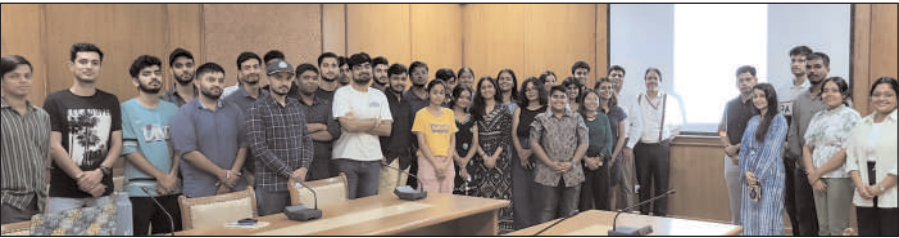


SoALD, IIC deliberate on "MEPF Solutions for Sustainable Design of Built Environments" at SMVDU

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATRA: School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, a leading School of the SMVD University in Architectural Education for its pedagogical approaches in Sustainable Architectural Designs has organized one-day awareness program titled "MEPF Solutions for Sustainable Design of Built Environments", in collaboration with Institute Innovation Centre of SMVD University. The focus of the deliberations was to improve the capacities of the academic participants in the domains of Mechanical, Electrical,



Officials along with participants during the workshop.

Plumbing & Fire Fighting (MEPF) functionalities of the building from the lens of Sustainable approaches. The key lecture was delivered by the Expert Ashu Gupta, Managing Partner, Design2Occupancy LLP, Jaipur who has stressed upon the synchronized efforts of the Architects & Engineers for executing the Sustainable Designs for achieving sustainable

built environments. The Energy demands of the building has been experimented for NET-ZERO energy building in his own headquarter building at Jaipur. He stressed that professionals should not look upon the western solutions for designing the building envelopes owing to geographical & contextual differences. Along-with

broader aspects, he informed the audience that the user must look & query for the energy ratings & metrics of appliances that are commonly used for functional conveniences. Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, SoALD& Coordinator of the event has sensitized the audience upon the architectural values of the built environments in relation to

the need of sustainable functionalities of the building. Ar. Abhinay Gupta, Assistant Professor & I/e Head, SoALD reflected on the significance of MEPF in contemporary architectural practice. Ar. Satyanshu Kumar, Assistant Professor, SoALD& Organizing secretary spoke the formal vote of thanks. The program was attended by the faculty & students of SoALD, School of Civil Engineering & School of Energy Management. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU has encouraged & congratulated the Faculty of SoALD for organizing this high-quality awareness program.

Army holds educational lecture

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
POONCH: Army has taken a significant step in advancing education in a remote Government girls high school, Brevi, Rajouri by organizing an educational lecture as part of World Literacy Day celebrations .The lecture, delivered by an Army officer with a background in education and community outreach, focused on the importance of literacy and its impact on personal and community development. The speaker emphasized how literacy is not just about reading and writing but also about unlocking opportunities, fostering critical thinking, and enhancing overall quality of life. Students and teachers were engaged in an interactive session where they

discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with education in remote areas. Army officer addressed questions from students and provided practical advice on improving literacy skills both inside and outside the classroom. The lecture also highlighted various successful educational programs and initiatives run by the Army in different regions, demonstrating the positive outcomes that such programs can achieve. This provided the students with a broader perspective on how education can drive change and development. In addition to the lecture, the event featured a Q&A session where students and teachers could interact directly with the

speaker, offering them a unique opportunity to gain insights and motivation. The session aimed to inspire both students and educators to pursue their educational goals with renewed enthusiasm. The Army's involvement in this educational initiative was warmly received by the local community. The school principal expressed gratitude for the Army's support, noting that such efforts play a crucial role in motivating students and enhancing their educational experience. The event concluded with a commitment from the Army to continue supporting educational initiatives in the region, reinforcing their ongoing dedication to improving literacy and education in underserved areas.

General Observer reviews preparations for Assembly Elections in Doda District



General Observer Aditya Negi chairing a meeting at Doda.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
DODA: In preparation for the J&K Assembly Elections-2024, the General Observer for AC 52-Doda and AC 53- Doda West, Aditya Negi chaired a key meeting with Returning Officer (RO) 52-Doda Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and RO 53-Doda West Ashok Kumar. The meeting focused on ensuring the district's readiness for the upcoming elections, with a particular emphasis on the arrangements for disabled voters and other essential parameters to ensure smooth electoral conduct. The General Observer reviewed critical arrangements, including the deployment of polling

staff, training sessions for election officials, and the proper handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Returning Officers 52-Doda and 53- Doda West provided a detailed brief on the current preparations, highlighting special measures like accessible polling stations, reserved seating, and transport facilities to assist disabled voters in casting their votes with ease. Additionally, both officers underscored the importance of adhering to the Model Code of Conduct and maintaining law and order throughout the election process. Discussions also covered contingency plans, voter awareness cam-

paigns under the SVEEP program, and security strategies, especially in sensitive areas. The General Observer commended the district administration for its efforts and stressed the need to uphold electoral integrity while ensuring inclusive environment for all voters. Further meetings and field visits are scheduled to monitor the progress of polling stations preparations and address any emerging challenges. The meeting was attended by key Nodal officers and election staff, marking an essential step in finalizing the district election plans.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
AKHNOOR: Sadguru of Sahib Bandgi Madhuparamhans Maharaj, while delighting the congregation with the nectar of his discourses in Akhnoor, Jammu, said that the person whose mind is polluted with sinful deeds, does not see God even in his dreams. Sahib had already said that in Kalyug, sins will increase a lot. Therefore, the intellect will become very frustrated. Therefore, it will not be able to decide what is right and what is wrong. This is the age, where the one who does good deeds will be ridiculed. You see, the dirty people around you, who are committing sinful deeds, lying, will unite and oppose you. Paltu Sahib has rightly said that there is enmity between the world and the devotee, just like there is between a cat and a mouse. Crows say in their group that no one is better than us. The crow is such that it peeks at the dirt anywhere. It speaks strangely too. But they say that no one has a voice like ours. No one likes the voice of a crow. They say that the cuckoo does not know our voice. It is black. This way the people around



you will make fun of you. The owl has never seen the sun. I asked many people why the owl cannot see the sun. No one gave a precise answer. There is a little infrared system in the eyes of a human being. This system is also present in binoculars. There are two things everywhere in this world. First - light. Second - temperature. In extreme darkness you see darkness in front of you. But some creatures have infrared system in their eyes. Due to which they can see even a little light as very big. Owls, bats and moles have a very high infrared system. That is why they cannot see the sun. The eyes close. Like if someone shines a high light torch in your eyes, your eyes will close. In the army also we get such binoculars, so that we can see the enemy from a distance. There is a warning in

it that do not look at too much light, you will become blind. Don't even look at the stars. There are some rays of light even in the darkness. That system increases those rays of light by millions of times. If you look at the fire-fly, it will look like a very big bulb is burning. That is why it is instructed that you should not use it in fire, light, stars. For these creatures, night is day and day is night. There was an owl. The swan came and sat on that branch. The owl asked who are you, why are you flying in the night. The swan said that I am a swan. Surya Narayan has just risen. There is a lot of light. The owl said that it is all darkness, which light are you talking about. Neither our father, grandfather told us about it, nor have we ever seen it. You are lying. Don't

flutter here at night. The swan tried to explain a lot, but the owl was not listening. No one in the owl's entire family has seen it. The swan decided that I will show it the sun. He reached it at such a time when the sun was about to rise. There was a little light before rising. He said, friend look, there is some light. The owl said, yes, it is getting dark. He explained to him, don't close your eyes, there is still light. He gathered courage and looked. At first, he had a lot of difficulty. He came everyday and started making him practice. First, the rays of the sun are not so bright. When there were some rays of the sun, the owl started closing his eyes. The swan said, don't close your eyes, look, that is the sun. In the morning, the sun is reddish. It is not bright. The owl said, yes, you

are right. Slowly, he made him practice. Now the owl's eyes learned to tolerate that light. That owl started flying during the day. His ancestors started scolding him, what are you doing. He said to the swan, he is not believing it. Sahib is saying that there is no sun in the world for the owl. This is just a mere imagination for him. The bat also came to confirm his words. He said, this swan is talking nonsense, there is no sun. Then the female rat also came and said, "Hey owl, you are speaking the truth, there is no sun. This swan is lying." In this way, the number of sinners has increased a lot. The devotee is thinking himself helpless. There is no price of a diamond in a vegetable shop. In this way, there are opponents. They say that he is speaking of himself. There is no Satlok (true world). If we talk of all the saints of the Santkaal, then there have been 32 saints. They helped crores of people cross the world. They have also given testimony to this. Sahib has said in many words that the place from where the swan has come is an Amar Desh (immortal land).

Polling staff for Home Voting, Postal Ballot services imparted training at Ramban

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAMBAN: The District Election Cell Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary on Sunday conducted an extensive training for polling staff assigned to manage Home Voting and Postal Ballot services. The training was aimed to ensure the smooth facilitation of voting for senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in Assembly Constituencies 54 (Ramban) and 55 (Banihal), ahead of the upcoming assembly elections on September 9, 2024. Deputy District Election Officer Abdul Jabar, who imparted the training, underscored the significance of the hands-on experience provided to the staff. He urged them to make the most of the training, ensuring they perform their roles effectively and contribute to free, fair, and transparent elections.

ABI, SKUAST-J organize 'Sensitization programme on Agri-entrepreneurship Development'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SAMBHA: Agri-Business Incubation Centre, SKUAST-J in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Samba organized a "Sensitization program on agri-entrepreneurship development" under the patronage of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu at KVK Samba which was attended by a number of progressive farmers, innovative youth & local artisans of nearby areas. The program was organized under the guidance of Director Research, Prof. S.K. Gupta with support of Director Extension, Prof. Amrisha Vaid, Associate Director Extension, Prof. Hema Tripathi & Head, KVK Samba, Dr. Sanjay Khajuria. Dr. Saurav Gupta, Entomologist, KVK Samba initiated the program with the warm welcome of the main expert, Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, P.I./CEO, Agri-Business Incubation

Centre, SKUAST-J along with all the other participants. He urged the farmer community to make maximum utilization of the opportunities that are being shared in the programme. Dr. Sanjay Khajuria in his inaugural address, gave a brief overview of the various activities and support provided by KVK, Samba to the farmer community in the production and commercialization of their produce. Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, the lead expert of the programme gave a detailed description about the scope and opportunities of agri-entrepreneurship in today's scenario. She informed the audience about how a simple innovative idea can be turned into a huge business by converting it into a practical form through precise planning and actions. Prof. Kachroo informed the gathering about the constructive role being played by ABI, SKUAST-J in the

training & development of innovative agri start-ups from J&K UT and its surrounding regions through uniquely designed Agri-entrepreneurship training & funding programmes namely UD GAM (Idea stage program having scope of upto Rs. 5 lakhs grant), PRAGATI (Seed stage program having scope of upto Rs. 25 lakhs grant with 10% extra assistance for rural women founders) and Student Financial Assistance Program with scope of Rs. 4 lakhs grant especially directed towards students. She also outlined that 78 potential agri-entrepreneurs in 7 batches have already been incubated at SKUAST-Jammu under these programmes and funding to the tune of Rs. 2.88 crores in total has been sanctioned in favor of 26 start-ups from 6 batches. The application process for admission to the 8th batch is also underway currently.

Prof. Kachroo narrated the success stories of start-ups of ABI, SKUAST-J who are making waves at national and international level through their innovative products. Some of these start-ups have generated revenue in excess of Rs. 1 crore and have also reached export level status. They have been felicitated at prestigious local and national platforms and have also won many awards including cash prizes for their ingenious agri-innovations and best practices. Some of them have also secured a patent from GoI for their respective innovations. Mr. Tarunjeet Singh from ABI, explained about the application and selection procedure of agri-entrepreneurship training programmes and distributed the pamphlets outlining the detailed information to the gathered audience. Dr. Khajuria presented the formal vote of thanks at the end.

People express confidence in Dr. D.K. Manyal's candidacy



Locals along with BJP candidate Dr. D.K. Manyal.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAMGARH : In a remarkable display of community support, hundreds gathered at the Ramgarh BJP office to express their confidence in Dr. D.K. Manyal's candidacy. The crowd's enthusiasm and dedication to Dr. Manyal's vision for the region were palpable, with slogans and banners waving in unison. Dr. Manyal's extensive experience and commitment to public service have earned him the trust and admiration of the people. His leadership and expertise make him the ideal candidate to address the pressing issues

facing the constituency. This outpouring of support is a testament to his popularity and the impact he has had on the community. The people of Ramgarh are eager to see Dr. Manyal's victory and are working tirelessly to ensure his success. In a separate event, the annual celebration at Jai Baba Talan Dev Ji was held on September 8, 2024, in Sangwan Village, Ramgarh. The event commemorated the anniversary of the Nag Panchami festivities and was attended by esteemed guests, including Dr. D.K. Manyal,

Former Health Minister of J&K and Former MLA Samba, and DDC Chairman Samba and DDC Rajpura. "I am honored to be part of this joyous occasion, which brings our community together in celebration of our rich cultural heritage," said Dr. D.K. Manyal. "I offer my blessings and support to the devsath and local residents, and I look forward to continuing to serve this community." The Raina Committee expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all attendees and supporters for making the occasion a resounding success.

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3-day historic Mela Patt begins in Bhadarwah

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BHADARWAH: The annual three-day Mela Patt, dedicated to Lord Vasuki Nag, the presiding deity of Bhaderwah Valley, commenced today at the ancient Khakhhal Mohalla in Bhadarwah. The festival, rooted in the Nag culture, marks the historic meeting between Mughal Emperor Akbar and King Nag Pal of Bhaderwah and has been celebrated since the 16th century. Ashok Kotwal, Kameshwar Nath, and Rishi Kotwal, the main organizers, emphasized that this long-standing event is a living testament

to mutual brotherhood and cultural heritage. This year, the festival continues its tradition of drawing hundreds of people from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of caste or religion, to pay tribute to the bravery and spiritual power of Raja Nag Pal. First celebrated by King Nag Pal when Bhaderwah was known as Bhadarkashi, Mela Patt holds a special place in the cultural and religious fabric of the region. It is observed every year on Nag Panchami, seven days after the conclusion of the Kailash Yatra, and is

renowned for its inclusive nature. The unique 'Dikko Dance,' a traditional folk performance where men and women of all religions and backgrounds participate, serves as a symbol of peace, pride, and communal harmony. What makes Mela Patt particularly remarkable is its 600-year history, which has been free of any untoward incidents, highlighting the deep respect for Raja Nag Pal and the communal unity of the area. The festival not only honors religious traditions but also showcases the proud historical legacy of Bhaderwah.

61,000 daily wagers have important role in assembly elections: Som Nath

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
UDHAMPUR: "61000 daily wagers have important role in assembly elections, said Som Nath Senior Trade Union leader Jammu Province while addressing the press conference on Sunday at Udhampur. Addressing media Som Nath Senior Trade Union leader Jammu Province highlighted long pending genuine demands of daily agers which include all the daily wage of different departments like Mid day meal paid Rs. 900/month, Anganwadi workers Rs 4500/month, Asha workers Rs 3000/month. These daily wagers are working in these departments waiting for justice. Now in the present time the salary paid to these daily



Som Nath Senior Trade Union leader briefing media.

wagers is not enough to meet their daily expenses. The UT Administration is shameful for this act. The daily wagers are working for more than 25 years but their future is not secure. Minimum wages to the daily wagers given accordingly as per Govt. order that the minimum wages should be given to

the daily wagers as per Delhi UT. Accordingly to the minimum wages Act that nobody can be engaged in future (Regular and Daily Wagers). "At present only a single daily wager is working where 4-5 daily wagers are required. Daily wagers should be engaged as per norms so that work may run smoothly and

properly. e.g Thousand workers are required in different departments and this figure is increasing day by day and not a single daily wager is engaged in the departments and due to this burden of work is on already employed daily wager. The general public is suffering due to the shortage of thousands of daily wagers" he said. The present Administration has leveled so many taxes on the general public and the common man has so many burdens. The taxes are taken from the general public but they have not any relief. Other who spoke Sardar Tej Bhadur, Barkat Ali, Sandokh Chand, Mohd Sharief, Prem Nath are also attended the press conference.