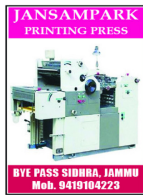




JINDRAH IMAGES



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2 BSF personnel, 21 civilians held for involvement in infiltration attempts since 2021: Govt in Lok Sabha

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 8

Two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel and 21 civilians involved in infiltration attempts have been apprehended since 2021, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nishith Pramanik said that to stop infiltration along the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders, the government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG reviews preparedness for I-Day celebration across J&K



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 8

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a meeting with the senior administrative and Police officers to review the preparedness for Independence Day celebration

across Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; ADGPs; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commission-

ers, SSPs and senior officers, in person and through video conferencing. The Lt Governor took appraisal of the campaigns and events planned by the District Administrations and Government Departments

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

In SC, Sibal says will of the people of J&K not considered at all

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 8

Questioning the abrogation of Article 370 by Union Government, senior Supreme Court lawyer Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said that that will of the people of Jammu & Kashmir was not considered at all. Appearing before the five judge constitution bench hearing petitions challenging abrogation of the Article 370, Sibal said that people of J&K gave themselves Constitution like the people of India gave Constitution of India to themselves.

As per news agency, referring to three presidential orders issued on December 19, 2018, August 05, 2019 and August 6, 2019, Sibal said these are all executive acts and the will of the people is not considered at all.

"Can you delete provisions of constitution by an execu-



utive act? Can you decimate the constitution by an executive act? Can you change the constitution by an executive act?" he asked.

On December 19, 2018, the President of India had issued "The Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 2019" after obtaining concurrence of then Governor Satya Pal Malik.

The amendment made through this order states

proposal for re-organisation of a state to the legislature of that state for obtaining its views thereon.

On August 5, 2019, the President of India had issued "The Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 2019" after obtaining concurrence of then Governor Satya Pal Malik.

The amendment made through this order states

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Delegation of All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee calls on LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 8

A delegation of All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan on Tuesday.

The delegation representing various Sikh organisations from across the UT, including elected members of Gurdwara Parbandhak Committees led by S Ajit Singh, Chairman JKSCC expressed



gratitude to the Lt Governor for various unprecedented developmental activities and

new milestones of governance in the UT. The delegation of promi-

nent Sikh community members put forth several issues pertaining to the community, including provision of reservation for the microscopic minority, introduction of Punjabi Language in the School Education in JKUT. They also discussed the matter of allotment of land for the reconstruction of historical Gurdwara Charan Kamal Asthan Guru Nanak Sahib Ji at Village Ser

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Railway police asked to keep strict vigil at stations in Jammu ahead of I-Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 8

A senior police officer on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review security arrangements at railway stations here and called for a close vigil to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to disturb the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

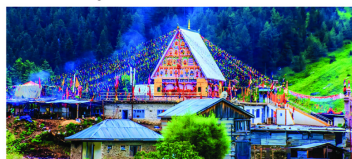
Additional Director General of Police, Railways, Jammu and Kashmir, Sunil Kumar

chaired the meeting and it was attended by Deputy Inspector General, Railways, Haseeb-ur-Rehman, Senior Superintendent of Police, Government Railway Police (GRP), Jammu, Mohan Lal Kaithi, SSP GRP Katra, Sanjay Kumar Kotwal, an official said.

He said security arrangements in and around railway stations came up for a detailed review with a focus on the forthcoming

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Machail Mata Yatra progressing smoothly in Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 8

The annual Machail Mata yatra in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district is picking up pace

with over 30,000 devotees already paying obeisance at the 9,705-feet-high shrine, officials said on Tuesday. With the partially-constructed

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Village head dies in fire incident at Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 8

A village panch died after a fire broke out at his residence in Udhampur's Panchari tehsil late at night Monday, officials said.

As per news agency, the deceased has been identified as Panch Gyan Chand son of Dhani Ram of Panchayat Katti of Panchari tehsil. Witnesses said that a sudden fire broke out late at night yesterday in the house of Panch Gyan Chand's. The family members of the deceased were sleeping when the fire broke out. However, somehow the family members came out safely, but ill-fated Gyan Chand got trapped in the flames and died due to severe burns.

The villagers made every effort to douse the fire, but

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Dengue back in Jammu; 25 cases reported

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 8

Dengue is making its way again in Jammu Division as fresh cases have been reported in the region with officials terming it an emerging threat in the coming months. However, the government said it is adopting a three-pronged strategy for the control and management of the infection.

A top health official told the news agency that this year, 25 cases of dengue have been reported in Jammu Division, with most of them in Jammu district only.

As of now, no patient suffering from dengue was hospitalized as they are having mild symptoms which are managed at home, he said.

The official said that on the direction of Administrative Secretary to Government, Health and Medical Education, the authorities are going to adopt a three-pronged strategy for the control and man-



agement of dengue.

An aggressive IEC/BCC campaign will be carried out through local radio, television and Jammu Municipal Corporation's garbage collection vans, he said, adding that surveillance activities are being enhanced for vector-borne diseases in districts. Besides, for identification and prioritisation of high-risk areas, a comprehensive strategy is being charted out for integrated vector management (IVM), he said.

The health official said that domestic breeding checkers are being hired for source reduction activities of vectors.

He said the principals of Government Medical College, Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents have been directed to have earmark separate dengue wards along with blood component facilities in all GMCs and district hospitals. The concerned authorities have been directed to immediately impart

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Opposition brought no-confidence motion to test its own unity as its alliance plagued by distrust: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the opposition brought the no-confidence motion against his government to test the confidence

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



Fresh batch of pilgrims leave for Amarnath Yatra from Pantha Chowk base camp in Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 8

Another fresh batch of pilgrims left from Pantha Chowk base camp in Srinagar for their onward pilgrimage to Amarnath cave shrine on Tuesday morning. The pilgrims left from

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India taking lead in addressing global concerns: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

India is taking the lead in addressing global concerns, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the global climate movement and the World is ready to be led by India in its



fight against climate change-a concern that like the COVID pandemic knows no borders, respects no wealth or any

other artificial human division," said Dr Jitendra Singh, while interacting with a

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

"Too little too late" say judge Ganjoo's family as J&K Police reopen 1984 murder case

AGENCIES
MUMBAI/SRINAGAR, AUG 8

After a fresh probe was initiated into the 1989 murder case of Kashmiri Pandit judge Neelkanth Ganjoo, his family has said that it is "a little too late" and

they don't want "wounds to be scraped again."

On Monday, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) in Jammu and Kashmir initiated a fresh investigation into the 1989 murder of retired judge

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Mega Plantation Drive at Vishwa Yog Samsthaan Ashram Creates Green Waves in Jammu



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: In a remarkable display of environmental stewardship and community unity, the Vishwa Yog Samsthaan (World Yog Institute) ashram, nestled amidst the serene surroundings of Hari Ki Pauri, Bagh e Bahu, Jammu, played host to a grand mega plantation drive on the 8th of August, 2023. The event, which followed the regular Hanuman Chalisa Chanting and Yog and meditation classes, marked a significant step towards a greener and more sustainable future for the region.

Under the guidance of the esteemed Sh. Yogi Gauri ji, Head In-charge of Vishwa Yog Samsthaan, the initiative gained momentum with participants from all walks of life coming together to contribute towards a healthier environment. The tranquil ashram premises became a thriving hub of eco-consciousness, as individuals joined hands to plant a diverse

array of saplings, adding to the natural beauty of the area.

Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Sh. Baldev Singh Billawarwa ji, underscored the critical importance of establishing a Green Corridor within the city. He lauded the efforts of Vishwa Yog Samsthaan in spearheading this noble endeavor and emphasized how such initiatives hold the potential to transform Jammu into a flourishing haven for both residents and tourists alike.

Addressing the gathering, Sh. Yogi Gauri ji passionately elaborated on the wider significance of the mega plantation initiative. He highlighted that the benefits of a robust green cover extend beyond regional boundaries, impacting the entire globe. His insightful words resonated deeply, inspiring attendees to embrace a greater sense of responsibility towards the environment.

The event witnessed the presence of

notable personalities including Sh. Sham Lal Basson, the dedicated corporator of Ward No. 48 Bahu Fort, Jammu, whose unwavering support has been pivotal in driving the concept of the first Green Corridor in the city. His vision for a greener Jammu, coupled with his commitment to sustainable development, garnered admiration from all quarters.

Sh. Bansilal Gupta ji, along with Sh. Rajan Gupta ji, Sh. Rajesh Padha ji, Sh. Suresh Sharma ji, Sh. Khajuria ji, Sh. Rakesh Sawhney, Sh. Baldev Khullar ji, Sh. Ashok ji, Sh. Sunny ji, Sh. Balker ji, Mattar Shakti, and other esteemed individuals, graced the event and offered their support to the cause. Sh. Bansilal Gupta's promise to nurture and care for the newly planted trees showcased a collective dedication to ensure the long-term success of the initiative.

As the day drew to a close, the atmosphere at the Vishwa Yog Samsthaan ashram was brimming with hope and optimism. The mega plantation drive had not only brought together diverse minds but also sowed the seeds of a verdant future for Jammu and beyond. The event stands as a testament to the power of unity and determination in creating a positive impact on the environment.

In a world increasingly aware of its ecological responsibilities, the Vishwa Yog Samsthaan ashram's mega plantation drive serves as a shining example of how communities can come together to turn the tide towards a greener and more sustainable tomorrow.

CCI delegation call on Managing Director JPDCCL

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce & Industry alongside with its office bearers namely Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer called on the Managing Director Jammu Power Development Corporation Shri Anand Tayal. During interaction Arun Gupta raised various pressing issues relating to inflated power bills which are causing distress and unease among the honest consumers and urged the MD JPDCCL to immediately stop the installation of smart meters/prepaid meters till the complaints of excess billing of these meters is sorted out to the satisfaction of the general public/consumers.

Arun Gupta asked the MD JPDCCL that in case it is not unnecessary to install the smart meters, the consumers /house owner should be intimated first before installation of said



meters and the department must show the tag of meter tested as 'OK' to the owner of the house, besides the meter must be installed in the premises of the house owner at a suitable and moderate height.

Arun Gupta further apprised the MD JPDCCL that PDD should issue clear-scope certificate regarding previous power bills before installing the new smart meters and the meter reading of both the new as well as existing meters be power shut down if arranged should be arranged from 11KVA station Sunderpur instead of 33KVA Miransahib.

During interaction Arun Gupta, President referred a case of excess billing of an honest consumer who used

consumers instead of merging the same with the unit rates and it should also be guaranteed that government will not reintroduce the electricity duty subsequently through a government order.

Arun Gupta further apprised the MD JPDCCL that our Industrial Units of R.S.Pura area(Sunderpur) are facing lot of problems / huge losses due to power shut down from 33KVA Miransahib. We request that power shut down if arranged should be arranged from 11KVA station Sunderpur instead of 33KVA Miransahib.

During interaction Arun Gupta, President referred a case of excess billing of an honest consumer who used

to received the electricity bill round about 900 per month before the installation of smart meters and he has cleared all the dues up to date. But after the installation of smart meter he has received the electricity bill of Rs. 6500/-.

Managing Director JPDCCL acting promptly got the said bill verified. After verification the department clarified that the bill has been generated due to fault and corrected the said bill from Rs. 6500 to 2000/-.

Arun Gupta said that there are so many other cases of honest consumers which need to be verified by the department so that the consumers could pay their electricity dues without any harassment.

SMVD University holds the 35th meeting of Academic Council



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: The 35th meeting of the Academic Council of SMVDU University (SMVDU) was held on 7th August 2023 and was chaired by Prof. Pragati Kumar, VC.

SMVDU. The Academic Council recommended the proposal of two new Academic Programs Bachelor of Design and Bachelor of Mathematics & Computing, to be started from the year 2024-25. The Academic Council also

finalized modalities for the implementation of NEP-2020 for the various B. Tech. Programs.

The Council proposed to create the post of Assistant Director of Physical Education and Sports in line with UGC. Also, the provi-

sion of providing assistance to Non-GATE/NET students to be enrolled in Ph.D. Programs from the year 2024-25 were discussed, and it was decided to create a fund for students coming from poor economic backgrounds. The Vice-Chancellor stressed upon the need to make the education more skill orientated and specific to the requirements.

The meeting began with a welcome note by the Sh. Nagendra Singh Jmalwal, Registrar, SMVDU. The agenda items were presented by Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, and attended by Deans and Heads of various schools and sections.

Media in J&K hijacked by BJP and political syndicates: Harsh Dev

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: Emphasizing on media neutrality, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, State President JKNPP and Former Minister said that several newspapers in J&K having become marketing agencies in the hands of ruling party and some political syndicates, the fourth pillar of democracy was getting debilitated and weakened.

He said that truth was being suppressed and factual details concealed by these media houses only to serve their personal interests for money and power and also to avail the ruling party's favours. Asserting that the media had a very significant role as an enabler of democracy and in facilitating a better educated society, Mr. Singh said that only a selected media houses were acting as true guardians of democracy and were performing their role as watch-dogs to protect

public interest. He said that such media houses needed to be complemented for their bold and fearless reporting thereby enabling the public to form a fair opinion about the functioning of the govt.

He said that several newspapers and media houses had ignored the wealth of the govt and even suffered immensely in view of their truthful and fair projection of the govt's role besides its omissions and commissions and even penalized by the latter.

The role of such media houses shall continue to be remembered and eulogized even after this dark era of political authoritarianism has ended, remarked Mr. Singh.

Accusing the BJP leadership and its political allies of having hijacked most of the media houses and newspapers, Mr. Singh regretted that such malicious actors were using the press for promotion of their own political par-

ties and their vested interests. Some of them were creating an extremely unhealthy discourse by creating bubbles of one-sided information by either ignoring the opposition all together or downplaying its leadership and by working as promotional agencies of BJP and other rich, affluent leaders. While the BJP and JKAP leaders were being projected out of proportion by these media houses, the space of opposition leaders was consistently shrinking.

Larger than life characters of certain insignificant and opportunist leaders were being created through magnified media coverages while disallowing proper coverage to the version of the opposition leaders. This had surely amounted to a deviation from the role and responsibilities of fair reporting and code of conduct evolved for the media in the democratic jurisprudence, asserted Mr. Singh.

Chandel stresses inclusion of PoK, Aksai Chin for a truly united India

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: In a statement today, Raju Chandel, a prominent leader of the Hindustani BJP, expressed his views on the idea of a united India. He emphasized that the vision cherished by our ancestors to forge a united India remains incomplete without the inclusion of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and the region of Aksai Chin, currently under Chinese control.

Chandel underlined the determination of the Modi government to reclaim PoK and Kashmir, integral parts of India, from Pakistan's occupation. He further advocated for the immediate evacuation of Chinese and



Pakistani forces from Aksai Chin and its subsequent integration into India. He stressed the importance of liberat-

ing Aksai Chin from Chinese control as well, asserting that only through these actions can the country truly become a united India.

Highlighting the strength of India's armed forces, Mr. Chandel noted that the combined might of the three branches constitutes one of the world's largest military forces. He suggested that the collaborative forces of China and Pakistan would be unable to withstand the might of the Indian armed forces, instilling a sense of confidence. He concluded by asserting that a swift and resolute offensive against Pakistan and China would lead to the liberation of PoK and Aksai Chin, thus fulfilling the aspiration for a united India.

Shiv Sena protests against inflation, highlights soaring prices of essential commodities



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit staged a protest against the escalating prices of vegetables, fruits, and food items, compelling the attention of the government.

The protest, marked by participants donning garlands of vegetables and adorning a tomato crown, took place at Badli Brahmana, Sidco Chowk in Jammu.

Under the leadership of Manish Sahni, State President Shiv Sena, the protesting brandished placards bearing slogans such as "Citizens Struggle with Inflation, Government Remains Unconcerned," "Waiting for Acche Din", "Tomatoes at ₹250, Ginger at

₹320, Cauliflower at ₹100, Brinjal at ₹80, Bitter Gourd at ₹100", to express their dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs.

Sahni drew attention to the staggering rise of prices, emphasizing that the cost of essentials like wheat, pulses, and rice has surged by up to 30% over the past year. Even the ordinary vegetables, once staples of common households, have vanished from the everyday plate due to the relentless inflation. The prices of commonly used vegetables such as tomatoes, ginger, cauliflower, brinjal, garlic, and bitter gourd have skyrocketed, with even cumin seeds witnessing a fivefold increase. The household budgets of homemakers have been severely disrupted by these soaring prices, he

added. Sahni lamented the absence of a concrete strategy from the government to control inflation and stabilize food prices. Despite India being one of the largest producers of tomatoes after China, the skyrocketing tomato prices have left the public in distress.

He highlighted the paradox of Prime Minister Narendra Modi designating tomatoes, onions, and potatoes as priorities, yet the government's inability to curb their soaring costs.

The protesters urged the government to address the pressing concerns of inflation and ensure affordable access to essential commodities for the general populace.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration, which is busy collecting revenue by installing smart , prepaid meters property tax etc. , has proved completely unsuccessful in cracking down on black marketers and providing relief to the public. Many leaders and workers including President Kamgar Wing Raj Singh, Vice President Shashpal & Mangru Ram, Rajesh Sharma, Neeraj, Jagbir Singh, Bishan Das, Santokh Devi, Pooja Devi, Meena Devi were present on this occasion.

Literary committee of GDC Kilhotran organised an awareness session

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: The literary committee of GDC Kilhotran organised an awareness session under the theme Meri Maati Mera Desh in the series of events taking place in the college.

The whole event was organised under the able guidance and patronage of the college Principal Dr Javid Iqbal.

The event started with a welcome address by Prof Deepak Raj, Convenor



College Literary Committee. The purpose of the event was to bring awareness among the students regarding the concept of Meri Maati Mera Desh. The chief guest on the occasion was Prof Mohd Yaqoob Baba, retired Principal Eidgah Sinagar.

The principal Dr Javid Iqbal in his address briefed the students about National Integration and the significance of Meri Maati Mera Desh and encouraged the students to take active part in various activities in the celebration of Independence Day. The principal also extended his gratitude towards Prof Yaqoob and lauded the efforts of the college literary committee and the staff associated with the organising of such a graceful event.

Stringent traffic enforcement measures undertaken in Padder

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, AUG 08: In the Padder region of Kishtwar district, stringent actions are being taken by law enforcement authorities to address violations of traffic regulations. Padder Police is actively enforcing these measures, holding accountable those who breach traffic rules and subjecting them to legal consequences. The operation is under the direct supervision of Sp

vehicles found in violation, promptly issuing challans in accordance with the Motor Vehicles Act. The registration numbers of these vehicles are as follows: JK17-6729, JK17A-1777, JK17-8947, JK17-4516, JK17-7565, JK17ACG-1719, HPOIC-1043, JK17A-0634, JK17-8957, JK17A-2330, HPOID-6228, JK17-5240, JK17-5849, JK17-0577, JK17A-1763, JK17A-0912, JK17-9113, JK17-8531, JK14-8247, JK17A-1902, and JK17-3661.

Bahu Branch Celebrates "Vanmahotsav" in Shakti Park



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: Bahu Branch Celebrates "Vanmahotsav" (plantation drive) in Shakti Park, today in Sec 9 Trikuta Nagar of Bahu Constituency. By planting flowers, medicinal and ornamental plants for its beautification and healthy environment. All prominent persons present enthusiastically participated in the plantation of plants like

Hibiscus China Rose, Gulmohar, Yakima Stan, Chinara, Red Nerium, Rat ki Rani, Pantra, Tulsi, etc. President Bahu Branch Vijay Arora highlighted that for good health we need a healthy environment and for that trees act as a primary source of energy and a big healer of diseases as they expel oxygen and absorb harmful gases from the air also conserve soil from eroding and provide shelter to living beings. She stated that its greenery and fragrance of flowers are the feast for the eyes and of course livelihood for the People. Trees bring rain and maintain the ecological balance in the atmosphere and much more. We should bring awareness to our children and grandchildren and encourage them to plant trees and nourish them. It will not only give them a feeling of joy but inner contentment also when it

bears fruits she added. We celebrate plantation drive as a festival and try to inculcate such like Sanskar in the society Present amongst the gathering were Prant President Bharat Bhushan, Prant Secretary Shiv Ram Sharma, Madhu from State Sunil Singh Manhas and staff along with his team from Forest Department were present. Rekha Mahajan District President Jammu South, Trikuta Nagar Mandal President and Councillor Neeraj Puri, Treasure Mohini Manhas, and other members of the branch were Prominent among those were Pariyavaran Parmukh Ajay Gupta, Branch Coordinator D P Arora, Purshotam Gupta, DGM security from RBI Social Media Parmukh R K Kakroo, Raju Bhatia, Rohit Mahajan, Dr. Kohli and Avdesh Gupta, Rajinder Gupta, Rajesh Gupta and others partakes in the program.

Exploring Pathways in Commerce: APS BD Bari Hosts Interactive Workshop

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 08: The Commerce Department of Army Public School (APS) BD Bari organised an enlightening one-day interactive workshop, aimed at guiding students of classes VIII to XII towards a plethora of opportunities in the field of commerce. The event also saw active participation from students of classes XI and XII. The workshop, held within the school premises, was designed to empower students with information about various career avenues in the commerce sector. With a focus on interactive sessions, students had the opportunity to engage in discussions and receive valuable insights, equipping them to make well-informed career decisions. The event was widely appreciated by the attendees for its innovative approach. The participants

and guide students towards choosing commerce as their opportunity, APS BD considered it an important step towards helping students navigate through the diverse options available within the commerce domain. This initiative was led by the senior students of APS BD Bari, who acted as mentors for both their peers and juniors. Under the esteemed guidance of Principal Mrs. Neeta Rawal, the event aimed to inspire preferred career path. The workshop generated substantial interest among the participants, and their positive feedback highlighted the significance of such initiatives in shaping the students' future. The commitment of the students and the guidance provided by the school's faculty played a pivotal role in the success of this pioneering endeavor. Bari's Commerce Department took a proactive step to empower its students with knowledge, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future careers. The event stands as a testament to the school's dedication to holistic education and its commitment to nurturing the potential of its students.



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IMS Jammu Organizes Two Day Orientation Program



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: A two day Orientation Programme for BBA & BCA 3rd and 5th semester batches was organized by Institute of Management Sciences, Jammu on 7th & 8th of August, 2023. The Induction programme started with welcome address by the Management Department Coordinator, Mrs. Divya

Jamwal, where she addressed the students and faculty members regarding the upcoming semester. This was followed by a session on Gender Sensitization by Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director, IMS who apprised the students on the issues of Gender inequality and stereotyping of gender roles which is causing problems for society as a whole. Following this, an Alumni interaction with Ms. Vanita Gupta took place where she shared her college experience and also highlighted the realities of the corporate environment. She urged the students to make full use of College facilities and environment to broaden their horizons and wished them well for their future. Later Computer science department Coordinator, Mrs Sheetal Sharma also addressed the students to impart discipline norms for the upcoming semester. The first day of Induction programme was concluded by Ms. Gurshikh Kour who presented the formal vote of thanks at the session. On the second day, the first session was taken by Ms Nidhi Jamwal, Chief Coordinator, IMS on Skill Development. She encouraged the students to continuously upskill themselves for better opportunities in Corporate world. This was followed by a Guest Session by Mr. Sahil Gupta (CA) on Financial Literacy. He discussed the various financial tools which can be used by students for Financial Planning. The session concluded with an engaging Q/A round with the students.

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FICCI FLO Core Team meets VCJU, Prof. Umesh Rai, to Foster Start-up Ecosystem

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 08: A delegation of the Core Team FLO Jammu-Kashmir Ladakh, the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), led by Chairperson Varuna Anand, recently engaged in a productive dialogue with Prof. Umesh Rai, the esteemed Vice Chancellor of Jammu University. The meeting centered around the shared goal of nurturing the start-up ecosystem and promoting entrepreneurial endeavours in the region. During the interaction, Varuna Anand expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Umesh Rai for the successful collaboration with the Institute of Music & Fine Arts for their collaboration in the Art Camp held by FLO JKL at Octroi Post, Suchetgarh.



This collaboration has not only enhanced artistic expression giving great exposure to the young artists and their crafts but also showcased peace and prosperity in J&K and highlighted Suchetgarh as a must visit tourist spot in Jammu. As a token of appreciation and gratitude, FICCI FLO JKL presented Prof. Umesh Rai with a stunning painting created during the Art Camp. The painting symbolizes the harmonious collaboration between academia, JSF, and art, reflecting the spirit of innovation and cooperation that FICCI FLO JKL and Jammu University aim to cultivate. The meeting between FICCI FLO and Prof. Umesh Rai marks a significant step towards strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. The shared commitment to nurturing start-ups and encouraging creative expression sets the stage for promising collaborations that will contribute to the socio-economic development of the region. Sh. Ranjeet Kalra, teaching faculty at UGC-HRDC University of Jammu also attended the meeting. The Vice-Chancellor on this occasion also shared Jammu University's newly launched

'Design Your Degree' undergraduate program's concept and details with the visiting delegation. The four-year undergraduate degree was recently also endorsed by the UGC on its official Twitter handle. Also in the course of the discussions, a strong commitment was expressed to tackling the destabilization of youth caused by drug abuse in Jammu. Both organizations expressed their eagerness to collaborate on effective strategies aimed at countering this issue and ensuring a brighter future for the younger generation. The delegation from FLO JKL included Varuna Anand, Ruchika Gupta, Sonu Mehta, Mona Saraf & Chandni Kapoor.

Indian Army organises lecture on cyber crime awareness



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: The Indian Army took a significant step towards raising awareness about the escalating trend of cyber fraud and crimes by organising a comprehensive lecture on Cyber Crime at Model Academy Sagra in Poonch. The event, held on August 7, 2023, was aimed at educating students about the importance of cyber security and the precautions to be taken while

engaging with social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp. The Principal and teaching staff of Model Academy Sagra lauded the Indian Army's initiative and expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the valuable knowledge imparted during the session. They recognized the importance of equipping students with the tools and understanding necessary to protect themselves against the rising tide of cyber threats. By emphasising responsible online behavior, the lecture aimed to empower the younger generation to navigate the digital landscape with confidence and security. The Indian Army remains committed to fostering a safer digital environment for all citizens. Their lecture on cyber crime awareness reflects the Indian Army's dedication to proactive engagement and education, fortifying the Nation's Defences in the virtual realm.

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AHD organizes awareness camp



J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBAN, AUG 08: The Extension and Publicity Wing of the Animal Husbandry Department in Jammu recently organized an informative camp at Birpur to highlight the various schemes offered by the department. The event aimed to educate the public about opportunities within the dairy and poultry sectors, with a special focus on the HADP program launched in the Union Territory. This program

seeks to enhance farmers' income and foster new entrepreneurship. During the camp, Dr. Nadeem Hussain, Dr. Sandeep Bhat, and Dr. Mohd Ashraf, Veterinary Assistant Surgeons at Birpur, shared valuable insights with the attendees. The event was attended by local dignitaries, including Veena Janwal, the Sarpanch of Birpur, and former Sarpanch Karam Chaudhary. The community members were provided with comprehensive information to encourage their participation in the livestock sector and take advantage of the available schemes.

Sawhney applauds abrogation of Article 370, Cites improved peace and development in Kashmir

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: In a recent statement, Tejwant Singh Sawhney, a prominent leader of the BJP Minority Morcha, expressed his satisfaction with the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Sawhney commended the move, highlighting the positive changes that have taken place since the abrogation. "People Are Happy with Abrogation of Article 370, Living Peacefully," Says BJP Minority Morcha Leader Tejwant Singh Sawhney lauded the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Sawhney, known for his staunch support of the central government's policies, stated that the peo-



ple in the region are now living more peacefully, with a marked decrease in instances of bandhs and hartals. According to Sawhney, the removal of Article 370 has allowed for a conducive environment for development and progress. He highlighted that students in Kashmir are now able to pursue their studies regularly and without disruptions, contributing to a more stable and vibrant educational ecosystem. Sawhney emphasized that the abrogation of Article 370 has paved the way for rapid development in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed to the significant strides made in infrastructure, healthcare, and other sectors, attributing this progress to the removal of the special status. Sawhney also extended his congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their decisive leadership in this matter. He praised the central government's commitment to ensuring a brighter future for the region and its residents. As opinions continue to vary on the impact of the abrogation of Article 370, Sawhney's perspective sheds light on the positive developments observed in Jammu and Kashmir. The region's progress, as noted by Sawhney, showcases the ongoing efforts to create a harmonious and prosperous environment for its residents.

'MERI MATI MERA DESH' CAMPAIGN

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, AUGUST 8: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda, Pran Singh today reviewed the Activity Plan for the nationwide "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign here at a meeting attended by stakeholder departments. The campaign, initiated by the Government of India, aims to promote patriotism and community engagement. In a detailed session held in the ADC's office chamber, key offi-

cers and officials gathered to deliberate on the campaign's progress and implementation strategies. T ADCDC engaged virtually with Block Development Officers (BDOs) to discuss the effective execution of the "Meri Mati Mera Desh" initiative. He asked the BDOs to expedite the necessary formalities required for organizing different activities under the campaign. Noteworthy events scheduled for the program include the flag hoisting ceremony, construction of a Silaphalakam, capturing selfies with the tricolour flag, singing of the national anthem, and taking the Panch Prana pledge. Underlining the significance of involving the families of martyrs, the ADCDC directed BDOs to reach out and extend invitations to them for participation in the program, which is slated for August 9th. Furthermore, the ADCDC stressed the active participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), sarpanches, and other responsible individuals to ensure the success of the campaign.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

2 BSF personnel..

includes round-the-clock surveillance and patrolling on the borders and establishment of observation post, increase in number of the BSF personnel, construction of border fencing and floodlighting.

Use of water crafts and boats and floating border out posts for domination of riverine areas, advance technological equipments such as hand-held thermal imager, night vision device, twin telescope and unmanned aerial vehicles, upgradation of intelligence setup, and enhanced coordination with the state governments and intelligence agencies were also part of the multi-pronged strategy, he said.

"Two BSF personnel and 21 local persons/civilians involved in infiltration attempts have been apprehended since 2021. Whenever any such involvement of officials or local persons is noticed, the central and state government authorities concerned carry out proper investigation and appropriate strict action is taken as per the law," he said in written reply to a question. (Agencies)

LG reviews preparedness..

in the run-up to the grand celebration on Independence Day.

We all must work together as a single unit for the successful conduct of 'Meri Mati Meri Desh', 'Har Ghar Tiranga' across the UT and 'Tiranga Yatra' in Jammu and Srinagar, the Lt Governor said.

I am confident that this year too people in huge numbers will participate in Independence Day events, he said. He further directed the District Administration and departments to organise activities under 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan'.

The Lt Governor also asked for active involvement of common citizens, Public representatives, Youth Clubs, Civil Society, Self Help Groups, NCC Scouts and Guides, Army veterans, ex-servicemen, prominent citizens and educational institutions in the celebration of Independence Day.

He emphasised that the Independence Day celebration is not a government function but the country's most sacred festival which is observed by the entire society with the spirit of oneness, one emotion.

The Lt Governor suggested the Culture Department to come up with the monographs on Martyrs. He directed the officers for tricolor illumination of prominent buildings, tourist spots, border villages, and organizing activities in the honour of the prominent personalities who contributed in nation building.

The meeting also discussed the progress of the ongoing development works and measures taken by the district administrations to meet the targets. KNO

In Sc, Sibal says will..

that the constituent Assembly of the State referred in Article 370 shall read Legislative Assembly of the State.

On August 6, 2019, the President of India issued a notification, stating that all clauses of Article 370 shall cease to be operative. Citing Article 3 of the Constitution of India, Sibal argued that Jammu & Kashmir cannot be converted into a UT. He submitted that conversion of a state into a UT was also against the principles of representative form of government.

"It doesn't allow extinguishment of a state completely," he argued. KNO

Delegation of All..

Manjila (Ram Nagar), Udhampur.

The Lt Governor assured the members of delegation for redressal of the genuine issues and demands put forth on priority. KNO

Machail Mata Yatra..

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road en route now accessible, the devotees can trek on foot to the shrine, cutting travel time by about two hours and making the journey less fatiguing compared to the steep and challenging terrains, they said.

The 43-day yatra in the scenic Paddar valley of Kishtwar commenced on July 25 and is scheduled to conclude on September 5.

The foothall at the temple is likely to witness manifold increase with the arrival of holy 'Charri Yatra' from Jammu to Machail on August 18.

"The yatra has been transformed into a more comfortable, enjoyable and safe journey for on-foot pilgrims with the opening of the PMGSY road by district administration Kishtwar on August 5," an official said.

This year, the district administration led by Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav has taken far reaching measures to facilitate the devotees to make their yatra a lifetime memorable experience, he said.

These include the installation of a first-of-its-kind 30 KW hybrid solar power plant, a 4G Airtel tower, and electricity to Machail Village, easing the arduous spiritual journey of the devotees, the official said.

Additionally, facilities such as tent city at Machail, Yatri Bhawan, Sapphire guest house and luxury mushroom tents at base camp Gulabgarh have been arranged to accommodate and host the devotees during their pilgrimage, he said.

He said the Machail Mata yatra holds immense spiritual and cultural significance and remains a cherished place of pilgrimage for devotees across the country.

Describing the construction of PMGSY road as a "major milestone", the official said the department concerned successfully cleared the challenging rocky stretch on Machail road in a short span of time.

"Road cutting in a crucial rocky stretch has resulted in achieving significant progress on this road which is now being used by pilgrims up to Hamouri village for on foot journey," he said.

The pilgrims had to foot a distance of about 22 kilometers to reach the shrine but after the construction of the road, the travel time was shortened from 1.5 to 2 hours, the official said.

Additionally, the officials said the installation of railings by the Army on the Mov bridge has significantly enhanced the safety of pilgrims during their journey. (Agencies)

Railway police asked..

Independence Day and the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. Kumar directed the officers to keep extra vigil in order

to thwart any nefarious designs of anti-national elements and anti-social elements on the ground.

He also passed necessary directions for investigating crimes in a professional manner on a merit basis.

The ADGP directed for optimum use of available manpower and asked for the setting up of Railway Special Branch (RSB) teams and anti-drug squads to monitor the situation at the railway stations, the official said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Ramban range, Suleman Choudhary chaired a meeting in Udhampur district along Jammu-Srinagar national highway to review security arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day.

Senior officers of police, CRPF and intelligence agencies attended the meeting which discussed the prevailing law and order situation, the presence of terrorists and attempts to revive militancy, a police spokesperson said.

He said the meeting also took an overview of the surveillance of overground workers of terrorists and surrendered militants.

Addressing the meeting, the DIG emphasised the strengthening of checking points along the National Highway to keep a check on the transportation of drugs and weapons.

He also called for proper coordination among the Army, BSF, CRPF and Police for area domination with more attention on minority pickets and timely sharing of actionable information among all the agencies for surveillance of anti-national and anti-social elements in the district. (Agencies)

Dengue back in..

training to the staff to start diagnostic facilities for dengue at district hospitals in Ramban and Reasi, he said.

"The chief medical officers have been directed to ensure that all private laboratories and nursing homes must upload the data on the integrated Health Information Platform (HIP) while CMOs and BMOs have been directed to enhance surveillance activities of Vector Borne Diseases, and identify high-risk areas strategies so that the integrated vector management may be worked out," he informed.

MD JKMPCL and State Malariaologist have been directed to ensure the availability of diagnostic kits, drugs, insecticides and other logistics.

Perthently, 18 people died of dengue while over 8,000 were found positive in J&K last year.

Dengue viruses spread to people through the bite of an infected Aedes species (Ae. aegypti or Ae. albopictus) mosquito. Almost half of the world's population - about 4 billion people - live in areas with a risk of dengue. It is often a leading cause of illness in areas with risk. KNO

Village head dies..

could not succeed. The body was taken out in the morning and the police sent the body to PHC Pancheri for post-mortem.

DDC Pancheri Jasveer Singh has also expressed grief over the death of Panch in the accident. At the same time, the police have also started investigating the matter. KNO

Opposition brought..

of its own alliance members in each other as the INDIA bloc is marked by distrust among its constituents.

In his address to BJP MPs at a closed-door meeting of its parliamentary party, he described the opposition alliance as "ghamandia" (marked by arrogance) and congratulated the party's Rajya Sabha members for the "semi-final" win in voting on the Delhi services bill, some of those present inside said.

Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal quoted Modi as saying that the opposition brought by the no-confidence motion despite the fact that the government enjoyed a strong majority as its members wanted to see if they were united or not.

Even in the voting on the Delhi services bill in Rajya Sabha, the government got more votes than expected as the debate showed that its bill was guided by the Constitution, the prime minister said.

Modi sources said, noted that some opposition members had described the voting in Rajya Sabha as a semi-final before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as he exuded confidence about the BJP's prospects in the national elections.

The Delhi services bill secured parliamentary approval on Monday after the Rajya Sabha passed it with the support of 131 MPs while 101 of them voted against the legislation that will give the Centre control over bureaucracy in the national capital.

Exuding confidence about his return to power following next year's general elections, Modi told MPs that they will not have to push for railway ministry-related works during his third term after Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw made a presentation, indicating that the ongoing development projects will take care of their demands.

The Modi government is now in its second term, with opposition parties forming the Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to prevent the ruling BJP-led NDA from coming to power for a third term under him.

With the ruling party certain to defeat the no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha, where it enjoys a strong majority, Modi told party MPs to hit "sixers" on the last ball before the 2024 polls.

He also referred to his 2018 speech in which he had wryly wished the opposition to bring a no-confidence motion against his government in 2023.

In a swipe at opposition parties, the prime minister said their leaders speak of social justice but harmed it the most with their dynastic, appeasement and corrupt policies.

He reiterated his call for corruption, and dynastic and appeasement politics to quit India.

Meghwal told reporters that the prime minister asked MPs to join the party's programme on August 9 on the call for nepotism, corruption and appeasement to quit India.

He asked them to organise events to mark the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day and also to take out silent marches to highlight the pain and tragedy of India's partition. Other programmes that Modi spoke about was "Har Ghar Tiranga" in the run-up to the Independence Day.

Party leaders were also asked by Modi to reach out to households for taking pledge to do their bit to make India a developed country by 2047. People will take collective pledge at different levels, including districts and states,

Meghwal said.

"An 'amrit kalash yatra' will also be organised as part of the effort under which over 8,500 urns having soil or grain besides saplings will be brought to Delhi for raising an 'amrit vatika' (garden), he said, adding that the exercise is expected to continue till Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31. (Agencies)

Fresh batch of pilgrims..

the Pantha Chowk base camp to Baltal and Pahalgam routes to reach the holy Amarnath Cave.

A batch of pilgrims had earlier left from Pantha Chowk base camp in Srinagar for their onward pilgrimage to Amarnath cave shrine on Monday morning.

The pilgrims were heard shouting 'Bam Bam Bhole' Slogans on their way to the holy shrine.

"The arrangements made for the yatra are very good, I have not seen such a facility anywhere, I would like to thank our Army for this. I will come here every year" Devi Lal Kumawat, a pilgrim said.

"An 'Anarathra' has helped in every way, local people are also very cooperative. Everyone should come and see Kashmir, we are very happy to be here," another pilgrim said.

The 62-day-long Amarnath Yatra, which began on July 1 will culminate on August 31, 2023. (Agencies)

"Too little too late" say..

Neelkanth Ganjoo, marking a significant step towards seeking justice for the long-standing case.

"It's too little too late after 34 years of the incident. Now we don't want our wounds to be scraped again," SK Ganjoo, the son of the slain former judge said.

Meanwhile, former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, has welcomed the probe, stating, "It is good that he (Neelkanth Ganjoo) will get justice. The BJP government had already said that such things should be investigated. This was a conspiracy.. The people should cooperate in this so that the conspiracy can be exposed.. I appreciate the move."

Reacting to the opening of the probe into the over three-decades case, Kashmiri Pandit writer and political activist Agnishekhar said, "Genocide has happened to Kashmiri Pandits. This is one big thing, justice should be done for Neelkanth Ganjoo, who was reportedly killed by Yasin Malik, leader of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

"For 34 years, we have been talking about investigation a probe a SIT. 1500 Kashmiri Pandits have been killed. Now we welcome this news of investigation after 34."

"It was a selective killing, kill one and scare ten. Neelkanth Ganjoo was a reputed personality," Agnishekhar said.

The SIT of Jammu and Kashmir Police has appealed to the public to come forward and share accounts of events to unearth the larger conspiracy behind the murder.

The incident occurred over 30 years ago, when Ganjoo, a Sessions and District Court judge, was shot dead by militants in Srinagar on November 4, 1989.

The militants surrendered Ganjoo as he was in the High Street market and shot him dead near the Srinagar High Court. (Agencies)

India taking lead..

delegation of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) who called on him today.

The PHD Chamber is an Industry Partner for ENTICE - Energy Transitions Innovation Challenge, an innovation platform for accelerating people-positive energy transitions. The Chamber has set up the Centre of Excellence in Green Hydrogen (CoE-GH), a state-of-the-art knowledge facility to bridge the gap between government, academia, and industry. The centre aims to facilitate partnerships for capacity building. The centre intends to assist the SME sector that focuses on the green energy transition and is interested in starting a new business in the green hydrogen sector as well. This is the only facility of this sort in India.

Dr Jitendra Singh called upon the PHDCCI to commercialise India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell bus, developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL) and Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI)KPIIT in collaboration with KPIT Limited, a Pune-based software multinational. The hydrogen fuel cell bus was launched by Dr Jitendra Singh in August last year.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is implementing the largest Renewable Energy (RE) expansion programme in the world envisaging a 5-fold increase in the overall RE capacity in the country.

"India is committed to achieve 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by the year 2030 and reduce the projected emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030," he said.

The Union Minister said that the last nine years have witnessed the Indian crusade against climate change. "We have already achieved our commitment of 40% energy production from renewable sources, way ahead of the 2030 Paris Agreement target," he said.

He added that apart from the thrust on renewable energy from solar and hydel, the Prime Minister announced major strides in Hydrogen energy from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2021. India has also launched the National Hydrogen Energy Mission to enable cost competitive green hydrogen production.

Dr Jitendra Singh said India's energy-mix strategies include a larger shift towards clean energy alternatives, increased manufacturing capacities, energy efficiency and a policy push for hydrogen including production-linked incentives. In addition, the emerging technologies like 2G Ethanol Pilot, Comfort climate box for tropical regions, Hydrogen Valleys, Heating and cooling virtual reality, are all on the table, the Minister emphasized.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has developed a Roadmap and a strategy for a Bio-based economy which is inching towards 150 billion USD by the year 2025. He said, this will facilitate infrastructure for Bio-manufacturing of low-carbon bio-based products.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, government of India through Public-Private partnerships is ensuring the funding for clean energy innovations as envisioned under Mission Innovation 2.0. He said that the Clean Energy Ministerial

As Sgr tops in JIS-2023, J&K LG, DC Asad congratulate JIM team for achievement

JIS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUG 8

The district administration Srinagar on Tuesday said that it will make every effort to fulfill the expectations of the people.

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Muhammad Aijaz Asad, while talking to the reporters, thanked the whole team of Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM) after the district was ranked at the top in the whole country in Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JIS-2023).

Asad said that "People have high expectations upon the administration and we will try our best to fulfill their expectations."

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also congratulated the Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar and the whole team of Jal Jeevan Mission.

"Heartiest congratulations to team @srinagaradmission @asadamajaz for securing top rank in 'Front Runners' category during Jal Jeevan Survekshan 2023 (Oct 22 - Jun 23). Your dedication & hard work is truly commendable & serve as an inspiration to others," office of J&K LG tweeted. KNO

Lady commits suicide, family alleges harassment by husband

JIS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUG 8

A lady has allegedly committed suicide by jumping into river Jhelum near Rajbagh area of Srinagar on Tuesday morning while the family has been alleged harassment by her husband, which according to them compelled her to take the extreme step.

An official told the news agency that a lady identified as Ulfat Jan (45), wife of Ferooz Ahmad Malik of Sonwar, has jumped into the river Jhelum near Rajbagh Srinagar, where from the body was retrieved and taken to the hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Soon after the news spread, a pall of gloom descended the area following which the nearby residents started visiting the residence in Sonwar where a protest was held by the family members of the lady.

They alleged that the deceased was harassed by her husband, which forced her to take the extreme step. KNO

(CEM) setup has been able to provide a unique opportunity for India to showcase its contribution to clean energy development nationally & internationally and quoted some major CEM initiatives which includes CEM's Global Lighting Challenge (GLC) campaign, Street Lighting National Programme, Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) program, The One Sun-One World-One Grid Initiative which was first floated by the Prime Minister of India to harness tremendous potential of solar energy.

Dr Jitendra Singh asserted that India, through "Mission Innovation", is actively engaged in collaborative efforts to catalyze inspiring innovation goals. He said, National Mission initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India, and Green India, Smart Cities have encouraged hubs of clean energy innovation all over the country. Alongside, India has also taken R&D initiative to develop low carbon alternatives to Single Use Plastics in an integrated manner, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said PM Modi had at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November, 2021, expressed to intensify its climate action plan by presenting to the world five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of India's climate action. He said, apart from a five-pronged target for India and its commitment to Net-Zero emissions by 2070, PM Modi also asserted the need to follow a sustainable lifestyle and emphasized on the idea of making "Lifestyle for Environment" (LIFE) a global mission through bolder steps by the global clean energy fraternity.

Dr Jitendra Singh said India is on course to achieve its targets toward climate action like: Reaching a non-fossil fuel energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030; Fulfilling 50 percent energy requirements via renewable energy by 2030; Reducing CO2 emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030; Reducing carbon intensity below 45 percent by 2030; To pave the way for achieving a net-zero emissions target by 2070.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, today when India is celebrating the 75th year of its Independence, the roadmap for the next 25 years for India @100, will be determined by scientific and technological innovations in all walks of life.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, at the initiative of PM Modi, the United Nations observed the International Yoga Day and this year is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets. With Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, the government is taking healthcare protection to a new aspirational level. This is the "world's largest government funded healthcare program" targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries.

Besides, India is today the World's 5th largest economy and the total length of the National Highways in the country increased by about 59% in the last nine years. As a result of this expansion, India now has the second largest road network, after the US. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) the Government achieved the impossible task of increasing the sanitation coverage in just 5-years from 39% in 2014 to 100% by 2019. Under the programme, 10,28 Crore toilets were built in the country and all the districts declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF) on 22 October 2019 as a tribute to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It is the world's largest behaviour change programme.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the 'Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM) - Har Ghar Jal' is the world's largest drinking water project. When the programme was launched in August 2019, we were at 17% and today we have provided nearly 6 Crore tap water connections in the last 2½ years and stand at 47%, despite challenges of Covid-19. Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, India has achieved a new milestone of ensuring safe and clean drinking water through taps to more than 12.75 Crore (65.75%) rural households of the country.

Govt working on simultaneous projects to change J&K's development profile: Kavinder



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 08: BJP Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working on simultaneous projects in J&K to change its development profile and provide all the required amenities to the people at their doorsteps. This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta after inaugurating development works worth Rs 73 lakhs at Channi Himmat and

Greater Kailash areas of Jammu city. Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Corporator Ward No. 50, Neena Gupta, Corporator Ward No 68 Anil Kumar, Vinay Gupta, District President Rekha Mahajan, Narinder Koki, Pushpinder Singh, Lucky Puri, Balwan Singh, Jameet Singh, Ameer Singh, Poonam Gupta, Trishula Gupta, Puja, Raju, Vijay, Vishal and prominent citizens of both the respective wards were present during the two separate programmes. Speaking on

the occasion, the BJP stalwart leader said with construction of this civic edifice in the area, the people will get respite from the problems being faced by them, particularly in the rainy season. He said this was a long pending demand of the area which has been fulfilled today. The senior BJP leader also interacted with the locals and listened to area's development issues. He said the government has launched several development works to improve the overall condition of lanes

and drains, link roads, and other amenities in neglected areas and it is now matter of days when the localities in the vicinity would become models for others to follow. Kavinder asked locals to identify developmental needs of their respective areas so that the works can be enlisted for execution by the Government on priority. He assured that all pending development works in the area including macadamization of inner roads, repairing and construction of lanes and drains and other development works of the area would be fulfilled in a phased manner. He further assured that no compromise shall be made on quality of construction and asked people to act as ears and eyes of the government to keep an eye on the things.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also stressed upon locals to avail benefits under various flagship welfare schemes and programmes launched by the UT and central governments.

Pathania flags off 'charri Mubarak' for Sri Machail Mata



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 08: In the midst of heart rending slogans, reciting of bhajans, folklores, beating of drums, devotees dancing and rejoicing, 18th holy 'Charri Mubarak' for Sri Machail Mata Shrine at Paddar (Kishtwar) was flagged off formally by Mr. Ranbir Singh Pathania, BJP Spokesperson & former MLA. The management committee of Charri yatra

had made arrangements for food, lodging and related facilities of all the pilgrims. Mr. Raj Sharma, priest of Sri Chandni Mata temple, Smal (Battal), alongwith hundreds of local pilgrims have embarked on a 5-6 day tour of Sri Machail Mata, Sri Sarthal Mata, Sri Chandni Mata Bhaderwah and other shrines. The pilgrims have expressed their fullest satisfaction and gratitude to the management committee and by coming out in such

huge number made this yatra shall be a grand success. While speaking on the occasion Mr. Pathania said that J&K itself has a history and tradition of religious Mathis, Mandirs and holy places. The interest and enthusiasm of the people to take part in yatras reflects the incessant faith of Hindus in the spirit of Sanatana. More so, the yatras act as a point of cultural exchange through various languages and attires. These yatras are

the fulcrums of the promotion of pilgrimage tourism in the areas. People take time out of their hectic schedules and try to attain spiritual satisfaction 'Sankalp Se Sidhi'. Mr. Uttam Singh Palsar, Tehsildar Majjala also remained present. Visiting a sacred place is believed by the pilgrim to purify the self and bring one closer to the divine. The journey itself is as important as the destination, and the hardships of travel serve as an act of devotion in themselves.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion Sukhdev Singh, Om Parkash, Capt Gopal Singh, Baldev Singh, Onkar Singh, Dr Rahul Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Devi das, Ram Pal, Sanjay Kumar, Gurdev Singh, and a galaxy of local people remained present. Dr. Rahul Kesar also expressed his gratitude towards the local people as well as the administration for making it a grand success.

Nitish raises concerns over rise in Eye Flu Cases in Jammu

Urges Govt to switch over online mode for one week for safety of small children

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: Nitish Mahajan, Co Incharge of Social Media Department of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, expressed concern over the alarming surge in eye flu cases within the region. Addressing media persons here today, Nitish Mahajan highlighted that the eye flu virus, also known as Viral Conjunctivitis, has been notably affecting people including school-going children, necessitating immediate attention and preventive measures. He emphasized the critical need to address the situation promptly.

He urged the Director of School Education to take urgent and comprehensive action against the rising eye flu virus, particularly due to its impact on the younger population.

The senior BJP leader appealed to the government to consider declaring a one-week holiday in schools until



August 15th, with the primary objective of safeguarding the health and well-being of school-going small children. During this period, he suggested that schools could utilize online modes of teaching, a practice adopted during the pandemic, to ensure that children continue their education without compromising their safety.

Mahajan also appealed to the general public, urging them to exercise adequate caution and preventive measures to safeguard themselves and their children from the eye flu outbreak. He underlined the significance of practicing good hygiene and adopting recommended practices to minimize the risk of contracting the virus.

UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) organizes an Induction cum Motivational Lecture

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus (JU) organized an Induction cum Motivational lecture (7th in the series) under Expert Lecture series on the topic 'Personality Development'. The lecture was organized on the second day of one week long plantation drive. The resource person was Mr. Ajay Sharma, Chartered Accountant, Kathua.

On the second day of the Week-long drive, the campus came alive with the creation of a breathtaking vertical garden. During the ground-breaking initiative, the students of UIET participated in greenery expansion and artistic expression by organising stone painting and waste material reuse activities. The innovation and creativity displayed in designing this living work of art was a demonstration of UIET's dedication to pushing the boundaries of sustainability.

Sharma emphasized about the significance of self-awareness and self-reflection. He engaged the audience

with interactive exercises and thought-provoking anecdotes and guided them towards gaining deeper insights into their own motivations, strengths, and weaknesses. He further discussed about the key components of personality including traits, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours.

He also explained the interplay between genetic factors and environmental influences in shaping an individual's unique character. Further, he underscored the importance of active listening, sympathy, empathy, and compassion in forging meaningful connections and enriching personal and social interactions.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) said that every one should overcome limiting beliefs and embrace the changes coming in daily life. She also added that one should learn the strategies to foster a growth mindset and harness their potential for continuous learning and self-improvement. Dr. Kilam further stressed that as the one-week plantation drive continues to unfold, Kathua Campus (JU)

remains committed to nurturing a culture of environmental consciousness. She further said that by incorporating nature into the heart of the campus, UIET sets an example for other educational institutions and communities.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, I/c Coordinator, UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) introduced and appreciated the resource person. He said that UIET's initiative to create a vertical garden serves as a reminder that small actions can lead to monumental change.

Dr. Shivani Sharma coordinated the whole programme and Dr. Pallvi Verma delivered vote of thanks.

Dr. Susant Gagal, Er. Sandeep Raj, Er. Seema Jangwal, Er. Amarjeet Chopra, Er. Komal Khakuria, Er. Himani Khajuria, Er. Arushi Gupta, Er. Archana Salaria, Dr. Kanika Bhadwal, Ms. Ritu Sharma, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Er. Vishvajeet Singh, Er. Vedika Khullar, Er. Sourav Gupta, Er. Rohit Khatru, Er. Karan Kumar, Dr. Zahin Ansari, Dr. Sunay Sharma, Mr. Pranav Ratta, and other teaching and non-teaching staff of the Campus participated in the programme.

Rajesh Sharma, Sachin Vaid elected as President, club Secretary of Rotary Club Rajouri Grand



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, AUG 08: The Rotary Club Rajouri Grand held an impressive installation ceremony of its board today at a simple and impressive pro-

gram in Rajouri. Rtn Rajesh Sharma took over as new president of the club during the ceremony, where as Rtn Sachin Vaid is the new club secretary. The newly elected president said this year, the club would focus on basic

education, adult literacy, community development, environmental and health hazards, conflict amongst adolescents and maternal and child health-care. Chief Guest on the occasion of installation ceremony was Rtn. Rohit Oberoi District Governor where as Rtn H S Jogi, District Chair Sanitation was also present. Rtn Rohit Oberoi District Governor congratulated the Club for the commendable activities being undertaken in the recent years.

The Installation ceremony witnessed handing over charter by outgoing President Rtn Amardeep Singh 2022-23 to incoming President Rtn Rajesh Sharma 2023-24. Rtn Rohit Oberoi District Governor congratulated and rendered his best wishes to the new President and his Committee members for yet another eventful year.

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NGO, Anti Crime Bureau Distributes Ration items

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: Non Government Organization Anti Crime Bureau (Regd) today under the leadership of its Chairman Sham Lal Gupta Provided Ration items to the Needy people at Bawe Mata Temple Jammu.

Gupta along with Bhartiya Janata Party Senior Leader and Governor Tourism Cell Jammu Sh Ravi Bakshi and Co Convener Sports Cell Ritika Mahajan and Incharge of Police Chowki Bawe were also present.

Ration was distributed among the Needy People by Chairman Sham Lal Gupta and Chief Guests, which included Handicap, Elderly people and women, they were given bags of flour and Rice by the organization, Gupta told that organization works without any government help and believes in helping people. People were Very Happy after getting the Food items and



thanked the members of the organization. Gupta along with Councillor Sahil Gupta from Municipal Committee Bishnah, Panch Balwinder Singh from

Sarore Panchayat, and Members Rohit Kumar, Tushar Diga, Rakesh Sharma, Abhishek Rajput, Ankush Verma and other were Present.

Bandipora's Gund Qaisar Village achieves 'Har Ghar Jal' milestone

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 08: In a magnificent achievement, Gund Qaisar Village in Bandipora district has successfully achieved the ambitious 'Har Ghar Jal' goal, ensuring 100% tap water supply to all 226 households, schools, and anganwadis within its boundaries. This milestone was officially announced by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad. He appreciated the collaborative efforts and commitment of the local administration, government agencies and the residents of Gund Qaisar Village.

The DC said that 'Har Ghar Jal' (Water to Every Home) is a pivotal initiative to provide access to clean and safe drinking water to every rural household across the nation. The successful implementation of this mission in Gund Qaisar Village proves the commitment of District Administration and Government of India, he added.

Dr Owais said that Gund Qaisar Village has set an example for other regions by successfully achieving this milestone.

He said, with the completion of tap water connections for all households, schools, and anganwadis, the village

has not only improved the quality of life for its residents but also ensured the provision of a basic necessity that is vital for human health and development.

He said that this achievement has been made possible through efficient planning, proper execution and the support of the local community. He also said that the collaboration between District Administration and residents has played a crucial role in ensuring the availability of clean drinking water to every household, thereby contributing to improved health and hygiene standards in the region.

Ritika slams INDIA's no-confidence motion against PM Modi Govt

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 08: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan on Tuesday slammed the opposition parties for bringing a no-confidence motion against the government, saying this is a no-trust vote against an internationally known development Man who worked for the welfare of the people. She said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly stated that this is not a no-confidence motion against the government but it has been brought by the opposition to test the confidence of its own alliance members in each other. She took a swipe at the opposition parties, saying they were fighting among themselves and

call themselves INDIA. "This no-confidence motion is against the son of a poor, the no-confidence motion is against the person who gave people houses, the no-confidence motion is against the person who gave drinking water to the people, the no-confidence motion is against the person who gave toilets to the people, the no-confidence motion is against the person who tried to bring light in everyone's home," Ritika said.

Ritika said that this alliance of opposition parties is not INDIA alliance, but alliance of arrogance. She also mentioned the "chopper scandal" apart from "Submarine scam and ISRO scam." When Modi undertook surgical and airstrikes, the UPA people opposed it, added Ritika.

'Ghamandia alliance' is a coalition of arrogance which can be defeated only by our unity, added Ritika.

Taking a dig at opposition parties, Ritika highlighted their rhetoric about social justice, while accusing them of damaging it through dynastic, appeasement, and corrupt politics. She reiterated Modi Govt call for a departure from corruption, dynastic politics, and appeasement practices in India. She said people will remember the UPA regime for the 2G Spectrum scam, Common Wealth games scam and Coal allocation scam. She also mentioned the "chopper scandal" apart from "Submarine scam and ISRO scam." When Modi undertook surgical and airstrikes, the UPA people opposed it, added Ritika.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Ensure maximum utilization of JJM funds

The Central government has launched a flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to provide tap water connections to every household in rural areas of the country. For this, the government also provided adequate funds so that the scheme is implemented in an effective manner. To the utter dismay of a common man in Jammu and Kashmir, the administration has failed to ensure full utilization of funds allocated for implementation of various water supply schemes in the Union Territory under this mission. According to the recent statement of the government in the Parliament, the central funds worth Rs 957 crore provided to Jammu and Kashmir for implementation of various water supply schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission have been lying unspent. This is notwithstanding the fact that over 32 percent of the total 18, 66, 430 households are yet to get tap water facility across the Union Territory. It has provided as many as 3.14 lakh tap connections to the rural households in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, out of which 77,000 connections have been provided under AMRUT and convergence. The official statistics of JJM, however, claimed that 6,85,643 households in rural areas have been provided tap water connections since launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission which comes to around 53.11 percent of the total households in Jammu and Kashmir. In over 1,500 villages, there have been 100 percent tap connections provided in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, while the water supply schemes are being undertaken in nearly 4850 villages of the Union Territory. In 426 villages, the government is yet to start water supply schemes. Under the JJM, there are over Rs 1,600 crore available with the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir while only Rs 728.16 crore including Rs 64.88 crore of State's share have been expended under the mission till date. The scheme is being implemented on a 90:10 funding pattern, with the Central government contributing 90 percent of the funds for the implementation of the JJM in J&K. Since August 2019, the Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal to enable every rural household in the country to have assured potable water through tap connection by 2024. Water being a State subject, it is the States who plan, implement and operate and maintain water supply schemes. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance. Further, under the JJM, convergence of funds with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 15th Finance Commission tied grants to RLBs/ PRIs, State schemes, CSR funds, etc. has also been envisaged. The need of the hour is that the government should ensure effective utilization of allocated funds under the scheme so that every household in far off and remote areas of the Union Territory is covered with tap water connections. Any laxity in non-utilization or less utilization of funds must be viewed seriously.

Indigenous progress in satellite imagery will benefit IAF

THE ADVENT OF PRIVATE SATELLITE IMAGERY COMPANIES INTO THE INDIAN AIR FORCE'S TARGETING AMBIT IS HEARTENING.

GP CAPT MURLI MENON (RETD)

RENOWNED airpower expert Giulio Douhet said, "The choice of enemy targets is the most delicate operation of aerial warfare." Targeting involves a detailed process of selection of targets, vulnerability analysis, weapon matching and intelligence. Ultimately, of course, air targeting is all about intelligence and that means the ability to 'see' the enemy. This includes wherewithal in space and the use of sensors on other aerial platforms.

To that end, it was heartening to read about a Bengaluru-based space startup, Pixxel, winning a grant to manufacture miniaturised multi-payload satellites for the Indian Air Force (IAF) under the Ministry of Defence's iDEX (Innovation for Defence Excellence) initiative. The 2019 Balakot airstrikes brought out the need for having all-weather remote-sensing capabilities, without having to rely on largesse from friendly allies for timely imagery.

Western nations such as the USA have had such capabilities since the early 1990s, like the Keyhole (KH) series satellites employed and used effectively during the Gulf War. With technology having evolved, entities are able to have state-of-the-art multispectral cameras on board much smaller, low earth orbit (LEO) satellites.

The Keyhole series and other older strategic sensor satellites were mainly geostationary, with electro-optical onboard sensors and cameras. Modern technology such as that available with the Pixxel startup, Israel Aircraft Industries and others enable low earth orbits with multispectral capabilities and high revisit times. The Shaktuntala/TD-2 LEO is one such satellite, launched in April 2022 as a 'ride share' mission on the Falcon 9 rocket operated by Elon Musk's Space X. Pixxel designed the TD-2 as a demonstration satellite, which is a part of a constellation of weather satellites. But once the mechanics of launch and orbital dynamics has been proven, these LEOs could well be engineered for day-and-night tactical military reconnaissance all over the world.

Pixxel claims that its micro-satellites have a resolution 50 times higher than the existing multispectral counterparts, designed for detect-



ing, monitoring and predicting global weather phenomena. Weighing less than 150 kg, these micro-satellites have resolutions of the order of 10m per pixel, which compares favourably with the hyper-spectral cameras launched by NASA, the European Space Agency and ISRO. It has a lifespan of 10 years.

The fact that such a startup has emerged in the private sector is all the more laudable as aspects such as budgetary constraints can be addressed while collaborating with foreign vendors having deep pockets, such as Space X. Further, employing ISRO's PSLV satellites for their launch would have attractive commercial payoffs for the nation's space agency. The US Air Force Space Command has, of late, been exploring the use of commercial LEO and very low earth orbit (VLEO) satellites (250-300 km altitude) as options for communications and imagery. The IAF appears to be on a similar track in tactically exploiting the LEO space. The ability to have our own indigenous LEOs could dovetail with the nation's military satellite programme seamlessly to also provide Battle Damage Assessment (BDA), again warranted during the Balakot operation.

Multispectral sensors would be invaluable for infrared and synthetic aperture radar cameras on these satellites to enable all-weather target

analysis and BDA. The Pixxel satellites are expected to field sensors in the electro-optical, infrared, synthetic aperture radar and hyper-spectral applications.

An associated requirement would be to ensure the safety of LEO satellites from electronic jamming by adversaries and physical damage by space interceptors. Hence the LEO and VLEO satellites being designed to "see and not be seen" provide better options for high-resolution imagery on low payload satellites, with obvious cost benefits for the operator.

'The more the merrier' is the current thinking on the exploitation of the commercial LEO space by leading air and space forces. Multispectral sensor capability on satellites would also provide the capability to detect enemy missile launches on the ground. The Ukraine war has exposed the Russian military as being virtually 'blind in orbit', with too few high-resolution satellites.

The sanctions on Russia by the West after the Crimean invasion have adversely impacted Moscow's ability to get high-tech satellite technology. Typically, the best available Russian satellites' imagery is of the order of 50 cm per pixel as compared to 5 cm for the Keyhole series and around 15 cm for private satellites, such as those of Maxar and Planet. Recently, satellite imagery available in the public domain has

shown damage to Russian helicopters, ships in the Black Sea and civilian areas of Mariupol.

It is expected that the IAF would look for on-demand generation of high-resolution imagery and communication services in all-weather conditions from its Pixxel contract. Private companies in the business of selling satellite imagery would expect to raise revenue from their commercial applications. The government would have its own defence requirements for satellites. The main requirement would be to have satellites available on call to accomplish operational tasks.

Commercial satellite imagery has been available from companies such as Maxar and Planet since the Syrian war, but the Ukraine conflict has changed the game dramatically. With imagery costing as less as \$10 per square km, even a hobbyist using his device can monitor wartime imagery, such as that from Ukraine and make sense of the progress of the battle.

This open-source intelligence could give resolutions as high as 3 metres as compared to the classified imagery sold at a premium by professional agencies.

The advent of private satellite imagery companies into the IAF's targeting ambit augurs well for the future of sophisticated open and classified intelligence wherewithal for aspiring nations and private players.

Revisiting Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bombings

JAPAN ABSORBED THE PAIN, USED IT AS A SPRINGBOARD TO REDEVELOP POWERFULLY, RE-ENGAGING WITH THE US.

GURJIT SINGH

Christopher Nolan's film Oppenheimer, which is about the scientist who spearheaded the development of the atomic bomb, has brought the focus back on the impact of the bomb. On August 6 and 9, 1945, during the final stages of World War II, the US dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively. The bombings, which caused unprecedented devastation, led to Japan's surrender.

What do Hiroshima and Nagasaki teach us about the events that happened 78 years ago? Having visited both places during my first assignment in Japan in 1983 and later in 2019, I still get that intense feeling of how humanity was wronged.

The reactions of local people are different in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In Japan, they told me that there was the calm of Hiroshima and the anger of Nagasaki to what they endured. In Hiroshima in 1983, I asked the taxi driver to take me to the Genbaku Dome. He took me to the Mazda baseball stadium, where the local Toyo Carps were playing. Priorities had clearly changed. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) has now become a tourist attraction. It's a symbol of the most destructive force ever created by humankind; it manifests hope for world peace and the unfulfilled elimination of nuclear weapons. At least one million people visit the park annually.

The same happens in Nagasaki's Heiwa Koen or Peace Park, but fewer tourists reach there. The centrepiece of the Nagasaki Park is a



giant statue of a muscular man made by Japanese artist Seizo Kitamura. The right hand pointing to the sky reminds us of the danger of nuclear weapons, while the extended left hand symbolises eternal peace.

Hiroshima was an industrial centre used as a base by imperial Japan to expand towards East Asia. Nagasaki was a naval base. There is a debate on why these cities were chosen; the main reason was that the impact should be noticeable and clearly felt.

Did the US ever apologise to Japan for the atomic bombings? There were murmurs of

regret, starting with the pilot of Enola Gay, the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, who said, "My God, what have we done?" Besides, various US leaders have visited Hiroshima; the G7 members laid wreaths at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park during the opening ceremony of the G7 summit in May. But there is no clear apology. There is no demand emanating from Japan, either.

Some elderly Japanese people asked my visiting mother in 1983, "Why Indians don't hate the British who colonised India for two centuries?" They had no answer when my mother

asked why the Japanese didn't hate the Americans despite the atomic bombings. The Japanese absorbed the pain, used it as a springboard to redevelop powerfully, re-engaging with the US. Today, Japan is an equal partner of the US; perhaps that strategy succeeded.

Some believe that Japan itself is disinterested in an apology as that could reinforce the demand for apologies for Japanese actions in East Asia, which are a festering sore in its relations with China and South Korea. Thus, world leaders who come to Hiroshima do visit the memorial and promise a peaceful and better world, but don't express regret at the US action.

The Hiroshima Park has three important bells of different sizes. One of them was built by gathering coins and medals from friendly countries, moulded into a big bell by Masahiko Katori. The bell carries inscriptions in three languages: Greek, Sanskrit and Japanese. The English translation of the Greek text is 'Know Yourself'.

The Sanskrit text is a shloka from Sukhaviatyayina Sutra in view of Hiroshima's Buddhist connection. It was attested by the then Indian ambassador, Lalji Mehrotra.

This is different from Nagasaki, which is historically known for having one of the largest Christian populations in Japan. There are monuments that commemorate the persecution of Christians over the centuries. Martyrdom was not unknown to Nagasaki when the bomb fell.

The destruction in both cities was immense. The emotional and health consequences faced by the survivors of the atomic bombings were

profound and long-lasting. The museums in both cities are evocative; the sheer barbarism of the bombings stuns you. My Japanese teacher, Kimiko Kono, is a Hiroshima 'hibakusha' or an A-bomb survivor. She recalls that she was 11 when the bomb fell, and she and her parents had gone towards the railway station. When the cloud cleared, it rained. They moved out of the city, singed by what had happened but not understanding it. She suffered no health problems, and considered herself fortunate for having escaped the tragedy of the bomb, despite being in Hiroshima. She is 89 now; never in her voice have I sensed rancour for the US, anger at the bomb or what happened to her people. There is acceptance, a strong desire to repair through goodwill and outreach so that people live together peacefully.

My Japanese friends said that had she been from Nagasaki, the angst would have been expressed strongly. The guides in Hiroshima and Nagasaki mostly belong to affected families. While the Hiroshima guides are gentle and remorseful, even though not responsible for what happened, in Nagasaki, there is a greater surge of emotion and a tendency to ask: Why us? Have Hiroshima and Nagasaki become fossilised symbols of reverence? The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has not succeeded, mainly because those who had Oppenheimer's bomb were unwilling to give it up. It became a symbol of power which other countries then acquired. The truth of the science that Oppenheimer unlocked was unleashed on Japan in unacceptable terms.

Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied separate after 11 years of marriage following his alleged affair: Report

Actor Natalie Portman and husband-choreographer Benjamin Millepied have separated after being married for 11 years. As per Us Weekly, the decision came following his alleged affair with Camille Etienne. The split speculation began on their 11th wedding anniversary (August 4), when Natalie was seen without her wedding ring during an event in Australia.

About Natalie and Benjamin's relationship, Us Weekly quoted an insider as saying, "After news of his affair came out, they've been trying to work on their marriage but are currently on the outs." They share two children - son Aleph (12) and daughter

Amalia (6). As per the report, rumours started in June that Benjamin was having an affair with climate activist Camille Etienne.

Sources had spoken about Natalie's reaction to affair.

In June, an insider had told Us Weekly that Natalie believed Benjamin's affair was a brief and stupid liaison that means nothing to him and she was 'willing to see if she's capable of rebuilding her trust' in him to make sure that their kids don't 'grow up in a broken home'. Quoting another source it had reported that the duo was then 'talking and working on it together for the sake of their children' adding that Benjamin regretted his



actions. In June, People had quoted a source on Benjamin's affair, which said, "It was short-lived and it is over... He knows he made an enormous mistake and he is

doing all he can to get Natalie to forgive him and keep their family together. Natalie is incredibly private and has no intention of playing this out in the media.

I tell Rahul, you are God's gift to us': Suniel Shetty

Suniel Shetty recently attended the launch of the world's first mental health app with 24x7 access to psychologists. The actor spoke to us about the importance of mental health care, as well as his closeness to his family. How people of your age-group handle stress?

The mantra is simple - we are old school - we follow traditions. We are less literate when it comes to tech. We wish people. We believe in eating enough, leaving our-selves a little hungry. We believe in morning walks, yoga and home-cooked food. All these things matter when things are at their worst. But when your habits are not right, things become tough. The young gener-



ation seems to find it difficult to cope with setbacks! We should first break gender stereotypes -

enough sleep should be stopped. These kids are in front of the screen all hours, and then they are grumpy in the morning. I think till they are 10 years old you shouldn't allow them to watch TV or operate computers, so they have time for themselves. The young generation should do simple things like gardening, waking up early, and cultivate civic sense. If you care about things around, you will start caring about your-self automatically.

You have close ties with your family. Does that make you more secure?

I have always been open and vocal about my marriage and things in my life. My wife Mana

always holds my hand when I'm unwell or feeling low. It shows when someone loves you and wishes you well. Little things matter.

Does Athiya miss that family closeness? No, as a matter of fact, we are closer, as we live next door to each other. If I don't make eight calls to Athiya everyday, my day hasn't even begun. My wife looks at me and says, 'You are talking to your daughter'.

Likewise with Ahan - I am a father and a father to him. Talking to your dear ones puts a glow on your face. My children, my mother, my wife are most important in my life.

Suga talks about getting cast on street, K-pop idols wearing makeup, BTS' next chapter and importance of taking breaks

After Suga's military enlistment was announced, a new episode of Suchwita was released on Monday. He hosted Hwang Min-hyun and spoke on several topics.

BTS member Suga hosted idol and actor Hwang Min-hyun on episode 16 of his variety show Suchwita. Talking to its YouTube channel, BangtanTV posted the episode in which Suga shared a funny anecdote from his training days with BigHit Music. He also spoke about K-pop idols wearing makeup, on importance of taking breaks, BTS ARMY, the cleanest person in the group and BTS' second chapter.

Suga talks about getting cast on the street As Hwang Min-hyun shared an incident when he was cast on the street, Suga said, "I have actually been cast on the street once in Seoul. I was already in BigHit but a BigHit manager gave me his business card and asked me to audition. I was just a trainee. So the managers didn't know me. I was on my way to school and a black minivan just pulled up. They were like, 'Excuse me,' so I said, 'Yes?' They said, 'Are you interested in joining an entertainment agency?' So I said, 'Sorry I'm a BigHit trainee.' They were like, 'Oh really?'

Suga on being part of a music video before debut Suga recalled that he was part of a music video before he made his debut with BTS. He said that there is a 'legendary thing called SeeU'. He added that the 3D character danced on Inkigayo and he was at the back. Suga said that even J-Hope, Jimin and Jungkook were dancing in the back.

Girls' Generation's Sunny exits agency SM Entertainment after 16 years: 'No matter what kind of day comes...'



Sunny, a member of Girls' Generation, has announced that she has parted ways with SM Entertainment, her agency of 16 years. She has been associated with the agency since her debut with Girls' Generation in 2007. According to Soompi, SM Entertainment also shared a statement revealing that their contract has ended. SM Entertainment's statement

As quoted by Soompi, SM Entertainment said in the statement, "Our exclusive contract with Sunny has come to an end. We express our gratitude to Sunny who showcased amazing activities while together with us for a long time, and we ask

for lots of support for the new path that Sunny will walk."

Sunny shares note on Instagram As per the report, Sunny also posted a note on Instagram. She wrote, "Hello. This is Girls' Generation's Sunny. In addition to expressing my gratitude for Girls' Generation's 16th debut anniversary, there is something else that I additionally wanted to relay, so I'm writing this post. Looking back, there are so many people I have been grateful to for the past 16 years. My precious members who are like another me, my loving family, staff members who were always by our sides, and fans who gave us strength

through their existences alone..."

Sunny expresses gratitude to SM Entertainment

She also added, "Today especially I want to express my gratitude to SM Entertainment who gave great help so that 19-year-old Lee Soon Kyu (Sunny's real name) could debut as Girls' Generation's Sunny. I want to express my gratitude to the managers who worked hard and shared our joys and sorrows while promoting in the entertainment industry for 16 years and to all the employees who helped us to be able to spread positive energy through good music and good sides of us as well as various performances and content." Sunny talks about venturing into a 'new environment'

Sunny concluded, "Every single day, I was as happy as I could be to be able to debut as Girls' Generation with the members and to meet SONE (Girls' Generation's official fan club). I am now trying to take courage to see myself in a new environment from a different perspective.

This is thanks to fans who sent support without change for a long period of time and the interest and affection of people I'm grateful to.

'My life is like cross stitch' Says Adah Sharma



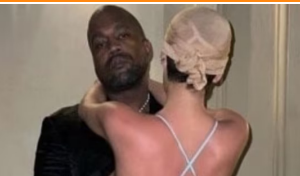
Nothing tastes or succeeds the same as success, and Adah Sharma is the best example of this. Her most recent release, the contentious The Kerala Story, which outperformed the highest-grossing female-led films, including Alia Bhatt's Gangubai Kathiawadi, at the box office with more than Rs 300 crore (globally), has given the so-called outsider cause to smile.

Adah laughs and says, "I feel very important. It simply demonstrates to the industry that everyone must be given a chance and not underestimate anyone."

Despite the fact that industry heavyweights such as Naseeruddin Shah and Kamal Hassan have criticised The Kerala Story for being a propaganda film, the actor says, "Yes, many perceived it to be such, but I stand by it. There is a wealth of information available. It is not a home-made video; the victims spoke, and there are testimonials from the girls' parents. I'm glad we had the support of these brave girls who spoke out. Also, you don't want the film to be propaganda in order for it to be a blockbuster, or vice versa. We want a good film that connects well. At least in our country, everyone is free to express themselves."

Adah, the proverbial outsider, observes, though she is unsure whether the success of The Kerala Story will translate into more work for her.

Kanye West spotted hanging out barefoot, indulging in PDA with wife Bianca Censori in Italy



Rapper Kanye West (Ye) was spotted out and about in Rome for Travis Scott's concert on Monday. The controversial singer was in the company of his wife Bianca Censori and hung out with her barefoot on the streets of Italy. Italian paparazzi caught them touching each other's butts, holding hands and sharing kisses.

Kanye and Bianca's Roman Holiday Kanye was seen in his usual oversized black shirt and pants and without any shoes.

Bianca wore a white see-through leotard and white heels. She also tied her hair in what seemed like a nude cap. Kanye put a jacket over his head to hide his face and touched Bianca on her back as they kissed each other.

Kanye crashes Travis Scott's concert

Kanye West joined Travis Scott for his Utopia concert in Rome on Monday, giving his first performance since his antisemitic rants. "Ye is the only human on this planet that has ever walked side by side with me through anything and every," said Scott, who introduced him to the audience.

Kanye was previously married to Kim Kardashian and Travis was in a long relationship with her sister Kylie Jenner. Kanye and Kim have four kids together and Travis and Kylie have two kids together. Looks like Kanye and Travis decided to stay friends even after their split from Kim and Kylie, respectively.

Anti-semitism controversy Kanye, who is the founder of Yeezy, sparked controversy in October 2022, when he tweeted that he wanted "to go Death Con 3 ON JEWISH PEOPLE." He continued in a string of now-deleted tweets, "The funny thing is I actually can't be Anti Semitic because black people are actually Jews." He added, "You guys have been playing with me and trying to blackmail anyone who doesn't agree with your agenda."

He continued by praising Hitler and asserting that the 'Jewish media' had prevented him from speaking.

Alia Bhatt is the 'rani' of 100 crore club, here are the actor's eight films that make the cut

Alia Bhatt has scored her eighth 100 crore hit with Karan Johar's romantic comedy Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. Alia thus seems to have earned the coveted tag of the Rani of the 100 crore club.

As Rocky Aur Rani crosses 100 crore at the domestic box office, here are the other seven films that make Alia the queen of the 100 crore club: 2 States

Abhishek Varman's directorial debut 2 States starred Alia as a Tamilian student at IIM

Ahmedabad. Her character Ananya falls in love with Krish (Arjun Kapoor), a Punjabi batchmate. Interestingly, many initially compared the story of Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani to that of 2 States. The 2014 film earned ₹102.13 crore at the domestic box office.

Badrinath Ki Dulhania There was a three-year lull after 2 States as far as her films crossing 100 crore at the box office were concerned. The next one came in the form of Shashank Khaitan's 2017

romantic comedy Badrinath Ki Dulhania, a sequel to Alia's Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania (2014). The Varun Dhawan and Alia-starrer made ₹116.68 crore at the domestic box office, as compared to its predecessor's 76.81 crore.

Raazi Meghna Gulzar's 2018 spy thriller was Alia's first 100 crore hit as a solo lead. While the film did star Vicky Kaushal opposite her, the actor hadn't established himself as a bankable lead star by then. Alia played Sehmat, a

Kashmiri spy married into a Pakistani army general's family. The film made crore at the domestic box office.

Gully Boy Zoya Akhtar's coming-of-age musical was Alia's first film outside of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions that became a ₹100 crore hit. The Excel Entertainment film starred her as Safina, the short-tempered girlfriend of Murad (Ranveer Singh). This was her maiden collaboration with her Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani co-star, Gully

Boy made 140.25 crore at the domestic box office.

Gangubai Kathiawadi 2022 was clearly the year of Alia Bhatt.

Her Gangubai Kathiawadi, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, made ₹129.10 crore at the domestic box office. She played the titular character of a 1950s-60s Mumbai sex worker.

RRR Last year, Alia also starred in SS Rajamouli's period action film, also starring Ram Charan and Jr NTR. RRR, a



Telugu film, went on to earn ₹274.31 crore at the domestic box office, and even fetched an Oscar in the Best Original Song category for Naatu Naatu.

Studying Neanderthals to understand back pain



In our modern times, lower back pain seems to be an indicator of age, if not a rite of passage. From the sheer challenge of standing up in a vice grip. If you suffer from back pain, you can rest assured that you're not alone.

According to an article titled Back Pain, published in the National Library of Medicine, billions of dollars are spent annually worldwide on managing back pain. From my experience dealing with collapsed intervertebral discs—it can be a measurable and terrifying decrease in your quality of life.

When discussing the rise of back pain-related issues, we can place some blame on the modern workplace environment, begrudging the fact we sit all day. Indeed, this is a modern phenomenon:

the 90-degree bent angle we force our bodies into at our work desks for long hours. If our ancestors sat for that long, they would likely be eaten or have squandered their time in finding food to eat. However, sitting is the new hunting and gathering lifestyle; it's how we earn to pay for groceries. It's not likely to disappear any time soon.

A study titled Inferring lumbar lordosis in Neanderthals and other hominins looked at intact Neanderthal spines, and compared them not just to the spines we have now, but the spines we had pre-industrial revolution, just a few hundred years ago. The results are enough to convince you to get up off the couch and stretch.

Neanderthal spines vs Human spines

The distinction between Neanderthal and human spines lies in how they "wedge," which is how the vertebrae are shaped and placed in the spine to create the lumbar curve we can see

today. Neanderthals and pre-industrial humans have less wedging, meaning they have less lumbar curvature. Post-industrial humans have more wedging than both of them. Authors of this particular study posit that this is due to our hunched workstations and seated positions which have created an exaggerated version of the lumbar curvature.

Structure aside, the question may not be how we are set up that counts; it's how we move that matters. The spine is connected via a complex network of muscles, tendons, and ligaments bound in fascia to facilitate our every movement.

Quoted by Live Science in the article Why Do So Many Humans Have Back Pain, Bruce Latimer, a physical anthropologist from the Case Western Reserve University, said that our vertebrae are like cups and saucers stacked on top of each other, which despite being supported by muscles and ligaments, are prone to slippage. Some people have spinal struc-

tures which give them a higher risk of back problems; however, how that spine is supported through our "core" musculature

Mindy, as a (hopefully) tongue-in-cheek model of what future humans could look like. She had a "tech neck" (thick

SITTING HUNCHED OVER OUR WORK DESKS FOR LONG HOURS HAS ALTERED THE SHAPE OF OUR SPINES, LEADING TO WEAKER BACKS THAT ARE ALWAYS IN PAIN

is vital to maintaining spinal health, which our modern society lacks.

The study regarding the discovery of Neanderthals tells us that the soft tissue surrounding the spine can change throughout the day, based on our activities, which in turn can affect the placement of our spines. Your body becomes strong in what it does the most. How we move our bodies (or not), morphs our bodies, and we have done a fantastic job at that.

The call to be comfortable, and maybe even lazy, is rife. As a modern form of our species, we have somehow universally decided to do more sitting after a stressful day of sitting, which involves plush furniture that spines sink into, creating pressure on the lower lumbar vertebrae, and seated positions that mimic a gorilla while watching small screens on iPhones. Our spines are being held in unnatural and suboptimal positions for much longer than they should be throughout the day, and humans are starting to pay the price for that.

Morphing into Mindy
If this is the change we can make to our spines in a few hundred years, I went on a rain-gutter-looking up digital models of what our bodies could look like in 1,000 years, and what I found was a genuinely terrifying model called

with muscles that held it in a position to view a phone), with a placement that looked like the "dowager hump" (neck falls forward away from your trunk), a humped back, and she also had claw like hands with a stiff elbow. You can be both dismayed and inspired by this idea of morphing your body into dysfunction, but I encourage you to be more inspired than dismayed.

Morphing suggests that although you may not be able to actively influence your spinal placement on your own, you certainly have a degree of control over what positions you put your body in over the course of a day.

Saravanan Palaninathan, a Certified Movement Therapist and Integrated Manual Therapist based in Chennai, told me that almost 70% of his physiotherapy clients consult him for their lower back pain. He says, "The cause for lower back pain has a galaxy of reasons ranging from extreme immobility to over mobility and obesity to malnourishment." However, the vast majority of back pain he sees is "desktop related."

If you're someone who is stuck in an immobile position at work or at home, he offers some guidance to help alleviate any pressure on your lower back: keep your hamstrings (back of your leg), quadriceps muscles (front of your legs), and waist flexible.

How people feel about sleep quality impacts well-being

A new study shows how people feel about their sleep affects their mood the next day



Today, technology has seeped into most aspects of health and fitness including sleep. Many popular wearable devices also include a feature to track sleep to help people monitor sleep habits and quality. However, a new study has revealed that more than such technologies, how people feel about their sleep has a greater impact on their well-being.

A study led by researchers from the University of Warwick found that people's perceptions of their sleep impacted their mood the next day. For the research, more than 100 participants aged between 18 and 22 years were asked to keep a daily sleep diary for two weeks, according to the university's press statement. They recorded what time they went to bed, the amount of time it took to sleep, when they woke up and how satisfied they were with their sleep. The findings were published in the journal Emotion.

Participants were asked to rate their positive and negative emotions as well as their life satisfaction five times throughout the following day. They also wore an actigraph to measure their movement and estimate sleep patterns and rest cycles.

The actigraphy data with the participant's perceptions of their sleep were compared with their mood and life satisfaction throughout the following day. The results revealed that the two aspects were more consistently linked with how participants felt compared to the actigraphy data, according to the statement.

For instance, when participants reported that they slept better than they usually did, they experienced more positive emotions and had a higher sense of life satisfaction the next day. However, the actigraphy data did not show associations with the next day's well-being at all.

How Ayurveda can help you deal with PMS

Do you feel a sudden emotional outburst accompanied by irritability just before your menstrual cycle is to begin? Do you suffer from mild cramps, constipation and headaches during these days? Chances are you are nodding in agreement. Fret not because you are not alone. These are some of the most common symptoms of Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS). But instead of popping painkillers to find relief, we suggest that you give Ayurveda a chance. This ancient holistic healing system has a treasure trove of natural remedies and yoga asanas that can help you sail through that uncomfortable time of the month with ease. PMS is a common occurrence for most women after ovulation and before the beginning of the menstrual period. Women can suffer from mild to severe physical and emotional symptoms during this time such as headaches, sore breasts, cramps, insomnia, mood swings, anxiety and crying spells amongst others. Understanding PMS and managing it through natural methods is the best way to minimise its impact on your life.

"Yoga postures and Ayurvedic rasayanas can play a vital role in PMS relief as they help alleviate the symptoms," explains Dr. Kirti Soni, Head of R&D, Kapiva.

Research shows that 90% of women in the reproductive stage experience mild to severe PMS symptoms. During this time, most of you would like to pop a pain killer and curl up in bed with a hot water bag. Try easy yoga postures instead. It will help relieve premenstrual pain and calm the hormonal roller coaster you might experience during this time. Panna Paranjpe, a certified Jason Crandell Yoga instructor with 20 years of experience.

Do people expect others to imitate their own generosity?

A NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS OF GENEROSITY OR SELFISHNESS TOWARDS OTHERS ARE A REFLECTION OF THEIR OWN BEHAVIOUR

A new study shows that a person's own behaviour drives how they treat others. While generous people tend to reward the same behaviour, selfish individuals often punish generosity and reward selfishness.

Researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, News Bureau examined how a person's own behaviour guides their expectations of others' generosity or selfishness. The findings, published in the journal Cognitive Science, showed that more than others' attitudes or behaviours, an individual's own generous or selfish deeds determine how they treat others, according to the press statement by the University of



Illinois.

Previous research showed that individuals' expectations depend on what they see as typical. If people around them behave selfishly then they tend to adopt the same behaviour. However, this new

study shows that their judgments of other people's behaviour depend on their own behaviour.

For the study, researchers conducted a series of experiments involving the Ultimatum Game, wherein an individual responds

to offers from another player wanting to split a pot of money with them. The person can accept or reject and thus, rejection is seen as a form of punishment, which costs both players, according to the statement.

Through the game, the researchers found that generous people tend to accept only generous offers, while selfish people are happy with selfish ones. Moreover, generous and selfish individuals tend to trust people who behave like them, regardless of the economic outcome.

"Participants will gain more money with a generous person. But a selfish person will prefer to play with someone who behaves as they do," said Paul Bogdan, who led the research, in the state-

ment. "People really like others who are similar to themselves – to a shocking degree."

The team examined data from a previous cross-cultural study and found that people sometimes punish others for their selfishness or their generosity in a collaborative game involving resource sharing, according to the statement.

There have been a myriad of studies on what motivates people to be generous. In 2020, a study, led by researchers from Ohio State University found that people want to help each other, even when it costs them, regardless of the motivations, according to Science Daily. For instance, paying for coffee for a stranger in a queue.

'More people are opting for early dinners since the pandemic'

When OpenTable CEO Debby Soo joined the restaurant reservation company in 2020, the industry was struggling through the pandemic.

"It was all hands on deck and 'How do we help restaurants keep afloat?'" she said. "It was a very intense period, but it was also a very clear period. That was what the whole company was focused on doing."

These days, she is focused on growing the 25-year-old company, which was acquired by Amsterdam-based Booking Holdings in 2014. OpenTable manages reservations for 55,000 restaurants worldwide and seats more than 1 billion diners per year.

In 2021, OpenTable launched "Experiences," which lets diners book special offerings like wine tastings or cooking classes. Last year, it partnered with inline, a Taiwan-based restaurant software provider, to expand its presence in Asia. And in March it joined with ChatGPT to give automated restaurant recommendations to the chatbot's users.

Soo spoke to The Associated Press recently about OpenTable and the



restaurant industry. Her answers have been edited for length and clarity.

What are some dining trends that have changed since the pandemic?

There was this surge of early dinner dining during the pandemic that has largely carried out even after the pandemic. That 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. slot is quite popular, whereas before the 7 p.m. slot was really the most coveted. I think, you're seeing something at play here with work and working in an office.

Before it was Monday through Friday, you were in the office, you would leave at 5:30. Now maybe you're fully remote and you've been in your apartment or your house for a whole day and you can't wait for the opportunity to get dressed to go out. We're also seeing diner behavior shift to online, meaning when you're thinking of dining out, instead of walking in or phoning, you're going online and trying to book a reservation that way.

What about dining has stayed constant?

A. Even after the pandemic, when dining demand has largely returned, it's still really hard to do what restaura-

restaurants that take reservations. Could there be a day when we went into restaurants who have waitlist only? To be honest, as the CEO, I feel really bullish about all of those oppor-

DEBBY SOO, THE CEO OF THE CALIFORNIA-BASED RESTAURANT RESERVATION COMPANY SAYS, IT'S STILL REALLY HARD TO DO WHAT RESTAURATEURS DO

tunities. Labor shortages, supply chain disruptions, the economic uncertainty. It's very hard to run a restaurant. And I don't think that's something that has changed.

How will OpenTable continue to grow?

There are a couple levers we can pull. One is international expansion. The inline partnership is a good example. They are a table management system; we're partnered with them to create a consumer layer, so Taiwan has full access to our diner app and you can book directly on OpenTable with inline restaurants. So that's one way. Another way is to go in with sales people, sign up restaurants and build the diner demand. We can also go into different segments of the market. OpenTable right now is primarily for

Restaurants have to integrate an increasing amount of technology. Do you get any pushback from them?

Any given restaurant contends with about 12 to 15 pieces of discrete software or technology. The various take-out apps and delivery apps, their point of sale, their front-of-house reservation system, payroll, inventory management. The list can go on. We generally don't hear restaurants pushing back. We help them run their front-of-house operations much more efficiently. We do everything in our power to make sure that we're connecting with different pieces of software and make it as easy as we can for our restaurant partners.

You came to OpenTable from the travel site Kayak. How did you man-

age the transition to a completely different industry?

There was definitely a pretty steep learning curve. We have so many people at the company who come from

hospitality, who have worked in restaurants their whole lives, who have a deep passion for the industry. And so anything I didn't know was very quickly and easily answered by the folks I worked with. It's a very different, more complex business. My partners used to be United Airlines and Delta, and there weren't many of them. Here restaurants are my partners, and we have 55,000 of them. But I would say the one thing that wasn't hard to learn was that ethos that the hospitality industry has, so when you see what restaurateurs are doing, they're contending with what small business owners and entrepreneurs deal with all the time. And so in that way, it's really inspiring for me because we're helping those types of businesses thrive.

Meri Mati Mera Desh: Gallantry Awardees, Veer Naris, Ex-Servicemen felicitated in Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, AUGUST 08: Meri Mati Mera Desh - Mati ko Naman Veeron ka Vandan program was today launched in District Rajouri.

During the program held in the conference hall Dak Bungalow, Nehru Yuva Kendra Rajouri felicitated the gallantry awardees, Veer Naris and ex-servicemen/retired paramilitary personnel. Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kuralda was the Chief Guest, while SRF Amritlal Singh was the Guest of Honour. The program was graced by Anil Tigga Commandant Adm SHQ Rajouri,

Nisith Upadhyay Commandant 79th Bn BSF Rajouri, Lt Col Madhur Verma 2 IC 225 Fd Regiment Artillery, Anil Kr Lal 2 IC BSF Rajouri, Kapil Dev Div Commandant CRPF Rajouri among others. The Chief Guest, while speaking on the occasion, said that Meri Mati Mera Desh - Mati ko Naman Veeron ka Vandan is a nationwide campaign aimed to promote patriotism, celebrate the spirit of India and promote conservation of natural resources and forests by planting 75 saplings in each panchayat, create Amrit Vatikas with installation of Shilapalakhakam with the

names of Veers inscribed on it and honour Gallantry Awardees, Veer Naris, Ex Servicemen. Nitin Hanglo, District Youth Officer NYKS Rajouri, said that Meri Mati Mera Desh is being organised all over the nation as part of the closing ceremony of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He said Amrit Vatikas shall be created in each and every panchayat of the nation from 9th to 15th of August. "From 6th August onwards, Mitti Kalash shall be collected from Panchayats and sent to Block Level after which these will be moved to National Capital where a Mega Program shall be organ-

ized from 28-30 August with participation of 7500 youth from across the nation who shall be addressed by the Prime Minister at Kartavyapath," he added. He requested BSF and CRPF to coordinate in organizing different programs involving youth so that they stay away from negative and disruptive forces. Later, the District Level Program witnessed felicitation of Gallantry Awardees, Veer Naris, Ex Servicemen, Retired Paramilitary Personnel from Army, BSF and CRPF. A ceremonial plantation drive was also held in the Dak bungalow Complex. A

Plant Sapling was also given to each participant. Anil Tigga, while speaking on the event, said that the BSF is committed to coordinate and effectively ensure the success of Meri Mati Mera Desh. He further said that the BSF is collaborating with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan to ensure that plantation drives are held in each and every Panchayat of the nation of the district. He assured to continue coordination with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for the overall well-being and involvement of youth of the District in nation building.

Cooperative Sector top priority for District Admin: S F Hamid

INAUGURATES COOPERATIVE MELA ON THE THEME 'SAHKAR SE SAMRIDHI'

JJ NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 08: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, S F Hamid today inaugurated the District level Cooperative Mela under the theme of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi'.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the Administration aims to achieve prosperity in the district, especially the rural areas through the mantra of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi'. He further added that the Administration is committed to strengthen cooperatives by bringing transparency, modernization, and creating competitiveness. He said in order to achieve this, full support shall be provided to all stakeholders.

The DC while interacting with members of various cooperative societies highlighted the role they can play in enhancing the Self-employment opportunities.

During the Mela various line departments had installed stalls for creating awareness and giving live demonstrations. The participants, especially the members of cooperative societies visited the stalls and interacted with staff of the concerned departments about the schemes and financial incentives available.

SMVDU School of Energy Management organises one-day Workshop

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 08: Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU has emphasized the importance of sustainable cities and communities to avoid adverse effects on the environment.

Speaking at a workshop organised by the School of Energy Management on 'Sustainable cities and communities, he said that as the world's population is constantly increasing there is a need to build modern, sustainable cities to accommodate the increasing population. "Sustainable cities are a key to strike a balance between economic growth, social inclusivity, and environmental protection" he said. He emphasized that sustainable cities are not just a choice but a necessity to preserve our planet for future generations. He stressed that for creating sustainable cities and communities people from academia and government



need to collaborate so as to deal with the environmental, economic, and social challenges.

"There is a need to investigate and implement methods, processes and technologies required for attaining sustainable development of our cities and society and also, it has to be in sync with constantly evolving economic and technological developments" he said.

Mrs. Shruti Khanna, Assistant Director, JKSTIC gave an overview of the initiatives taken by the department of Science & Technology. She also informed that the workshop is aimed at identifying opportunities and linkages to strengthen

academic and research institutions. Prof. Abu Talha Farooqi from Jindal School of Art and Architecture, OP Jindal Global University, laid emphasis on varied roles for the idea of sustainable cities and communities. Prof. Arun Verma, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Jammu delivered a lecture on electric vehicles and their need in ensuring clean urban mobility.

Nagendra Singh Janwal, Registrar SMVDU highlighted the steps taken by SMVDU in organizing high quality workshops and conferences. He stressed that such workshops help in broad-

ening the knowledge base of the participants. He said that this workshop will make all of us understand the need for sustainable development and spread awareness and knowledge among the participants and society.

Dr. Vineet Veer Tyagi, Head, School of Energy Management highlighted the initiatives taken by School of Energy Management for climate change mitigation. Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Workshop Coordinator explained about the schedule of the workshop and stressed upon the need to organize such workshops.

The main objective of the workshop was to identify the challenges and solutions, promote sustainable cities and communities and empower participants as community representatives.

The event started with lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries at Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU.

DE&CC Ganderbal organises day-long Job Fair at Duderhama

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 08: The District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Ganderbal on Tuesday organised a day-long Job Fair at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Duderhama, here.

The fair was inaugurated by Nissar Ahmad Wani, Director Employment, J&K.

The job fair was organized with the purpose to provide a convenient platform to the educated unemployed youth/job seekers and to facilitate their interaction with employers for their placements.

The event saw an overwhelming response from the job seekers/ unemployed youth from the district. On the occasion, Director Employment J&K interacted with the youth and other stakeholders. He informed and counseled them about various opportunities being offered by the department. He also encouraged them to grab any such opportunities with both hands.

President, Integrated Textile and Handicrafts Park Zakura, Syed Afaq Qadri also spoke about opportunities and vacancies in the handicrafts sector in the district.

Among others, the event was also attended by Director RSETI Ganderbal, Deputy Director Employment, Vice Principal Govt. Boys HSS Duderhama, Social Activists, Media Fraternity Ganderbal, beneficiaries and staff of DE&CC Ganderbal. The job fair saw the participation of more than 1000 job seekers & artisans. 180 job seekers were shortlisted on spot by 15 different employers. 21 candidates were also selected on the spot. More candidates will be adjusted in the coming days. At the event, different line departments and skill training providers had installed their stalls for on spot registration and awareness.

DC Kulgam finalises preparations for 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign

Impressive celebration of the campaign to start from 9th August in the district



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, AUGUST 08: To finalise preparations for proper implementation of action plan of 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign, a meeting of officers was held today at mini-secretariat Kulgam under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mehdi-Ud-Din Bhat.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rafter, JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACD Mohammad Intran, ACR Mir Imtiaz UI Aziz, ACP Shurjeel Ali, CEO, DIO, ZEOs, BDOs, and other officers.

At the outset, participants were briefed in detail about the events and themes planned under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign including its components viz. Deep Dive-Silapalakhakam, Vasudha Vandhan, Veeron Ka Vandan, hoisting of National Flag, singing of Rashtira Gaan and Panch Pran Pledge besides other activities.

It was shared that as part of the programme, memorial plaques have been placed across panchayats and wards of MGs to honor the national heroes of the country who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of the nation.

Similarly, it was informed that under Vasudha Vandhan, planting of at least 75 plant saplings in each Panchayat and ward of the district have been arranged.

During the meeting, an action plan for 'Mitti-Yatras' from Panchayats for construction of the National Memorial at Kartavya Path was also deliberated upon and preparations finalised.

The DC urged all concerned departments for ensuring a successful observance of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' programme.

Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft, Anantnag's Mushqbudji Rice receive GI tag

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 08: In a significant developments, Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft from Rajouri District and Mushqbudji Rice of Anantnag district have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

The process for GI Tagging of nine products was started by NABARD in consultation with Department of Handicrafts & Handloom and Department of Agriculture in December 2020, during the difficult times of

COVID. The GI tags have now finally been granted to these two products after a long legal process. In total, four products have been granted GI tag with NABARD support.

Chikri is a pale, honey colored, fine grained soft wood found in hill ranges of Rajouri district of Jammu province. The Chikri woodcraft of Rajouri is characterized by intricate carving and detailing. Similarly, Mushqbudji Rice is a premium variety of short bold aromatic rice grown in higher reaches of the Kashmir valley especially in Anantnag district.



The cooked Mushqbudji Rice is unique and possesses a harmonious blend of taste, aroma and rich organoleptic properties. Geographical Indications (GI)

is a form of Intellectual Property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics

linked to that location.

After GI tagging only an authorized user has the exclusive rights to use the Geographical Indication in relation to these products. Due to this, no person can copy it from beyond their geographical areas. This will prevent unauthorized use of these registered Geographical Indication goods by third parties, will boost exports and promote their brands at international level, thereby promoting economic prosperity of producers and related stakeholders including contribution to GDP of the country.

Meri Mati Mera Desh: JKRLM Self-Help Groups take-up making of eco-friendly Gobar Diyas

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 08: The women self-help groups (SHGs) of Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) have taken a momentous stride towards sustainability and women empowerment by manufacturing Gobar Diyas.

As part of their commitment to the nationwide 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign, these SHGs have produced eco-friendly and innovative Diyas. The campaign, which aims to foster 'Jan Bhagidari' in commemoration of India's 75 years of independence, has been embraced wholeheartedly by these women artisans.

Utilizing cow dung, an easily available and renewable resource, alongside natural colors, the SHG artisans from different rural areas in Jammu



Division have showcased their expert craftsmanship and artistic vision by creating a breathtaking assortment of hand-painted designs that reflect the region's rich cultural heritage.

These Gobar Diyas are not only biodegradable but also emit no harmful pollutants, ensuring a smoke-free environment. By incorporating such eco-friendly practices, the SHGs not only benefit the ecosystem but also pro-

vide the well-being and health of individuals during festive occasions. In addition to contributing to sustainable living, these women have also addressed the issue of waste management within their communities by utilizing cow dung as a raw material.

Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, commended the insightful approach and dedication displayed by the women SHGs. She said that their partici-

pation in this initiative has not only empowered themselves but has also played a significant role in safeguarding our natural resources. The introduction of Gobar Diya production by the women SHGs demonstrates their commitment to creating a greener and healthier environment for future generations, she added.

Furthermore, MD expressed her appreciation for the affordability of the Gobar Diyas, as they will be made available to the local community at reasonable prices. This initiative serves as an excellent platform to raise awareness about sustainable practices and instill a sense of responsibility towards the environment during festivals and celebrations.

The Mission Director lauded the women SHGs for their remarkable work and urged them to continue their efforts in

promoting sustainable practices. By embracing eco-friendly alternatives like Gobar Diyas, these women inspire others and leave a positive impact not only on their communities but also on the planet as a whole, she maintained. To ensure the availability of Gobar Diyas to the interested individuals, she also mentioned that the JKRLM Umeed Helpline No (18002320383) will provide more information regarding the purchasing process. One of the JKRLM SHG members, Reva Rajput from Mand West District Udhampur, voiced her immense pride in being a part of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign. She expressed that this initiative has provided them with a platform to showcase their traditional craftsmanship and preserve their culture and art forms.

Awareness programme under SVEEP held at Anantnag

JJ NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 08: A one-day awareness programme under the banner of SVEEP was today organised by District Election office Anantnag at Auditorium of Government College for Women, Anantnag.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat presided over as chief guest and the Principal, Degree College for Women, Anantnag was guest of honour.

Huge number of new voters participated in the programme along with their teachers, besides Anganwadi workers and Asha workers.

The ADC in his address spoke about the democratic values to be developed among the students so as to increase the participation in the forthcoming elections.

He also felicitated the participants and the artists with mementos and the certificates besides distributing new voter cards (EPICs) among newly registered voters.

Deputy District Election officer, Anantnag, Nazia Hassan threw light on what actually the SVEEP is all about, she also spoke about the district profile with regard to the Municipal Summary Revisions going on in the district and Annual Summary Revision of photo electoral rolls with reference to January 2024.

Dr Arshad Ahmad Salroo, Coordinator SVEEP in his introductory speech talked about the SVEEP programmes going on in the district and explained about the history of SVEEP and connected it with the sustainable development goals, especially with the goal of social justice, peace and prosperity of the nation.

S.P College organizes Interaction cum Orientation Lecture

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 08: The College Admission Committee of Sri Pratap College, Srinagar today organized an Interaction cum Orientation Lecture on "Exploring the Four Year Undergraduate Curricular Framework (FYUGP) of Cluster University Srinagar and functioning of recently launched Higher Education Admission Portal" focusing National Education Policy-2020. The programme intended to orient and update the faculty members about the National Education Policy-2020 and train prospective students who intend to seek admission in



S.P College about the different functionalities of the admission portal. The proceedings of the programme started with the welcome address by the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Jelaani Qureshi who gave a

Advisor, College Admission committee, Dr. Shazia Mushtaq presented introductory remarks about the programme and highlighted the significance of National Education Policy.

The dignitaries who spoke during the Orientation programme included Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Shah, Consultant NEP University of Kashmir and Invited Speaker Prof. Zubair Syed Masoodi Assistant Professor, Department of Higher Education UT of J&K and Member NEP Cell, University of Kashmir.

Prof. Masoodi's expertise and in-depth knowledge of the National Education Policy-2020

and working of Higher Education Admission portal added immense value to the event, providing attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the policy's intricacies and implications.

Both the guests on the occasion gave a wonderful presentation of the scheme of the things covering both the focus areas of the programme and deliberated on various crucial aspects of the policy, including curriculum framework, pedagogy, assessment methods, teacher training, and digital education spotlighting the potential of the policy to reshape the future of education system in India and UT of J&K.

J&K LCMA holds 129th BPA meeting; decides 93 cases on merits



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 08: The Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation & Management Authority on Tuesday held 129th meeting of the Building Permission Authority under the chairmanship of Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Vice Chairman, J&K-LCMA at Head Office Complex, LCMA, Miskeen Bagh, Khanay Srinagar.

The J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority has been vested powers under Control of Building Operations Act, 1988 through Building Permission Authority, J&K LCMA.

Meeting was attended by Secretary LCMA (member Secretary of BOCA), Joint Commissioner (P) SMC, Executive Engineer Lake Division 2nd LCMA, Executive Engineer Electric Inspection Division, Chief Town Planner, Enforcement Officer LCMA, and Law Officer, LCMA and representative of Tehsilard Khanay and UEED as members of the Building Permission Authority.

The agenda for the meeting was discussed threadbare and a total of 93 cases were decided upon by the BPA on merits. Meanwhile, the Vice Chairman J&K LCMA who is also the Chairman of BOCA has requested the people residing in the local jurisdiction of LCMA to apply online for proper building permission through its building permission authority, before starting any sort of construction. Construction raised illegally shall be dealt seriously under law & will be demolished.

Maiden two-days Veshow Literary Festival concludes at Kulgam

Sessions on Sirsov, Tsrathaal, Margun, Kathi Manz Kath, Sapoot & other sessions marked the fest Programme aimed at promoting & creating awareness about culture, art & heritage: DC Kulgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, AUGUST 08: In an effort to promote the rich literature, art, culture, heritage and traditions, and deliberate on various aspects of literature, a maiden two-day 'Veshow Literary Festival' culminated today at Kulgam.

The programme was organized by District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

During this two days literary festival, multiple functions and literary sessions were held at the mini-secretariat Kulgam.

Giving details of the programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat said that this event was primarily aimed towards promoting and creating awareness about culture, art, heritage and literature among the youth and people in general.

He said during the two days festival various literary persons and artists from different districts of J&K and outside UT participated in the event.

He expressed hope that it will

have a successful impact in creating awareness among the public, especially the younger generation.

Till now, we have achieved great success in the areas of development and tourism, and now our focus is on the promotion of art, culture, literature & preservation of rich heritage, Dr Bilal said.

The two days festival witnessed different sessions including Sessions on Sirsov (Spiritualism in Kashmir Literature), Tsrathaal, Magun (Talent hunt) Sadre, Young women Authors of Kashmiri, Kathi Manz Kath, Kashmiri Folk Literature, Mushaira, besides others.

During the Sirsov (Spiritualism in Kashmir Literature) session, Authors including Dr. Maroof Shah, Haroon Rashid, Shahbaz Hakbari, Dr. Afaq Aziz, Dr. Javid Iqbal deliberated on Buddhism, Shaivism, Reshi/Sufi Tradition, Tasawuf, Shivism and on the spiritualism in Kashmir.

During the Tsrathaal session, extensive deliberations on language, culture and heritage were held by esteemed speakers including Dr. Sohan Lal Koul, Brij Nath Betab, Prof Ratan Lal Talashi and Prof

Majrooh Rashid.

Session on Scope of publication and printing business was also held and speakers included Manoj Jha, Bilal Bashir Bhat, Sheikh Ajiaz, Sheikh Fayaz, and Vikram Singh who narrated about the business steps, startups for the youngsters.

Session Titled Sadre was also held where women Authors including Shaisata Shafaq, Nadim Shouqia, Shadab Yasmeen, Shaheena Ara Pathan, Roomee e Baekhdia, Zaira Ashraf, Nightah Sahiba, Pakeeza Heena, Hamida Shah Akhter participated and literary contribution of women of South Kashmir was elaborated.

During the Digital world & Literature session, Dr. Sitesh Vimal, Dr. Shafaqat Allaf, Izhar Mushatq, Mushatq Ul Haq, Rameez Makhdoom participated in the session and highlighted the impact of the digital age on literature.

Sapoot, a session for revisiting the legendary authors of south Kashmir witnessed participation of Yusuf Jahangeer, Chowdhary Mohd Shareef Qamer, Rajender Premi, Dr. Mehfoosa Jan, Ab Rashid Srashar.

DC Shopian finalises Action Plan for impactful celebrations of 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign

Takes review of AKAM online Competitions & JJM Fortnight campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 08: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lal Hasseb today chaired a meeting to finalise the arrangements for the impactful conduct of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign in the district.

At the outset, participants were briefed in detail about the activities planned under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign including Deep Dive-Silaphalakam, Vasudha Vandhan, Veeron Ka Vandan, hoisting of National Flag, singing of Rashtra Gaan and Panch Pran Pledge besides other activities.

It was shared that as part of the programme, memorial plaques have been placed across panchayats and wards of MCs to honor the national heroes of the country who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of the nation. Under Vasudha Vandhan, concerned intimated that planting of at least 75 saplings in each Panchayat and ward of the district has been made available with concerned departments, besides all other arrangements for celebrations have also been done.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) online uploading competitions and JJM Fortnight activities and asked concerned to expedite and organise successful activities and complete IEC activities on time. The DC urged all concerned departments to ensure successful observance of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' programme while highlighting its importance. He said that the campaign aims to foster a sense of unity and pride across all sections of society, celebrating India's rich heritage and patriotic spirit.

AKAM: Cultural Unit Kashmir, DIC Pulwama organize Short Play at BHSS Pulwama



JJ NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, AUGUST 08: The Cultural Unit Kashmir, DIPR in collaboration with District Information Centre Pulwama today organized a Short Play (Nukad Natak) under the banner of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) and recently launched campaign 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Pulwama.

Noted artists of Tulku Arts and students of BHSS Pulwama and Girls Higher Secondary School Pulwama performed various Cultural items and Nukad Natak regarding National Integration and inculcating the spirit of patriotism among the audiences. They also highlighted the contribution of national heroes who sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom of nation through their performances viz. Patriotic Chorus, Skit, poetry and speeches.

Besides, the artists from Tulku Arts theatre also raised awareness on social evils including drug abuse prevalent in society. Addressing the gathering, the District Information Officer (DIO) Pulwama, Nowshad Ahmad highlighted the significance of celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate India's 77th Independence Day. He stressed upon the students to participate in more such events to instill spirit of patriotism among themselves.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal BHSS appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations J&K for organizing such a live show and said that such live performances enhance patriotism in the younger generation.

'Meri Mitti, Mera Desh': Wushu Championship-2023 concludes at Bandipora

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 08: District Bandipora Wushu Championship-2023 organised by District Wushu Association Bandipora in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora concluded today at Govt. Hr. Secondary School Ajas Bandipora.

The event witnessed an impressive turnout of approximately 330 participants, including both boys and girls from all age categories representing dif-

ferent schools and clubs of Bandipora district.

The outcome of the event was 24 gold medals, 24 silver medals and 30 bronze medals for all participants.

At the end of the event, Syed Jaffar ud din Bukhari Memorial Islamic Public School Ajas was awarded 1st position with 9 Gold medals, while as Govt. Hr. Secondary School Ajas was awarded 2nd position with 3 gold medals.

Many athletes in this event were selected for the upcoming UT level Wushu championship

2023 which is scheduled later this year.

The District Bandipora Wushu Association is a recognized governing body dedicated to the promotion and development of Wushu in the region. Committed to nurturing young talent and fostering a culture of sportsmanship, the association organizes various events, championships, and training programs to propel the growth of Wushu in district Bandipora.

The closing ceremony of the event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests and digni-

ties. Chief Guest of the event was Major Abhinav Joshi 13RR Delta Company. Accompanying him was the Guest of Honor, Principal Govt. Hr. Secondary School Ajas Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Wani. The occasion was also honored by the presence of Padmashree Awardee Shri Faisal Ali Dar and other notable personalities.

Addressing the participants, chief guest, emphasized the global popularity of Wushu as a sport. He expressed his delight at the decision to hold the championship in Ajas, recognizing its

potential to encourage youth participation in sports and steer them away from negative influences of drugs and other social evils.

He acknowledged the excellent performance of Bandipora in the realm of sports and believed that this championship would serve as an inspiration to other districts.

Furthermore, he assured unwavering support from their side for such events, fostering an environment conducive to the holistic development of young athletes across Jammu and Kashmir.

Central Prabhari Officer visits Kupwara, reviews progress under ADP, ABP

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, AUGUST 08: Central Prabhari Officer of Aspirational District Kupwara, Shantmanu today visited Kupwara and took a review under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) and ABP (Aspirational Block Plan) at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan welcomed the Central Prabhari Officer and briefed the chair about the progress and achievements made under the ADP and ABP through a detailed PowerPoint presentation.

Speaking on the occasion, Central Prabhari Officer ADP said that the Aspirational District Programme is NITI Ayog's important programme which is monitored by PMO directly. He said that ADP has a great



impact on the ground level and almost all ADP districts including frontier Kupwara have made remarkable progress on key development parameters as compared to the baseline, and are performing significantly better today than they were before the programme was initiated.

Shantmanu said that the basic purpose of the review meeting is to see the areas which need more focus. DDC apprised the chair that Kupwara district is one of the 117 districts chosen by NITI AYOG in January 2018. Current Delta rank of the district is 12th (overall rank in the country for the Month of May 2023).

She further informed that Delta Rank of the district has improved from previous 37th rank to 12th rank.

DDC further apprised the chair that Composite score of the district has increased from 37.8 in March 2018 to 59.50 in May 2023 besides there is substantial progress in 34 out of 49 indicators.

Ayushi further said that district Kupwara received PM's Award of Excellence on 21st April 2022. District Kupwara achieved 3rd Delta Rank under Financial Inclusion and Skill Development in May 2010 and received an additional grant of Rs.3 Crore out of which Rs.255 Lakh stands utilized. She said district Kupwara was conferred with Gold Medal by Union Health Minister on 24th March 2022 for achieving more than 60% reduction in TB Notification.

Thereafter, the Central Prabhari officer had a threadbare discussion on each indicator and sub indicator of the 5 thematic sectors and reviewed the performance of the district on each of them.

Central Prabhari Officer also reviewed the Aspirational Block Plan of Block Keran.

The DDC in her concluding remarks said that steps are being taken to bring Kupwara district on tourism map as the district has huge potential in Ecotourism, border tourism and adventure tourism.

Central Prabhari officer Kupwara impressed upon the officers to improve the parameters and indicators which pertain to them so that benefits of different centrally sponsored schemes trickle down to the doorsteps of deserving. He further stressed on convergence between different departments and programmes for better service delivery.

Special Lok Adalat to be held at Anantnag on August 12th

JJ NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 08: A special Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on 12th August, 2023 at District Headquarter Anantnag and in subordinate courts, under the Chairmanship of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag.

The Special Lok Adalat will be held for amicable settlement of pre-litigation and pending cases in the courts particularly cases under section 138 NI Act, MACT, Matrimonial, Family Disputes, Labour Disputes, Civil Cases, Criminal Cases, Bank Recovery Cases, Electricity, Water Bills and cases related to other Civil Cases.

In this regard, the litigants who are interested to settle their disputes in the above scheduled special Lok Adalat are being informed to approach the concerned courts immediately so that their cases will be listed for amicable settlement in the Special Lok Adalat.

Also all the Chairpersons of TLSCs of District Anantnag are also requested to organise special Lok Adalat on scheduled date in their concerned courts and also submit the list of identified cases to the concerned authority by or before 11th August, 2023.

