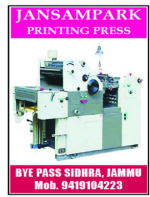




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DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 10 | ISSUE NO: 180 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

NIA raids Five places Kashmir in terror conspiracy case

J1 NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUG 4

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted raids at five places in Kashmir on Friday in a terror conspiracy case, officials said.

These raids are going on in several districts in the valley.

Officials said the raids are part of the ongoing investigation into a terror conspiracy case registered in 2022 in Jammu.

"Searches are underway in five locations in RC 5/2022/JMU," they said.

The case relates to the hatching of a conspiracy, both in physical and cyberspace, and plans by the proscribed terrorist organisations to unleash violent terrorist attacks in J&K with sticky bombs, IEDs, and small arms.

The plans are part of a larger conspiracy by these terrorist outfits to commit acts of terror and violence, in association with local youth and underground workers, to disturb peace and communal disharmony in J&K.

Protests, Hartals a history, some people trying to reverse normalcy in J&K: LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE KUPWARA, AUG 4

Stating that the new era has already begun in Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday said that the days of Hartals, street violence, and protests have come to an end now that the thousands of youth are getting inclined towards sports activities. He said that some people are trying to reverse the normalcy in J&K.

The LG stated this during the inauguration of Multipurpose Indoor Stadium Hall at Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Officers including ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez, DIG North Kashmir DC Kupwara and other officials from security and administration were present at the inaugural ceremony. DDC Chairperson Kupwara was also present



at the venue besides other PRI members. Addressing the gathering, the LG, as per news agency said that he is happy to inaugurate the stadium Hall. He appreciated the sports department. "Long pending demand of residents has been fulfilled. It will help youth towards new elevations in the field of sports. They will get a chance to showcase their talent in national & International platforms," the LG said.

The LG said that people of the entire Kupwara district have always been very supportive in every aspect. After the Multipurpose indoor stadium the LG also inaugurated various developmental projects of Kupwara district.

He said that the J&K UT is on new heights in sports. "Number of new projects have been already inaugurated in the region. 16 indoor sports halls have already been thrown open for the people. From each Panchayat infrastructure is being developed. Mentoring & hand-handling of players being done for their good. Five more sports indoor halls will be completed in the region very soon," the LG said.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations on Aug 6

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, AUG 4

In a historic initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the length and breadth of the country on 6th August at 11 AM via video conferencing.

As per an official communiqué issued to the news agency, Prime Minister has often laid stress on provision of state-of-the-art public transport.

Noting that Railways is the preferred mode of transport of people across the country, he has emphasised on the importance of providing world class amenities at railway stations.

Guided by this vision, the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme was launched to redevelop 1309 stations across the country.

As part of this scheme, the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 stations is being laid by the Prime Minister. These stations will be redeveloped at a cost of

3 terrorist associates of TRF arrested in Srinagar: Police

J1 NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUG 4

Srinagar Police on Friday said it arrested three terrorist associates linked with proscribed terror outfit TRF in Natipora area of Srinagar.

According to a statement, issued to the news agency, acting on specific intelligence, a small team of Srinagar police arrested three terrorist associates linked with proscribed terrorist outfit TRF.



They have been identified as Imran Ahmad Najjar, Najar resident of Bulbul Bagh Baramulla, Waseem son of Late Abdul Rehman

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After record-break rainfall in July, J&K to witness hot & dry weather till Aug 10

J1 NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUG 4

After record-breaking rainfall in the month of July, the weatherman here has predicted hot and dry weather in Jammu & Kashmir till August 10, saying that there is no forecast of any major rainfall this week.

Director Meteorological department, Sonum Lotus told the news agency, the weather would remain

mainly hot and dry till August 05 and 06.

He said that amid the hot & dry weather conditions, there is a possibility of rain at isolated to scattered places of Jammu & Kashmir towards late afternoon and evening.

However, Lotus said that the weather would remain mainly dry between August 07-August 10 as there is no forecast of any major rainfall this week.

Pertinently, the forecast of hot and dry weather comes after a record-break rainfall in the month of July as due to the frequent wet spells last month, Srinagar—the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir has broken all previous records as for the first time since 1891, the station received a precipitation of 187.2 mm.

Moreover, as per the details available, J&K is

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Amarnath Yatra: Fresh batch of 1181 pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, AUG 4

A fresh batch of 1181 pilgrims amidst the chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole' on Friday left from Bhagwati Nagar Base camp here for Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

An official said that 1181 pilgrims left the base camp in a convoy of 46 vehicles.

A group of 706 pilgrims comprising 570 males, 95 females, 35 Sadhus and six sadhvis left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 24 vehicles.

For Baltal, 475 pilgrims comprising 327 males and 138 females and ten children left in a convoy of 22 vehicles amid tight security arrangements.

The yatra started on July 1 will conclude on August 31.

BRO reconnects 150-meter breach on Budhal-Mahore-Gul road in 5 days

J1 NEWS SERVICE REASI, AUG 4

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) IORCC/31 BRTE/Project SAMPARK effectively reconnected a 150-meter breach on the crucial Budhal-Mahore-Gul Road.

The road, which holds significant importance for the Mahore subdivision of Reasi district



in Jammu and Kashmir, has been restored by the BRO in a matter of five days, officials said.

The crucial Budhal-Mahore-Gul Road serves as a vital link between the districts of Rajouri, Reasi, and Ramban, they said.

Earlier in July, Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44)

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Dr Jitendra introduces landmark 'national research foundation' bill titled 'Anusandhan'

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, AUG 4

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today introduced a landmark Bill in the Lok Sabha to establish "National Research Foundation"

to be known by the title "Anusandhan National Research Foundation".

Introducing the Bill, Dr Jitendra Singh said, when passed by Parliament the Act will provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture.



will also promote scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

It may be recalled that on 28th June, 2023 the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in the Parliament. The approved Bill will pave

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Give unhindered access to fruit laden trucks: Chief Secy

J1 NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUG 4

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today stressed on the officers of the Agriculture Production Department to plan well ahead of the fruit season for giving unhindered access to the fruit laden trucks on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

ing in a meeting called to review the overall implementation of schemes in Horticulture sector in J&K. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, APD; Director Horticulture Kashmir/Jammu; MD, Horticulture Planning & Marketing besides other officers of the Department.

Dr Mehta maintained that shortly the horticultural produce is ripening



and needs to be moved to mandis outside. He directed the concerned to plan well ahead in coordination with the Traffic authority so that this perishable crop reaches timely to its markets.

The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon them to assist the farmers in fetching good price for their produce. He also asked for looking into the issue of fixing genuine freight for transportation of the cash crop.

He called on them to follow evidence based decision making for producing the better outcome. He asked them to strategize for several years and follow it up till set objectives are not met.

The Chief Secretary emphasized on replacing the traditional senile varieties of fruit trees with the new High Density (HD) plant varieties which bears multiple times more crop than the traditional ones.

He advised the Department to visit the farmers and demonstrate to them about the benefits of adopting these novel varieties of fruit trees so

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1.68 lakh minors among 13.5 drug users in J&K: Parliamentary panel

'Opioid mostly used; govt taking a slew of measures to tackle drug menace'

J1 NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUG 4

Around 13.5 lakh people in J&K and Kashmir consume drugs, with over 5 lakh addicts using opioids, a parliamentary panel report has revealed.

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment report titled 'Drug abuse among young persons: Problems and solutions', a copy of which lies with the news agency, reveals that around 1,68,700 children of 10-17 year age group are drug users in Jammu & Kashmir and among them, around 95,000

are Opioid users. As per the report, among 1,68,700 minor drug abusers, 8,000 are using cannabis, 95,000 opioids, 19,000 sedatives, 100 cocaine, 400 Amphetamine Stimulants, 46,000 inhalants and 200 Halucinogens.

The report states that 11,80,000 adults of the 18-75 age group are drug abusers and among them, 3,54,000 are using alcohol, 1,36,000 cannabis, 4,47,000 Opioids, 1,51,000 sedatives, 89,000 inhalants and 1000 each of Cocaine, stimulant and Halucinogens.

The parliamentary committee in the report mentioned that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment commissioned a comprehensive survey in 2018 by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) AIIMS, and on the basis of the survey a comprehensive Scheme, National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) was formulated for 2018-25 to tackle the drug menace in the country.

As per the survey, about 16

crore of the Indian population between 10 and 75 years (14.6%) of age uses alcohol. "At the national level, there are as many as 19% of the current users of alcohol who consume alcohol in a dependent pattern. 20 lakhs juveniles below the age of 17 consume cannabis and about 2.26

crore individuals (2.1% of the country's population) use opioids which include opium (or variants like poppy husk, heroin, smack or brown sugar and various pharmaceutical opioids)," the report mentions.

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It further states that NAPDDR merged with it the erstwhile scheme namely Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Projects and Components with a view to streamlining the process of implementation in a focused manner.

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"The objectives of the scheme are to create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of drugs abuse on the individual, family, workplace and the society at large and reduce stigmatization of and discrimination against, groups and individuals dependent on drugs in order to integrate them back into society, develop human resources and build capacity for working towards these objectives, facilitate research, training, documen-

tation, innovation and collection of relevant information, provide for a whole range of community based services for the identification, motivation, counselling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation for Whole Person Recovery (WPR) of addicts, formulate and implement comprehensive guidelines, schemes, and programmes using a multi-agency approach for drug demand reduction, undertake drug demand reduction efforts to address all forms of drug abuse, alleviate the consequences of drug

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Modi govt did justice with all sections in J&K: Ravinder Raina



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held an organizational meeting at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu to discuss the forthcoming party programmes and work strategy in Jammu & Kashmir.

Ravinder Raina, President J&K BJP, Ashish Sood, Seh-Prabhar J&K BJP and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Org), chiefly addressed the meeting. Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, former Minister Sat Sharma, General Secretaries Sunil Sharma, Adv. Vibodh Gupta and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal also addressed the meeting.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the meeting, asked all the senior party leaders to hold widespread public outreach programmes. He asked all the party leaders to extensively work in general masses prompting them to be acquainted with their needs, hence, effectively addressing their genuine issues and rights, which were neglected by previous governments.

"In these 9 years, Modi government did justice with all the sections in J&K including Gujarat, Bakkarwal, Paharis, refugees, displaced persons, Valmikis, STs, women, SCs, OBCs, Gorkhas, etc and will ensure that no injustice is met with anyone anymore."

Raina said,

Ashish Sood said that BJP is the only truly democratic party in the country which years to serve the needy population of the nation without any prejudice. He maintained that the firm and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds promise for the people to live with honour and dignity and no one in Jammu & Kashmir will have any complaint in future for being discriminated against. Ashok Koul said that the BJP follows the basic ideas of rich cultural heritage, vibrant democracy and technological advancement, which is seeded in the minds of every nationalist Indian. He said that the party follows the work cul-

ture of full-time devotion with absolute sincerity and round-the-clock dedication to work for the needy persons. He discussed the future programmes with the senior party leaders and asked them to hold all these programmes within the general masses.

Kavinder Gupta spoke on the upcoming ULB elections and discussed particular points related.

Sat Sharma emphasized on further strengthening the organizational structure at the booth level.

Sunil Sharma spoke on the Panchayati elections emphasizing various steps related to preparation.

Vibodh Gupta spoke on the benefits decisions of Modi government related to P&K refugees, Paharis, Gujjar, Bakkarwals etc.

Dr. Devinder Manyal discussed the overview of the party's roadmap for upcoming elections.

J&K BJP Office Bearers, former Ministers, former MLAs, Morcha Presidents, district Prabharris, district Presidents, and other senior leaders participated in the meeting.

Safeguarding Intellectual property is crucial for every business success: Rahul Sahai



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: PPHDCI Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PPHDCI) in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME organized the First Steering Committee Meeting in Jammu to discuss the calendar of events to be organized for promotion of Intellectual Property Rights in J&K and also to educate MSMEs about the importance and benefits of IP. It was underlined that IP has acquired unprecedented importance, and issues relating to the generation, evaluation, protection, and exploitation of IP systems

have become crucial for the success of MSMEs. IPRs especially protect brands, inventions, designs, creative, and literary works from being copied and commercially exploited by third parties. Speaking on the occasion, Shri G Velladurai, Joint Director, H.O, MSME-DFO, Jammu appreciated the initiative taken by PPHDCI Chamber of Commerce and Industry to assist industry members in protecting their Intellectual Property. He mentioned IPR is a very important topic for industry as Innovation is a significant criteria for Industrialists now from Economic and commercial point of view.

In his welcome remarks, Mr Rahul Sahai highlighted the services of PPHDCI IPFC Jammu & Kashmir in order to popularize the IP services among MSMEs and Start-ups in Jammu & Kashmir and encourage them for filing of IP rights. He further apprised about the importance of IP for MSMEs and Start-ups to be ahead in the competition. He also highlighted how IPRs help MSMEs to sustain themselves in business and compete with big players. Further, he mentioned that the I&K region has a lot of potential for Geographical Indications like R S Pura Basmati Rice , Basoli & Kashmir Fashmina Shawls, Basoli paintings , Hand-Knotted Carpets , Saffron etc. Some have been given GI but many more are yet to be identified for GI certification in the region and PPHDCI IPFC Centre will certainly play an important role in this regard. PPHDCI J & K IPFC will work with all stakeholders concerned in this area as well as State Govt .

O P Sharma Director JKCCA felicitated at HEM Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, AUG 4: A National Painters' Camp organized by Himalayan Education Mission, Rajouri in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu under the inspiring banner of Nasha Mukti Abhiyan was inaugurated at Himalayan College Campus, Rajouri. Sh. Vikas Kundal IAS, District Development Commissioner, Rajouri was the chief guest on this occasion. Sh. Rajeev Kumar Khajuria JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri was the guest of honour of the function.

Renowned artist & Director JKCCA O P Sharma was felicitated by Sh. Vikas Kundal IAS, District Development Commissioner, Rajouri for his outstanding contribution for the development of art, culture & literature.

Well known artists from different states and UTs, viz: Jang S Verma, O P Sharma, Ashok Mehra and Adep Bhogul, Jammu, Prof. Saroj Rani and Virendra Kumar Verma, Varanasi, Atul Mattu, Amritsar, Ashvine Vidhate Bhopal, Tariq Saifi, Umar Hasan and Shahzaib Qayoom Surankot are participating in this camp. A large number of intellectuals, writers, artists, teachers and students



attended the programme.

While speaking on this occasion Sh. Vikas Kundal appreciated the role of Himalayan Education Mission and JK& Centre for Creative Arts for organizing National Painters' Camp at Rajouri. He hoped that the camp will provide an opportunity to the students of various schools and colleges to interact with the artists working in different styles & techniques. He hoped that HEM & JKCCA will organize such more events in future to take the youth towards creative activity and get them away from drugs. Sh. Rajeev Kumar Khajuria also expressed his views on this occasion.

Chairman Himalayan Education Mission Sh. Muslim Wani in his address said that HEM is always eager to work for the wellness of the youth

and engage them in creative activities. He added that HEM is ever prepared to organize cultural, literary and art events with JKCCA, which would help in keeping the youth getting rid of drug addiction and such other ill habits, and engage them in the productive activities.

Director JKCCA O P Sharma while expressing his views said that JKCCA is working for the development, promotion and propagation of art, culture & literature in the Union Territory of J&K. He added that JKCCA has organized hundreds of activities in the field of art, culture & languages at state, national and international level. He assured that JKCCA will continue its endeavours in future also under the dynamic leadership of Pt. Kewal K Sharma, President JKCCA.

DFSS hold protest against Kashmiri Leader's demand for reinstatement of Art 370

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta took out a massive protest rally in Jammu city against the Kashmiri leaders demand for reinstatement of article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir.

The party workers raised slogans against the Kashmiri leaders and called them out for their hypocrite behaviour. A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud is listening to the petition filed by Kashmiri leaders on article 370.

Party president Ashok Gupta stated that when article 370 was in place the Supreme Court had no power in the erstwhile state and of the court had to be implemented it has to be passed by the legislative assembly of Jammu & Kashmir as per the whims & fancies and now as per the suitability they are running to Supreme



Court for the change of decision which shows that hypocrisy. He further stated that with the return of article 370 they want terrorism, stone pelting, markets closing down, people getting killed to be returned to the valley. He said that Kashmiri leaders want the era of injustice with Jammu and Dogras to return as during the 370 era Jammu was always give on the step mother behaviour. Ashok Gupta laid emphasis on the fact that the NC, Accelerated pace of development passed a bill the J&K

resettlement bill which allowed the Pakistanis to come back and claim their property in Jammu & Kashmir which was a great security threat to the state and country. Article 370 was the root cause of secessionism, terrorism, nepotism, discrimination & corruption and kept J&K underdeveloped. Three years after breaking from the past, it is moving forward on a new development journey.

economic parameters, unprecedented progress in all priority sectors, massive tourist influx, and industrial investment is the testimony of peaceful and prosperous Jammu Kashmir. Holistic development of J&K is taking place and Kashmiri leaders want to take back in the cavern era. The party people who were present at the time of protest were Abhishek, Ramesh, Rahul, Sandhya, Sushil, Lovely, Vikky, Bhola, Naresh and various others were present.

IIM Jammu Meets Local Entrepreneur - Sanchaita @ Shilpkari Bazaar



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: The IIM Jammu Foundation for Entrepreneurship Innovation & Skill Development under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu hosted the serial event INSPIRE: Meet Your Local Entrepreneurs on August 4, 2023, at the Canal Road Campus. The event featured Ms. Sanchaita Khajuria, a women entrepreneur who shared her story of success, determination, and passion without fear.

The show was managed entirely by the student body of IIM Jammu viz. Entrepreneurship Development Cell where the students had the unique

opportunity to hear firsthand the inspiring story of the entrepreneur. She shared her entrepreneurial journey from wild-life tourism at Delhi to the handicrafts of Jammu through the turmoil of COVID. Being from Orissa and married into a Dogra family she built her business three years ago on the art forms of the small town of Basohli in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

She eloquently recounted her challenges, triumphs, and the pivotal role of courage in shaping her journey to explore and preserve the culture and heritage of J&K. She shared how she worked at small organizations before embarking on her current entrepre-

neurial journey as the founder of Shilpkari Bazaar, a startup that focuses on manufacturing and repositioning local arts and crafts of India for the next generation.

Through candid conversations, she emphasized that persistence is the driving force that enables individuals to pursue their dreams, even in the face of fear and uncertainty. She urged students to instill qualities such as risk-taking and resilience in their paths to success.

The fireside session was conducted by Dr Niti Shekar, faculty, IIM Jammu & the event witnessed the presence of Dr Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu. The session was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where participants enthusiastically interacted with the speaker. Students were eager to seek advice, guidance, and practical tips to excel in their entrepreneurial endeavours.

Ms. Sanchaita Khajuria graciously shared her insights, leaving the audience with valuable knowledge and a renewed sense of determination. This was the first of the series of interactions planned by the IIM Jammu student body EDC, under the aegis of IIMJ-FEISD.

Rail, road connectivity by 2024 will transform J&K into economic hub: Raman Suri

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said that rail and road connectivity of J&K with rest of India, the work on which is going on at full swing, once completed by 2024 will transform our Union Territory (UT) into North India's major economic hub thereby giving people enough trade and commerce opportunities.

Raman Suri said that the remaining work on Rail project that will connect Kashmir with rest of India is likely to be completed by 2024 and similarly, the work on expressway connecting Katra with Delhi is also likely to be completed by the same year. On this rail link, there are about 60 tunnels that are going to make rail journey enthralling as well as memorable for the commuters besides tourists that through the Valley throughout the year.

These massive infrastructures are going to pave way for business and trading community besides other IT companies dwelling here. Since both, the Union government as well as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's administration, are laying emphasis on building massive infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the same will serve the purpose of enabling companies descend here to give employment as well as create multiple business



opportunities for our youth.

Raman Suri added that in just two years' time, Jammu and Kashmir will be well-connected with the rest of India and in the given situation, it will become easy for companies to establish their offices here.

Many business houses have already planned to open their outlets in

Srinagar as well as in Jammu which are going to enable our economy grow in multidimensional directions for years to come.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those in Srinagar and border areas of Jammu region have faced a lot. They have seen death and destruction during NC, PDP and Congress rules. But gone are those days and now Jammu and Kashmir is writing a new chapter of its history where young boys and girls are contributing in nation building and staying away from politics of separatism or hatred.

Political parties like Congress, PDP and NC had pushed the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into a dark era where there was no development, no employment, no startup companies, no economic growth, and a fear psychosis had gripped the entire state.

Cricket Tournament organised in Poonch under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

POONCH, AUGUST 04: Two matches were played in the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Cricket Tournament here today at Sports Stadium Poonch. In the 1st match Surankote zone beat Sathra zone by 22 runs. Bating first Surankote Zone scored 149/4. Chasing the target Sathra zone scored 127/6. For Surankote Irfan and Farhan took two wickets each. In the second match Kanujan zone out played Buffiaz Zone by 61 runs. Kanujan zone set a target of 135 where Buffiaz zone bundled out for 74 runs. The tournament is being organised by District Administration Poonch in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Poonch.

School of Biotechnology, JU organizes a Special Session under, "Har GharDhyan"



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: The School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu, today organized a special lecture under, "Har GharDhyan," campaign launched by UGC as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India in collaboration with Art of Living Foundation, Jammu. This initiative of the Government is highly appreciable since incorporating meditation into daily routine can be beneficial for maintaining good mental health and overall well-being. The resource person for the event was, Prof. Rajan Salalia, Chief Scientist at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and Coordinator (SITC) Art of Living, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He presented a special interactive session cum workshop on, "Meditation and Mental Health." During the lecture, Prof. Rajan Salalia emphasized the importance of maintaining a blend of childlike innocence and adult-like intelligence. Drawing insights from

ancient scriptures, he discussed different types of learning and demonstrated the significance of mindful listening in enhancing concentration and focus. The audience, consisting of faculty members, students, and research scholars from the School of Biotechnology and other departments of the University, was also introduced to desktop yoga exercises, including eye and super brain yoga, aimed at expanding intellectual capacity, memory and concentration. A 20-minute meditation session along with pranayama was conducted by Prof. Rajan, wherein he discussed the rules of meditation and encouraged the audience to incorporate meditation into their daily routine. He emphasized how meditation brings peace, helps in balancing stress and emotions, and its positive impact on mental health. Furthermore, Prof. Rajan Salalia discussed the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to promote the importance of meditation among the public and urged the participants to register for the Har GharDhyan campaign to enjoy the benefits of meditation.

BJP alone capable of fulfilling aspirations of general public in J&K: Kavinder Gupta



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, today emphasized that the BJP is uniquely poised to fulfill the aspirations of the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

He was speaking while addressing the meeting of party workers of Bahu Constituency at Party headquarters in Jammu. The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Rekha Mahajan, District President of Jammu Women Wing and Incharge of Bahu Constituency.

Mayor Rajinder Sharma, Deputy Mayor Baldev Billawara, former minister Priya Sethi and Ayodhya Gupta shared the dais.

Kavinder articulated the pivotal role that grassroots party workers play in ensuring a resounding victory for the BJP in the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

He hailed them as the party's esteemed ambassadors, entrusted with the task of galvanizing public support and championing the BJP's cause at the grassroots level.

Highlighting the signifi-

cance of BJP's success in the imminent elections, Kavinder underscored that the party alone possesses the potential to satisfy the long-held aspirations of the people.

He contended that the party's triumph is not only desirable but essential for the realization of these aspirations in the forthcoming elections.

Kavinder emphasized the significantly improved situation following the abrogation of Article 370 in J&K, highlighting how every section of society is now benefiting from central sponsored schemes without any

discrimination which they faced in the last more than 70 years.

The senior BJP leader informed party workers about the launch of a new campaign on the fourth anniversary of the Abrogation of Article 370, commencing on August 5 and concluding on December 25th, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday.

Urging dedicated efforts, Kavinder called upon party workers to effectively propagate the party's policies and programs at the grassroots level during the period of August 5 to December 25, ensuring the triumph of the BJP in the upcoming polls in J&K.

Among those who were present included Amrathia Charak, Shaileja Gupta, Anshu Gupta, Narinder Koki, Bharat Bhushan, Lucky Puri, Pushpinder Charak, Akash Chopra, Vivek Patyal, Rahul Kumar, Ajay Gupta, Anil Kumar, Rohin Chandan, Sharda Devi, Shalu Gupta, Pummy Choudhary, Raj Kumar, Nayan Khosla, Indu Puri, Rachit Gupta.

Congress hold protest against pre-paid smart meter system, unprecedented price rise

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: Congress today held a massive protest demonstration over the pre-paid smart meter system, unprecedented price rise, record unemployment and property tax, besides seeking restoration of statehood and political rights besides holding early assembly elections. There was a minor scuffle with the police when the latter forcibly tried to prevent the march from proceeding towards Raj Bhawan.

A large number of congress workers including women carrying play cards and raising slogans denouncing the pre-paid electric meters system, property tax, unprecedented price rise, record unemployment, whole sale opening of wine shops in every nook and corner and other anti-poor steps of the Centre Govt. and the UT Administration.

Led by PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani along with Working President Shri Raman Bhalla and other senior leaders of PCC, Former Ministers, Legislators, Dist. Presidents, Corporators, Leaders of Frontal Wings took out a massive protest march from Shaheed Chowk towards Raj Bhawan via residency Road where Police had a tough time to prevent the march from proceeding ahead.

The protest was organized by DCC Jammu Urban and Jammu Rural. The Protestors raised strong slogans against the BJP led Centre Govt. and the UT Administration for harassing the poor people who are already crushed under the unprecedented price rise of all essential



commodities, large scale unemployment and tax terrorism of BJP Govt. The Congress workers also strongly raised the demands of restoration of statehood on the eve of completion of four years of downgrading the state into UT, besides seeking restoration of rights for the protection of jobs and lands for local and holding of assembly election.

Speaking to the reporters JKPC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani lashed out at the BJP for harassing the poor and common people by imposing huge taxes leading to unprecedented price rise, and introduction of prepaid smart meters besides record unemployment, imposition of property tax and various other such anti people actions.

He said that the poor people are unable to bear the huge taxes on all items including petrol and diesel and the poor people are finding it difficult to meet the both ends of life. He said the congress will strongly raise the voice of people and fight against the anti-poor and anti-people decisions of the BJP and UT administration.

Raman Bhalla said that the BJP Govt. is skinning the poor and common man

through tax terrorism and there is record unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir. The anti-people decisions of Centre Govt. has snatched the livelihood of the people in J&K at the cost of outside mafia and locals are deprived of small business and trade.

He sought restoration of statehood at the earliest and the holding of assembly elections without delay as people are strong against the bureaucratic resume which is far away from the common people.

Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma while talking to media persons said that people are fed up with the anti-poor policies of the BJP Govt. and the huge tax terrorism unleashed on the common people and the unemployed youths and demanded immediate holding of assembly elections and restoration of statehood.

Prominent others include Th. Balwan Singh (Ex-Minister), Yogesh Sawhney (Ex-Minister), Treasurer Rajnish Sharma, T.S. Bajwa (Ex-MP), Ved Mahajan (Ex-MLC), Gurbachan Kumar Rana (Ex-Minister), Indu Pawar (Ex-MLA), Krishan Bhagat (Ex-MLA), Ashok Dogra (Ex-MLA), Vinod Sharma, Th. Manmohan

Singh, Hari Singh Chib, M.K Bhardwaj, Dwarika Choudhary, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Kapil Singh, Pranav Shagotra, Narinder Gupta, Sanjeev Panda, Gurmeet Singh, Parveen Sarwar Khan, Thomas Khokhar, Manjeet Singh Jatt, Ashwani Puri, Amrit Bali, H.S. Mehta, Satish Sharma, Narinder Sharma, Karan Bhagat, Suresh Dogra, Bhushan Dogra, Sandeep Dogra, Bilal Ahmed, Rajinder Singh Nathu, Rajiv Singh, Ajay Lakhotra, Kamal Singh, Ritu Choudhary, Bhanu Mahajan, Rajinder Singh Jamwal, Satish Sharma, Bhupinder Singh, Ajab Motin, Vijay Shastri, Jatin Raina, C.L. Manyal, Mohan Choudhary, M.Y. Lone, Badri Sarpanch, Gurmeet Singh, Parshotam Mehra, Camres David Babloo, Michael Wazir, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Virinder Manhas, Balbir Singh, Pawan Dev Singh, Ram Magotra, Dewan Chand, Kewal Jogi, Rajesh Paul, Jatin Vashisht, Chander Shekar, Atul Sharma, Ricky Dalotra, Hoshiar Singh, Anoop Gupta, Balbir Singh, Tirath Ram Bhagat, Munish Singh, Mangat Ram, Deepu Singh Nasir Masih Om Parkash and others.

DDC Chairman kick-start plantation drive at GDC Khour



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi today initiated a plantation drive organized by the Social Forestry Department at Government Degree College Khour.

The event witnessed the presence of distinguished dignitaries including Vice Chairman DDC Jammu Suraj Singh Bhau, DDC Akhnoor Sharda Bhau, Chairman MC Akhnoor Deepy Ram, SDM Akhnoor Anil Kumar Thakur,

Regional Director Social Forestry Mohinder Gupta, DFO Alok Kumar Maurya, Principal GDC Akhnoor T.K Sharma, Sarpanch Matto Swarn Singh, Sarpanch Chok Mandal Jyoti Devi, Sarpanch Lower Narayana Sharda Manhas, and RO Jammu Virander Singh.

During the occasion, DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan Bodhi commended Lt. Governor's concern regarding the plantation drive throughout the Union Territory.

He highlighted that under the leadership of LG Manoj

Sinha, J&K UT has achieved a remarkable target of planting 1.5 crore trees. He informed that the government has set a target of planting nearly 1.75 crore trees for the current year i.e, 2023-24.

Encouraging public participation, Bharat Bhushan urged everyone to be part of the drive and contribute to environmental preservation by planting trees in their surroundings.

He emphasized the monsoon season as the opportune time for new plantation, with special attention

given to selecting the appropriate variety of plants.

Highlighting the importance of maintaining a fine balance in the ecosystem, the Chairman emphasized that the green gold plays a crucial role, and increasing green cover will contribute to preserving ecological harmony on the planet. He assured that the drive wouldn't be limited to planting new trees only; rather, it would focus on providing proper care and attention to the saplings. Special measures such as regular watering, organic manure provision, tree guards, avoiding construction waste, and ensuring well-drained deep sandy soil were emphasized to ensure the healthy growth of the plants.

Bharat Bhushan called upon all PRI members, including DDCs, BDCs, Panchs, and Sarpanchs, to unite their efforts in achieving the target of planting 1.75 crore trees in the Union Territory.

Notably, the plantation drive also saw enthusiastic participation from students of Government Degree College Akhnoor.

NCC Cadets of GCW Udhampur showcase traditional heritage at CATC Nagrota

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, AUG 04: 26 NCC Cadets of 1&2 NCC Girls Bn attended their first Combined Annual Training Camp at Nagrota in this session. During this 10 days CATC where cadets have come from all the nooks and corners of Jammu and Kashmir. Various activities such as Sports events, Cultural programme and Military Training were conducted wherein the cadets participated enthusiastically. The achievements included Gold Medal for cultural where the cadets presented Dogri Dance form, followed by Gold medal in Inter core Volleyball match and Silver medal in Tug of



war. It was the first camp for the cadets of second year. Cdt Sunali Devi, Cdt Vishakha Verma and Cdt Pallavi were the seniors nominated amongst the

participating cadets. Prof. Lt. Kamal Deep Kaur and Prof. Rukhsana Kousar, the ANO and CTO of the college for their unwavering support and guidance to the cadets.

She also congratulated Lt. Kamal Deep Kaur and Prof. Rukhsana Kousar, the ANO and CTO of the college for their unwavering support and guidance to the cadets.

Police solves burglary case in Baramulla; 02 arrested

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUG 03: Police in Baramulla have solved a burglary case by arresting 02 accused persons involved in the commission of crime besides, recovered stolen property from their possession.

On 31/07/2023 Police Station Kunzer received a written complaint from Abdul Razaq son of Late Gh Mohammad resident of Gonipora Kunzer stating therein that during intervening night of 30-31/07/2023,

some unknown burglars barged into his residential house and stolen jewellery. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Kunzer and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, officers with the help of technical and human resources, zeroed in on two persons identified as Bilal Ahmad Lone son of Gh Mohd Lone & Ashan Jeelani Wani son of Ghulam Jeelani Wani, both residents of Gonipora Kunzer.

During questioning, both the accused persons confessed their involvement in the commission of crime and on their disclosure, stolen jewellery was recovered. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Community members have lauded the efforts of police for cracking/solving the case. Our consistent actions shall assure community members that Police have resolved to act tough against individuals involved in any kind of criminal activities.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Protests, Hartals a...

In the last 3 to 4 years, the LG said that a lot has been done for sports infrastructure development in J&K. "Youth are taking part in sports. A lot of other facilities are also being provided," he said.

The LG also said that the entire Jammu and Kashmir across the country is now identified as the 'Power house of sports'. "Youth are moving forward. All those players who have their achievements at national and international level will get jobs before 15th August this month." Annual participation in sports activities, he said from 3 to 4 lakh has grown by 30 per cent now. "It is the commitment of the department concerned. It is being ensured that all players are provided every facility required. Various programs being run by the government for youth and their good," he said.

"79 small Khelo India centres have been made functional and rest to be made functional very soon. We are achieving new history in sports. Youth from far off and remote villages are now inclined towards sports," the LG said. Being inclined towards development and sports is a reflection of an aspirational society, the LG said.

"G-20 like major successful events in which 27 countries were witness to the change in Jammu and Kashmir. Many countries have already reversed their travel advisories. This year till July over 1.27 crore tourists have already visited here. We are expecting this figure to cross more than 2.15 crore visitors by the end of this year," he said.

Gulmarg Khelo India event has left a great mark at national level. "It is now being talked about across India. Without peace nothing good can be achieved. Some conflict engineers for their personal gains used to disrupt peace," the LG said.

"Hartal, stone pelting, shutdowns and everything alike doesn't even exist now. It used to affect common people only. There is peace on roads. With peace development can be achieved it will help the region excel in every field," he said.

Citing an example, the LG said that a place like Downtown Srinagar is now witnessing sports games and it proves that the region is heading towards betterment.

The LG also assured the players that the lack of money won't keep them away from achieving their dreams. "Infrastructure will further push in the region. We have a better holistic development agriculture plan."

"Taking a dig at those raising unemployment issues, the LG said that people have already been given jobs and in the last couple of years about 30,000 people were recruited in different departments.

He said that the time has gone when some people used to provide jobs on their will. "New era has already started. Nothing like the past practice will be tolerated. There will be complete transparency in everything. It is impossible to have been removed from the dictionary of Jammu and Kashmir. The region is now heading towards new development and there is peace," he said.

About developmental projects and demands of Kupwara, the LG said that directions have been issued for Lolab-Bandipora road and work shall start early. He assured that GMC Handwara won't face funds crunch. Whatever is required will be provided. He also assured all the genuine demands will be addressed very soon.

The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also said that street violence, bandh calls like the situation have come to an end now. "Some people are still trying to reverse the normalcy," he said.

The LG assured that innocent people won't be touched and those involved into anti-national activities won't be spared at any cost. "Police and other security forces won't have their hands on innocent people. My doors are always for those coming with genuine demands," he said.

About the land, the LG said that no outsider is being settled here in J&K. "Five (5) marla land being given to poor and those landless people. We aim to make things good and conducive for the poor across the region without any partiality."

He said: "We will realise their dreams of having a house. Agricultural land safeguard is there already and no outsider can buy it. Industries should come up and investment must come to Jammu and Kashmir."

The LG also said that the foothold of tourism must increase, they must come. "There is a need to develop hospitality infrastructure. Many more initiatives are being taken for the good of the region," KNO

PM Modi to lay...

more than Rs 24,470 crores. Master Plans are being prepared for development of these stations as 'City Centres', with proper integration of both sides of the city. This integrated approach is driven by the holistic vision of overall urban development of the city, centred around the railway station.

These 508 stations are spread across 27 states and union territories including 55 each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal, 34 in Madhya Pradesh, 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 15 in Haryana, 13 in Karnataka among others.

The redevelopment will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration and well designed signage for guidance of passengers. The design of the station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture. KNO

3 terrorist associates...

Ahmad Matta son of Tariq Ahmad Matta resident of Qamarwari Srinagar and Wakeel Ahmad Bhat son of Nazir Ahmad Bhat resident of Pahalpora Bijbehara.

The statement reads that 3 hand grenades, 10 pistol rounds, 25 AK-47 rounds and other incriminating materials were also recovered.

"Wakeel Ahmad Bhat was earlier an active terrorist linked with proscribed terrorist outfit ISJK & was lodged in jail for two years and was released recently from Central Jail on bail," it reads.

It reads that during preliminary investigation, it came to fore that the trio had collected explosive substances and ammunition from active terrorists of TRF for carrying terrorist activities in Srinagar city.

"Subsequently, a case FIR number 46/23 under section 3/4 Explosive Act, 7/25 Arms Act, 18, 23, 39 UAPA Act was registered at Police Station Chanapora and

investigation has been set into motion," it reads. KNO

After record-break...

the ongoing season from July 01, 2023-August 02-2023 has recorded a rainfall of 312.9 mm against a normal of 285.4 mm.

As per the data prepared by local IMD department, Srinagar, Pulwama, Ganderbal and Doda stations have received large excess rainfall during the period while Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kathua, Kulgam, Ramban and Udhampur have recorded an excess rainfall.

Shopian in South Kashmir is the only place where a deficient rainfall during the period has been recorded as according to the data, against the normal precipitation of 152.5 mm, it has received only 110.3 mm, which is 28 per cent deficient.

As per the data, Kishtwar in Jammu division has recorded large deficient rainfall of 62 percent during the period as against the normal of 230.3 mm, the station has recorded only 86.5 mm rainfall. KNO

BRO reconnects...

was blocked due to landslides and people were advised not to use it.

"NH-44, Mughal road and SSG road are blocked due to 2 landslides. People are advised not to travel till clearance," Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police said in a tweet.

The 250-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is the all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, and Mughal Road connects Buzflaz town in the Jammu region's Poonch district to the Shopian district of Kashmir.

The 84-kilometre road traces a historic route used in the Mughal period over the Pir Panjal Pass, while the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) double-lane road connects the Ladakh region with Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the NH-44 was blocked due to multiple landslides and shooting stones from the hillock at Cafeteria Morh and Mehar in Ramban town. (Agencies)

Give unhindered access...

that farmers readily go for this transformative exercise.

Dr Mehta also asked them to extend the technical advice to the farmers in fetching the right kind of root stock. He told them to produce the same in their nurseries and distribute it among the farmers here. He urged them to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of such stocks by roping in best of the players available internationally.

The Chief Secretary also observed that the Horticulture and Tourism sectors are the mainstay of major portion of our rural and urban population respectively. He stated that both these departments should put their heads together to have a common roadmap to interlink these vital sectors with each other so that one abets other.

While speaking during the meeting, the Principal Secretary, APD, Shalendra Kumar apprised the meeting that around 1.65 lakh hectares of land has been converted into the High Density (HD) plantations in the UT. He mentioned that all of these plantations are new and added to the already established orchards here. He further added that the government is well on track to convince more and more farmers to adopt these high yielding varieties which produce 5-15 times more crop than the traditional ones.

He gave out that government is also creating awareness among Mandis and exporters to register on e-NAM portal for bringing ease in doing of business besides bringing better returns to farmers with very low chances of any loss or risk.

While listing the achievements for the FY 2022-23 it was said that an area of 2.55 Ha has been brought under different types of orchards under Area Expansion Programme. An area of 93 Ha has been brought under High Density Apple Plantation in this period.

It was further given out that 7410 soil samples and 286 pesticides samples have been analyzed. Similarly 581 number of Borewells/TubeWells have been established, 246 Vermicomposting Units have been established in the UT.

Moreover assistance for procurement of six Refrigerated Transport Vehicle and establishment of 30088 MT CA Storage Facilities was provided by the Department. In addition 104 Tractors, 965 Tillers, 2800 Motor Power Sprayers, 789 number of brush cutters, 682 number of irrigation pumps besides other machinery has been provided to the fruit growers across the length and breadth of J&K.

Dr Jitendra introduces...

the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

The bill, after approval in the Parliament, will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 crores during five years (2023-28).

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF which will be governed by a Governing Board consisting of eminent researchers and professionals across disciplines. Since the scope of the NRF is wide-ranging - impacting all ministries - the Prime Minister will be the ex-officio President of the Board and the Union Minister of Science & Technology & Union Minister of Education will be the ex-officio Vice-Presidents. NRF's functioning will be governed by an Executive Council chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

NRF 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.

Those injecting drugs at high risk of HIV, TB diseases, say doctors

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 4

Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) are at risk of having unwanted health problems that affect their body as well as their overall health, doctors said.

A senior psychiatrist working in the Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS, GMC Srinagar told the news agency that Intravenous (IV) drug use not only poses the most devastating, scarring, and venous injury, but its users are also at risk of infectious diseases like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

IV drug users may develop more quickly than with other methods of using drugs. "Track marks" develop when a person repeatedly injects into the same site. As a result, the overlapping skin can become discoloured and the most common sites are dormant arm, knee joint, the groin, and the veins that are on top of their feet," he said, adding that the intravenous drug use can lead to dependency, both physical and psychological, development more quickly than with other methods of using drugs.

Some of the immediate, short-term health risks associated with injecting drugs intravenously, intramuscularly or subcutaneously include inflamed or collapsed veins, puncture marks or track lines, skin infections, including abscesses and necrotizing fasciitis, bacteria on the cardiac valves, endocarditis, and other cardiovascular infections, swelling of the feet, ankles, and legs due to poor blood flow, he added.

"People who use drugs intravenously for an extended period of time are at risk of developing a multitude of health problems. These are associated with an infected and persistent use," the psychiatrist said.

He said each drug has its own set of associated long-term health risks, some examples of potential consequences include, AIDS (as a result of HIV), malnourishment, severe weight loss, sexual dysfunction, cardiovascular disease,

heart failure, stroke, seizures, convulsions, death due to overdose, increased risk of suicide, chronic hepatitis that leads to liver cancer or cirrhosis, and the decay of white matter in the brain, which negatively impacts behavioral regulation and decision-making.

Meanwhile, another doctor working at a drug de-addiction centre told KNO that the use of drugs mainly heroin is leading to a scary increase in J&K as around three among four drug users are Hepatitis C positive in Kashmir.

"We screen every patient for Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B and HIV and as per the hospital-based studies there are around 72 percent of drug users who are tested positive for Hepatitis C," he said, adding that the use of drugs via injection is quite common among drug users and the most common cause of Hepatitis C among them is the sharing of needles.

We have witnessed around 72 percent of the substance users have Hepatitis C and that it is a chronic disease and if not treated on time it can lead to chronic liver disease for treatment of which the patient needs costly anti-viral medications for 3-6 months which becomes another burden on the family members of drug users, he added.

The doctors working on such patients said that sharing of needles used for injecting drugs is known to transmit diseases among the drug users which adds to the suffering of those affected and their families.

Without treatment, Hepatitis C can prove fatal and for most patients, it is a symptom-free disease which spreads silently to other family members and sometimes it can get transmitted to babies from an infected mother, they said.

As per the doctors, needle sharing among drug users is the main cause of Hepatitis C in Kashmir and almost every three among four drug users suffers from Hepatitis C. There remain chances of them getting infected with HIV and TB as well, they said. KNO

The bill will also repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament in 2008 and substitute it into a new bill which has an expanded mandate and covers activities over and above the activities of SERB.

1.68 lakh minors among...

dependence amongst individuals, family and society at large," the report says.

It says that under the scheme of NAPDDR, financial assistance is extended inter-alia to various non-governmental organisations, and project implementing agencies for different pre-identified components including preventive education and awareness generation, capacity building, treatment and rehabilitation.

The report also mentions setting quality standards; skill development, vocational training and livelihood support of ex-drug addicts, focused intervention in vulnerable areas; surveys, studies, evaluations, research and innovation on the subjects covered under the scheme, programme management, and any other activity or item which will augment or strengthen the implementation of NAPDDR. KNO

Three soldiers injured in Kulgam gunfight, operation suspended for night

J NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, AUG 4

Three soldiers were injured in an ongoing encounter that broke out in Hallan forest area of Darnhal Hanjipora in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said on Friday. However, the operation has been suspended for the night.

A police official told the news agency that three soldiers from 34 Kashmiri Rifles got injured and were shifted to 92 Base Hospital based on Badami Bagh.

"The condition of all the three injured soldiers is stated to be critical," the official said.

Police also said that the search in the area has been intensified.

"#KulgamEncounterUpdate: Three (03) jawans got injured in the #encounter. They are being evacuated to hospital for treatment. Search in the area intensifies. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Police Zone tweeted.

Earlier, police in a tweet said that the encounter broke out in the forest area while Army and Kulgam Police were on the job.

"#Encounter has started at high reaches of Hallan forest area of #Kulgam district. Army & Kulgam Police are on the job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Police Zone tweeted.

A police official said that as the joint team of forces approached the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them, which retaliated, triggering a gunfight.

Meanwhile, the operation has been suspended for the night. KNO

2 drug peddlers held in Baramulla: Police

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 4

Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla on Friday said to have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from the society.

"A Police party of PP Pahalhalla at a checkpoint established at Pahalhalla Morh, arrested a drug peddler identified as Mudasir Ahmad Wani son of Manzoor Ahmad Wani resident of Raipora Pahalhalla. During search, officers were able to recover 145 grams of Charas from his possession," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Similarly, police said that a police party of PS Sheeri at a checkpoint established at Zandafan Sheeri intercepted a suspicious person who after noticing police party tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully.

He has been identified as Waseem Ahmad Sheikh son of Abdul Majeed Sheikh resident of Heewan. During search, 56 capsules of Spasmo-Proxyvon were recovered from his possession.

"Both the drug peddlers have been shifted to police stations and cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated," police said.

"Community members are requested to come forward with any information regarding drug peddling in their neighbourhood. Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law. Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace," police said. KNO

Govt offices, politicians, bureaucrats, hospitals, security agencies, industries owe Hundreds of Crores to KPDCCL

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 4

The government offices, politicians, bureaucrats, hospitals, security agencies and industries in Kashmir valley owe a whopping amount of hundreds of crores Rupees to Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) on the account of electricity bill.

The official figures available with the news agency, reveals that the under Sub-Division Karan Nagar of KPDCCL, Chief Accounts Officer SMC have Rs 32,68,735 pending on account of electricity charges.

Likewise the executive engineer (Estates) new secretary has a whopping amount to the tune of Rs 1,53,46,837 pending on account of electricity charges.

The official figures further reveal that the executive Engineer Roads and Building (Bridge) division has a balance of Rs 30,74,657.

According to the figures revealed by the Public Information (PIO) in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application said that the Shalstore owes Rs 2,21,342 to KPDCCL on account of electricity bill followed by archives and archeology department with an outstanding amount of Rs 1,72,239.

It also states that in the Karan Nagar division, the Chief Planning Officer has a balance of Rs 7,75,293 followed by Lawyers Chamber with Rs 2,93,451 and executive engineer electrical with Rs 2,28,885.

The PIO said that the 'Deputy Commissioner (stamp) has a outstanding balance of Rs 41,74,902 followed by Deputy Commissioner with Rs 37,34,785, Deputy Director Statistics and Evaluation with Rs 4,45,878 and Secretary Legislative Assembly have a total outstanding balance of Rs 3,26,797. Likewise, AEE (ST-D-I) Karanagar have a total of Rs 15,66,572 pending on account of electricity charges followed by AEE (Left River Division) of SMC with Rs 56,00,844 and CAO (Public Lights) with Rs 10,17,75,521. Stating the outstanding balance of police, security agencies and different battalions of CRPF in the division, the PIO said that more than Rs 40.7 crores were lying pending on account of electricity charges.

Aug 5 synonymous to J&K's transformation, peace, normalcy: Devender Rana

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: Describing August 5 as watershed moment in the turbulent history of Jammu and Kashmir, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said the people, especially marginalized, neglected and distressed are feeling a sense of fulfillment while entering into the fifth year of their real independence from the shackles of exploitation and discrimination by set of a political class that treated the erstwhile state as their fiefdom.

"The eve of the abrogation of Article 370 stands shining testimony of transformed Jammu and Kashmir with development taking centre stage and people enjoying equal opportunities of progress irrespective of region, religion, caste or ethnicity", Mr Rana said while interacting with deputations, delegations and individuals along with Mrs. Veenu Khanna, BJP State Secretary during the weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters here this afternoon.

He said the Union Territory has been witnessing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a progressive and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir being translated on ground zero with a sense of commitment. The BJP has made possible what everybody perceived impossible years ago and emerged as a harbinger of change in the Union Territory. Each sector and every segment is enjoying the dividends of peace, heralded by government in the past over four years by dispensing responsive administration and isolating inimical elements in the separatist amalgam as also those within the so-called mainstream, in the true spirit of Modi's cherished agenda of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', he added.

Mr Devender Rana said



the biggest take of the Article 370 repeal has been political empowerment of every region and sub-region besides real empowerment of the people like West Pakistan Refugees, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society, who were deprived in the wake of non-implementation of a number of central laws. They had been deliberately kept out of the system to exploit political hegemony by enjoying regional and religious sentiments as per their political convenience, he added.

He referred to the overall situation across the Union Territory with special reference to the Kashmir Valley, saying that even the worst critics of the BJP are acknowledging the huge turnaround in terms of peace and normalcy. While stone pelting and shutdown culture is now the history of the past, tourism and economic activity is scaling new heights. Last year witnessed record number of tourist arrivals which is expected to cross two crore mark this year. Taking out of the Muharram procession after 34 years with the head of the Union Territory joining it in the downtown city, as also Shri Amarnathji Yatra surpassing last year's record during half of the two-month pilgrimage is the best example of normalcy dawning in the Valley.

Devender Rana also referred to the NHFS report

stating that Jammu and Kashmir is leading the country in several developmental criteria, indicating the Union Territory's remarkable transformation during the past four years. A comparison of some of the most important development criteria reveals that J&K outperforms the rest of India in parameters that indicate UT's development and economic growth.

Quoting statistics, Mr Devender Rana said, J&K has a higher life expectancy rate than the rest of the country. As per the NHFS, life expectancy in India (national average) is 69.4 years, whereas it is 74 years in J&K. The Union Territory has a superior teacher-pupil ratio at the elementary level of 1:14, while the national average is 1:22. The average monthly agricultural household income in India is Rs 10,218; in J&K, it is Rs 18,918, more than Rs 8000 greater than the rest of India. This suggests that farmers in J&K make more money than farmers in the rest of the country.

In J&K, he added the sex ratio at birth (last 5 years) is 976 girls per 1000 boys, compared to 929 at the national level. The institutional birth rate is 92.4 percent, whereas the national average is 88 percent. Giving birth at a medical facility under the supervision of trained and competent health staff is referred to as institutional birth. It also denotes the availability of resources to deal with the problem and

save the mother and child's lives. Fully immunised children (12-23 months) in Jammu and Kashmir are 96.5 percent, whereas fully immunised children nationally are 76.5 percent, indicating that J&K has a higher rate of vaccination. The UT has a per capita energy consumption of 1384 units, which is greater than the national average of 1208 units. Higher education has a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 32.4 percent in the UT and 27.1 percent nationally. Gender parity in higher education is 1.05 in J&K and 1.01 overall in India. Forest and tree cover in J&K is 54 percent double than the national average of 24.5 percent.

"Seeing is believing", he said, adding that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are now witness to the unprecedented development, infrastructural upgradation, massive investment interventions and implementation of various welfare measures to the last person in the society. The Union Territory is actively becoming part of India's growth story, he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir is poised for a huge holistic, inclusive and all round development.

Rana gave a clarion call to all the functionaries and workers to intensify their outreach up to the last person for making the BJP a strong and vibrant force to take Jammu and Kashmir to the heights of progress and development.

CUJ organizes Two-Day National Seminar on Bharat Centric Research: Opportunities and Challenges

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu organizes "Two-Day Seminar on Bharat-Centric Research: "Opportunities and Challenges" with an objective to have a worthwhile knowledge and understanding about various opportunities in research with specific reference to Bharat Centric context.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu has provided oversight and assistance for the entire workshop. He recommended the organizers to maintain this spirit of doing research-based events, focusing on Bharat-Centered Research. Further, he called upon all the participants to apply all the knowledge and understanding for doing the research in Bharat based circumstances and context. The inaugural session of the workshop is graced by Prof. Saroj Sharma, Chairperson, NIOS, New Delhi, Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja, Director-Academics, Sanskrit Promotion foundation New Delhi, Prof. Girish Nath Jha, Chairman, Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, MoE, GoI, New Delhi; School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, JNU, New Delhi, Prof. Vishal Sood, Professor, Dept. of Education, Central University of HP and Dr. J.N. Balya, Head Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu.

Prof. Saroj Sharma in her keynote address focuses on the fact that ancient



Bharat had a very rich civilization which includes 18 Vidyas and 64 Kalayan, Chath Darshan and many more. She further stressed that there is a vast diversity of areas where research can be done in context to Bharat-Centric Research which includes Bharatiya Architect, Physics, Chemistry, Shilpa Kala, Natya Kala etc. Furthermore, she urged in her address that there is a need to integrate sciences with the social sciences and concludes by saying that there should be emphasis on researchers in Bharatiya Gyan and Vignyan.

Prof. Girish Nath Jha in his special guest remarks said that education should be imparted in one's own language which is also beautifully described in NEP.

He further exclaimed that this is only possible if the content designing and content creation to be done in native languages along with technology development. Prof. Jha also stressed

upon the promotion of Indian languages in education.

While addressing, he throws light on the integration of Indian education with the recent advancement in technology like artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja in his inspiring and motivational deliberation urged teachers to teach the curriculum and content of the subject with real-life activities and practices. He also said that each and every thing of life is in the form of a text book so we need to connect the things through our pedagogical practices. Earlier to this, Dr. J.N. Balya, Head Department of Educational Studies, CUJ formally welcomed the keynote speakers in the inaugural session. He also thanked and appreciated all the participants and resource persons to make this seminar more successful.

The national seminar had taken up eight sessions in these two days.

Baba Chanchal Singh serves Langar to Amarnath Yatis in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: Baba Chanchal Singh, National Secretary, participated in the Langar organized by Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, where he actively distributed food to the pilgrims. The event was graciously welcomed by Raj Kumar Goyal, the National Executive President of the Society.

After serving Langar to the pilgrims, Shri Baba Chanchal Singh expressed his admiration for the arrangements made by the Society, mentioning that it is the biggest Langar in Jammu & Kashmir. He appreciated the Society's commitment to providing high-quality food and excellent facilities to the devotees. Shri Baba Chanchal Singh also praised the dedication of the Langar operators and the Sevadars in serving the pilgrims with utmost devotion, ensuring the use of top-notch ingredients in the cooking.

During the event, Shri Baba Chanchal Singh expressed his happiness at visiting Bhole Baba's langar. He shared that despite his busy schedule with party work and visiting various places of Shiva, he took this opportunity to serve Baba and the devotees. He emphasized that serving devotees is akin to serving God and lauded the efforts of the Langar operators, particularly acknowledging Raj Kumar Goyal for his exemplary contributions.

Raj Kumar Goyal, National Working President, highlighted the importance of providing good hospitality to the pilgrims coming from all over the country for the



Secretary by the committee. He described Shri Baba Chanchal Singh as a prominent personality in the country, entrusted with the responsibility of organizing various religious pilgrimages, including the Kavad service of Baba Bholenath and the Mansarovar Yatra all over India.

Chandel highlighted Shri Baba Chanchal Singh's unwavering devotion to Shiva and his consistent support to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society. The event was graced by the presence of various dignitaries, including Sardar Sucha Singh (Councillor) Bhagwati Nagar, Matrisshakti Meena Kak, TK Kak, Paramjit Singh, Shubb Manthan Goyal, Youth Leader Sardar Charan Singh, District President Jammu ji, Akshith Mahajan, State Vice President Vikram Sridhar Society, Hindu Vahini, Matrisshakti Pooja Devi, Pt. Pirtambar Sharma (District Vice President), Chhota Yogi, and Majid Bhai.

Director Education Pitches for Strong ECCE Leadership among Education Officers

JI NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, AUG 04: Director School Education Jammu Ashok Sharma Pitched for strong leadership among Education Officers. Particularly CEOs ZEOs and HOIs, for effective implementation of early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as envisioned in National Education Policy 2020. He was speaking after inaugurating a one-day ECCE leadership workshop with Education Functionaries organised in Collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K, Directorate of School Education Jammu by the National Development J&K Jammu in partnership with UNICEF INDIA at the Institution of Engineers Channi Jammu. Around 60 education officers from the School Education department and SCERT J&K Participated. Sh. Ajeet Sharma Coordinator quality Samagra, Sh. N P Singh, Head ECCE SCERT;

Sayed Fayaz, Assistant Coordinator Quality Samagra, Ms. Jaswinder Kour, Coordinator Pre-primary, Dr. Sarita Sharma, Assistant Coordinator Pre-Primary and Mr Sunny Kumar Programme Manager National Development Foundation, acted as resource persons and interacted with the participants and also addressed their queries.

Sh. Jagdeep Padha AO Samagra in his address apprised about various initiatives of Samagra Shiksha with a special focus on ECCE. He also highlighted the Outcomes of Three years of NEP. CEO Jammu Mr Suraj Singh Rathore lauded the role of the National Development Foundation and called upon the participants to share the learnings of this workshop with fellow Colleagues and implement in their schools.

Mr Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, National Development Foundation, termed Early Childhood care and education as the basic Right of Children,

without which the Right to free and compulsory Education Cannot be effectively realised. He said that coming up with the NEP 2020 Govt of India has clarified ECCE as the fundamental right of Indian Children. Director Education Ashok Sharma, in his address while pitching for the ECCE leadership among education officers, called upon for the coordinated efforts and joint

working of Aanganwari centres and kindergartens of the school education department. He informed that Govt. is opening 100 Kindergartens in each district this year. Many are already working and delivering good results, added the director. He called upon the teaching community to dedicatedly work to make govt schools premier institutions of learning. He said that those who are doing good work and teaching will be rewarded, but those whose results are not good and rare not taking their work seriously will be dealt with strongly. He appreciated the role of the National development foundation in organising the children and youth for National character building.

ADM penalises FBOs for selling misbranded and substandard food items

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA AUGUST 04: In a significant move towards ensuring food safety and standards, Additional District Magistrate (Adjudicating Officer), Ranjit Singh took stringent action against Food Business Operators (FBOs) found guilty of selling misbranded and substandard food items and imposed heavy fines on them.

During the court proceeding for cases under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which held every Friday, the ADM imposed the total fine of Rs.2,83,500 on the violators.

While speaking on the occasion, the ADM said that the court proceedings serve as a stern warning to all FBOs in the district to strictly adhere to the legal regulations under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Tony slams Govt's move of switching from Smart to Prepaid Meters

Asks people to get unite in opposing perceived injustices

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony has vehemently criticized the decision of the government to transition from smart meters to prepaid meters in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement released today, the seasoned political leader expressed deep concern over the government's approach, highlighting a decline in service quality despite significant investments in infrastructure.

He drew attention to the prevalent hardships faced by the public due to irregular power supply,



despite the government's focus only on spending money on infrastructure. He lamented the adverse impact on the daily lives of the citizens and underscored the disconnect between the government's endeavors and the deteriorating service standards.

Tony castigated the government's actions, asserting that it stand contrary to the aspirations of

the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the people to recognize the prevailing miseries and hardships caused by such decisions, advising them to reconsider their support for the BJP.

DEO Ramban reviews progress on SSR Municipal Electoral Roll, 2023

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, AUGUST 04: The District Election Officer Ramban, Musarrat Islam today convened a meeting regarding Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Municipal Electoral Roll 2023 and reviewed arrangements put in place to conduct the process smoothly.

The meeting was attended by ACR Gias-Ul Haq, Dy. DEO Lal Chand, EROs, AEROs, EOs of Municipalities, BLOs and other concerned officers. The Dy. DEO apprised the chair that as per the Schedule issued by the Chief Electoral Officer J&K, the Draft Electoral Roll shall be published by the EROs of Municipal Council/Committee's and people can file their claims and objections from 01 August to 11 August 2023.

“ THOUGHT OF THE DAY ”

“An eye for and eye will only make the whole world blind.” - Mahatma Gandhi

JINDRAH IMAGES

J&K youth fall prey to drug abuse

It is a matter of concern that the young generation of Jammu and Kashmir has virtually slipped into the tight grip of narco-terrorism as unabated smuggling of habit-forming drugs from across the border has taken a heavy toll on the youths, particularly teenagers, in the Union Territory. The recent report of the parliamentary panel has exposed the deep-rooted menace of drug abuse in the Union Territory which shares its border with hostile neighbour-Pakistan which continues to pump in and smuggle drugs into this side of the border. The problem of drug smuggling is not confined to these narcotics only. Smuggling and easy availability of drugs including injections, tablets and Codeine-based Cough Syrup (CBCS) in different parts of J&K have also affected the young generation badly. Going by the report's statistics, there are estimated 13.50 lakh drug users in Jammu and Kashmir and most of them are in the age group of 18 to 75 years. The estimated number of current drug use among children aged 10-17 years and adults 18-75 years based on the projected population in 2018. The panel has suggested better coordination among all the concerned agencies to control the trafficking, production and distribution of drugs. About 10-17 years age group, the panel claims that the estimated 1,68,700 children are drug users in Jammu and Kashmir and they are taking Cannabis, Opioids, Sedatives, Cocaine, Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS), inhalants and Hallucinogens. Majority of them are using Opioids and inhalants while others are habitual of taking Sedatives and Cannabis. As far as 18-75 years age group is concerned, the Standing Committee has informed the Parliament that 11,80,000 adults are drug users in Jammu and Kashmir and majority of them are addicts of Opioids followed by Cannabis, Sedatives and Inhalants. With this, a total of 13,48,700 persons are drug users in Union Territory and the number might be higher as these estimates are based on the projected population in 2018. The report's startling findings have brought a sense of fear among the parents who too have been grappling with the problem of keeping their children away from this menace. The need of the hour is that the government should impart the knowledge about the significance of preventive education, awareness generation, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of affected persons and greater involvement of society in eradicating the menace. Jammu and Kashmir Police and Anti-Narcotics Task Force needs to adopt a 'zero tolerance policy' towards the menace and because of collective efforts of all the concerned agencies large number of drugs have been seized as indicative of the effectiveness of the policy. The Force should also investigate the major reasons that have made the UT as one of the prime destinations and transit points for smuggling of ganja, hashish, heroin and tablets of all types. The government should also seriously look into the problem of drug abuse and initiate some concrete measures to bring out the young generation from clutches of drugs.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO NEGLECT NE SECURITY

IT'S TIME FOR THE HOME MINISTER TO STEP IN AND TAKE CHARGE TO TACKLE THE MANIPUR SITUATION

JULIO RIBEIRO

INDIA, the newly formed Opposition alliance against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has brought a no-confidence motion against the government in the Lok Sabha. The debate on the motion will begin on August 8. This will force (or so they hope) the Prime Minister to speak on a subject he is presently avoiding to speak on, and understandably so.

In the next Lok Sabha elections, Manipur is going to be a major spoiler for the ruling party.

The acronym INDIA was created by the principal Opposition parties after the realisation that they were pitted against just one man - PM Modi. He alone propelled the BJP to power and as long as he led the ruling party, the Opposition, both individually and collectively, would be shoved aside by the voters. Hence came the interesting move of forming INDIA, a conglomeration which includes unlikely bedfellows such as AAP, Trinamool Congress and the Congress. Thus was born the idea of INDIA v/s Modi or, rather, Modi v/s INDIA.

By insisting that a dedicated debate in the House on the happenings in Manipur and the inability of the state government to bring the mayhem under control should start with a statement by the PM, the Lok Sabha was virtually shut down for several days. There is no rule requiring the PM to speak when the minister concerned - in this case, Home Minister Amit Shah - was prepared to make the statement on behalf of the government. But INDIA wanted to corner the PM because it was against him and not the BJP that had to contest in the 2024 polls. And on the subject of Manipur, PM Modi and the party he leads were not on solid ground. Hence the impasse in the Lok Sabha.

I pity PM Modi on such occasions! He is usually so confident of himself and self-assured. He revels in publicity and praise. He is not used to embarrassment, even though a Prime Minister of a country so vast and complicated like ours will inevitably be confronted by adversity at different times. The outbreak of Covid-19 was one such occasion. Our Prime Minister made many mistakes, which have been listed in Harsh Mander's book Burning Pyres, Mass Graves. The people of India have forgiven him for those mistakes because his good intentions and desire to meet the calamity head-on could not be doubted. But his failure to think of the plight of the migrant labourers will blot his copybook.

There was no experience of a newly discovered pandemic to draw on. The BJP's public relations cell did a great job of getting the Prime Minister off the hook. He was given credit for feeding the poor migrant labourers who were forced to walk hundreds of kilometres to their homes as they were left homeless and penniless by the sudden, unexpected shutdown following the Covid outbreak. In my city, caring individuals (one of them was my daughter) organised rations for the migrants for nearly a month. The BJP's IT cell



gave the populace the impression that it was the government which had achieved that mission of mercy at the instance of the PM! I cannot comment on other cities in India, but I can say with confidence that this was not the case in Mumbai. Manipur will present a difficult test for the BJP. There is no doubt in any reasonable Indian's mind that the government in the state has failed. People are convinced that the N Biren Singh government is incompetent.

Its police force, starting with the leadership, needs to be overhauled. It's obvious that it is hopelessly politicised. It failed to even put the law into motion when women were publicly disrobed and raped in the presence of policemen. It failed to prevent the looting of its armoury when 4,000-odd weapons were forcibly snatched, along with ammunition.

The surmise is that the policemen were complicit in allowing the criminals to loot the weapons. I think that the force was outnumbered and the personnel feared for their lives. This steep decline in policemen's morale and performance has not been witnessed anywhere else in the country earlier. That the men on duty did not offer any resistance at all is a sad commentary on the leadership of such a force.

Since the BJP leadership at the Centre is standing solidly behind its CM in Imphal and hesitating to replace him and since the counsellor the Central leadership had planted in Imphal to guide Biren Singh on governance matters has obviously failed miserably to measure up, the Home Minister must step in and take charge. Manipur shares its border with Myanmar. The Chinese are there to keep us on our toes. The country can ill afford to neglect security issues in the North-East.

The Kukis have relatives across the border in Myanmar. They keep crossing over to our side

just as the Kukis here keep going that side. I have learnt that the Army had an unwritten agreement with the Myanmar army that such movements across the border should not go beyond 16 km on either side. But after the recent bout of hostilities between Kukis and Meiteis, the Manipur Government had raised red flags.

The reason for the state government to object was that the cultivation of the poppy plant and trading in drugs were prevalent among the tribals populating the hill areas. Just like the Afghans who cultivate poppy to sustain the informal economy in that lighted land, our hill dwellers do not have scope for economic advancement except by such means.

Since the poppy plants can only lead finally to the manufacture of opium, the authorities can shut their eyes only at the cost of a major calamity.

In the next Lok Sabha polls, Manipur is going to be a major spoiler for the ruling party. PM Modi knows this and hence his tactical silence on the subject. He must be cursing himself for setting up a double-engine government in Imphal so soon. Perhaps a little later, after a victory in 2024, would have been the correct time. But he is a man in a hurry!

The BJP had succeeded in winning over the Nagas, the Mizos and the Sangma government in Meghalaya, despite the hatred and unalloyed enmity of the party's fringe trading beef-eaters. The PM adopted a practical approach and indicated that the Sangh Parivar would not interfere with the eating habits and religious practices of the people of the North-East - in return for their votes. He had made similar attempts in Kerala, where two prominent Bishops had signed up.

That bonhomie has diminished after the happenings in Manipur. PM Modi is going through a bad patch.

PRIORITISE PUBLIC SAFETY

Criminalising negligence in infrastructure construction can encourage firms and individuals to adopt better standards & practices.

TIKENDER SINGH PANWAR

THE construction of four-lane highways in Himachal Pradesh - one from Chandigarh to Shimla and the other from Kiratpur Sahib to Manali - has triggered a debate not only about the way these highways should be built, but also about the element of criminal negligence in their construction. Should there be a criminal liability for faulty road construction? The answer is in the affirmative. The caveat of negligence in road construction is often used to shield engineers, the construction company, etc. But what if there is criminal negligence?

Criminal liability for poor infrastructure: The recent floods have turned the spotlight on gaps in infrastructure development, especially four-lane roads in the hills.

It's called criminal negligence when a defendant acts in disregard of a serious risk of harm that a reasonable person in the same situation would have perceived; this is supposedly a literal definition of being criminally negligent. Should there be a criminal liability for a person or persons discharging duties which they are supposed to have appropriate knowledge of but still fail to do so? Let's take, for example, a physician or a surgeon doing a procedure negligently on a patient. The law does not protect the doctor and holds him or her accountable for an act of being criminally negligent. Likewise, the driver of a motor vehicle is tried under the provisions of criminal negligence to ensure that adequate safety measures are undertaken.



There are a number of instances across the country where faulty construction of roads and bridges have led to disasters. However, the provisions of the Indian Penal Code were applied only when such disasters had claimed lives. Why cannot such provisions be inbuilt into the systemic structure, ensuring deterrence and more caution in the future? What are the ways in which this can be done?

In July 2020, a bridge, which was inaugurated just a month ago, collapsed in the Gandak river in Bihar. The Morbi bridge tragedy in Gujarat claimed more than 130 lives last year. When a company with no past experience enters the domain of construction of roads and

bridges, it leads to disaster and mayhem.

According to a study carried out in international journal Structure and Infrastructure Engineering, 2,130 bridges, excluding culverts and pedestrian bridges, collapsed during the construction phase itself in India during a 40-year period (1977-2017). This report also pointed out that the average lifespan of a bridge in India is 35 years, whereas the global average is 50. It was stated that apart from poor design and substandard construction material, the reasons for such collapses were lack of maintenance and faulty bidding process with no accountability.

One of the reasons for major road disasters is

the massive amount of dishonesty in every process - from tendering to execution. Implementing criminal liability for negligence in road construction will surely act as a deterrent for companies and individuals involved in such projects. Knowing that they could face severe legal consequences if their actions lead to harm or loss of life, they are more likely to exercise greater care and diligence in their work. This, in turn, can drive a culture of accountability and responsibility within the construction industry, leading to improved safety standards and practices.

Public safety is another major reason for holding companies and individuals accountable for criminal negligence in constructing roads and bridges. Infrastructure that is improperly designed, poorly constructed or inadequately maintained can lead to fatal accidents, injuries and loss of assets. It is the responsibility of those involved in infrastructure development to ensure that roads and bridges are built to high standards, following proper engineering practices and adhering to safety regulations. Criminalising negligence in construction sends a clear message that jeopardising public safety will not be tolerated. Criminalising negligence in infrastructure construction can encourage companies and individuals to adopt better standards and practices. This includes regular inspections, thorough risk assessments and adherence to updated engineering guidelines. It surely fosters a proactive approach to ensuring the safety and quality of infrastructure projects, benefiting society as a

whole.

The two four-lane highways as described above, along with some national highways being built in HP, serve as eye-openers. Companies executing the work should be indicted for the following reasons:

- 1) Mountains are never cut with a vertical slit; they are cut in slopes or terraces. Despite having knowledge of this fact, the road construction work was done with a vertical slit. Both the National Highways Authority of India and the construction companies are liable for prosecution.
 - 2) These mountains are part of the youngest range, with most regions consisting of sedimentary rocks. However, cutting of the mountains was allowed without proper geological studies, if such studies were conducted at all.
 - 3) The water channels have been disturbed, leading to the development of new passages and increasing vulnerability.
 - 4) The entire muck has been dumped along the valley side, disregarding dumping norms. During rains, the muck enters the water ecosystem, causing a cascading effect.
- The two roads have completely withered away at places, resulting in a huge loss to the economy and the livelihoods of the people.
- The decision to proceed with construction despite being familiar with all these issues smacks of deep-rooted comminence, corruption and criminal negligence in operations.

Criminal liability can act as a deterrent, but along with that certain essential documents should always be in the public domain. These



Nora Fatehi on why filmmakers don't want to cast her in lead roles: 'Only four girls are getting projects nonstop'

Nora Fatehi recently said that she does not think that because of her dance numbers filmmakers don't want to cast her in lead roles. Instead, in a new interview with News18, she blamed filmmakers for not looking past 'four girls' and casting only them in their films. Nora Fatehi made her acting debut in 2020 with Street Dancer 3D, but is mostly known for her famous dance numbers in films, such as O Saki Saki from Barfi House and Mariko from Thank God, among many others. Also read: Jacqueline Fernandez's lawyer hits back at Nora Fatehi's scappoose claim

Without taking any names, Nora hinted that she was not able to land a leading role as filmmakers 'don't think outside of

what's in front of them'. She added that 'only four girls are doing films in rotation, and all four are getting projects nonstop'. Nora on why filmmakers aren't taking a chance on her

"I don't think because I dance is why they don't want to cast me. Our main iconic heroines in Bollywood have been dancers who perform beautifully. And they excel in dance numbers, right? That was just a part of the package of being like an iconic heroine.

I don't think it was because of that. I think it was always, oh, I don't know. It's almost like let's see who will take the chance on her [on me] and if she delivers in all the categories, meaning, the acting



skills, the presence, the aura, the ability to express the language skill, then we'll all jump on the opportunity. So I think it was who would have got the b**** to do it first, to take a chance on me first. I think that was what everyone was waiting for," Nora told News18.

On filmmakers casting only 'four girls' Nora added, "Today the industry has become very competitive. Let's be realistic. There are only a few films a year. And sometimes what happens with filmmakers is they don't think outside of what's in front of them.

Ghoomer trailer: Abhishek Bachchan motivates dejected Saiyami Kher to play cricket with one hand, Amitabh seen in cameo

The trailer for Ghoomer, starring Abhishek Bachchan and Saiyami Kher, was unveiled on Friday. The over two-minute-long video begins with Saiyami playing cricket and getting selected for the national women's team. A happy Saiyami Kher celebrates the moment with her family, including Shabana Azmi, who roots for her. Angad Bedi is seen as her love interest.

Ghoomer trailer
Things turn bleak after Saiyami's character meets with an accident and doctors amputate her right hand. Saiyami's character, extremely demoralised, wants to end her life, when Abhishek approaches her. At first, he taunts her, but then motivates her to play for the country with her left hand. The trailer next shows how



Abhishek becomes her coach. Amitabh has a cameo in Ghoomer. The video also gives a view of the hardships Saiyami's character faces along the way. The trailer ends with a brief glimpse

of Amitabh Bachchan, seemingly playing the role of a commentator during a cricket match. The film's team, in the trailer, also shows that Abhishek is not all happy as he has his own battles to fight.

Amitabh and Navya react to trailer
Amitabh shared the trailer on Instagram and wrote, "Yeeeeeaaahhh yeeeeeaaah yeeeeeaaah whoooooaaahhh!!!! Here's a trailer that makes the heart and head spin." His granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda shared the trailer on her Instagram Stories and wrote, "His back (red heart emoji) @bachchan!!!!"

About Ghoomer
Ghoomer portrays the inspiring tale of a paraplegic sportsperson, played by Saiyami, who excels as a cricketer under the guidance of her coach, played by Abhishek.

It is helmed by R Balki. Angad Bedi and Shabana Azmi are also a part of the film. The film will release in theatres on August 18.

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

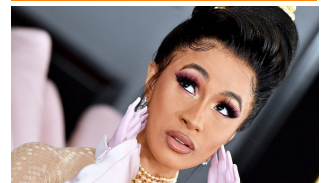


Actor Preity Zinta has shared a video from her recent photoshoot in which she channelled her inner Barbie. Taking to Instagram on Monday night, Preity posted the clip in which she gave different poses and expressions for the camera. Preity turns Barbie in new clip

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. #Barbieemovie #Movieweekend #Ting." Reacting to the post, Iulia Vantur said, "@realpzi are the perfect Barbie: cute, playful, beautiful, amazing smile and those dimples."

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 cuss 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 It's All a Blur Tour.

'Perfect vocals, perfect song': Fans hail Halle Bailey after release of debut solo single 'Angel'

Halle Bailey has taken music lovers by storm after releasing her debut solo single, titled 'Angel.' It comes with a video directed by Wendy Morgan. Halle, half of the sister duo Chloe x Halle, was recently seen in Disney's 'The Little Mermaid' reboot.

"This song for me is so very special and near and dear to my heart. With everything I've gone through the past 3-4 years, suddenly finding myself in this bubble of all these eyes and new opinions, it was easy for me to feel doubt in myself and who I was," Halle said in a statement about 'Angel,' according to Pitchfork.

"This song for me was my climb out of those feelings, a mantra and promise to myself that the work I'm doing here on earth matters and that I matter. I wanted to be able to embrace and be proud of myself and who I am naturally through and through. I hope other brown and black girls and everyone in general feel embraced, respected, and inspired hearing the words of this song," she explained.

'Angel' revolves around Halle reflecting on growing up in the spotlight, and on the hurt she endured along the way. "Heaven knows your wings can weigh you down / but angels make a way somehow," Halle sings on the chorus.

Fans praised the video, with one user saying on Reddit, "Look how she ate that Like from the message to the vocals to this simple yet beautiful video this is a top tier debut. I know it's clearly not aimed to be a chart topper but I can see this song finding its audience and actually be a sleeper hit! We'll but I am so happy and proud of her!" "Absolutely ate per usual.

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 2 trailer
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 Kochlin, Jim Sarbh, Shashank Arora and Shivangi Rastogi - and some new faces, such as Mona Singh, Ishwak Singh and Trineta. 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.

Taylor Swift's eras tour: how she wowed LA with Vanessa Bryant, Brie Larson, and other celebrity fans

Taylor Swift kicked off the LA leg of her Eras Tour on Thursday night, performing for a sold-out crowd of over 100,000 fans at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. The stage-trembling show also drew a huge number of celebrities, who showed their love for the singer on social media. Among the stars who attended the concert was Vanessa Bryant, who wore a jean jacket with a photo of her late husband Kobe Bryant surprising Swift on stage in 2015. The 33-year-old songstress orchestrates a heartwarming

TAYLOR SWIFT KICKS OFF LA LEG OF ERAS TOUR, DRAWING A SOLD-OUT CROWD AND VANESSA BRYANT, SARAH PAULSON, MINDY KALING, BRIE LARSON, AND SOFIA CARSON.

tradition that involves selecting a fortunate individual to grace the stage's edge and bestow Taylor's hat during her performance of the hit track '22' to the spirited six-year-old Bianna Bryant.

Sarah Paulson, who rocked a '1989' shirt Mindy Kaling, who made friendship bracelets with her friends; Brie Larson, who shared a video of herself screaming "Taylor!"; and Sofia

Carson, who posed with a 'Red' sign.

Kaling, celebrated for her comedic brilliance in shows like "The Mindy Project" and her work as a writer and producer, was also spotted among the star-studded audience.

Other celebrities who were spotted at the show included Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Justin Mikita, Madelyn Cline, Taylor Lautner's wife Taylor Dome,

and many more.

They all joined the Swiftie craze of making and trading friendship bracelets, which Swift herself encouraged by placing them on every seat in the stadium.

The Eras Tour is Swift's first tour since 2019, and features songs from all nine of her studio albums.

The tour has been praised by critics and fans alike for its pro-

duction value, setlist variety, and Swift's vocal performance. The tour will continue in LA for five more nights, before heading to Australia in November.

The "Bad Blood" performer has also delighted her fans by performing two surprise tracks each night, chosen by fan votes. On Thursday night, she sang "The Way I Loved You" from "Fearless" and "Enchanted" from "Speak Now".



Gut Health: Make Your Meals Exciting With This Interesting Curd / Raita Preparation Recommended By Expert



A bowl of curd with at least one meal of the day is a pure must, nutritionists believe. From Rujuta Diwekar to Nnamdi Agarwal and Munmun Ganerival, celebrity nutritionists say that a bowl of home-set curd can do wonders to your digestive health and gut health, and even immunity. Ganerival for instance, recently revealed on Instagram that she is a "through and through raita girl". She

adds that her meal seems incomplete without dahi and that this is something many people will relate to. One bowl or cup of home-set curd can provide you with probiotics, calcium and Vitamin D. Setting curd with a handful of black raisins can provide benefits like less inflammation, healthy teeth, less cholesterol and constipation, according to Mumbai-based Diwekar.

Ganerival, who is also the nutritionist of actress Taapsee Pannu, shared another interesting way of adding curd to your diet. Nellikai Thayir Pachadi is a traditional yogurt-based dish from Tamil Nadu. Ganerival says that it is delicious, traditional and super nutritious!

Pachadi is a kind of raita, which has curd as the main ingredient. To prepare it, you need to grind coconut, green chili and mustard together. This spice mix renders a unique flavour to the dish. Traditionally, Pachadi is made using seasonal vegetables. But the Nellikai Thayir Pachadi is particularly prepared by using season's fresh amlas, informs Ganerival.

So along with the goodness of curd, this raita will also provide you with the healthy fats in coconut, and the abundance of vitamin C in amla. Amla is currently in season so it is actually the perfect time to have this fruit. This is something that even Diwekar suggests-ek amle ka dose, harr roz-as she puts it.

Early exposure to obesity can increase risk of type 2 diabetes

According to new research, cumulative exposure to obesity and earlier development of obesity could be linked to increased risk of type 2 diabetes (T2D).

The study was published in the journal Diabetologia (the journal of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes [EASD]). The study is by Dr. Juhua Luo, School of Public Health, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA, and colleagues.

Although obesity is a well-established risk factor for T2D, little is known about the relationships between the age of onset of obesity and cumulative exposure to obesity and the risk of T2D, especially among young adults.

In this study, the authors used data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH) to identify body mass index (BMI) trajectories over the early adult life course. They then examined the relationship between distinct BMI trajectories and the risk of T2D. Also investigated were the associations between timing of obesity onset, obese-years, and T2D. Higher initial BMI was associated with an increased risk of diabetes. Increased age at onset of obesity was associated with a lower risk of diabetes, with a 13 percent lower risk of developing T2D per one-year delay in onset. A higher number of obese-years was associated with an increased risk of developing T2D.

Results of analysis using only the women's initial (baseline) BMI found that having baseline obesity (a BMI of 30 or more) was associated with a 7-times increased risk of developing diabetes, while overweight women (BMI 25.0 to 29.9) had a 2.3 times increased risk com-



pared with women with normal weight.

The authors say: "More than half of the women experienced a rapid BMI increase from early (18-23 years old) to middle adulthood (37-42 years old)."

Our data confirmed that BMI in your young adulthood played an important role in the subsequent risk of developing type 2 diabetes during adulthood. We also observed that women who were non-obese at baseline but became obese during follow-up had a higher risk of type 2 diabetes relative to women who stayed non-obese; the younger the age at onset of obesity or the greater the obese-years, the higher the risk of type 2 diabetes." They add: "Our data also indicat-

ed that baseline BMI among young women was significantly associated with risk of developing type 2 diabetes...The results highlight the importance of overweight or obesity in early adulthood as risk factors for adult diabetes, indicating that weight control starting before early adulthood is critical for reducing type 2 diabetes risk in later life."

They conclude their work demonstrates "the importance of preventing or delaying the onset of obesity and reducing cumulative exposure to obesity to substantially lower the risk of developing diabetes. We recommend that people self-monitor weight change over time and that health care providers look at weight change in addition to current weight as another risk factor for diabetes."

Is anxiety linked to impaired learning in volatile environments? Study suggests the connection is not clear-cut

If anxiety or depression does have an impact on how people learn in unpredictable situations, it is likely subtle and not easily detectable, according to new research published in the Journal of Affective Disorders. The findings suggest that the relationship between mental health conditions and learning in volatile environments is not clear-cut.

Previous work had suggested a potential link between anxiety and difficulties in adjusting to changes in rewards and punishments during learning. The authors behind the new study were specifically interested in understanding whether abnormal learning patterns were specific to anxiety or if they also extended to other affective disorders. By investigating this relationship, the researchers aimed to gain insights into the underlying mechanisms of anxiety and depression and potentially identify new avenues for intervention or treatment.

"We became interested in the topic as a result of work done previously by Tim Behrens and Michael Browning, whose work suggested that anxiety may be fundamentally linked to difficulties in adjusting the way that individuals learn about changes in rewards/punishments," said study author Nicholas T. Van Dam, an associate professor in the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

"The work suggested there may be something quite specific that could be useful to understanding



the study found that general distress, rather than anxiety or depression specifically, was related to learning rates in certain conditions.

"We hypothesized that we would find results similar to previous work, but we did not," Van Dam told PsyPost. "In other words, we thought we would see strong indicators of impaired learning in association with anxiety and depression. We did find evidence of an association but it was rather subtle and hard to detect - suggesting any link is probably more subtle than prior work has suggested."

The researchers noted that differences in sample composition, cultural factors, and the level of distress among participants may have contributed to the inconsistent results. While previous research had used electrical shocks or monetary rewards to provide feedback, the current study employed social-affective cues (facial images and written expressions).

"It's likely that faces are less powerful in influencing how people learn than more abstract electrical shock, though people learn every day from very subtle cues in their environment," Van Dam said. "So, we still have quite a bit of work to do to understand how anxiety and depression might impact the way that people learn about good and bad outcomes."

Overall, the study highlights the challenges in understanding the relationship between abnormal learning processes and anxiety and depression.

how to help those with anxiety. More recent works had suggested that the problem may not be specific to anxiety but may also relate to depression and so we were keen to explore to what extent these findings might hold true."

To conduct the new study, the researchers recruited participants from two different sites: Shenzhen University and the University of Melbourne. Sample 1 consisted of 100 Chinese-speaking undergraduate students, while Sample 2 included 91 individuals aged between 18 and 44 years who were part of a prospective longitudinal study. In Sample 2, participants were specifically selected to have mild to moderate psychological distress.

The researchers used a modified version of a previous task that had been developed by Behrens, Browning, and their colleagues. The task was designed to assess volatility-based learning and decision-making processes. It involved an operant learning paradigm where participants had to learn which of two options led to the

best feedback. The stimuli used were "slot machine" images with unique colors and characters.

During the task, participants had to make quick decisions by choosing one of the slot machine options presented on the screen. After their response, they received feedback in the form of facial images and short written expressions (e.g., happy faces with statements like "Excellent" or angry faces with statements like "Terrible!"). The researchers also manipulated volatility during the task to examine its impact on decision-making. In line with previous research, in line with previous research, the researchers observed greater learning-rates under conditions of higher volatility. In other words, when the outcomes were unpredictable and changed a lot, people tended to adapt to feedback more quickly compared to when the outcomes were more stable.

But while previous studies found that people with anxiety tended to have greater difficulty learning in volatile environments, the current study found only weak evidence for this association. Additionally,

Quirky calendars for everyone

Calendars and planners have been the go-to New Year gift for decades. Their popularity, not just restricted to corporates, is due to the simple reason that they're excellent functional gifts. A calendar is usually visible to us for a major part of our day, making it an important aesthetic component in our space. We've handpicked a list of quirky calendars to match varied preferences. So whether you like birds or are a fan of Harry Potter, there's a calendar for you.

Culture
Ayaan Khan: The shining example of "NAYA KASHMIR NAYA BHARAT"

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Ayaan Khan is the shining example of "NAYA KASHMIR NAYA BHARAT" development

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realize this, it is not the only reason to have one's life covered. Life is uncertain as it is and one must have a comprehensive life cover in case of an unfortunate event of death.

Culture
The Seasons Calendar (INR 497) by Plantables is a seed paper calendar made of upcycled paper. The eco-friendly product is embedded with seeds and is hence, plantable. What that means is, the seeds will sprout if consumers place the wet and torn pieces of paper in manure-rich or coco-peat soil and keep it in the open air with mild sunlight. The beautiful calendar depicting seasons in watercolour, comes with a pinewood stand and wooden nail.

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after the revocation, abrogation of erstwhile Article 370, 35A.

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is no denying that pop culture merchandise is gaining popularity by the day. A calendar from the official merchandise of Friends, Harry Potter, Star Wars, or DC Comics sounds like the perfect gift for fans. The desk calendars (INR 599 onwards) depicting attractive graphics, stickers, and even activities are ideal for kids as well.

Arty side
The Modern Masters calendar (INR 499) by Tallage Store makes for an elegant gift for art enthusiasts. The wall calendar depicts the best of internationally renowned art paintings by artists including Amrita Sher-Gil, Gustav Klimt, Francesco de Goya, Henri Matisse, Leonardo da Vinci, and Salvador Dali.

Health and fitness: Get rid of winter stiffness with yoga

During winter days, the body becomes stiff which makes it prone to cramps, joint pain, and injury. Yoga can cure your winter lethargy and stiffness.

All you need is your yoga mat and as little as 20 minutes thrice a week to see the difference. Exercise heats up the body from the inside and releases stiffness from the muscles making you feel active and energetic. Grand Master Akshar shares a few yoga poses that may help deal with these winter woes.

Other Articles
Health & Fitness
Ayurvedic solutions for personal care

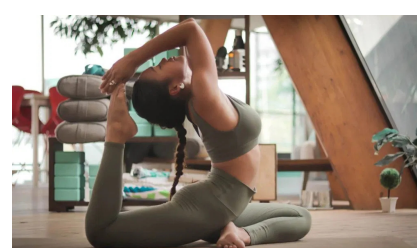
Health & Fitness
6 Fitness apps for your home workouts

Health & Fitness
Siddhivinayak hospital becomes the preferred hospital for Covid

treatment
Dr Amol P Gite is a renowned gynaecologist in thane and also medical director of Siddhivinayak Hospital. He has achieved a big name in medical fraternity in a short time with his hard work, helpful nature and exceptional social service during a covid pandemic.

Start your day with sukshma vyayam. In yoga, warming up of the body starts from the toes and goes all the way up. You can start with ankle rotations, warming up the ankle joints, moving on to your knees, hips, arms, neck, and head. Warming up the body ensures that your productive levels on the mat are high and you also remain free from injuries.

Go Slow
Practise gently and slowly keeping awareness on each movement and syncing your breath along with



each posture. When you practice slowly it ensures that you are mindful of your movements and this results in better strength flexibility and a positive outcome overall. Establish the communication between the mind and the body

and cosy place for your practice. If indoors, choose a room or a spot where there isn't a cold draft in the air. If you are practicing outdoors make sure that you are well covered in warm clothing. Practise is vital to keep your body in good health and in a mobile condition. Practice the following yoga postures:

Yoga Asanas
Cat Pose- Urdvha Mukhi / Adhomukhi Marjariasana: To get into this pose, kneel down placing your knees under the hips and palms under your shoulders. Inhale and curl your spine to look up. Exhale and round your back and shoulders to look at your navel. This asana is good for warming up the spine.

Downward Dog -- Adhomukhi Svanasana: To form downward dog, you can start in Child's Pose resting your pelvis on your heels and reach-

ing out in front of you with your forehead on the floor. From here, bring your toes down to push your knees and pelvis up forming a triangular shape with the body. Make sure the distance between the palms and your feet is neither too far away nor is it too close. Upward Facing Dog -- Urdvha Mukhi Svanasana: Come to plank posture and from here gently drop the pelvis and the stomach down without touching the floor. Lift the chest and the shoulders towards the sky and look up. In this posture do not bend your elbows and squeeze the glutes to activate the back muscles. These are simple and effective postures that can be performed by practitioners of any age. Once you are able to perform these postures with ease then you can add advanced level asanas in your practice such as Wheel Pose, Bow Pose, Peacock Pose, Headstand and so on.

Second Flesh of Dingri (Mushroom) at Kishtwar expected to bring highest turnout this year

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 04: The second flesh of Dingri (Mushroom) in Kishtwar district is anticipated to attract a high turnout this year, as Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav recently inspected the exhibits presented by the Agriculture Department.

The exhibits showcased eloquent production and exceptional quality of Dingri cultivated in the region.

During the inspection, Chief

Agriculture Officer Kishtwar Anjad Hussain Malik provided insights into the ongoing season's agricultural initiatives. Around 3900 Spawn blocks were distributed among Self Help Groups & 600 growers across 14 agriculture zones, with the expectation of a total harvest of approximately 78 Quantils.

This significant agricultural effort is projected to generate an impressive income of Rs. 15 lakhs across the district.

The distribution of these blocks was carried out by the Agriculture Department, free of cost, under the state Capex Budget 2022-23. The favorable climatic conditions, based on past experiences, are expected to contribute to the growth and quality of Dingri, fulfilling the aspirations of farmers by offering a selling price of Rs. 200 per Kg.

The cultivation of Dingri in the district has consistently shown promising results, leading to

increased production and generating employment and income for farmers.

Speaking at the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar encouraged the department to continue providing best cultivation practices and establish market linkages, ensuring that farmers' income remains uncompromised. Highlighting the potential of Dingri cultivation, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar emphasized the significance of value

addition and proper packaging along with marketing strategies, which can lead to manifold profits for farmers even after the harvest.

With the growing interest and success in Dingri cultivation, the Agriculture Department remains committed to supporting the farmers with modern techniques, market access, and adequate resources to ensure sustained prosperity in the agriculture sector in Kishtwar district.

DC Shopian flags-off one-day Training/ Exposure Visit of 33 Farmers to CITH, Rangreth

JI NEWS SERVICE



SHOPIAN, AUGUST 04: The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian Office today organized one day Training cum Exposure visit of farmers of the district under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) Rangreth, Srinagar.

A group of more than 30 Progressive farmers of district were flagged-off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shopian, Faz Lal Hasseb in presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian, Farooq Ahmad Reshi, DIO Showkat Hussain Ganie and other officers and officials of the department.

At CITH Rangreth, the farmers will be provided day-long training on various aspects of the horticulture sector, including pre and post harvest management strategies.

The farmers shall also be imparted training /awareness regarding latest models of protected vegetable cultivation and various ongoing agricultural activities by the scientists of the institute.

On the occasion, the DC also distributed pulse seed kits among the farmers and stressed upon them to avail this good opportunity of learning and use the same knowledge and good practices in their fields, as recommended by the experts.

The farmers were accompanied by District Officer, Mahinder Paul, Junior Agriculture Extension Officer and Agriculture Extension Assistant.

IIM Jammu Meets Local Entrepreneur - Sanchaita @ Shilpkari Bazaar

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: The IIM Jammu Foundation for Entrepreneurship Innovation & Skill Development under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu hosted the social event INSPIRE: Meet Your Local Entrepreneurs today at the Canal Road Campus. The event featured Sanchaita Khajuria, a women entrepreneur who shared her story of success, determination, and passion without fear. The show was managed entirely by the student body of IIM Jammu viz. Entrepreneurship Development Cell where the students had the unique opportunity to hear firsthand the inspiring story of the entrepreneur. She shared her entrepreneurial journey from wild-life tourism at Delhi to the handicrafts of Jammu through the tur-

moil of COVID. Being from Orisha and married into a Dogra family she built her business three years ago on the art forms of the small town of Basoli in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

She eloquently recounted her challenges, triumphs, and the pivotal role of courage in shaping her journey to explore and preserve the culture and heritage of J&K. She shared how she worked at small organizations before embarking on her current entrepreneurial journey as the founder of Shilpkari Bazaar, a startup that focuses on manufacturing and repositioning local arts and crafts of India for the next generation. Through candid conversations, she emphasized that persistence is the driving force that enables individuals to pursue their dreams, even in the face of fear and uncertainty. She

urged students to instill qualities such as risk-taking and perseverance in their paths to success.

The fireside session was conducted by Dr. Niti Shekar, faculty, IIM Jammu & the event witnessed the presence of Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu. The session was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where participants enthusiastically interacted with the speaker. Students were eager to seek advice, guidance, and practical tips to excel in their entrepreneurial endeavours. Ms. Sanchaita Khajuria graciously shared her insights, leaving the audience with valuable knowledge and a renewed sense of determination. This was the first of the series of interactions planned by the IIM Jammu student body EDC, under the aegis of IIM- FEISD.

ADC Bandipora presides over training programme at KVK-Gurez

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 04: The three days collaborative training programme of KVK-Bandipora-II (Gurez) with MANAGE Hyderabad on 'Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Agriculture and Allied sectors for officers/ officials of Agriculture and allied departments' concluded today at KVK-Bandipora-II (Gurez).

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit was chief guest during the concluding event and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gurez Dr. Mudasir Ahmad Wani was the guest of honour.

The three days event was conducted under the supervision of Director Extension Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi. Dr. Bilal Ahmed Bhat, Programme Coordinator KVK-Bandipora-II (Gurez) while speaking on the occasion said that the three days long programme specially designed for officers and officials of various departments had a total of 12 sessions comprising 4 sessions daily. The participants were sensitized about the different skill and entrepreneurship opportunities of various agencies. Dr. Parveen Kumar Training Coordinator of the programme told that as many as 25 officers/officials from different departments viz. Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) participated in the training programme. During three days programme the participants were also taken on an exposure visit to the herbal garden of an agri-preneur, Mohammad Shams Din Baba at Nayal and to Mountain Agriculture Research & Extension Station (MAR&ES) at Izmarg. Chief Horticulture Officer, Bandipora Altaf Tantray gave a detailed power point presentation on various schemes of Horticulture under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) of JK UT.

Awareness programme on breastfeeding held at Panchayat Battal

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST-03: On the instructions of Amir Bashir Ranyal, CDPFO, ICDS Project Majalta, an awareness program was organized on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week at Anganwadi Center Kakkdhei,

Panchayat Battal.

In the program, Health and Nutrition Mobilizer Jyoti Sharma and Supervisor Suraksha Sharma addressed the women present and explained the benefits of breastfeeding. Babies should be given only mother's milk till 6 months.

Breastfeeding protects children from infection and also keeps them away from obesity.

Apart from this, the risk of asthma, diabetes and heart diseases is also less in later years. Supervisor Anita Devi told that mother's milk is like nectar for the child.

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Director Agriculture visits Khuthipora, B.K. Pora Budgam

Says efforts are on to retrieve the barren land for converting it into vegetable fields



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited the land retrieved from the brick kiln and talked to the concerned farmer regarding various interventions by the department.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that with the vigorous efforts by the department seven kanals of brick kiln land was retrieved and its owner was motivated to start an agriculture activity on it. Director said the department introduced high yielding varieties of vegetables on this piece of land which earned a satisfactory income to the land owner.

He said that efforts are on to retrieve as much land used for unauthorized brick kilns as possible and to convert it for the agriculture purposes. He said the department will continue its endeavor to retrieve agricultural land so that the fertility of the land in the district does not go to waste.

Later, the Director Agriculture visited some other areas of B.K Pora Zone and took stock of the agriculture scenario in the area. He asked the officers to guide the farmers of the area in their different agriculture activities.

He directed them to increase the frequency of field visits in the area so that the proper information regarding various interventions by the department could be imparted to the farming community.

CUJ organizes Two-Day National Seminar on Bharat Centric Research: Opportunities and Challenges

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, AUGUST 04: Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu organizes "Two-Day Seminar on Bharat-Centric Research: "Opportunities and Challenges" with an objective to have a worthwhile knowledge and understanding about various opportunities in research with specific reference to Bharat Centric context.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu has provided oversight and assistance for the entire workshop. He recommended the organizers to maintain this spirit of doing research-based events, focusing on Bharat-Centered Research. Further, he called upon all the participants to apply all



the knowledge and understanding for doing the research in Bharat based circumstances and context. The inaugural session of the workshop is graced by Prof. Saroj Sharma, Chairperson, NIOS, New Delhi, Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja, Director-Academics, Sanskrit Promotion foundation New Delhi, Prof. Girish Nath Jha, Chairman,

Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, MoE, GoI, New Delhi; School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, JNU, New Delhi, Prof. Vishal Sood, Professor, Dept. of Education, Central University of HP and Dr. J.N. Balya, Head Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu. Prof. Saroj Sharma in her

keynote address focuses on the fact that ancient Bharat had a very rich civilization which includes 18 Vidyas and 64 Kalayan, Chath Darshan and many more. She further stressed that there is a vast diversity of areas where research can be done in context to Bharat-Centric Research which includes Bharatiya Architect, Physics, Chemistry, Shilpa Kala, Natya Kala etc. Furthermore, she urged in her address that there is a need to integrate sciences with the social sciences and concludes by saying that there should be emphasis on researchers in Bharatiya Cyan and Vigyan.

Prof. Girish Nath Jha in his special guest remarks said that education should be imparted in one's own language which is also beautifully described in NEP. He

further exclaimed that this is only possible if the content designing and content creation to be done in native languages along with technology development. Prof. Jha also stressed upon the promotion of Indian languages in education. While addressing, he throws light on the integration of Indian education with the recent advancement in technology like artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja in his inspiring and motivational deliberation urged teachers to teach the curriculum and content of the subject with real-life activities and practices. He also said that each and every thing of life is in the form of a text book so we need to connect the things through our pedagogical practices.

DC B'la condoles with CEO Municipal Council Sopore

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today expressed condolence with Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Sopore Tariq Ahmad on the demise of his Mother who passed away yesterday evening after a brief illness.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held in the office of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla wherein several district officers including Additional District Development Commissioner, Ajaz Abdullah Saraf; Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Planning, M.Yousuf Rather and other officers paid condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

Expressing solidarity, the DC extended her deepest condolences to Tariq Ahmad and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Poonch civil society passes resolution to uphold communal harmony, peace

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, AUGUST 04: A peace committee meeting was convened at the district headquarters and was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary and Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch, Vinay Kumar.

The civil society passed a resolution to uphold harmony and communal peace, signed by 40 prominent citizens and representatives of civil societies. The resolution reiterated faith in the Indian Constitution and its principles. The importance of maintaining communal harmony during the forthcoming discussion of



the Pahari SI Bill in the Lok Sabha was emphasised. In the meeting, several prominent citizens and leaders were present, including DDC Member Poonch Ch.Abdul Gani, BDC Chairman Jameel Kohli, Taj Mir, Advocates Mohd. Zaman, Banu Partap, Sanjay Raina and Younis Chowhan, K.D Maini, President

DGPC Narinder Singh, President SDS Khetarpal, Imam Jama Masjid Molvi Misbhai, President VHP Nishu Gupta, BJP Leaders and many sarpanches. Members of the civil society pledged to uphold values of ethnic and communal harmony among all communities. They pledged to work towards spread-

ing the message of peace and brotherhood throughout the district. Citizens present in the meeting denounced violence or aggression in the name of peaceful protests. They assured their active involvement in promoting law and order, pacifying their com-

munities and persuading fellow citizens to observe peaceful conduct.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed arrangements for upcoming festivals, including Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan. He appealed to residents to uphold peace.

The district administration has issued a warning against anti-social elements attempting to disrupt peace and communal harmony within the district. The Senior Superintendent of Police emphasised that strict action would be taken against those who seek to undermine peace and stability in the region.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews progress on District Indicator Framework



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, AUGUST 04: In a significant step towards the overall development of Rajouri District, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal presided over a crucial meeting on Friday to review the progress made on the District Indicator Framework.

The meeting was attended by the DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; DFO Nowsheera; Chief Planning Officer Mohd Khurshid, DPO Shoket Malik, GM DIC Ashwani Sharma, DSEO Sandeep Sharma, ACD Vijay Verma, CEO Education Sultana Kouser, LDM JK Bank Sanjeev Bhasin and other concerned officers. The agenda of the meeting revolved around assessing the implementa-

tion and progress of the framework.

The District Indicators Framework stands as a comprehensive initiative aimed at evaluating and enhancing the development and well-being of the district as a whole. It encompasses crucial aspects such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, social welfare, economic growth and environmental sustainability. By analysing a set of indicators and performance metrics, the framework provides a holistic view of the district's progress, enabling the identification of areas that require targeted intervention and improvement. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasised the indispensability of the District Indicator Framework as a

tool for effective governance and evidence-based decision-making. He stressed the need for regular monitoring and evaluation to track the district's development trajectory and ensure the successful implementation of various government programs and policies.

Addressing the participants, the DC stated, "The District Indicators Framework is a vital instrument that enables us to gauge our progress in key areas of development. It helps us identify our strengths and weaknesses, thereby channeling our efforts towards achieving sustainable growth and uplifting the lives of our citizens. I urge all departments and stakeholders to actively participate and contribute towards the effective imple-

mentation of this framework."

During the meeting, the officers engaged in fruitful discussions on various indicators, including education enrollment rates, healthcare infrastructure, employment generation, poverty alleviation, agriculture, horticulture, Aadhar seeding and environmental conservation. The participants shared their valuable insights, experiences and best practices, fostering a collaborative approach towards addressing the district's challenges and identifying innovative solutions.

The Deputy Commissioner also underscored the significance of data-driven decision-making and the integration of technology to streamline the data collection and analysis processes. He urged the departments to ensure timely and accurate reporting of relevant data, serving as the foundation for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

DC Bandipora visits Chitternar Camping Site

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Friday visited picturesque Chitternar Camping Site.

The DC was accompanied by Divisional Forest Officer, Mudassar Mehmood, Padma Shree Faisal Ali and other concerned officials.

During this visit, the DC interacted with children who had come for the camping experience organised by Ali Sports Academy in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora. He took the opportunity to engage with the children in various outdoor activities, fostering an environment of learning, exploration, and camaraderie. He said that the camping site with serene surroundings provides an ideal setting for the children to connect with nature and expand their horizons.

While interacting with children, the DC expressed his delight in witnessing the young campers' enthusiasm and determination to explore the outdoors. He emphasized the importance of outdoor activities for the overall development of children, promoting physical fitness and mental well-being, and instilling a sense of environmental stewardship. Dr Owais, on the occasion, said that such endeavors not only promote social cohesion but also contribute to the holistic development of the region. Praising the area, DC said that Bandipora is a beautiful region of Jammu and Kashmir, which is known for its breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture. Faisal Ali, on the occasion, informed that children from different schools and sports academies are taking part in camping. He said the purpose of such initiatives is to promote the natural beauty of district Bandipora and to develop a sense of strength among the participants.

SWD to start mass awareness camps on various beneficiary oriented schemes at Ganderbal

Awareness camps to commence from August-04



JI NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 03: In order to create mass awareness among the beneficiaries of various beneficiary oriented schemes of Social Welfare Department (SWD), the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah today convened a meeting of concerned officers to chalk out the schedule for holding camps in the district.

During the meeting, the ADC directed the concerned to upload/rectify the credentials/details on the online portal on-spot, of the beneficiaries in these camps. Moreover, it was directed that the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Ganderbal and concerned CDPOs shall inform all the beneficiaries to attend the said camps and furnish the daily progress report.

The DSWO was asked to coordinate with the concerned to ensure participation of local PRIs, Lumberdars, Chowkidars and Anganwadi Workers in these camps.

The officials from other departments/agencies viz. J&K Bank, CSC Operators, Supervisors/Anganwadi Workers, Panchayat Accounts Assistants/Panchayat Secretaries/GRS of Rural Department, PRIs/ Municipal Counsellors, Lumberdars and Chowkidars shall ensure their presence in these camps.

The Departmental Heads were directed to ensure participation of all concerned in the village/ town level camps.

Moreover, the Programme Officer, ICDS Gnderbal was directed to ask the Anganwadi Workers to facilitate the participation and data uploading of beneficiaries in the said camps.

'JIM fortnight campaign': Inspection of works under Jal Jeevan Mission held at Bandipora

487 crore being executed under JIM: DC Bandipora



JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 04: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, the Joint Director (JD) Planning Bandipora, Imtiyaz Ahmad and DFO Bandipora Mudasar Ahmad Friday conducted a joint visit to different panchayats under JIM Fortnight campaign.

The officers especially toured the areas where structures are being executed under Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM). During the inspection of Gamroo-Vijhara Panchayat, it was observed that one scheme worth 8.11 crore is near completion with satisfactory execution of SR, PST, filtration plant and other allied facilities.

During the visit, officers interacted with locals and sensitised them about the management of water resources and to further responsibility of technical staff and PRIs in maintaining assets of the Jal Shakti Department.

Meanwhile, the DC informed that a total capital of 487 crore is being spent on JIM across district Bandipora to ensure saturation of quality water tap connection by 2024.

He further informed that all 151 panchayats are being covered under the Fortnight programme and around 25 supervisors among senior officers are monitoring the entire programme.

Chairman DLSA Anantnag convenes meeting regarding commemoration of Independence Day, 2023

JI NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 04: To commemorate the Independence Day, and to finalize the programmes scheduled to be organized in the district, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag under the chairmanship of Jafer Hussain Beigh (PDJ) Anantnag today held a meeting with District Officers of various departments at ADR Centre District Court Complex Anantnag.

During the meeting officers were informed about the programmes scheduled to be held during the celebrations of Independence Day. For making the programme a success, suggestions were received from the concerned officers.

The meeting was attended by District Social Welfare Officer, Chief Education Officer, DFO, District Horticultural Officer, Warden Gujjar Hostel Anantnag, and Officer of Tribal Affairs Department, representative of District Information Officer and President Human Right and Anti Corruption Forum Anantnag.

JJM fortnight celebrations

Govt. embarks on ambitious outreach programme to connect with masses

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: With a view to reach out to the masses, Government has rolled out a unique and ambitious outreach programme of fortnight celebrations for Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM) from August 01.

Under the programme, lasting for two weeks, officers and officials of different ranks from the UT as well as district administrations are visiting various Gram Panchayats to inspect the JIM works and interact with the local communities to make them familiar and get the feedback about the implementation of this ambitious

Mission. During the launch of campaign, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta urged upon the Deputy Commissioners to ensure maximum participation of local communities in the programme and converting it into water festival across the UT.

Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaheen Kabra, while speaking about the campaign, advised the visiting officers to check the pace and quality of works undertaken. He stressed the need for achieving 100% testing of water sources and schemes during the fortnight long campaign. Mission Director, Jal Shakti, Dr. G N Itoo highlighted

the need for special focus on capacity building and involvement of local communities so that after completion of schemes they can take over and run the schemes successfully. He said with today's 446 programs more than 1000 programs have so far been organized across UT as a part of the campaign. He appreciated all Deputy Commissioners for their active support in the campaign. During this campaign, in an inspection of works being executed under JIM by the visiting officers, reporting of 100% FHTC villages as Har Ghar Jal Villages, certification of Har Ghar Jal reported villages through spe-

cial Gram Sabhas, installation of signages on all Water supply schemes, identification of 'JIM Nodal Person' from each village,

DYS&S Baramulla organizes "Prabhat Pheri" Initiative for Independence Day Celebration

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 04: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYS&S) organized a vibrant Cyclothon and Painting Competitions in Zones Kunzer and Zone Sopore as part of the "Prabhat Pheri" initiative, aimed at fostering a spirit of patriotism and celebrating the upcoming Independence Day.

The Cyclothon witnessed enthusiastic participation from young athletes and sports enthusiasts, who pedaled through the scenic routes, promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

making field testing kit available in each village, debates, painting Competitions, Rallies, Street Plays and other activities.

DC Kishtwar chairs meeting to discuss Prospective Action Plan 2023-26 under PMAJAY

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav IAS chaired a meeting today of the concerned district officers to deliberate on the prospective Action Plan under SCA to SCSP, falling under the centrally sponsored Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM AJAY).

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Manoj Kumar, District Social Welfare Officer, Zubair Ahmed Lone, CAHO Dr. Sanjay Sen, CHO Sajid Mustafa, CAO Amjad Hussain Malik and other concerned officials. The meeting saw a compre-



hensive briefing by DSWO on the process of implementation in the selected 2 villages, namely Nejuj and Drab in Drabshalla and Trigam, respectively. PM AJAY, a Government of India initiative, aims to reduce poverty among the SC communities, enhance socio-economic developmental indicators, boost literacy and promote enrollment of SCs in

schools and higher educational institutions. DC Kishtwar was updated on the achievements made during the previous year (2022-23) under PMAJAY, with 25 out of 27 identified works completed and 2 works in progress. Additionally, under SCA to SCSP, 1 CSC center, solar lights and Skill Development Training for 6 youths in each vil-

lage have been successfully executed. The DC emphasised the need for speedy saturation of all individual beneficiaries' schemes to achieve the goal of declaring these villages as Adarsh Grams. Furthermore, the concerned departments were directed to project their works for the next three Plan of FY 2023-26 after a thorough assessment of infra-

structural requirements in these villages, with a primary focus on skill upgradation and livelihood generation programs.

DC Kishtwar urged officers to collaborate in a coordinated manner to devise an inclusive plan for the overall development of the designated Adarsh Grams in the district under the Yojana, ensuring judicious and rational utilisation of funds. ACD Kishtwar was also entrusted with the task of developing irrigation canals in convergence with the Adarsh Gram schemes.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to foster progress and upliftment in the region through effective planning and execution of the Action Plan 2023-26 under PMAJAY.

Div Com, ADGP visit Rajouri & Poonch, hold Civil Society Peace Committee Meetings

ALSO REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY, SHRI BUDHA AMARNATH JI YATRA

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI/ POONCH, AUGUST 04: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Jammu zone Mukesh Singh today conducted an extensive tour of Rajouri and Poonch districts and reviewed arrangements for Independence Day and Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra and held civil society peace committee meetings in twin districts.

At Rajouri, the meeting was organized in Dak Bungalow Rajouri which was attended by Civil, Police officers and several eminent personalities, including the DIG Rajouri Poonch range, Dr. Haseeb Mughal, District Development Council Chairman Naseem Lyaqat, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Khandel, Senior Superintendent of Police Anirup Singh, civil society members, political leaders, and social activists.

The meeting was aimed at discussing various issues concerning the district, including the maintenance of peace and security, arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and the Baba Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra. The civil society members put forth various suggestions and concerns, and the officers who chaired the meeting appreciated the constructive



approach of the civil society members towards maintaining peace and harmony in the district.

The discussion revolved around the need for effective coordination between the administration and civil society to ensure the smooth conduct of important events.

The officers called for the cooperation of civil society members to ensure the successful conduct of both Independence Day and the Baba Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra.

The DIG Rajouri /Poonch, Dr. Haseeb Mughal, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M.Choudhary, Senior Superintendent of Police, Vinay Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik and all district officers were present in the meeting.

The meeting aimed to address various core issues concerning the

district, including maintaining law and order, eradicating the drug menace, improving infrastructure, and other developmental concerns.

During the meeting, the members of the Civil Society expressed their deep satisfaction with the existing sense of brotherhood and harmony within the district. They reiterated their unwavering faith in the Indian Constitution and its principles, underscoring the significance of maintaining communal harmony as a cornerstone of a prosperous district.

The Divisional Commissioner called upon the residents to uphold brotherhood, peace, and communal amity in the district, urging them to disregard rumors circulated by miscreants. He assured the attendees that concerted efforts would be made to address the concerns raised by the people.

The Divisional Commissioner also lauded the local residents for their commendable efforts in maintaining communal harmony, highlighting that peace is a fundamental prerequisite for the development and prosperity of any region.

The ADGP Jammu Zone echoed the sentiment, appealing to the representatives of the civil society to continue their efforts in promoting peace and harmony within the district.

Meanwhile, the Div Com and

ADGP conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements for the upcoming annual Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra.

The meeting focused on various crucial aspects, including security measures, transportation of pilgrims, provisions for langars (community kitchens), medical facilities, sanitation, water and power supply, traffic management, and lodging and boarding facilities for the pilgrims.

Recognizing the paramount importance of security during the pilgrimage, the ADGP issued directives to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) to implement comprehensive security measures.

The ADGP emphasized the significance of deploying an adequate number of police personnel along the designated route, reinforcing security checkpoints, and maintaining strict vigilance at all times.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the need for seamless transportation facilities, provision of langars to cater to the pilgrims' needs, adequate medical facilities, and proper sanitation arrangements.

The administration, in close collaboration with the police department, is working diligently to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place.

Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCI Jammu has informed that the power supply to Miran Sahib, Simbal, Kirpind, Darsopur, Kolti, MES, JIC, Trishul Bottle, Food Mall, Tanda & its adjoining areas shall remain affected on August 07 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, Executive Engineer, Elect. Division-I, JPDCI Parade, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Parade Matador Stand shall remain affected on August 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10 and 11 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Denis Gate shall remain affected on August 04, 06 and 08 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Jain Bazar shall remain affected on August 04, 06 and 08 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Residence Road shall remain affected on August 06 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Kanak Mandi shall remain affected on August 07 and 09 from 7 am to 11 am. Similarly, the power supply to Upper Gummat shall remain affected on August 07, 09 and 11 from 7 am to 11 am.

DC Doda reviews preparedness on Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 4: The Deputy Commissioner of Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today reviewed preparedness regarding 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign.

During the session, Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of completing the execution work for the preparation of a 'Shalpalakam' that will stand as a tribute to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The DC also issued directives for the establishment of outlets and inlets on the Shalpalakam.

To oversee the Panchayat Based Maati Yatra, related to the campaign, he asked the concerned to engage the volunteers and make the list of the volunteers carrying urns of Maati Yatra to Union capital.

Furthermore, DC impressed upon the forest department to be prepared for plantation drive of 75 plants per panchayat, encompassing all 237 panchayats across the district. In a heartening gesture, families of the local martyrs will be honoured with utmost respect to commemorate the spirit of the Meri Maati Mera Desh Abhiyan.

J&K set to achieve ODF+ status by 15th of August: CS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today impressed upon the officers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to work in coordination with each other to realize the set targets of providing 'Housing to All' and prevalence of 'Zero Poverty' in J&K by the year 2024.

Dr Mehta was speaking in a meeting called to review the overall functioning of the RDD. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Director Panchayat; Director Rural Development Kashmir/Jammu; Director Rural Sanitation besides other officers of the Department.

In his address, the Chief Secretary made out that the accomplishment of goals like developing, rural infrastructure and ensuring the sanitation of rural areas are the thrust areas of the Department. He stated that as discussed time and again the officers of the Department especially those manning the local offices should work towards making these areas livable offering best of the facilities to the

rural population. The Chief Secretary recalled that the UT is going to cover about 1.9 lakh houses under PMAY this year which are enough to saturate the housing needs of all the houseless persons here. He observed that the UT has made tremendous progress on many parameters during last few years including creation of AmritSarovers, door to door collection of waste, construction of houses under PMAY etc.

He stated that J&K has made tremendous progress in sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen and hopefully each of its village is going to achieve the status of ODF+ by the upcoming Independence Day. He emphasized on enhancing the capacity of employees so that they are able to orient their thinking, to meet the targets on time.

While presenting the performance of the Department, the Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandep Kaur informed the meeting that J&K has been among the top performing States/UTs in implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (G) by securing ODF+ status to all of its villages.

She gave out that the Department has constructed around 2607 AmritSarovers so far and has issued 13.9 lakh job cards. She also said that under PMAY (G), 139529 houses have been completed so far and more 20263 are to be completed soon.

Moreover it was revealed that the Department was successful in creating thousands of employments for the rural youth under JKRLM, SVEP and MKSP as well. It was said that 83062 SHGs have been created to whom the revolving fund to the tune of Rs 124.59 Cr were provided through credit linkages.

Similarly under Integrated Farming Cluster (MKSP), 2 New projects in 10 blocks of 10 districts to support 12000 SHG members (300 per IFC) have been sanctioned during current FY worth Rs 16.00 Crores.

In the same vein Under SVEP Phase II, 2 units of 4 Blocks were approved with a budget outlay of 1115.00 Lakhs for four years with a target of supporting 4034 enterprises.

As on date 210.00 lakhs funds have been released as CEF supporting 559 enterprises as on date.

Akhnor youth dies in Greece, family seeks Govt help to bring body back home

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 04: The family members of a 26-year-old Akhnor resident, who died in Greece, have appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government to help in

bringing the mortal remains to India.

The youth identified as Pankaj Sharma of village Muthi of Jaurian tehsil in District Jammu died in Greece few days ago and his body is lying at General Hospital, Neas Ionias,

Konstantopouleio, Greece.

The deceased youth had been staying in Greece for the last three and half years, the family members said adding that Pankaj was working in a company.

He belongs to a poor farming family and had

gone to Greece for earning but unfortunately died and now he has left behind his mother, and three brothers, & relatives said adding that his father Yash Pal had already died few years ago and family has agriculture as the only source of income.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION J&K GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE WARDEN, JAMBU ZOO

MANDA HILLS, NEAR HOTEL ASHOK JAMMU. PH/FAX. 0191-2520247. Email: ulujammu@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDERING

Tender Notice : e-NIT No.- 26/WLW/JZ of 2023-24 dated: 02-08-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving/Opening Authority
Completion of Balance works at different locations of Jammu Zoo.	21.46	42,920	A, B & C	1000	30 days	Tender opening committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- <http://jktenders.gov.in>

Position of funds: JKIDFC, LUP 2545
Position of AA: Accorded vide Order No. 205 of 2023 dated 28-06-2023 of the Office of Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K
Position of TS: Accorded vide Order No. 192 of 2023-24 dated 03-07-2023 of the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu.

Publishing Date	02-08-2023
Download Start Date	02-08-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	02-08-2023
Bid submission End Date (online)	07-08-2023 up to 04:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	08-08-2023 at 12:00 AM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	08-08-2023 at 03:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

Terms & Conditions:

- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head0406- Forest and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Additional Wildlife Warden Jammu Zoo. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) has to be uploaded at the time of bidding.
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened after the evaluation of the Technical Bids by the Tender Opening Committee of the Department. The dates of opening of price bids as per NIT. The price bids will also be opened in the office of Conservator of Forest/Wildlife (Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu), Manda Hills, Jammu.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, then the earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as the contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from government service without permission of the government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained permission from the government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the contractor's service.
- The interested bidder can download the NIT / Bidding documents from the website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

DIP/J-6293/23

SD/
AMIT SHARMA (ACF)
ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE WARDEN
JAMBU ZOO

DC Samba reviews status of works under District Capex

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, AUGUST 04: The District Development Commissioner Samba presided over a significant meeting today to review the progress of various ongoing projects under District CAPEX and UT CAPEX, as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other beneficiary-oriented initiatives being carried out by different Departments in the District. During the review, DDC Samba urged all District Officers and Executing Agencies to collaborate closely and prioritize expediting the tendering process. Emphasizing the importance of timely execution, the DDC set a target for the commencement of all works by 31st August, 2023. He directed the executing agencies to streamline the estimation process and ensure swift allotment of works.

G2 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75**
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for various lots over Firozpur Division as per detail given below:-

Auction catalog No.	Lot No.	Start Time	End Time
EAFFZ-MA23-10	16.08.23	11:00 hours	
Name of Work			
Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No Group rake link 12422, 12422-22462, 12414, 12408, 14612 & 14610			
Auction Catalog No.	EAFFZ-OR23-17		
Auction Start & Time	17.08.23	11:00 hours	
Name of Work			
1. Contract for Commercial Advertisement rights an exterior of Overhead Water Tanks S/NP, LNK S/NL, BBNM & JUC Railway Station. 2. Contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through static media at CHL, FZ, EDR & SVDK Railway Station. 3. Contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media at Level crossing No. C-49, S-49, & C-50 adjoining to Pathi Railway Station.			

Only registered vendors can participate. For other details please visit Railway website www.treps.gov.in

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Advisor Bhatnagar reviews progress on implementation of JIM across J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the progress achieved on the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shailesh Kabra; Secretary in Jal Shakti Department, Mission Director, JIM, Dr. G.N Ittoo; Chief Engineers of all wings of Jal Shakti, Superintending Engineers of all districts and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Advisor held detailed assessment on the progress on execution of



works and finalization of contracts under JIM. He also reviewed and discussed the status of tendering, evaluation of bids and allotment of civil works besides assessing progress achieved in respect of procurement of pipes under JIM. Addressing the officers,

Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized upon the officers for collaborative efforts among different stakeholders for ensuring the success of the mission. He exhorted upon the officers to maximize their efforts in executing various projects under the JIM so that safe potable drinking water is provided

to every household of Jammu and Kashmir and the target of providing every rural household with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) is achieved within the given deadline.

While reviewing the progress of different components of JIM like borewells, tube wells, overhead tanks and sand filtration plants, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the concerned officers to expedite the tendering and evaluation processes and ensure that allotted works are completed by the fixed deadlines.

He also impressed upon the officers to maintain highest level of transparency and accountability in implementation process and meet the timelines targeted for completion of various tasks.

Advisor Bhatnagar also stressed on the importance of

timely project execution, effective monitoring, and transparent reporting to maintain the momentum of the mission's success.

He encouraged continuous engagement with the public through awareness campaigns. He emphasized on the mission's pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life of general public especially rural areas by ensuring the provision of clean and safe drinking water.

During the meeting, several notable achievements were presented during the meeting, including the completion of numerous water supply schemes, the installation of water purification systems, and the training of local maintenance teams to ensure the sustainability of water supply systems.

DC Doda discusses progress and issues of under-construction Chenani-Vailoo NH244

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting with Tehsildars and National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) authorities to review the progress of work on NH244 in the district and discuss issues impeding progress.

During the meeting, the DC highlighted that the Chenani-Vailoo National Highways 244, connecting Chennai-Sudhmahadev-Anantnag, will serve as an alternative route for road transport, reducing travel expenses and distance by around 93 kilometers.

DC Doda emphasised the importance of timely completion of mega projects and urged concerned Tehsildars and stakeholders to settle issues hampering progress on Alternate NH244. Various bottlenecks and issues affecting progress were discussed and the DC directed officers to take the matter seriously and find solutions.

The meeting also discussed rehabilitation of Pul Doda residents, court stay cases, demand for additional land for acquisition, disposal of debris, plantation on the new highway and other issues.

DC Ramban distributes aids and appliances among children with special needs

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam today inaugurated a distribution camp to provide appropriate aids and appliances to Children with Special Needs (CWSN) organised by the Directorate of SAM-AGRA SHIKSHA, J&K, in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) at Government High School Ramscoo.

CEO Ramban Dev Anand, ZEO Banihal, Jamsheed Ahmed, ZEO Khari, Dev Raj, Headmaster HS Ramscoo, Kamlesh Kumar and others were present on the occasion. Beneficiaries along with their parents attended the camp where aids and appliances were distributed.

The doctors from Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) Kusam Devi and Gulshan Kumar gave demonstrations regarding use of appliances.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the School Education Department and ALIMCO. He emphasised that such camps tremendously help students to cope up in their daily life and should go a long way to help them to achieve life goals. He also impressed that such camps should be organised more often in all blocks and zones.

Khel Gaon Nagrota hosts Tiranga Yatra, plantation drive

JJ NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, AUGUST 04: As a part of Independence Day 2023 fortnight celebrations, Director Youth Services and Sports J&K, Subhash Chhibber accompanied by Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Suram Sharma launched Tiranga Yatra of students from HSS Nagrota and also Kick-started plantation drive by planting a sapling in the premises of Khel Gaon here at Nagrota today. He also inspected the ongoing works of Khel Gaon at construction site where construction of play fields is underway.

Among others Dy. Director Central, Jitinder Mishra, Dy. Director Planning, RK Sharma, Ex En Sports Council Jammu, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Jammu, accompanied the Director and apprised regarding whole construction program by executing agency i.e. sports council.

Sheetal Nanda visits day care center at Roopnagar

INTERACTS WITH SENIOR CITIZENS, REVIEWS FACILITIES BEING PROVIDED TO THEM



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 4: Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda today visited day care Centre Aahat-a-Waagar for senior citizens here at Roopnagar. Vivek Sharma, Director General, Social Welfare Department, Jammu; Harvinder Kour, MD Mission Vatsalya; Mamta Rajput, DSWO Jammu and other officers and officials of the department.

Commissioner Secretary interacted with senior citizens and discussed various issues.

Senior citizens of the day care extended their gratitude to the social welfare department for taking several initiative for providing various facilities in the day care for mental and physical well being of senior citizens which is very critical in their post retirement life.

The facility being provided at the day care Aahat Waagar includes badminton court, table tennis, yoga room, computer facility along with Wi-Fi, carrom boards, chess, musical instruments among others.

RTO Kashmir cracks whip on Two-Wheeler violations in Srinagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: The Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir today took a firm action against violations by two-wheeler riders at various locations across the city, with specifically targeting Airport Road and Boulevard Road to ensure compliance with traffic safety regulations, promote road safety and raise awareness about the importance of helmet usage among the two-wheeler riders. During the operation, the RTO Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari accompanied by Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Srinagar, Dr Farhana Asgar and other officers suspended the driving licenses (DLs) of drivers found riding without helmets. In some cases, where the owner of the vehicle and the driver were two different individuals, the notices for DL suspension were also issued to the owners on the spot. This measure highlights the serious consequences of not adhering to the mandatory safety requirements, said the RTO Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari.

"We want to emphasize that wearing helmets is not only a legal obligation but also a crucial step in protecting oneself from potential accidents and injuries," he added.

Secretary Revenue reviews functioning of Registration Deptt

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 04: Secretary, Revenue, Dr. Piyush Singla today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of registration department.

The meeting was attended by Inspector General of Registration (IGR), Additional Inspector General of Registration Kashmir, (AIGRK) Additional Inspector General of Registration Jammu, (AIGRJ) and other senior officers of the revenue and registration department.

During the meeting, the Secretary undertook a comprehensive review of the working of the Registration department and deliberated on various deliverables of the department approved for the current financial year and other issues pertaining to the department.

While appreciating the working of the registration department, the Secretary observed that Chief Secretary has been emphasizing upon scanning, digitization and uploading

of legacy data of the Judiciary and registration department for maintenance of repository of records for e-search facility for Sub Registrars and general public.

Dr. Singla highlighted four key deliverables to be completed within the prescribed time lines like scanning, digitization and uploading of legacy data, monitoring of Sub Registrar Offices through Central Monitoring System, and notification of rules regarding identity verification for the registration of documents to dispense with the identifier thereby reducing the footfall in the Sub Registrar offices.

The Secretary directed that the checklist notified for each article / document which is also linked with the NGDRS portal be adhered to strictly to eliminate scope for any discretion on part of the registration staff. He directed that fortnightly reviews should be held for resolution of the all pending issues.

The IGR assured the Secretary that

the deliverables notified for the department and other directions issued for bringing in further efficiency and transparency in document registration will be complied with.

JGR J&K informed about the status of implementation of various initiatives like Aadhar based registration of document, home visit module, iris facility for Aadhaar authentication of senior citizens and elderly people, implementation of e-office, redressal of grievances, scanning, digitization and uploading of legacy data, installation of a central panel for monitoring of SROs through CCVIs, notification of Aadhaar rules, addition of new articles / instruments in NGDRS, setting up of a technical support cell for NGDRS related issues etc. On this occasion, the status of various proposals which relate to bringing in efficiency and further transparency in document registration were deliberated upon and steps / time lines finalized for their resolution.

Rs 45 Cr subsidy component, aid released by FD

Mission Youth approves Rs 238 Cr outlay under Mumkin and Tejaswini

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: Mission Youth, Jammu and Kashmir, today approved an outlay of Rs 238 Cr for self-employment cases under the customised livelihood schemes Mumkin and Tejaswini schemes with target to fund 1875 applications for multi-utility vehicles and 1000 women enterprises over next two months which include the cases approved by the District Level Task Force.

The Governing Body of Mission Youth headed by the Lieutenant Governor Sh Manoj Sinha has approved a number of youth empowerment initiatives under Mission Youth in the current financial year. Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta earlier reviewed the progress under Mission Youth and emphasised on saturation under various schemes. Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D Vaidya, in a meeting with Deputy Commissioners, emphasised on according top priority

to Mission Youth initiatives and also approved the requirement of funds under various schemes, the cases under which stand approved by the DLTFs.

CEO Mission Youth Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir continuing the focus on youth empowerment is endeavouring this year for record youth engagement, particularly under the schemes related to self-employment, coaching, education, fellowships, innovation, sports and skilling. Finance Department has released Rs 45 Cr for key schemes.

Giving details, Dr Shahid Choudhary shared that 1875 cases under Mumkin scheme with an outlay of Rs 188 Cr have been approved for which Rs 15 Cr subsidy component has been released by Finance department and Rs 15 Cr committed by the vehicle manufacturer partners while remaining amount is sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir bank. Similarly, under Tejaswini schemes Rs 10 Cr

budget has been released by the Finance Department and Rs 40 Cr committed by the J&K Bank.

Subsequent instalment of subsidy, manufacturer sponsorship and bank credit will be released based on demand and Mission Youth endeavours to cover more than 10,000 youth under these two schemes in the current financial year. Fund have also been provided by Avasr scheme for district level initiatives, coaching, skilling and scholarship. Mission Youth aims to provide self-employment incentives worth more than Rs 1000 Cr during the year.

Pertinently, Mission Youth received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration, India's highest civil services award, in April 2023 for its performance during the year 2022-203. The other schemes which have been provided funds in today's approvals by the Finance Department include Spurring Entrepreneurship, Rise Together, Parvaz and Avasar.

DC Srinagar chairs 2nd meeting of DLIMC to review "Computerization of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies" project in the District

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04:- The 2nd meeting of District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DLIMC) of Srinagar District constituted by the Government for implementation of Centrally sponsored Project "Computerization of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies" (PACS) was held today under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting discussed through-



bare various aspects with regard to Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS).

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman DLIMC, Srinagar took a first hand appraisal of the present

status of the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in Srinagar District. He also took stock of their overall functioning during his interaction with the CEOs of all the 7 PACS established in the District Srinagar.

On the occasion, the DC asked for completing all the technical requirements for procurement of hardware components as per NABARD recommendations in order to make these Societies fully computerized. He stressed on procuring the hardware with specifications aimed at achieving the desired outcomes.

Pertinent to mention that DLIMC Srinagar has nominated/recommended 7 PACS of District under the centrally sponsored project aimed to provide assistance of Rs 3.91 lakh per PACS of District Srinagar for their computerization so that the activities undertaken by these PACS and their records are fully computerized to provide profits to the beneficiaries in rural areas of District Srinagar.

The project also brings these PACS under the ambit of technology and the hassle free services offered by the PACS are available to the common people.

Yuvraj Shri Vikramaditya Singh ji
TRUSTEE
J&K DHARMARTH TRUST

Courtesy: Varinder Singh Jammwal, Additional Secretary, J&K Dharmarth Trust, Sahil Verman, Media Officer