

## Zoology Deptt of GGM Science Colleges organizes guest lecture on 'Aquarium Fabrication and Setup under NEP 2020'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Zoology at GGM Science College, Jammu, successfully hosted a guest lecture on "Fabrication and Setting Up of Aquarium" as part of its ongoing skill development course, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The initiative was aimed to equip students with hands-on vocational skills alongside academic knowledge. The event was held under the leadership of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and witnessed active participation from faculty members and students. The guest speaker, Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Associate Professor at Government Degree College (GDC), Udhampur who is highly regarded for her expertise in zoology and aquarium management, provided a thorough understanding of the tech-



GGM Science College faculty posing for a photograph.

nical aspects involved in aquarium fabrication, including water quality management, species selection, and overall maintenance. Combining both theoretical and practical insights, Dr. Kour captivated the audience with her in-depth knowledge and hands-on demonstrations. Earlier, Prof.

Lekh Raj, Head of the Department of Zoology, inaugurated the event and emphasized the importance of skill development in zoology.

He underscored that the NEP 2020's focus on integrating vocational training into the mainstream curriculum is critical to preparing students for

practical, real-world challenges. Several esteemed faculty members from the Departments of Zoology and Human Genetics, that include Dr. Narinder Kumar, Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Brinder Kumar, Prof. Bal Krishan, Dr. Sheetu Raina, Prof. Reetika Rani, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj, and Dr. Jyotdeep Kour contributed to the success of the event.

Their presence fostered a collaborative environment for learning and knowledge-sharing.

Students participated enthusiastically, expressing their appreciation for the lecture and its practi-

cal relevance. The hands-on demonstration and technical insights provided by Dr. Kour motivated many students to explore career opportunities in aquarium management and related fields. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, while concluding the event, commended the Zoology Department for organizing such a valuable session, highlighting the college's commitment to delivering quality education paired with essential practical skills.

He thanked Dr. Gurpreet Kour for her significant contribution and encouraged students to seize such learning opportunities for their overall growth and development.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Jyotdeep, who extended gratitude to the resource person, faculty members, and students for their active participation, making the event a resounding success.

The Department of Zoology looks forward to organizing more skill-based programs in the future to further benefit the student community. GCW Bhagwati.

## Mega Event at River Front Rajbagh, Srinagar ignites Voter Awareness through SVEEP

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The banks of River Jhelum reverberated with the vibrant voices of democracy and voter awareness today as a grand mega event was held on Thursday at River Front Rajbagh "River Of Democracy" under the aegis of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

The event, which drew an enthusiastic crowd from all walks of life, featured a mesmerizing array of cultural and musical performances, as well as thought-provoking skits and dramas. Artists, performers, and cultural groups from various colleges and higher secondary schools of district Srinagar took to the stage to convey the message of the importance of voter participation in strengthening our democratic fabric.

Akhlesh Kumar Mishra, General Observer who was chief guest on the occasion emphasized the vital role of youth in promoting voter awareness. He urged students and first-time voters to become agents of change by educating others about the importance of exercising their funda-



Akhlesh Kumar Mishra, General Observer and others at a programme.

mental right to vote. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were ADDC, Ghulam Hassan; Deputy District Election Officer, Imtiyaz Ahmad; District Nodal Officer Special SVEEP, Tahir Ahmad Magray; District Nodal Officer SVEEP Srinagar, Shabina Keyasar and Anjum Raja.

The event featured interactive displays and workshops showcasing innovative voter education initiatives. Reading Room, Food Tech Stall, Legal Aid Stall and Canvas Painting by University of Kashmir also featured in the event. The National Institute of Technology enlightened the audience regarding

the process of voting through their Mock Polling Station. Various sports events were organised by District Youth Services and Sports to raise awareness among the public regarding voting.

The District Election Office Mascot, Hangul, played an engaging role in connecting with the younger audience and encouraging responsible voting practices.

The grand mega event culminated in a mass pledge by the attendees to become responsible voters and to spread the message of voter awareness throughout their communities.

Organizers expressed their gratitude to all the participants, performers, and volunteers who made this event a resounding success.

The event provided an unforgettable platform to ignite voter awareness and inspire citizens to participate actively in the upcoming Assembly election.

## ECI appoints General Observers for Assembly Constituency 04- Lolab

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: In view of the General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, the Election Commission of India on Thursday appointed Tshewang Gyachho Bhutia (IAS) as General Observer for 04- Lolab Assembly Constituency of District Kupwara.

In event of any queries, complaints & Grievances, the general public of 04-Lolab AC may contact the General Observer directly on his local mobile number 8899374725 between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## GGM Science College hosts live telecast of UGC's Chetna Lecture Series



GGM Science College faculty and students listening to live lecture.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Eco-Environment committee of GGM Science College, in collaboration with the College UGC Committee, on Thursday organized the live telecast of the "Chetna Lecture Series" on Clean Campuses and Cities.

This initiative, telecasted online by the University Grants Commission (UGC), was aimed at educating students and faculty on the importance of cleanliness and environmental sustainability for a greener tomorrow.

The event, which falls under the Swachhta Pakhwada initiative of the Government of India, was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College and was coordinated by Prof. Harmeet Kour, Convener of the Eco-Environment Committee, and Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Dutt, Convener of the College UGC Committee.

The keynote speaker for the event was P. Narahari, Secretary of the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, who in his online lecture emphasized the critical need for cleanliness in both educational institutions and urban areas.

In addition, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of UGC, in his address urged the youth to take active roles in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by maintaining clean campuses and promoting hygiene. Later following the telecast, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta during his interaction with students and faculty underscored the significance of maintaining cleanliness on the college campus. He highlighted the necessity of organizing special cleanliness drives, ensuring proper segregation and disposal of waste, and using social media platforms to raise awareness about the Swachhta Pakhwada campaign. Dr. Gupta encouraged collective participation from both students and staff in upholding cleanliness within the college and surrounding communities.

The event was attended by faculty members including Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Prof. Bal Krishan, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Rohit Kumar, Dr. Sheetu Rani, Prof. Susheel Kumar, Dr. Ram Krishan and Prof. Reetika Rani, who actively supported the initiative.

This event marks a significant step forward in promoting the culture of cleanliness and sustainability within educational institutions, aligning with the broader national goals of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Varinderjeet Singh, Chairman National Sikh Front and Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir; today issued a robust endorsement of the Modi government's efforts to uplift the Sikh community through a series of landmark initiatives aimed at preserving Sikh heritage, promoting religious freedom, and ensuring the welfare of Sikhs globally.

Singh called upon the Sikh community and the wider public to support the BJP in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, underscoring the party's continued commitment to inclusive governance and cultural respect.

Singh highlighted the successful opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, a historic initiative that reconnects the Sikh diaspora with the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan.

This corridor, which allows

Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the revered site without a visa, symbolizes the Modi government's dedication to peace, religious freedom, and honoring the cultural heritage of Sikhs.

The corridor's operational status was maintained even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting the government's prioritization of Sikh religious sentiments.

Additionally, Singh praised the government's facilitation of direct train services to key Sikh pilgrimage sites such as Hazur Sahib in Nanded and Hemkund, significantly improving accessibility for devotees and easing their spiritual journeys.

The government's commitment extends to the restoration of other important gurdwaras, including the Lakhpat Sahib in Gujarat, ensuring that these heritage sites are preserved for future generations. The Modi administration's response to the crisis in

Afghanistan, where it orchestrated the dignified return of the sacred Saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib amid Taliban rule, was also commended by Singh.

This act of respect and care for Sikh scriptures underscored the government's proactive stance in safeguarding religious artifacts during times of international conflict, affirming its respect for Sikh religious and cultural values.

Singh also recognized the government's efforts to honor Sikh history through initiatives such as the declaration of Veer Baal Diwas on December 26, a tribute to the martyrdom of the Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh.

This recognition, along with the Modi government's broader educational and welfare programs aimed at empowering the Sikh community, exemplifies the administration's holistic approach to fostering an inclusive society that respects and celebrates the contributions of all communities. In

light of these accomplishments, Singh appealed to the Sikh community and all voters in Jammu and Kashmir to support the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections.

He asserted that the BJP's track record of addressing the concerns of the Sikh community with dedication and respect is unmatched, and that continued support for the party would ensure further progress and empowerment for the Sikh community.

"We have seen unprecedented initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has demonstrated time and again his respect for Sikh traditions and values," said Singh.

"I urge the Sikh community to stand with the BJP and vote for a government that has consistently worked for the upliftment and dignity of Sikhs. Your support in the upcoming elections will be crucial in continuing this journey of growth, respect, and national unity," he added.

## SVEEP: Mass Awareness program to emphasise 'Every Single Vote Counts' organized at Zadibal-AC

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In order to raise awareness among general public regarding the importance of voter participation in the ensuing General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, a mass awareness program as part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign was on Thursday organized at 24-Zadibal Assembly Constituency (AC) here, reinforcing the message that 'Every Single Vote Counts.'

The program organized by the Returning Officer (RO) of the 24-Zadibal AC aimed to



engage citizens and encourage them to actively participate in the upcoming election process.

A key highlight of the event was the call for universal voter participation, emphasizing

that democracy thrives when everyone casts their vote.

In his address during the program, the Returning Officer stressed the power of a single vote and how it can influence the outcome of an election. He said the foundation of democracy is built upon the participation of each and every eligible voter. "Your vote is your voice, and it has the potential to shape the future of this constituency and the state. Every vote matters, and no one should feel that their vote is insignificant," said the Returning Officer.

To reach out to the broader public, the program witnessed participation from various community stakeholders, including students, local residents, teachers, and public officials. The aim was to foster a deeper understanding of the electoral process and ensure that people from all walks of life feel motivated to participate. In a unique approach to raise awareness, the program was followed by a plantation drive and a walkathon organized by students of Islamia College of Science and Commerce and Shaheen Public School. This besides engaging the youth in understanding the election process also tied the initiative to environmental consciousness, symbolizing the nurturing of both democracy and nature. The students played a key role in organizing the walkathon, with banners and slogans promoting voter awareness and the importance of democracy. By engaging students, the initia-

tive highlighted the need to involve first-time voters and youth in the electoral process.

Speaking at the event, one of the student leaders from Islamia College noted, "As the future leaders of this country, it is our responsibility to take part in elections. Our participation today will shape the society we live in tomorrow. Every vote we cast is a step toward strengthening democracy."

As part of the awareness campaign, the plantation drive and walkathon underscored the interconnection between civic responsibility and environmental stewardship. Hundreds of students participated, planting saplings around the school premises and surrounding areas. The initiative was lauded as a step toward promoting the values of sustainability, which go hand in hand with responsible citizenship.

The Returning Officer expressed gratitude to Principal, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Superintendent of Police, North / Hazratbal Srinagar, Divisional Forest Officer, Srinagar, Nodal Officer, SVEEP 24 - Zadibal AC, SDPO Khanyar/ Zadibal, Horticulture Officer, Srinagar, Principal, Shaheen Public School, Gasiyar and other stakeholders for their indispensable support and cooperation to make this event a grand success.

## Mega SVEEP campaign to promote Voters' Awareness held at Dooru, Verinag



Participants at SVEEP activity at Government Higher Secondary School, Dooru.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: A mega Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign was organized on Thursday in Dooru area of Anantnag district, with the primary goal of fostering voter awareness and promoting participation in the ongoing Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024.

The event held under the overall guidance of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K and attended by Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer of SVEEP, J&K; Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media, J&K among others, was organized by K.K Badyal, District Nodal Officer SVEEP for Anantnag and Naser-ul-Haq, Nodal Officer SVEEP for 41-AC Dooru.

The main event was held in the premises of Government Higher Secondary School, Dooru

wherein the students from the nearby schools and colleges participated in various cultural and sports events. Principal Tariq Ahmed Sheikh along with the staff members were also present at the event.

On the occasion, various activities were conducted to engage the public and raise awareness about the importance of voting. The event featured interactive sessions, cultural performances, Nukkad Natak, formation of human chain, games including tug of war and rallies, all aimed at motivating citizens to participate in the democratic process commencing on 18 September, 2024 across J&K.

Addressing the gathering, Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer of SVEEP, J&K and Sapna Kotwal Nodal Officer for Media, J&K emphasized on the significance of each vote in shaping the future, encouraging citizens to

make informed decisions. Special emphasis was also laid on voter education, informed and ethical voting, stressing the role and responsibility of every voter. The event also highlighted the importance of involving first-time voters, women, and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the electoral process, ensuring inclusive and broader participation.

The event culminated with a vibrant mega rally that further energized the public to vote in large numbers in the upcoming elections.

A similar SVEEP campaign was also organized at Verinag, a famous tourist destination in Anantnag district. The event also saw active participation from Booth Awareness Group (BAG) members and Block Level Officers (BLOs), emphasizing the collective responsibility in voter education and outreach.