



# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## SIU attaches property of Pakistan based terrorist in Kupwara

J1NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, AUG 1

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached property of a terrorist operating from Pakistan in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

According to a statement, issued to the news agency the land measuring 6 Kanals and 3 Marla belonging to one Adul Rashid Qureshi alias Farooq Qureshi of Kachama Kupwara who is operating from Pakistan was attached by the SIU Kupwara.

"Following extensive intelligence gathering and meticulous investigations in case FIR No.276/2022 of Police Station Kupwara

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## J&K registers 1.27 Cr tourist arrivals this year so far: LG Sinha at Charar-e-Shareef

J1NEWS SERVICE  
CHARAR-E-SHAREEF, AUG 1

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that this year so far 1.27 Crore tourists have visited the UT and the number is all set to cross previous year's record.

Addressing a gathering at Charar-e-Shareef in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, the LG, as per news agency, showcased pictures on the revered saint Sheikh-ul-Alam Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) and said that world knows Sheikh-ul-Alam. "The saint doesn't need to be introduced to anyone in the



world as he is Sheikh-ul-Alam not Sheikh-ul Kashmir. The saint was an epitome of sufism," the LG said.

He said that a peaceful atmosphere is prevailing in Kashmir as business

remains on throughout the year and schools and colleges are functioning normally. "I keep on saying always that nothing is possible without peace. No development is possible without peace

is established. There was a time when a shikara owner, a hotel owner and a common auto-rickshaw owner would suffer a lot due to uncertainty. We have come out of that phase," the LG said, adding that "this year so far 1.27 Crore tourists have visited J&K and the figure is much higher than last year. We hope to see record breaking tourist arrivals by the year end."

He said when a large number of tourists have started frequenting Kashmir, it was the prime duty of the administration to ensure quality infrastructure.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Terrorism down in Kashmir but not out yet: DGP

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUG 1

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Tuesday said that terrorism in Valley was down but not out fully yet as some elements continue to try and disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the region.

Talking to reporters at the culmination of J&K Police Martyr's 19th Football Tournament final in Srinagar, DGP Singh, as per news agency, said that the "terrorism in Kashmir was down but not out fully yet."

He said some elements are trying to disrupt the peaceful environment in Kashmir and the missing case of soldier in Kulgam is one such attempt. "We have got some vital leads in the case and are hope-



ful to crack the case soon. We will reach out to the bottom of the case shortly. It would be premature to comment further on the matter as investigations are in full swing," the DGP said.

About Article 370 roll back's 5th anniversary on August 5, how he sees the ground situation in Kashmir, the DGP said that change is visible as areas

where one would not even dream of visiting are being explored by tourists. "There are hardly any law and order incidents. Terrorist numbers are at an all time low. Tourists are visiting downtown areas and praising its beauty," he said, adding that life is going on smoothly. "There is an unprecedented flow of tourists in

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Landmine found near border fence in Poonch

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 1

A landmine was detected during the cutting of wild grass near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said. The landmine was noticed by a group of porters engaged by the Army to clear the border fence area of wild grass in Balakote sector around this afternoon, the officials said.

They said the whole area was immediately cordoned off by the troops and the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Gujjar, Bakerwal youth protest against proposed bill for amendments in ST

J1NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, AUG 1

Gujjar and Bakerwal youth took out a rally on Tuesday in Poonch town to protest against the bill for amendments in Scheduled Tribe reservations in Jammu and Kashmir, which was moved in Lok Sabha a few days back.

According to the news agency, the protest rally was taken out in the main town in which youth from the parts of the border district participated.

Raising slogans against proposed amendments in ST reservations in Jammu and Kashmir, the protesters

requested the government to shun the move and not to include other castes in STs of Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, a video with some objectionable slogans during protest rally of Gujjar and Bakerwal youth has gone viral on social media after which police authorities have issued a statement informing that necessary examination, investigation has been set into motion.

Police in a statement informed that investigation into the matter has been started.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Terror incidents, infiltration declined in J&K in last two years: Government In Lok Sabha

J1NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUG 1

Terrorist violence and infiltration have declined in Jammu and Kashmir in the last two years, Union minister Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, noting that 26 incidents of terror violence and no net infiltration have occurred this year till June-end. Rai said there were 125 terror-related and 14 infiltration incidents in 2022, and 124 terror and 34 infiltration incidents in 2021.

The minister said the measures taken by the



government to curb terrorist violence include proactive counter-insurgency operations against terrorists, identification and arrest of over-ground supporters of terrorists, deployment of police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and night patrolling and area

domination. Attachment of properties belonging to terrorists and their associates under relevant sections of the law, sharing of intelligence inputs amongst all security forces on a real-time basis and intensified Cordon and Search Operations (CASO) are undertaken to thwart any terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, he said in a written reply to a question.

Further, Rai said, the government has adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged strategy to tackle

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## NGO Terror Funding Case NIA raids 7 locations in Kashmir, documents, devices seized

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUG 1

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches in four districts of the Kashmir Valley in a case related to NGO terror funding.

In a statement, issued to the news agency, a spokesperson said that extensive raids were conducted at seven locations in Srinagar, Budgam, Kupwara and Pulwama districts, at the premises of trusts and individuals associated with Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil

Societies (JKCCS), an NGO involved in raising funds for banned terrorist organisations.

The statement reads that raids were also conducted at locations associated with the NGO programme coordinator Khurram Parvee and his associate Irfan Mehraj.

"Both Parvee and Mehraj were arrested by the NIA in March this year after investigations revealed their role in raising funds for the JKCCS from various charities based abroad, and

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## Overground worker of terror outfits detained under PSA in Rajouri, second in a week

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 1

An overground worker of terror outfits has been detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Shabir, a resident of Draj village in Kotranka tehsil, is the second overground worker to be detained under the Public Safety Act in the border district within a week. On July

26, Akbar Hussain of Marutha-Kanthol village was detained under the administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

"Shabir is a notorious overground worker and has been detained under the Public Safety Act for his involvement in unlawful activities," a police spokesperson said. He said Shabir's detention order was issued by the Rajouri district

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Chief Secretary kick starts 'JIM Fortnight' for certification of 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 1

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today kick started the 'JIM Fortnight' during which senior level officers would visit the site of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works to ensure that each household in the UT receives 'Nal Se Jal'.

Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti; Mission Director, JJM; Chief Engineer, PHE, Kashmir; JJM and other senior officers of the department were present on the occasion.

Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary maintained that the objective of the Mission is to bring tap water to every household

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## Air Force chopper airlifts private chopper near Amarnath Cave

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUG 1

A military transport helicopter Tuesday came to the rescue of a private operator providing heli-services for the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims after its single-engine copter developed some snag at the Panchtarni helipad. The crew displayed immaculate planning, systematic preparation and exceptional flying skills in recovering the damaged helicopter, they said. As a result of the removal of the AS-350 helicopter, the Panchtarni helipad has been made available for use during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, they added.

a dizzying elevation of 11500 ft.

After lifting the underslung helicopter, the Mi-17 V5 pilots had to skillfully manoeuvre within steep and narrow gorges in the vicinity of the Amarnath cave shrine, with a very limited margin for error, the officials said. The crew displayed immaculate planning, systematic preparation and exceptional flying skills in recovering the damaged helicopter, they said. As a result of the removal of the AS-350 helicopter, the Panchtarni helipad has been made available for use during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, they added.

## Lung cancer common in J&K, say doctors

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUG 1

Lung cancer is one of the common cancers in Jammu & Kashmir and around 80 percent of such cases can be prevented only by way of quitting smoking, doctors said.

The doctors who spoke to the news agency said the best way to reduce the cases of lung cancer in J&K is by quitting smoking.

Dr Zahoor, a leading

oncologist at SKIMS Soura, told KNO that lung cancer is one of the cancers with a very strong association with smoking. "It is the most common cancer worldwide and a leading cause of cancer-related death. So by quitting smoking, we can prevent almost more than 80% of lung cancers and decrease a big fraction of cancer burden and consequent cancer-related death," he said.

Dr Manzoor, Head of Department, Radiation Oncology, at GMC Srinagar, said that the single-

most important prevention for lung cancer is 'No Tobacco Use'.

He said that on the one hand, lung cancer is most prevalent with 90 percent due to smoking, but on the other side, there are tobacco products available at doorsteps. "How is it possible to get rid of it," he said.

Lung cancer has been found to be the second commonest cancer. In the past few decades, the cancer catastrophe has created havoc globally while Kashmir has wit-

nessed a rise in cases of lung and breast cancers.

As per the hospital-based data from Kashmir Valley, males have a higher incidence of lung cancer. "There is a direct relation between length of smoking and number of cigarettes smoked per day. Even if smokers quit smoking, there are chances of developing cancer but these chances decrease to a greater extent," the doctors said.

They also said that poor air quality is also one of the reasons for lung cancer among non-smokers

because of increasing exposure to toxic air.

Director SKIMS Dr Parvaiz Koul recently told KNO that yearly around 10,000 deaths are attributed to particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) exposure and there is a need to control it by countering it.

He said air pollution is the main issue of J&K due to the increasing number of vehicles, construction, brick kilns, and cement factories which emit pollutants and significantly pollute the air and affect the health which makes

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## Dr Jitendra Singh launches India's first indigenous MRI scanner, underlines affordable healthcare

J1NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

In a medical breakthrough, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today launched India's first indigenous 2.5 (PM 2.5) exposure and there is a need to control it by countering it.

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high field (1.5 Tesla), next generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner.

Dr Jitendra Singh said,

as an indigenous MRI scanner is made available, the cost of MRI scanning is expected to reduce

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# BJP will get thumping mandate in upcoming elections: Raina



J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, AUG 01:** BJP will get thumping majority in the next elections and the opposition parties will be further pushed to wall, said Ravinder Raina, President Jammu and Kashmir BJP.

Ravinder Raina, president Jammu and Kashmir BJP, alongwith General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul, General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, chaired organisational meetings at party's district office Udhampur in connection with the upcoming elections of ULBs and Panchayats.

State office bearers, former ministers, former MLAs & MLCs, DDC Chairpersons, district presidents, district prabharis, district sher prabharis, from Kathua, Basohli Pahari,

Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban districts of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Parliamentary constituency were invited in these meetings.

Ravinder Raina in these meetings sought the details of the party's ongoing activities in the Parliamentary constituency. He also held thorough discussions with the party leaders in formulating an effective strategy to seek support of the maximum people from all the sections and every region. In the day long separate organizational meetings with the Parliamentary Constituency Core Group, Assembly Constituencies Prabharis and Convenors And Co Convenors of ULBs and PRIs, Ravinder Raina prepared a draft road map for ensuring party's success in polls.

Ravinder Raina said that the BJP cadre is always in working mode and visible on ground, reaching the doorsteps of the people with the programmes and welfare schemes of the government at the centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP chief expressed satisfaction that the reports emanating from the ground reveal that BJP has become the first choice of the people cutting across their faiths and region and it is due to the fact that the other political parties only ditched the people on the name of development and social welfare.

Ravinder Raina further said that mere sloganeering was the hallmark of parties like Congress, NC and PDP, which has totally exposed them in the public, whereas the BJP and Narendra Modi government took steps and decisions to reach the people at their doorsteps and extend every kind of assistance to empower them, socially and economically.

BJP Vice presidents Chander Mohan Gupta, Pawan Khajuria and Shakti Parihar, former ministers Rajiv Jasrotia, Chander Prakash Ganga, Pawan Gupta, Ajay Nanda, DDC Kathua Colonel Maan Singh, DDC Doda Dhananther Singh, DDC Udhampur Lal Chand, former MLAs Jeevan Lal, Prem Sagar Aziz, R.S. Pathania and Balwant Singh Mankotia, Prabhari Kathua Munish Sharma, Corporator Pawan Singh, Convenor PRI Surjit Singh, were prominent among those who attended these meetings.

# Jugal calls on Railway Minister discuss Development Projects



J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, AUG 01:** Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu today calls on Ashwini Vaishnav Union Minister for Railways from New Delhi and discussed many development projects of his Parliamentary constituency.

Member of Parliament brought into notice of the Railway Minister a very important project to Construct Rail over Bridge at Gurha Salathia Railway

line. He informed Minister that a large thickly populated area which is connected used to cross Railway Line passing through Gurha Salathia village and they to wait in long que.

He said that by era of development number of trains are increasing day by day which are resulting in heavy traffic on the railway line and people have to wait for a long time to pass through the railway line. He said that patients, senior citizens and the students have to suffer a lot. He said that it is the bur-

ning demand to construct Railover Bridge at Railway Line passing through Gurha Salathia. He also said that there is also dire need to construct Rail Over Bridge at Kalbari in Samba District. Member of Parliament also thanked Minister for development at Jammu Railway Station. He said that projects are on-going to bring Jammu Railway Station in Class-A Category but they should be expedited so that people can get their benefits in time. Member of Parliament also informed Minister that approach road from Main National Highway road to Manwal Railway Station is in very worse condition and needs immediate repair. He said that immediate funds should be provided for its widening along with its repair so that people of the area may not suffer any more. He also demanded the stoppage/short haul of Uttar Sampark Kranti & Hemkunt Express at Manwal Railway Station.

Ashwini Vaishnav Union Minister of Railways listened the demands Member of Parliament and assured him that they would be re-addressed soon.

# Shiv Sena(H) protest for depriving legitimate youth of govt job

J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, AUG 01:** Shiv Sena Hindustan Youth President J&KUT Ganesh Choudhary today led strong protest at Maharaja Hari Singh Park seeking justice for Shankar Singh, s/o late Tejram. Prominent among those present on the occasion include District President Raj Kumar Gupta, Samba District President Nick Raj, Barabrahmana President Sanjeev Kumar, Vice President Bharat Bhushan, Arina Chairman Yashpal Bishnah Chairman Vikas Kumar, Arina Gen Sectary Prabh Dayal Saini, President Shastri Nagar Sahil Sharma, Sher Chak President Ajay Kumar, Bishnah Block President Sanjay Bhagat, Pandori Brahmanna President Ashwani Kumar, Bidyur President Raj Kumar Bhushan, Sonu Kumar, Vijaypur President Sonu Singh, Bishnah Block President Madhu Bala, Vice President Sanita Devi, Gen Sectary Sonia Choudhary, Sectary Tripta Devi, Cashier Rimpy Devi, Advisor Neelam Devi, Muskan Devi, Geeta Devi, Manju Devi, Arina Block President Sunam Devi, Reena Devi,



Asha Devi, Santosh Devi, Pooja Rani, Beaba Devi Shila Devi. Speaking on the occasion, Choudhary said that Shankar Singh, s/o late Tejram who died in an accident on 27-09-1986 has been moving from post to pillar to get justice but so far despite bringing his genuine case of employment under SRO-43 before concerned authorities, nothing has been done in this regard. Choudhary further said that when Tejram died his son Shankar Singh was only five years old and his mother was in deep agony and pain, leaving behind two daughters and a son at such a young age. Taking advantage of such a situation deceased Tejram's Brother Bansil Lal and his son

Darshan Singh fraudulently managed to get job after Tejram's death producing fake documents in MES. They also managed to get support of Tejram's wife by getting NOC from her on the pretext that pension documents are being prepared and she signed documents. Choudhary further said that when Shankar Singh grew up and came to know about this fraud, he lodged FIR against his uncle and cousin but nothing done in this regard. He then approached SSP Jammu and lodged a complaint there also about fraud done with him but there also he could not get justice. Choudhary further said that both father-son duo have also taken bank loan

against pension which Tejram's wife is getting without the consent of his wife and son. He said with lots of hardships Shanker Singh's two sisters got married due to extreme financial constraints but now he himself facing economical crisis to feed his mother and himself. Choudhary demanded crime branch to immediately start investigation into the case and ensure justice with Shanker Singh whose childhood has already been snatched from him and now is being harassed and forced to live miserable life when he deserved to get decent living after his father's death as he was only eligible to get job in MES after his father's death.

# 8 years old Alankrita Sharma Wins AICF smart girls fide Rated tournament 2023

J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, AUG 01:** Young 8 year old Alankrita Sharma of J&K won AICF Smart Girl FIDE rating chess tournament hi here at Nek Hotel below gumat Jammu. Priya yadav of UP got second position while Srujanika Gupta got third place.

Ojaswani Mengi got best U-19 Trophy while Manasvi Gupta got U-15 Trophy. In U-13 Vaishnavi from Punjab got winners trophy while in U-11 Vitasta koul of haryana won winners trophy and in U-9 Shredra Raina won best U-9 trophy. 53 female players from 4 states participated in it. The event was organised by crown trust under the aegis of AJKCA and J&K sports council. In this event only female players were eligible to participate. Participating Players include 6 year old to 45 years old. 2 players achieved FIDE rating through this event if he scores required points.



DD Joshi, J&K head of Amar Ujala was special guest on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were Atul Kumar Gupta joint secretary AICF and working president AJKCA while Ajka president Baldev Raj is personally monitoring chess festival.

The event was played under FIDE Laws of Chess under Swiss system and 9 rounds.

Varun Kumar Randhawa of Punjab was chief Arbiter of this event while Arushi kotwal of J&K was deputy Arbiter.

# AJKPC organises One Day Panchayat Convention in Banihal

J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, AUG 01:** All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference(AJKPC), a registered organization working for strengthening the democracy institutions of J & K today organized a Panchayat convention in Banihal town of district Ramban wherein a large number of elected Panches and Sarpanches of the district Ramban attended the convention presided by Anil Sharma, the president of the organization. The participants put forth their valuable suggestions to intensify struggle of PRIs to make this institutions more vibrant and autonomous.

During the program, the local PRI

members asked the AJKPC President to take up the issue of including left out but deserving families of district Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna(PMAY) Scheme. The PRIs said due to the negligence of the local officers of the revenue department many deserving people could not be included in the PMAY list and now this portal is being closed which is nothing short of injustice. The issue of bifurcation of ration cards was also discussed and irregular supply of ration through PDS was also discussed.

AJKPC President assured the participants that all their genuine grievances would be taken with the government through concerned officers and depart-

ments for redressal. He also urged the National Highway Authority of India(NHAI) to ensure that local people are provided jobs in all the projects funded by NHAI.

The issue of delimitation and rationalization of voters of Panchayats before the elections was also deliberated. The AJKPC also reiterated its demand of extending the term of existing Panchayats till 2025.

The prominent people who attended the program includes

Abdul Jabbar, Ch. Basool Mattu, Shabir Ahmed Naik, Rayees Ahmed Khandi, smt Skinna Begum Chanjolo, Mukther Ahmed Ashir, Bashir Ahmed kaskoot, smt Nisarra Begum Tahachai, Ab jabbar .

# NGO Anti Crime Bureau call on SSP Samba



J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, AUG 01:** NGO, Anti Crime Bureau (Regd), (a Social Service Organization) formed for the public welfare of the society) , Meets SSP Samba Benam Tosh and ASP Samba Surinder Choudhary , Meeting was Presented by its Chairman Sham Lal Gupta.

Gupta welcomed SSP Samba Benam Tosh Ji and ASP Surinder Choudhary by giving them bouquets of Flowers and gifted Mata ki Churni to him, SSP Samba Benam Tosh also presented bouquet of flowers to him.

Gupta told that as soon as SSP Benam Tosh came to work, he has created an atmosphere of fear among

the criminals and the shops of drug contractors are constantly being closed, and the police department is raiding every nook and corner. Gupta appreciated efforts of SSP Benam Tosh. In the meeting, Gupta told about ASP Surinder Choudhary that during SDPO Rspura he broke the backbone of the criminals and the criminals

# Establish examination centre for NEET-SS in Kashmir Valley : R. S. Chib

J I NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, AUG 01:** R.S. CHIB, Former Medical Education Minister and General Secretary, Democratic Progressive Azad Party has asked the National Board of Examination (NBE), to include KASHMIR Valley in the list of centres, for the benefit of those doctors from KASHMIR, who are aspiring to appear for National Eligibly Cum Entrance Test for Super Specialty (NEET-SS) - 2023. Mr. Chib said, it is pertinent to mention here that it is about nearly 450 Doctors are scheduled to take the SUPER SPECIALITY EXAMINATION which is likely to be held in September this year. A separate centre was established in Srinagar, in the year 2021, for the NEET-SS examination but it is not understood, that no centre was established in Srinagar for the year 2022 and also it appears, that the NBE has no plan to set up an Examination Centre for 2023 in SRINAGAR.

Mr. Chib said that NBE should



understand that NEET-SS is a very important and crucial examination for aspiring medical professionals, for their future by seeking admission in various higher super specialty courses such as DM, Mch and DNB, in other institutions of our country. He further said that, the Kashmir as compared to JAMMU has large number of aspirants

and hence there is a need to have centres both at JAMMU and SRINAGAR. He said if a large number of doctors have to leave their hospitals for JAMMU to participate in Examination, for a minimum of three days, will potentially effect the patient care, in their absence.

Mr. Chib said that the NBE should understand the geographical disparity, for those who have to travel from KASHMIR to JAMMU, by taking a long and difficult Journey, which will cause to them additional stress and anxiety and ultimately effect their performance in the Examination. Also by going through the number of doctors aspiring to appear in the NEET-SS, Kashmir has more numbers than JAMMU, said Mr. Chib. He urged upon the NBE and others associated authorities with the decision making to intervene and besides JAMMU, Setup another centre at SRINAGAR, in the interest of the aspirants, from KASHMIR Valley.



## Mountaineering expedition to Kang Yatse-II peak (20500ft) in Ladakh flagged off



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: Anil Goswami, former Union Home Secretary of India and Ashwani Sharma, former MLA jointly flagged off the Mountaineering Association of J&K for Mountaineering expedition to Kang Yatse-II peak (20500ft) in Ladakh from Press Club of Jammu, here today.

The small 5-member team comprising four men and one woman climber shall be led by a senior mountaineer Sunil Khajuria.

The other members are Manik Sathia, Shilpa Charak, Sonam Sidharth and Shashi Kant Sharma. While Sumit Khajuria is a highly trained and experienced mountaineer Manik is a physically and mentally very tough and disciplined mountaineer, having scaled an over 23000ft high Trishul peak and also has the distinction of having been earlier selected by Indian Mountaineering Foundation for an expedition to Mount Everest, which, how-

ever, did not come off. Shilpa Charak, an international sport climber, also a trained mountaineer having done her Basic and Advance mountaineering courses with distinction. She was also a part of the team which attempted Kang Yatse last year. The other members of the team Sonam Sidharth and Shashi Kant are also good mountaineers who have scaled Stok and Matho Kangri peaks in Ladakh respectively after completing their Basic Mountaineering Course.

Kang Yatse is an elegant peak which dominates the Markha valley of Ladakh. The route to its summit is challenging and climbs over the base camp steeply on soft snow and loose rocks. The summit offers a glimpse of K2, the second highest peak in the world besides Nun, Kun, Nanga Parvat, Saser and Mamostang Kangri.

The team is hopeful to place all the members on the peak within a span of about 12 days. It may be mentioned here

that in 2022 also a 4-member team of Mountaineering Association of J&K had attempted Kang Yatse peak but due to certain reasons had to retrace their steps when they were just 500 meters short of the peak.

This year, if all goes well, the team has a ready plan to attempt another over 20000ft high peak after successful climb of Kang Yatse peak.

Shawetika Khajuria, General Secretary welcomed the team and the guests on the occasion and introduced them to the Chief Guest.

Ram Khajuria, the Senior President of the Association gave a brief account of the activities undertaken by the Association since its inception and thanked the J&K State Sports Council for patronage of some of the activities of the Association especially the partial sponsorship of this mountaineering expedition.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Guest Anil Goswami appreciated the efforts of the Association for undertaking a challenging

expedition to Kang Yatse. He wished the mountaineers all success in the venture. Being Chairman of Tawi Trekkers J&K he announced that the club would soon organize a small mountaineering expedition on its own this year only. A major mountaineering expedition to a over 7000m high peak shall also be organised by the club in addition to 2-3 expeditions to over 6000m peaks, next year, he added.

Ashwani Sharma, former MLA, and patron of Tawi Trekkers J&K advised the mountaineers to prepare themselves fully, physically as well as mentally, for Tawi Trekkers J&K'S ambitious expedition to Mount Everest, planned for the year 2025.

Prominent members present on the occasion included Rahul Sharma, Chairman, Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantala, Jammu; Everester Rahul Jargal who has also scaled Kancheenjunga, the third highest peak in the world; President Rakesh Goswami, Vice Presidents Navreet Gupta & Sushil Singh and executive members Sakshi Magotra, Sunil Chakharia and Anu Sharma of District Mountaineering Association, Jammu and adventure enthusiasts Suksham Verma and Ajay Singh.

All the members present on the occasion wished the team a safe and successful expedition.

## Manjit expresses anguish over excessive electricity bills to consumers in Jammu plains

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today said that the electricity supply system has totally collapsed in Jammu plains and the smart meters have become a source of harassment for the electricity consumers.

Addressing a monthly meeting of Apni Party at Vijaypur, the Former Minister said that the people of Jammu plains have been left with no option by the PDD but to face harassment with the overcharged electricity bills, and constant unsheduled power cuts.

"The electricity charges are beyond the pocket of the general masses, and the electricity bills are excessively charged from the electricity users/consumers leading to outrage across Samba, Jammu, Kathua, and Udhampur," he said.

He said that the people are getting electricity bills in thousands and some even in lakhs and it has become a normal to collect charges of the electricity which the consumers never used. "The cheating which is being done with the electricity consumers should be checked and investigated thoroughly so that the accused persons could be brought to book, and general masses could be provided relief," he added. He said that as the temperature and humidity has increased in the plain areas, the PDD has increased unsheduled power cuts that are causing unbearable problems for the people especially the elderly ailing and children. "The Jal Shakti Department has not been able to supply drinking water and the farmers are unable to pump water for irrigation of their fields in the agricultural land in absence of electricity supply for long hours," he said. He said that the PDD



has totally collapsed to handle the issue and project the demand of electricity before the Govt so that required electricity can be purchased for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, he referred to the great inconvenience caused to the commuters on Jammu-Pathankot Highway due to the damages to two bridges in Kathua, and huge potholes on the highway from Lakhpanpur in Kathua up to Bari Brahmana in Samba district. "The highway road is not comfortable for the commuters, yet the toll-tax is being collected from the commuters at Sarore Toll Plaza that is illegal and unfair with the people. Therefore, the authorities should revoke the tax collection from the commuters at Toll Plaza till the highway is completed," he said.

He said that it is criminal negligence and accordingly, action should be taken against the tax-collectors at Toll Plaza. "The highway is under construction with widening work, and expressway construction," he added. Besides, he also referred to the political rights for the Sikh Community, Jatt Community and Christian Community in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded political reservation for their political representatives.

The Sikhs should get two Legislative Assembly seats in Jammu region, and

Kashmir regions. Similarly, two Legislative Assembly seats for Jatts, and one for Christian Community should be given in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

He further stated that "Although the Jatts had representation in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir's Legislative Assembly, but after the reservation of their areas, the huge population remained unrepresented. Hence, the Govt should reserve two LA seats for them so that they get their representation in the assembly."

He also demanded holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and restoration of statehood to the downgraded erstwhile state.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included District President, Samba, Raman Thapa, State President ST Wing, Saleem Alam, State General Secretary S Wing, Joginder Pal, Provincial President S Wing, Lovely Mangol, Provincial President Jammu Youth, Vipul Bali, District President Legal Cell, Ade Sahil Bhatti, District Vice President Ram Lal, District Vice President Mohi Noor, Block President Vijaypur, Mohan Lal Sharma, Block President Bari Brahmana, Babu Ram Bhagat, Block President Parmandal, Manzoor Hussain, Block President Samba, Harjeet Singh, Ram and others.

## Health talk on Osteoporosis held at MIER College

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: Shrimati Shanti Gupta Centre for Women's Studies, MIER College organized a health talk on the topic "Osteoporosis: Causes and Remedial Measures" for the faculty and students of Semester IV of P.G. and U.G. Departments on 31st July, 23. The resource person was Dr. Kanav Padha, Consultant Orthopedics, Trauma and Joint Replacement Surgeon, Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The talk aimed to raise health awareness on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis.

Ms. Vasudha Khajuria, student of B.Ed. extended a warm welcome to the resource person and Ms. Khushi Sharma introduced Dr. Kanav Padha to the audience as an expert in the field of orthopedics and joint replacement and Trauma Surgeon. Dr. Padha had completed his postdoctoral fellowship in joint replacement at Dr. MGR University, Chennai. He further did his specialization in Rheumatology from John Hopkins University, USA



and Advance Trauma and Life Support at AIIMS, New Delhi. He is well-published and has presented papers both at national and international conferences and seminars.

Dr. Padha opened his deliberations by explaining the concept of osteoporosis, saying it is a medical condition characterized by a decrease in bone density and brittle bones that are more susceptible to fractures. It is often referred to as a "silent disease" because it typically progresses without symptoms until a fracture occurs. Osteoporosis is more common in older adults, especially post-

menopausal women, but it can also affect men and younger individuals. He explained the causes of osteoporosis, such as aging, hormonal change, calcium and vitamin D deficiency, lack of exercise, family history, certain medications, and medical conditions. Dr. Padha comprehensively talked about remedial measures like dietary changes, regular exercise, fall prevention, regular checkups including DEXA scan, recommended daily amount of calcium and vitamin D supplements, hormone replacement therapy, etc.

This was followed by an interactive question and answer session where the

faculty members and students cleared their doubts and queries. Dr. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the Centre and said that such awareness programmes should be held regularly with a view to enlighten the public about the risk associated with untreated osteoporosis.

Ms. Sarita Bandal, student of B.Ed. Semester IV presented a formal vote of thanks to the distinguished speaker and the audience. The programme was coordinated by Mrs. Rupa Gupta, Director of the Centre along with Dr. Bharti Tandon and Mrs. Jyoti Sharma convenor and member of the Centre.

## District Development Council reviews functioning of PDD, RDD

Bharat Bhushan urges Govt to intensify PMAY in J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: The District Development Council (DDC) of Jammu, under the leadership of Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, DDC Chairman Jammu, today conducted a meeting at the PWD Guest House today and reviewed the working of Rural Development Department and Power Development Department.

In the meeting, the Vice Chairman of DDC Jammu, Suraj Singh Bhatt, DDC members Suresh Kumar, Sharda Bhatt, Bhushan Bral, Prof Garu Ram Bhagat, Dardminder Kumar, Taranjit Singh Tony, Vidhya Mottan, Balbir Kumar, Joginder Singh Kaur, Geetu Aulakh and Shamima Begum. Deputy Commissioner Avni Lavasa, Chief Executive Officer DDC Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, CPO Yoginder Katoch, ACD Preeti Khajuria, DPO Daljit Singh, ALL BDOs, SE JPDC, SE JPICL, SE Project Wing, Executive Engineer of Div-1, Div-2 & Div-3 and other subordinate staff were present.

During the meeting, Chairman Bharat Bhushan Bodhi emphasized the



urgent need for enhancing and expediting electrification efforts in rural areas. He directed officials from the Power Development Department to address unsheduled power cuts and ensure uninterrupted power supply to residents in both urban and rural areas. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of providing uninterrupted power to farmers for safeguarding their crops from potential damage. Subsequently, the Chairman conducted a thorough evaluation of the functioning of the Rural Development Department. The review encompassed several schemes, such as Amrit Sarovar, CD Panchayats, District Apex, DDC component, BDC component, and PRI component.

Officials of Rural Development Department informed the Chairman that a total of 1430 works had been tendered in the current financial year. Of these works, 433 have been allotted and 244 have already commenced, with 216 of them already completed. However, officials highlighted that the progress of these projects has been hindered by a shortage of BDOs (Block Development Officers) and JEs (Junior Engineers).

In view of this, the Council members emphasized the need for expediting the tendering process to ensure the full utilization of the development budget.

In response to these challenges, the DDC Chairman appealed to the Lt Governor to address the issue by exp-

editing the recruitment process and filling the vacant positions at the earliest.

Additionally, the DDC Chairman applauded the government's decision to provide landless individuals under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). He urged the government to intensify the process as soon as possible, benefiting the poor and marginalized sections of society. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with all participants committed to working together towards achieving the goals set forth by the District Development Council of Jammu. The DDC Chairman expressed his gratitude to all officials and members for their participation and contributions.

## J&K witnesses revolutionary development under PM's leadership after Article 370 Abrogation: Dr Tahir

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: As Jammu and Kashmir nears the completion of four years since the historic abrogation of Article 370, the region's development under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been hailed as revolutionary by J&K BJP's spokesperson, Dr Tahir Choudhary. In the past four years, the region has undergone a remarkable paradigm shift in infrastructure development, with a particular focus on road construction and connectivity.

Under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMPD), he said Jammu and Kashmir has experienced an impressive surge in road con-

struction, witnessing a jump from 6.54 km to an astounding 20.6 km per day after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. "The total length of roads has now reached an impressive 46,141 km, with a notable 78 percent of roads featuring black-top surfaces, marking a significant improvement from 66 percent in 2019," said Dr Tahir Choudhary, highlighting the monumental achievements in the region's road infrastructure.

He added that the region's massive tourist footfall and the successful holding of the recent meeting of the G20 summit in Srinagar earlier this year, are testament to the new dawn in Jammu and Kashmir. "These developments have placed J&K on the global

tourism mapand enhancing the region's appeal as a preferred destination for tourists," he said. Dr Tahir Choudhary also highlighted the substantial decline in stone-pelting incidents and bandh calls in the region, which have dropped to zero over the past four years.

He added that the decisive anti-terror measures undertaken by the government have led to the dismantling of the terror ecosystem, resulting in a significant reduction in terrorist recruitment. He said the transformative developments and the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have laid the groundwork for a promising and inclusive future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Gupta exhort functionaries to intensify booth level public outreach

NC Constitutes Committees for upcoming elections (ULB)

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Mr Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province Constituted 17members committee of District Kathua Rural and 11 members committee District Billawar (Org) for upcoming local bodies elections headed by District Presidents Mr Ajeet Kumar Sharma Kathua

Urban, Mr Sham Narian Mehra Kathua Rural and Mr Romy Khajuria Billawar (Org).

While announcing the committees Mr Rattan Lal Gupta exhorted the functionaries to intensify booth level outreach and generate awareness among the people about the policies and programmes of the National Conference. He said that Jammu and Kashmir is confronted with many challenges and the National Conference was the only

party to steer it out of the morass of misgovernance.

The following members committees have been constituted District Kathua Urban: Mr Ajeet Kumar Sharma as Chairman

Mr K.K Bakshi, Mr Shakeel Ahmed, Mr Bawa Ditta, Mr Subash Chander, Mr Pardeep Kesar, Mrs Koshar Parveen Bhatti, Mrs Neelam Sharma, Mr Piar Singh, Mr Sat Paul Sharma, Mr Raj Kumar, Mr Yash Paul, Mr Balbir Singh, Mr

Prem Singh, Mr Devender Mehta, Mr Rakesh Sharma and Mrs Suresh Kumari as members. District Kathua Rural: Mr Sham Narian Mehta as Chairman

Mr Dharampal, Mr. B.D Sharma, Mr Prem Rattan, Mr Prem Lal, Mr Sohan Singh, Mr Jagjit Singh Adv, Mr Sham Lal Mehta, Dawarka Nath, Mr Anshu Sharma Adv, Mr Ashwani Kumar as members.

District Billawar (Org): Mr Romy Khajuria as Chairman.



# NC, PDP to keep political differences aside, fight 'onslaught' on people's rights & dignity

Any more accusations would be responded to with full authority: NC; PDP says unity 'in the larger interest of people'

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUG 1

Amidst the verbal spar between two youth leaders of the National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP), both parties on Tuesday decided to set aside political differences and fight for the people's "rights and dignity".

According to the news agency, both NC and PDP, through their spokespersons, said that despite their "political differences," they must "rise to the occasion and present a united front" to fight the

"onslaught" on rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq told KNO that at a time when the case challenging the abrogation of Article 370 is being heard tomorrow in the Supreme Court, there should not be divided voices from Kashmir. He, however, said there will be a "reaction" if anything is being spoken against the party.

"Unfortunately, PDP resorted tactically to speak against the NC. Of course, if you speak against us, there will be a reaction. With the Supreme Court hearing on Article 370 tomorrow, there should

not be divided voices from Kashmir. We would like to advise them (PDP) to be careful what they say, else we too have points to speak against them," Sadiq said.

"One of their spokespersons has said that this is not the party's view, so we would believe that instead of what happened yesterday, any more accusations or statements against us would be responded to with full authority," he added.

When asked about the ramifications of the recent statement will leave on PDP, the NC spokesperson said those are in the context of a political party speaking against a political

party but speaking against each other at this stage is in every "bad taste".

He, however, added that it is the chairman of PDP and its constituents to decide who will stay or opt to quit. "It was understood that all were together how can one speak against each other but that if one resort to such tactics, there will be a response," he said.

Sadiq said the party's top leadership will be apprised about the happenings and that they would request the leadership to take up this issue with the PDP leadership.

Meanwhile, PDP chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari told KNO that the reaction may have come

in the aftermath of some instances when National Conference leaders at different levels have spoken against the PDP.

"PDP and NC are two different political parties with political differences, but in current circumstances, the political differences have to be kept aside and we must rise to the occasion with a united front to fight the onslaught on our rights and dignity perpetuated by BJP, RSS regime," he remarked.

Bukhari said their party president Mehbooba Mufti played a pivotal role in initiating the alliance to bring the people on a common platform, and that they have to be united against

getting "fragmentized" by the idea of BJP.

"It is in the larger interest of the people here that we stay united and leave our political differences aside to fight the divisive designs of BJP and RSS and to represent the voices and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The fresh political tussle started after the PDP youth president Waheed Para accused the NC leaders of begging in elections and said the party was responsible for election rigging in 1987, created the Special Operation Group (SOG) and forced youths towards guns. He further alleged that some parties are beg-

ging for alliance and elections from New Delhi "only for power".

Reacting to the accusations, the NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said that Para intended to sow confusion among the opposition ranks. "If you feel suffocated within the alliance, simply walk away instead of resorting to fake narratives to justify your actions. While we are aware of your historical blunders, our priority was Unity," Dar tweeted.

After the abrogation of Article 370, six political parties - the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples Conference (PC), Communist Party of India

Marxist (CPIM), Peoples Movement (PM) and Awami National Conference (ANC) - had come together to form an alliance to seek restoration of the erstwhile state's special status and "fight for the rights of the people" in the region. However, after the District Development Council polls, Sajad Lone-led Peoples Conference walked out of the alliance.

Meanwhile, PDP spokesperson M Y Tarsangani told KNO that he is not in Kashmir and is also not much aware of controversial party at a "lower level". He also refused to comment if the controversy has led to cracks in the Gupkar alliance. KNO

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### J&K registers 1.27 Cr...

"We are setting up tourist infrastructure everywhere in the UT to give the best facilities to our guests," he said. "When large number of guests would date with Kashmir, our local shopkeeper, taxi driver, hotel and shikara owner will earn and at the end, our economy will improve."

He said that Kashmir University's full-fledged Centre will come up at Budgam district and will discuss the issue with the Vice-Chancellor KU shortly. About the district hospital in Budgam, he said that the hospital will offer all major facilities to people.

"I will not make claims of something that can't happen. I won't make hollow promises so that if someone will replace me and will claim this was promised but didn't happen," he said. The LG said that so far, 30,000 youth got jobs and all were selected through transparent manner. "Recruitment process will once again start from September this year," he said.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman said that during his visit to Charar-e-Sharief, LG interacted with the spiritual leaders, public representatives, local residents and discussed the measures to harness the tourism potential and give a boost to spiritual tourism at Charar-e-Sharief. Extensive deliberation was also held on infrastructure and modalities to address the immediate requirements.

Responding to the demands, the LG said the UT Administration is working with the right intent to meet the developmental needs and aspirations of the people. He assured that all the important works will be taken on priority. "On demand of restoration of Khanqah, the LG directed the tourism department to work in close coordination with experts of NIT, analyse the detailed design, architectural drawings and restore the revered structure to its original glory," the official spokesman said.

"We have been successful in establishing a peaceful and prosperous ecosystem in the UT. This has been possible because of the support and cooperation of the people of J&K," he said. The LG former also took appraisal of the ongoing works at the Shrine and adjoining area. KNO

### Terrorism down...

Kashmir, plus the mega event of Amarnath Yatra is going on successfully and peacefully. Also, after a gap of 34 years, Muharram procession was taken out in Srinagar which reflects that people are enjoying the peaceful environment." About possibility of foreign terrorists in the missing case of soldier in Gulagam district, the DGP said nothing is clear as of now but "yes there are inputs about presence of foreign terrorists in South Kashmir and they are being tracked down."

About narco-terrorism, the DGP said that efforts are on from across to send huge consignments of narcotics into this side, but "police is foiling almost every attempt successfully." "We are cracking the whip of suppliers and the chain involved in narco-terror. We have seized huge consignments of narcotics this year too," he said.

Earlier, in his speech, the DGP said that he was happy to see great enthusiasm among the boys and girls in football. He said that downtown boys and girls have great talent and the police will organize a mega event downtown soon. "Football's kick and hockey's stick will remove the blot on downtown's face. However negativity of downtown has been done in the past and it's time to showcase its beauty and talent," the DGP said. The DGP also distributed trophies among the winning team. KNO

### Gujjar, Bakerwal...

"We are analysing the video through forensic experts as to whether it is real or fake and legal action shall follow accordingly," said Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Poonch, Vinay Kumar Sharma in an official statement.

"So far, we could see tricolours raised high throughout the protest demonstration," he said, adding that "we advise all not to circulate unverified video or comments." - (KNO)

### Terror incidents, infiltration...

cross-border infiltration. This includes the tactical deployment of forces at the International Border (IB)/Line of Control (LoC), and the use of technology like surveillance cameras, night vision cameras, heat sensing gadgets, etc.

Multi-tiered deployment along IB/LoC, border fencing, deployment of intelligence personnel to collect advance and target-oriented inputs on infiltration,

ambushes and foot patrolling by Army and Border Security Force have also been undertaken.

The establishment of border police posts for generating local intelligence and taking pro-active action against infiltrators are other actions taken by the government, he said. (Agencies)

### NIA raids 7 locations...

utilising these funds to foment trouble and terror in Jammu and Kashmir. Subsequent investigations revealed that the NGO and the two arrested accused were actively involved in instigating and funding stone-pelting in an organised manner in the Valley. They had been working with various banned terrorist organisations operating in Jammu & Kashmir," it reads.

It reads that several digital devices and incriminating documents related to financial transactions were seized in today's searches in the case (RC-37/2020/NIA/DLI) registered suo moto by the NIA on 8th October 2020. It added that the case relates to activities of certain NGOs, trusts, societies and organisations involved in collecting funds domestically and abroad, and transferring the same to separatist and terrorist organisations to sustain terrorist and secessionist activities in Kashmir.

"NIA had earlier conducted searches at 23 locations in this case in Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Bangalore," it reads. KNO

### Overground worker...

magistrate and executed by a police team on Monday. The spokesperson said many overground workers in the district have already been detained under preventive sections of the law to check their unlawful activities.

### Chief Secretary kick...

of the country and it is going to be realized soon in J&K. He said that our endeavor should be to bring potable water to the people ensuring both quality and quantity as per the guidelines of the Mission.

Dr Mehta also emphasised upon enhancing their capacity to run these schemes successfully in future. He advised that the officers visiting these villages should thoroughly inspect these works and seek feedback from PRIs and public regarding each scheme.

He made out that each scheme should have a perennial source to ensure its sustainability. Besides, it should suffice the drinking water needs of the population of these villages for at least few decades to come. He also underscored the need of training both men and women of these villages in handling of water testing kits as they are most concerned about their domestic needs.

The Chief Secretary further stressed on running of informative campaigns to create due awareness among public about the goals and objectives of the Mission. He asked for roping in civil society members and school children in such campaigns in order to penetrate the message to each house in the village.

While giving insights about this the fortnight long campaign, the Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, ShaleenKabra informed the meeting that the officers on visit would carry out inspection of on-going JJM works to ensure their quality.

He also revealed that it would be obligatory for these officers to give their reports about 100% FHTC villages for declaring them as 'HarGhar Jal Villages'. He made out that the certification of HarGhar Jal reported villages should be done through calling of special Gram Sabhas and the local PRIs and people should approve of the same on their part as well.

It was informed that J&K is well on track to achieve the target of 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by the end of this year. It was added that during this campaign enough number of Field Testing Kits (FTKs) would be made available in all the villages. Signages would be installed on all water supply schemes OHTs, besides identification of Nodal Persons for each village to oversee the running of these schemes. It was said that achievement of 100% progress under pre-monsoon water quality testing is one of the prime objectives of this campaign.

During this 'JJM Fortnight', which would culminate on 15th of this month Special Gram Sabhas would be called to hold threadbare discussion on JJM works and people sensitized about manning those assets successfully. Moreover debates, painting competitions, rallies, street plays in schools would be conducted to make it the campaign of all age groups and the whole population.

The meeting was apprised that district level Pani Samiti Conventions would be conducted all across the UT. Senior most officers of the UT like that of Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, other Administrative Secretaries in charge of the districts, District Development Commissioners, Mission Director, JJM, other District Level officers/Engineers of Hydraulic side upto AEE level/ Prabhari Officers of the Panchayats are going to participate in this Fortnight long campaign launched today.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary also e-inaugurated Water Supply Scheme Heing Keshmatipora in District Baramulla. The scheme was completed under the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission at an estimated cost of Rs 9.35 Cr.

Giving details about the scheme the MD, JJM informed that the scheme was taken in hand on 25th of September, last year and completed in a record time of around 10 months only. He also revealed that the scheme would cater to more than 1100 households in the 7 villages of Bongam, Ogmuna, Soipora, Kechimatipora, Karhama, Heing and Ratnipora in District Baramulla.

The scheme has the capacity to cater to some 9500 having a storage capacity of 50000 gallons. The water supply has a component of Rapid Sand Filtration Plant which would ensure clean and safe drinking water for the population at 15 litres per capita per day as per the norms of JJM.

### Lung cancer common...

air pollution a health issue. "The measures which can contribute to decreasing air pollution include using fewer vehicles, decreasing the use of unleaded petrol, decreasing use of biomass fuels, less use of Kangri, and using vented heaters, Dr Koul said, adding, "Air pollution is affecting every single organ of the body and we have work to reduce the pollution."

"The doctors said that besides quitting smoking at the individual level, there is a need to take measures to prevent environmental pollution and use clean drinking at the collective level to avoid lung and other cancers.

The air quality in Kashmir has been consistently deteriorating for the past three years and has been deteriorating more in winter. Lasjan area has the most polluted air. The Pollution Control Board data has revealed. The Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) or PM 10 levels at all four stations in Srinagar have shown a steep rise in the last three years.

It is important to mention here that the prevalence of smoking tobacco in J&K is 20.8 percent, which is 6th highest in the country after Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram. As per the National Health Survey figures, the prevalence of tobacco in Kashmir includes Kupwara 56%, Shopian 52%, Anantnag and Bandipora 49% each, Budgam 48%, Pulwama 44%, Ganderbal 42%, Baramulla and Kulgam 41% each and Srinagar 38%.

As per the GATS 2 data, 35.2% of men & 5.1% of women & 20.8% of all adults smoke tobacco in J&K. KNO

### Dr Jitendra Singh...

considerably for the common man thus allowing a wider access to the otherwise highly priced MRI scans. He said, additionally, the capital investment of procurement of MRI scanners from the international market will be substantially reduced which in turn will save a lot of foreign exchange, the twin mission objectives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the overall objective of Atma Nirbharta in cutting edge diagnostic and therapeutic manufacturing in India. The Minister said, in coming years, there will be "Make in India-Made for the World".

Dr Jitendra Singh said that it is indeed a milestone achievement for National Biopharma Mission (NBM), Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) as we unveil the first indigenously developed state-of-the-art MRI Scanner under Public-Private Partnership mode.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Under the National Biopharma Mission, Voxelrids Innovations Pvt Ltd has developed compact, lightweight, next generation MRI Scanner to solve the unmet need of the country.

The Minister underlined that out of over Rs 17 crore spent for developing the world class MRI, around Rs 12 crore was provided by DBT through BIRAC.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this combination of next generation hardware with software has enabled it to successfully introduce a highly disruptive product in the diagnostic imaging space, as this is the first Indian company to receive commercial sale and manufacture

license from CDSCO, Govt of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that over 70% of the world's population has zero access to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) diagnostic modality. On comparing other imaging modalities such as CT, X-ray and Ultrasound, access to MRI scanners is typically a factor of 3 less. The reason is prohibitively high capital costs which is a problem in developing countries like India. Current estimates in India indicate that the total installed base of MRI is 4800, which is 3X lower than CT, which is possibly due to high cost and import dependency of this product.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that currently there is an annual demand of less than 350 machines, but added that with the awareness increasing and also because of the several initiatives of the Government to improve healthcare access and inclusiveness, including the flagship Ayushman Bharat initiative, the annual demand is expected to more than double by 2030 (Global data Inc.).

"The Minister said, India will address many of these problems by making available the first indigenously developed MRI Scanner which is affordable compared to the already available machines. He said, it also offers a prospect of sharing this success with other nations in the global south to help them to have access to an affordable and dependable medical imaging solutions.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed the gathering that after the passage of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, a brainchild of PM Modi in Parliament, it will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and government departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and State governments in addition to the scientific and line ministries. It will focus on creating a policy framework and putting in place regulatory processes that can encourage collaboration and increased spending by the industry on R&D, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, we must acknowledge and thank our able leadership under the guidance of Prime Minister for steering the country in this direction of progress and international recognition, and the role played by national initiatives such as Make in India, Skill India, Start-up India and Digital India in achieving this success. He said, India is moving fast from being a mere consumer of technology to an innovator.

In his address, Secretary, DBT, Dr Rajesh Gokhale said that Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through its various programs has made enormous efforts in strengthening the biopharma sector with attention to disease and diagnostics ecosystem India. The National Biopharma Mission (NBM), of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), implemented by BIRAC is playing a pivotal role in accelerating India's technological and product development capabilities in vaccines, biopharmaceuticals including biosimilars, medical devices and diagnostics, he added.

### SU attaches property...

registered under sections 120-B, 121, 121-A, 122, 123 IPC & 17, 18, 18-A, 18-B, 20, 38, 39, 40 of UA(PA), the SIU led to the identification and subsequent attachment of the terrorist's land measuring 6 Kanals and 3 Marlas located at multiple locations within the district at village Kachama," reads the statement.

It reads that this measure taken by the Police aims to disrupt his illicit network and restrict his ability to carry out further acts of terror.

"Farooq Qureshi has been a persistent threat to peace and security of Jammu and Kashmir since he infiltrated to Pakistan in early 1990s. He is a member of Al-Baqar terror outfit and presently operating from PoJK as launching commander. His strategic involvement in numerous acts of terror has caused immense suffering and loss of innocent lives in the valley in the past."

It added that Jammu and Kashmir Police has been actively pursuing his acts to bring an end to his destructive activities.

"The attachment of the property serves as a strong message to terrorists and their supporters that their actions will not go unnoticed or unpunished. It underscores the unwavering commitment of Police to combating terrorism at its roots and dismantling its infrastructure," it reads. KNO

### Landmine found...

Army's bomb disposal squad was summoned to neutralise the landmine.



## Deputy Mayor Billawaria, dedicates newly constructed road

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, dedicated the newly constructed road at Belicharana in Bahu Constituency. The road, which was meticulously done by the Public Works Department (PWD), has been dedicated to the public with the aim of improving connectivity and enhancing the overall infrastructure of the area. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of esteemed guests, including local government officials, community leaders, and residents of the area. The event was marked by an atmosphere of enthusiasm and gratitude, as the newly constructed road brought a positive change to the lives of the residents and businesses in the vicinity.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the road initiated by the PWD, has been completed with utmost dedication and adherence to quality standards. The construction work involved the utilization of the latest techniques and materials to ensure the longevity and durability of the road. The newly constructed road showcases the commitment of the PWD to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure that caters to the evolving needs of the community. Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria emphasized the importance of well-connected and well-maintained roads in fostering economic growth and facilitating smooth transportation. He further



appreciated the Authorities of PWD for their relentless efforts in executing the project within the stipulated time frame. Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria also said that people now directly come to meet with their problems and I spot their solutions and they don't have to go anywhere for their genuine problems related with the development.

The road at Belicharana, situated in the Bahu Constituency, is a significant development for the area. It is expected to significantly reduce travel time, enhance connectivity to neighboring areas, and uplift the overall socio-economic status of the local community.

The Deputy Mayor, Jammu urged the residents to utilize the road responsibly and ensure its proper upkeep for the benefit of generations to come. He said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is

working on the agenda of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Ka Prayas' and to develop every corner is our responsibility. He said the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is committed to developing every corner of J&K without differentiating any caste or creed.

He said many mega projects have been kick started for the development of the area.

The local leader & the general public of the area said that the successful completion of the road project at Belicharana is a testament to the commitment under the leadership of the Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria. Man Singh Parihar, Daler Singh, Rajinder Singh, Vikram Rao, Anju Kotwal, Ranjit Singh, Kishi Langeh and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

## Shiv Sena protest against pre-paid smart meter, free electricity is our right

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: Despite being listed as one of the major electricity-producing regions in the country, Jammu and Kashmir have been witnessing a consistent surge in electricity rates, frequent replacement of meters and installation of prepaid meters have made Jammu and Kashmir a testing laboratory, whereas 24\*7 free electricity is our right, this was stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT), J&K.

while leading a protest in Jammu today.

Dzens of party workers headed by Manish Sahni staged a protest in Lower Nagar Road, symbolically handing over power equipment to the flames, voicing their vehement opposition to exorbitant electricity bills, power cuts, and the installation of prepaid meters.

Sahni remarked that in these times of severe inflation and unemployment, when the public needs



relief, the government continues to burden their pockets. While several other state governments are providing free electricity up to 100-300 units to their citizens, which BJP leaders hail as 'Revaadi for free', the central-administered Jammu and Kashmir, being one of the top five states in terms of inflation and unemployment, is subjecting its people to exorbitant electricity bills, he said.

Sahni said "The people of Jammu and Kashmir

deserve access to free electricity and water.

Sahni emphasized that the public is distressed by the additional burden of electricity bills due to the dilapidated power infrastructure, including tangled networks of transformers, electricity wires, and poorly maintained poles. While the citizens suffer, the government sees more concern about revenue collection, he added.

Sahni said that prepaid and smart meters whose

cost is being approximate 15-20 thousand), leading to the waste of taxpayers' money and this may be the step towards privatization of electricity. On this occasion, President Women Wing Meenakshi Chibber, Vice President Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamghar Wing Raj Singh, Mangu Ram, Jagbir, Balbir Singh, Parshotam Singh, SK Raina, Bittu Ji Bhatti, Sonu, Prem Chand and many others were present.

## BLSKS mounts one week special campaign on World Breast-Feeding Week

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: To observed the world breast-feeding week 2023, & to promote the Traditional Duggar Culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan mounts one week special campaign with cultural awareness program in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art production at Govt High School Kheri (Bhalwal) Jammu on the theme of the year 2023 is "EMBRACING BREASTFEEDING: MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WORKING PARENTS". The Program was inaugurated by Sunita Sharma, Headmaster Govt. High School Kheri (Bhalwal) Jammu. Sunil Sharma, Raman kumar Sharma, Incharge of the high school were the guest of honor. The songs presented were written and Directed by Sh. M.L.Dogra, Former Assistant Director of Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information Broadcasting, Government of India.

The programme was commenced with song of "Dudd Maa Ka Hi Pilao", "Laga Gran Sare Sehtu Da Mela", "Piya Hai Maa Ka Dudd to Aja" & dances also presented songs sung by the renowned artists of BLSKS & music of the play composed by Sh.Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor, BLSKS. In addition to the above skits on theme the associates groups, presented programs at various Blocks & Villages of Jammu Distt at Raipur, Thathar, Bantlabb, Chack Changerwan, Gurah Brahmana from 1st August to 7th August, 2023. The musical play, dances and skits presented were highly appreciated by the audience and dignitaries.

The chief guest lauded the efforts of the organizers in making such awareness programmes colorful and effec-

tive and highlighted the importance of Breast Feeding and said Breast milk helps keep your baby healthy. It protects against allergies, sickness, and obesity. It protects against diseases, like diabetes and cancer. It protects against infections, like ear infections. It is easily digested - no constipation, diarrhea or upset stomach. The benefits of breastfeeding have been well documented. Though it is most apparent during infancy, these benefits have enduring effects that promote optimal health throughout the life of the breastfed baby and his mother.

Human milk is a complex, living substance with numerous disease-fighting and health-promoting ingredients; it is a complete infant support-system that provides both nutrition and protection. Breast milk contains immune molecules called antibodies that destroy germs. The mother's immune system makes these antibodies and they constantly adapt. When a baby or mother is exposed to a new germ, the mother's immune cells are activated and manufacture antibodies to combat that specific germ. These antibodies and disease-fighting cells will quickly appear in the milk and the mother will pass them to her baby at the next feeding. There are hundreds of human milk components that interact synergistically to both nourish and protect infants and young children. The Songs on the theme were also presented and upload online on Social Media for benefit of the people like "Dudd Maa Ka Hi Pilao".

Earlier, Welcome speech of Sh. V.K.Magotra, MD, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan who highlighted the event i.e. World Breastfeeding Week responds to the latest con-

dition by asserting the importance of increasing and sustaining the protection, promotion and support of breast-feeding. This campaign on the mother friendly achieved in 22 years of global action supporting women in combining breast feeding and work particularly the adoption of the revised convention on maternity protection with much stronger maternity incentives and, more country action on improving national laws and practices at the work place level we have also seen more action taken to set up breast feeding or mother friendly work places including awards for breast feeding friendly employers as well as greater mass awareness on working women rights to breastfeed.

Sh.K.K.Joshi, Vice Chairman-BLSKS also explained aims & objectives of the programme which have been assigned to the sansthan for betterment of society in his key note address highlighted the various aspects of play which has been produced in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and State Government of Jammu and Kashmir with Health department for mass awareness.

All the renowned artists and students took a solemn pledge on the occasion to eradicate social evils & to foster National unity. The singers, musician, actors and students of music and computer institute who performed in the musical concert were Usha Rana, Rajni Gupta, Raju Bajgal, Chahat Chadha, Bindia Arora, M. Chakotwal, K.K.Joshi, Rahul Kumar, and many others presented the enthralling performance at last of the programme Master Deepak Kumar presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

## Dynastic NC, PDP, Cong responsible for over 40K deaths in J&K: Bali Bhagat

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 01: Senior BJP leader and former Minister, Bali Bhagat held the dynastic National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), and Congress accountable for the deaths of over 40,000 people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the dismal track record of the past 27 years, Bhagat criticized the Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that they were the worst in terms of handling law and order in India. He further emphasized that the "Three families" - Abdulhaz, Gandhis, and Mutis - have dominated Kashmir for the past 70 years and are directly responsible for the deaths of 42,000 individuals in the state due to terrorism since the inception of militancy in 1990.

The senior BJP leader strongly believed that these dynastic parties have colluded with Pakistan and terrorists, with the intention of disintegrating Kashmir from India. However, he applauded the efforts of the PM Modi government in effectively combating terrorism, which has shattered the dreams of these families.

Bali Bhagat also raised questions about the treatment of Kashmiri Hindus, who were forced to leave their homes in Kashmir. He called upon the three families, who are now advocating for Manipur, to acknowledge the atrocities committed against Hindu women, the burning of Kashmiri Pandit homes, and the looting of their properties. He emphasized that these families are responsible for the burial of hundreds of youths in graveyards, which are now an unfortunate reality in Kashmir and other Muslim-domi-

nated areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Furthermore, the former minister accused these families of perpetuating religious animosity and extremism among Kashmiri Muslim youth in the name of Islam and Jihad. He labelled them as experts in fundamentalism and extremism, spreading a venomous narrative that tarnishes the reputation of India globally. He pointed out that despite being in power, the Congress Party failed to address the issue of fundamentalism and radicalization, resulting in the displacement of lakhs of Hindus from Kashmir.

Bali Bhagat urged these communal and sinful parties to apologize to the nation for their actions before speaking about Manipur. "These dynastic parties should take responsibility for their past actions and work towards building a better future for Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

## Kavinder, Danish listen to public grievances

JI NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, AUG 01: During his sitting at public darbar at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, alongwith Danish Mishra, co-ordinator Public Grievance camp, had direct interaction with a large number of people from different areas. These people

shared their problems and sought help in getting them resolved. Kavinder Gupta took the problems of the people with the senior officials of the respective departments and stressed upon them to look into each problem seriously and take effective steps to provide relief to the suffering ones.

Kavinder Gupta, on this occasion,

said that the BJP is always at the service of the masses and its cadre is seen on ground to help the people in every situation. He said that party activists have developed good, cordial relations with the people due to their cooperation extended to the poor, needy and marinated sections. The problems and issues raised by the people in the public darbar related to education, health, PDD, social welfare departments.

Kavinder Gupta took the PDP Chief and former Chief Minister for her repeated attempts to mislead the people in valley on Article 370. He said that Article 370 was a temporary provision in the Constitution had to go one day.

"The BJP, since long had been agitating to for removal of the controversial Article 370 and on assuming power at the Centre, it took a bold decision to abrogate Article 370", Kavinder said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir has entered an era of development, peace, progress and prosperity now.

## District Disaster Management Committee meet held at Udhampur

Committee approves 54 relief cases amounting to Rs. 43.93 Lakh under SDRF norms

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 01: A meeting of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) was held today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia here in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

After participating discussion, the Committee approved 54 Relief cases under SDRF and granted ex-gratia relief to the tune of Rs 43,93,700 to the Beneficiaries and victims of Natural

Disaster. During the recent incessant raining, a sudden flash flood/Landslide incidents occurred throughout the District particularly in the hilly areas of District Udhampur, which caused huge damage to the public and private properties as well as the livestock.

The District Administration, under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya, all the relief cases were processed promptly and the ex-gratia relief as reckoned in terms of SDRF norms was approved in the

meeting. During the meeting, the ADC directed all the concerned officers to process all the pending relief cases without any delay and be reported as per the SOP of SDRF.

The meeting was attended by Rafiq Ahmad Jara(ACR), Alok Gupta (DIO), Er. Mohd Zubair (Executive Engineer) (PWD), Dr. Anil Manhas (CMO), Arushi Sabharwal (Tehsildar HQ), Jai Singh (Tehsildar Udhampur), Dr. Farhat Bashir (DSHO), and Dr. Suresh Kumar Thappa (DLSDO) and others.

## Dogra Law College organizes Farewell Function

JI NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, AUG 01: To bid adieu to the passing out Semester, Students of Dogra Law College, Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmana, Samba organized Farewell function in the College Auditorium with pomp and show. The evening was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers to reminisce joyous moments.

The proceedings of the programme began with the lighting of traditional lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana and the presentation of various cultur-

al items. Colourful programme including Punjabi Dance, Solo Dance, Rap and Group Songs and Title giving ceremony was presented by the students, which was highly applauded by the audience.

Dr. Avdhesh Pratap, Principal, Dogra Law College, presented welcome address he thanked all the dignitaries for attending this function. He also thanked all the host students for participating in the event. Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Minister and Chairman, Dogra Educational Trust, presided as the Chief Guest of Farewell

party. During his valuable address, he welcomed and congratulated and he motivate students and said that this day is not an end but signifies beginning of a new life and that their bond with Dogra Law College will not end here.

They will always remain ex alumni of Dogra Law College. Law graduate will bifurcate in different fields like legal practice, judiciary, Civil services and in diverse career options. He advised students, that hard work, dedication and determination is the only key to success.

Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary Dogra Educational Trust, also motivated the students to perform their exceptional best in all future activities, and uphold their core values and congratulated the faculty and the students for putting up the cultural extravaganza for the outgoing batch.

Speaking on the occasion Director, Dogra Group of Colleges & Campus Development Prof. Darshana Sharma, wished good luck to the passing out batch in their future endeavours and motivated the students to work hard to achieve their goals.



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind." - Mahatma Gandhi

## JINDRAH IMAGES

## Art 370 hearings bring renewed hopes

It has now been four years since the Centre abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. The Wednesday will begin with high hopes pinned by the Kashmir-based political parties when the Supreme Court will start hearing on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of nullification of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories. The matter will be taken up by a five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud which will hear it on a day-to-day basis, except on Mondays and Fridays when the top court deals with miscellaneous matters. The politicians from Jammu and Kashmir, barring BJP and some other Jammu-based groups, have described the abrogation of Article 370 as illegal and unconstitutional. There were more than 20 petitions challenging the Presidential Orders nullifying Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution; and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir; and Ladakh. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which divided the state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, has already been acted upon. The changes came into effect on October 31, 2019 after being notified in the official gazette. Since then, a delimitation exercise has been completed in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the number of seats increased from 83 to 90 (excluding 24 seats in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir). In March 2020, the top court had refused to refer petitions against nullification of Article 370 to a seven-judge Constitution Bench, saying there is no contradiction in its earlier verdicts in cases of Prem Nath Kaul and Sampat Prakash. On July 11, 2023, the Bench had asked the parties to file their written submissions by July 27, failing which no more submissions shall be allowed. The Centre has defended "historic" constitutional changes made in August 2019, saying they brought "unprecedented development, progress, security and stability to the region" which was often missing during the old Article 370 regime. In an affidavit filed in the top court last month, it said there was a 90.2 per cent decline in net infiltration, 97.2 per cent decrease in law and order incidents, 65.9 per cent decline in security forces' casualties and 42.5 per cent fall in terrorist-initiated incidents since August 2019. With the commencement of hearings on petitions, the political groups have pinned high hopes on the outcome of the hearings. On the other hand, the Centre has also geared up to put up a strong legal battle to defend his decision on Article 370 to end the debate over contentious law once for all.

## Let's join hands to make roads safe for pedestrians

THE RIGHT TO WALK IS AIMED AT ENSURING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACES.

RAHUL BEDI

A HOST of recent developments have placed Dassault Aviation, France's principal combat aircraft manufacturer, in pole position to potentially secure the IAF's long-pending requirement for 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA) with its twin-engine Rafales.

Joining the dots, a cross-section of military veterans, defence analysts and industry officials have posited that backed by growing Rafale sales to India and Dassault's inclination to transfer fighter and related technology to it, the IAF could well end up with Rafale as its default MRFA option.

If so, it would be an ironical redux of the Ministry of Defence's stillborn 2007 tender for 126 Rafales - of which 108 were to be licence-built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited - that was scrapped in 2015 due to contractual, political and bureaucratic snafus.

A review of these emerging dealings with regard to the possible induction of additional Rafales into the IAF is instructive on multiple counts. At the outset, Dassault will supply 26 Rafale-M (Marine) fighters to the Indian Navy (IN) for deployment aboard INS Vikrant, its newly commissioned aircraft carrier. The multi-role carrier-borne fighter's (MRCBF) commonality with the 36 Rafales, which the IAF had imported in 2016 for \$9 billion, had influenced the IN's choice following user trials in 2022, which featured the rival Boeing F/A-18 Block III 'Super Hornet' fighter.

The delivery of these 26 fighters over the next two-three years would total an inventory of 62 Rafale variants in India's arsenal, not an insignificant number. Hence, increasing this quantity further, according to some retired senior fighter pilots, to meet the IAF's requirement for 114 MRFA makes 'immense operational, commercial and logistical sense.'

Dassault, they said, had already established a Rafale flight training and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at Ambala Air Force Station, which would go a long way towards reducing the overall costs for any additional buys. Importantly, acquiring tried-and-tested Rafales would hasten fighter inductions by dispensing with trials and boost the IAF's declining fighter squadrons, whose number has depreciated to around 29 from a sanctioned strength of 42. They added that acquiring extra Rafales would streamline the IAF's diverse fighter catalogue, which currently features seven aircraft types, sustaining all of which is an enduring logistical nightmare and a costly affair for the force. In a related development that could enhance Dassault's MRFA bid, the French manufacturer is believed to be in advanced negotiations to acquire 51 per cent stake of its partner Anil Ambani in Dassault Reliance Aerospace Limited (DRAL) joint venture in Nagpur. India permits 100 per cent foreign direct investment in individual cases and Dassault is reportedly keen on acquiring DRAL,



which, if effected, would augment its chances of bagging the MRFA deal. At present, Dassault owns 49% of DRAL, formed within days of India confirming the IAF's 36 Rafale purchase, to discharge the 50% offset obligation of the inclusive contractual price in accordance with MoD's procurement procedures.

Initially, DRAL was tasked with producing components for Dassault's Falcon business jets and only recently, it had begun producing sub-assemblies like engine doors and canopies for Rafales. But as per media reports, a domestic financial resource crunch had curtailed DRAL's manufacturing capabilities, rendering it vulnerable to a buyout. Meanwhile, the MRFA procurement envisages the importing of a squadron of 18 shortlisted fighters in flyaway condition from amongst seven models proposed by overseas original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in response to the IAF's April 2018 Request for Information (RFI). The remaining 96 platforms would be built indigenously by a collaborative venture between the qualified OEM and a domestic strategic partner (SP) from either the private or public sector, with progressively enhanced levels of indigenisation in the all-encompassing deal valued around \$25 billion.

The MRFA tender is expected imminently, industry sources said, with the selected platform required to complete 30-35 years of squadron service or flying time of 6,000 hours, with at least one midlife upgrade. Senior IAF officers estimated that MRFA numbers could increase to around 200 units for the IAF alone, in addition to possible export options, resulting in the platforms' cost amortisation.

The six other OEMs which had responded to the IAF's MRFA RFI are Eurofighter Typhoon, Sweden's Saab (Gripen-E), Russia's United Aircraft Corporation and Sukhoi Corporation (MiG-35 'Fulcrum'-F and Su-35 'Flanker'-E) and the US' Boeing and Lockheed Martin (F/A-18 and upgraded F-21).

However, in the light of the ongoing war in Ukraine, evaluating the two Russian fighter types for eventual IAF acquisition was justifiably, irrational, considering the grave spaces and components crisis the force is facing with regard to its fleet of 260 multi-role Sukhoi-30 MkIs and 50-odd upgraded MiG-29M fighter-bombers.

Alternatively, shortlisting the Typhoon would only mean adding to the IAF's continuing logistic challenges, whilst the US' F-18 and F-21 - a retrofitted F-16 - had been rejected by it on multiple capability counts during trials conducted 2010 onwards for the binned MMRCA contract. Saab's Gripen-E, on the other hand, was a single-engine platform, and though the MRFA RFI had not specified any preference for single or dual power packs, the IAF's intrinsic preference for the latter remains unstated.

Hence, by the process of elimination, Rafale was more than favourably placed in the MRFA sweepstakes, due not only to its operational superiority over its competitors, as acknowledged by the IAF - and now by the IN - but also the host of multiple ancillary factors.

There was also the abandoned contractual template for the MMRCA contract, which, industry officials said, could easily be 'tweaked' to suit an analogous MRFA purchase by resolving earlier glitches and shortening negotiations. These anomalies had centred on insistence by the MoD that Dassault shoulder eventual quality control responsibility for the 108 Rafales licence-built by HAL. This unwarranted conditionality had emerged as the deal-breaker for the MMRCA deal and led to the IAF procuring just 36 Rafales in flyaway condition, all of which were delivered by late 2022. Even geopolitically, Indian diplomats and security officials conceded that it was less 'arduous' conducting materiel commerce with Paris than with Washington as the former was more flexible and pragmatic than the latter, especially with regard to transferring hi-tech military knowhow.

## J&amp;K reservation, nomination Bills need more discussion

LUV PURI

EVEN as the Supreme Court is set to start hearing a batch of petitions challenging the 'dilution' of Article 370, four Bills on J&K were introduced in the Lower House of Parliament last week. The two Bills that are the subject of a heated discussion among various stakeholders are the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

In addition to numerically insignificant communities, namely 'Gadda Brahmin', 'Koli' and 'Paddari tribe', the Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, aims to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to Paharis. The decision to extend the ST status to Paharis, who mostly reside along the Line of Control (LoC), created a Gujjar-Pahari rift ever since the idea was mooted more than three years ago. Gujjars and Bakerwals, the two akin communities, are worried that if the Paharis get ST status, they would cut into their pie.

In the 2014 J&K Assembly elections, Gujjars were elected from the Lolab and Kangan Assembly segments in the Kashmir valley. In Jammu, the Assembly segments of Surankote, Mendhar, Rajouri, Gulabgarh, Darhal, Kalakote and Gool Arnas were also represented by Gujjars. According to the 2011 Census, the population of Gujjars is around 9 per cent of the total population of the for-



mer state and they are present across the UT, including in areas along the LoC. This number is less than 10.8 per cent of the community's representation in the previous J&K Assembly, if one excludes the four seats of Ladakh, which is now a separate UT. As per the J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019, political reservation was accorded to the ST community and the de facto beneficiaries of this provision were the Gujjars, who as of now form at

least 90 per cent of the ST population in bifurcated J&K.

Gujjars have disputed the Paharis' claim of being tribal, alleging that the latter have no similarity with the tribals except their language and comprise people from diverse caste groups, including upper-caste Muslims and Hindus. On the other hand, Pahari leaders have pointed out that only Bakerwals, who are nomadic tribes, actually fulfil the cri-

terion for tribals. They argue that Gujjars, many of whom are settled and are no longer nomadic, share their socio-economic conditions. Pahari language in J&K's context, as it is recognised today, was construed to be one of the dialects of Punjabi. It got separate recognition in the 1911 Census. Pahari speakers were second in terms of numbers after those speaking Kashmiri in undivided J&K. The Pahari-speaking population lives

along the LoC in both Jammu and the Kashmir valley and that is where they are embroiled in a political contest with the Gujjars. Thereby, for the Assembly seats along the LoC, the benefit on account of the J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which led to the abrogation of Article 370, and which the Gujjar community hoped to capitalise on, will be nullified if both Gujjars and Paharis get ST status. It will be de facto back to the pre-2019 situation.

Meanwhile, the J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill seeks nomination of two members: one of whom will be a Kashmiri migrant woman and the other from among the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). While there was minimal migration from the Kashmir valley, the majority of Muslim displacement in 1947 was concentrated in and around the Jammu plains to neighbouring western Punjab (now Pakistan).

As many as 31,619 Hindu and Sikh families migrated from various parts of PoK. Of them, over 26,000 'opted to settle' within J&K, with more than 21,000 going to rural areas. A sizeable number of the community settled in south Delhi's Lajpat Nagar. The youngest person from this category of people (born in PoK) will be 75 years old. Practically, the beneficiaries of the nomination (to the Assembly) will be the second and third generations, born in different

parts of India. There is also the question of those born to parents of whom one did not belong to PoK. Obviously, the patriarchal model will violate Article 15 of the Constitution, which secures citizens from every sort of discrimination by the state on the grounds of gender.

Migration from the Kashmir valley is only 33 years old. The idea of having nominated seats for Kashmiri Pandits is indirectly contrary to the long-term goal of ensuring the safe return of Pandits and recreating a religiously inclusive society in the Kashmir valley as it existed before 1990. Also the nomination by the political executive doesn't adhere to the standards of substantive representative democracy.

Apart from the J&K Legislative Assembly, members of the Kashmiri Pandit community were elected to both Houses of Parliament. For instance, the late PL Handoo, a National Conference (NC) stalwart, won the 1989 parliamentary election from Anantnag in a poll marred by a low turnout. DP Dhar, who played an important role during Indra Gandhi's tenure as PM, particularly during the Simla Accord, was elected as a Rajya Sabha member in 1970.

Also, the reservation for the Anglo-Indian community in legislatures under the repealed Article 333 of the Constitution has triggered several controversies, particularly in the situation of a no-confidence vote.



# Preity Zinta channels her inner Barbie in photoshoot after watching Margot Robbie film

Actor Preity Zinta has shared a video from her recent photoshoot in which she channelled her inner Barbie. Taking to Instagram on Monday night, Preity posted the clip in which she gave different poses and expressions for the camera. Preity turns Barbie in new clip.

The video started with Preity sitting on a bed in a pink theme room. It had everything coloured in pink from walls, bed sheets, table lamps, rugs, phone, and curtains. She held a pink phone while smiling and posing for the camera. In the clip, she also jumped and fell on the bed. Preity wore a pink dress with frills and silver heels. Preity added the song Barbie Girl by Aqua as the background track.

Preity pens note  
Sharing the clip, Preity said,

"Channeling my inner Barbie (sparkling heart emoji) Did this fun shoot some time ago & couldn't resist posting it after seeing #Barbie this weekend. LOVED the movie & the fact that the theatre was mostly Pink (sparkling heart emoji). So much fun watching a movie after so long. #BarbieTheMovie #MovieWeekend #Ting. @realp\_z u are the perfect Barbie: cute, playful, beautiful, amazing smile and those dimples."

Fans react to Preity as Barbie  
A fan wrote, "Now we need an Indian Barbie starring you, and @hrithikroshan could be Ken." A person commented, "You look like Katy Perry." A comment read, "Let's go for a Bollywood version of Barbie." An Instagram user said, "The real Barbie in real life." Another comment read,



"You just took the Barbie craze to another level." Another fan wrote, "You are a real Barbie doll... Your charm is forever Stay the way you are." About Barbie  
Barbie has been helmed by Greta Gerwig and released in theatres on July 21. The film stars Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling in the lead roles, as Barbie and Ken, respectively. They leave the world of BarbieLand on a quest for self-discovery in the real world.

# Have Karisma Kapoor's photo stuck on my vanity wall she's big fashion inspiration: Ananya Panday



Actor Ananya Panday says she has always been an admirer of Bollywood diva Karisma Kapoor's sartorial fashion choices and has her photograph pasted on a wall in her vanity van.

The 'Gehraiyaan' actor believes Karisma, the star of movies such as 'Hero No.1', 'Fiza' and 'Zubeida', has been a trendsetter. I have grown up watching Karisma Kapoor's films and I just love her fashion. She always has fun with it and sets trends. She has been a huge inspiration, the actor told PTI on the sidelines of the FDCI Hyundai India Couture Week (ICW) here on Sunday.

At the fashion gala, Ananya walked for designer Rimzim Dada. The actor said she does not take fashion too seriously in real-life, but when it comes to movies, the costumes help her connect with the characters better. "In my personal life, I try not to take it seriously. I like to be as comfortable as possible. I stick to what I like and don't listen to people too much. But as an actor, I think it plays a huge part. I actually truly don't believe in character until I am not in my costume. It can't be just a ring or a uniform or something my character wears that instantly transforms me into the feel of that," she said.

# Cardi B could face battery charges for hurling mic at fan during Las Vegas show

Days after rapper Cardi B hurled a mic at a member of her audience for throwing a drink at her, US police has said that they had begun a battery investigation. Several videos on social media platforms show Cardi B performing near the front of a stage in Las Vegas when someone splashed a drink on her.

What happened at Cardi B's concert  
As she sang, someone from the crowd, apparently a woman, threw liquid from her cup in the rapper's direction. Visibly shocked but only for a second, Cardi B hurled her microphone at the person while mouthing cursing words. Members of her security



team jumped into the audience to intervene. Some videos also appear to show the mic making contact with a different member

of the audience as per a report. What the police has said  
According to news agency AFP, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on Monday said that a woman had contacted them to report a battery. "According to the victim, she was attending an event on July 29, 2023, at a property located in the 3500 block of Las Vegas Boulevard. During a concert, she was struck by an item that was thrown from the stage." The police statement did not mention Cardi B by name, but the date and location accord with her show.

Artists getting stuff thrown at them  
This isn't the first time that members of the audience threw stuff at artists performing on stage. In June a man threw a phone at Bebe Rexha during a concert in New York, landing the singer in hospital. The same month an audience member threw a bag purportedly containing the ashes of their mother at the stage while singer Pink was performing in London.

Singer Kelsea Ballerini was hit in the eye by a bracelet thrown at her by a fan. A phone was also flung at Drake's arm during the opening night of his Lil's All a Blur Tour. Lil Nas X had sex toys thrown at him during a show. In June, Ava Max was hit in the eye by a concert attendee after they rushed onto the stage.

# Vijay Varma told Tamannaah Bhatia that news about her '22 crore diamond ring' upset him: 'I messaged her...'

Actor Vijay Varma shared his reaction to the news about Tamannaah Bhatia's '22 crore diamond ring'. In a recent interview with Siddharth Kannan, Vijay took a dig media for reporting the 'fake news', and claiming that the ring was the 'fifth largest in the world' and was gifted to Tamannaah by actor Ram Charan's wife Upasana. Also read: Vijay Varma, Tamannaah Bhatia hold hands in unseen old pic Vijay Varma also revealed what he messaged Tamannaah after her 'fake' diamond ring made news. He joked he was upset that his name was not attached to her ring. Tamannaah and Vijay have been dating for some time now, after meeting on the sets of Lust Stories 2. What Vijay Varma messaged Tamannaah Bhatia

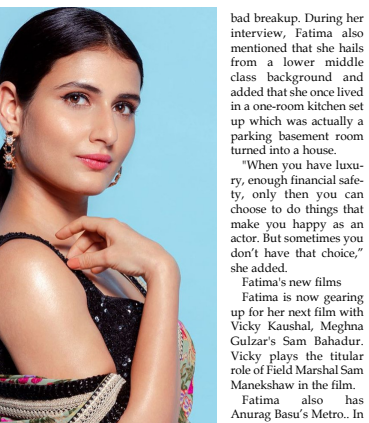
When asked how will he match the world's fifth most expensive ring that was rumoured to be gifted to her by Ram Charan's wife Upasana', Vijay told Siddharth Kannan, "Acha apko pata hai na woh kya hai? Woh bottle ka dhakkan hai! Woh mazak kar rahi hai, aur media carry kar rahi hai stories ki it is fifth largest with 72 crore price. 72 crore mein fifth largest diamond kisko milta hai? Toh maine usko message kiya ki yeh sab fake news aa rahi hai, mujhe acha nahi lag raha, aur mera naam kyun nahi likha hai (You know that was not a diamond ring but a bottle's cap, right)? She was joking with the photo and the media carried fake news about her 'ring' being the fifth largest and costing 72 crore. I messaged her that I felt bad that my name was not linked to her ring."

# Fatima Sana Shaikh says she is a Shah Rukh Khan, 'but Aamir Khan makes different films'

Fatima Sana Shaikh has praised actors Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan. She also said that she is a fan of Shah Rukh Khan but Aamir Khan has given very different kind of films, during an interview with Humans of Cinema.

Fatima is an SRK fan  
"I am a Shah Rukh Khan fan, but I feel Aamir Khan has given us a lot of films like Rang De Basanti, PK, Peepli Live. All of these films are so different," she said in the interview.

Fatima was asked about the films that have influenced her and she named Kuch Kuch Hota Hai. "I really like Kuch Kuch Hota Hai. I love Shah Rukh Khan, the kind of romance...What is romance, how I would like... See a lot of our idea of romance or revenge comes from what we consume. Like somebody to be like that



like somebody to look out for me like that... I don't know." Breaking Bad helped Fatima She also said she watched

# Fans say Samantha Prabhu's dance is a social media challenge



After shooting for back-to-back projects such as Citadel and Kushi, Samantha Ruth Prabhu is on an acting break to focus on her health. The actor, who was diagnosed with the autoimmune condition myositis last year, has been keeping fans updated about what she's been up to lately. On Friday, Samantha shared a video of her dancing with a friend. The two are on a vacation in Bali. Also read: Samantha Ruth Prabhu loses her sunglasses to monkeys

- Taking to Instagram Reels, Samantha wrote, "Girls trip 100/100 (heart emoji)." In the video, Samantha and her friend Anusha Swamy, who were both dressed in shorts and tank tops, danced to the song Mentiroso by Rafaga in Bali. The two clapped their hands and busted out some cool dance moves on what appeared to be a deck at a restaurant or resort.
- Fans react to Samantha's dance
- A person commented on the actor's video, "Don't know why, but I love her expression and personality." Another said, "This dance is going to be a new trend." One person commented, "100/100 for the dance." A person also said, "Those steps look cool... getting addicted to watching this."
- Inside Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Bali vacation
- Since the past few days, Samantha has offered fans glimpses of Bali, where she is currently on a holiday. She recently visited the Uluwatu Temple, one of Bali's top tourist spots. She also posted a picture of herself wearing sunglasses, and revealed they were stolen by a monkey soon after. Last week, Samantha had also treated fans to a glimpse of herself flaunting a short new hairstyle ahead of her Bali trip. Samantha Ruth Prabhu's break from films
- After wrapping up the Indian chapter of the web series Citadel, as well as her Telugu film Kushi, Samantha is taking a step back from acting for at least one year. During the break, she would primarily focus on her health, and undergo treatment for autoimmune condition myositis in the US, said a source close to the actor.

# Made In Heaven 2 trailer: Sobhita Dhulipala, Arjun Mathur fight for love and money as they plan grander weddings

Made In Heaven 2 trailer is finally here. Sobhita Dhulipala and Arjun Mathur, along with their team of wedding planners, are ready to enter the shaadi (wedding) business again. On Tuesday, the trailer was unveiled by the cast and makers. Made In Heaven 2 will premiere on August 10.

Made In Heaven Season 2 trailer once again promises a deeper exploration of complex relationships, personal struggles and moral dilemmas. Made In Heaven 2 features the same

cast as season 1- Sobhita Dhulipala, Arjun Mathur, Kalki Koechlin, Jim Sarbh, Shashank Arora and Shivangji Rastogi - and some new faces, such as Mona Singh, Ishwak Singh and Trinetra. Mrunal Thakur, Radhika Apte, Shibani Dandekar and Sarah Jane Dias, among others, will be seen as the brides in the second season. While Sobhita Dhulipala and Arjun Mathur struggle with their relationships and finances - think debts, business expansion and divorces - the rest of their team as well as their

prospective clients also do not have it easy. From abusive relationships and secret affairs to commitment issues, Made In Heaven 2 trailer teases what all will come, when the series drops next week.

Produced by Excel Media and Entertainment and Tiger Baby, the International Emmy nominated series is directed by Alankrita Shrivastava, Neeraj Ghaywan, Nitya Mehra, Reema Kagti and Zoya Akhtar.

Sharing the trailer on Instagram, filmmaker-producer Farhan Akhtar wrote on



Instagram, "The wedding season has officially begun. Watch your favourite wedding planners back into action in Made In Heaven Season 2. Trailer out now!"

About Made In Heaven  
Made In Heaven, created by Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti, is regarded as one of the most Indian popular shows on OTT. The Prime Video show is an anthology series headlined by Arjun Mathur (Karan Mehra) and Sobhita Dhulipala (Tara Khanna), who play wedding planners.

Made In Heaven portrays today's India as a blend of old and new, where tradition and modern aspirations are at loggerheads. The show and protagonists' narratives play out against the backdrop of lavish and expensive weddings.

For the last couple of weeks, Zoya and team Made In Heaven have been sharing old clips from season one of the show to keep the viewers engaged, and also addressed the delay in the release of season 2. The first season of the show had released in 2019.

challenging as she navigates her personal life with Adil and Faiza while planning lavish weddings," the actor said in a statement.



# DC Jammu inspects arrangements for Independence Day at M.A Stadium

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavansa today conducted on the spot inspection of the arrangements for Independence Day 2023 celebration at M.A Stadium.

The DC inspected about the security arrangements, traffic regulation, seating arrangements, Full Dress Rehearsal, decoration, PAS, Power and water Supply, transport arrangement, sanitation, Medicare facilities, invitation cards, Barricading at the venue of the function and other vital issues.

The officers concerned gave details of security and police deployment besides space identified for the parking of vehicles.



Shed they them to make fool-proof arrangements in advance for the National event.

The Joint Director Information was asked to make the arrangements for Public Address System, Media coordination for proper

coverage, Shenhai Vadan besides recommendation of commentators for the event.

The DC instructed the Jammu Municipal Corporation and PHE to make adequate provision of drinking water at the venue on the day of I-Day celebrations.

Taking stock of other amenities, the JPDC and PHE departments were directed to make proper management for electricity and water including supply through water tankers at the venue.

The CMO was asked to deploy a team of doctors and paramedics

with adequate medical facilities and ambulances at the venue.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Officers to ensure that all related arrangements were made in advance and work in close coordination for the smooth conduct of Independence Day celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav; ADC L&O Harvinder Singh; Joint Director Information, Atul Gupta; ADC(ADM), Sandeep Soinra; Deputy Director Information, Dr. Vikas Sharma along with the officers from Police, Security, Jal Shakti, Health, Sports and Youth Affairs and other concerned departments were present on the occasion.

JJ NEWS SERVICE

# ADDC Kulgam discusses the schedule of SSR of MERs-2023 with representatives of Pol. Parties

KULGAM, AUGUST 01: The District Election Office under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather today convened a meeting of political parties regarding Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Municipal Electoral Roll (MER) 2023.

ADDC apprised the representatives of political parties about the schedule of SSR and shared Draft Electoral Roll with them.

They were intimated that Electoral Rolls, published by the EROs of Municipal Council/Committees are open for revision and claims and objections can be submitted from 01 August to 11 August 2023.

It was intimated that disposal of claims and objections is to be done by or before 16 August, 2023.

Further, the Special camps will be organized on 06 August (Sunday) and 10 August (Thursday) in the polling booths of Municipal areas of the district and were requested to ensure the additions of maximum eligible voters who have attained the age of 18 years up to July 01, 2023.

The final publication of the Municipal Electoral Roll will be held on 25-03-2023.

The meeting was also attended by Dy.DEO, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; DIO Kulgam, Showkat Hussain Ganje; Election NT and other concerned.

# DC Kathua reviews preparedness for "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign



DISTRICT KATHUA

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of concerned departments to review preparedness for the thematic "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign to be observed across the district as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations'.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Ranjit Singh; Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh; ACD, Kishore Singh Katoch; CEO, P.L. Thapa; Dy Director NYK, Som Dutt Zard, XEN REW, DIO and Tehsilard HQ.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on varied aspects of the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign with the tagline spirit of "Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vandan".

It was given out in the meeting that from August 9 to 15, 'Shilapalankam' (memorial plaque) will be inaugurated in all gram panchayats/local bodies. Every resident of the state shall be determined towards the 'Panch Pran' decided by the Prime Minister. The saplings will also be planted while worshipping 'Vasudha' (the earth) besides Freedom fighters and families of martyrs will be honoured.

The meeting also discussed the plan of activities so as to involve all citizens in this National Campaign which also features 'Kalash Yatra' to instill the spirit of nationalism, sense of belonging like respect, love, and reverence for the motherland.

The DC, while discussing multiple aspects of the high spirited campaign, called for taking this as an opportunity to signify the rich patriotic heritage of Kathua as the district has volumetric contributions and has been an active ground for brave warriors who serve the country in different capacities. Asking all concerned stakeholders to put in well orchestrated efforts for the success of the event, the DC also stressed on taking PRs on board while undertaking all the activities planned for the campaign so as to make it a Jan Abhiyan.

# DC Kulgam reviews implementation of COTPA-2003 in district

RS 78K FINE REALISED FROM VIOLATORS UP TO JUNE THIS YEAR; DISTRICT TO INTRODUCE TOBACCO VENDOR LICENCE THROUGH DEDICATED PORTAL

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, AUGUST 01: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of District Level Coordination Committee for National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and reviewed measures for implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003 in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure strict implementation of the provisions of COTPA-2003 across the district. Besides, he stressed to conduct surveys of shops selling tobacco products around health and educational institutions within a radius of 100 yards so that a strategy for their control is devised.

The DC directed the enforcement teams to intensify the drives for imposition of fine on the offenders in and around the hospitals, educational institutions, Government offices etc

adding that this shall give a strong message to the offenders to refrain from such activity.

He also instructed NIC and Health authorities to Introduce Tobacco Vendor Licence, which can be availed through a dedicated online portal wherein only license holders shall be authorized for sale of tobacco products.

During the meeting, Nodal Officer for Enforcement of the COTPA in the district was directed to ensure imposition of challans on the offenders who smoke at public places.

It was intimated that 849 challans, and an amount of Rs 78530 has been realized as fine from offenders during the ensuing year.

He was also directed to submit a monthly report regarding the number of challans made and fine recovered besides other controlling measures.

To ensure tobacco free educational institutions, college Principals, Chief Education Officer & Zonal Education Officers were directed to ensure that

no sale of tobacco products/cigarettes is made within 100 yards of college and school premises in the district.

The meeting discussed the removal of advertisements from public places especially in towns so as to convey one and all, its importance. The district has taken the lead in removal of advertisements from main town Kulgam, it was intimated and called for cent percent removal.

Earlier, Dr. Mir Mushtaq, State Nodal Officer, Tobacco Control Program at Directorate Health Services Kashmir gave a detailed presentation about the provisions of COTPA-2003 and overview of National Tobacco Control programme.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; SMD Bashir UI Hassan, Principals of GDCs, CMO, Tehsilardas, CEO, BMOs, EOs besides officials from State Tobacco Control Cell DfHSK and other concerned also attended the meeting.

# Jal Jeevan Mission fortnight: Painting competition organised at GBHSS Doda to promote water conservation

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 01: The Jal Shakti Department and DPMU unit of Doda district organised a painting competition as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Fortnight celebration programme, aiming to create awareness about water conservation. The event was held at Government Boys Hr Sec School Doda and witnessed enthusiastic participation of 40 students who showcased their artistic talents on the

theme of Water Conservation. The students were sensitized about the significance of the Jal Jeevan Mission and the importance of using water judiciously. The event witnessed the presence of Ruby Naz, the Principal, along with the school staff and students.

Anuradha, incharge of the District Cultural Cell, judged the paintings and appreciated the creativity and efforts of the young artists. Chief Education Officer, Purshotam Gouria supervised the entire programme, ensuring its

smooth execution. The District Project Management unit of Doda played a pivotal role in organizing the event successfully. At the conclusion of the competition, prizes were distributed among the participating students, encouraging and recognizing their dedication to water conservation through art. Meanwhile, the presence of ISS VOESPP Awas at the venue provided support and added significance to the event's noble cause of promoting water conservation.

# Director JKEDI felicitates family of Martyrs on their visit to JKEDI

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) solemnly honoured the family of Captain Tushar Mahajan (Shaurya Chakra) on their visit to JKEDI. This poignant occasion marks a moment of deep reflection and solidarity with the families of these valiant bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice while serving the nation.



In 2016, Captain Tushar Mahajan (Shaurya Chakra), Captain Pawan Kumar (Shaurya Chakra) and Lance Naik Om Prakash (Shaurya Chakra) exhibited extraordinary courage and unwavering dedication to their duty. Tragically, they laid down their lives at JKEDI Pampore campus defending the country during an act of heroism in the line of duty. Abdul Gani, a devoted

JKEDI employee, and two valiant CRPF Jawans, HC RK Rana and HC Bhola Singh also demonstrated unwavering dedication, making the ultimate sacrifice. Their selfless

service and unwavering commitment to their work serve as a testament to their bravery, and they shall forever be honored and remembered for their sacrifice. JKEDI extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, who continue to carry the weight of their loss with immense strength and grace. The family of Captain Tushar Mahajan was accompanied by the mother of Lt. Col Rishabh Sharma, who has also made supreme sacrifice in line of duty.

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director JKEDI felicitated the families of these brave hearts in a somber yet emotional event organized by the Institute, where the memory of Captain Tushar Mahajan was revered and cherished.

It served as a tribute to the indomitable spirit of these brave souls who exemplified leadership, valor, and selflessness.

"We understand the immeasurable sacrifices made by our armed forces and their families. We remain committed to fostering an environment that honors their memory and perpetuates the ideals they fought for. The memories of Captain Tushar Mahajan, Captain Pawan Kumar, Lance Naik Om Prakash and Lt. Col Rishabh Sharma will continue to inspire generations to come," said Director, JKEDI. Senior Officers from 50 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), JKEDI faculty members and officers were present in the felicitation ceremony.

# DC Ramban reviews arrangements at 143 panchayats, 3 municipalities for "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign

66 Amrit Sarovar ready to host events

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Musarrat Islam today reviewed activity wise preparedness for the execution of the plan finalized by the district administration for "Meri Maati Mera Desh" - the nationwide campaign being held under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Sharma; Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kasturi Lal; ACD, Ashok Singh Katoch,



DPO, CHO and other concerned officers directed the meeting. Discussing the arrangements, the DC

directed ACD and EOs of municipalities to erect memorial plaques in all Panchayats and identified locations in MCs as per

guidelines.

He informed that National Flag will be hoisted around the Amrit Sarovars in 66 Panchayats as well as identified locations in other panchayats of the district besides organizing different events.

The DC directed all the stakeholders to promote the main idea of the programme "Mitti Ko Naman" and "Veeron Ka Vandan" and encourage public participation to ensure Janbhagidari.

Local veers (heroes) shall be felicitated to acknowledge their contribution towards the country.

The families of the freedom fighters will also be felicitated as per local custom and tradition, he added.

# GDC Kupwara organizes one-day Workshop to Guide 12th pass-out Students on FYUP-2023 Admission Process

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, AUGUST 01: Government Degree College (GDC) Kupwara today took a significant step towards empowering the 12th pass-out students of District Kupwara by conducting a highly beneficial one-day Counseling cum Awareness Workshop on the FYUP-2023 Admission Process.

The workshop was aimed to provide valuable insights and support to students as they prepare for higher education under the new academic year. The workshop witnessed a gathering of 12th pass-out students from District Kupwara, accompanied by their parents and guardians, eager to gain clarity on the upcoming admission process.

The Principal of the College in his address emphasized the college's commitment to nurturing students' educational journey. He stressed the importance of making well-informed choices while selecting courses and the significance of the FYUP-2023 Admission Process in shaping their academic future.

Dr. Aabid Hussain Naik, Convener Admissions delivered a comprehensive session on the FYUP-2023 Admission Process.

With clarity and precision, Dr. Naik guided the students through each step of the process, ensuring that they understood the application procedures and eligibility criteria to make informed decisions about their academic pursuits.

The workshop was graced by the presence of distinguished professors from GDC Kupwara, including Prof. Ghulam Rasool Ganie, Prof. Syyed Shoukat, Dr. Majid Rehman, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Mir, Prof. Ab Hameed Shah, and Dr. Ali Mohammad Pir. Their invaluable presence and motivational words encouraged the students to strive for excellence in their chosen fields of study.

The one-day Counseling cum Awareness Workshop on FYUP-2023 Admission Process concluded on a positive note, with students and parents leaving with newfound confidence and clarity. The event achieved its objective of empowering the future generation with information and guidance for their higher education journey.

# DISA Udhampur organises awareness program on NALSA, social security schemes

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR AUGUST 01: District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur, under the guidance of its Chairman District (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge), Haq Nawaz Zargar and overall Supervision of the DISA Secretary, Ajay Kumar, organised an awareness programme on NALSA Schemes and Social Security Schemes.

The Resource person of the Programme was Adv Sanjeet K. Bavouria, DISA Panel Lawyer.

The programme was held at Sallian Talab Udhampur and attended by locals. The resource person highlighted the importance of getting benefits provided by various NALSA Schemes and Social Security Schemes especially Shramyogi Mandhan Yojana, Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana etc. The participants included Unorganised Workers who were informed about the provisions of these schemes.

# STD Jammu starts fortnightly celebrations of "Meri Matti Mera Desh"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 01: State Taxes Department (STD) Jammu today started fortnightly celebrations of "Meri Matti Mera Desh" with a pledge on 'Panchpran of Amritkail' reaffirming the commitment of all the participants towards our nation. To infuse spirit of nation building amongst all the officers and officials involved in collecting revenue, Additional Commissioner (Adm. & Enforcement) Jammu, Namrita Dogra, highlighted the achievements of the State Taxes department and called upon all to contribute in nation's growth and development. She hoped that the event will be an enriching experience, fostering a sense of pride and patriotism among the participants.



# DC Srinagar finalises Action Plan for smooth conduct of SSR of Municipal Electoral Roll-2023

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: The Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) Monday chaired a meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review preparations for Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Srinagar Municipal Corporation electoral roll and finalise the action plan for smooth conduct of SSR in the district.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ERO), Syed Shabir Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner (ERO), Syed Ahmad Kataria; Joint Commissioner SMC (ERO), Syed Abul Qasim; Joint Commissioner SMC (ERO), Riyaz Ahmad and Deputy District Election Officer (DDEO) Srinagar, Shakeel Hussain, the meeting was attended by Election Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Nodal Officer Colleges, Nodal Officer, SVEEP, Official from District Election Office Srinagar and ERONET Operators of all 8 Assembly Segments of Srinagar District.

At the outset, the DEO took a detailed review of the Action Plan for smooth and successful conduct of the Electoral Roll Revision of the Urban Local Body (ULB) to register all eligible electorates in all 08 Assembly segments of the Srinagar District. He also discussed the steps required to update and finalise the Municipal Electoral Rolls in the district.



Sparking on the occasion, the DEO emphasized the EROs, AEROs and other officials of District Election Authority to put in coordinated efforts to ensure the exercise for Electoral Roll Revision regarding ULB is conducted in all the eight Assembly Constituencies of the district as per laid guidelines of Election Authority.

The DEO directed the Officers to conduct revision strictly in accordance with the ECI guidelines as per schedule and complete the process within the given timeline. He exhorted upon the concerned Officers to take extra care while making the addition of new voters, left out voters, deletion of absent/shifted/deceased electors and modification in the particulars of already registered voters to improve the health of Electoral Rolls and making it error free.

The DEO also asked the EROs

and AEROs, Nodal Officer SVEEP and other concerned to remain proactive during conduct of Special Summary Revision to build awareness and activate all their resources for successful conduct of all SVEEP programmes/activities regarding ongoing Revision of Municipal Electoral Rolls across all Assembly segments of the Srinagar district.

He also asked them to create momentum regarding the exercise from the day first and supervise the process with focused attention to ensure 100% registration of all eligible and ensure no elector is left unregistered keeping in view the limited time period to conduct the exercise.

On the occasion, the DEO gave a detailed overview about the exercise and it was given out in the meeting that the Electoral Roll Revision with July 01, 2023 as the qualifying date is commencing from August 01 with the publication of Draft Electoral Rolls.

Giving activity wide details, the DEO was informed that the period of filing claims and objections for Additions, Deletions, Corrections and Transpositions is from 01-08-2023 to 11-08-2023. It was also informed that 2 Special Camps for Electoral Registration will be organised at the Polling Stations of the District on August 6, 2023 (Sunday) and August 10, 2023 (Thursday).

Similarly, the DEO was informed that the disposal of claims and objections shall be made by August 16, 2023 (Wednesday) and date for updation of Electoral Rolls is fixed on August 21, 2023 (Monday). While final publication of Electoral Roll is scheduled for August 25, 2023.

In order to have focused outreach to enroll all eligible electors and concerned Both Level Officers (BLOs) shall remain available at respective booths with requisite Forms and Draft Electoral Rolls for the assistance of the Electors.

The Nodal Officers from Colleges and Schools of District for SVEEP were asked to conduct special awareness programmes in their respective Educational Institutions so that all eligible young voters are made aware to acquire the power to vote during the ongoing revision of rolls.

During the meeting, it was also informed that the Ward Officers as per the instructions of the Election Department have to depute Polling Station Level Officers (PSLOs) in respect of all 74

Electoral Wards who will be assisted by Assembly Level BLOs. Each Ward Officer shall ensure distribution of Electoral Rolls and all relevant forms to PSLOs/BLOs falling within their administrative jurisdiction. The Ward Officers shall monitor the daily progress of claims and objections received by each PSLOs/BLOs and shall update the office of District Election Officer, Srinagar as well as Commissioner of the Corporation.

Likewise, all the concerned EROs shall ensure the publication of Draft Electoral Rolls on 01/08/2023 at all the 840 Polling Stations of 74 Electoral Wards of Municipal Corporation of District Srinagar.

The Polling Station Level Officers (PSLOs)/BLOs shall remain present in their respective polling areas.

In addition, each ERO has to issue Notice of publication on Form-2 and the notice has to be published across all the 74 Electoral Wards of the Corporation. ERO/ AEROs/ Ward Officers/PSLOs/BLOs shall ensure availability of sufficient numbers of the copies of draft rolls, forms of claims and other relevant material during the revision period.

Earlier, the DEO was informed that as many as 74801 voters are already registered in all 8 Assembly segments of the District and a total 840 number of polling stations have been designated in Srinagar.

## G&M Department organises plantation drive under "Meri Mitti Mera Desh" campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, AUGUST 01: Department of Geology and Mining today organised a plantation drive near mines and within mineral processing units. As part of ongoing "Meri Mitti Mera Desh" campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the District mineral officer Samba had instructed all the lease holders and mineral based units to go for extensive plantation drive as a give back to environment under the Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER).

In this connection, a plantation drive was organised on the banks of Basantar with the active involvement of lease holders.

Local PRI members were also present during the ride and appreciated the step of the administration wherein a plantation drive was carried out in the premises of cremation ground.

A series of events will continue till Independence Day which will include the awareness programmes, skill development, essay competitions, symposium, community participation and environmental protection and restoration awareness events etc. The DMO informed that under CSR and CER lease holders/ mining contractors and mineral based units were already instructed to carry out extensive plantation drives during this rainy season.

## I-Day arrangements discussed at Ramnagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMNAGAR, AUGUST 01: To discuss the arrangements for the smooth celebration of forthcoming Independence Day function 2023 at Sub Division Headquarter Ramnagar, the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Shishir Gupta today convened a meeting of Sub Divisional/Thesil level officers of different department here in his office chamber.

Thesildar, Srinath Suman; Executive Engineer, PMGSY, Satish Bhagat; Principal Model Higher Secondary School, Parameet Singh; AEs of different Engineering wings, BMO, Ramnagar and other officers attended the meeting.

Detailed deliberations were held on seating arrangement, barricading, security, water and power supply, sanitation, first aid, PAS and fire tenders etc.

It was decided in the meeting that the main function would be held in Government Model Higher Secondary School, where the VIP would unfurl the National Flag.

The SDM directed the AEE, PWD, PHE and Forest for barricading and drinking water arrangements, besides uninterrupted power supply at the function venue.

The Executive Officer, Municipality was asked to maintain cleanliness in the town as well as at the venue. Regarding first aid arrangements, the Block Medical Officer was directed to ensure the deployment of one ambulance along with a team of Doctors and necessary medicines till the conclusion of National function.

A colorful cultural program would also be presented by the government as well as private educational institutions on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023. Different committees were also constituted for the successful celebration of the National function.

He also convened a meeting regarding Meri Maati-Mera Desh Mitti Ko Naman, Verron Ko Vandan. The meeting was informed that the programme is scheduled to commence from 9th of August, 2023 and culminated on 30th August, 2023.

## Horticulture dept Srinagar organises one day Awareness/ Training programme at Women's College Batpora campus

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: The Horticulture Department Srinagar today organised a one day awareness/training programme at Womens College Batpora campus under MIDH scheme, with the theme of employment generation.

During Training programme, more than 150 participants including students of the institute and faculty members headed by Principal of the College, Tehmeena Yousof participated in the programme.

Joint director Horticulture Kashmir, Z.A Bhat graced the occasion as chief guest of the programme; Chief Horticulture Officer Srinagar, V.K Gupta; Chief Canning Instructor, V. Anand and District Horticulture Officer Srinagar, S.I Hussain deliberated on the employment generation schemes run by the department.

During the programme, training/awareness was given to the participants as to how to be an entrepreneur and the programme was supported with the success stories displayed on screen.

On the occasion, different kinds of potted fruit plants were also distributed among the participants.

Besides other officers/officials DLSMS, Saima Hameed, HDO Zakura, HDO Shikhar and Training instructor also participated in the said programme.

## DM bans construction in 100 meter area around Tourist Destination Lal Draman

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 01: District Magistrate Doda, in exercise of the powers vested under section 144 of Cr.P.C., has banned construction around 100 meters of Lal Draman Tourist Destination.

"To protect the said tourist destination, no private / government construction shall be allowed in the meadow and around 100 meters of the tourist destination of Lal draman Lal Draman without the prior approval of the District Administration" an order issued by the DM stated. The order further states that "It has been brought to the notice of the administration that constructions are being made in and around the tourist destination of Lal Draman which is reducing the aesthetic beauty of the said tourist destination. This mindless, unplanned construction may cause damage to the Lal Draman meadow and the biodiversity.

# Doda Admin discusses activity plan for 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' Campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 01: District Administration Doda today discussed the rollout of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign in the district. A meeting in this regard was held in the DC office under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan.

At the outset, the DC highlighted the importance of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign and said that it aims to foster a sense of unity and pride across all sections of society, celebrating India's rich heritage and patriotic spirit. He expressed that celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the hallmark event on the Independence Day 2023, will be paying tribute to the 'Veers' (martyrs) through ceremonies at all levels across the district.

He instructed that under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' program, memorial plaques would be placed at Amrit Sarovars, panchayat Ghars, parks and other public places in the memory of Martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the national cause.

ADDC, assisted by Assistant Commissioner Development, ACP and DPO shall be nodal officers for monitoring and implementation of the campaign in the district.

ACD Phulail Singh briefed the meeting about different themes under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign, and gave a detailed outline of the events to be held in the district.

It was given out that programmes will be held at each Panchayat and



Block between 9th August to 15th August under the theme 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' and stakeholders involved have been asked to make all the necessary preparations well in advance for the successful conduct of the campaign.

The Amrit Sarovars, Panchayat Bhavans, and other public places have been identified, and Panchayat wise list of Veers (Martyrs) is being prepared for the installation of memorial plaques.

The ADC was asked to identify youth volunteers for Maati-Yatra. Maati-Yatras from Panchayats will be taken to blocks where from it would be collected in earthen urns for forward journey to New Delhi by these youth volunteers from each block for construction of the National Memorial at Kartavya Path.

It was also informed that at least 75 plant saplings will be planted in each

Panchayat and wards of the district. The DFO territorial (concerned), DFO Social Forestry (Concerned), CEO and BDOs were asked to ensure that the saplings are planted within well protected locations in Panchayats, Educational institutions and other places.

The campaign will witness the felicitation of families of the, besides holding Painting, Essay Writing, Drawing, Photography and Videography competitions in all the educational institutes on the theme and in the memory of brave hearts and national heroes. The meeting was attended by ADCD, Pran Singh; CPO, Suresh Kumar; ACD, Phulail Singh; ACP, Ashfaq Khanji; Dy Director Employment, Idrees Lone; DIO DIPR, Mohammad Ashraf Wani, CEO Parshotam Gouria; DFO Doda, DFO Social Forestry, BDOs, EO MC Doda and other concerned.

## DC Shopian attends Public Outreach programme at Doompora

Interacts with people, listens to their issues; reviews progress of JJM & other works



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 01: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today visited Doompora village of the district to interact with people and take stock of ongoing development activities in the village.

The people of Doompora put forth issues of vital public importance including providing potable water facility, construction of bridges, connecting Doompora with Keegan and adjacent villages and other demands.

DC heard them patiently and assured that all the genuine issues of public importance will be solved within the stipulated time frame.

He also visited some development work sites along with officers. Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the district is all set to achieve saturation in JJM Schemes.

He further said that the District Administration is actively involved in saturating targeted deliverables across all panchayats of Shopian.

The DC directed Jal Shakti authorities present on the occasion to speed up their execution developmental works and leave no stone unturned in providing the quality water facility to the people.

The DC was accompanied by Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Abdul Rashid Wani, AEEs, and officers of concerned departments. A large number of people were present on the occasion.

# ADDC Kishtwar reviews performance of Agriculture, allied Sectors

STRESSES ON FORMULATION OF INCLUSIVE ACTION PLAN, ADOPTION OF INTERVENTIONS AT GROUND LEVEL

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 01: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kishtwar, Sham Lal, today chaired a meeting to evaluate the progress and functioning of the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments in the district. Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Iqbal; CAO, Amjad Hussain Malik; CHO Sajid Mustafa; LDM Pankaj Bhadani, besides representatives of agriculture & allied departments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the focus was on devising a comprehensive Action Plan and implementation of different interventions at the ground level to facilitate development of agricultural and allied sectors.



The ADCD emphasized the need to adopt a range of hard, soft, and technological interventions to significantly enhance income of farmers associated with agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, sheep husbandry, fisheries and sericulture sectors. To ensure seamless farming operations, the availability of sufficient quantities of seeds and fertilizers was stressed upon by the ADCD. The

Agriculture Department was directed to ensure the availability of superior quality seeds that meet prescribed standards.

Regarding the on-going Kisan Samrakshita training program under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), it was reported that 125 panchayats out of 136 have been covered, benefiting 19,822 farmers through proper

guidance and training. The remaining panchayats are scheduled to be covered by or before 31st August 2023. To reach out to every farmer, the stakeholders were directed to involve Self-Help Groups (SHGs), cooperatives, and farmers in the process.

The implementation of PM Kisan and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme) was also reviewed. The ADCD emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate coverage for farmers and spreading awareness about the benefits of the scheme. Furthermore, the progress of various schemes under the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal, and Sheep Husbandry Department was reviewed. The concerned officers were urged to work in coordi-

nation to achieve the set targets, with a report on the achieved goals to be submitted by 4th of August 2023.

Special attention was given to geographically indicated tagging of local products like Rajmash and Saffron in the district. The ADCD instructed the Chief Agricultural Officer to collaborate with SKUAST Jammu to expedite the process.

The Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments were directed to devise an action plan for enhancing Milk and Mutton production in the district and submit the plan to the ADCD's office for further actions.

Additionally, the status of the National Livelihood Mission in the district was also reviewed during the meeting.



# Asian Champions Trophy will help us test our preparedness for the Hangzhou Asiad: Hockey Captain Harmanpreet Singh

NEW DELHI: Ace drag flicker and Captain Harmanpreet Singh on Tuesday admitted that Hangzhou Asian Games are very crucial because there the Indian hockey team will be competing for direct qualification of the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

"Winning the Asian Games title will give the team direct entry to the Paris Olympics and we are working on that" the captain said

Harmanpreet and his deputy Hardik Singh underlined the importance of Hero Asian Champions Trophy to be held in Chennai from 3rd to 12th August saying that it will provide the team good platform to test its preparedness ahead of the Asian Games and also work on the gray areas. In the latest episode of Hockey Te Charcha, a podcast series launched by Hockey India, Harmanpreet Singh and Hardik Singh stressed the significance of special camps conducted by Goalkeeping Coach Dennis van de Pol from the Netherlands, as well as the appointment of mental health conditioning coach Paddy Upton, ahead of crucial tournaments.

"It is really important. When you get to learn from someone who has tons of experience, it makes a huge difference. We have had good sessions in Bengaluru with Paddy and Dennis. These have helped us a lot as a team." "The next two months are very important for us. At the Hero Asian Champions Trophy , we have this opportunity of playing quality matches before the Hangzhou Asian Games. It will be a good experience for the players. We have to make sure that we execute our strategies that we have worked on and I am sure that the tournament will be helpful for the players," the Captain said.

Incidentally, Chennai is a very special venue for Harmanpreet as he was



spotted by the then High-Performance Director of Hockey India Roelant Oltmans during the Junior National Championships. "I remember when the junior squad was to be announced in 2015, I was in Chennai playing the nationals, which we won.

At that point of time, Roelant Oltmans was here to see the matches and we were playing the final against Haryana. After that, I got called up for the national camp and then made my senior debut in the same year. The place holds a special place in my heart. I am very excited to go back there and play." Meanwhile, Hardik Singh expressed his views about international matches returning to Chennai after 16 long years. The last time Chennai hosted an international hockey event was in 2007, when the India lifted the Asia Cup after defeating South Korea 7-2. He said, "It is really special for everyone that the Hero Asian Champions Trophy is being held in Chennai. The way the crowd supported us in Rourkela and Bhubaneswar, we hope that the fans come in huge numbers, fill the stadium and support us. I am looking forward to playing in Chennai." Hardik Singh made his debut at the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy which was held in Muscat.

India and Pakistan were declared joint winners by virtue of forfeiture of the final due to persistent rain. Recalling his experience, he said, "It was a new experience for me as it was the first important tournament for me and I was making my debut. But I was under no pressure and I knew that I have to give my best for the team."

The ace midfielder, who earned his 100th International Caps for India in their match against England in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament being played in Barcelona, Spain. Talking about his journey, he said, "It is a blessing that I have represented the country. I feel honoured that I have been given this opportunity." He hailed the team's show at the recent tour to Spain and said, "We performed well in Spain, especially in the last couple of games which included the 2-1 win against the Netherlands." About Champions Trophy he said "I think we need to control the tempo of the game and we need to be switched on from the word go so that we can begin a game on the positive note." I hold the belief that each team participating in the competition presents a formidable challenge, being of good quality.

# McCullum: Crawley's success against Australia validates England's approach to Test cricket

LONDON : Brendon McCullum believes that Zak Crawley's success against Australia validated England's approach to Test cricket since he took over as head coach, saying of his Ashes record this summer: "People don't do that, you know?"

Crawley is one of three players - along with Joe Root and Ben Stokes - who have featured in every one of England's 18 Tests since McCullum's appointment, and has consistently been backed publicly despite averaging 23 last summer, with a single half-century. McCullum told Crawley to "chase moments" before the start of the series and he duly delivered, thumping the first ball of the series for four through the covers off Pat Cummins on his way to an agenda-setting 61 off 73 at Edgbaston. After 48 and 3 at Lord's, he made 44 and 33 in a low-scoring at Headingley, then thrashed 189 off 182 balls in Manchester as England dominated a rain-ruined fourth Test. He finished with 22 and 73 at The Oval, helping to set up England's 49-run win and securing his status as their leading



run-scorer for the series. "Coming into the series, he was under quite a lot of pressure," McCullum said. "The great thing was he was able to block that out as much as possible... you hope that's down to the environment the skipper's trying to create, and the sincere messaging." "480 runs at a strike rate of 90 [88.72] against the best bowling attack in the world, against the Dukes ball, in an Ashes series: people don't do that, you know? As the skipper said: you look at what people's upsides are, what their best days are, what they're capable of achieving rather than focusing on things

that might not be there. He's a case in point. "I think we've seen someone really grow and mature and really develop over the last six weeks or so. I'm sure he'll be proud of the series he's had and won't get carried away, because that's the type of personality he is. It's great - not just for Zak, but also for other guys around the side and around county cricket. They know that when they get the opportunity, they'll get support." For the first time in a decade, there are no doubts about the identity of England's best opening pair, with Ben Duckett averaging 35.66 for the

series and 53.21 since he was recalled to the Test set-up for the tour to Pakistan last year.

"Their contrasting skills - which we've talked a lot about leading into the series - is pretty evident and it helps one another," McCullum said. "Ben Duckett's turned into a really serious player at the tail of the order for us. Away from home as well, his game in sub-continent conditions you'd expect to really flourish, too." McCullum said that squaring the series from two-nil down - while doubling down on their attacking style with the bat - proved the point that the approach he and Stokes have implemented gets the most out of England's players. "We have a certain style we try to exhibit every time we play," he said.

"I think for us, that is our best chance of winning. The skipper and I firmly believe that, and some of the performances we've seen... are testament to that. Look, you're always trying to win, right? You just don't want to be bogged down in key moments by the result.

# World University Games: Shooters, archers help India win six medals

MUMBAI: Rifle shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, men's 10m air rifle team, compound archers Avneet Kaur and Sangampreet Singh Bisla clinched gold medals as India won total of six medals at FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China, on Monday.

Apart from four gold medals, India won a silver in individual 10m air rifle through Divyansh Singh Panwar and a bronze in men's Individual compound archery through Aman Saini.

With six medals India's tally at World University Games rose to 17 - nine gold, three silver and five bronze. India is fourth on the medals table behind China, Japan and Korea.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, who also won a gold medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions on Sunday, scored a total of 32.6 in the 10m air rifle final to beat compatriot and fellow Tokyo Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar.

Divyansh Singh Panwar secured a silver, scoring 251 points. Bhanu Song of China scored 229 to win bronze. Arjun Babuta, who came second in the qualifying round to make the cut



for the eight-man final, finished eighth with a score of 124.4 after a poor start.

The Indian trio, however, combined for the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle team event with a combined score of 1894.7 points. China settled for silver with a score of 1881.9, while Kazakhstan claimed bronze with 1878.2 points. The other three medals - two gold and one bronze - for India came through compound archers. Sangampreet Bisla and Avneet Kaur showed composure to top the podium in their respective individual events.

Sangampreet missed a 10 just once across five sets to beat South Africa's Christian De Klerk for gold in the

men's compound event. The Indian scored 149 from a possible 150 while Christian De Klerk managed 147. Aman Saini beat French archer Bouleau Victor 148-146 for bronze.

Aman Saini had won a gold and a bronze in compound men's team and compound mixed team, respectively, on Sunday. In the women's compound individual event, Avneet Kaur fended off a tough challenge from USA's Alyssa Grace Sturgill in a shoot-off to win the gold. The scores were tied at 144-144 after five sets. However, Sturgill shot an eight before Avneet Kaur wrapped up the contest with a 10.

# Dramatic draw seals USA's world cup qualification against Portugal

LISBON: World Cup matches have always carried a sense of utmost thrill and excitement. One such game that recently happened this morning in Australia was the deciding match between Portugal and USA. The match carried a sense of great responsibility and created hype in the stadium as both the teams performed slightly opposite to the people's expectations of this World Cup.

Portugal being a debutant team, who stepped on the field of the World Cup for the first time gave tough competition to the previous World Cup finalist of 2019, the Netherlands in their opening match although they lost the game with the score of only 1-0. Later the team gave a brilliant performance against Vietnam and won the match 2-0. On the other side, the USA who have been again the no.1 favourites for the public this time and are now holding the trophy in their dressing room have been carrying some high expectations.



They also began their World Cup campaign on a winning note by defeating Vietnam by a major margin of 3-0 and showcasing Sophie Smith's heroics but later as the tournament pulled up its pace, it does not seem like the two-time former champions paced up accordingly. They equalized the next match against the Dutch, which ended at a

score of 1-1 and something similar happened a few hours ago when both the teams (Portugal and USA) face-off against each other.

The two teams faced off in a deciding match in Auckland today to determine which team would qualify for the next round of the World Cup. The match began with high energy and pressure as the Americans

dominated the field from the start. However, the Portuguese team later took charge and displayed their top skills and tricks. The first half ended with a score of 0-0, but the Americans had more possession. In the second half, the momentum picked up with more chances towards each team's box. Despite the efforts of captain and star player Alex Morgan, the debutant's defence tactics prevented the American team from scoring. It was Portugal's substitute striker, Ana Capeta, who seemed to break a million American dreams with an end-onment shot that hit the pole and diverted the ball away from the goal. The match ended with a score of 0-0, and the USA qualified for the next stage of the World Cup in second place of Group E with five points. Portugal finished third with four points. The Netherlands conquered the first spot of Group E with a score of 7-0 against Vietnam.

# Shai Hope recalled for T20Is against India

TRINIDAD: West Indies have recalled ODI skipper Shai Hope to their T20I setup for the upcoming five-match series against India. Hope's last match in the format for the West Indies also came against India last year. However, the 29-year-old has quite noticeably improved his game in white-ball formats over the last year or so.

For someone who was bracketed as being one-dimensional in ODI cricket, Hope's strike rate in the format this year is 96.75 until now. That strike rate in a calendar year has never touched 80 ever since he made his debut in 2016 which highlights the progress he has made despite moving down the order these days to bat at No.4. Apart from Hope, fast bowler Osborne Thomas has also

been recalled to the T20I squad having just been brought back into the ODI setup, for the India series. Shimron Hetmyer, who missed the T20 World Cup last year in Australia, will bolster the squad and the two-time champions will also be strengthened by the arrival of Nicholas Pooran, who just smashed a stunning century in the inaugural MLC final. The squad is selected with the next ICC Men's T20 World Cup in mind," lead Selector Desmond Haynes said.

"We are looking at various plans as we try to find the right combinations. As we prepare, we are looking to build a unit which we believe can do the job when we host the global event in just under a year. We have some match-winners in our line-up

and we will look to have the right kind of preparation, starting here in Trinidad on Thursday. "We also have other players who could come into consideration going forward, with the Caribbean Premier League starting next month, others will come into the reckoning." Cricket West Indies also confirmed that all 15 members of the squad led by Rovman Powell will travel to all five games. However, a 13-man squad will be selected for every game out of which a XI will be chosen.

"We are looking at various plans as we try to find the right combinations. As we prepare, we are looking to build a unit which we believe can do the job when we host the global event in just under a year. We have some match-winners in our line-up

# Did the teams catch up after the Oval Test? Yes, at a nightclub, Stokes clarifies

the oval. Ben Stokes has confirmed that the England and Australia players caught up for their post-Ashes debrief in a nightclub. This, after reports on Monday night that the Australians were locked out of the home dressing room at the Kia Oval.

Following England's 49-run victory in the fifth Test, which confirmed a 2-2 draw, England had their usual team bonding session with friends and family once all their media commitments had concluded. The celebrations largely centred on the key performances through the series, along with the retirements of Stuart Broad and Moeen Ali.

With much on the agenda, the get-together lasted longer than usual, meaning that when Australia's players knocked on the dressing room door to mingle with their opponents, as they did at the end of the 2019 series, they were not immediately invited in. By the time England had finished and went to extend an invitation, the

Australians had already left the ground by the incident. "I can't imagine we'll be having a beer with them any time soon," he told BBC TMS at stumps after Australia had triumphed at Lord's to go 2-0 up. A month on, the head coach had softened his stance.

"Yeah, we'll have a beer," answered McCullum when asked if drinks were back on the table. He also clarified his reaction, stating he held no ill will towards Australia, particularly Cummins.

"I definitely don't think less of Pat," McCullum said. "I've had the pleasure of being able to coach Pat over in the IPL, and he's an absolute champion fella. He's done an amazing job with the captaincy and the Australian team. I consider him one of my mates as well."

"I think if we look back to that Test match, I don't necessarily think what I said was construed in the right way. What I said was I've made mis-

takes in the past and there's times when you're a little bit younger you don't quite understand some of those decisions you make. I look back with regret at some of them and I put my hand up to say that. I guess that's what I was challenging but in the end everyone's entitled to do what they want."

"There's no right or wrong in that and that's the grey area around the spirit of cricket. I think I know with the benefit of time what I'd have done in that situation. But there's more than entitled to do what they want. I guess Ashes series have all these twists and turns and moments people talk about and what people are remembered by. That was certainly one of those as was some of the spirit of cricket. I think I know with the benefit of time what I'd have done in that situation. But there's more than entitled to do what they want. I guess Ashes series have all these twists and turns and moments people talk about and what people are remembered by. That was certainly one of those as was some of the spirit of cricket. I think I know with the benefit of time what I'd have done in that situation. But there's more than entitled to do what they want. I guess Ashes series have all these twists and turns and moments people talk about and what people are remembered by. 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# Centre To Make All Rules Related To Bureaucrats, Says Delhi Services Bill

NEW DELHI : The bill that would replace the Delhi Services ordinance - giving the Centre control over the postings and transfers of Delhi bureaucrats - contains three key changes one of which offers some respite to the Delhi assembly in terms of legislation. A key portion that prevented the assembly from creating laws on "State Public Services and State Public Service Commission" has been removed. The power granted to the Lieutenant Governor to appoint chiefs of all bodies, boards and corporations has also been curbed. He will now deal only with bodies set up through an act of parliament.



fighting the bill tooth and nail.

The bill, which had become a huge political flashpoint between the government and the opposition, has been tabled in parliament today. The debate on it is due tomorrow.

The Opposition - unitedly opposing the bill through the efforts of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, -- is

But the government, which is already in a comfortable position in the upper house, can now count on the support of Odisha's ruling BJP Janata Dal and Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress. The BJD, which was expected to back the bill, formally announced its decision today.

The proposed bill, a copy of which is with NDTV, has some significant omissions as compared to the ordinance brought on May 19.

The Section 3A, which was part of the Ordinance, has been removed completely. With this section, the Ordinance removed

the Delhi Assembly's powers to make laws related to services.

Provisions under another Section -- 45 D of the Ordinance - has been diluted. This Section is related to the appointments made for Boards, Commissions, authorities and other statutory bodies.

The ordinance provided the LG/President with exclusive powers to make appointments to or nominate members/ chairperson of all bodies, boards, corporations. The proposed bill provides this power to the LG/President only with regards to bodies/boards/commissions set up through an act of parliament.

liament. The Ordinance was brought in by the Central government on May 19, days after the Supreme Court declared that the elected government is the boss of Delhi and its powers will extend over everything except police, public order and land. It was a huge relief for the Arvind Kejriwal government, which has been at loggerheads with the Centre -- and its representative, the Lieutenant Governor -- over the control of the national capital ever since it came to power in 2015 with a huge mandate.

The Aam Aadmi Party declared that the Centre had "deceived" the people of Delhi with the introduction of the Ordinance. It also argued that if a precedent is set in Delhi, no elected government is safe. Mr Kejriwal himself, along with party colleague and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, had visited most non-BJP ruled states and met opposition leaders, seeking their support to oppose the legislation.

# Witness Against Wrestling Body Chief Enters Race To Succeed Him

NEW DELHI: Four candidates, including outgoing Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's close aide Sanjay Kumar Singh from Uttar Pradesh, filed nominations for the post of president amid fanfare at the Olympic Bhawan here on Monday.



Vishal. Asked why Brij Bhushan did not accompany the nominees after two days of hectic meetings, Vishal said, "I don't think there was any need for him to come. He is not on the voters' list."

Darshan Lal from the Chandigarh wrestling body filed his nomination for the post of general secretary, while SP Deswal from Uttarakhand filed his nomination for the post of treasurer from the Brij Bhushan camp.

The Brij Bhushan camp claims to have the support of 22 of the 25 state units and, after filing nominations, expressed "confidence" of winning all 15 posts during the WFI elections on August 12.

On a day of hectic activity at the Olympic Bhawan, a convoy of nominees and supporters from the Brij Bhushan camp arrived with the "blessings" of the BJP leader, and after extensive paperwork, filed their nominations before former J&K High Court Chief Justice Mahesh Mittal Kumar, the Returning Officer appointed for the elections.

for the post of president, three for senior vice-president, six for vice-president, three for the post of general secretary, two for treasurer, three for joint secretary and nine for executive members' post. Against 15 posts, 30 persons have applied," said Justice Kumar. "We will display the list of all the candidates whose nomination papers are found to be in order. It will be put up on the (WFI) website tomorrow. One lady is there (for the post of president)," he added.

The only lady candidate on the WFI executive committee members' list is Anita Sheoran, representing Odisha. Ms Sheoran was one of the witnesses in the alleged sexual harassment case against Brij Bhushan. The Brij Bhushan camp has filed a total of 18 nominations for 15 posts, while candidates from the rival camps left without disclosing which posts they were filing their nominations

for. The Brij Bhushan camp nominees and supporters were the first to arrive at the Olympic Bhawan past noon, after the BJP leader held another round of meeting at a five-star hotel before the convoy left to file nominations. Even though Brij Bhushan, who had been holding meetings with state units for the last two days to come up with a list of "consensus candidates", did not accompany the candidates to the Olympic Bhawan, his son-in-law Vishal Singh (Bihar Wrestling Federation president) was facilitating his group's candidates in filing nomination papers. He is not in the fray for any post though. "18 nominations have been filed from our side. Our candidate for the post of president is Sanjay Kumar Singh. We have filed (nominations) for three vice presidents," said

"But it's free will, we respect everybody's free will and if an election happens we are more than okay with it." He also lashed out at those who are saying that the family wanted to make WFI a dynastic affair. "All the allegations that were put up against us that we are power hungry... a very polite and a very quiet answer has been given (that none of the Brij Bhushan family members is in the fray for elections). The family is not there."

# Patna HC upholds caste survey, Mahagathbandhan rejoices, BJP on defensive

PATNA: In a shot in the arm for the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, the Patna High Court on Tuesday upheld the caste survey ordered by it as "perfectly valid" and "initiated with due competence".

A division bench comprising Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Partha Sarathy passed the order rejecting a bunch of petitions challenging the survey, which was ordered last year and began earlier this year.

The bench, which had reserved its judgement on July 7, said in its 101-page-long verdict, "We find the act of the state to be perfectly valid, initiated with due competence, with the legitimate aim of providing development with justice."

The judgement began with the note: "The action of the state in carrying out a caste survey... and the vigorous challenge raised to it on multiple grounds... reveal that despite attempts to efface it from the social fabric, caste remains a reality, and refuses to be swept aside, wished away or brushed aside nor does it wither away or disperse into thin air."

The judgement, which came less

than three months after the court had stayed the survey, shocked the petitioners who vowed to challenge the order before the Supreme Court.

"After studying the judgement, we will move the Supreme Court," senior advocate Dinu Kumar, counsel for one of the many petitioners, told reporters soon after the bench pronounced its verdict in an open court.

The ruling 'Mahagathbandhan' (Grand Alliance) in the state, which was so far been content with a countrywide caste census being adopted as a key agenda by the opposition grouping INDIA, was predictably elated.

Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav took to Twitter to reiterate the promised benefits of the survey while picking pots at the BJP, which rules the Centre, for being reluctant to order a caste census while proffering "false pride of having an OBC prime minister". Statements hailing the judgement and chiding the BJP also came from the JD(U), to which Chief Minister Nitish Kumar belongs, and the CPI(M). Liberation and the CPI(M), both of which are a part of the ruling coalition but support the government

from outside. The BJP was left busy deflecting the blows, pointing out that it had "always supported" the caste survey, and backed it when the cabinet had come for the exercise, while the party still shared power in the state.

Notably, the ambitious exercise, for which a budgetary outlay of Rs 500 crore has been laid by the cash-strapped state government, was undertaken after the Centre made it clear that headcount of social groups other than the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes would not be undertaken as part of the census.

The stand was not well received in the political circles in Bihar where the numerically powerful OBCs have dominated the political space since the Mandal churn of the 1990s.

Leaders like Lalu Prasad, the RJD supremo who is the father of the Deputy CM, and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, both of whom owe their rise to the Mandal wave, were of the view that a headcount of all castes was necessary since the last time such an exercise was undertaken was in the 1931 census.

# Violence in name of religion cannot be tolerated in 21st-century India: Kharage

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Tuesday said violence in the name of religion cannot be tolerated in 21st-century India and the coming generations will have to bear the consequences if people do not unite against such divisive elements.

"What is going on in some parts of Haryana or what the RPF constable did are like giving a deep wound on mother India's heart," he said.

Kharage said such incidents raise serious questions on the "weak" law and order situation and our "weak" constitutional institutions.

He appealed for peace and demanded strictest punishment for the culprits.

"The violence being spread in the name of religion in 21st-century India is a blow to the foundation of our civilization - equality of all religions. This cannot be tolerated under



any circumstances," he said.

These days, the Congress chief said, "the trend of disintegration seen in the fabric of society is the result of spreading hatred in the society in the greed for power."

"Mixing the poison of animosity in

the public and making them fight with each other are like making fun of our Constitution," he said.

"If we do not unite and unitedly raise our voice against these divisive elements today, then the coming generations will have to bear its consequences."

... Leave hatred, unite India," Kharage said in a tweet in Hindi.

Four people were killed and several others injured in Nuh following violence that erupted over an attempt to stop a VHP procession on Monday. A mosque was set ablaze in Sector 57 area of Gurugram early morning on Tuesday, leading to the death of an Imam.

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said someone who wanted to disturb peace in the state "engineered" the violence in Nuh, where curfew has been clamped.

# NIA Court Declares 6 Gangster-Turned-Terror Operatives Proclaimed Offenders

NEW DELHI : A special NIA court here has declared six 'gangster-turned-terrorist mafia operatives', based out of Canada and Pakistan, proclaimed offenders, an official of the federal agency said on Tuesday.

The six accused are: Canada-based Arshdeep Singh alias Arch Dala, Ramandeep Singh alias Raman Judge, Lakshbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa, and Pakistan-based Harvinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda, Lakshbir Singh Rode, and Wadhawa Singh Babbar, the official said.

The NIA on July 22 filed a charge sheet against nine accused, including Dala, Landa, and Rinda, in a case registered suo motu on August 20 last year.

The case relates to terror activities of proscribed pro-Khalistan terrorist organisations such as Khalistan Liberation Force, Babbar Khalsa International, and International Sikh Youth Federation.

According to NIA, they along with other operatives of terror outfits and organised criminal gangs active in

various parts of the country were engaged in smuggling terrorist hardware, including arms, ammunition, explosives, and custom-made ready-to-use IEDs, and other types of contraband, including drugs, from across the border.

The official said investigations have revealed that the accused had entered into a criminal conspiracy to smuggle terrorist hardware across international borders for use by their associates in carrying out terrorist acts in the Indian territory.

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

## SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2<sup>ND</sup> CALL)

NIT No. 20 of 2023-24 dtd. 31-07-2023  
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K (UT), Short term Quotations affixed with Revenue Stamp of Rs. 10/- only are hereby invited from the Govt. Approved Firms/Agencies for printing/binding/supply of stationary on emergent basis as per the details given below. The sealed tender should reach in the office of the undersigned through registered post/ speed post/courier by or before 07-08-2023 upto 1600 Hrs. The envelope containing the quotation must be sealed and super scribed as "Tender for printing/binding/supply of stationary items".

S. No	Particulars	Complete Amount inclusive of Taxes/GST etc.
1	Printing/binding/supply of work register (25 sheets each register A3 size) as per our sample.	
2	Printing/binding/supply of work register (50 sheets each register A3 size) as per our sample.	
3	Printing/binding/supply of work register (100 sheets each register A3 size) as per our sample.	
4	Printing/binding/supply of indent books (50 pages triplicate) as per our sample	
5	Printing/binding/supply of GR Books (200 pages) as per our sample	
6	Printing/binding/supply of Price store ledger (500 pages) as per our sample	
7	Printing/binding/supply of Gate Pass (100 pages triplicate) as per our sample	
8	Printing/binding/supply of Bin Card (400 pages) as per our sample	

Last date for submission of Quotations: 07-08-2023 upto 1600 Hrs.  
Time of completion of Job: 15 days from the date of issue of supply order.

The tender shall be opened on 08-08-2023 by the committee constituted for the purpose in presence of the tenderer who may choose to remain present on that day.

- Terms and conditions:-
- The firm / Quotationer should have GST registration certificate.
  - The price bid should include all the taxes and accompanied with the GST registration certificate of the firm.
  - The interested party may seek information / detail of material to be retrieved from the division office on any working day.
  - Two percent GST if applicable shall be deducted by the department.
  - The accepting authority reserves the right of accepting or rejecting any or all short term inviting quotations without assigning any reasons.
  - The final payment authority is Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Udhampur.
  - The tenderer shall have to enclosed CDR/FDR of Rs. 5000/- duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) division Udhampur.
  - The stationary shall be delivered at Divisional office for which the transportation charges shall not be paid.
  - Rates are inclusive of all taxes and duties not extra will be paid.
  - In case of any substandard/defective stationary the same shall be replaced and no extra cost shall be paid.
  - The supply should be given within 15 days time from the date of supply order.
  - If the stationary is not supplied within the prescribed period, the supply order shall be treated as cancelled.
  - During transit any damaged caused to the stationary will be born by the firm and the same will be replaced.
  - The stationary shall be inspected by the representative of this office before lifting.
  - Paper to be used of standard quality.



# Varsity takes lead in holding this globally acclaimed competition

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 01: A globally acclaimed competition among researchers and academia popularly known as 3MT, Three-Minute Thesis Competition was held at Central University of Jammu wherein young researchers participated today.

The 3MT is evolving as one of the best practices of the Central University of Jammu as the Varsity has taken a lead in registering with the University of Queensland to organise 3MT which has been adopted by 200 universities across the globe. The 3MT is a global level competition which was developed by the University of Queensland, Australia with the objective of providing a platform to young researchers to present to effectively explain research in lan-



guage appropriate to a non-specialist audience in THREE MINUTES with only one PowerPoint slide.

Young enthusiastic researchers of Humanities and Social Sciences stream from Central University of Jammu and several other universities participated in the 3MT.

Around thirty young

researchers from different disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences had registered who were adjudicated by a panel of judges, Prof. Vijaylakshmi Brara, from The Royal Global University, Guwahati and Prof. Suparn Sharma, Dean, School of Business Studies, SMVD University. The first prize with a cash money of Rs 5,000 was won

by Abhigya Langeh NSS from CUJ, second with prize money of Rs 3000 was won by Shivalka Sharma, SBS, SMVDU and the Third prize with cash money of Rs. 1500/- was won by Surbhi Ghai, MBA(HR)from CUJ. In addition to that, the consolation prize was won by Karuna DOE, CUJ, Mridul, DOE, CUJ and Suhail, Social work, CUJ

In her address, Prof. Vijaylakshmi Brara appreciated the nature and level of competition and gave pertinent suggestions to 3MT presenters besides appreciating their commendable effort. Prof. Suparn Sharma observed the level of understanding of scholars and praised the growing research ecosystem of the university. Prof. Deepak Pathania, Dean Research shared the impetus given to research and introduction of Indian

Knowledge Systems as mandatory courses at all levels in the university. In his address, the Registrar, Prof. Yashwant Singh highlighted how CUJ has been granted prestigious projects by various funding agencies and 3 MT is a right step to enhance research competence of scholars as envisioned by the Vice Chancellor.

In the introductory remarks, Prof. Vandana Sharma Dean, School of Languages and Convener of CUJ 3 MT gave an overview of the history, genesis and objective of 3 MT and stated that 3 MT is evolving under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain who is making all possible effort to develop robust research ecosystem in CUJ. Dr. Vinay Kumar presented the vote of thanks.

# Commissioner STD inaugurates fortnight celebrations on 'Meri Mati Mera Desh'

JJ NEWS SERVICE



SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: Commissioner State Taxes Department (STD), Dr. Rashmi Singh today inaugurated fortnight celebrations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the theme 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' as part of 76th Independence Day celebrations at Excise and Taxation Complex, Solina here.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool Yattoo; DC Enforcement (Central), Farvaiz Ahmad Raina, DC Appeals, DC Recovery, Assistant Commissioners, State Taxes Officers and other staff members of the department were also present on the occasion.

Speaking during the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Rashmi Singh highlighted the significance of Independence Day, and encouraged officials to actively participate in the various cultural, social, and educational activities planned for the celebrations on day to day basis.

The fortnight programme of STD aims to commemorate the 76th Independence day and foster a spirit of unity and patriotism among the citizens during which the department will hold various activities. These activities include Swachhta Abhiyan, Restoration Drive at Doodhghana, cleanliness drive at Nilnag, CSI awareness drive, skit on the theme 'Impact of haphazard mining and Brick Kilns on people's lives and loss of tax revenue as a result', selfie with Tiranga, plantation drive (Vriksharopan Abhiyan), seminar on the issue of sustainable development and, photo exhibition on the theme 'Growing Sustainably, Taxing Responsibly- Kartavya, and other related events.

# DHEW-Mission Shakti Kishtwar organises awareness programme

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 01: The District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, under the aegis of Social Welfare Department organised an awareness programme in the Paramedical Nursing College Indira Nagar Kishtwar. The DHEW members explained about Women Empowerment, fostering Gender equality, Financial literacy, Women Helpline (181) and various Women Welfare Schemes and others.

The participating women were asked to strive for their empowerment and autonomy by becoming a part of the political, social and economic system. "Improvement in the status of women also enhances their decision-making capacity in all spheres of life. There is an immense need to promote the fulfillment of women's potential through education, skill development and employment, giving paramount importance to the elimination of poverty, illiteracy and ill health through laws, regulations and other appropriate measures. Eliminating violence against Women, Eliminating discriminatory practices by employers against women are important areas to be addressed" the speakers said.

# Inter Zonal District Level Tournament Showcases Promising Talent in District Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 01: The ongoing Inter Zonal District Level Tournament has witnessed an impressive display of skill and sportsmanship by the participating student players.

The competition features competitions for Under 17 Girls Category, with participants showcasing excellent expertise in the disciplines of different Games. In addition, exciting matches in the disciplines of Chess, Carrom and Yoga are also being held. The matches took place at Govt. HSS Girls Kishtwar.

The presence of officials from the Youth Services and Sports District Kishtwar added to the prestige of the event.

The tournament saw an impressive turnout, with a total of 50 students from different Zones of the District Kishtwar enthusiastically participating in the event. Their enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and dedication were evident throughout the matches.

The Inter Zonal District Level Tournament in District Kishtwar serves as a platform to nurture young talent, encouraging them to excel in their chosen disciplines. It promotes values such as teamwork, discipline, and resilience, fostering holistic development among the participants.

The winners in the U/17 Girls Carrom is Kishtwar zone, in Yoga is Padder zone, in Chess is Padder zone.

# GDC Vijaypur organises awareness activities under Nasha Mukh Bharat Campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, AUGUST 01: NSS Unit (Khidmat) of Government Degree College, Vijaypur, in collaboration with Red Ribbon Club of the college, today organised a series of awareness events under the umbrella of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, Mission LIFE and G20 in the College campus.

The College Principal, Dr. Vandana Gupta briefed the students, teachers and other staff about creating awareness about the hazardous consequences of substance abuse. She also administered an anti-drug pledge to the students and staff members i.e. "To fully stand with the Government in its fight against the usage, consumption and manufacturing of illegal narcotic substances and to contribute with utmost dedication towards the growth of Jammu and Kashmir and welfare of its people." A documentary was also screened on the occasion to highlight the importance of treating people (who use drugs) with dignity and respect and of preventing use of drugs through education and awareness-raising.

# JKAACL sub-office hosts literary, cultural & folk festival at Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, AUGUST 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Sub-office Rajouri hosted a one-day literary and cultural folk festival at GGHSS Surankote. The event was witnessed by more than 500 girl students and prominent citizens. The event was presided over by the School Principal, Mukhtar Manhas, who commended the organizers for promoting the rich cultural heritage of the region. The festival was a stunning display of the talent and artistry of local and out-of-town artists, who mesmerized the audience with their enchanting folk dances and music.

The performers included renowned artists such as Gulnaz Choudhan, Rasmeem Singh, Subhash Dutt, Mohammad Rafi, Lijakati, Ayaz Saif, Trishant Kartar, Sanjeev Kumar, Khurshheed Rather, and Shahban Parveen and party.

The Chief Guest lauded the efforts of Secretary Cultural Academy, Bharat Singh Manhas, whose tireless efforts made the festival a possibility. The festival provided a vibrant platform to the artists to showcase their talent and celebrate the rich cultural traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. The event was a testament to the Academy's commitment to preserving and promoting the region's cultural heritage for future generations.

Cultural Officer Sanjeev Gupta organized the festival under the supervision of Amjad Manhas, Accountant at the sub-office Rajouri.

# DDC Ganderbal reviews progress of FPO formation in district

Directs for guiding FPO's towards formation of sustainable entities

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 01: A District Monitoring Committee (DMC) meeting held under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyamir discussed the progress of the FPO formation under Central Sector Scheme on formation and promotion of 1000 FPO's.

Junaid Ahmad Hakim, DDM NABARD who is the Member Secretary of the committee briefed the forum about formation of five FPO's in the district by implementing agencies viz. SFAC, NABARD and NAFED. It was revealed that out of five FPOs, four are of farmers associated with horticulture products and one is of promotion of vegetables in the district.

The DDC directed all the line departments and CBOs to take active part in guiding these FPOs towards formation of sustainable entities.

He directed to take a holistic view of the problems being faced by the farmers and suggest the best practicable manner for the FPO's sustainability for a longer period. He further directed the FPO members who were present to take advantage of different Govt. Schemes and register with the departments for ranging benefits under HADP. The DDC directed the agencies to arrange for buyer - seller meets and explore the potential of different online and offline platforms for better revenue generation for the FPOs. The meeting was attended by DDM NABARD, LDM, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, line departments, CBO's, farmers, CEO's, members from the FPOs and other concerned.

# Secretary Health visits Udhampur, inspects works on ongoing projects

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 01: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar today conducted extensive tour of district Udhampur and took stock of works on major ongoing projects of the district including construction of new Government Medical College here.

The Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Director Coordination new Medical Colleges, Joint Director Planning, H&ME, Chief Medical Officer besides officers of executing agencies during the visit.

Bhupinder Kumar, during the tour, visited construction sites of 200 bedded district hospital, make shift building of GMC Udhampur, as well the library and took first hand appraisal of all the ongoing works there.

He directed the concerned executing agencies for expediting pace of works on these projects and complete them in a time bound manner by way of deploying additional manpower and increasing number of shifts at the construction sites. The Secretary also



monitored Principal GMC Udhampur to direct the progress and regularly review these projects to ensure their smooth and seamless completion. He also emphasized to ensure that the makeshift college building of GMC is completed as per the given timeline of 15th August in all respect so that the college is ready to receive 1st batch of MBBS students in September.

Later, Secretary, Health also chaired a meeting with officers and faculty members of GMC Udhampur and stressed upon them to render their services with utmost care, compassion and professional integrity, keeping

patient care at the core. He impressed upon the medical fraternity for improving public service delivery through various schemes and leveraging the latest online initiatives of Health and Medical Education Department. In the meanwhile, Bhupinder Kumar also visited the construction site of Boys Hostel building and inspected the ongoing pace of work. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the progress on work for timely completion of the residential accommodations with decent facilities so that the students are facilitated.

# Deputy Commissioner flags off District Red Run Marathon from GDC Samba

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, AUGUST 01: The Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba, in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society, Department of Health and Medical Education, today organised a District Level Marathon as part of the Youth Fest, Red Ribbon Run Activity-2023.

The Marathon was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma in the presence of Special In-charge, SSP, Benam Tosh.

The College Principal, Dr. Twinkle Suri warmly welcomed the Deputy Commissioner, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She congratulated the students for their enthusiastic participation and emphasized that the short run aimed to encourage a healthy lifestyle and physical activity among the



youth. Dr. Suri acknowledged the unwavering support of the Police Department in ensuring the safety and security of the students during the event. Speaking at the event, the DC expressed that the Red Run Marathon marked the commencement of month-long Independence Day celebrations under the AKAM initiative, Meri Mati Mera Desh, which aims to honor freedom fighters and martyrs at all levels right from the Panchayat level. He

highlighted the importance of self-improvement practices like yoga and sports in promoting the physical, social, ethical, and spiritual well-being of students. Mr. Sharma congratulated the college administration for organizing the Marathon, promoting positive lifestyle changes in the community. He distributed certificates of participation to the runners and praised the winners and organizers for their dedication to the noble cause. The event witnessed

enthusiastic participation from all 05 Govt Degree Colleges of District Samba, including Vijaypur, Ramgarh, Samba, and Ghagwal.

A total of 100 participants, with 20 students from each college accompanied by Red Ribbon Club Convenors, ran a 2 Km marathon, starting from GDC Samba and concluding at Shah Balour, Mansar Road. District Youth Services and Sports Department jury members selected the top 25 runners to represent District Samba at the final UT level, Youth-Fest Red Run Marathon in Jammu, aimed at generating HIV/AIDS awareness among youth. During the culmination of the Marathon, the jury members from the Department of Youth Services and Sports were honored with trophies by the Principal of the College, appreciating their expert services for the event.

# DM Rajouri discusses defence land issues with Army and Revenue officers

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, AUGUST 01: District Magistrate Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a joint meeting of revenue and Army officers to address various issues related to defence land, acquisition, de-acquisition of immovable property, attestation of mutations and rental issues.

The meeting was held to ensure coordination between the Defence and revenue officers and to resolve minor issues. Vikas Kundal stressed the importance of coordi-



nation among the officers to achieve maximum results and address for holding regular meetings of revenue officers, ADEO office, and Military officers to

address minor issues effectively. The joint verification of land by civil and military authorities was also discussed, emphasizing the need for accurate and transparent

processes. The officials also discussed the attestation of mutations and the meeting aimed to find solutions to streamline the process. Regarding the demarcation of land, the revenue officers were directed to complete the pending demarcations of the earliest. The meeting was highly productive, with both revenue and Army officers collaborating to find solutions to the issues related to defence land. The District Magistrate highlighted the importance of timely resolution of issues to avoid any delays. The meeting

was a positive step towards efficient management of defence land and ensuring that the rights and interests of all parties involved are protected.

The meeting was attended by the concerned officers from Defence Forces including Colonel HQ 25 DIV, Rajeev Singh, Administrative Commandant for Station Commander, Rajesh Faudzar; ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ACR, Inman Rashid Kataria; EXEN PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan; ADEO and Tehsilars.