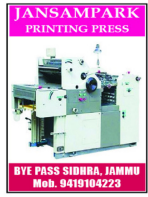




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Railway connectivity is lifeline of a society: LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, AUGUST 6

In a landmark day for the railways sector, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and laid foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country under the scheme, through video conferencing, at a cost of more than Rs 24,470 crores.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the ceremony at an event at Budgam Railway station.

In his address, the Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for including three stations of J&K UT, Jammu Tawi, Udhampur and Budgam under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

He said, the redevelopment of Railway stations in the UT will give huge boost to connectivity and ease of travel for passengers.

"I believe railway connectivity is the lifeline of a society. A railway line not only strengthens connectivity with different regions but it also brings economic prosperity and transforms standard of living and creates a new destiny of the concerned region," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the ongoing railway projects and the overall transformation



LG interacts with officers of Higher Command Course-52



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 6

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with the officers of the ongoing Higher Command Course-52 at Raj Bhawan, today.

The Lt Governor addressed the officers and faculty members of Army War College and highlighted the transformation of UT of Jammu Kashmir.

He also shared the policy interventions, institutional reforms new institutional arrangements to address the needs of common man and accelerate industrial and infrastructure development.

Lt Gen DP Pandey, Commandant, Army War College, faculty members and senior officers of the Security Forces were present.

taking place in the railway sector. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, we are witnessing rail projects of unprecedented magnitude in Kashmir Valley, he said.

"Kashmir will be connected to Kanyakumari by the end of this financial year. It will connect the valley with all important commercial centres of the country," the Lt Governor added.

He further informed that the Railway Board has sanctioned five Final Location Survey works in Kashmir-Banital Railway Line, New Baranulla-Uri, Awantipora-Shopin, Sopore-Kupwara and Anantnag-Bijbehara-Pahalgam Rail Line. Once approved, the new networks will boost rail connectivity in the valley, he added.

He also shared the reforms introduced by the UT Administration to strengthen the air and road connectivity catering to the growing aspirations of the people.

Sh Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairman, District Development Council, Budgam; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Jammu Sh Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sh Akhoy Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam; Sh Vijay Pratap Singh, Principal Chief Engineer Northern Railway, PRI members, youth and people in large numbers were present.

Opposition Playing 'Negative Politics': PM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the opposition of playing "negative politics" and said now the entire country is rooting for corruption, dynasty and appeasement to 'quit India'.

Addressing an event after laying the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country via video conferencing, he alleged that a section of the opposition is working on the principle that neither will they work nor let others work.

A modern Parliament building has been built but part of the opposition even opposed that, Modi said.

"For 70 years they did not construct a war memorial for martyrs but did not feel ashamed even to oppose that when we built it," he said.

The 'stature of unity' of



decisions and continuously worked for a permanent solution to the challenges before the country," Modi said.

"India, which is heading towards the goal of being developed, is at the beginning of Amrit Kaal. There is new energy, new inspiration and new resolutions and in this spirit, a new chapter is beginning in the history of Indian Railways," he said after laying the foundation for redevelopment of 508 railway stations.

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, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

He said that today, the focus of the entire world is on India.

India's prestige, on a global scale, has increased, Modi asserted.

"World's attitude towards India has changed. There are two main reasons behind this - firstly Indians elected a full majority government after almost three decades and secondly the full majority government took major

steps towards 'Quit India, dynasty - quit India,' Modi said.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is the biggest statue in the world and all Indians feel proud of it, Modi said, adding that some parties remember India's first home minister during polls but none of their big leaders have gone to his statue to pay homage.

Modi accused the opposition of playing "negative politics".

"Rising above negative politics, we are moving on path of positive politics in mission mode, giving priority to development," he said.

"Inspired by Quit India

North India's first river rejuvenation project 'Devika' almost complete: Dr Jitendra



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 6

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and

Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, North India's first River Rejuvenation Project "Devika" is almost complete.

Built at a cost of over Rs 190 crore on the lines of "Namami Ganga", the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Fresh batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Yatra



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANHAL, JAMMU, AUG 6

Pilgrims on way to the Amarnath cave shrine were stopped briefly in Ramban district on Sunday after a landslide blocked the Jammu-Srinagar national highway near Keela Morh, the officials said.

The Amarnath Yatra had resumed from Jammu

early Sunday, with a fresh batch of 1,626 pilgrims leaving the base camp here to join the annual pilgrimage in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

However, the pilgrims were stopped for a couple of hours at the Chankerkote Yatri Niwas in Ramban district at 6:15 am. The agency

continued pressed its

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Traffic restored on Jmu-Sgr national highway: Police

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 6

Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was restored on Sunday at around 9 am, police said.

In this regard, the official media handle of Jammu Kashmir police took to Twitter and said, "Traffic updated at 0900 hrs Traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar NHW."

Earlier today Jammu-Srinagar National Highway

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About three groups of Terrorists active in Rajouri, Poonch: ADGP Mukesh Singh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JAMMU, AUG 6

About three groups of terrorists, each comprising two to three ultras, are operating in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and Poonch districts, a senior police officer said on Sunday, asserting that security forces are determined to wipe out terrorism from the region.

Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh also said security agencies are making twice the effort to thwart the attempts to push terrorists from across the border.

"Two or three groups of terrorists are believed to be present in the (Pir Panjal) region. Each group comprises two to three terrorists but divulging their exact number is difficult," Singh, flanked by the Army's Romeo Force Major General Mohit Trivedi, told reporters in Rajouri.

Singh reached Rajouri where an encounter between terrorists and



security forces is going on since Saturday. A suspected Pakistani terrorist in combat uniform was killed and a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including an AK assault rifle and two pistols, were recovered from him.

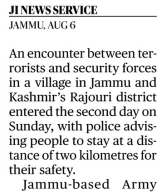
"Some terrorists were noticed in the Gundah-Khawas village of Budhal and, accordingly, a police party rushed to the village, besides informing the Army. When a cordon-and-search operation was launched, the terrorists opened fire, which was retaliated by the joint troops of the police, Army and the CRPF, resulting in the killing of a terrorist,"

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J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 6

An encounter between terrorists and security forces in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district entered the second day on Sunday, with police advising people to stay at a distance of two kilometres for their safety.

Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said two to three terrorists are believed to be holed up in the besieged village and



their repeated attempts to break the cordon has been thwarted by controlled fire throughout the night.

An unidentified terrorist was killed on Saturday in the initial exchange of fire with the security forces during a cordon-and-search operation launched by police and the Army at Gundha-Khawas village in Budhal area.

A police official said a gunfight between the two sides was on when last reports were received.

Reinforcements of the security forces have plugged all escape routes for the terrorists and efforts are on to neutralise them, the official said.

He said the search operation was launched after

police received information about the movement of terrorists in the area.

A small police team launched the operation and was later joined by reinforcements from

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Security forces on Sunday foiled an infiltration bid when they killed a terrorist near the Line of Control in Jammu Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said.

The bid was foiled in Amrohi area of Tangdhar. "Army and Kupwara police in a joint operation foiled an infiltration bid by neutralizing a terrorist on LoC in Amrohi area of Tangdhar sector", Jammu and Kashmir police said in a tweet.

The identity and affiliation of the militant was not yet established.

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Respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity must by all states without exception: NSA Ajit Doval

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 6

Dialogue and diplomacy is the only way forward for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said at a conference in Jeddah on the crisis while underlining the need for upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity by all states without "exception".

The two-day meeting hosted by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman was attended by top security officials of around 40 countries, including US NSA Jake Sullivan and China's Special Envoy for Eurasian Affairs Li Hui.

Russia was not invited to the deliberations.

In his address on Saturday, Doval, referring to the impact of the conflict, said the whole world, especially the Global South is bearing the brunt of the

Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in Kupwara: 1 terrorist killed

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 6

Security forces on Sunday foiled an infiltration bid when they killed a terrorist near the Line of Control in Jammu Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said.

The bid was foiled in Amrohi area of Tangdhar. "Army and Kupwara police in a joint operation foiled an infiltration bid by neutralizing a terrorist on LoC in Amrohi area of Tangdhar sector", Jammu and Kashmir police said in a tweet.

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police received information about the movement of terrorists in the area.

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situation. India has regularly engaged both Russia and Ukraine at the highest levels since the beginning of the conflict and New Delhi supports a global order based on principles enshrined in UN Charter and international law, he said.

The NSA especially emphasised that sovereignty and territorial integrity must be upheld by all states without exception, people aware of the deliberations at the conference said.

Doval also said that all peace efforts involving

all stakeholders must be pursued to find a just and enduring solution to the conflict and that it is in this spirit that India participated in the meeting in Jeddah.

He said New Delhi's approach has been and always will be to promote dialogue and diplomacy, adding this is the only way forward for peace.

The NSA also said that India is providing both humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic assistance to its neighbours in the Global South. The conference was

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Nitish Mahajan motivates youth for self-reliance, entrepreneurship



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge of the Social Media Department for BJP Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirmed the commitment of the BJP government towards the comprehensive development of all segments of society, transcending differences of caste, color, and creed. While interacting with

youth of Bathindi area, Nitish Mahajan extensively discussed the wide array of welfare and startup initiatives launched by the central government. He emphasized that the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is dedicated to addressing the needs and aspirations of all sections of society. He highlighted significant accom-

plishments, such as the provision of free ration to approximately 81.35 crore impoverished individuals through the National Food Security Act and extending benefits to around 9.59 crore beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). He also underscored the inclusive approach of the government in its COVID-19 vaccination

campaign, with more than 2.20 crore vaccine doses administered across the nation without discrimination based on caste, color, or creed. He urged the youth to recognize the efforts made by the government in prioritizing the welfare of every citizen. The senior BJP leader encouraged the youth to explore diverse avenues for their future. He advised against relying solely on government jobs and highlighted the presence of esteemed institutions like the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) within Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon the youth to take a proactive approach towards entrepreneurship and job creation, positioning themselves as contributors to the nation's economic growth rather than being mere job seekers.

No visible change in J&K after abrogation of Art 370: Rattan Lal



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, raised serious concern over the lack of visible change in Jammu and Kashmir after repealing Article 370 from the erstwhile state.

These remarks were made during a meeting of the party's cadre in the district of Udhampur Urban which was convened under the chairmanship of Sunil Verma, District President of Udhampur.

The Provincial President, while addressing the meeting, highlighted that the proxy governance currently in place is unable to resolve the basic issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the problems of the general public have only multiplied in the absence of

a popularly elected government.

Gupta stated that the claims of development made on paper have not been reflected on the ground. The scarcity of drinking water, irregular power supply, non-availability of government ration, and inadequate healthcare facilities in rural and far-flung areas have deeply impacted the lives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He criticized the lack of accessibility to officials for resolving basic issues, leaving the citizens helpless.

Earlier, Sunil Verma, District President of Udhampur, apprised the senior functionaries of the various problems faced by the people of the district. He highlighted issues such as the blocked Ramgarh Basantgarh road, the dilapidated condition of the

the people to support the National Conference, as they believe it is the only party that can fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for a brighter future. He said the National Conference strives to address the concerns and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and work towards equitable development and progress.

Pardeep Bali, Secretary of the National Conference, criticized the present dispensation for the high levels of unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir and the lack of adequate steps taken to address the issue.

Vijay Lochan, Provincial President of the SC Cell of the National Conference, highlighted that 45 percent of the ST/SC population in Jammu and Kashmir continues to suffer due to the lack of basic amenities such as drinking water and regular power supply.

Later, impressed by the policies and programmes of National Conference, several people joined the party fold which include Amarnath, Ex Capt Madan Lal, Sub Retd Moti Ram, Hav Rajesh Parihar, Ch Billa Panch, Pritam Singh, Raj Pant, Som Raj Sharma and Jai Dev Singh.

Among those who were present include Capt Pavittar Singh, KD Sharma, Capt Balbir Singh, Dil Mohammad, AnayatUllah Savitri Devi, Sunita Mehra, Ratnu Devi, Karan Singh.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary of the National Conference, urged

GOC White Knight Corps and Maj Gen RK Sachdeva Inspire NCC Cadets



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: The General Commanding (GOC) of 16 Corps, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, accompanied by Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, visited the NCC Camp at Nagrota on August 5, 2023. This visit aimed to engage with the youth of Jammu and Baderwah regions and provide guidance on important life values.

The visit coincided with the ongoing AIC-J NCC Camp being conducted by 2J&K (I) Coy Baderwah for cadets from the Jammu and Baderwah region. During the visit, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain and Maj Gen RK Sachdeva interacted with around 500 enthusiastic cadets, engaging them in discussions about Unity, Discipline, Leadership, and Integration, emphasising their significance in achieving success in the future.

of Capt. (Dr.) Vineet, Lt. (Dr.) Madhu, Cadet. (Sya) Bhandari, and the entire staff of the unit.

Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, the Additional Director General of JK&L NCC Directorate, conveyed his appreciation for the NCC cadets' commitment to social service and community development activities. In his vote of thanks, he emphasised the importance of youth in shaping the future of the nation and exchanged mementos with Lt Gen Sandeep Jain as a symbol of collaboration and mutual respect.

The visit by GOC White Knights Corps and Maj Gen RK Sachdeva left an inspiring impression on the NCC cadets, motivating them to aspire for excellence in all their endeavors. The event underscored the NCC's role in instilling values and principles that contribute to the holistic development of the youth, enabling them to make positive contributions to society.

Satguru Madhu Paramhans delivers religious sermons at Akhnoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Satguru of Sahib Bandgi, Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj today at Sungal Road, Akhnoor, Sahib Bandgi Ashram, enthraling the Sangat with the nectar rain of his discourses, said that earlier there was no Maya. I'll tell you then. Sohan was not there, Kaal Niranjan was also not there. There were not even 10 incarnations. But he was one. Then there was no Jyoti Swaroop either. At that time there were no sun-moon etc. either. There is no play of day and night there. You see that the Earth has a few days and the Moon has one day. In this way, when 6 months pass on earth, there is one day of Pitra Lok. If 6 more months pass, then there is one night of Pitra Lok. That is, one year of the earth is equal to one day of the ancestors.

Everyone has an immortal body in that immortal world. You would wonder if there is even a body. No. There is no body there. It was spoken with embellishment just to explain. Only the one who reached there can know. He is beyond saying and hearing. There, there is neither time nor famine. Niranjan is also called Akal.

The writers of the scrip-



tures have at least written that it is immortal, does not take birth, does not die, does not perish in any country and time. There is no woman, there is no man either. is unborn. That's correct. When the soul is a part of the divine, then it also has the same thing. There is no one who is entangled in the one who is the eater. You think that no matter how our children are, we want their welfare. But you look at the condition of the world, there is so much suffering here. There is no destruction there. All the different opinions in the world, all are engaged in the devotion of Kal Purush. The period from 1500 to 1800 was called the Sant Kaal. Such a wave had arisen in the country that everyone started worshipping that supreme man. That's why there was fierce opposition from the saints. If you look at the scriptures, the word saint is nowhere to be found. Siddha is found, Yogi is found, Rishi-Muni is

found, but the word saint is not found written anywhere.

I am talking about Sahib. Let's talk about the name. I talk about that immortal world. After all, the saints did not tell any lie, did they? Sahib spoke about that supreme world in thousands of words in his speech. It was said that they do not even know the Vedas. Only the one who has reached can know. He is beyond saying and listening. In this world, not only human beings, all living beings, insects etc. try to attain happiness. But Kabir Sahib is saying that the true happiness of the soul is its own immortal world. Everyone here has one or the other sorrow. Sorrow is sorrow. This is the house of sorrows.

Sahib is saying that there is no ghost-ghost after the name. Doesn't seem like witchcraft. Name given a noun. At the time of Naam Daan, the Guru plants a power inside the disciple. Because of that power, these names are removed. They don't seem such is the name. makes it safe. You also see in the serials that Ram ji etc. used the divine powers in the war. But Sahib is saying that, no power will be felt after the name.

Kavinder inaugurates community hall of Rs 2.5 crores



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 06: Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister along with former Chairman JMC and Corporator Rajkumar Tarkhan, Vinay Kumar Gupta, Narinder Gupta Koki District Secretary Jammu and Jaggdish Raj Proch Ward President handed over the Baba Yamuna Puri Community Hall to the dwellers of the area which costs Rupees 2.5 Crores only at Ward No.51 in Channi Himmat Jammu.

In his address, Kavinder Gupta said that BJP believes in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas and Sabka Vishwas' as a result of which the party has been progressing by leaps and bounds with each passing day. He said that it is the performance of the party and its Govt on ground especially in terms of development that speaks for itself.

Kavinder also said that it was a long pending demand of the residents of the area which has been fulfilled today. He asserted that under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are witnessing unprece-

dent development in every nook and corner of the Union Territory, adding that BJP stands fully committed to fulfill the pressing demands of the people.

The BJP stalwart extended his appreciation to the Prime Minister for the inclusion of three key stations from J&K UI - Jammu Tawi, Udhampur, and Buzgam - in the comprehensive redevelopment plan for 508 railway stations across the nation under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He emphasized that this initiative holds immense potential in elevating connectivity within the union territory. The redevelopment of these railway stations is poised to not only enhance regional linkages but also contribute significantly to economic growth, ultimately elevating the overall standard of living. Kavinder also commended the efforts of Rajkumar Tarkhan in addressing the problems of general public. He also impressed upon the elected Corporators to display extraordinary activeness to ensure the overall development of their respective wards. Referring to work started today, he said the execu-

tion of works has been initiated and it will be completed with no compromise on the quality of work so that people don't have to suffer in the future. Among those who were present include Badri Nath, Jeevan Singh Charak, Surinder Singh Charak, Vinod Gupta, Raghubir Singh Charak, Mohinder Paul, Mirza Baghat, Dinesh Kumar, Manohar Lal, Darsh Kumar, Deepak Kumar, Anand Lal Sharma, Parshotam Gupta, Tarsem Lal, Vimal Sharma, Krishan Lal, Bittu Choudhary, Thoru Ram, Chandher Shekhar, Manohar Lal, Devinder Kumar Sharma, Rishi, Pintu Pandita, Vishwadeep Gupta, Deep Raj, Devinder Singh Charak, Noor Hussain, Nazir Ali, Gul Mohd, Lal Din, Peer Mohd, Alif Din, Khush Mohd, Majid Ali, Abdul Sheen, Abdul Meen, Jhon Hussain, Khan Mohd, Farman Hussain, Mohd Rafiq, Nazir Choudhary, Lal Mohd, Sheen, Sarab Din, Mohd Saleem, Vinod Sharma, Mahesh Sharma, Durag Singh Charak, Deepak Singh Charak, Mohan Lal Sharma, Chaman Lal Sharma, Mahavir Gupta, Chaman Lal Sharma, Omkar Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, Jai Krishan Koul, Multan Singh, Devraj Verma, Ramesh Verma, Darnvish Verma, Gagandeep Verma, Ramesh Sharma, Naresh Sharma, Uttam Singh Charak, Rattan Lal, Pankaj Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Balwinder Kumar, Daulat Ram Gupta, Satish Gupta, Deepak Kumar, Kanav Dutt, R.C Puri, Sushel Gupta, Sunila Sharma, Jagdish Kumar, Saven Gupta, Aryan Gupta, Anit Chahotra, Prem Sagar, Ashwani Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Manoj Chahotra, Chaman Lal, Rashpal Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Pawan Gupta, Shah Mohd, Fareed, Sadiq Ahmed.

BMS oppose tariff hike and installation of smart meters

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 6: Bhatryya Mazdoor Sangh has opposed the smart meter installation and enhancement in new tariff rate on consumers as proposed by the electrical department and placed before the JK Electricity Regulatory Authority for approval.

BMS alleged that officials are have hands in gloves and are responsible giving free access to illegal consumers otherwise old

consumers are also worth while and installing smart meters have no logic till all the consumers are covered with proper connections and the main plea is being taken by the govt that there is huge gap between the revenue collection and expenses on purchasing of power it is pertinent to mention here that in Jammu Kashmir there is line and distribution losses is too much as compare to rest of the country and by revising

the tariff rates how much Govt can fetch and further it will put burden on the already rent paying consumers it is therefore demanded that instead of revising the tariff rates department officials should be made accountable for line loss and all the consumers should be given proper connections and those who never pays electricity charges must be compelled to take connections and those who do not pay rent with the hope of

free bees must be asked pay arrears in instalments and whatever revenue govt want to increase can generate easily from the defaulters and poor working class, small formers and unorganised sector workers is unable to bear extra burden on this account and will get some relief and industry which is already reeling under slow down shall be saved from this unwanted extra burden said in a press release.

Jammu Tawi Railway station will be Equipped with all Modern facilities: Jugal Kishore



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament BJP Lok Sabha Jammu today along with Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma, Paramveer Chakra Sardar Bana Singh today attended e-foundation laying function by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji at Jammu Tawi Railway Station and laid foundation stone for Redevelopment of Jammu Tawi Railway Station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. On the occasion Former Dycom Kavin

der, Former Ministers Dr. Davinder Manyal, Priya Sethi, Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, BJP Seh-Prabhari Ashish Sood, Corporators & Senior leaders were present. Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering said that efforts were made for development & extension of Jammu Tawi Railway Station and today we are getting fruitful results. He said that Jammu Railway Station will now be modernized and redeveloped under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and its 1st time when a big budget is allocated for modernization of Railway Stations. He thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji and Union Minister of Railways Sh. Ashwini Vaishnav Ji for enlisting Jammu Tawi Railway Station's modernization in 1st Phase. He said that it is the matter of great privilege of us when Hon'ble Prime Minister announced that every Railway Station reveals the picture of its region and Jammu Tawi Railway Station would also be modernized on the pattern of Raghunath Mandir. He said Jammu Tawi Railway

Station also get two entries like other developed stations One from Rail Head and Second from Narwal soon which work is executed. He said that it is get redeveloped by getting 4 new platforms, escalators, lift, free wifi, waiting halls, eating malls and other facilities. Member of Parliament said that we are entering in the new era of development which is only possible under Modi Government. He also facilitated students with certificates. Senior BJP Leaders Yudhvir Sethi, Venu Khanna, Rajeev Charak, Anuradha Charak, District President Rekha Mahajan, Omi Khajuria, Ayodhya Gupta, Sanjay Baru, Vinay Gupta, Rajinder Chib, Prem Gupta, Mahila Sanjita Dogra, Sunil Prajapati, Programme Co-ordinator Arvind Gupta, Corporators Rajkumar, Anil Kumar, Rahul, Ajay Gupta, Neeraj Puri, ADC Sandeep Samotra, Dy Chief Railway (Const.) Sumit Khullar, ADEN Narinder Singh, Station Jugal Kishore SSP ML Kaith and others also present at the occasion.

Kavinder felicitates talented Jammu artists for promoting Dogra Art & Culture



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Senior BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta commended the dedicated efforts of Jammu-based artists in preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Dogra art and culture through various creative platforms. He made these remarks during the captivating musical event titled "Ek Shaam Jammu Ki Shan Ke Naam" organized by Silverlines at KC Regalia Jammu. As the chief guest

of the event, Kavinder Gupta highlighted the universal impact of music in transcending boundaries and fostering unity, urging collective endeavors to celebrate the distinct Dogra identity. The event featured an array of performances including singing and comedy acts by talented artists. During the programme, Kavinder Gupta along with Raghav Mahajan, Editor-In-Chief of Channel 1, felicitated noted singers, actors, and journalists of Jammu, presenting them with mementos as tokens of appreciation. Kavinder praised the tireless dedication of these artists in contributing to the preservation and celebration of Dogra heritage, encouraging them to continue their valuable efforts. He urged the community to collectively support and celebrate the richness of Dogra art and culture, ensuring its vibrant legacy endures for generations to come. Emphasizing the significance of Dogra pride, Kavinder stressed the importance of promoting and preserving the region's cultural heritage through diverse artistic channels.

Among those honored were a diverse range of accomplished individuals, including Kusum Ticker, Supritika Sharma, Rishi Singh, Ravi Raghuvanshi, Naresh, Aditya Bhanu, Vinay Daggar, Sandeep Verma, Amit Dubey, Kavee, Shazi Khan, Sahil Nath, Sans Bharti, Varsha Jamwal, Sonali Dogra, Urja Singh, Jubi Singh, Yashika Pandoh, Irfan Choudhary, Aranya Gupta, Amit Anand, Kwaish Gupta, Shweta Gupta, Shammil Malhotra, Janak Khajuria, Sanyam Pandoh, Ashish Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Kuldeep Hans, Tanvir Dhar, Shekhar Cartoonist, Aisha Khan, Rekha Sharma, Ravi Vijaypuria, Vikram Mehta, Aditi Aryan, Amit Kundal, Rj Rahul, Brij Mohan, Balwant Thakur, Sorraj Singh, Rumalo Ram, Sapna Soni, Rishabh Manhas, Chaman Leeri, Rajeev Vohra, Sushil Sharma, Raju Vijaypuria, Akash Dogra, Chetan Salathia, Sugam Bral, Nitin Gupta, Santosh Sangra, Madan Rangela, Kuldeep Saprao, and Lalita Tapasvi.

Rohit shastri call on Union MoS Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri meet Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and presented a memorandum. On occasion Mahant Rohit Shastri said agriculture is the main source of livelihood of 70% of population of India and India is a Country where majority of population deals in agricultural activity. There are certain men that leads a particular community, and Shri Bawa Jitto is one of the renowned farmer of Jammu and

Kasmir who has sacrificed his life for farmer community in order to provide them justice from the land lords and Shri Bawa Jitto is marked as role model for farmer in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Dear sir it is appropriate to mention here that two agricultural universities in Jammu and Kashmir One in Jammu and another in Kashmir are having their names on the name of Shere Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology and name of these two universities do not carry any relation with their name. It is the great farmer Shri Bawa Jitto who sacrificed his life for providing justice

to the farmer should be remembered by renaming Skuast - Jammu in the name of Bawa Jitto Universities of Agriculture and Sciences and Technology instead of Shere Kashmir University as Shri Bawa Jitto who was great farmer had not been recognized by the local administration for his sacrifice for the promotion of Agriculture and imparting justice to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir. It is further submitted that these both universities situated at Jammu and Srinagar should be upgraded and be taken under the direct control of ministry of agriculture and both these universities shall be upgraded to central universities under the direct control of Government of India. Sir this act of changing the name of above said universities in the name of great farmer Shri Bawa Jitto and upgrading the standard of universities to central universities shall be a great step for the promotion and welfare of the farmers on Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and shall be a great tribute for the sacrifice of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. On occasion trust members uttam chand sharma and Naresh Sharma were also present.

JKPJF organises seminar on "Muharram: A message of Peace, Harmony and Love for Nation"

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUG 07: A seminar was organized at Gangoo, District Jammu & Kashmir People's Justice Front (JKPJF) on "Muharram: A message of Peace, Harmony and Love for Nation" to encourage the youth of Kashmir to inculcate the teachings of Muharram in their lives which teaches us to love our community, our neighbourhood and the Nation. The seminar was attended by Molana Showket Hussain (Religious Scholar), Agha Syed Showket Madani (Religious Scholar), Molana Mohammad Maqbool Sheikh (Religious Scholar), Mohammad Abbas Malik (Social Activist), Shri Sajjad Hussain Sheikh (Social Activist), Molana Mohammad Hussain (Religious Scholar), Agha Syed Abbas Rizvi (Chairman JKPJF) and other religious and social activists and large gathering of locals.



In the seminar Molana Showket Hussain, a religious scholar deliberated upon Muharram: Its History & Celebration across the world including India. He said that Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and considered to be highly holy, next only to Ramadan. The tenth day of the month is marked as the day of grief by the Shia community. Addressing hundreds of people in the seminar, Agha Syed Showket Madani, a religious scholar stressed that Muharram spreads the message of love, peace, tolerance, equality and harmony. Muharram stands for sacrifice, love, compassion, religious tolerance and patience. It teaches us to promote unity, tolerance, religious harmony, and collective efforts towards the progress and prosperity of the country by leaving aside petty regional, personal and racial hatreds and prejudices. While as Molana Mohammad Maqbool Sheikh, a religious scholar addressed that Muharram which is the month of peace and love and all people should join hands to discourage the hatred and violence. He encouraged people to follow the principles of the martyrs of Karbala to ensure a just society which believes in equal rights for everyone and symbolizes love for each other. It will also help in the promotion of interfaith harmony which is the need of the hour and everyone is morally bound to play a role for maintenance of peace. Mohammad Abbas Malik, a social activist deliberated upon the Challenges and Effects of Terror on Muharram Processions. He said that Shias in Pakistan have been facing constant sectarian attacks since the very foundation of this nation. The number of Shias killed in sectarian violence in Pakistan particularly during Muharram is more than 23,500 between 1963 and June 2021. He further said that Islam completely rejects sectarianism and extremism and teaches harmony between different schools of thought.

Sajjad Hussain Sheikh a social activist deliberated upon Muharram: A Remedy for Peace. He said that peace is undeniably one of the greatest human needs. Peace is also a fundamental aspect of Islam. In fact, the word Islam means peace and submission. As we enter the month of Muharram, one of the four sacred Islamic months is a symbol of peace and love for Nation. Molana Mohammad Hussain, religious scholar while addressing the gathering discussed the importance of Muharram in Promotion of Communal Harmony. He said that several States in India have set an example of communal harmony as Hindus too participate in the Muharram processions, offer water to the mourners in the processions. Addressing to the large gatherings of religious scholars, social activists and intellectuals, Chairman of JKPJF Agha Syed Abbas Rizvi discussed that unfortunately, some anti-national elements and our neighboring country is trying to disrupt peace and harmony in Kashmir by using the shield of religion. Pakistan has used religion as a tool for radicalization, extremism and violence to damage peace and harmony in Kashmir. The continued efforts of Pakistan to radicalize the youth in Kashmir so as to develop false narratives to radically modify the opinions of Kashmiris in a bid to disrupt stability and peace. He further said that the Muharram procession had not been taken out for the last 33 years and its resumption was "another historic day in the continued march towards peace and stability. This is the indicator how much secular is our country. India unlike Pakistan where our fellow followers of Islam is killing the followers of other Islamic sects. The LG's decision to grant permission for the Muharram procession in Srinagar and other areas shows his awareness of the changing dynamics in the valley. His willingness to stand among the people and share in their grief and mourning is a significant gesture that has earned appreciation and respect. At the end, an appeal was made that all those present would adopt tolerance & harmony for all those come across in their lives. Let Peace and Prosperity return and grow in our RishVaer, the valley of Kashmir.

DDC Chairman kick-start plantation drive at GDC Khour



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, AUG 07: Senior BJP leader from Budhal Assembly Segment Manzoor Naik along with senior party leadership Nazir Mohd, Pandit Tilak Raj Sharma and others conducted a day long tour of far flung areas Gundi, Pathrada & Kunal area in Khawas Tehsil as part of the party's Public Outreach program to review progress of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and to get feedback from people about other developmental works in the region.

Being a far flung remote area with dismal government services, the people of the Gundi region raised their socio-economic concerns with the BJP leaders. The most significant of their issues was the lack of proper road connectivity to the area, thus depriving them of various government initiatives and interventions. The other key areas of concern included lack of electricity, water scarcity, inadequate health infrastructure, acute shortage of teaching staff at Govt. Girls High School Gundi etc. The locals of the region appraised the BJP leader Manzoor Naik of the challenges faced by them on a daily basis referring to the dismal education facilities for their children in the region. In the name of health facilities, there is not even a single dispensary catering to the needs of the local populace. Manzoor Naik while acknowledging the issues raised by the people, assured them that their concerns shall be put forth with the senior BJP leadership of the UT and adequate measures will be taken to address their deprivation. Manzoor Naik also assured them that under the Center's policy guidance of various schemes viz. Jal Shakti Mission, Gram Jyoti Yojna the locals shall be benefited. Besides this, the locals also appreciated the various govt. schemes for providing pension to the old age, widows and specially abled population under which they have benefited. They were also hopeful that they could find a political voice to represent themselves as the earlier elected representatives failed to address their concerns beyond the election time. Naik added that unprecedented development is being witnessed in the recent years in remote areas but Gundi is facing problems and lack basic amenities. He said that people should also educate the local youth for taking the benefits of schemes promoting entrepreneurship in various local trades. Bhisban sharma, a local leader from Gundi raised the demand of road from Gundi Ward No 5 to Bala Raj via Pathrada and Kunal. Naik assured redressal of their genuine grievances at the earliest.

Shri Dewarika Nath Shastri Ji Service Trust organises Langar at GMCH

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 06: Free weekly langar, run by Shri Dewarika Nath Shastri Ji Service Trust at Government Hospital Bakshi Nagar, was again organized. Langar was started in the morning itself. The hands of the people who ate langar were sanitized by the workers of the trust. The rules of social distance were also followed. Along with this, the devotees were given langar in the disposable

plate itself. Rice, roti, vegetables and mix pulses were provided in the langar. This food was fed to many needy people who came to the hospital. Small children, youth, elderly found food in the langar. Trustee of the trust Shri Ajit Kumar Sharma Ji while talking to the reporters said that such a part of the society which resides away from the big hospital of the city and whenever they face any medical related problem, especially GMC Jammu. Families have to struggle. Even more caregivers suffer problems than patients, who have to suffer from hunger and thirst. Keeping this in view and for the service of Shri Shastri Ji Maharaj, today Shuddha Saada Khana (Langar) was organized at GMC Jammu. He told that on every Sunday it goes on continuously at this place in the service of poor Narayan as per the orders of Shri Maharaj Ji.

Amit Shah launches digital portal of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Minister Shri Narendra Modi has put forth the idea of "Sahkar Se Samridhhi" with immense thinking. He said that in the last 9 years, Prime Minister Modi has worked to provide basic facilities to crores of poor people of the country. He said that Shri Narendra Modi has provided houses, electricity, pure drinking water, gas cylinders, toilets, health insurance coverage up to Rs 5 lakh and 5 kg food grains per person per month free of cost to the poor and underprivileged. Shri Shah said that crores of poor people of the country were not linked with the country's economy, but Shri Modi connected them with it by fulfilling their basic needs and opening their bank accounts. He said that if the poor people of the country lack the capital to start an enterprise then the cooperative movement is the right way for this.

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that all the work of these 65 societies will now be done through this portal. He added that on same lines, Modi Government is going to computerize the offices of registrar of cooperative societies of the states which will ease the communication with 8 lakh cooperative societies across the country. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the cooperative movement cannot move forward without modernity, transparency and accountability. He said that to increase the acceptance of cooperative movement, transparency has to be increased and accountability has to be fixed. He said that only such a transparent system can create a connect between crores of people of the country. Shri Shah said that India has given many success stories of cooperatives like Amul, IFPICO and KRIBHCO to the world now we have to give new momentum to the cooperative movement by taking these along.

Shri Amit Shah said that meaning of "Sahkar se Samridhhi" is to improve the life of poor people, give him a platform to contribute to the economic progress of the country and raise his standard of living through cooperatives. He said that Shri Modi established the Ministry of Cooperation to achieve this objective. Shri Shah said that 1555 multi-state cooperative societies of the country will be benefited by the Central Registrar and 42% of these 1555 societies are in Maharashtra only, this shows the strength of cooperative movement in Maharashtra. He said

that all the work of these 65 societies will now be done through this portal. He added that on same lines, Modi Government is going to computerize the offices of registrar of cooperative societies of the states which will ease the communication with 8 lakh cooperative societies across the country. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the cooperative movement cannot move forward without modernity, transparency and accountability. He said that to increase the acceptance of cooperative movement, transparency has to be increased and accountability has to be fixed. He said that only such a transparent system can create a connect between crores of people of the country. Shri Shah said that India has given many success stories of cooperatives like Amul, IFPICO and KRIBHCO to the world now we have to give new momentum to the cooperative movement by taking these along.

leadership of Shri Modi, this step-motherly treatment of cooperatives has ended. He said that today, the arrangements available to corporates are also available to all cooperatives. Shri Shah said that the double standard of income tax has also been abolished. Modi government has also solved the problem of sugar mills which was pending since last many years. He said that the concept of cooperative is that the government cannot tax the profit of the farmer. This principle has been accepted by the Ministry of Finance for the whole cooperative movement and this will be hugely beneficial for this sector in the coming days. Shri Shah said that earlier there was a limit on housing finance for urban cooperatives, it has also been doubled now. Rural cooperative banks have also been given permission to give loans for real estate. Urban Cooperative Banks did not have permission for doorstep banking that, too, has now been given. Urban Cooperative Banks can also open new branches now, One Time Settlement was restricted for Urban Cooperative Banks, for this also we have given rights to Urban Cooperative Banks by bringing them at par with nationalized banks.

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Vice President expresses anguish over sinister efforts to taint and tarnish our institutions

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

The Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today expressed his anguish and pain over the sinister efforts by some to taint, tarnish and demean our institutions. Calling upon everyone to be judgamental about such forces, he urged the countrymen to never hesitate to neutralize the anti-Bharat narrative. "You'll have to speak your mind to defeat sinister forces that think otherwise," he said.

Stating that when the country is witnessing such unprecedented growth, there are bound to be reactionary challenges, the Vice President appealed to everyone to never have a partisan approach when it comes to nationalism and national interest. "Political partisan approach is fine when in the political arena, but when you become stakeholders in the growth of the nation, you must take a back seat. When it is the interest of the nation, we must always be on the front foot. We must play with a straight bat and play with courage and conviction," he added.

Addressing the Valedictory Ceremony of the Festival of Libraries organized by the Ministry of Culture in New Delhi today, Shri Dhankhar described informed citizens as the greatest strength of any democratic process. Underlining that only an informed citizenry can nationalize banks, forces & narratives, he said that libraries are quintessential to achieve informed citizen status.

Describing the Parliament as the temple of democracy where debate, discussion and dialogue has to take place, the Vice President said that no one expects the Parliament to be engaged in disturbance and disruptions. Recognizing that we have enormously talented people in the parliament, Shri Dhankhar said that they bring huge experience to the table and as Chairman Rajya

attempts and wipe out terrorism from the region," Singh said. "Asked about the plan of the terrorists, he said it is a matter of investigation. "A thorough investigation and analysis will be carried out after the encounter." On the possible involvement of the slain terrorist in the Dhangri attack where seven civilians were killed in January, the officer said, "It is also part of the investigation. We will call the eyewitnesses for identification of the slain terrorists."

Singh said strict action is being taken against overground workers of the terror groups. "Several of them have already been booked under the Public Safety Act while we are also keeping a constant vigil on suspected persons." He added, "Action will be taken against any overground worker whose linkage will be established during the investigation of the latest encounter," he said. Major General Trivedi credited the success against the terrorists to the synergy among the Army, police and other sister agencies and the cooperation of the people. "The operations against terrorists will continue to ensure they do not get a foothold. The terrorists were feeling that they will operate with ease but we have cornered them," he said, adding anyone having any ill will against the region or the country will be dealt with sternly.

He said the induction of homemade new firearms and night-vision devices have improved the capability of the forces and "we promise to ensure a peaceful atmosphere".

Fresh batch of pilgrims...
men and machinery and managed to clear the road of the debris to ensure its reopening by 9 am, the officials said. They said the pilgrim convoy was allowed to move towards its destination and have crossed the landslide-hit area.

Early in the day, the 34th batch of 1,626 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a convoy of 64 vehicles between 3.30 am and 3.45 am. While 1,092 of them are heading for the Palahang base camp in Anantnag district, the remaining 534 devotees are on their way to the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district, they said. More than 4.17 lakh pilgrims have so far visited the 3,888-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine since the commencement of the 62-day-long annual yatra on July 1. (Agencies)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Opposition Playing...

Besides 15 of the stations are in Haryana and 13 in Karnataka. The redevelopment, which will cost Rs 24,470 crore, will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration and well designed signage for guidance of passengers, the PMO had said in a statement, adding that the design of station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture.

Noting that Modi has often laid stress on provision of state-of-the-art public transport and that railways is the preferred mode of transport of people, the PMO had said he has prioritised the importance of providing world-class amenities at railway stations.

Guided by this vision, the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' was launched to redevelop 1,309 stations, it said.

As part of this scheme, the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 stations was laid by the prime minister. (Agencies)

Encounter in Rajouri...

The Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the official said, adding the body of the slain terrorist was yet to be retrieved from the scene of the encounter.

After initial contact, Army troops moved to the area and pinned down terrorists assessed to be up to two-three. Additional troops of the Rashtriya Rifles mobilised as terrain is undulating and forested. Lt Col Bartwal said.

He said special forces were brought in by Indian Air Force helicopter, while night enabled Quadcopters, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and sniffer dogs were also pressed into service.

Police in Rajouri issued an advisory on Sunday, asking people to stay away from the encounter scene to avoid any casualty.

"It is for the information of all that the operation is in progress with exchange of crossfire in the general area of village Gundha, Khawas. People are advised not to visit the area and remain at a safe distance of at least two km outside the periphery of the area," the advisory reads. (Agencies)

Infiltration bid foiled...

Some incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were also recovered. Search operation is in progress and further details shall follow, police said.

Op Shivaji, #Tangdarh Sector, #Kupwara | In a Joint

Operation launched by #IndianArmy, @ItnuMnrPolice & Int agencies, an infiltration bid was foiled today in the morning by alert troops along the LoC in Tangdarh Sector, Kupwara. 01 X Terrorist eliminated & war like stores have been recovered. Ops in progress, tweets Chinar Corps, Indian Army.

Traffic restored on...

was blocked due to landslide in Ramban area. People should avoid the route till the restoration work is completed on the stretch.

Earlier on July 19 the National Highway-44 in Ramban district was blocked due to shooting stones and mud slush.

"NH-44 is blocked at certain places due to mud slush and shooting stones. People are advised to avoid travelling, till road clearance works are executed," tweeted Deputy Commissioner Ramban. (Agencies)

North India's first...

Project was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr. Jitendra Singh said this while reviewing Liquid Waste Management Project undertaken separately to protect the sanctity of holy Devika River in Udhampur.

During the review meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Devika which is considered as the sister of sacred river Ganga, has a great religious significance which is why the Liquid Waste Management Project with the network of pipes and manholes connecting all the households under Devika Rejuvenation Project is being constructed by UEED to protect the sanctity of it. Out of the 190 crore funds allocated for the project, the sharing of allocation is in the ratio of 90:10 by the Centre and UT respectively, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also informed that besides a Liquid Waste Management Project, a Solid Waste Management Project will also be constructed under Devika Rejuvenation Project which is vital from many aspects protecting the sanctity of Devika River.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh asserted that the role of PRIs is vital for the success of major developmental projects being the representatives of grassroots level of the society. The PRIs present during the meeting raised many issues with the Minister to which the Minister directed the departments to redress the issues in the shortest possible time.

The meeting was attended by DC Udhampur, Sachin Kumar, Vaishya, Additional DRM Kullays, Baldev Raj, SSP Udhampur, Dr. Vinod Kumar, DDC,

BDC members, Sarpanchs and Panchs.

Respect for sovereignty...

organised with a focus on the peace formula proposed by Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy put forward the 10-point "peace plan" for ending the conflict that included punishing those responsible for the war crimes, withdrawing all Russian troops from Ukraine, and restoring the country's territorial integrity.

Under the plan, he also called for ensuring energy security, food security, and nuclear safety.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Thursday that India's participation in the meeting would be in consonance with its long-standing position that dialogue and diplomacy is the way forward to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

India has been maintaining that the Ukraine crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. At a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on September 16 last year in the Uzbek city of Samarkand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Today's era is not of war" and nudged the Russian leader to end the conflict.

In May, Modi held in-person talks with Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Hiroshima. In the talks, the prime minister conveyed to the Ukrainian leader that India will do whatever is possible to find a solution to the conflict.

On his part, Zelenskyy briefed the Indian side in detail on his peace formula and urged New Delhi to join in its implementation.

Ahead of the Jeddah conference, the Ukraine President said that it is "very important" that the world sees a fair and honest end to the Russian "aggression". "I am grateful to Saudi Arabia for this platform for negotiations. Recently, a meeting in the same format was held in Copenhagen. We are moving step by step towards the Global Peace Summit," he said on X.

"Liberating Ukrainian land from the occupiers means restoring full respect for international law and the UN Charter," Zelenskyy said.

"I am grateful to all those who support the peace formula and have already joined the joint efforts for the full implementation of the Formula," he said. (Agencies)

About three groups...

18, and said attempts to disturb the peaceful atmosphere by pushing terrorists into the Indian side is going on unabated from across the border.

"We are making double efforts to thwart their

Amit Kapoor hold protest block Siddhra road against installation of pre-paid meter



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Aam Aadmi Party's Jammu Province Vice President Amit Kapoor came to support the people of Siddhra on Sunday and opposed the prepaid meters being installed by the PDD there. During this, he strongly opposed it with the people, due to which the employees of the department gave direct connections to people's homes in view of their protest.

Expressing his views on

the occasion, Amit Kapoor said that there are no smart meters anywhere in the country, so why are they being installed in Jammu and Kashmir.

Along with this, he said that people's bills are also coming more from these meters. Kapoor said that electricity is generated in our state on which the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the first right, so the people here should be given electricity free of cost.

He said that the power generated in our state is sold

to outside states while the people here are being provided power at exorbitant rates which they will not accept at any cost. During this, while raising slogans against the installation of smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir, he demanded to withdraw it and stop the harassment of electricity consumers in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the other hand, he said that the replaced meters were lying on the roads rotting and not being used and it was a waste of the exchequer.

ers, Amit Kapoor said that it appears to be a scam in which meters worth Rs 1700 crore have already been worked with meters worth Rs 5 lakh in 1, 2 and 3 divisions of Jammu city under RAPDRP scheme in the last three years. Meters were installed on electric poles. He wondered why Rs 1000 crore was being spent to install 3 lakh smart meters, when the earlier pole-mounted meters were working fine and all had automatic reading facilities, for which the meters Reader is not required.

He further said that along with smart meters, meters are also being converted into prepaid mode without taking consumers into confidence. Highlighting the plight of the elderly people, he said that if the elderly are not using smartphones, then how will they charge these meters again.

On the other hand, he said that the replaced meters were lying on the roads rotting and not being used and it was a waste of the exchequer.

BJP Organizes program to Celebrate Abrogation of Article 370

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: To celebrate the abrogation of Article 370 of Constitution of India, today Bhartiya Janta Party Organised a program here in Peer Kho, old city Jammu.

Narotam Sharma, BJP leader and councillor ward no 3, welcomed the senior party functionaries of the party including Ravinder Raina, President BJP J & K unit and Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. Chief Minister, Rajinder Sharma Honble Mayor Jammu, Yudhveer Sethi vice president BJP, Priya Sethi former minister and other prominent personalities.

Including Mahant Keshav Shukla of Peer Kho temple also attended the program and blessed the gathering. During the program all the participants called the abrogation of Article 370 as a beginning of new chapter in



the history of India and positive change in J & K politics.

Fourth Anniversary of construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya also celebrated with chants of lord Ram.

Besides a book entitled "political truth of Jammu and Kashmir" written by Dr Jeevan Dhar was released for

public by the prominent political leaders of BJP.

The Prominent people who attended the program includes Kuldeep Sharma, Sarooj Gupta, Anuradha Sharma, Anuraj Khanna, Sanjay Sharma, Lucky Mehra, Sudhir were present to grace the occasion.

ZNS NIST academy Organises one day exhibition

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: ZNS NIST ACADEMY More than 100 peoples visit one day exhibition to grab the designers bags, jewellery & accessories. Eye catching design that attracts everyone over there bags of different needs are made by students like shopping bags, potties, clutches etc. many people enjoyed different stuff. They highly impressed from the institute.

Exhibition is organised to give platform to the students of Fashion designing. Students make different handbags, jewellery & accessories which they learn in workshop that is happen in both branches of academy Gandhinagar and bari Brahmana. Creative ideas given to the students for making their design more attractive. Centre head shabir Malik & nusrat



Malik also emphasis that our key motive of this exhibition that peoples of Jammu get the stuff of bags, jewellery & accessories etc. these exhibition results help the students to reach their financial needs.

This kind of events helps students present their skills of designing to the all peoples.

They also said these event is dedicated to all trainers & students of academy.

Indian Army held interaction with VDCs and locals in Keri near LOC



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 07: To build relationship and to get acquainted with the local influents of Keri AoR, a coordination meeting, Chai Pe Charcha was organised by Tain Rashtriya Rifles

Battalion at Sasalkote Panchayat Garh Doongi on 05 Aug 2023. The interactive session was conducted with the local prominent and influential members of Village with a view to strengthen the relationship between them & Army. During the event all sections of natives

were reached out with an aim of identifying and solving their problems related to security, health and other miscellaneous grievances. The locals highlighted the contribution of Rashtriya Rifles towards the overall improvements in the area by means of various Sadbhavana activities and conveyed that they will encourage the students to prepare for Sainik School/ Military School exams and Agniveer

The event was an initiative and effort to build trust between Army and locals and to engage them effectively for the safety and betterment of the region. They participants promised to cooperate with the Army in maintaining peace and congruence in the region and appreciated the effort of Keri Coy for showing presence of tips in every nook and corner of the AoR round the clock.

J&K set to have world class railway stations: Dr. Manyal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary and former minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, in a statement, said that the laying of the foundation stone for redeveloping three existing railway stations under 'Amrit Bharat Stations' scheme is yet another milestone in the transport sector of this UT under the Narendra Modi government. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for including Jammu Tawi, Badgam and Udhampur railway stations to be redeveloped and make them world class with an investment of Rs. 294 crore.



Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that the mega projects will redevelop three railway stations, along with more than 500 other stations in the country, which itself speaks to the fact that for the first time there is a government at the centre under which Jammu and Kashmir is getting equal share and opportunities in every sector.

It is highly appreciable and reflective of the approach of the Union government to take all together in a march towards development, progress, and prosperity.

On completion of the work to redevelop three railway stations, these will be equipped with the provision of amenities like a roof plaza, shopping zone, food court, kids play area, segregated entry and exit gates, multi level parking, lift escalators, executive lounge, waiting area, traveler, and divyangjan friendly facilities, which will make them the centres of socio-economic activities in the region, Dr. Manyal said.

Dr. Manyal said that

Kashmir, being a famous tourist destination, attracts a large number of people from across the country, and similarly, Jammu too witnesses a heavy rush of religious pilgrims and tourists.

So these redeveloped railway stations in both regions of the UT will provide the visiting people with world class modern facilities for journey and halt, thus making their stay here memorable.

The BJP leader expressed hope that the UT will continue to get its due share in various projects of development in the future and that the union government under PM Modi will continue to shower blessings on the UT and its people.

DC Poonch discusses activities of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, AUGUST 6: In a significant step towards fostering unity and pride among all sections of society, Deputy Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary chaired a meeting to discuss the rollout of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign in Poonch district.

The campaign aims to celebrate India's rich heritage and patriotic spirit, with a special focus on paying tribute to the martyrs during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the hallmark event on Independence Day 2023.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign and instructed the placement of memorial plaques at Amrit Sarovars, Panchayat Ghars, parks, and other public places to honor the martyrs who made supreme sacrifices for the nation.

To ensure effective monitoring and implementation of the campaign, Assistant Commissioner Development and the concerned Block Development Officers (BDOs) have been appointed as nodal officers at the district and block levels respectively.

The Assistant Commissioner Development presented an overview of the different themes under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign, outlining the events to be held in the district. It was announced that programs will be organized at each Panchayat and Block from August 9 to August 15, focusing on the theme 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'.

All stakeholders have been urged to make necessary preparations well in advance for the successful conduct of these events.

Furthermore, specific locations such as Amrit Sarovars, Panchayat Bhavans

and other public places have been identified for the installation of memorial plaques. A comprehensive list of martyrs, categorized by Panchayat, is being prepared for this purpose.

In a unique initiative, the Assistant Commissioner Development has been tasked with identifying youth volunteers for the Maati-Yatra. These Maati-Yatras will be organized from Panchayats to blocks, and the collected earthen urns will be forwarded to New Delhi by the youth volunteers from each block for the construction of the National Memorial at Kartavya Path.

To promote environmental consciousness, a plan has been put in place to plant at least 75 saplings in each Panchayats and wards of the municipality of the district.

The District Forest Officer (Territorial), Suresh Manja, Chief Horticulture Officer, Sanjeev Kumar and BDOs and tehsildars have been entrusted with ensuring the protected planting of these saplings in Panchayats, educational institutions, and other suitable locations.

Alongside the commemorative activities, the campaign will also include the felicitation of families of the martyrs and retired sainik/ serving jawans. Additionally, Painting, Essay Writing, Drawing, Photography, and Videography competitions will be organized in all educational institutes, providing a platform for students to express their creativity and pay homage to the brave hearts and national heroes.

As a part of Meri Maati Mera Desh' Greh Pravesh' will be done under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme, dedicated awareness program on the 'Nasha Mukat Abhiyan' (Drug-Free Campaign) will be con-

ducted campaign, Debates, symposiums, and painting competitions on Sawchitta Pakhwada will be also organized.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, Sandesh Kumar Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Development Poonch, Abid Hussain Shah, District Panchayat Officer, Chanderkant, District Information Officer, Aayaz Bhat, Chief Education Officer, Bishambhar Dass, BDOs, and other concerned officers through virtual mode.

The 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign in Poonch district is set to inspire a deep sense of patriotism and appreciation for India's heritage, while honoring the sacrifices of the martyrs who laid down their lives for the Nation.

Khour Police asks pharmacies not to sell tablets containing narcotic salts without prescriptions
JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: SHO Khour Rahul Mahajan Chaired a meeting at PS Khour with Chemist shop owners of Khour and nearby areas in which they were made aware about the JKP's war against the drugs.

They were asked not to sell the tablets containing narcotic salts without prescription. While speaking on the occasion one of the pharmacist said that the owners of pharmacies are fully aware that they should not sell scheduled drugs without any prescription or advice. If they are selling across the counter without any prescription, it may likely lead to drug abuse.

Abrol, Dr Vikas distribute several items at JRC Udheywala

JKNC always remained on fore-front to help poor



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 07: During ongoing pious month of Sawan, Ankush Abrol, Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) JKNC, today organised a programme at JRC Home for Handicapped, Udhaywala here where in they distributed copies, pencils, Pencil Boxes, pen and sweet items to deprived children.

The programme was organized by Dr Vikas Sharma and Ankush Abrol was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush

Abrol said, "National Conference has been doing social works from time to time and always remains on the front to help the needy persons indiscriminately."

He further said that the Party President, Jenab Dr. Farooq Abdullah was always keen and encourages party workers to help the community irrespective of caste, creed or color. He assured that in future such functions shall also be organized in the interest of indigent and needy persons.

Dr. Vikas Sharma also spoke and elaborated upon the priorities enlisted by the party for development and welfare of masses.

He said, "It is our moral duty to come together for noble cause and maintained that his party cadre will continue to tread the path of humanity and humility." "The National Conference has a legacy of serving the poor and weaker sections of the society which was started by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah."

Highlighting achievements under NC rule, especially during the times of Sher-e-Kashmir Jb. Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jb. Omar Abdullah, he said "lots of revolutionary steps in Jammu & Kashmir were initiated to inculcate the spirit of Unity, Integrity, Prosperity as well as brotherhood to work for overall development/welfare of the people of J&K, in general, and especially the downtrodden sections of the society in particular."

Ashwani Kumar Sr Leader JKNC delivered the welcome address, Satish Sharma Secretary JRC Home for Handicapped presented vote of thanks and extended gratitude for this great act of philanthropy towards the leaders of the J&K National Conference.

Others who spoke on the occasion were, Vikram Gupta, Dr. Rajesh Singh, Ram Singh, and others.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

A bold move along LAC

The ongoing standoff between India and China along the undelineated Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh is far from being resolved amicably. Provoked by China following its repeated attempts of transgressions, Indian Army has maintained a tough position. The Army has now allowed the nomads and locals of forward villages to move with their livestock to the upper reaches, up to two kilometres beyond T-point in Demchok area of the arid region, for grazing while remaining undeterred by the PLA's (People's Liberation Army) "muscle-flexing". A revelation in this regard has been made by Chushul councillor Konchok Stanzin who keeps a close vigil over the movement of Chinese activities along the LAC in Ladakh. He has claimed that the Army has supported the locals of the border village of Demchok in Eastern Ladakh by facilitating grazing activities and providing essential amenities.

Demchok is one of the most vulnerable frontier villages along LAC where threats of Chinese incursions loom large. The villagers in border areas along the LAC had been complaining that China was working under a well planned strategy where they push nomads to Indian territory and later capture it due to un-demarcated boundary. According to the recent research paper by a senior police officer, India has lost its presence in 26 of the 65 Patrolling Points (PP) in Eastern Ladakh, which were patrolled regularly by the Indian Security Forces, due to 'restrictive or no patrolling' by the forces. It is an open fact that China has gradually built an extensive network of highways, buildings and other infrastructure along the un-demarcated LAC in Ladakh while the lack of basic amenities and infrastructure in border areas of Ladakh on this side of LAC have put villagers under a lot of stress, compelling them, many a times, to migrate from border areas to towns. Consequently, the population in frontier villages is thinning which, in the long run, will have a serious impact on the country's border security grid especially India's strategy to defend the frontiers with China. Recently, the Chinese Army had reportedly pitched four tents in a "buffer zone" in eastern Ladakh's Chushul, which were removed after the Indian Army objected to their presence. The move of army has received widespread appreciation from Ladakh people and they are asking for letting no even of space for Chinese in Ladakh. The need of the hour is that two countries should amicably resolved all border disputes for larger interests of the people of the region.

Need to review, modify National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test

The NMC needs to consider giving weightage to the Class XII board exam score in medical admissions.

KK TALWAR

AFTER thorough consultations with various stakeholders, the Medical Council of India (MCI) notified the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) in February 2012. This was done to ensure transparent and merit-based admissions to medical colleges for undergraduate as well as postgraduate courses, and to tackle the menace of capitation fee, which was then believed to be widely prevalent among private medical colleges.

Unfortunately, NEET was set aside by the Supreme Court in July 2013 following petitions filed by private medical colleges. The MCI then approached the apex court for a review of its judgment. In 2016, the court reversed its decision and upheld the NEET regime. Since then, NEET is being conducted and followed for admission to undergraduate (MBBS) and postgraduate (MD/MS) courses.

For admission to the MBBS course, it was decided to have the test paper in various local languages, in addition to English, to avoid any bias. Thus, NEET was commenced in 13 Indian languages to ensure that students from different states don't suffer.

The implementation of the NEET regime has helped create a sense of confidence among students and the public at large about medical admissions. NEET has served its initial purpose of promoting transparency and merit and has removed the myriad irregularities which had plagued medical admissions.

However, some issues do call for a reform. Even at the time of conception, the policymakers were conscious of some limitations of both undergraduate and postgraduate entrance tests. These were discussed and deliberated upon, and, ultimately, a decision was taken to roll out the NEET regime (which was already delayed) to address the urgent need for ensuring merit-based admissions. It was felt that some creases could be ironed out later, once the transparent NEET system was firmly in place. That time has arrived now. It is heartening to see that some reformatory steps are already underway.

The last few years have brought to the fore some of the limitations of the present NEET system. I shall address first the postgraduate NEET process. A significant problem stems from the timing of the entrance exam, i.e. after the completion of internship by an MBBS graduate. Since the earlier All-India Postgraduate Entrance Exam was, for many years, following this pattern of being conducted after the internship period, NEET-PG continued with the schedule. The downside to this approach is that it forces students to focus their attention and energy towards the entrance exam even during internship, rather than using this period to maximise their practical learning and honing clinical skills. This reduces the efficacy and utility of internship.

The vital importance of the one-year medical internship, which is a mandatory and integral part of the MBBS course, should be self-evident. Thus, an alteration in the timing or pattern of the NEET-PG entrance process is necessary. The



recent decision of the National Medical Council (NMC) to replace NEET-PG with 'NEXT' (National Exit Test) is a welcome step. According to the NMC's decision, NEXT will be held in two phases; the first part will replace university-level final examinations. It will be a multiple-choice paper. The score obtained in the first phase will be used to prepare the merit list for PG admissions. The second phase, after the completion of internship, will be a comprehensive practical/clinical examination and will be conducted by the respective universities, which will declare students 'fail' or 'pass'.

This reformatory step will help students take their internship more seriously and acquire the desired clinical skills. However, I believe that the NMC should consider implementing a mechanism that provides grades or scores in the second phase as well to incentivise students to perform to their maximum potential, rather than being satisfied with a mere 'pass' score. This performance score should also be incorporated in the PG admission process since it is based on a clinical/practical evaluation of each student. For this purpose, some standardisation guidelines can be issued by the NMC to avoid disparity in scores across different universities.

Reform is called for at the undergraduate level as well. The present NEET evaluation system, which is based on objective-type questions, encourages students to join coaching academies to prepare for the high-level competition. These academies are prohibitively expensive. As a result, students whose families cannot afford to pay such high fees are deprived of this valuable training tool. Urban students, living in areas where these academies abound, also have an unfair advantage over their rural counterparts who may lack easy access to these academies. Furthermore, students ignore their Class XII board exams, as only a 50 per cent score is sufficient to be eligible for taking NEET.

There is a widespread belief that without tak-

ing coaching, it is difficult to crack NEET. Many meritorious students from a poor or rural background feel handicapped. I am shocked to learn that many students join coaching academies and don't even attend their regular schools. It appears that some schools are prepared to certify them as regular students so as to allow them to sit in the Class XII board examination. If this is true, it is certainly a sad and unacceptable state of affairs for our education system.

Therefore, there is a pressing need to review and modify the undergraduate NEET system as well. It would be helpful to give weightage to the Class XII board exam score in the medical admission process, insofar as the state quota seats are concerned. It will motivate students to undertake a more broad-based learning approach and reduce the importance of coaching institutes, which focus only on rote learning and mastering multiple-choice tests.

However, in view of the differing standards and evaluation processes across various states, this may not be ideal for all-India quota seats and central institutes like AIMS.

Score normalisation, which has been used for some all-India exams, can be considered.

The NMC could examine the possibility of a hybrid system for undergraduate medical admissions, giving 50 per cent weightage to the NEET score and the rest to the score obtained in the Class XII board examinations. Ideally, there should be a common curriculum and evaluation for Classes XI and XII, followed by one exit examination at the national level. This, of course, requires a much bigger overhaul of our education system.

NEET was a significant step in the right direction. It needs reform and fine-tuning to make the process even more equitable and efficacious. The ultimate guiding principle must be to create a system that inspires confidence in our brightest and finest young minds, so that they do not turn away from the medical profession.

Qin Gang case points to political discord in China

WHILE LOVE AFFAIRS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO DISCREDIT CCP OFFICIALS, INVOLVEMENT WITH A FOREIGN INTEL ORGANISATION IS VIEWED VERY SERIOUSLY.

JAYADEVA RANADE

THE decision taken by stern-faced members of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) at an emergency meeting on July 25 to replace Qin Gang as Foreign Minister with his predecessor Wang Yi was very unusual. The NPCSC, however, did not divest him of his rank of State Councillor, though it is empowered to do so. In an apparent bid to cover up signs of discord, the NPCSC resolution pointedly stated that Chinese President Xi Jinping had signed an order on the decision to replace Qin. Unless it is finally revealed that Qin is seriously unwell, the recent developments certainly point to instability in China's political situation.

Pools of potential opposition to Xi have existed since around 2017, when he made known his intention to break with convention and continue for a third term in China's top three posts. Disatisfaction has simmered among senior and veteran cadres, Chinese entrepreneurs and businessmen, and unemployed graduates or those who haven't got jobs commensurate with their qualifications. China's slowing economy and low growth rates contributed to this and the stringent quarantine restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic fuelled popular anger. Other indicators show that resentment against Xi is building up. Qin's unexplained absence since June 25 and his 'removal' from the post of Foreign Minister is one instance of intra-party opposition to Xi. There is as yet no official report on Qin's whereabouts or the reasons for



his absence. By June 26, the Chinese Foreign Ministry's website erased all references to Qin since March 2023, indicating that he might be placed under investigation. Mysteriously, though, all references to him on the official website were restored last weekend. Moreover, Qin retains his rank of State Councillor, which places him above a minister but below a Vice Premier and his actions as State Councillor remain listed on China's official websites. His retaining the rank suggests that Xi has not yet

abandoned Qin. In case Qin is indeed placed under investigation in the next few weeks, it would undermine Xi's position since he promoted Qin to prominent positions twice in the last two years. Bypassing other senior candidates, Qin was appointed China's Ambassador to the US and, before he completed his term, as Foreign Minister. Xi had also approved his selection at the 20th Party Congress in October 2022, as a member of the Central Committee (CC) of the

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) though he had not even been an Alternate Member of the CCP CC!

A love affair or even multiple affairs are by themselves not cause enough within the CCP to punish a cadre. A recent example is that of retired Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, who was accused by Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai of sexual assault in November 2021. Peng subsequently retracted her allegation. Speculation about Qin's affair with Phoenix TV anchor Fu Xiaotian and her having been recruited by British intelligence also appears unfounded. However, an email allegedly sent by her on her journey back to China did suggest that she was under coercion by China's Ministry of Public Security, but doubts persist whether it is linked to Qin.

Qin himself has a strong intel background. He served many years in the CCP's International Liaison Department before being brought by Xi to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008. Qin did not graduate from China's training academy for diplomats, the China Foreign Affairs University, but from Beijing's University of International Relations, well-known for its affiliation with the CCP's intelligence services. After graduation, Qin was assigned to the Beijing Diplomatic Services Bureau under the Ministry of State Security and later to work in the Beijing bureau of United Press International.

At the same time, reliable reports suggest that former Politburo Standing Committee member and former President Jiang Zemin's aide Zeng Qinghong, has been orchestrating

opposition to Xi. The appearance of reports of Qin's affair with Fu Xiaotian bear his imprint. While affairs are not enough to discredit CCP officials, involvement with a foreign intelligence organisation is viewed very seriously. This is especially so after Chongqing Public Security Chief Wang Lijun sought asylum in 2012 in the US Consulate General in Chengdu in a bid to avoid capture by China's Ministry of Public Security. Former CCP General Secretary Jiang Zemin and his aide Zeng Qinghong are known to have regretted agreeing to Xi's appointment as Party Secretary of Shanghai and opposed him ever since.

However, one thing is certain: Xi will not go down without a fight. The fact that it took nearly 30 days to remove Qin as Foreign Minister suggests it was preceded by protracted and tough intra-party negotiations. Qin would have been targeted because he is an acknowledged protégé of Xi and China's Foreign Minister is constantly in the public eye. For Qin to be removed from his position (State Councillor) now will certainly dent and undermine Xi's authority. Other moves are visible in the economic sphere where, in a reversal of earlier policies, some concessions are being given to China's private entrepreneurs and the tech sector. Xi has simultaneously begun shoring up his position. In a significant move, he promoted and appointed Wang Zhizhong as Deputy Minister of Public Security. Wang Zhizhong, along with Public Security Minister Wang Xiaohong, will be expected to closely monitor senior CCP cadres and weed out those whose loyalty is suspect.

FOR FRESH & AGELESS SKIN



An ageing skin is characterised by slower generation of collagen. DR Shoma Sarkar tells you ways to prevent or at least delay the signs of ageing. Ageing is a natural process brought about by a combination of physiological and environmental factors. As we age, the skin's natural ability to repair and regenerate itself slows down. At the same time, the body's capability to generate the vital elements of a youthful skin also starts declining. The skin's extracellular matrix weakens with the loss of its scaffolding proteins. Collagen being a primary one of them. In fact, collagen is one of the most abundant proteins in the human body that plays multiple functions. As a component of the connective tissues of the bones, muscles, ligaments and the skin, it is essentially the protein that holds the body together.

An ageing skin is characterised by slower generation of collagen. Less collagen directly translates into sagging or lax skin which loses its youthful firmness and tightness. Not just natural ageing, but environmental factors such as exposure to smoking and UV radiation also results in collagen decline. At the same time, mental stress is also associated with collagen breakdown, wrinkle formation and loss of elasticity. If you are worried about appearance of signs of ageing such as skin laxity, sagging and loss of volume, loss of collagen might be the cause. Here are few ways you can boost collagen generation in your body: Anti-oxidant rich foods: Oxidative stress that results from oxidation and production of free radicals is a daily process. Ageing, mental stress and other environmental stressors

accelerate the process of oxidation in the body. The free radicals released due to these chemical reactions are unstable atoms that damage cells and accelerate the ageing process. Antioxidants are compounds that inhibit this oxidation process by neutralising free radicals. They play a vital role in fighting off the ageing process. Antioxidants are primarily vitamins, polyphenols and flavonoids found abundantly in fruits and vegetables, which help contain collagen degeneration by eliminating free radicals from tissues. Vitamin C or ascorbic acid, Vitamin B3, and Vitamin E are among the most important antioxidants for skin health and collagen protection. Aloe vera: Aloe vera or the pulp of aloe planthas has long been known for its ability to accelerate wound healing or sooth skin burn. A series of researches have also established aloe vera's ability to boost collagen generation, precisely how it helps wound healing. Whether consumed orally or applied topically, aloe vera gel strengthens the skin's extracellular matrix and helps slow down wrinkle formation through its collagen boosting ability. Hyaluronic acid products: Hyaluronic acid is another critical component of healthy and youthful skin. A hydrophilic substance, hyaluronic acid strengthens the skin's extracellular matrix and boosts generation of collagen and elastin. If you want to boost your skin's collagen generation capacity, HA-based products must be an intrinsic part of your skincare routine. The writer is Celebrity Cosmetic Dermatologist

Moisturising is key

Even a slight drop in temperature can make your baby's skin dry. Dr Prathibha Babsht shares tips that can help keep their skin healthy. This winter, the need for extra nourishment and care for your baby's skin becomes important. A drop in the temperature can make your baby's skin dry, which can lead to rough cheeks, flaky skin and scalp. Hence, it is important to follow a special winter skin care regimen for your baby.

In winters, focus on maintaining the moisture balance of your baby's skin. To ensure that, use extra-moisturising baby products for your baby's extra delicate skin, enriched with the goodness of herbs and oils. Be it a shampoo, cream, lotion, or a soap, choose products that are gentle, safe, and researched.

Here are a few ways to take good care of your baby's skin during this season.

Keep a check on the weather and decide if you want to wash your baby's hair. Also, check the water temperature and use warm water, as hot water can hurt the protective layer of your baby's skin.

Choose an extra-moisturising body wash for bath. Using one with the goodness of Indian Aloe, Almond Oil, and Olive Oil, which are well-known moisturisers, can help prevent post-bath dryness. You can also opt for a mild, soap-free cleanser, or a body wash with the above ingredients. Keep a check on the weather and decide if you want to wash your baby's hair. Also, check the water temperature and use warm water, as hot water can hurt the protective layer of your baby's skin.

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Make sure you moisturise your baby's skin post bath. Opting for a baby lotion with the goodness of natural ingredients like almond oil and olive oil will help protect skin from excessive dryness.

Protect your little one's chapped cheeks, crawler's knee, tender nose, and rubbed elbows with a baby cream enriched with Country Mallow, as it is known for its antioxidant and skin-conditioning properties, and Olive Oil, which helps prevent chafing.

Along with the above tips, give your baby a good oil massage, as it improves blood circulation and keeps skin healthy. Also, dress your baby in warm, comfortable jumpers or overalls and head and ears covered with caps or hoods. At the same time, keep in mind to not go overboard with the layers of clothes.

DOCKYARD: IT'S AN EYE OPENER

In the early stages, regular eyeglasses can help. Lifestyle modification measures such as getting the room or the place better lighting, wearing anti-reflective glasses during night driving can help to a certain extent.

In a country which has the unenviable record of having the largest number of blind people in the world, Cataract has often been cited as being most responsible for this life-crippling ocular condition. With estimates attributing 50 to 80 per cent of the bilateral blindness cases in India to cataract, this must be treated as a matter of utmost and even exigent concern. In fact, cataract is also said to be the biggest cause behind what is called avoidable blindness. Globally too, cataract is the single most important cause of blindness, and the second most common cause of moderate and severe vision impairment (MSVI).

Cataract implies an eye condition which entails clouding of the lens in the eye which could occur on account of protein in the lens breaking down and clumping together leading to a blockage and weakness in vision. If not intervened at the opportune moment, it can even cause permanent blindness. Because it develops slowly, chances of being identified earlier is slim and as such it poses a silent threat to the long-term health of our eyes. It can occur in either one or both eyes. Some of the symptoms include blurry vision, sensitivity to bright lights, frequent perception of halos and rings around light entering the eye, dim and hazy colours, double vision or diplopia, frequent changing of power for glasses and lenses



While cataract is purely an ocular condition, there are certain non-eye related factors that aggravate the risk of getting this disease. For instance, if you expose your eyes excessively to the sun or any radiation without protection, you risk making things worse. Or if you have been taking steroids or if you are a smoker, the risk for getting cataract increases. At the same time, some non-communicable lifestyle diseases such as diabetes can also accelerate development of cataract.

Treatment: In the early stages, regular eyeglasses can help. Lifestyle modification measures such as getting the room or the place better lighting, wearing anti-reflective glasses during night driving can help to a certain extent when the cataract is at an early stage of development. However, even after these measures if you are having difficulty in reading, or in driving or any regular house-

hold or official activity, you need to go for surgery. The most commonly performed surgery in the current times, particularly in the urban areas is Phacoemulsification which can be done with or without the assistance of Femtosecond Laser for added precision. A safe and low cost alternative in the rural scenario is the Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS). Cataract surgery is one of the most commonly performed surgeries in India. Barriers to care: As regards barriers to care, while cost has been one big barrier, lack of awareness is another major reason behind such high prevalence of cataract in the country. Also, poor infrastructure or non-availability of equipped operation theatre for ophthalmic microsurgery in rural and remote areas and the low presence of trained ophthalmologists in the country are other barriers to access care.

Vaping, e-cigarettes linked with cardiovascular disease

In adolescents, the use of e-cigarettes doubles the risk of starting to smoke traditional cigarettes, states a position paper that focusses on the cardiovascular effects of e-cigarettes. The study paper also sums up the effects of devices that look like cigarettes and refillable vapourisers that do not look like cigarettes.

The position paper of the European Association of Preventive Cardiology (EAPC), a branch of the ESC, calls on regulators to protect young people by limiting sales and advertising and banning sweet flavours which teens believe are less harmful. The paper was published today in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, a journal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). Research has shown that e-cigarettes raise blood pressure and heart rate, change the artery walls so that they become stiffer and less elastic, and inhibit the function of blood vessels by damaging their lining. Each of these four



effects are risk factors for blood clots and fatty build-up inside artery walls which can cause heart attacks. A study last year found a link between e-cigarettes and heart attacks.

On top of the heart effects, the evidence is accumulating that vaping has negative effects on the lungs and is detrimental to the developing foetus during pregnancy. Preliminary research indicates that e-cigarettes could cause cancer. "Vaping is mar-

keted towards teenagers and the tobacco industry uses celebrities to promote it as being healthier than smoking," said senior author Professor Maja-Lisa Lochen of UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø. "Legislation on the marketing and sales of e-cigarettes varies enormously between countries," said Professor Lochen. "Action is urgently needed to halt the growing use in young people."

A cup of immu- itea to ward off mo- soo- blues

"Monsoon ho aur chai naa ho, toh kya monsoon hua." In our country, rains are synonymous with tea and together, these two are a match no Indian matchmaker can beat. Every Indian household, anywhere in the world, has their own concoction, matching the cyclical rhythm of the seasons. Adrak vali kadak chai for winters, doodh-patti vali malai-laden tea for summers or a power-packed masala chai for monsoon, there is a cup of immunity for every taste bud. And as much as we love soaking ourselves to the bone in a good spell of rain, the chances of catching a cold, or worse, flu, cannot be ruled out.

"There are two sides of monsoon - good and bad. This weather is extremely conducive for several bacteria and virus, and is also the breeding season for insects and bugs.

Fermented drinks like kanji, kefir, raab are extremely healthy and are great for our gut flora," says chef Nishant Choubey, adding, "Tea is a natural antioxidant and one must consume either brewed or ferment-



ed. Apple has great fiber and is extremely useful for the heart and it complements tea. Together they

help our body to fight free radicals and boost our internal systems." The medicinal properties and

health benefits of tea are widely acknowledged, and when brewed with herbs, the resulting drink can

work wonders for the immune system.

"Tea has many medicinal qualities which are helpful in many ways. With the introduction of new age tea's made up with herbs, flowers and spices people are experimenting with their tea's as these provide the highest quality of medicinal benefits," says tea connoisseur Nitish Jha. Going the Ayurveda way, Jha advises using homegrown herbs. "Ingredients like neem, brahmi, rosemary and turmeric act as an immunity booster. Neem helps the body's ability to fight all kinds of infections. Rosemary is a rich source of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds. Curcumin is the bioactive compound present in turmeric that carries strong anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties," he says.

In a land where spices thrive, it is hard to come across a recipe which hasn't exploited them to the best. It is no surprise then that our teas also are a heady mix of these aromatic spices.

"Spices help big time. Just boil clove, peppercorn, cinnamon, turmeric, cardamom, tulsi leaves and ginger in water. You can add all these spices to your tea as it is one of the best ways to fight off flu. Our immune system gets suppressed when we are down and depressed, so it is important to consume ingredients that aid in relaxation," says nutritionist Kavita Devgan.

Brew one sachet of elderflower tea in water and strain. Simmer two skinned red apples with 100ml apple juice, honey, strips of orange peel, one cinnamon stick and some cloves. Strain and take out the spices and orange peel. Blend and serve.

Boil ½ tsp green tea, 3-4 saffron strands, ½ tsp marigold flowers and 1 cardamom for two minutes. Strain and serve warm. Read: Monsoon immunity booster: Rev up healthy living with these tips

Neem and rosemary tea by Nitish Jha, founder, Healthy Souls

Add two neem leaves, one rosemary leaf and ½ tsp turmeric in warm water and boil for two minutes. Strain and enjoy hot.

CISF sanctioned additional 6 500 personnel to aviation security wing over last 1.5 years

NEW DELHI, AUG 6: The specialised aviation security group (ASG) of the CISF, that guards 66 civil airports of the country, has been sanctioned an enhanced manpower of more than 6,500 personnel over the past 18 months to cater to the ever-increasing load of passengers and expansion of the existing facilities, official sources said.

With the allocation of fresh personnel, the overall strength of this unit deployed to secure civil airports against terrorist, hijack and sabotage threats is now about 37,000 men and women including commando-trained troops, they said.

They said the fresh manpower has been granted to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) primarily for three reasons – the increasing passenger traffic volume, expansion of existing airports and the creation of new ones.

Some of these 6,500 personnel were getting deployed at the airports in an ad-hoc or temporary manner to cater to the increased demand. They were being borrowed from other CISF units, sources in the aviation security establishment told agencies. The Union

home ministry has sanctioned these posts in a gradual manner over the last one-and-a-half year so that around 6,500 personnel could be permanently inducted into the ASG, trained in aviation security procedures and deployed for security duties at 66 airports under the CISF cover at present.

Out of this fresh strength, about 1,700 personnel have been earmarked for the international airport in Bengaluru and 1,400 for the Delhi international airport, the sources said.

The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru got a new terminal last November while the Indra Gandhi International Airport has seen an enhanced passenger traffic and expansion of terminals over the last few years.

The force has also been granted an in-principle approval for deploying its armed personnel at the upcoming greenfield airports at Jewar in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra.

Some of the airports that are expected to be operationalised in the first phase by late next year, will have a deployment of about 4,000 CISF personnel each.

The manpower sanction for these two airports will be made separately and a proposal is currently under preparation, the sources said.

The CISF, as part of its ASG, deploys armed personnel to secure the city side and tarmac side of the airports including rendering the task of frisking passengers and their check-in baggage and deploying intelligence teams to check suspicious activities at these mass transport air facilities.

India is one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world and domestic airlines flew around 1.25 crore passengers in June, a growth of around 19 per cent compared to the period a year ago.

The civil aviation ministry last week had said that in order to prevent possible congestion at the airports during the upcoming festival season in the country, authorities are working to deploy additional CISF manpower, X-ray machines and check-in counters at various airports.

Some of the airports where this capacity and manpower augmentation will be done include those in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Chennai.

Namda' craft sees resurgence, creates new avenues for global export

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUG. 06: Over the past four years, the handicraft industry of Jammu and Kashmir has been undergoing a breathing revival, with the long-forgotten 'Namda' art making a triumphant comeback. The concerted efforts of the Union Territory government to uplift traditional crafts have proven to be a game-changer, infusing new life into local artisans and garnering heartfelt recognition for their dedication. Namda craft, involving the creation of sheep wool rugs through felting techniques rather than conventional weaving, had faced a steep decline in its export between 1998 and 2008. Factors such as scarce raw materials, a dearth of skilled workforce, and inadequate marketing strategies contributed to this downturn.

Sara Bano, a talented local artisan from Nowthaha Srinagar, recounted her initial despair as the Namda art was gradually fading away. "However," she expressed, "the transformative initiatives by the government turned the tide. We received comprehensive training and vital financial support, refining our skills and producing superior 'Namda' products."

Another skilled artisan, Fatima Bano, hailed the government's efforts in showcasing their crafts on both national and international platforms, opening up fresh markets. "Visitors from across the globe now deeply

appreciate our handiwork, filling us with immense pride," she exclaimed. The financial incentives and support, which were once lacking, have now brought a promising future for the artisans and their families.

The resurgence of 'Namda' art and other traditional handicrafts has not only uplifted the artisans' quality of life but has also significantly contributed to the overall economy of Jammu and Kashmir. The escalating demand for these time-honored crafts has propelled the handicraft sector to become a substantial driver of the region's economic growth. Additionally, tourists flocking to the valley are captivated by the exquisite artistry of 'Namda' craft, among other indigenous handicrafts, subsequently giving a substantial boost to the local tourism industry.

Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, pointed out that around 2200 artisans were trained in the art of Namda making, thanks to the combined efforts of local centers and the intervention of the central government. "The United States, Japan, Russia, and other countries are now showing significant interest in Namda craft, with orders pouring in from these nations," he remarked.

The successful revival of Kashmir's Namda craft can be attributed to the Skill India's Pilot Project, a crucial part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). This project has not only trained numerous candidates

across the Union Territory in this fading art form but has also exemplified a robust public-private partnership (PPP) model, implemented in collaboration with local industry partners.

On July 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Kashmiri artisans for their unwavering efforts in reviving Namda craft, as the first batch of Namda art products embarked on a successful journey to the United Kingdom (UK). "This resurgence is a testament to the artisans' skills and resilience, and a moment of pride for our rich heritage," the Prime Minister tweeted.

Earlier, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, ceremoniously flagged off the inaugural batch of Namda art products destined for export to the UK.

The revival of the Namda craft in Kashmir is now a reality, thanks to Skill India's Pilot Project under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), which has provided training to nearly 2200 candidates from across six districts of Jammu and Kashmir. This accomplishment stands as a significant milestone in the preservation of this traditional craft, and more importantly, in empowering local weavers and artisans. The project's reach extended across six districts, including Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam, and Anantnag, signifying a collective effort to uphold the legacy of this unique art form.

Kashmir's 700-year-old papier mache craft dying

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUG. 06: The 700-year-old art brought by Hazrat Shah-e-Hamdan (RA) to Kashmir is on the verge of disappearing as very few people are associated with it. Paper moulding is an art or craft that involves moulding raw paper pulp into aesthetically pleasing objects and this Kashmiri art form, while similar to the well-known papier mache techniques that involve the unique style of beating the object into a shape that is a smooth-surfaced and colourful artifact.

There were hundreds of people associated with this basic form of papier mache, however, the number has reduced to just a few dozen people who are carrying this dying art. Mohammad Younis Shah, 42, a known papier mache artist from the Nowpora area of Srinagar, said this art in Kashmir is known as 'Chaetikam' which is followed by Naqashi or Kalashari. He said hundreds of people were associated with this art for centuries.

"Most people left this art after duplicate things were used which led to the decline in the demand," Shah said.

We are originally doing papier mache craft but due to unknown reasons, the



local government has given it the name of 'Sakhtasazi' while the Central government has been treating it as papier mache, he said. Papier mache is indeed called 'Chewed Paper' or 'Mashed Paper' throughout the world, he added.

As per the experts, there are two important aspects of Kashmiri papier mache – Papier mache and Naqashi. The first step, papier mache, involves making the foundation of the paper figurine or object with paper pulp, while Naqashi is the final step of painting and decoration. Naqashi is always subjective to the demand of the product. Some customers don't like Naqashi and they prefer raw papier mache and simple colours.

They said that in the papier mache stage, the paper pulp is soaked in water for three or four days. "It is then put in a stone mortar and ground so that all of the paper is uniform in its consistency. The pulp gets left in the sun to dry before being mixed with ajji, a kind of rice glue," they said, adding, "A mold made of clay or wood allows the artist to shape the paper and glue mixture around it. The paper is taken off the mold before it is completely dry, and then shaped and lacquered to make the outside smooth."

After the item has gone through the smoothing process, a thin layer of butyric acid will eventually keep the outer layer of paint from cracking off the finished product, they said.

"During the Naqashi stage, a base coat of paint is applied. Then the artist makes their design by hand on the outside of the papier mache object, which means no Kashmiri papier mache item is the same," they added.

Younis, who has 13 more persons with him in the

paper mache work, claimed that he is facing problems outside Jammu & Kashmir when people see his card. They often question Sukh! and the government must directly write it on paper mache.

He said some educated youths have started a private company "Say Crafts Pvt Ltd" where he along with his 13 other artisans are working to eliminate the intermediate issues who give peanuts to artists. "But the market as of now is very down; however, as the number of foreign tourists has increased in the last few months, we are expecting the market to be better in the coming time," he said.

This craft is very easy to start as the craftsmen don't require anything to start it. Being eco-friendly, the foreigners love it very much, he added.

Shah said they have been trying to adopt new technologies to make useful items so that the craft will have domestic and international customers.

"The number of people associated with this craft is decreasing but we are planning to train some orphans so as keep this art alive, Younis said, adding,

"As of now, I have been training some people here and will continue to train more and more to continue this art."

"It places a specific focus on prioritising underserved and vulnerable populations, ensuring equitable access to menstrual hygiene resources and addressing their specific needs," the source said.

The objective is to ensure that women, girls and persons who menstruate have access to safe, hygienic and quality menstrual products and sanitation facilities, the source added.

The policy aims at establishing an enabling environment for people, including women, girls, men and boys, so that they have access to correct information on menstruation and to address the myths, stigma and gender issues around it.

It also aims to create a 'menstrual friendly environment' in all settings, including homes, schools and academic institutions, workplaces and public spaces and strengthen environmentally sustainable menstrual waste disposal, the official source stated.

"Under the policy, academic institutions and workplaces will be urged to promote inclusivity and provide provisions like flexible working arrangements such as work from home or support leave to accommodate the specific needs of individuals during menstruation," the source said.

Goan chef behind meals served on Kargil Vijay Diwas cooks for free as homage to martyrs

DRASS (LADAKH), AUG 6: Goa's Sarita Chavan, who turned to cooking to make ends meet after her husband's death, is the chef behind the delicious meals served on Kargil Vijay Diwas, a service she offers for free to pay homage to the martyrs.

Chavan travelled from Goa to Drass with her eight-member team for the annual event in remembrance of the martyrs at the war memorial.

From pastries and pan pizzas to Dalgona coffee for breakfast and a lavish north Indian spread for lunch with phirni as the sweet dish, Chavan cooked for over 1,000 people who attended the various events to mark the occasion on July 26.

However, the journey hasn't been an easy ride, she said.

"I came to Goa in 1980 after my marriage. I started reading cookbooks as my husband would motivate me to cook until I could perfect the dish. In 1994, after my husband quit his job and was laid bedridden due to illness, I was forced to take up cooking to earn for the family," Chavan told PTL.

However, she didn't start cooking from the outset and sold readymade masala paste door-to-door in Margao, Panjim and Vasco.

"A few years later, when my husband passed away, I began preparing tiffins for neighbours. Soon, my tiffin



meals rose in popularity and I started getting bulk orders from companies for packed lunches for their employees and, later, for catering at big events," she added.

However, the lack of a professional degree was an impediment for Chavan's confidence to dream big.

"It hasn't been easy. I always had this apprehension whenever I wanted to expand that I don't have a professional degree, why would someone hire me? When I visited Kargil for a personal trip, I went to the war memorial and that is when the idea struck me. I reached out to Army officials to give me a chance to cook for the guests on

Vijay Diwas," she said.

Chavan added, "Initially, they weren't sure. So they asked me to cook for some small events. When I successfully executed those, I got a chance to cook for the main day last year and I plan to continue it every year," she added.

While Chavan was offered payment for her services, she refused to accept it, saying it would be huge disservice to the soldiers who laid down their lives during the war.

"I was offered to at least cover the travel costs for the team from Goa to Kargil, I said no. It will be a huge disservice to our martyrs. Their families come here every year and they still break down. The least I can do is provide them some comfort with a good meal," she added.

On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of Operation Vijay – a fierce counter-assault launched to push back Pakistani forces – declaring victory after a nearly three-month battle at the icy heights of Kargil, including locations such as Tololing and Tiger Hill.

The war saw the Indian Armed Forces fight in the most challenging terrains amid harsh weather conditions in the Drass, Kargil and the Batalik sectors. Kargil Vijay Diwas marks India's victory over Pakistan.

Health ministry working on national menstrual policy to ensure access to safe hygienic products

NEW DELHI, AUG 6: The Union Health Ministry is working on formulating a national menstrual hygiene policy that seeks to ensure access to safe and hygienic menstrual products, improve sanitation facilities, address social taboos and foster a supportive environment.

Through these measures, the policy strives to break barriers, eliminate stigma and create a society where menstrual hygiene is prioritised and leads to gender equality, education and overall development, official sources said. A national consultation with various stakeholders was held and in-person inputs have been collated, the sources told PTL. "The vision is to ensure all women, girls and persons who menstruate are able to experience menstruation in a manner that is safe, healthy and free from stigma," a source said. Awareness has increased with time but there is a need for more investment to comprehensively address the diverse requirements of all individuals who menstruate. India, with its vast and diverse population, places great emphasis on framing a comprehensive menstrual hygiene policy, the source added. According to the National Family Health Survey 5, 78 per cent women in the 15-24 age group

use a hygienic method of protection during their menstrual cycle. This marks a rise from 58 per cent in the National Family Health Survey 4.

According to the latest survey, 64 per cent of these women use sanitary napkins, 50 per cent use cloth and 15 per cent use locally prepared napkins.

The survey also revealed that women who have received 12 or more years of schooling are more than twice as likely to use a hygienic method compared to those with no schooling, stressing on the importance of education for girls. In terms of location, 73 per cent of rural women and 90 per cent of urban women use a hygienic method of menstrual protection.

However, a few states continue to have lower-than-average access to hygienic methods of menstrual protection. The findings highlight the need for targeted efforts and initiatives to improve menstrual hygiene practices in these regions. According to the source, "The menstrual hygiene policy aligns with India's commitment to achieving the sustainable development goals, particularly in relation to Goal 3 on good health and wellbeing, Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation."

Kuki MLAs afraid of travelling to Imphal likely to skip assembly session

KOLKATA, AUG 6: Most of the Kuki MLAs irrespective of their party affiliations are unlikely to attend the Manipur assembly session slated to be called on August 21 in view of the continued ethnic violence, according to leaders from the community.

An apex Meitei organisation COCOMI, which has been spearheading demands for an early session of the assembly to "unanimously" reject demands for separate administrative units for Kukis, however, claimed that it would ensure safety of tribal MLAs as "they really want to come."

"In view of the prevailing law and order situation and the continuing violence in Manipur, it will not be possible on my part to attend the upcoming session," said LM Khaute, BJP MLA for Churachandpur, one of the worst-hit districts by the ongoing race riots, in a telephonic interview to PTL.

For good measure, Khaute added that the violence and the lack of a resolution to demands made by the Kukis for a separate administration, "will not make it possible for all the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar MLAs to attend the session."

There are 10 Kuki-Zomi MLAs, including seven from the BJP, two from the Kuki People's Alliance and

one independent, in the Manipur House which has a strength of 60 members.

Tongmang Haokip, president of the Kuki People's Alliance (KPA), also told PTL, "The MLAs will not be safe travelling to Imphal... one BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte who represents Thanlon was badly assaulted there, he is still under medical care."

He added that this apprehension could be addressed only "if there is a guarantee from the state government and the Centre and adequate steps are taken for the safety of MLAs."

Without Kuki representation, analysts said it is unlikely that any meaningful discussion on the ethnic rioting which has engulfed Manipur for the last three months claiming more than 160 lives could be made.

A cabal of Kuki organisations including the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO), Kuki Chiefs' Association (KSAM) and Kuki Women Union (KWU) have also asked the MLAs to refrain from travelling to Imphal to attend the session. Naga Hoho, a powerful civic body of the Naga tribes, has also asked the 10 Naga MLAs in Manipur not to attend the assembly

session, claiming that the Manipur government has been working against peace talks with Naga groups.

Rioting between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zomi communities broke out in May after protests over a court judgment which seemed to favour the majority Meiteis who live in the Imphal valley and who have been demanding Scheduled Tribe status, currently enjoyed by Kuki-Zomi and Naga tribals in the state.

Besides reservations in jobs and academics, tribal status could give people the right to buy land in tribal districts in Manipur hills which make up 90 per cent of the land area of the state.

Tension had been brewing in the hills before that too over forcible evictions of Kuki villagers from land which the tribals believe is their traditional homeland and which the state government claimed to be reserved forests.

"In the absence of an acceptable political solution for the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur, I don't see any possibility of improvement of the grave situation in the near future. The central government is urged to address the political demands and all issues already raised by the Kuki-Zomi community," Khaute said.

Mithun Manjunath emerges as top buy at GPBL Players' draft



BENGALURU, AUG 6: National champion Mithun Manjunath emerged as the top buy at the players' auction of the Grand Prix Badminton League (GPBL) Season 2, which is scheduled to be held here from August 27 to September 9.

The 25-year-old from Bengaluru, who had stunned world No.7 Loh Kean Yew just a few days back at the Australian Open, was acquired by the Chennai Superstarz for a staggering Rs 14.5 lakhs after a bidding war with Bengaluru Tigers.

Mithun, whose base price was Rs 8 lakh, is in the icon category. As many as 15 international players were also drafted after the teams were given the option of choosing not more than two international players.

Shin Baek Cheol was the second-

highest buy with Bengaluru Tigers acquiring the Republic of Korea shuttler for Rs 14 lakhs.

Cheol's compatriot Lee Dong Keun was picked up by Gujarat Lions for Rs 13 lakhs, while World Championships bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth was bought by Northeast Rhinos for Rs 10 lakhs. The fifth-highest buy was Polina Bhurova of Ukraine, who was drafted by Mumbai Wolves for Rs 9 lakhs.

The draft saw 80 players being selected out of a roster of 150 to represent eight teams in the upcoming season.

More than 500 players had registered for the auction. Each of the eight teams - Bengaluru Tigers, Hyderabad Hounds, Chennai Superstarz, Gujarat Lions, Kerala Tuskers, Mumbai Wolves, Pune Panthers and Northeast

Rhinos -- had a player purse of Rs 35 lakhs.

Each team consists of two Tier-1 players, a minimum of two Tier-2 players and a minimum of two women players with an option to choose not more than two international players.

"We adopted a 'maximum of two international players per team' rule because we wanted more Indian players to be part of GPBL," said Prashanth Reddy, commissioner GPBL.

"We are thrilled with the outcome of the player draft. The enthusiasm displayed by the teams and fans alike showcases the popularity and growth of badminton as a sport."

Former India player Arvind Bhat, league director, said, "Considering the talent, the teams have strategically formed their squads. All the teams are balanced. However, considering the explosive format that we have adopted for the League, any team can win on a given day."

The Karnataka High Court has allowed the participation of Indian shuttlers in GPBL Season 2 after staying the operation of the Badminton Association of India's (BAI) circular asking the players to refrain from taking part in the tournament.

There were talks about making GPBL a 10-team affair but the organisers couldn't get two more sides on board.

Kuldeep is bowling well and that is why team is backing him: Chahal

PROVIDENCE, AUG 6: Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal understands why Kuldeep Yadav is playing ahead of him in the ODI format and is not losing sleep over his place in the Asia Cup and World Cup squad.

Chahal did not make the playing eleven in the three ODIs against the West Indies. Featuring in his first game since the IPL, Chahal made his presence felt with a twin strike in his opening over but India lost the game by four runs.

"Team combination is our priority and it is not something new. At 7 we generally play Ravindra Jadeja or Axar Patel. Three spinners can only play if the wickets are spin-friendly," said Chahal ahead of the second T20.

"Kuldeep is bowling really well, he is in a great rhythm and that's why team is backing him. I keep working on nets so that whenever I get the chance I will grab it," the leg-spinner added.

The focus is on ODIs ahead of the World Cup at home in October-November but Chahal has not been able to get a game since January.

However, the 33-year-old is happy as long he gets to be part of the squad,



"We are professional cricketers. I was playing for two months, last I played was in the IPL. It is all about the preparation. This is not an individual sport, you are playing here for your team. There are times when players has to sit out for two series, so it doesn't mean that they are not part of the team," said the former state-level chess player.

Chahal said that instead of thinking about missed chances, he considers himself lucky to be wearing the India Blues.

"I am very happy that I am getting to wear the blue jersey everyday. I am not

sitting at home. I am travelling with the team. I am part of the team.

"I have played chess, it is an individual game but cricket is a team sport. Out of fifteen people in the squad only eleven can play," he added.

Nicholas Pooran has been in menacing form of late and loves smashing the spinners in the bowler corner region. Chahal enjoys his catter against the West Indian.

"I love my battles against Nicholas Pooran. I have got him out a few times and in some other occasions, he has hit me for sixes. I try not give him freebies or I know he will hit me out of the park."

Having played under multiple captains since his debut under M S Dhoni in 2016, Chahal feels his equation with whoever is leading the team doesn't change much.

"It's like a family where you have four brothers. Mahi bhai was the eldest, then came Virat bhaiya, then Rohit bhaiya and now Hardik. Equations remains the same. At the ground, we all want to win. They (seniors) gave us freedom as a bowler and Hardik also gives that space to the bowlers," he said.

US loses to Sweden on penalty kicks in earliest Women's World Cup exit ever



MELBOURNE, AUG 6: Lina Hurtig converted her penalty and Sweden knocked the United States out of the World Cup 5-4 on penalties after a scoreless draw at the Women's World Cup. U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher fruitlessly argued she had saved Hurtig's attempt, but it was ruled over the line. The stadium played Abba's "Dancing Queen in the stadium as the Swedes celebrated.

The United States, which has a record four World Cup titles overall and was trying to win an unprecedented third consecutive title, was eliminated in the Round of 16 for the first time in team history.

The Americans' worst finish had been third place, three times.

"I am proud of the women on the field," said U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski. "I know we were criticized for the way we played, and for different moments in the group stage. I think we came out today and showed the grit, the resilience, the fight. The bravery showed we did everything, we could win the game. And, unfortunately, soccer can be cruel sometimes."

It was the first match at this World Cup to go to extra time.

Two-time World Cup participant Julie Ertz was in tears after the match.

"We didn't put anything in the back of the net," she sobbed. "The penalties was tough as well. It's just emotional because it's probably my last game ever. It's just tough. It's an emotional time. It obviously sucks. Penalties are the worst."

It was the fourth time a U.S. match at the World Cup went to extra time. All of the three previous matches went to penalties, including the 2011 final won by Japan. The U.S. won on penalties in a 2011 quarterfinal match against Brazil, and in the 1999 final at the final at the Rose Bowl against China.

Sweden knocked the United States out of the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals on penalties.

Sweden goes on to the quarterfinals to play Japan, the 2011 World Cup winner, which defeated Norway 3-1 on Saturday night.

Sweden has never won a major international tournament, either the World Cup or the Olympics. The closest the team has come is World Cup runner-up in 2003. They finished in third in the 1999, 2011 and 2019 editions, and won silver medals in the last two Olympics.

The Americans struggled through group play with just four goals in three matches. They were nearly eliminated last Tuesday by first-timers Portugal, but eked out a 0-0 draw to fall to second in their group for just the second time at a World Cup.

The Americans looked far better against Sweden, dominating possession and outshooting the Swedes 5-1 in the first half alone. Lindsey Horan's first-half header hit the crossbar and a second-half blast was saved by goalkeeper Zecira Musovic, who had six saves in regulation.

Sweden won all three of their group games, including a 5-0 rout of Italy in its final group match. Coach Peter Gerhardsson made nine lineup changes for the match, resting his starters in anticipation of the United States.

It was tense from the opening whistle.

Naeher punched the ball away from a crowded goal on an early Swedish corner kick. Three of the Swedes' goals against Italy came on set pieces.

Trinity Rodman's shot from distance in the 18th minute was easily caught by Musovic, who stopped another chance by Rodman in the 27th.

Horan's header off Andi Sullivan's corner in the 34th hit the crossbar and skipped over the goal. Horan was on target in the 53rd minute but Musovic dove to push it wide. Horan crouched to the field in frustration while Musovic was swarmed by her teammates.

The United States was without Rose Lavelle, who picked up her second yellow card of the tournament in the group stage finale against Portugal and has to sit out against Sweden.

Keira Walsh practices with England ahead of Women's World Cup knockout game against Nigeria



SYDNEY, AUG 6: Keira Walsh gave England a potential boost ahead of its Women's World Cup round of 16 clash with Nigeria when the midfielder was able to practice with the team Sunday, one day before the elimination match.

Walsh sustained a knee injury in England's 1-0 win against Denmark in the Lionesses' second game of the group stage. Scans showed she didn't damage her ACL, but it wasn't clear if

Walsh would be able to play again this tournament. Walsh, who plays for Barcelona, participated in individual training to regain her fitness and finally rejoined her teammates in Sunday's practice. England plays Nigeria on Monday in Brisbane, Australia, in a knockout game.

England head coach Sarina Wiegman confirmed Walsh had returned to the squad and "she's doing well."

"We'll wait to see how she recovers from the training session and if she does well, she's available for tomorrow," Wiegman told a news conference in Brisbane on Sunday, declining to elaborate further on the extent of Walsh's injury. "I can only say there wasn't a ligament injury. That's all I can say right now." Wiegman agreed it appeared to be a possibly tournament-ending when Walsh left the field against Denmark and "everyone was in shock," but she said: "After the assessment, we said just don't make any assumptions." Then we got the green light" for the midfielder to start rehabilitation.

Walsh joined Barcelona from Manchester City last year for a reported fee of 400,000 pounds (\$513,000), a record for women's soccer. Despite concerns England wouldn't be able to replace Walsh, the Lionesses produced their best performance of the tournament in their final group game by beating China 6-1.

Asian Games probable judoka Jasleen Singh Saini fails dope test

NEW DELHI, AUG 6: Judoka Jasleen Singh Saini, an Asian Games probable, has returned positive for a banned drug in an in-competition test conducted last month during Taipei Open where he had won gold, according to sources.

The 25-year-old Saini had won a gold medal in men's 66kg category in the Taipei Asia Open early last month.

"Yes, he had failed a dope test conducted by an international agency during the Taipei Open. So, he will not be in the Asian Games team," a team coach, who has knowledge of the development, told PTI.

The International Testing Agency (ITA) conducts testing and result management for International Judo Federation.

Saini was named in the list of probables for the September 23 to October 8 Hangzhou Asian Games.

The Judo Federation of

India had conducted a selection trial in Delhi in April but the final team is not yet known.

He became the fifth judoka to fail dope test in two months. Four judokas -- Harshdeep Brar (81kg), Gulab Ali Mohsin (60kg), Rahul Sevta (81kg) and Akshay (66kg) -- last month failed out-of-competition tests conducted by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) during the national camp in Bhopal and selection trials in Delhi.

All the four have been handed provisional suspension.

Prannoy signs off with runner-up finish at Australian Open

SYDNEY, AUG 6: Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy capped off an impressive week with a runner-up finish at the Australian Open after his gallant fight ended in a heart-breaking loss to China's Weng Hong Yang in a thrilling men's singles final here on Sunday.

Following a marathon 90 minutes of play, it was Prannoy who was left to bear the heartache as the 9-21 23-21 20-22 loss against world number 24 Weng robbed him of a chance to win his second BWF title of the season.

With the win, the 24-year-old Weng, who had won the Korea Open last year and 2019 China Masters, settled the scores against Prannoy after going down in three games to the Indian at the Malaysia Masters final in May.

Eight times this year, Prannoy has recovered from an opening

game loss and went on to claim the match six times like he did against world number 2 Anthony Ginting in the quarterfinals.

The script seemed to be going the same way before Weng staged a sensational comeback from 14-19 down in the decider.

The 31-year-old from Kerala bounced back from an opening game reversal but squandered a five-point lead in the decider and also a championship point to eventually finish second to Weng.

Prannoy was error-prone in the first game, while Weng used his jump smashes to good effect to pull away from 6-6. With the Indian continuing to miscue his shots, the Chinese grabbed 12 game points when Prannoy again sprayed into the net. The Chinese converted it when Prannoy went long. Prannoy relishes such pressure

cooker situation and once again showed his nerves. Weng opened up a 3-0 lead but the Indian made it 2-4 with a booming smash.

Prannoy evened things at 7-7 with a smash and went into the lead after Weng's forehead went wide and Prannoy followed it with another smash. The Indian grabbed a three-point cushion with a forehead jump smash at the break.

Weng managed to hang in there with some fine placement but Prannoy kept his nose ahead at 13-11 with another cross winner. The Chinese kept breathing down his rival's neck with another push at the backline and clowned back at 15-15 with a body smash.

Weng produced a smash on Prannoy's forehead and soon wrested back the lead at 17-16. After a series of intense rallies, the

duo was locked at 19-19 when Weng took a medical timeout.

On resumption, Prannoy unleashed a ripping backhand to grab a game point but he went wide. The Indian gained another game point after making a diving save on his left. Weng once again saved it with a deep cross smash.

At 21-21, Weng's forehead smash went wide to hand Prannoy his third game point and this time the Indian prevailed in a flat net exchange to take the match to the decider.

In the third game, Prannoy opened up a 6-3 lead with two precise returns on the backhand of his rival. But a few unforced errors from the Indian helped Weng to narrow it to 6-7.

Prannoy moved to 10-7 with another straight smash before entering the interval with a three

point cushion. The Indian continued to march ahead with Weng committing too many errors. He also sent down a precise straight smash to make it 15-9.

Prannoy patiently waited for opportunities and soon moved to 17-14. The Indian then unleashed another booming straight smash before coming up with a cross winner to make it 19-14.

Weng won the next three points and then played an exhausting 71-shot rally as Prannoy sent the shuttle to the net before both the shuttlers collapsed to the court.

Weng showed nerves of steel as a superb drop helped him to claw back at 19-19, his fifth straight point.

Prannoy then won a net duel to grab a championship point but Weng saved the point with a lucky net cord.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 149-2023-24-ADEN/ASR Date: 04.08.2023

Sr. DEN/II/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date 29.08.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against the tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.irps.gov.in in form of net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through demand draft/Banker Cheque, Deposit Receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.irps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
04.08.2023	15.08.2023	29.08.2023/15:00 Hrs

S.No/Tender No Details of Tenders

1	149-2023-24-ADEN/II/FZR	CTR (S) 119 Km of yard lines at Armaraj Junction, Ramdas & Altam Junction in the section under Sr. DEN/II/FZR
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Similar nature of work: CTR/TRR/TRR/TRR including railing of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Balast Screening Machines and TTR by T-28

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 242293

NOTICE

I Sourav S/o Barfnath R/o Bhatkoot, Kishtwar, applying for the correction of my father name has wrongly been written in my school record Ramesh Lal instead of Barfnath. Now I am applying for the correction of the same above said. objection in any may be conveyed to concerning authority with in 7 days from the publication of this notice.

President Murmu bets on education to enable women to make greater contribution to economy society

CHENNAI, AUG 6: President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said educated women can make a greater contribution to the economy, provide leadership in various sectors and create a positive impact on society. In her address at the 165th convocation of the University of Madras here, she expressed joy at the fact that more than 50 per cent of the about 1.85 lakh students currently studying at the varsity and its affiliated colleges are girls. "I am delighted to note further that 70 per cent of the 105 students who received gold medals today are girls," she further said. "The University of Madras is a shining example of gender equality."

By investing in the education of girls, "we are investing in the progress of our nation," she added. She underlined that educated women can make greater a contribution to the economy, provide leadership in various sectors and create a positive impact on society. Congratulating the graduating students, Murmu said the university, founded in 1857, has the distinction of being one of the oldest modern universities in India. Throughout its journey of over 165 years, University of Madras has adhered to high standards of academics, providing an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and critical thinking, she said.

The varsity has been a cradle of learning, producing countless scholars, leaders, and visionaries. They have

also influenced the world of learning in the global context. "Your university has also served as a lighthouse, playing a pivotal role in the establishment and growth of many reputed universities in the southern region of India," she told the graduating batch.

"It has a rich history and glorious legacy. It is a matter of great pride that six former Presidents - S Radhakrishnan, V V Giri, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, R Venkataraman, K R Narayanan and A P J Abdul Kalam - were students of this University and walked the same corridors that you walk through today."

The illustrious freedom fighter who also served as the country's first Indian Governor General Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, iconic women personalities of the freedom movement Sarojini Naidu and Durgabai Deshmukh, Nobel laureates Sir C V Raman and S Chandrasekhar, former Chief Justices of India Justice M Patanjali Shastri and Justice K Subbarao all were once students of Madras University. "The very idea that your university has produced such great people should make you strive hard for achieving excellence in the pursuit of learning and nation building," she told the outgoing batch that the alumni of the varsity can play a significant role in its growth as a global centre of excellence. As the university has contributed to their success in many ways, they should try to give back to their alma mater, she said in

her speech. Speaking about the future role that the varsity should play, the President said it should be at the forefront of finding learning-based solutions to the problems being faced by the nation and the world.

Addressing the serious issue of mental health, particularly student suicides, the President said, "I appeal to all the students to never let any anxiety overwhelm you. There is always an opening or opportunity which may not be visible for some time. Have faith in your abilities and keep moving forward."

Murmu also spoke about the importance of holistic development, quoting verses of nationalist poet Subramania Bharati that encourage learning, both scripture and science, scientific pursuits/exploration and cleanliness.

Taking off from the Tamil poet, the President also spoke about Tamil literary culture. The Tamil Nadu region has been a cradle of civilisation and culture; the rich tradition of Sangam literature is a precious heritage of the nation, she said. Hailing the didactic Tamil classic 'Tirukkural' and its wisdom, she said it has been guiding all of us for centuries. The great Bhakti tradition of poetry originated in Tamil Nadu and it was taken to the north of the nation by wandering saints, she noted and remarked how the temple architecture of Tamil Nadu, and the statues and sculptures are a tribute to human excellence.

BJP identifies Hinduism with Brahminism ignores 90 of India: Maurya

LUCKNOW, AUG 6: The BJP considers 'Brahmin religion', which is followed by only 10 per cent of the people, as 'Hindu religion' and there exists nothing like 'Hindu religion', Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya has said.

Maurya said the party does not consider tribals, Dalits, and other backward classes, who form the majority of Indians, as Hindus, and characterises the entire religion only with Brahmins.

In an interview with PTI, the politician also called the ruling BJP-led NDA, a "Non-Democratic Alliance", as he exuded confidence that the opposition bloc's INDIA will deliver a defeat to the two-time Narendra Modi government at the Centre in the coming general election.

"On Saturday, I was attending a 'samajik nyay sammelan' organised by the party in Azamgarh. The religion, the BJP cites, there is nothing called Hindu religion. They consider Brahmin religion as the Hindu religion," Maurya told PTI over the phone.

"When they do not consider the tribals, Dalits, and backward as Hindus, who constitute 90 per cent of the population, then with only 10 per cent people's statement, will it become Hindu religion? This is Brahmin religion, and in order to maintain the supremacy of their religion, they despicably insult the tribals, the Dalits and the backward," he said.

Maurya had defected from the BJP and joined the SP in 2022, a month ahead of the UP assembly elections.

The leader had last Sunday too accused the BJP of stoking communal

sentiments with its support to the Gyanvapi mosque issue.

"They are looking for a temple in every mosque. This will cost them dearly. Because if they look for a temple in every mosque then people will start searching for a Buddhist monastery in every temple," Maurya had told reporters then in Lucknow. When he was asked about how the INDIA, the opposition alliance, will be different from other regional alliances formed to defeat the BJP in the past, Maurya asserted the alliance will be different in that it will consolidate votes, which otherwise used to go to different parties.

"The BJP used to come to power with 40-42 per cent of the votes. The rest of the 60 per cent votes of the opposition used to split among different platforms. With the formation of INDIA, the votes will consolidate on a single platform," he said.

"Whenever alliances are made at the national level, be it Janata Party or Janata Dal, both of them were successful, and both had uprooted the then governments. The INDIA alliance will uproot BJP from power. To save the country, Constitution, democracy, and reservation, and to conduct a caste survey, a farewell needs to be given to the BJP in the 2024 general elections," he added.

Maurya also responded to the BJP's comparison of INDIA with the East India Company, the British conglomerate that once overwhelmed Indian trade, paving the way for the British Raj. "A number of their schemes are named after India - Make in India,

Start-Up India, Digital India. If they say that the name of the Opposition's platform is taken from Indian Mujahideen and East India Company, then Modiji should answer from where he took 'India' that he uses in his schemes?" he said.

On the Supreme Court stay on the conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a 2019 defamation case, Maurya said that the order was a "victory of democracy" and it has increased the faith of the public in the judiciary.

On Om Prakash Rajbhar-led SBSP joining the NDA, Maurya asked, "If the allegations, which he (Rajbhar) had levelled against the BJP, been washed away?"

Maurya said barring Dara Singh Chauhan, the SP MLA who had recently resigned as MLA and joined the BJP, all BJP leaders who had left the saffron party before the 2022 Assembly elections along with him, are still with the SP. "People who compromise with the interests of their community for power, are punished by their community."

Maurya said the opposition bloc aims to win 45-50 seats from UP and confine the BJP to 30-35 seats.

On a statement recently made by his daughter - BJP Lok Sabha MP Sanghamitra Maurya - that she would try to bring her father back into the BJP fold, he said his daughter was still a greenhorn in politics and knows little about her own father.

"She is still a kid in politics... whatever she said, it is her childishness," Maurya said.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT DANSAL, DISTRICT JAMMU

E-Mail: cdpo@jammu.gov.in Phone No. 0191-2669163 Advertisement Notice: No.02 of 2023 Dated: 24.07.2023

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanganis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres for 1st Phase of POSHAN Project Dansal. Reference: 1. Government Order No.222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022 2. Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023

Approval has been accorded, vide order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023 and approval by the Director, Mission POSHAN J&K, Srinagar vide order No. MD/Poshan/Estt/13338-49 Dated:09.05.2023 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanganis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres for 1st Phase of POSHAN Project Dansal Anganwadi Workers/Helpers, as per the details of Post given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Dansal	AWW	02 Posts
		AWH	01 Posts
Total			03 Posts

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "C" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- Date of commencement for submission of application: 05.08.2023
- Last date for submission of applications is 15.08.2023
- Annexure A- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
- Annexure B - Affidavit

Annexure A

Anganwadi Worker (Sanganis)

S.No	Name of Panchayat	Name of Anganwadi Center	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Tarah	Tarah Barni	05	AWW	01 No.
2	Khanpur	Bh. P. B. B.	06	AWW	01 No.

Anganwadi Helpers (Sahayikas)

S.No	Name of Panchayat	Name of Anganwadi Center	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Jindrah	Jindrah-B	03	AWH	01 No.

Eligibility

A. For Anganwadi Workers(Sanganis)

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum qualification available in the ward. 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN J&K.
- In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the ward can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and not other criteria to be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

B. Anganwadi Helpers(Sahayikas)

- The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The committee shall select the most destitute/needly married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfil the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is not available within the family of retiring AWWs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

Certificates Required

- Domicile Certificate.
- 10th /12th and Graduation Mark Sheet in case of Sanganis (AWWs) & 10th Mark Sheet of school education / University in case of Sahayikas(AWHs).
- Date of Birth/Matriculation Certificate.
- Residence/Ward certificate where the vacancy has been verified from concerned BDO.
- Voter list of concerned ward where post have been available.
- Un Married certificate issued by concerned Tehsildar in case of name of the candidate appeared in voter list with her parents.
- Certificate from concerned Sarpanch in case of candidate belongs to the family of retired AWW.
- Death Certificate in case of widow/divorcee copy in case of candidate applying for sahayika(AWH) for considering most destitute/needly.
- Affidavit duly attested by Judicial Magistrate/ Executive Magistrate 1st Class as shown in Annexure "B".

Document Verification

- Candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document verification along with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.

- Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
 - Date of Birth/Matriculation Certificate.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Unmarried Certificate (where required)
 - Candidate have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof.
 - Photo ID Proof can be
 - Aadhaar Card or Voter ID card
- 3) The candidates who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which may be final.

ANNEXURE-B

Format of Application

Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2023 Dated: 12-05-2023

- Name of Poshan Project _____
- Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
- Post applied for _____
- Name of the Candidate _____
- Father's Name _____
- Husband's Name _____
- Residence _____
- Ward No. _____
- Name of Panchayat _____
- Address for correspondence _____
- Contact No. _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Age as on 01.01.2023 _____
- Academic Qualification: _____

S.No	Examination passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

- If at any point of time any adverse/false found in my Selection, I will forfeit my selection.
- The candidate belongs to the family of retired AWW (YES/NO).
- Documents Attached: _____
- Signature of the candidate _____
- Date: _____



Govt mulls to promote 'Apple & Saffron tourism in South Kashmir



J NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Aug. 06: In a bid to boost and explore more tourism potential in the valley, the Tourism department in Kashmir has shortlisted around 300 new spots that will be promoted as tourist destinations in coming times,

said an official.

"In collaboration with the well-wishers, we have shortlisted three hundred new spots in the valley which will be promoted as tourist destinations in the coming times", Secretary Tourism Dr. Syed Abid Rashid said. He said that the tourist destinations

that used to be offbeat earlier will now scale up in the form of rural tourism, homestays, and experiential tourism.

"The tourist destinations, which so far were considered off-beat destinations and were not witnessing traditional regular tourism, will emerge as top destinations in times to come", he added. Stating that South Kashmir has a massive scale production of apples, the secretary of tourism J&K said, "In the coming times, we are considering doing some tourism activities from the perspective of "Apple Tourism and Saffron tourism." Dr. Rashid made these comments on the side-lines of the culmination of the Adventure Festival at the famous tourist resort of Verinag on Thursday.

Notably, the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, organized a two-day multi-activity event 'South Kashmir Adventure' earlier this week, which according to them was aimed at promoting adventure tourism and environmental awareness in the region.

2-Day Youth Conclave/Lal Draman Summer festival culminates in Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 06: Two-Day Youth Conclave/Lal Draman Summer Festival culminated at high-note today.

More than 2000 tourists, local and from all parts of UT of J&K, spend their valued time in the Lal Draman meadows capturing their never-before moments with winsome, charming and alluring natural and refreshing environment.

Doda administration, in its endeavour to give picturesque Lal draman meadow its due place on the tourism map of UT of J&K, hosted two-day Youth conclave/Lal draman Summer festival, which ended today. The inauguration of Bijarni Lal Draman road yesterday has made much famed Lal Draman tourist destination nearest to the Doda town with only 15 Kms away from it. The



visitors not only enjoyed the during the day time, but it was reported that due to synchronised efforts of all the departments of the administration under the leadership of DC Doda Vishesh Mahajan, more than 2000 people stayed in the meadows last night. All the arrangements were made by the administration for the convenience of the visitors.

More than 30 private entrepreneurs had set their food stalls in the festival, and more than 50 private tents were made available to the tourists on a rental basis, besides other facilities.

Doda administration organised the festival in collaboration with the Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art Culture &

Languages at Lal Draman. Lal Draman is a scenic meadow located 15 km from Doda town. It is surrounded by mountains and landscapes, making it a popular destination for local and outside tourists. The meadow is also home to a rich cultural heritage, with traditional customs and practices still prevalent among the local community.

DC Doda Vishesh Mahajan received warm and affectionate welcome with garland of flowers, local musical band, dancing youth, and thousands of smiling faces when reached in the festival yesterday.

People and PRIs, including representatives of various trade unions, media fraternity, and leaders, appreciated the efforts of DC Doda for his tireless efforts in connecting the picnic spot through all weather road and

organising the grand festival.

A colourful cultural programme by local artists kept the audience spell bound. A Kabbadi championship was held along with other local games. Tentage facility has been made available for visitors staying here, and the facility shall remain available here till October 31st on a payment basis. Other activities of tourist attraction remained soul refreshing Yoga in the morning, Trekking, Zorbing, Zipline, Marathon, local cuisines, Horse riding, and displaying art & craft stalls showcasing agro-based and Rural Tourism.

DC Doda informed that the facilities being provided during the festival shall remain in place until October 31. Administration is expecting a huge rush of tourists in the Lal Draman during the current tourist season.

ADDC inspects Polling Stations at Bandipora

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 06: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan, who is also the observer for the 2023 electoral revision of the Municipal Council (MC) Bandipora, conducted a thorough inspection, today.

The inspection entailed visiting special camps set up at various polling stations under the jurisdiction of MC Bandipora.

Accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MC Bandipora and other esteemed officials, the ADC Bandipora assessed all 17 wards within the MC Bandipora region. The inspection aimed to ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of the upcoming electoral process, scheduled for 2023. As the electoral revision progresses, citizens of Bandipora can be assured that due diligence is being exercised to uphold the democratic values and principles that govern the electoral system. The observation and inspection conducted by the ADC Bandipora and the accompanying officials serve as a testament to the administration's unwavering dedication to the democratic process.

DHEW Ganderbal organizes Awareness programme at Korag Sehpora

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 06: DHEW, Mission Shakti Ganderbal today organised an awareness programme regarding Nasha Mukthi Bharat Abhiyan (NMBMA), BBBP and women centre schemes at Anganwadi Centre Korag Sehpora, Ganderbal.

The NMBMA is aimed at creating a substance-abuse free society by focusing on awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation programs, fostering a healthier and more prosperous community.

The team imparted the awareness regarding working and functioning of the District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Ganderbal at district level.

It also raised awareness regarding different schemes like Pension schemes, Scholarship schemes, Prosthetic Aids, etc.

The team also threw light on Women empowerment schemes available at District level such as United, Marriage Assistance Scheme, PMMVV, Employment generation schemes Tejaswini, Mumkin, PMEGP, etc. It also provided awareness regarding updated Schemes, criteria and documentation.

Later, the participants were sensitized about Women Helpline number 181, Role of One Stop Centre and District Hub for Empowerment of Women Ganderbal, and how these institutions will help a woman who is the victim of any kind of violence.

Chairperson DDC Ganderbal felicitates winners of Nawabgh Premier League

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 06: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq today presided over the prize distribution ceremony at finals of Nawabgh Premier League.

Final match of edition III 2023 T20 Cup of Nawabgh Premier League was played at Nawabgh SAS Ground between Ganderbal Gymkhana and Wonder Boys Safapora.

Earlier winning the toss, Wonder Boys Safapora elected to bat first and put a target of 183 in for rivals in allotted 20 overs, with Waseem Sofi and Sameer scoring brilliant 38 and 37 runs respectively.

In response Gymkhana, while chasing the target, couldn't make it at the end.

Shahid Khan was declared Player of the match for his brilliant bowling performance of 4 overs 4 wickets for 14 runs.

The DDC Chairperson who was chief Guest at the occasion distributed trophies among the winners.

While interacting with the players, the DDC Chairperson appreciated the organisers for organizing the tournament saying that such tournaments are instrumental in grooming the talent of the youth.

The final match was also witnessed by DDC member Wakura, DO Shadpora, media persons along with thousands of sports lovers.

Pertinent to mention here that this tournament is played at Turf wicket and this tournament is managed by Sheikh Ul Alam Sports Association Nawabgh Ganderbal.

VC SKUAST-K concludes 02 days visit to Gurez Valley

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 06: Vice Chancellor (VC) SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai Sunday concluded his two days visit of Gurez valley by laying the foundation stone of KVK Bandipora-II (Gurez) at Dawar Gurez.

The VC informed that KVK Gurez is the second KVK of district Bandipora which caters to the diverse needs of the people engaged in agriculture and allied sectors. Besides it also organises awareness and training programmes for the youth.

Prof. Ganai further said that for providing marketing support to the potato growers of this valley, the university has entered into an agreement with PepsiCo India Ltd.

Director Extension on the occasion informed about various activities of KVKs for socio-economic upliftment of the farming community.

Earlier, the VC presided over mega input distribution programme conducted by NSP SKUAST-K Shalimar at MAREIS Izmagar.

AKAM: Tiranga Rallies held at Teetwal close to dividing line

ATTRACTS THE ATTENTION OF PEOPLE MOVING ON OTHER SIDE OF LOC



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, AUGUST 06: Under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign as a culminating event of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Tiranga Rallies from different schools of Tangdhar and Chamkote Zones of Sub Division Kamah were held today to commemorate 75 Years of India's Independence.

Scintillating scenes of National brotherhood and patriotism were witnessed when students hoisting the National flag and singing the Rashtreegan marched towards Teetwal located on the bank of Kishanganga River (close to the Line of control).

At Teetwal Students presented short speeches regarding India's freedom struggle.

The Tiranga rally at Teetwal also attracted the attention of people moving to the other side of LOC (POK) who witnessed the enthusiasm and patriotism of students and residents of Tangdhar and Teetwal.

Machinery of NHAI contractor seized for illegal mining near bridge

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA AUGUST 06: A heavy excavator and dumper of NHAI contractor involved in illegal extraction near national highway bridge over Sahar Khad seized in Kathua here today.

The action was initiated by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kathua Rajinder Singh Rana who along with mineral guards was on his routine visit in Sahar Khad and adjoining areas to check the illegal mining activities. Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas was immediately apprised about the incident who further instructed DMO to immediately stop the excavation work and seize the Machinery involved in illegal mining.

Reportedly, the excavator had excavated a total of 500 MT of minor mineral from the Khad and as per the rules of the Geology and mining department, around 2 lakhs penalty shall be imposed on the machinery engaged for illegal and unauthorized mining.

The seized excavator and dumpers handed over to police party by police station Kathua on the direction of Senior Superintendent of Police Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal.

Dir. Information, DIPR employees condole sad demise of Khalid Suhail's father

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 06: Director Information, Minga Sherpa has condoned the sad demise of Abdul Gani Sofi, father of Khalid Suhail, Senior Scale Stenographer (PA to Director Information), who passed away today

evening after brief illness.

In his condolence message, Minga Sherpa expressed his deepest condolences with the bereaved official and his family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the employees of Directorate of Information and Public

Relations (DIPR) also condoled the sad demise of father of Khalid Suhail. The officers and employees of the department offered their deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Day of Resolution for Freedom from Corruption' observed at Amar Singh College

SPEAKERS EMPHASIZED ON CORRUPTION FREE SOCIETY

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 06: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Legal Literacy Club, Amar Singh College, Srinagar, observed the "Day of Resolution for Freedom from Corruption" under the theme "Corruption Free Jammu & Kashmir" as a part of the Vigilance Awareness initiative of J&K Government, at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

This commemorative event, marked by unwavering commitment and dedication, signifies a significant milestone in the UT's journey towards a transparent and corruption-free society. This day serves as a clarion call for individuals, organizations, and communities to unite against corruption and embrace a path of honesty, transparency, and ethical conduct.

Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Nodal Officer Kashmir Division Colleges and Principal, Amar Singh College in his address said that the Government of J&K has been steadfast in its pursuit of creating a corruption-free governing



system through various initiatives, policies, and reforms. He apprised the audience about the various steps taken by the college to combat any kind of ill doing and wrong practice in the functioning of the college.

Prof Ajaz Bashir maintained that corruption is a termite which is eating our vitals and we need to fight it collectively. He impressed upon students to visit his office anytime for any problem, discrimination or any case of Nepotism or favoritism in college.

Superintendent of Police, ACB, Srinagar, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Wani

highlighted various initiatives that Anti Corruption Bureau has taken to combat the menace of corruption and ensuring accountability in Jammu & Kashmir. In his address, he highlighted various laws and provisions that empower the ACB to investigate and prosecute corrupt practices effectively. Emphasizing the importance of upholding the rule of law and maintaining the integrity of public institutions, he enjoined upon the students and the Faculty to extend their cooperation in eradicating corruption from the society.

District level Election management plan discussed at Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 06: District Election Officer, Udhampur, Sachin Kumar Vaishya convened a meeting of officers of concerned departments to review preparedness for District level election management plan.

Threadbare discussion was held on various issues including district level

election management plan, special provision for specially-abled voters, security arrangement plan, Transport management, Expenditure Monitoring, Training, Media Monitoring Committee and other related issues.

The DEO sensitised the officers about their responsibilities. The DEO also highlighted the importance of the

process of electoral registration and electoral roll revision and urged the participants to work diligently to complete the process of electoral registration within given timeframe.

The DEO exhorted upon the EROs, AEROs, Supervisors and BLOs to complete the registration including addition of new voters/left out voters and deletion of duplicate voters etc.

DC Doda inaugurates Waqaf Car Parking to ease Roadside Parking/Traffic Congestion

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 6: Deputy Commissioner of Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, inaugurated a new Waqaf Car Parking facility at Sadiqabad Doda today. The initiative, undertaken under the supervision of Administrator Waqaf Board Unit Doda, Zakir Hussain Wani, aims to alleviate the growing traffic congestion in the town.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of President Municipal Council Doda Ved Prakash Gupta, Administrator Waqf Board unit Doda, and Executive Officer MC Doda.



During the event, DC Doda unveiled the inaugural stone of the waqaf car parking. DC commended the efforts of the Waqaf

Unit Doda in utilizing previously unused land for the Car Parking facility in the town. This new facility will provide secure parking for around 40 vehicles. DC Doda took the opportunity to encourage local residents to maintain the cleanliness of the area, aligning with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Addressing the concerns of the local community, DC Doda listened to the issues raised by the residents of Sadiq Abad Doda upon his arrival. In response, he allocated 3 lakhs for the construction of a footpath in the mohalla.

Additionally, Administrator Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board

unit Doda, Zakir Hussain Wani, shared promising plans for the area. These include the establishment of a children's park and small shops to support underprivileged locals. Notably, the Waqaf Board possesses approximately 42 kanals of land in the area, aligning with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The inauguration ceremony of the waqaf car parking at Sadiqabad witnessed the participation of enthusiastic local residents. The initiative reflects a commendable step by the District Administration towards enhancing infrastructure while addressing local concerns in the town.