwal acted as anchor.

# J&K Tourism Industry booming; record 1.88 Cr tourist footfall witnessed in 2022

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, Feb 14: For the first time in history of Jammu and Kashmir, record 1.88 crore tourists visited UT in the year 2022 to enjoy the beauty of various famed tourist spots. The enhanced tourist arrivals in the Union Territory has generated greatest employment in various regions, highlighting its overall development through a constructive approach, transformative initiatives and inevitable reforms to empower J&K for its people, culture and society. The Government of India is also making a significant thrust to ensure better infrastructural facilities for the region's people and entice visitors. This has resulted in a fortuitous surge in tourist activities with better law and order, promising security system, and maintenance of peace in addition to infrastructural and connectivity improvements. J&K administration is also focused on exploring the full potential of pilgrimage tourism by developing various religious tourist

circuits across the union territory. Keeping in view the increasing number of devotees coming to visit Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, facilities and infrastructure is being strengthened. As per the official data, the construction work of Mantalai Wellness Center has been completed at a cost of Rs. 80 crore and the design of Katra Multi Modal Station has been finalized. Similarly, work on Tawi Riverfront is going on in full swing besides Mansar and Surinsar have made their presence on the tourism map of the country. The Government is working tirelessly to open Sanasar Tulip Garden for local people and tourists this year. Similarly, the work on conservation and renovation of 18 historical-cultural heritage sites in Jammu, Kathua, Ramban, Reasi, Samba and Udhampur will commence shortly. In April this year, Jambu Zoo shall be thrown open to the people. Home-stay Scheme has been launched with a view to foster employment generation and economic prosperity in rural areas.



AAP leaders meeting with aggrieved shopkeepers of Nai Basti.

# BJP Govt a most distrustful dispensation: Tony

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: The BJP Government at the Centre is the most distrustful dispensation which the people of J&K have ever seen. This was stated by Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs, and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh after interacting with shopkeepers of Nai Basti area. Tony was leading a delegation of AAP to meet shopkeepers of Nai Basti area who were served notices by the LG led administration to vacate their shops within seven days. Talking to reporters, Tony lambasted the proxy government of BJP in J&K for creating fear psychosis among the general public

under the garb of ongoing demolition drive. He said that the so-called anti-encroachment drive has led to chaotic situation all across the region with people getting frightened over the uncertainty about their future. "It is an irony of J&K and its people that the BJP led Central Government which is running the affairs of this Union Territory through proxy continues to unleash anti-people policies and keeps on arbitrarily issuing orders one after the other thus multiplying the woes of the common people," he added. He said that BJP people are hell bent upon 'Hitlar Shahi Farmans' of demolition drive without having proper rehabilitation plan for small shopkeepers. The AAP leader asked LG Sinha led administration to immediately issue the directions to withdraw the controversial land order at the earliest so that the people can sleep at night without any fear of demolition. Namrta Sharma (Provincial President, Women Wing, AAP), said the method being used to evict the marginal farmers, small shopkeepers and those living in small houses constructed years back, sends a message that the administration is insensitive to the sentiments of the general public. She asked Government not to harass poor people and LG must come to rescue to people having small chunk of land upto 15 marlas. Other AAP leaders present were Partap Singh Jamwal (Provincial, Sangathan Mantri, AAP), Mohinder Pal Singh (Incharge Communication, AAP), Mahesh Bakshi (Provincial President CYSS), Parminder Singh (Parbhari, Youth Wing) and Heermak Singh (Provincial Secretary, Youth Wing).

# Police seizes JCB involved in illegal mining

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
KATHUA, Feb 14: Acting against illegal mining within the district, Kathua police under the overall supervision of SSP, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal today seized one JCB Machine indulged in illegal mining of construction material in the jurisdictional area of Police Post (PP) Jakhole at Muikhad. Police said a team headed by Sub Inspector (SI) Ram Krishan in charge Police Post (PP) Jakhole under the supervision of SDPO, Border, Pankaj Soodan during checking duty in its jurisdictional area at Muikhad seized one JCB Machine bearing Registration Number, JK02CH-8304 which was doing illegal mining. The JCB was seized and immediately handed over to the officials of Geological and Mining Department, Kathua for further legal proceedings.

# Shiv Sena seeks restoration of Statehood

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: The regional unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) has demanded restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, Manish Sahni, the regional chief of the organization, said that Centre has been continuously betraying the people of Jammu and Kashmir by promising them the Statehood through statements only. "When the Art 370 and 35A were revoked, we were promised development and restoration of statehood but nothing has changed since then," Sahni said. "Now the Union Home Minister Amit Shah has yet again told in the interview that the statehood shall be restored after the elections but this also seems a false promise," he added. Meanwhile, the statement said that several people joined Shiv Sena (UBT) here impressed by the policies of the party.

# Appu Singh seeks compensation for artisan couple

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State spokesperson, Appu Singh has demanded compensation for an artisan couple of Basohli, who lost their Pashmina shawls and other belongings in the 2014 floods in Kashmir. Addressing media persons here, the AAP leader said that Rajinder Kumar and his wife Rinku Devi were invited to attend the regional SARAS Fair in 2014 at Kashmir Haat, Srinagar through Self-Help-Groups to showcase their Basohli Pashmina Shawls and other products in the mela. But, on September 5, 2014, Appu Singh said, the artisan couple lost almost 112 Pashmina shawls and other handmade products

worth Rs 3.51 lakh in the floods that wreaked havoc across the Kashmir region. "This tragedy made the couple leave the Pashmina shawl making business and start manual labour works to look after their family," she said. The AAP leader said that through representations, the Pashmina artist couple of Basohli met successive DCs, Divisional Commissioners and other concerned officials since 2014 but till date they have not been paid the compensation for their losses. Appu Singh said that recently she also called on Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department while narrating to the latter the ordeal of the Kathua couple and sought help. According to the AAP leader, the Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department has assured to help the couple in whatsoever way. Meanwhile, Appu Singh has appealed the LG administration to look into the matter on a priority basis and provide justice to the aggrieved couple.

AAP leader Appu Singh addressing media persons in Jammu on Tuesday.

**Excelsior/Rakesh**  
Basohli, who lost their Pashmina shawls and other belongings in the 2014 floods in Kashmir. Addressing media persons here, the AAP leader said that Rajinder Kumar and his wife Rinku Devi were invited to attend the regional SARAS Fair in 2014 at Kashmir Haat, Srinagar through Self-Help-Groups to showcase their Basohli Pashmina Shawls and other products in the mela. But, on September 5, 2014, Appu Singh said, the artisan couple lost almost 112 Pashmina shawls and other handmade products

# Kathua police seizes heroin, 2 Android phones

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
KATHUA, Feb 14 : Kathua police under the guidance of SSP, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal while continuing its drive against the drug peddling and its suppliers with the aim of eradicating the drug menace from the society, has recovered 404 grams of heroin (Chitta) and two Android mobile phones from the vehicle. The police seized vehicle as well as narcotics on the spot. Police said today a team led by Sub Inspector, Muzamil Manzoor in charge Police Post (PP), Chadwal under the supervision of SDPO Border, Pankaj Soodan and Inspector, Amit Sangra, SHO, Police Station (PS), Rajbagh during routine patrolling/ checking duty in its jurisdiction at Tarnah area noticed one Swift Car bearing Registration Number, DL6CP-0821 enroute from Kathua towards Jammu. After seeing the police party they suddenly stopped their vehicle at Tarnah bridge and three suspected persons came out of it and started running

towards Tarnah Nallah out of which one person jumped from Tarnah bridge. On seeing this police party rushed towards spot and found one person in injured condition under the bridge while two other persons managed to escape, police said. On questioning, injured person disclosed his name as Bagh Hussain, son of Mir Ali of Jagatpur Kathua and the name of other two as Bagh Hussain, son of Lal Hussain of Bhagathali Kathua, Sher Ali parentage not known. Police party then immediately shifted the injured to GMC Kathua for treatment. Thereafter police party reached the spot where the vehicle was parked and its search was conducted in presence of Magistrate. On checking police party was able to seize 404 grams of Heroin (Chitta) and two Android Mobile Phones from the vehicle which were also seized on the spot. A case with FIR NO 30/2023 U/S 8/21/22/29 of NDPS Act stands registered in the Police Station, Rajbagh and investigation has been taken up.

# NC Women wing re-constituted

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: With the approval of the President J&K, National Conference Jammu Province Rattan Lal Gupta, Satwant Kour Dogra, Provincial President Women Wing Jammu Province has reconstituted the Provincial Committee Women Wing and also nominated working committee members. Atiqi Jan (DDC Member Poonch), Pooja Thakur (DDC Chairperson Kishtwar), Suriya Begum (DDC Bari Brahmana), Shahmim Akther (DDC Gandhri), Hameeda Rana, Rubia Beigh, Raj Kour, Rama Gupta, Puspaa Dogra and Asha Mehra were nominated as Vice Presidents. Shahmim Begum (DDC Dansal), Shahmim Akther (DDC Moughla), Gulshan Akther (DDC Khari), Parveen Begum (BDC Reasi), Harpreet Kour, Manveer Kour, Rama Sambyal and Nusrat Begum have been nominated as Provincial Secretaries. Madhu Verma, Shahmim Akther Sarpanch, Zameera Begum and Preety are the Joint Secretaries. The working committee members are: Bimla Luthra State Vice President Women Wing, Vijay Lakshmi Datta, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Anita Thakur DDC Kalakote, Pinky Khalsa District President

# JUIT's Harshita tops JNU entrance exam

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: Jaypee University of Information Technology's (JUIT's) student Harshita was admitted in JUIT for MSc Biotechnology through GAT-B exam conducted by DBT, Government of India during the academic year 2022-23 with AIR 114. She got offered MSc program from various reputed Government institutes but she chose JUIT initially because of the peaceful surroundings and later JUIT made her fall in love with the varsity. Speaking with Dr Tirath Raj Singh, media in-charge, JUIT, she said that the varsity's teaching faculty was kind and helpful. She also praised Dr Saurabh Bansal for playing an important role in shaping her interests towards research by guiding her through the dissertation. Harshita also thanked her friend Aaina Sharma for introducing her to JUIT. Harshita has topped the Jawaharlal Nehru University's entrance examination of Life Sciences stream. A 2022 M.Sc in Biotechnology from Jaypee University, Harshita daughter of Karamvir Singh of Roland Latifpur Village in Sonipta District of Haryana got All India Rank 1 in

# Haier launches Kinouchi 5 star heavy-duty pro AC series

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: Haier-the global leader in home appliances and consumer electronics and the world's number 1 brand in major appliances for 14 consecutive years announced the launch of Kinouchi 5-star heavy-duty pro air conditioner series in India. The Kinouchi AC series is equipped to deliver powerful performance with the super cooling feature and comfort control with intelli smart features and Haier smart app. Haier's state-of-the-art facility in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh,



has continued to evolve the brand to innovate for Indian customers, especially with premium and high-end products. Speaking on the launching of the product, Satish NS, President, Haier Appliances India said, "At Haier, we believe in designing products powered with innovative technologies that make our consumers' life simpler and more convenient. India experiences extreme weather conditions especially the harsh summer season. Keeping the conditions in mind we have launched the new range of Kinouchi 5 air conditioner series to ensure optimum cooling in extreme temperatures, and even takes care of cost efficiency with triple inverter plus technology to maximize comfort, reliability, and performance, he said. Shaffy Mehta, Director-Air Conditioner Business, Haier Appliances India said, "At Haier our focus is to design products that are inspired by customer needs and this air conditioner series is the perfect AC for customers who are looking for smart appliances that not only provides comfort but is also cost effective." Understanding this need of the customers, the Haier India has introduced various technologies including 'Frost Self-Clean Technology' in its entire inverter air conditioner range which offers 99.9% sterilization, "Supersonic cooling in 10 seconds" and 'Intelli Convertible'-the smart convertible feature allows users to reduce the AC's tonnage capacity from 1.6 ton to a minimum of 0.8 ton. This unique feature can be activated with just a press of the ECO button on the remote. The Haier Kinouchi heavy duty pro 5-star air conditioner is available pan India at a starting price of Rs 47,990 and also available on Haier ecommerce store, Flipkart and Amazon and other retail outlets.

# Govt Polytechnic hosts workshop on electric vehicle

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: Government Polytechnic Bikram Chowk Jammu in collaboration with IIM Jammu and IIT Delhi organized an EV start-up workshop here on Tuesday. As per a statement, the event was supported by FITT, IIT Delhi under the aegis of SONA COM-STAR grant challenge for electric vehicles and Government Polytechnic, Bikram Chowk, Jammu, which nests the CIIT CoE for electric vehicles. In his welcome note, Er Arun Bangotra, Principal of the college welcomed the participants of different institutions and invited them to make use of facilities available at CIIT Jammu for joint research objectives in various technologies. The press statement said that the main speaker of the occasion was Jawaad Khan of Bhaderwah, who is the owner of the start-up Tadpole. His company has received order of retrofitting of 50 gypsies of Indian Army with EV motors. Khan shared his story of how a student of average academic scores and an economically weaker section from Bhaderwah, learnt about electric vehicles and reached at a stage where he is retrofitting EVs for Indian Army and HNIs besides assisting IIT Delhi and other IITs set up hi-tech EV research labs. During the presentation and Q and A session with Chief Innovation Officer of IIM Jammu, Dr Vivek Sharma, Khan discussed a lot of research areas where the academic community can undertake research and build start-ups. The press statement further said that the program was organised with the motive of making the faculty and students of the region aware of the current challenge statement in EV industry and invite them to form research groups to solve specific problems related to EVs.

# DC reviews implementation, achievements under tribal schemes

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
KATHUA, Feb 14: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey today reviewed the implementation and physical, financial achievements under tribal schemes in the district. XEN REW said that the majority of development works taken up under different schemes are at the final stage. While giving details of the works, XEN PWD (R&B) Basohli informed that works including construction of Additional Class Room buildings, construction of Boundary Wall and Health Assets etc are nearing completion. It was also given out in the meeting that the School Education department has completed all current year approved projects. The DC called upon the executing agencies to make all out efforts to complete the works taken up to improve the socio-economic condition of Tribal Community in the district. He called for achieving financial progress of all approved projects within set timelines to rule out forwarding of liabilities to next financial year. During the meeting, DC also reviewed the works for upgrading development infrastructure of PDD, PHE and Sheep Husbandry sectors. The meeting was attended by CPO, CMO, XEN PDD, XEN PHE, XEN REW, XEN PWD Basohli and District Sheep Husbandry Officer.

A former JUIT student Harshita showing the victory sign after securing AIR1 in JNU Examination, on Tuesday.



Harshita has topped the Jawaharlal Nehru University's entrance examination of Life Sciences stream. A 2022 M.Sc in Biotechnology from Jaypee University, Harshita daughter of Karamvir Singh of Roland Latifpur Village in Sonipta District of Haryana got All India Rank 1 in

# AAP leader joins NC along with supporters

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 14: Bishnah Block president of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Mohan Lal Sandhu today joined the National Conference in presence of party Zonal president and former Minister Babu Rampaul during a programme at Bishnah here. Several NC leaders including T.R Maandi, Zonal Vice-President, Dr. Vikas Sharma Zonal Secretary, B.D Dalotra Zonal Secretary, S. Surjeet Singh Sasan Zonal Secretary, and Dr Gurdarshan Singh Bishnah Block Vice-president were also remained present. Babu Rampaul garlanded the new entrants and welcomed them into the party fold. He described the National Conference as a mass movement that has all along stood for the just cause of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and strived for development and progress of the state with a sense of commitment. He hoped that with the joining of Mohan Lal Sandhu the party will be further strengthened at the grassroot level. Former minister assured the youth that NC will not leave any stone unturned for the cause of unemployed youth. "NC has always worked for youth and its past rule in J&K is a testimony to that. But during the last 7 years our youth is suffering badly due to wrong policies of the dispensation," he said.