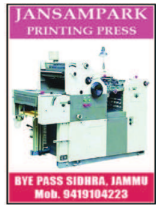




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Digital J&K: E-Unnat ensures efficient, reliable services to common citizens 215 services available on portal, 1472350 certificates issued till date

JI NEWS DESK SRINAGAR, JAN 19
Keeping pace with digital revolution taking place in present era, E-Unnat has been successful in extending efficient, transparent and reliable government services to common citizens fulfilling their basic needs in a more

robust and responsive manner. With this vital technological intervention, the people now can easily avail all government services at the click of a button thus getting much needed relief from unnecessary hindrances at different official levels. Jammu and Kashmir administration has made a remark-

able achievement in the digital journey of Jammu and Kashmir with e-Unnat having 215 services available to the public. Besides, the portal is acting as a window for government to obtain feedback from citizens on any subject related to service delivery to identify grey areas for further improvement.

Through e-Unnat, citizens need to first register and apply for any service by filling an application form. After that, they will receive an output certificate/report as the service deliverable. Notably, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, inaugurated the integration of Public Service

Guarantee Act (PSGA) portal having Auto-Appeal System feature with the e-UNNAT to provide a major impetus to transparency, citizen friendly and efficient government. With this step, the J&K government has now integrated the online dashboard (https://aas.jk.gov.in) for all citizen centric services avail-

able on e-Unnat Portal, as per the provisions of PSGA. In the process, J&K has become the first UT in the country to implement such a robust system. This step of the government is expected to be a game changer as it empowers the citizens and would go a long way in curbing delays in providing

services to citizens, weed out red tapism, inefficiency, lethargy and culture of apathy and impunity. Under this system, the service delivery timeliness, details of defaults and penal provisions besides generation of statistics and drill down facility together with auto

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Only influential people who encroached Govt land would be evicted: LG Sinha

JI NEWS DESK SRINAGAR, JAN 19
Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday reiterated and made it clear again that the land encroachment eviction is for the influential people who have grabbed the government land and no poor and common people would be touched. Lieutenant Governor Sinha while talking to media persons during his visit to the holy Zeoshta Devi temple at Zeathyar, Srinagar where he paid obeisance today said that the land eviction drive is against the influential people who have used their good offices and grabbed government land. He said that no poor and common people would be touched and the authorities are fully with them (poor) to safeguard their prosperities. He said the drive was launched on the directions of the high court that those who have encroached on government land would be evicted. "I said it earlier and want to make it clear that those influential people who have used their good office and



have taken law in their hands grabbed the government land... except them no poor and common man would be touched", he said and added "the authorities are fully with the poor people to safeguard their prosperities".

Ahead of R-Day, Jammu Security Wing issues advisory for public

JI NEWS DESK JAMMU, JAN 19
The Security Wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday ahead of Republic Day celebrations issued an advisory for the public visiting the venue for participating in the celebrations here at Maulana Azad Stadium. Senior Superintendent of Police, Security Jammu, Swarn Singh Kotwal issued a detailed information regarding do's and don'ts for general public in connection with observance of national event in the region. He said that great public participation is expected in the Republic Day function on January 26, 2023 so the Security Jammu has sought cooperation from the visitors to facilitate their safe and comfortable entry and

Our focus is on dev, not vote-bank politics: PM



JI NEWS DESK YADGIR, JAN 19
Highlighting the priorities of his government at the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said its focus is solely on development and not

vote-bank politics. "Even if one district in the country lags behind on the parameters of development, the country cannot become developed," he said after inaugurating a slew of projects. Giving the example of Yadgir in North Karnataka, PM Modi lamented the backwardness that prevailed in the region in the path of development. Even though the region had the capability, Modi observed that the past governments had absolved themselves just by declaring Yadgir and other such districts as backward. He recalled the time when the ruling governments of the past indulged in vote-bank politics and did not pay heed to basic infrastructure like electricity, roadways and water.

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J&K Administration revokes ban on issuing fresh arms licenses; CID Wing to submit report on applicant's antecedents

JI NEWS DESK JAMMU, JAN 19
Nearly after more than four years, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday revoked the ban on issuance of fresh arms/gun licenses to an individual. As per order issued by the Financial Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department Raj Kumar Goyal, Jammu and Kashmir Home Department under order number No. 922 - Home of 2018 dated 12.07.2018, it is hereby ordered that the restriction imposed on the District Magistrates in the UT of J&K, for issuing fresh individual Arms Licenses, is revoked with immediate effect. The order read that all the concerned including District Magistrates (Licensing Authorities), have been asked to adhere to the additional conditions besides following the provisions of the Arms Act, 1959 and Arms Rules, 2016. "Among fresh conditions require the District Magistrates, while considering an application for grant of

individual Arms License, to necessarily obtain Aadhaar Card as a proof of identity," it further read. Notably, between 2012 and 2016, Deputy Commissioners of various districts in Jammu and Kashmir fraudulently and illegally issued bulk arms licenses. CBI also conducted searches in multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi in connection with investigation in the illegal arms licence case. "The District Magistrates shall ensure that they entertain only such applications for grant of license or for accessing any other service from an applicant, who is a resident of that particular district and in no case they shall either grant a license or renew a license of an applicant not residing within the jurisdiction of their district," reads the order. It said that for ascertaining the area of residence of an applicant, a specific report from the Police, certifying the same, shall be obtained by the District Magistrates before processing any application and in no

case, the District Magistrates shall deviate from the Rules 17 and Rule 24 of Arms Rules, 2016, concerning addresses of the licensee. The District Magistrates, it said, shall obtain a report from CID Wing of J&K Police, regarding the character and antecedents of the applicant, in addition to the Police verification prescribed under Arms Rules, 2016, in order to ensure that the Licensing Authority is in a position to ascertain the suitability of granting license in each individual case based on the assessment made by CID particularly with regard to the conduct of the applicant in social and public life, as also the internal security considerations. "For the purpose of verification, the Special DG CID, J&K shall constitute a committee under his Chairmanship to examine each case for grant of individual Arms License, keeping in view the prevailing security environment and a report in this behalf shall be forwarded by the CID to the District Magistrate concerned"

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Maintain Op readiness: GOC White Knight Corps

JI NEWS DESK JAMMU, JAN 19
A day after taking a security review in hilly Kishtwar district, General Officer-Commanding, Nagrota based White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain on Thursday exhorted all ranks to maintain operational preparedness during his visit to Akhnor sector here. "Lt Gen Sandeep Jain visited Akhnor sector to review the security situation," Jammu based Defence spokesman said. He exhorted all ranks to maintain operational readiness while ensuring a robust CI/CT grid in the hinterland. On Wednesday, the GOC visited the Indian Army units in Kishtwar and reviewed the operational preparedness and security situation in the region.



He interacted with all ranks and complimented them for high standards of professionalism and devotion to duty.

5G network services will soon be available in J&K: LG

JI NEWS DESK JAMMU, JAN 19
Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that 5G network services will soon be available across the Union Territory. Present of Lava International Sunil Ratna had called upon Lieutenant Governor here at the Raj Bhawan, Sinha said, "as high speed 5G networks have started to roll out, very soon we will have the services available across the UT". Ratna also apprised the Lt Governor about the initiatives of the company and the steps being taken to make 5G



devices more affordable for common masses. Sinha however, complimented the efforts of IT sector for producing innovative solutions bundled with latest technologies. "The IT sector is showing a very robust and consistent growth. Use of best of the technologies ensuring responsive, transparent and easily accessible governance," the Lt Governor said. Pertinently, under the directions of Lt Governor, the J&K government had taken a proactive step to form a Working Committee headed by

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KPs demand permanent settlement in the Valley



JI NEWS DESK NEW DELHI, JAN 19
Marking 33 years of exile, various Kashmiri organisations on Thursday organised a protest at the Jantar

Mantar here on Thursday, they demanded permanent settlement of displaced families in the Kashmir valley. It was on January 19, 1990, when an entire community was forced to

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SDMA issues avalanche warning in J&K

JI NEWS DESK SRINAGAR, JAN 19
The State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA) on Thursday has issued a low danger avalanche warning for the people living 2500 to 3500 meters above sea level in seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement the SDMA said that avalanche with Low Danger Level is likely to occur above 2500 to 3500 meters above sea level over Ganderbal district in Central Kashmir, Bandipora and Kupwara districts in north Kashmir and Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban districts of Jammu division in next 24 hours. It has also advised people living in

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Srinagar other parts of Kashmir valley receives snow

JI NEWS DESK SRINAGAR, JAN 19
Srinagar and some other parts of Kashmir valley received light snowfall amid rise in minimum temperature but still remained below freezing point on Thursday. People in Srinagar woke up to see a thin layer of snow accumulated on the roof tops, roads and on trees much to the delight of the tourists. Srinagar received 0.5 cm of snowfall and 0.5 mm of rainfall. Pahalgam 3.6 cm of snowfall and 4.3 mm of rainfall, Kupwara 1.0 cm of snowfall and 3.8 mm of rainfall, and the ski resort of Gulmarg experienced 3.0 cm of snowfall and 2.9 mm of rainfall on Thursday. Meteorological forecast of Partly cloudy weather at most places with possibility of light Snow at isolated places. From January 19-22 Generally



Cloudy with chances of light to moderate Snow/rain in plains of Jammu over scattered to fairly widespread places. It also said that widespread moderate Snow/train in Jammu) & moderate to heavy Snow over middle & higher

reaches (60% chance) could occur from January 23-25 Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.4 degree Celsius Thursday against minus 4.3 degree Celsius recorded

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State Disaster Response Force celebrates 11th Raising Day

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: "Raising Day" celebrations of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were organized at SDRF Battalion Hqrs Gandhi Nagar Jammu as well as at SDRF Bn Hqrs Barzulla Srinagar today. The "Raising Day" of the SDRF is celebrated every year after erstwhile Auxiliary Police was renamed as State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in the year 2012.

As a part of celebrations of its 11th Raising Day this year, the Department held the main function at its Gandhi Nagar Battalion Headquarters where Dr B. Srinivas, IIPS, DGP / C o m m a n d a n t General Homeguards/CD/SDRF graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He was received by Shri Umesh Kumar, IIPS, DIG Homeguards Jammu who gave a detailed briefing about the preparations made by the Department for Raising Day celebrations. In his welcome address, DIG Homeguards gave an appraisal of achievements and contributions made by the SDRF during the last one year. Later, the DGP accompanied by other officers had a round of the preparations made on the occasion and inspected the rescue equipment which were kept on display.

On the occasion, while lauding the role of personnel of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Commandant General HG/CD/SDRF mentioned that officers/ men of SDRF have done commendable role during different rescue operations and other operational commitments in the



recent past particularly during cloudburst at the Holy Cave, evacuation of patients during fire incident at B&J Hospital, rescuing 27 members of nomadic families trapped in snow in Shopian, saving lives of two persons from a 20 feet deep well at Kupwara, rescuing 11 persons during flash floods in Ujah river at Kathua and also helped the administration in evacuating the injured persons besides retrieving the dead bodies of labourers during tunnel collapse at Khooni Nallaha. Giving resume of its contributions, he informed that SDRF has undertaken over 350 rescue operations, 50 mock exercises/drills in addition to over 50 awareness camps/demonstrations in different parts of the UT during the last one year. He also mentioned that under Aapda Mitra

programme, over 1500 volunteers across the UT were given training by the SDRF personnel. Expressing satisfaction over the work done by the personnel of SDRF, the Commandant General informed that 02 officers of SDRF were awarded President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service, 15 awarded DGP Medal/Commendation and 06 others were awarded DG CD's Disc & Commendation Certificate during the year 2022.

The DGP also referred to the remarkable achievements made by the Department in procurement of high end rescue equipment and disaster management tools including Rescue Vehicles, Rope Delivery Guns, Dewatering Pumps, Inflatable/FRP boats, Victim Location Cameras, Thermal Imaging Cameras, Life Saving

Jackets, Chipping Hammers, Mobile Snow Cutting machines under Modernization and SDRF Scheme Plans. Work on establishment of full-fledged infrastructure for SDRF components at Doda and Samba is under-way. The Department has recently procured land for establishment of independent Hqrs for SDRF component at Reasi. Similarly, establishment of dedicated Control Rooms with all the rescue equipment at the vulnerable areas in the UT is one of the proposals being vigorously pursued with the Government.

Under capacity building, the Commandant General stated that focussed attention is being paid to enhance the skills of the officers/ jawans of the SDRF and mentioned that over 600 SDRF personnel were given specialized training both within and outside the Union Territory in handling the modern rescue equipment besides enhancing their skills and abilities during rescue operations.

Smt Gurvinder Kour, DySP SDRF 2nd Bn presented vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and other officers for attending the function. Later, a "Barakhana" was also arranged as a part of the celebrations.

A similar function was organized at SDRF Hqrs Srinagar where Shri Firdous Iqbal, IIPS (SSP), Director Homeguards was the chief guest. Shri Wasim Qadri, SSP, In Charge Commandant SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar and all other officers/ men of the Battalion at Hqrs were present on the occasion.

Modi's concern about the future of our children is bearing fruits: Khatana



J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JAN 19: Continuing their efforts to reach the students of Kashmir Valley on micro level under the banner of Pariksha Pe Charcha, the BJP for the consecutive 2nd day held a mega Art and Painting competition at International DPS School, Zakura. Addressing on the occasion, Member Parliament Ghulam Ali Khatana said the PM Modi's

concern about the future of our children is bearing fruits on the ground. He said that the unique book authored by PM Modi, Exam Warriors is emerging as a mandatory curriculum in the nation. He said the events under the banner of Pariksha Pe Charcha initiated by PM Modi will benefit many generations to come. Addressing the gathering on the occasion Bilal Parray said that the vision-

ary mindset to reach the children even toddlers of our country will end the depression among students especially at the exam times. He said the book Exam Warriors by PM Narendra Modi has put an end to the worrisome tension and depression of blooming buds. He said the exams and results can never be the scale to measure one's intellect and capability, rather we should focus on other cur-

riculum activities like Art, Culture, Sports, Writing etc. He said today's program is the part of Modi's larger vision to bring massive positivity among children.

Eminent personalities including National Executive Member BJYM Bilal Parray, noted author and Chairman Kashmir Society Khawaja Farooq Renzu Shah, Chairman IDPS Choudhary Showkat, program coordinator Arshid Ahmad, Ravinder Pal Singh, SHO Zakura, Mehboob, Principal Sheema Manzoor, Basfir Ahmad Dar Chairman NWPS Pandach, staff members of the school and others graced the occasion with their presence.

As many as some 30 schools of the valley attended today's program where children were seen performing different curriculum activities. A couple of renowned personalities also spoke on the occasion.

Chitta Singh staged on the fourth day of National Theatre Festival

2nd National Theatre Carnival

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: On the fourth day of the ongoing National Theatre Festival named 2nd Theatre Carnival, Samoo Theatre Jammu today presented the play Chitta Singh written, designed and directed by Ravindra Sharma. On the occasion Zabeer Ahmed Chief Scientist IIM Jammu was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Organized by Natraj Natya Kunj, cultural society Jammu (regd.) and supported by Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations J&K, Jammu & Kashmir Academy Of Art Culture & Languages, Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi & Haryana Kala Parishad.

Today's play is inspired from Fritz Kamnithy's "The Refund" which deals with an extraordinarily ludicrous situation. The main character in the play is CHITTA SINGH. He is forty years old. He could not get any employment and wherever he went the people told him that he is fit for nothing and nothing worthwhile he has learnt when he was studying. One day, somebody said, when you don't know the silly thing that you have studied, you better go to your school and get your tuition fees back. CHITTA SINGH who was jobless and didn't have any finance, this idea sounded something beneficial to him and so he went to the school where he studied once. When he asks for the refund of his tuition fees, the principal is shocked because after eighteen years he has come to the school. The principal is in a peculiar situation now and he calls for an urgent meeting with all other staff members. They decided to keep a re-examination for CHITTA SINGH and agreed that whatever answers he gives whether it is right or wrong they will prove him right. One by one each teacher questioned



him and justified his wrong answer to be the correct one and they marked him excellent. Though CHITTA SINGH gives wrong answers and uses abusive words to each teacher, they don't show their anger because they have to prove him as an excellent student to chuck him out. At least the mathematics master asks him a difficult question and an easy question.

For the easy question he gives the wrong answer and the master gets angry and says that he has failed on his examination so he should be given his tuition fees back. The master says that we have decided to give you your tuition fees back and now can you tell us the exact amount which we have to give you. CHITTA SINGH without knowing that he is going to fall into their trap gives them the list of exact amounts. So the mathematics master says that was my difficult question to give the exact amount of your tuition fees for which you gave the right answer. Now he has proved excellent in the entire sub-

ject and they throw him out without allowing him to say anything further. The play shows the ability of the teachers to manage the situation and how they tackle CHITTA SINGH without spoiling the reputation of their school.

The actors who performed in this play were Ravinder Sharma as Chitta Singh, Sandeep Manhas as Principal, Rohit Bains as Receptionist, Jahani Sharma as Physics Teacher, Deepika Devi as Geography Teacher, Ajay Tamangh as History Teacher, Vinay Sharma as Math's Teacher. Pankaj Sharma and Aditya Bhatni designed the lights of the play while Shammii Dhamir did the make-up of artists.

Akshita Sharma, Amrita Kour and Rajat Gupta helped in BackStage work of the play.

While addressing the audience Chief Guest Zabeer Ahmed underlined the efforts of Natraj Natya Kunj Jammu towards preserving and promoting art and culture and harnessing the local artists and bringing other states performing artists to J&K.

Congress should clear its stance on PAGD's pro-Pak agenda, repealing of Art 370: Sham Sharma

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Former Minister & State Vice President BJP Sham Sharma, today slammed the so-called leaders of political parties from Jammu as well as Kashmir, who are going to join the Bharat Jodo Yatra, as they are having different political ideologies that can never match. He said these leaders have not been digesting the unprecedented development which Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has witnessed after scrapping of controversial Article 370 from the erstwhile state under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and now are uniting under the banner of Congress Party just want to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere of J&K by joining the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is being taken by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

In a hard hitting statement issued here today, Sham Lal Sharma asked the Jammu based Congress leaders to clear their stand on the joining of Valley based political leader in the Bharat Jodo Yatra in J&K.

He said that before allowing NC and PDP leaders to be part of Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress leaders should clear their stance on PAGD's pro-Pak agenda and their stand on



abrogation of Article 370. He reminded the Congress Party that what Mehbooba Mufti had said over the special status provision of J&K that no one will hold National Flag if the Article 35A will be tinkered with.

The senior BJP leader castigated Rahul Gandhi for pursuing the anti-India tirade by inviting the persons of doubtful and controversial credentials to join the Bharat Jodo Yatra. He said that Congress seems to be doing exactly opposite to what it is projecting by the name of its country-long march Bharat Jodo Yatra as by allowing pro-Pak PDP and NC leadership into its rally, it is proving that the rally is contrary to integrating the

country as in actual it has the tendency to break in pieces the country.

Sham Lal asked the Congress leadership to revisit its decision as this could be detrimental for the country that one of the national parties joins hands with entities which brazenly support Pakistan on different occasions.

He asserted that Rahul Gandhi is conspiring to undo the good work of BJP government by again reviving dynastic politics by partnering with Valley based parties just to ensure success of its so called Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Sham Lal said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has infused a sense of belonging in every segment of society and heralded a new era of peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The fillip in Kashmir economy due to a record arrival of tourists showcases the sincere efforts of the BJP in bringing normalcy and exposes the trio pseudo-secularists for their machinations of keeping the Valley in boil," he added.

The J&K BJP Vice President asserted that people are wise enough to see the malafide motives behind the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and it is going to be a damp squib in J&K.

Maha Shivratri: Secretary reviews preparations for Dharmarth Trust temples, shrines

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Ashok Kumar Sharma, (SPF Retd), Secretary J&K Dharmarth Trust on Thursday reviewed preparations and arrangements to be made in the temples and shrines ahead of Maha Shivratri falling on February 18, 2023.

In this context, A K Sharma convened a meeting of managers and assistant managers of temples and shrines situated in the periphery of Jammu here at Jammu Central Office of Dharmarth Trust.

In today's meeting, managers and assistant managers of Purmandal, Utter Behni, Raghunath ji Temple, Jammu, Ranbireswar Temple, Sudh Mahadev, Mantali,

Shiv Temple Nagrota and Shiv Temple Satwari were present.

At the outset, the Secretary gave the standing instructions to the participants of the meeting to ensure timely repairs and renovation of the religious destinations besides facilitating the devotees on the occasion of Maha Shivratri as it is likely that a large number of pilgrims would throng these temples.

Besides, the Secretary also asked the managers and assistant managers of the aforementioned temples to arrange good numbers of blue and green dustbins to be placed at suitable places for ensuring cleanliness. He asked the staffers of DT to publicize about the process of using the

aforsaid coloured dustbins to ensure proper solid waste management protocol necessary under the

Swachhta Abhiyan commenced across the country by none other than PM Narendra Modi way back in 2014.

Another important issue which came for discussion in the meeting was about installation of CCTV cameras at all the temples to maintain vigil against trouble mongers and anti-national elements as security is also a big concern these days in the Union Territory.

The Trust's Secretary directed the aforesaid staffers of the Trust to ensure hassle-free facilities to the devotees visiting Trust temples on the auspicious day of Maha Shivratri and on normal days as well.

"Dharmarth Trust is a centuries old institution under the patronage of Hon'ble Chairman Trustee, Dr Karan Singh having a phenomenal record of providing state of art facilities to pilgrims and visitors since decades making it significant to continue with this important tradition and even providing added services through augmenting facilities as far as possible", Sharma said, adding that it is solemn responsibility of every staffer of the Trust to patiently and respectfully help the devotees to ensure a comfortable stay at the temples and shrines run under the aegis of the Trust.

Health department Samba issues 115 age certificates at special camp held in PHC Sumb

J NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, JANUARY 19: Health department Samba today organised a special camp under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Health and Wellness Centre-Primary Health Centre Sumb to grant age certificates.

The camp was organised under the supervision of BMO Samba and ZMO Sumb. A special board was constituted for issuing age certificates consisting of all necessary specialities under one roof. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vidhi Bhatial. She informed the people that a medical board for issuing age certificates has been constituted at each Primary Health Centre level and sen-

ior citizens can avail the facility at the nearest PHC. She also made the public aware about the necessary documents required for getting age certificate of health department which include filing of online application on jkesservices portal, 2 passport size photographs, copy of ID proof (aadhar card), Copy of address proof (ration card, domicile certificate, voter card). The other officers and officials present at the camp were Nodal Medical Officer, Dr Anju Bala; Nodal Officer RBSK, Dr. Sandeep Rangroo; Dr. Zahida, Medical officer PHC Nud; Dr. Suchitra Dental surgeon, PHC Sumb; Pankaj, MLHP

HWC-SC Raypur; Vaishali MLHP, HWC-SC Deveka; Vijay Kumar, Senior Lab Technician CMO office; Puneet Sharma MTS, District Hospital and other staff members of the HWC-PHC Sumb.

A total of 115 persons had their age verified and they were issued age certificates on the spot by the Chief Medical Officer as all the facilities were arranged under one roof. Earlier, a special board composed of all the designated specialists was established to issue certifications at the camp. Awareness regarding the procedure to get age certificates was also imparted among the public present.

DSS bats for Empowerment of VDGs, Numberdars, Chowkidars in letter & spirit



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, President, Dogra Sadar Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir and former Minister has hailed the latest directions of Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta to the concerned Revenue authorities regarding strengthening of traditional and vital village institutions of Numberdars and Chowkidars throughout J&K. He has termed as significant the assertion of Dr Mehta that the position of Numberdars and Chowkidars is very important for better coordination at grassroot level besides the instructions to district administration to fill up all their vacancies by engaging young and enthusiastic persons as per the relevant rules and acts before 26 January 2023.

Speaking at a press conference held at Sabha Bhawan Jammu, Shri Charak invoked his recent appeal on January 6 to the Central as well as the UT Government, to actively involve the civil society at all levels. He said that the DSS has been repeatedly demanding since long that the involvement of grass root level institutions and a cross-section of the civil society, including veteran defence personnel and religious, political and social leaders from amongst the local population to ensure strengthening of communal harmony, sustainable peace and development besides assistance in completely pulling out J&K from the pangs of terrorism. In this regard, Shri Charak complimented the renewed concern of the Government to maintain peace for safety of lives and livelihood of peo-

ple. He reiterated that by serving as the eyes and ears of the government, the institution of Numberdars and Chowkidars provides the most effective services to common masses, particularly the rural population. It is imperative therefore, to duly empower them and also fulfill their genuine and long pending demands such as:

Raise the monthly remuneration (honorarium) of Numberdars and Chowkidars from the existing paltry sum of Rs. 1501 and Rs. 1500 respectively to at least Rs. 9000 per month, comparable with the minimum of Rs. 300 per day, they being involved in very important and round the clock government work.

The Government Order No. Rev/LB-354 of 2007 dated 11-10-2007 regarding their free transportation in the SRIC buses, monitoring and overseeing functioning/punctuality in government offices and involvement in all development activities in their area of jurisdiction must be strictly enforced because as of now, the Order is not being implemented in letter and spirit.

In view of sensitivity of their job, Government must provide genuinely substantial ex-gratia relief to the family besides government job to the next of the kin of the Numberdars/Chowkidars, either killed by terrorists or died while performing government work.

Regular and hassle free payment of monthly remuneration should be ensured and not merely by paying lip service. The Numberdars and Chowkidars were not being paid regular remuneration, he said.

Shri Charak appreciated the directions of the Chief Secretary to these institutions to switch over to on-line mode of communication and for use of mobile phones for dissemination of information to ensure prompt and hassle free flow of requisite information from villages. In this regard, Shri Charak emphasized that they could play a very effective role in making the people aware about evil designs of the envious neighbouring countries and their agencies to create regional and communal divide through false propaganda, selective violence, proliferation of harmful drugs and incriminating material. Shri Charak stressed that the government should take the information provided by Numberdars and Chowkidars with due seriousness.

In the conference, Shri Charak also welcomed the latest decision of the Union and the UT government to revive and revitalize the Village Defence Committees (VDGs) as Village Defence Guards (VDGs) by providing Modern arms to their members, mainly comprising of ex-servicemen and youth. He however stressed that it should be done immediately without any loss of time and the manner and mode of payment must be foolproof and regular. Shri Charak said that the VDCs had played a pivotal role in tackling the terrorists and had led to the elimination of terrorism from the areas close to the Line of Control and also in the interior districts. He asked the government to take a positive view of the demands of these grassroots level institutions duly empower them in the larger public interest.

Prominent among others present were Col Karan Singh Vice President, Prem Sagar Gupta Gen Secy, Col Virendra K Sahi VC Convener Media Cell, Gambhir Dev Singh Incharge Youth Wing, Chandar Mohan Sharma Secy, Amanat Ali Shah Joint secy, Ravi Singh Salathia.

Vomedh's commemoration program on KPs Holocaust Day witnesses' huge participation from community

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Vomedh organized a large event today in Abhinav theatre Jammu to deliberate on the need to have concerted efforts from the community to preserve the socio-cultural aspects for the survival of the community. The event was organized to commemorate the Kashmiri Pandits holocaust day on 19 January. Kashmiri Pandits after exodus from valley in 1990 have been globally observing this day as holocaust day to commemorate the fateful night on 19th January which was the starting point of the mass exodus of Pandits from the valley.

Vomedh conceived the event differently this year by creating an idea exchange platform with galaxy of community leaders participating in the deliberations. Few of the community leaders and participants had travelled from outside of the J&K to attend the event which witnessed jam packed audience in Abhinav Theatre.

In his welcome address, Rakesh Roshan Bhat, the mentor of Vomedh talked about the importance of preservation of socio-cultural aspects of community for their continued survival. "Vomedh has been a front line and most active socio-cultural organization of Kashmiri Pandits post exile. It has been at the forefront of socio-cultural preservation efforts.

Vomedh believes that bases its contribution and work in this space in past 15 years, felt that on this Holocaust Day there is a need to take a look beyond just commemorating the fateful day. The already shrinking community is threatened by loss of traditions, language, culture



and roots. We hope that this program will trigger a positive thought process and a chain reaction hopefully of ground actions by individuals and other organizations to work in this direction", he added.

Ashok Saraf, the newly appointed first ever advisor of Vomedh in his statement mentioned that Vomedh will make its programs more inclusive. It will try to engage youth to take its mission forward.

The program kicked off with poetry in exile by renowned poets P N Shad, Dildar Mohan and Pitamber Razdan. Shad and Mohan moved the audiences with their emotional verses and powerful recitation. Razdan created nostalgia and built a vision of way forward through his interesting composition.

This was followed by Paper reading by renowned authors Brij Nath Pandit and Dr. Pawan Suri. Betab in his paper talked about overall need of preservation of culture and civilization of KPs. Dr Pawan Suri who is a very famous doctor, author and columnist talked about the inside and outside perspectives with regards to Survival of KPs.

Another important segment of the program was the panel discussion among eminent panellists representing many fields. All of them spoke about varied aspects of the issue in detail.

Anil Bhat, PTI Chief in his eye-opening discourse tried to explain a very unpopular yet pertinent question - if the population of Kashmiri Pandits is shrinking and if yes, should it be a cause of concern? And, what should the community's response be towards this problem. King C Bhatti, senior Journalist, Social and Theatre activist added another dimension to this issue and talked about if late marriages and high divorce rates, are a reason for concern.

Ajay Bhatti former MLC tried to answer the question - if KPs are losing touch with the roots? If yes, what should they do about it. Youth activist Ashwani Sadhu, Founder KP Blood Bank discussed what motivates youth to work for community causes and how to make it more organized and unified. Rohit Raina, who is part of the PM package employees in Kashmir discussed how will new generation build and retain connect with Kashmir. Ramesh Hangloo, the founder of Radio Sharda drew the attention of the audience towards language, customs and traditions. He deliberated on the various aspects and discussed if community collectively is doing enough to preserve them. Dr Samita Bhat, a renowned Gynaecologist talked about the impact of exodus on mental and physical health of community.

Is it a factor to be considered for better survival of community, she deliberated upon the question? Bindia Tickoo moderated the panel discussion well and also anchored the entire program ably.

A Multiple award-winning short film, Exodus and Exile - The Need was screened in the latter half of the program.

The film has been written by Rakesh Roshan Bhat and Directed by Rakesh and Rohit. This short film has been screened in over 12 international film festivals. It has also been screened in UK parliament.

The message of the film is - save Kashmiri Pandits which was in line with the theme of the program.

Advocate Rahul Kilam and Bharti Kaul were the observers and presented the gist of the discussion before the audience. The program was managed by Vomedh team led by Vice president Bharti Kaul and supported by Suman Bhat and Priya Char. Program concluded with vote of thanks from Rohit Bhat, President Vomedh. All the participants and audience appreciated the efforts of Vomedh and pledged to contribute in their own possible ways towards the preservation of socio-cultural dimensions of community.

KPC, AKDUF & it's allies organisations observe 'holocaust day'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), its allied organisations like KSD, AKDUF and others observed 'Holocaust day' today as Black day.

On this occasion, Kundan Kashmiri, President KPC and PL Sudeshi, President AKDUF in their separate functions, stated that victims displaced KPs witnessed unprecedented challenges of terror and were first victim of the atrocities and killings in the valley and January 19,1990 was the beginning of the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits on a mass scale, that ultimately culminated in the complete exodus of the aboriginal indigenous people that represented a

great civilization which was more than 5000 years old.

During the meetings, the leaders of KPC AKDUF and other expressed their disappointment over the fact that inspite of 33 years of having been made to live in exile away from the land of our ancestors, there is no light visible at the end of the tunnel.

The responsible elements, who have made Kashmiri Pandits homeless have not been prosecuted, not a single judicial inquiry was made so far. KPC and AKDUF urged upon the Union Government to set up tribunal to probe of exodus and killing and constituted enquiry commission against anti-national elements responsible for killing of these innocent people. They expressed dis-

mayed for not giving heed towards the problem of Displaced KP aged youths, PM package employees as well as towards Relief holders.

They also appealed the community for forging unity and said that an Apex community of all organisations and well known persons to be formed in the larger interests of the community, who jointly and together fight against the present challenge being faced by the community.

Other KPC and AKDUF leaders also spoke on the same lines which include Dr.HL. Saraf, MK Raina, Tej Pandita, Sushel JI Bhat, SL Zutshi, RL Raina. The leaders of AKDUF including Sh.P.N.Raina., Prof G.L.Koul, Sh.PK Raina and others spoke on the same lines.

Johal distributes relief material among 300 families at border village Mawa

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JAN 19: District Development Council (DDC) member Ramgarh, Sarbjit Singh Johal today organized a relief camp at Border village Mawa in district Samba.

The 710th truck of relief material was provided by the Shaheed Parivar Fund C/o Hind Samachar and Punjab Kesari Group which was disbursed by the DDC member among 300 needy families in the area. The relief comprised Atta, Rice and complete kitchen kits so as to ensure the basic food requirements of the indigent people. On the occasion, Varinder Sharma, In-charge Shaheed Parivar, S Arneja, Dimple Suri, Sarabdeep Arneja, Sarpanch Anita Choudhary and Ch Jankar were present.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Member Johal



said that in the present scenario, philanthropy has become the need of the hour and noble and blessed people have always come forward to extend support to the needy people.

Recalling the philanthropy displayed by the great journalist Lala Jagat Narayan during his lifetime, Johal paid glowing tributes to him and said that his immense contribu-

tion in the field of journalism would be remembered for ages to come. He also complimented Padma Shri Vijay Chopra for upholding the philanthropic and charitable legacy to serve the needy people in the society. He also informed about the aim behind holding the distribution camp. He said that the main patron behind providing relief material for the needy people is Padma

Shri Vijay Chopra. He said that the Shaheed Parivar Fund management has been sending relief material for the past about 24 years.

The DDC Member Johal asked people of the border village to remain vigilant from the rising drug peddling activities. He sought support of the people of the border village in curbing the menace of drug peddling.

Apni Party is committed to empower women in J&K: Mir

Dozens women join Apni Party in Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Apni Party Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir today said that the party is committed for the social, political and economic empowerment of women in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a meeting cum joining programme at the Apni Party Office in Jammu's Gandhi Nagar, Ghulam Hassan Mir said that the women are the important segment in the society and their role cannot be ignored. Over a dozen women joined the Apni Party in a meeting which was organised by Simran Kour, women leader.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party, he said that with the joining of people in large numbers from every section of the society, it seems that the party's policy and agenda have reached the people at the grass root level.

He said that the Apni Party is committed to the empowerment of women.



"We want to empower women socially, politically, economically and weaker sections so that they can get their due share in the society and upgrade their living standard," he added.

He hoped that their joining would strengthen the party and make people aware about the policies of the party which are focused to bring positive revolutionary development. Referring to the welfare schemes of Apni Party, he said that the Apni Party will ensure equitable development of all the regions, enhancement of widow pension scheme up to Rs 5000, will give 4 cooking gas cylinders to each family under Ujjawala, will provide free of cost 500 units

of electricity during summers in Jammu and during winters, 300 units of free electricity will be provided in Jammu. Similarly, he said that the people in Kashmir will get 500 units of free electricity in Kashmir during winters and 300 units during summers. He also highlighted various other policies of the party and asked them to become ambassadors of the party to spread the message of peace and development among the people. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include State Secretary, Vijay Bakaya, Provincial President Jammu, S. Manjit Singh, Dr Rohit Gupta, Provincial Vice

DC Rajouri interacts with ITI trainees

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JANUARY 19: Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Koundal today visited Industrial Training Institute Rajouri and interacted with the trainees pursuing courses in different technical trades.

The batch of the trainees was recommended for the different courses by the visiting officers during the recently held B2V4 program in the district. It is pertinent to mention here that identification and training of the unemployed youth under skill course was one of the key points under B2V4.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the trainees and enquired about the training protocol and curriculum. He expressed his satisfaction over the impressive, fully digitized infrastructure, experienced faculty and highly qualified trainers which he found at the ITI.

He also interacted with the teaching staff of the institute and assured full support of district administration to ITI in optimization of the training course. He also praised the students for opting for skill training and motivated them to constantly update their knowledge and skills to stay ahead in

the tough competition.

"The Government has taken a number of initiatives to boost employment and necessary training under skill development schemes is being imparted to the unemployed youth to enable them to stand on their own" he said.

Similar training programs would also commence shortly in all other ITIs.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid Kataria; Principal ITI Rajouri, Rashid Sheikh and DIO, Narinder Kumar also accompanied the DC.

Digital India is a live example of the fact that when Sabka Prayas is there nothing is impossible: PM

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated, dedicated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development initiatives in Mumbai today. The Prime Minister also initiated the transfer of approved loans of over one lakh beneficiaries under PM SVANidhi Yojana. The projects include dedicating to the nation Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A & 7, laying the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and seven sewage treatment plants, inaugurating 20 Hindudhrisamsrat Balasahab Thackeray Appla Dawakhana, and starting road concretisation project for around 400 kilometres of roads in Mumbai.



Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that today's projects will play a major role in making Mumbai a better metropolitan and congratulated the beneficiaries and Mumbaiers. "This is the first time since independence that India has the courage to turn its dreams into reality", the Prime Minister recalled the previous period in India where only poverty was discussed and nothing from the world was the only option. He also highlighted that this is the first instance when the world is showing faith in the resolve of India. The Prime Minister said that as Indians are eagerly awaiting a developed India, the same optimism for India can be seen in the world. This positivity, said the Prime Minister, is because of the belief that India is putting its capabilities to good use. "Today India is full of unprecedented confidence. Drawing inspiration from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the spirit of 'Suraj' and 'Swaraj' is strongly evident in the double-engine government", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister remembered the era of scams which harmed the nation and crores of citizens. "We have changed this thinking and today India is spending on its physical and social infrastructure with a futuristic thinking and modern approach", the Prime Minister said. He continued that while housing, toilets,

electricity, water, cooking gas, free medical treatment, medical colleges, AIMS, IIT and IIM are expanding rapidly, Modern connectivity on the other hand is getting the same push. "Work is going on both, today's needs and future possibilities", he said. He said even in these tough times India is providing free ration to 80 crore citizens and making unprecedented investments in infrastructure development. "This indicates the commitment of today's India and is a reflection of the concept of a Viksit Bharat", he added.

The Prime Minister stressed the role of cities in the creation of Viksit Bharat. He said that during the Amrit Kaal, many cities of Maharashtra will drive India's growth. "That is why preparing Mumbai for the future is one of the key priorities of the double-engine government" he said. Shri Modi gave the example of the Metro in Mumbai and said that in 2014 Mumbai had 10-11 km long Metro route, with double engine government Metro got a new speed and scale as Mumbai is rapidly moving towards a 300 km Metro network.

The Prime Minister informed that work in mission mode is being carried out across the country for the management of Indian Railways and Mumbai Metro and local trains are also benefiting from this. He noted that the Double Engine Government strives to give an experience to the general public of the same advanced services, cleanliness and speed of traveling that were only within the reach of the people who had resources. As a result, the Prime Minister said, the railway stations of today are being developed like airports, and one of the oldest railway stations in India, the Chhatrapati Maharaj Terminus is going to get a facelift as part of this initiative and will be developed as the shining example of the India of the 21st century. "The main objective is to make better services available for the general public and create ease of traveling experience. He also added that the railway station will not be limited to services related to railways but will also act as a hub for multimodal connectivity. "All modes of transport, be it bus, metro, taxi or auto, every means of transport will be connected under one roof and this will provide seamless connectivity to all travelers" the Prime Minister said as he informed that such multimodal connectivity hubs will be developed in every city.

The Prime Minister informed that the city of Mumbai will get a facelift in the years to come with the technological advancements of Mumbai Local, expansion of the Metro network, Vande Bharat train and connectivity faster than the bullet train. "From poor laborers and staff to shopkeepers and huge business owners, living in Mumbai will be convenient for everyone", the Prime Minister said. He also informed that traveling to Mumbai from the neighbouring districts will become easier. The Prime Minister highlighted that projects like Coastal Road, Indu Mills Smarak, Navi Mumbai Airport, France Harbour Link and such projects are giving

G. Kishan Reddy and Dharmendra Pradhan co-chair 18th Annual General Body Meeting of IIE

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Tourism, Culture & DoNER Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan today co-chaired the 18th Annual General Body Meeting of Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati.

The Ministers reviewed the working of the institute and discussed the way forward. A whole of Government approach towards skill development in the North East Region was suggested during the meeting. Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan suggested that the focus should be on futuristic skill development and that IIE must work in closer coordination with the Ministry of DoNER and its agencies, NERAMAC and NEHDDC. "Skill development is a priority and projects can be supported under the PM-DevINE scheme," Shri Reddy added.

He also said that certain key areas such as hospital, nursing, private security and agriculture may be



considered as key areas of operation for the IIE. Both the Ministers also co-chaired a review meeting on the preparations for several activities under 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat'. Senior Officers from Ministry of DoNER and Ministry of Education, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports participated in the meeting. As per the directions of Hon'ble Prime Minister

cultural exchange tours of students to different regions of North East is to be organized to help them gain a closer understanding of diverse cultures, traditions, languages etc.

Union Minister for DoNER said that students from North East will be selected to visit different tourism spots in rest of India to enable closer cultural and emotional ties. At least 20,000 students from 100 universities will be selected to tour different part of India to gain an opportunity at experiential learning. Both the Ministers further advised to form a multi-Ministry Committee to assist in successful execution of the visits and to provide necessary support to the selected Universities.

They further said that the visit to prestigious organisations, interaction with eminent personalities, exposure to successful startups and awareness about tourism potential of the region will be among the key agenda during the visits. This will also be an opportunity to learn the best practices of the region and spread awareness about the unique potential of the region.

NCC is a shining example of Unity in Diversity: Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt

NEW DELHI

Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt said that NCC is a shining example of "Unity in Diversity", and since formation it has played a stellar role in grooming the youth of the country by instilling values of discipline, like dauntless spirit of adventure and ideals of selfless service in them. Raksha Rajya Mantri was addressing NCC Cadets of Republic Day Camp 2023 at Delhi Cantt in New Delhi on 19 January 2023.

Ajay Bhatt underlined that NCC has been an epitome of "Unity and Discipline" for the Youth of the Country and has been strengthening the patriotic and secular values which are also enshrined in the Indian constitution. Raksha Rajya Mantri

emphasized that the expansion of NCC is progressing as per schedule. "Through its expansion plans, NCC aims at enhancing its coverage in coastal areas, border areas and left wing extremist affected areas with special emphasis on transforming the youth of these remote areas."

He expressed confidence that the special efforts will increase the reach of NCC to the rural and semi urban areas by locating maximum new raisings in such areas. "It will definitely energise the youth in these areas and give them an opportunity to contribute towards nation building," he added. Ajay Bhatt appreciated the role of NCC cadets in the community development and social service schemes like National Youth Festival, International

day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and Nasha Mukti Abhiyan.

NCC's disaster relief efforts including the assistance to civil administration in various states and their exceptional service in Swachh Abhiyan, and Puneet Sagar Abhiyan have been praiseworthy. NCC's efforts in making our honourable Prime Ministers call of Har Ghar 'Tiranga on 15 August 2022 literally made it into a great festival of patriotism and fervour. I am sure the ethos of team work and value education inculcated in you will always enable you to positively contribute towards the national objectives in the future too," Raksha Rajya Mantri said.

Earlier, a contingent of all the three wings namely Army, Navy and Air Force

presented an impressive "Guard of Honour" to the Raksha Rajya Mantrion his arrival. NCC cadets thereafter presented a fine band display. Shri Ajay Bhatt also visited the 'Flag Area' prepared by the NCC cadets, depicting various social awareness themes and during the visits. The cadets briefed him in detail about their respective State Directorate themes.

Raksha Rajya Mantri also visited the 'Hall of Fame', a proud possession of NCC with display of rich archival collection of alumni photographs, models, motivational and other visual delights of the three wings of NCC. Ajay Bhatt along with other distinguished guests later witnessed a spectacular 'Cultural Programme' by the cadets in the NCC auditorium.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Digital J&K: E-UNnat...

escalation / auto-appeal feature is available online. The aim of the government in incorporating the auto-appeal and auto-escalation feature in the portal is that the provisions of the PSGA get integrated into the online application processing and service delivery mechanism to be strictly adhered to.

Meanwhile, J&K has also become the first Union Territory to launch its own Unified Citizen Services Portal (https://eUnnat.jk.gov.in) incorporating 'Meri Pechaan' (National Single Sign-on) to make available Citizen Centric Services to the common man under a single portal.

The TEJAS Dashboard on the e-UNNAT portal would show, at a glance, the online e-service applications received, services delivered, applications pending, applications rejected, with the delayed services delivery break-up further displayed based on time delay periods, less than a week, one to two weeks, more than two weeks, and so on.

At the same time, the e-UNNAT portal now also provides a glimpse into the My Scheme portal of the Government of India by mapping, initially, six schemes of the J&K government and providing access to information on those by re-directing through a single URL.

The statistics of response received on the platform has revealed that 1387127 applications have been received for above services. Out of these, 1472350 certificates have already been issued digitally with just 464777 applications under process.

Ahead of...

partaking in the event at M A Stadium. As per a public notice issued in this regard, the public has been asked not to carry cell phone, camera, arms/ammunition, sharp edged weapons, hand bags, polythene bags, transistor, toys, tools, stop watch, any kind of powder, inflammable material like cigarettes, match boxes and lighter and related objectionable items while entering into the venue.

The general public has further been advised to extend full co-operation to the frisking/checking teams deployed at different gates, which is essential for the public to ensure their peaceful culmination of the Republic Day function.

Besides, the expected visitors have also been asked to maintain queue while entering the gates through Door Frame Metal Detector installed at the gates and avoid unnecessary altercation with security personnel.

The notice has also advised the public to ensure their presence well in time so that they could enter the venue and be seated comfortably without any inconvenience.

"Do not hesitate to disclose your identity in case you are requested for the same by security personnel or the uniformed police personnel", notice explained to general public. It was informed that proper parking slots have been earmarked for all categories/types of vehicles.

The public can seek help from Traffic Police personnel for parking of their vehicles at the appropriate parking places. Security Jammu has fervently appealed the public to immediately inform the police personnel on duty in case of any suspicious person or item is noticed without touching the same.

Our focus...

He noted that it was the present government that addressed the most backward regions on priority and initiated the hundred aspirational villages campaign including Yadgir.

The PM noted the emphasis on good governance and development in these regions and informed that Yadgir has vaccinated 100 percent of children, the number of malnourished children has gone down significantly.

"Be it education, health or connectivity, Yadgir has been among the top 10 performers of the aspirational districts programme", he remarked.

PM Modi reminded that the coming 25 years are 'Amrit Kaal' for the country and for every state. "We have to create Viksit Bharat during this Amrit Kaal. This can happen only when every person, family and state gets associated with this campaign. India can be developed when the life of the farmer in the field and the entrepreneur is improved. India can be developed when there is good crop, and factory output also expands," he said.

This will need learning from the negative experiences and bad policies of the past, he said. PM Modi underlined the importance of water security for the development of 21st-century India which stands at par with world's coastal and inland security.

He informed that out of the 99 irrigation schemes that were lying pending in 2014, 50 have already been completed and schemes have been expanded.

In Karnataka also many such projects are underway, he said. "Narayanapur Left Bank Canal - Extension Renovation and Modernisation Project (NLBC - ERM) with a canal carrying capacity of 10,000 cusecs can irrigate 4.5 lakh hectares of command area," he informed.

PM Modi also talked about the unprecedented focus on micro-irrigation and 'per drop more crop' as more than 70 lakh hectares of land have been brought into the ambit of micro-irrigation in the last 74 years. "Today's project will benefit 10 lakh hectares of land in Karnataka and work is going on to raise the water table," he stated.

He praised local farmers for making Yadgir a pulse bowl and helping the country in reducing foreign dependence in this area and informed that 80 times more pulses were procured under MSP in the last 74 years.

"Pulse farmers have got 60,000 crore rupees in the last 8 years compared to a few hundred crore rupees before 2014," PM said.

PM Modi was in Yadgir to inaugurate a slew of projects including the foundation stone laying of Yadgir multi-village drinking water supply scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission at Kodekal.

A Water Treatment Plant of 117 mld will be built under the scheme. The project, which costs more than Rs 2050 crore, will provide potable water to about 2.3 lakh households of more than 700 rural habitations and three towns in the Yadgir district.

During the programme, PM Modi also inaugurated the Narayanapur Left Bank Canal - Extension Renovation and Modernisation Project (NLBC - ERM). The project with a canal carrying capacity of 10,000 cusecs can irrigate 4.5 lakh hectares of command area and will benefit more than three lakh farmers in 560 villages of Kalaburgi, Yadgir and Vijaypur districts.

laid the foundation stone of the 65.5 km section of NH-150C. This 6-lane Greenfield road project is part of the Surat - Chennai Expressway. It is being built at the cost of about Rs 2000 crore.

5G network services...

Financial Commissioner (ACS), Home Department in November 2022 for facilitating 5G roll out in Jammu and Kashmir.

The breakthrough 5G technology will further strengthen "Digital J&K Mission" and improve the disposal & quality of 100 percent services that are now being offered by the J&K government through online mode.

KPs demand...

leave Kashmir due to threats and killings by Pakistan-backed terrorists. The Kashmiri Hindu community observes this day (January 19) as the "holocaust day" to mark the exodus of Hindus, Sikhs and other minorities in their own country for the past 32 years, outside the valley.

Various organisations like Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj (YAIKS), Save Sharda Committee (SSC) and All State Kashmiri Pandit Conference (ASKPC), Panun Kashmir, Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD), Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) held a protest and paid tributes to the victims to reaffirm commitment to the cause of the Kashmiri Pandits.

These organisations demanded that the central government look into the issues of displaced people of the community, and facilitate their permanent settlement in the valley.

Speaking at the event, Panun Kashmir leader Kamal Bhat said "Kashmiri Pandits have suffered genocide and exodus despite being the indigenous people of Kashmir and it is the duty of the government to resettle them in their homeland".

The recent increase in killing of Hindus and Sikhs in Kashmir has again worried the minorities of Kashmir on the return to homeland.

Earlier in the day, the community also paid obeisance and sought the blessings at Gurudwara Sis Ganj here. Speaking on the occasion, the coordinator of 'Roots in Kashmir', Neal Pandita, echoed the sentiments of the community. Pandita said that the minority community of the Kashmir can survive only if settled in one separate area, "otherwise they will always be sitting ducks for the mindless jihadi's" he said.

ABVP JNU leader Rohit Kumar organised a seminar to discuss the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits, where noted political analysts like Kamal Hak, Amit Raina and Vithal Chauhan highlighted that without tackling jihad, the development of Kashmir is not possible, as it is an impediment to peace and normalisation.

"Solution to Kashmir problem and return of Kashmiri Pandits is not possible without acknowledgement of Genocide by the government and creation of a separate Homeland within Kashmir valley for all the minority communities and nationalist forces" said Digambar Raina, Program Coordinator, Youth 4 Panun Kashmir.

SDMA issues...

these areas to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders. The Met forecast from January 19-22 chances of light to moderate snow/rain in plains of Jammu over scattered to fairly widespread places.

J&K Administration...

(under intimation to the Home Department), for appropriate consideration, subject to fulfillment of the relevant conditions laid down in Arms Rules, 2016."

The District Magistrates, orders says, shall personally ensure that every service to be provided under the Arms Rules, including grant of license, renewal of license, extension of area validity, entry of Arms/ammunition, registration in case of change of residence of the licensee etc. are mandatorily done through NDAL/ALIS portal and physical record (duly authenticated) of all such entries which are made on the portal are maintained concurrently in their offices. "Accordingly, all the applications for issuance, renewal or any other Arms related services shall be received by the District Magistrates only through Online mode viz. licensing portal NDAL-ALIS."

"The District Magistrates shall personally ensure that data or detail of any prospective licensee or of a licensee who is accessing any service under Arms Rules, uploaded on NDAL-ALIS portal, is correct and error free, the order read.

It further read, "the District Magistrates, in coordination with the District Superintendents of Police, shall keep a track of all the licensees within their jurisdiction and they shall ensure that the area validity of the license is adhered to by the licensees."

"No delegation of powers with regard to issuance/renewal or any other allied services under Arms Rules, shall be made by the District Magistrate to any authority subordinate to the licensing authority in violation of Arms Act 1959 and Arms Rules, 2016," read an order.

Srinagar other...

a day ago. It was 0.7 degree Celsius above normal during this period of the season.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir had a low of minus 4.3 degree Celsius against minus 11.7 degree Celsius yesterday. It was 2.9 degree Celsius above normal during this period of the season at the valley of shepherds.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir had a low of minus 7.6 degree Celsius against minus 11.3 degree Celsius recorded the previous night. It was 0.1 degree above normal during this period of the season for the famous ski resort.

Zagund, on Srinagar Jammu national highway in south Kashmir dipped to minus 3.4 degree Celsius against minus 7.4 degree Celsius. Korum against minus 4.3 degree Celsius while the frontier Karim district of Kupwara recorded a low of minus 2.4 degree Celsius on Wednesday, the Met office said.

G-20 testimony to India's big leap in economic growth under PM Modi: Kavinder, Priya



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: BJP Senior leader & Former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta and BJP National Executive Member & former Minister J&K Priya Sethi, said that getting G-20 Presidency is a proof that India has attained a vital position among the top economies of the world under the stewardship of PM Narendra Modi.

Addressing a meeting of BJP activists here, the former ministers said that G-20 Presidency is like another feather in PM Modi's hat of achievements and the successful summit scheduled later in the year will add more colours to the fame of the country.

Kavinder Gupta said that the Group of Twenty (G20) is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada,

China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States and the European Union and was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues.

"It was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the 'premier forum for international economic cooperation'."

While speaking, he added that December 1, 2022 was a special day as India assumed the G20 Presidency from Indonesia and would convene the

G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in the country later in 2023.

BJP National Executive Member Priya Sethi said that deeply committed to democracy and multilateralism, India's G20 Presidency would be a watershed moment in its history as it seeks to play an important role by finding pragmatic global solutions for the wellbeing of all, and in doing so, manifest the true spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or the 'World is One Family'.

She also explained that the opportunity will also be used to counter terrorism by joining hands with member nations claiming that it would be PM Modi's tenure when the country will see the end of terrorism of all kinds.

She further added that this summit is not merely a

diplomatic meeting. India takes it as a new responsibility and as the world's trust in it. "Today, there is an unprecedented curiosity in the world to know and understand India. Today India is being studied in a new light. Our current successes are being assessed and unprecedented hopes are being expressed about our future", she said, adding that in such an atmosphere it is the responsibility of the citizens to go beyond these expectations and acquaint the world with India's capabilities, philosophy, social and intellectual strength. We have to unite everyone and energize them for their responsibility towards the world", she added.

Rekha Mahajan District President Jammu under whose leadership meeting was arranged asserted that G-20 is a big achievement for BJP under the stewardship of PM Modi as climate change effects and terrorism will be sorted out within the span of G-20 Presidency of the country. Among others present included Rajeev Charak, Ayodhya Gupta, Anuradha Charak, Pushpinder Charak, Akash Chopra, Lucky Puri.

BJP govt testing the patience of J&K people: Harsh Dev



JJ NEWS SERVICE
CHENANI, JAN 19: Alleging breakdown of politico-constitutional apparatus of the erstwhile J&K State post its Re-organization and division into two UTs, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sought the restoration of statehood and holding of Assembly Elections at the earliest in the troubled territory.

Addressing public meetings at Thani Dera and Chunti in Chenani constituency, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and Chairman Aam Aadmi Party J&K State Co-ordination Committee said that with the erstwhile historical State of J&K having been dismantled and downgraded to UT level by divesting it of its statehood status, and further failing to curb terror and resultant mayhem and bloodshed, depriving it of even the routine development initiatives, divesting the people of their marginal land holdings, opening the lands and jobs of its locals to out-

siders, suppressing all critical voices through the coercive apparatus of the govt, demolishing institutions, denying legitimate elected govt and running the affairs of state for the last over four years through proxy, the BJP regime appeared to be testing the patience of the people of the erstwhile princely state. New laws were being enacted for J&K on a regular basis by 'babus' in the centre and implemented in J&K without any Legislative nod through the aegis of Home Ministry by taking recourse to J&K Re-organization Act. The people were subjected to the most unpopular rule of the outside bureaucrats who lacked even the basic knowledge of the problems of the common masses and had hardly any connect with the people. And the BJP which had been voted to power in the centre continued to use J&K as a workshop holding newer experiments each day deliciously unmindful of the abyss to which it had

thrown the people of the new UT, asserted Mr. Singh. "With justice remaining elusive and the govt being run on the whims and fancies of the hmsmen, it was not the rule of law that prevailed in J&K but the law of the Ruler. And in the process, the common man of J&K was being crushed and tormented under the feet by a highly impudent and authoritarian BJP govt", said Mr. Singh. He said that under the prevailing circumstances, it was AAP alone which was emerging as a ray of hope for J&K people.

"With no takers for the woes and sufferings of the people, the govt was thriving on fake announcements and fictional accounts of its achievements with nothing tangible to be seen on the ground. People suffered the worst nightmares due to the power and water crisis. The govt failed to act.

The people of remote areas continue to suffer ration problems with no

takers for their repeated requests and reminders. Several houses and other residential units of poor indigent masses have been dismantled and their marginal land holdings retrieved by the govt on the pretext of encroachments. The daily rated workers of PHE, PWD, Power, I&FC are without wages for several months with none to pay attention to their pathetic plight. The unemployed educated youth were on the roads. The MGNREGA liability has exceeded one thousands crore during the last 5-6 years but none in the govt is there to even console the poor labourers. The academic activity in remote village schools has been paralysed due to acute deficiency of teaching staff. The corruption has become all pervasive with none to question those indulging in open loot and plunder of the states' resources. And those who have the temerity to question are dubbed as anti-nationals. But despite all this the govt was indulging in incessant chest thumping and claiming to have brought about revolutionary changes. And discredited through the coercive apparatus of the state. The fact of the matter was that the general masses were feeling suffocated and suppressed under the dictatorial policies of the current regime ruling the roost by evading democratic process", maintained the AAP leader.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut joins protest of Kashmiri Hindu employees

Vows to raise KPs issues in the Parliament



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut today met with protesting Kashmiri Hindu employees posted in Kashmir valley under PM package and assured to raise their issues in the Parliament. Pertinent to mention that the Kashmiri Hindu employees are on protest for the last 256 days in Jammu since the target killings are on rise in Kashmir Valley, seeking their transfer to safer places in Jammu. Talking to

reporters here, the Member Parliament Raut said that the Central Government is continuously doing politics in the name of Kashmiri Hindus across the country, but today when they are again in terror since the targeted killings are on rise in J&K, the government is not paying heed to burning demands of protesting Kashmiri Hindu.

Raut said that he would raise the issue of the problems of these employees not only in Parliament but also in front of the Prime Minister and the Home

Minister during the upcoming Parliament session after discussing the matter with Party's Chief Uddhav Thackeray on this serious issue. He said that Maharashtra and Shiv Sena have always been with Kashmiri Pandits and will continue to be together.

The Member Parliament said that the Uddhav Thackeray instructed him to make all possible efforts for providing relief to the protesting Kashmiri Hindus. During this, Kashmiri Pandits, while talking to Sanjay Raut in

Marathi language, informed about their demands. The protest site echoed with slogans of "Jai Shivaji Maharaj", "Long live Balasaheb Thackeray".

After this, the Shiv Sena MP left for Kathua to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra. MP Raut, who arrived with Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir President Manish Sahni, promised to strongly raise the demands of the PM package Hindu employees who are protesting in front of the Relief Commissioner's office.

During this, the employees said that the government cannot suppress our protest. They demanded that their withheld salaries for last six months should be released and they should be transferred from Kashmir to Jammu without any further delay.

Manish Sahni, who was present on the occasion, apprised Sanjay Raut about the current situation of employees in the Valley.

Earlier, the Shiv Sainiks warmly welcomed Sanjay Raut at Jammu Airport, Bari Brahman, Samba and Hira Nagar.

Stop harassing people on name of eviction drive : JKNPP

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JAN 19: Vilakshan Singh President Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party has strongly condemned the issuance of a circular by J&K government whereby directions have been issued to the Deputy Commissioners to get the entire encroachment from state lands and kachharai land removed by 31st of January 2023. Singh said that the circular issued by the government is aimed at harassing the poor people and to give benefit to big fishes. The poor people are being harassed by the revenue officials and swords are hanging over the head of poor and downtrodden. He said that the government should set an example by removing encroachments made by the big fishes who have encroached upon land

worth of crores of rupees situated at prime locations. He said that it seemed that government wants to protect the big fishes and harass the poor masses. Singh said that a large number of poor people who are in possession of small pieces of state land and have no other property to live or cultivate. If the state properties in their possession are got vacated, they shall be on the verge of starvation and would be without shelter. He said that it is the duty of the government under Article 21 of the Constitution of India to protect the right to life. He said that before issuing directions for removal of encroachment from the land in possession of poor people, the government should conduct a survey to figure out those poor people who shall be rendered homeless or landless in

case state land is their possession is got vacated. Singh said that everyone knows that lakhs of kanals of state land cannot be retrieved within 22 days. The circular issued by the government would be an opportunity for the corrupt officials to harass poor people and to demand and receive bribe from them for not acting against them in pursuance of the said circular. He said that a circular issued by the government is required to be revoked with immediate effect to save the poor people from further harassment. Singh said that Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party have always stood for the poor and downtrodden and shall fight for them in courts as well as on streets if the dictatorial circular is not withdrawn with immediate effect

PHC Dhaggar organizes free medical camp



JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANI, JAN 19: Dr. Rakshit, Medical Officer today organised a free medical camp at PHC Dhaggar, Dhaman in Tehsil Bani of district Kathua. During the camp attended by over 100

patients, Dr Rakshit along with his ancillary staff conducted check-ups of the reporting patients and distributed free medicines as per their respective prescriptions. Pertinent to mention

here that this medical camp was organized under the guidance of BMO Bani, Dr. Dey Raj and on the directions of CMO Kathua, Dr. Rakshit Mangotra. In his address on the occasion, Dr Rakshit said

that it is an old adage that 'Health is Wealth' and people must remember this saying 24x7 so that they conform their daily routine activities in conformity with the optimum standard healthy habits to keep the diseases away and lead a happy and prosperous life.

He said that keeping in view the remoteness and difficult accessibility he has resolved to hold health and medical camps regularly in this hilly region. He asserted that physical activity needs to be increased to counter today's sedentary lifestyle.

Pharmacist Hardev Singh and Dwasaj Sourav also assisted Dr Rakshit in making this camp successful.

DAP holds protest against land eviction order in Ramban



JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JAN 19: Hundreds of workers from Democratic Azad Party on Thursday held a peaceful demonstration against the land eviction order by the government urging authorities to reconsider its decision. The leaders and workers marched to DC office and handed over the memorandum to DC Ramban in presence of General Secretary R.S.Chib, G.M.Saroori Vice President, Jugal Kishore Sharma Provincial President, Aslam Goni Working Committee Member, Salmaan Nizami Chief Spokesman, Arun

Raju Secretary, Ch Farooq Provincial Secretary, Shahrukh Bhatti Counselor, Mohd Amin Bhatt, Farooq Katoch, Shakeel Singh, Dharam Chand, Budhi Singh Manhas & others. General Secretary R.S.Chib said that the order is hurting thousands of families and will render them homeless in these harsh winters. "Our protest will continue as long as the order is not revoked. The aim of laws is the welfare of common people but in our UT laws are framed to disempower people," he said. He said the elections shall be immediately held so that

Jammu Kashmir will have an elected government.

"How long they will leave us at the mercy of bureaucrats. It has been more than five years we are without a government. We shall not allow these officers to decide our fate," he added. G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, said that the land under the Roshni Scheme was provided to poor and needy people after the Assembly approved the legislation. It was a pro poor initiative by the then Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and the present regime is undoing it. He said DAP will not

silently watch the handling of crucial affairs of Jammu and Kashmir by some officers. "Our voices will be for people and we will not sit aside and let the people suffer. We stand united against this anti people land eviction order," he further said. In democracies, the DAP Chief Spokesperson Salmaan Nizami said, the elected governments have only the mandate to frame the public policies but our UT is denied of this constitutional right and a bunch of officers are empowered to write our fate.

Among others who participated in the protest were Munner Bhatt, Dr Asif Khanday, Gulzar Wani, Farooq Ganai, Alyas Wani, Sheikh Shabir, Asghar Rasool, Girdari Lal Bahu, Iqbal Katoch, Behanullah Runiyal, Arif Salariya, Farooq Shams, Mohd Isah, Shameem Begum, Narinder Kour, Munshi Ram, Azhar Sheikh & others.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere - Albert Einstein

JINDRAH IMAGES

Voices for Assembly polls go shriller

A fresh debate over the delay in conducting Assembly elections has gained momentum in Jammu and Kashmir after the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said the polls would be held taking into account security and weather issues and schedule of polls in other states. The CEC has not specified any date or month when J&K would go to polls. These polls are long due and the opposition parties have been demanding immediate conduct of these elections since long. The opposition parties believe the BJP at the Centre was shying away from the elections as they were not ready to face the people of Jammu and Kashmir because of its 'misadventures'. The CEC himself admitted that they are conscious that in any place which is due for elections, it is their duty that they get the Government in place as mandated. The process of Delimitation of Assembly constituencies has been done in Jammu and Kashmir. Not only this, the Election Commission has completed the exercise of fixing, re-arranging polling stations, appointment of returning officers, Assistant Electoral Returning Officers and rest of the formalities for the conduct of these polls. It is yet not clear as to what has led to the delay in holding these polls in Jammu and Kashmir if all major preparations have been made. The Delimitation process in J&K was completed in 2022. The Delimitation Commission headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, had finalised the Delimitation Order for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in May last year. Besides the schedule of Assembly election for three States announced by the Election Commission yesterday, the polls are due in Karnataka in April-May and five States—Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram in December this year. The Commission has cited two major factors—weather and security assessments—for taking a final call on the elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The arguments of opposition parties sound good that the Election Commission has made it clear that they have given green signal for holding elections in J&K as they are done with the preparations. They say the BJP is not ready for the Assembly elections because they aren't ready to face the people as all the claims made by them on progress and development have fallen flat. Not only Assembly, the Urban and Rural Local Bodies elections will also become due in Jammu and Kashmir in October-November this year on completion of their five-year term. Elections to both the bodies were held in October-December 2018. Jammu and Kashmir is without an Assembly since June 2018. It was on June 19, 2018 that the BJP had withdrawn support to Mehbooba Mufti headed PDP-led Government leading to imposition of Central rule in erstwhile State. No bureaucratic rule can match the significance of a political dispensation and it is high time that all efforts should be made to install a democratically elected government in this sensitive region.

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

The brave new world of automobiles has remained in the background during the past few years as geopolitical events have taken over the foreground. The outbreak of Covid-19 in the beginning of 2020 put the focus on healthcare, while the conflict in Ukraine has fixed eyeballs on global supply chain disruptions.

Meanwhile, the global automobile industry has been scrambling to remain relevant in the era of new technology. The spiking of crude oil and natural gas prices has meant that an urgent need arose to provide a replacement for these fossil fuels that have so far been the spark driving the internal combustion engine. Not only is there a growing clamour from climate activists for their use to be contained, the cost aspect is also finally hurting the road transport industry enough to force a transition to other energy forms.

Ultimately, it is economic viability that leads to a long-term change and it looks like this is going to be true this time too.

In this country, automobile production and sales are always mentioned as factors while pointing to data on economic growth. There is a good reason for doing so. The automobile industry plays a vital role in the Indian industrial landscape. It accounts for a commanding 45 per cent of the manufacturing GDP, while contributing 7.1 per cent to the country's overall GDP, according to the official data. A McKinsey survey estimated that it provides 37 million direct and indirect jobs and it may create 65 million new jobs by 2026.

In other words, the automobile industry is



one of the key drivers of the economy. The future of this industry should thus be of interest to all observers of the Indian economy. Some elements of its long-term growth have been unveiled in the ongoing Auto Expo being held here after a gap of three years. The hiatus seems to have given time to the industry to review its options in terms of fuel and technology. It has evidently recognised that profitability in the future means banking on both — new varieties of fuel and latest technologies — though there is no mention of the ultimate driverless car. The expo is dominated by new-age transport in all categories, ranging from commercial vehicles to passenger cars to two-wheelers. What is significant is that despite the overwhelming interest in electric vehicles (EVs), there is probably equal keenness to go in for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles as well as the flexi versions which can use

a variety of fuels. The enthusiasm for hydrogen has been supported by the government which is trying, for a change, to be ahead of the curve in technology terms by the launch of its National Hydrogen Mission. The industry is, thus, being given an impetus to shift to this new green fuel. The need for more security in the increasingly wired vehicles is also reported to be one of the features of the new-age vehicles on display. Ease of use by adopting the internet of things (IoT) means greater connectivity which, in turn, means greater scope for misuse by hackers from remote locations. These issues are being sought to be addressed as cybersecurity has become more critical than ever before.

All these developments in the \$122-billion automobile industry need to be put in the context of a looming crisis facing this country. The fact is, international oil prices continue to

be at prices that are higher than can be supported by the exchequer over the long run. Though these have moderated to \$80-85 per barrel over the past two months, the average price of oil in 2022 has been about \$100 per

barrel and shift to renewable energy sources. This is partly due to the need to reduce carbon emissions and pollution that is creating extremely poor air quality in big cities like Delhi and Mumbai.

Despite the overwhelming interest in electric vehicles, there is probably equal keenness to go in for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles as well as the flexi versions which can use a variety of fuels. The need for more security in the increasingly wired vehicles is also reported to be one of the features of the new-age vehicles. Ease of use by adopting the internet of things (IoT) means greater connectivity which, in turn, means greater scope for misuse by hackers from remote locations.

barrel. This, when last year's Budget estimates expected it to range at an acceptable \$70-75 per barrel.

In 2023, despite the current softening trends, investment agencies are placing their bets on higher prices. Goldman Sachs expects price to average around \$98 per barrel next year. This is a heavy burden for an emerging economy that buys 85 per cent of its needs from abroad. Purchases from Russia which are at a discount are helpful, but these account for only about 25 per cent of the total imports till now. The result has been a widening of the current account deficit that is expected to touch 3 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 as compared to only 1.8 per cent in the previous year. It may have been wider, but for an impressive performance in services exports as well as buoyancy in inward remittances.

It is in this backdrop that the new look of the automobile industry assumes greater significance. In the long run, the country needs to move away from its dependence on hydrocar-

But there is also an urgency to conserve the resources. The exchequer is likely to spend over \$140 billion in the current fiscal on importing oil. This money can be used more effectively in other ways.

The expo this time is thus vastly different from the past. It is no longer just a display of new launches based on the old petrol-diesel formats. Instead, it is a depiction of the way in which India can gradually move away from fossil fuels. The government will also have to play its due role by taking a fresh approach to the incentives in this sector. Instead of confining these to electric vehicles, it must provide support to hydrogen-based as well as hybrid and flexi-fuel cars that are becoming the next step for the industry. Safety also needs to be given enough importance, given the rising trend of road accidents. The industry cannot give the excuse of higher costs to avoid the installation of critical lifesaving equipment, especially since these are routinely provided in all vehicles globally.

TOP-HEAVY POLICE DOESN'T GUARANTEE EFFICIENCY

Is it necessary for a senior inspector to be subjected to supervision from his ACP, DCP, additional commissioner, joint commissioner and, now, special commissioner before the ultimate power centre, the commissioner, is satisfied that enough supervision is done? What initiative will he show when he knows that his decision would be countermanded by any of his six-level upper hierarchy? He will merely be a rubber stamp.

VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

THE creation of the post of Special Commissioner in Brihanmumbai (Greater Mumbai) Police has caused a controversy. Among Mumbai's former commissioners of police, Julio Ribeiro has criticised the move, saying that it virtually bifurcates the powers in the apex management structure, thereby weakening the authority of the Commissioner, while MN Singh has welcomed it, stating that it would lead to better supervision on the lines of the Special Commissioner in charge of the Special Cell of the New Delhi Police.

It needs to be examined whether the creation of posts of senior ranks in the police has any correlation with the efficiency or delivery of service to the public.

In the 1970s, when I was a Deputy Commissioner in the Bombay Police, the rank of the Commissioner of Police was only that of a Deputy Inspector General (DIG). The entire landmass of the present Mumbai Police jurisdiction till Mulund-Dahisar was supervised by only four zonal deputy commissioners (DCP). Other DCP-rank officers supervised special wings like the Special Branch, Crime Branch, Armed Forces — in all, only 13. Now, Mumbai has one commissioner, four joint commissioners, 11 additional commissioners and nearly 41 DCPs. The justification cited has been an increased population. The Brihanmumbai Police (Greater Bombay Police or GBP) is modelled after the London Metropolitan Police (MET), also known as 'Scotland Yard' because its back entrance faces the Great Scotland Yard, a street in St James district of Westminster where there was a mediaeval palace that housed the Scottish royalty.

The MET was created in 1829. Its authority does not include the 'City of London Police' (CLP), established in 1839 to manage the policing of a tiny business and financial district as well as the Middle and Inner Temples (Inns of Court), which has only 8,000 permanent residents but nearly 5 lakh daily visitors. The CLP has a strength of only 1,355.

Till the creation of Maharashtra in 1961, the GBP had almost the same designations of supervisory



officers like sergeants (present assistant police inspectors or APIs) and superintendents (ACPs) as the MET even now. The Bombay Police had 23,000 men in the 1970s, 38,000 in the 1990s when it became the Mumbai Police and more than 45,000 after 2000.

As against this, the population of the London Metropolitan Region in the 1970s was 74.38 lakh, about 90 lakh in 2019 and is expected to touch 94 lakh by 2030. The total strength of police officers at the MET is currently 44,000. It was 27,000 in 1984 and 33,360 in 2010.

The remarkable feature of MET's apex management is that the number of supervisory officers has not changed at all over the years. It always had only one commissioner, one deputy commissioner (DC) and three assistant commissioners (AC). One more post of AC was added for the 2012 London Olympics.

How could they manage with so few senior officers? The main difference between Scotland Yard and the Brihanmumbai Police is empowerment. In the UK, all police officers from the rank of constable to the commissioner of police have the same powers of arrest under the Police Act of 1996. Section 30 of the Police Act 1996 states that "a mem-

ber of a police force shall have all powers and privileges of a Constable throughout England and Wales and the adjacent United Kingdom waters." The basic powers of arrest and search of a constable are identical to those of a senior officer, including the chief constable who is equivalent to our director general of police. Hence, the law views them as equal.

If the powers are equal, where is the need for somebody else's supervision? The only difference between a lower police officer and his seniors in London is that a senior is given additional administrative powers to authorise specific police actions as below:

In England and Wales, these powers include authorising continued detention of up to 24 hours of a person arrested for an offence and brought to the police station (granted to sergeants and above at designated police stations), approving house searches under Section 18(1)

of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (granted to inspectors and above), extending detention to 36 hours (granted to superintendents) and extending bail to three months (also to superintendents). More particularly, these powers can be exercised even when they are off duty.

In India, the conditions are not the same and police powers are not delegated so widely as in the UK, where every police officer starts as a constable. Still, it is necessary to have such a cumbersome and wasteful top-heavy structure for supervision? Admittedly, a senior inspector of police in a police station in Mumbai is as experienced and as competent as his counterpart in the UK.

Is it necessary for him to be subjected to supervision from his ACP, DCP, additional commissioner, joint commissioner and, now, special commissioner before the ultimate power centre, ie the commissioner, is satisfied that enough supervision is done? What initiative will a senior inspector show when he knows that his decision would be countermanded by any of his six-level upper hierarchy? He will merely be a rubber stamp.

Why is the police image among the public so unfavourable all over India despite close supervision of such a long hierarchical ladder? How is it that in India, the majority of the public finds it difficult to get access to the police station despite such a supervisory structure? That is the main difference between our police and that of the UK.

Sukesh Chandrashekhar promised big house, luxurious lifestyle if I agreed to be his girlfriend: Nora Fatehi tells court

Nora Fatehi has recorded a fresh statement in Delhi's Patiala House Court in connection to her alleged involvement in the ₹215 crore extortion case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. Nora said she was told that while 'many actresses were dying to be taken care of by Sukesh', he wanted her. She added he promised her a 'big house' if she agreed. Apart from Nora, actors Jacqueline Fernandez, Nikki Tamboli, Chahatt Khanna and others have also been linked to Sukesh amid his alleged money laundering case that has been making news since last year.



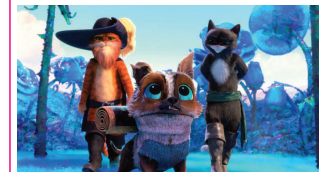
girlfriend. Nora said that the alleged conman 'sought undue favour from her' through his close aide Pinky Irani.

Now, apart from Jacqueline Fernandez, Nora Fatehi has also accused Sukesh Chandrashekhar of lying to her. In Nora's statement in court in connection to the alleged extortion case, the actor and reality TV personality reportedly said that Sukesh had promised her 'a big house and a luxurious lifestyle' if she agreed to be his

care of by Sukesh (Pinky Irani reportedly said). Initially, I did not know who Sukesh was. Later, I thought he used to work at a company called LS Corporation. I neither had any personal contact nor did I ever have any conversations with him. I

had no clue about this and I never met him. The only time I saw him was when the ED confronted me with him at its office." Nora Fatehi's recent statement came days after she appeared before Delhi's Patiala House Court, and recorded her statement in connection with the extortion case. Her statement served as evidence and is now being treated as a witness in the case at hand, as per reports. Nora also said in her statement that she came to know that Sukesh Chandrashekhar was a conman only when she was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the ₹215 crore extortion case. She reportedly also said that she was a 'victim' in the case involving Sukesh, and was not involved in money laundering of any kind. The ED, however, had accused Nora of receiving gifts from Sukesh, including cars, diamonds and designer bags.

Puss in Boots The Last Wish movie review: Fantastic sequel that goes on a brave journey of life and death



The charismatic cat legend, Puss in Boots, is back on the big screen over a decade after his spin-off Puss in Boots (2011). First introduced in Shrek 2 (2004), the swashbuckling feline was all but guaranteed adventures of his own after he stole scenes in the animated sequel. But as time has passed, Puss has to now grapple with his mortality as he's down to his last life in this latest exploit.

Co-directed by Joel Crawford and Januel Mercado, Puss in Boots The Last Wish is a surprisingly deep and gripping look at life and death. The usually unflappable Puss, voiced by Antonio Banderas, has to come to terms with living life on a grand scale and being confronted with Death himself. Every department on the feature has stepped up their game so that the film looks and feels stunning in a 3D viewing. Technically and visually, Puss in Boots The Last Wish has improved greatly upon its previous film.

When confronted by Death himself in the form of a large, menacing wolf (voice of Wagner Moura), Puss panics and runs off to hide at the house of an old cat lady Mama Luna (voice of Da'Vine Joy Randolph), burying the remnants of his former life. He befriends the scrawny little dog Perrito (voice of Harvey Guillen) who disguises himself as a cat in order to survive. But his old life come back to beckon him back to adventure as Goldilocks (voice of Florence Pugh) and The Three Bears Crime Family (voices of Olivia Colman, Ray Winstone, and Samson Kayo) try to recruit him to steal the map of the last wishing star from Big Jack Horner (voice of John Mulaney). Puss, who is now convinced he can bring back his nine lives, goes on a separate mission to hunt down the star in the Dark Forest. Along the way, he runs into his old flame Kitty

Softpaws (voice of Salma Hayek Pinault) who still hasn't forgiven him for their last encounter. Together with Perrito, Puss and Kitty try to outsmart Goldi, the Bear family and the vicious Jack to make the final wish themselves. The sequences in the Dark Forest are more dynamic than the battle in the first Puss in Boots. The stakes are much higher here. The trio of Puss, Kitty and Perrito have some heart-to-heart conversations about the state of their lives. While Puss and Kitty are much more cynical, the sassy Perrito is an optimistic sweetheart that can melt anyone's heart. He also brings in the laughs with his naive statements. Another highlight from the film is when Puss and Kitty are trying to outdo one another by being cute and Perrito falls apart during it.

The showdown duels between the wolf aka Death and Puss are executed well and look like comic book panels come to life on the screen. The presence of Death lingering around every corner brings great anxiety to Puss and the character is genuinely frightening as he intimidates Puss. Perrito comforts the anxious Puss during a heart-warming scene by laying his head down on his stomach as he calms Puss through his panic attack.

The screenplay of Puss in Boots The Last Wish by Paul Fisher and Tommy Sverdlow is moving and mature, discussing deeper themes that will resonate more with adults than the film's target audience of children. There are plenty of sight gags and pratfalls to keep them engaged, but overall, this sequel is deeply emotional in a way they might not understand. The film's final message of family and togetherness doesn't come off as preachy, but is earnest and sincere. The film ends with a satisfying ending that promises Puss's adventures aren't over as yet.

Aparna Balamurali gets uncomfortable as fan touches her, angry fans react 'one should not cross their limits'

ACTRESS APARNA Balamurali is currently busy with the promotions of her upcoming release Thankam. Along with the film's team and co-star Vineeth Srinivasan, Aparna recently attended a promotional event at a college where a student touched her, without consent. A video of the incident has left fans furious on social media. In the video, Aparna looked very uncomfortable when the student made her stand up, and tried to put his arm around her for a picture. Appalled by the behavior, Aparna moved away. She seemed extremely disturbed.



The student immediately apologised for his behaviour and even explained why he did what he did. He folded his hands. However, none of the college authorities on stage reacted to his behaviour. Reacting to the video, a user wrote on Twitter, "There are social conventions to be observed in public so that incidents

like this do not happen. It's happening much too often all over the country. Our

education authorities please take note." "One should not cross their limits, sur-

prisingly none of the film personalities didn't come to her rescue and condemned the incident. Very unfortunate," added another one. Someone else also tagged the Kochi police account on Twitter and wrote: "Please look into this. It is a clear violation of an individual's personal space." Several others also pointed out nobody came to the rescue of Aparna in this uncomfortable situation. Last September, two female actors from the Malayalam film Saturday Night were harassed by the public in a promotional event in a mall in Kochi. Photos and videos from the event had gone viral on social media. Sharing the ordeal, one of the actors wrote on social media, "After the event, I and one of my co-stars were leaving and some guy misbehaved with my colleague, and she didn't even get a chance to see or react because of the rush and the crowd."



Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan Looking For A Guaranteed Start Of 35 Crore+ At The Box Office, Feels Trade Experts: "SRK Fans Coming Back With A Vengeance"

Shah Rukh Khan is all set to make a smashing return with Pathaan, which is scheduled to release on 25th January. With the release date getting closer, movie lovers have been waiting for advance booking to start. All of a sudden, since yesterday, shows are getting listed for online bookings and the response is outstanding. With such a craze around, trade experts are suggesting a thunderous start at the box office and below is all you need to know!

It's been a long time since we have seen SRK in a lead role on the big screen. It was 2018's Zero, in which the actor played his lead role. Now, as King Khan is making his comeback, he and his fans await the box office destruction, with the hope that

the lost touch is retained. The good news is, the magnum opus is off to a flying response in initial advance booking trends.

Speaking about the Pathaan craze, exhibitor Akshaye Rathi told ETimes, "The first-day collection of the film is likely to be 35 crores and it is huge considering it is a working Wednesday and I expect it to go beyond 45 crores on January 26."

He added, "While Shah Rukh Khan hasn't had a release in a while and the last few that happened didn't live up to the expectations of a Shah Rukh Khan film, one thing that can never be disputed is that his stardom has been built over three decades. A couple of unsuccessful films don't shake that up. So, what you're seeing right now is

his fans coming back with a vengeance."

Producer and trade analyst Girish Johar is also confident about Pathaan taking the box office by storm in India as well as overseas. "It's going to take a fantastic start on Wednesday, January 25, which is a non-holiday. I peg a start ranging between 35 and 37 crores. If the start is in this range it will be a fantastic one. We have a holiday on January 26 and a long weekend ahead. The film can do fantastic numbers including the overseas market, where if the film does even 10 to 12 million dollars in the first five days and if everything goes well, we're looking at a 300 crores global box office from the first five days," Johar quoted.

Shilpa Shetty meets Tamannaah at airport, says one must 'never travel with beautiful heroines'

Recently Shilpa Shetty and Tamannaah were spotted together at the Mumbai Airport where were seen greeting each other. Both the actors were seen exiting the airport together as the paparazzi followed them for some pictures. Shilpa also joked with the paparazzi not to click her pictures because her hair is not perfect.

Shilpa was seen in a black top and blue jeans as she kept it casual with a grey blazer and black boots. Meanwhile

Tamannaah wore a green puffed jacket under a grey bodysuit. After they greeted each other and made their way out of the airport, paparazzi tagged along with them to click pictures. It is during this moment, when Shilpa quipped to the media not to click her pictures since her hair was not looking good. Tamannaah responded to her complaint saying "Glamazon!" and asked the media, "Isn't she stunning?" This is when Shilpa added, "Never travel with beautiful

heroines," to which Tamannaah was left speechless in disbelief. Right after this moment, both of them hugged each other as they went in separate directions.

Shilpa will be next seen in Rohit Shetty's Indian Police Force, which also stars Sidharth Malhotra. She was last seen in Sabbir Khan's Nikamma. She was also seen as one of the judges on the TV reality show Super Dancer Chapter 4, alongside choreographer Geeta Kapoor and film-

maker Anurag Basu.

Recently, a video from a New Year's Eve party in Goa had emerged online, where fans spotted Tamannaah and actor Vijay Verma, fuelling rumours of them dating each other. Originally shared by a restaurant staff, the video showed the two of them getting cosy with one another. They were seen hugging and kissing while dancing at the party. They returned to Mumbai together and were spotted at the airport.

Tamannaah will be next seen in Telugu film Bhola Shankar and in Bole Chudiyan, where she is co-starring with actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui. She was last seen in Plan A Plan B with Riteish Deshmukh. Directed by Shashanka Ghosh it also featured Riteish Deshmukh, Poonam Dhillon and Kusha Kapila. She also starred in Madhur Bhandarkar's comedy film Babli Bouncer, that released last year. It also starred Sahil Vaid, Saurabh Shukla and



Instapoetry: The Unexpected Instagram Trend That Boosts Mental Health

It was a Tuesday, and my anxiety was at an all-time high. I was scrolling mindlessly through Instagram, absorbing each post quickly. I saw my friend's babies, an old colleague's wedding, someone's new puppy and a political commentary or two. Somewhere in my endless consumption, I also came across a poem that caught my attention enough for my mechanical thumb to pause.

The words spoke to the root of my anxiety, which was based in a lingering feeling that I wasn't deserving of the things I wanted most. "Why even try?" my anxiety asked. But this poem offered me another perspective. It hit me hard — as if it was written just for me at that moment. Most of all, it (and the hundreds of comments beneath it) reminded me that I wasn't alone.

As a writer, I know firsthand the power words can have. Yet, as

someone in a relationship with a stage-five clinger that I like to call anxiety, I also know that you often need to hear it from someone else in order for it to connect. So, I look for relief and repose from other writers, creators and poets.

While reports and studies show that Instagram can be harmful to mental health, I'd argue that there are a few silver linings — and that the rise of Instagram poetry is one of them. Poetry, as an art form, can be a connective thread that soothes sadness, adds hope on hard days and reminds us of our humanity.

As Harpreet M. Dayal, an interdisciplinary artist and poet put it, Instagram poetry's ascension has "created opportunities for writers to build a community and find a place where their words mean something to people." It's also a place that means a lot to Dayal.

When Dayal moved from the U.K. to Canada to be with her husband, she used writing on



Instagram as a form of therapy to overcome her fears and uncertainty of starting over in a new city (and country). "I found refuge in words," Dayal told HuffPost. "It was my way of making sense of and dealing with fear, and it became a way to slowly open myself up to change as I stepped into the next phase of my life."

Dayal isn't the only one who has turned to Instagram poetry during

life's challenging phases. Josefina Sanders, otherwise known as @loveoffering on Instagram, turned her grief into poetry and shared it on Instagram after suffering her first miscarriage with her husband. "My battle with mental health was what led me to write poetry," Sanders said. "It was terrifying being this vulnerable, but I found some of my very best friends over Instagram

by opening up about my loss, mental health and healing journey."

Jon Lupin, who goes by @ThePoetryBandit, said posting his work and interacting with others who are going through the same thing saved his life. Lupin, who was one of the original "instapoets" along with Tyler Knott and Christopher Pointdexter, turned to Instagram in 2014 to help him navigate alcohol misuse.

Lupin, whose father was a musician, started writing songs at the age of 14 to follow in his dad's footsteps. But then, in Lupin's late 30s, he struggled with alcoholism, which he said stole much of the joy he had in his past hobbies.

"In 2014 I had finally had enough of drinking and picked up the pen and paper again to help me get through the detox, shame, guilt and stress that quitting a substance can take," Lupin said.

Ultra-processed foods cause premature death: Study



Traditional foods and meals created from fresh and minimally processed components are gradually being replaced by ultra-processed foods (UPFs), ready-to-eat or heat industrial formulations made with substances taken from foods or synthesised in laboratories, recent research has revealed.

The study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, published by Elsevier, has found that increased consumption of these foods was associated with more than 10% of all-cause premature, preventable deaths in Brazil in 2019, although Brazilians consume far less of these products than countries with high incomes.

"Previous modelling studies have estimated the health and economic burden of critical ingredients, such as sodium, sugar and trans fats, and specific foods or drinks, such as sugar-sweetened beverages," explained lead investigator Eduardo A.F. Nilsson, ScD, Center for Epidemiological Research in Nutrition and Health, University of São Paulo, and Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil. "To our knowledge, no study to date has estimated the potential impact of UPFs on premature deaths. Knowing the deaths attributable to the consumption of these foods and modelling how changes in dietary patterns can support more effective food policies might prevent disease and premature deaths."

Dr. Nilsson and his colleagues modeled data from nationally representative dietary surveys to estimate baseline intakes of UPFs by sex- and age-group. Statistical analyses were used to estimate the proportion of total deaths that were attributable to the consumption of UPFs and the impact of reducing intake of UPFs by 10%, 20%, and 50% within those age groups, using data from 2019.

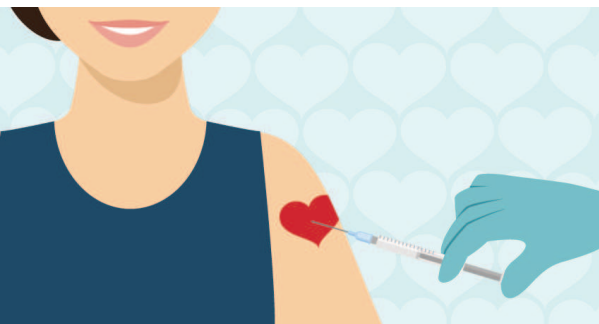
Across all age groups and sex strata, consumption of UPFs ranged from 13% to 21% of total food intake in Brazil during the period studied. A total of 541,260 adults aged 30 to 69 died prematurely in 2019, of whom 261,061 were from preventable, non-communicable diseases. The model found that approximately 57,000 deaths that year could be attributed to the consumption of UPFs, which corresponded to 10.5% of all premature deaths and 21.8% of all deaths from preventable non-communicable diseases in adults aged 30 to 69. The investigators suggested that in high income countries such as the United States, Canada, the UK, and Australia, where UPFs account for more than half of total caloric intake, the estimated impact would be even higher.

Dr. Nilsson noted that UPFs have steadily replaced the consumption of traditional whole foods, such as rice and beans, over time in Brazil. Reducing the consumption of UPFs and promoting healthier food choices may require multiple interventions and public health measures, such as fiscal and regulatory policies, changing food environments, strengthening the implementation of food-based dietary guidelines, and improving consumer knowledge, attitudes, and behavior.

Reducing consumption of UPFs by 10% to 50% could potentially prevent approximately 5,900 to 29,300 premature deaths in Brazil each year.

Are vaccines affecting your heart? No, say experts

Since immunisation against COVID-19, one of the deadliest and most disruptive diseases the world has ever seen, began in early 2021, several discussions about the possible side effects of these vaccines have been trending on social media now and again. While a widely spread discussion regarding COVID booster vaccine, even amid the medical fraternity, pointed towards cardiovascular side effects, cardiologists have debunked these as rumours, calling such possibilities very rare. Several states in India have lifted the COVID restrictions. Since India began immunisation against the disease in April 2021, four vaccines, namely Covishield, Covaxin, Corbevax and Sputnik Light have been available in India since April 2021. Multiple posts were circulated and have been seen surfacing on social media that people have been reporting cases of heart inflammation or heart attack after the COVID-booster shots. However, cardiologists maintain that the vaccines are widely safe. Dr PK Joshi, Director and Consultant Physician Cardiologist at Niramaya Hospital in Chinchwad, said, "All vaccines are safe, that's why they are given a license for medical use. All drugs and vaccines undergo clinical trials. Occasional reactions are seen but they are very rare, like in one in lakh. In COVID-19, only the Pfizer vaccine had the higher incidences of reaction, but still, it was within permissible limits."



Myocarditis was listed as a rare side effect of some vaccines like Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty®), Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax™), or Novavax COVID-19 vaccine. However, experts around the world have argued that these heart issues are very rare and treatable and not as dangerous as COVID-19 itself. India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 216.54 Crore, as reported by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on September 17, 2021. As of September 28, 2021 around 29,39,446 people were vaccinated with the shot of COVID booster dose in India.

"In India, 200 crores doses given. Abnormal reactions were reported only in 4,000, that is just 0.0002 percent. Vaccines have protected the 130 crores population

from severe COVID-19," Joshi adds. A number of international studies have demonstrated that those who have received the vaccine have a significantly lower risk of developing severe consequences caused by COVID-19. An unhealthy lifestyle (eating junk food, smoking, tobacco consumption, inordinate alcohol consumption), inadequate sleep and stress (physical and mental), on the other hand, affect the fitness of the heart commonly. In fact, research has also shown that the possibility of one getting myocarditis after getting infected with COVID-19 is much higher. Thus, vaccine might in fact save you from myocarditis by saving you from COVID.

Dr Shailesh Vaidya, MD in Ayurveda (spine and joint) said, "I don't have any concrete info regarding booster shots causing

cardiac ailments. Neither there is any study as of now in the public domain, nor even clinical experience regarding such cardiac ailments among practitioners. There may be rare coincidences of cardiac problems after a booster, which is possibly being thought of as a common adverse effect in our diverse society."

He added, "There is a category of people who are against the idea of vaccination. Secondly, the fear factor along with over-imaginative minds become the sources of pseudo information."

In fact, a new study from Israel found that the risk of developing myocarditis among males ages 16 to 19 years was about 1 in 15,000 after the third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The research published in the American Heart Association's

flagship journal Circulation also said that the cases were rare and mild. While medical professionals have observed that there is a rise in the number of young people suffering cardiac ailments, it has not been pinned upon the COVID vaccines.

"There have been incidences of death due to cardiac arrest in young people who were relatively fit and active in these two-three years. But was it because of COVID or COVID vaccination? It is not clear because, after the second phase of Covid in April 2021, I feel most of the population who did not come in contact during the first round got contacted in the second round and those left in the third round. So almost 95 percent have contacted Covid. So, whom to put the blame on, the disease or the vaccine is a dilemma," Dr Tripti Pathak said.

Dr Devyani Soman (MD Pathology) said that in India the percentage of people who faced heart ailments after Covid vaccination was negligible. "Enough evidence, proofs are not available. Enough studies are not done yet. Plus, as Covid cases are quite low since last year, people are not taking the vaccine. So, it is difficult to comment," Soman said.

However, experts do believe that there is a need for research in the field. Alessandra Kamille Mallari (MD, DPM), a general pathologist and professor at UV Gullas College of Medicine, Cebu, Philippines, said, "Proper research needs to be done to get a specific answer."

I tried adding five minutes of ab exercises to my strength workouts - here's what happened

I'm lazy with ab workouts but wanted this to change so I tried adding a few core building moves to my staple weight training workouts

I've grown a real love for weight training over the last couple of years and enjoy the physical and mental strength I gain from practicing it. But as I have channeled my time and effort into learning this skill I've taken less time to focus on growing my abs. So I've been trying to muster back up the motivation to train my core without taking the fun out of my usual workout schedule.

Rewind to being in lockdown during the pandemic and I was completing many of the best workouts for abs near enough every day to pass the time and feel like I was staying in shape. But as soon as I could get back to the gym I was set on building up my strength and muscle again using equipment like the barbell and some of the best kettlebells to challenge my lower and upper body.

Lo and behold, core strength is essential when it comes to weight training in order to improve form, help with posture, and protect the back from injury. I may have learned how

to deadlift properly but if I wanted to progress in my training and lift heavier, I knew I'd have to pick up some core strengthening exercises sooner rather than later.

I decided that the only way I'd be able to form some kind of habit with ab training and remain consistent with it was to add a short bout of moves onto the end of my usual workouts. After every strength session, I grabbed one of the best yoga mats from my gym and rounded off things with a five-minute ab finisher. I tried to target all areas of my core by performing 45-60 seconds of different exercises like planks, side planks, crunches, and deadbugs. This is what I noticed.

I ENJOYED THE PAIN Without sounding too sadistic, I liked the soreness that I felt in my core after working it out. It was reassuring that I had successfully targeted my abdominal and core muscles even though I was only doing five minutes of bodyweight moves to get results.

It also was very normal for



me to experience muscle pain in my stomach when laughing or sitting up in bed following my ab training. The American Council on Exercise (opens in new tab), explains that DOMS (delayed onset muscle soreness) is a natural process of the body following intense exercise. It usually develops between 24-48 hours after a workout and with in 72 hours your body typically

will have repaired the tears in your muscles. Don't get me wrong, the first week of workouts was pretty brutal. My abs weren't used to being challenged in this way and needed longer to recover. However, the more sessions I finished off with abs, the less sore the exercises felt. It reminded me of the painful feeling your butt feels after getting on a bike seat after

a long time. The first ride is agony and the pain lingers until your lower half adapts to the feeling of sitting on a small bike seat again.

IT WAS A DIFFERENT CHALLENGE FROM WEIGHT LIFTING

The free weight section of a gym can have a more intense feel to it than other sections do. Depending on your goal it often

has a focus on moving up a weight. For me, I try and use the progressive overload technique to avoid hitting a plateau and continue making strength and muscle gains. When I move up a weight plate or dumbbell I typically see this as a signal of improvement and power but I still like to have a more holistic approach to fitness and not just define my strength by weights.

It was certainly humbling, finishing up a big leg day, placing myself in a plank position, and struggling to hold a perfect plank position for more than a minute. I had more admiration for the people around me in the floor section holding V-sits and performing heavy weighted Russian twists than anyone else in the gym as it takes just as much discipline and consistency as it does the person in the gym who can squat the heaviest. AB WORKOUTS CAN INCORPORATE WEIGHTS

The stronger my core became, the more challenging I could make my five-minute ab finishers. Rather than increase the duration that I was spending on

abs at the end of my strength sessions, I decided to incorporate some weights into my exercises. Sometimes this looked like adding these dumbbell ab exercises onto the end of my training and incorporating the weight into well-known moves such as crunches, dead bugs and plank variations. If ever I don't make it to the gym, I can use a set of the best adjustable dumbbells at home to get in an ab workout and can still increase the challenge by increasing the weight load on the spot.

Or for the days, when I have no desire to get on the floor for core training or have a bit of an achy back I complete standing ab exercises. Some of my favorites to do are weighted side bends, crossover toe touches, and around the worlds using a kettlebell. Weights or no weights, five minutes of ab, and core exercises now form a staple part of my regular gym routine. It's a time-efficient activity that makes me feel good and complements my strength training.

Doda Admin hosts maiden virtual Lumbardar, Chowkidar Conference

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JANUARY 19: The District Administration Doda on Thursday organised a maiden virtual conference of all Lumbardars and Chowkidars to discuss and seek their cooperation in the effective implementation of roadmap for social and economic development of rural areas.

The Conference was also attended by the ADCs, SDMs, SPs, ASPs, SDPOs, Tehsilidars, Naib Tehsilidars, SHOs, Chowkidars and other concerned officials.

Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Abdul Qayoom interacted with the Lumbardars and Chowkidars along with other concerned officers and officials. Lumbardars and Chowkidars appreciated District Administration for holding maiden conference for them. They also presented their demands and issues, which were listened patiently and ensured to

forward the same to the concerned authorities for taking viable decisions.

The SSP, while addressing the audience, informed that a District Security Grid with all the Lumbardars, Chowkidars, SHOs Chowki Officers, VDOs, Volunteers and Executive Magistrates, as members shall be created soon for intelligence sharing and maintaining peace and brotherhood in the district. He urged the Lumbardars and Chowkidars to report about suspicious person or incident in the area to the nearest Police Station/Post. He said "Drug menace has jeopardized the future of our youth and stakeholders need to shoulder the responsibility to identify and report to police about the perpetrators." He asked the participants to act as whistleblowers against perpetrators of drug trafficking and identification and rehabilitation of addicts.

Expressing concern over frequent road mishaps in

the district especially in the winters, the SSP appealed them to discourage and report about unfit vehicles, Untrained Drivers, and Overloading in their respective areas.

Availing the opportunity, the DC discussed in detail scores of issues with them hampering the systematic development of the district. He underlined the importance of strong communication and the relation between Lumbardars, Chowkidars and administration. He said that Lumbardars and Chowkidars are eyes and ears of administration in the rural areas. He asked all the SDMs and SDPOs to make a directory of mobile numbers of all the Lumbardars and Chowkidars of their jurisdiction and stay in touch with them and involve them in all the developmental activities. He urged them to ensure the punctuality of government officials and act as the representative of the Government in their vil-

lages and spread the awareness about the individual and community welfare schemes.

The DC informed that the Government has shifted to 100% online mode for providing efficient, transparent, and timely service delivery to the beneficiaries. He also informed that tomorrow a live and virtual session shall be conducted for which the link is already in circulation, for imparting training on use of online services by the end users through smart phones and from CSCs. He reiterated that communal harmony is a prerequisite for inclusive development of the district. Expressing optimism, he said nothing can stop us to make our district ADHUT Doda if all stakeholders work on the same page.

He asked the Chowkidars and Lumbardars to extend their support to the District Administration in identifying the drug abuse victims for their proper counselling and rehabilitation.

Dr. Samoon inaugurates development works at Kashmir Govt Polytechnic, Gogjibagh

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, today inaugurated Sports activity hall, Computer Laboratory, renovated Leather Technology Workshop and wood Technology Workshop at Kashmir Government Polytechnic during his visit to the Institute.

Principal Secretary appreciated the establishment of this Computer

Laboratory with latest LAN networking and CCTV surveillance.

While inaugurating the renovated leather technology laboratory, Dr. Samoon lauded the efforts of Principal and the faculty for restoring the flood hit leather machinery. He laid emphasis on full utilization of this machinery for practical training of students.

He said that the Leather Technology has huge potential in the market which needs to be exploited.

While inaugurating the indoor sports hall, Principal Secretary expressed happiness that sports activities are being given a boost which will go a long way in building overall personality of students.

On the occasion, the students of the institution presented a cultural programme.

Later, Dr. Samoon distributed Appreciation Certificates among outstanding faculty staff and meritorious students.

Justice Dhar reviews working of judicial institutions, inspects progress on infrastructure projects in Reasi District

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JANUARY 19: Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh today visited Reasi where he reviewed the working of judicial institutions and inspected progress on infrastructure projects.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, who is also Administrative Judge for District Reasi took stock of working of Courts, inspected progress of ongoing work of Court Complex at Katra

and the site of new Court Complex Reasi along with the Chief architect and other Officers. Justice Dhar interacted with the Bar members at District Court Complex, Reasi where Bar members of district Reasi submitted a memorandum of demands. While interacting with the judicial officer, Justice Dhar stressed on speedy disposal of cases.

Later, he chaired a meeting of district administration to discuss the

issues pertaining to administration of justice.

R.N. Watal, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Reasi; DC Reasi Babila Rakwal; Archana Charak, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Reasi; Sunil Kumar, Secretary DLSA, Reasi; Priyanka Mahajan, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Reasi; SSP Reasi Amit Gupta; Lakshay Badyal, Munisiff Katra and PP Ranjeev Gupta attended the meeting.

Awareness event on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao held at Panchayat Hidyayal

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, JANUARY 19: An awareness programme was today organised on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao by the Mission Vatsalya, DHEW Mission Shakti and One Stop Centre (OSC) Kishitwar here at Govt. UPS Traksena Nagri Panchayat Hidyayal.

Sarpanch, Pyare Lal Parihar and a large number of local women and civil society members attended the program. Protection officer (NIC) Mission Vatsalya DCPU, Touseef

Iqbal Butt educated the participants about women centric schemes and laws for the protection of the rights of womenfolk. He said a special focus has been laid on defeating the practice of female foeticide.

He said the aim of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Mission is to ensure that the women and girls get equal opportunities and their survival and security be given top priority.

Hina Jaan Coordinator DHEW, Mission Shakti Kishitwar also spoke

about the government initiatives taken for protection of women rights and their empowerment.

The team of DHEW Mission Shakti Kishitwar also pasted stickers of Beti Bachao Bati Padhao in and around the District Hospital and spread awareness about the scheme.

Shanu Rana, Gender Specialist DHEW Mission Shakti, Kaji Parihar Case Worker (One Stop Centre), Ruchi Sen (Office Assistant) also spoke on the occasion.

GDC Ramgarh conducts Plantation Drive on College Campus

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, JANUARY 19: The National Service Scheme unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College Ramgarh conducted a plantation drive on the campus here today.

The drive was conducted on day-two of the ongoing '7 Days NSS Special Winter Camp' under the banners of 'My College My Pride' and 'My Town My Pride'. The drive was conducted under the able guidance and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur, the Principal of the College.

On the occasion, she said that tree plantation is not just something that should be done; instead, it is a necessity, the urgent need of the hour. Planting trees is especially important to protect our environment against air pollution and global warming.

She elaborated that the young volunteers should actively participate in organizing tree plantation campaigns. Considering the manifold benefits of trees, including that they release oxygen into the air, absorb unpleasant odours as well as harmful gases such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide from the air and purify it, protect us from dangerous ultraviolet rays, provide us with food and the pivotal role played by trees in preventing soil erosion, maintaining ecological balance and most especially in lessening the effects of global warming. Besides all these benefits, trees and plants enhance the ambience of the plantation areas and surroundings.

Dr. Shamsheer Lal, the NSS Programme Officer, motivated the NSS volunteers to participate in such

activities with zeal and enthusiasm. He encouraged them to plant more and more trees and plants for environmental conservation and sustainability.

The plants, including mango plant, loquat plant, peach plant, some flower plants, etc., were brought by the faculty members, the NSS volunteers and other students. Moreover, the NSS volunteers of the College dug the holes in the ground of the campus. Thereafter, the College Principal, faculty members and volunteers planted these plants and watered them adequately.

Many other activities of importance to environment and the society will be conducted by the NSS unit 'Prabha' of the College in the coming days. The Camp will conclude on 25th of January, 2023.

DEO Kishtwar reviews arrangements for celebration of National Voters Day 2023

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, JANUARY 19: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav who is also the District Election Officer, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the celebration of upcoming National Voters Day.

The meeting was attended by ADC Shant Lal, ADC Kishori Lal Sharma, Dy. DEO, Nareesh Kumar, AC/Ramjeet Singh Charak, DPO, Sunil Bhutyal, DIO Amit Kumar, Deputy CEO, DYSSO, SVEEP Consultant, representatives of Degree Colleges and other concerned

officers. Threadbare discussions were held in the meeting on the arrangements to be placed in and activities to be conducted on occasion of the NVD to be held on 25th January.

Dy DEO and SVEEP Consultant apprised the meeting about various activities to be organised on the occasion.

The meeting decided to hold the main programme in the KV School wherein the students, citizens and other stakeholders shall participate in the celebration of NVD.

The DEO directed to launch an

awareness campaign across the district for maximum participation of citizens in the electoral process and to encourage the newly eligible voters. It was decided that the NVD pledge ceremony, screening of awareness films and 'Main Bhi Bharat' Song, Quiz competition besides the fests and inauguration of Youth Icons will be organised on the occasion.

The DEO directed for giving wide publicity to the programme through live streaming on social media platforms, besides through electronic and print media.

DHEW Ganderbal conducts awareness camp at Badampora

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JANUARY 19: District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Mission Shakti Ganderbal in collaboration with Sakhi One Stop Centre and NRLM Ganderbal today conducted an awareness camp cum outreach programme at Badampora block Wakura, here.

Programme was attended by almost 200 people including adolescent girls, local women and registered SHGs beneficiaries of block Wakura, team from DHEW, OSC and NRLM.

On the occasion the participants were made aware about the working and functioning of the District Social Welfare department at district level besides

awareness was raised on different schemes like Pension schemes, Scholarship schemes, Prosthetic Aids, SMAAS etc. The team also threw light on Women empowerment schemes available at District level such as DHEW, OSC, WHI, 181, Shelter Home, Marriage Assistance Scheme, PMMYV and Employment generation schemes viz. Tejaswini, Mumkin, PMEGP, etc.

DHEW team provided awareness regarding updated schemes, criteria and documentation.

The team also gave detailed information on how DHEW-Mission Shakti is playing an effective role by providing awareness/training among

young female folks to generate self-employment by taking advantage of available schemes at District level.

Problems such as domestic violence, eve teasing, cybercrimes and other

problems faced by women and their solutions were also discussed.

Later, many women were linked under different schemes and pamphlets of all helplines were distributed among the ladies.

Capacity Building programme for Women PRI members concludes at J&K-IMPARD, Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: A three days Capacity Building programme for Women members of Panchayat Raj Institutions of J&K under the programme 'She is a Change Maker' of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi concluded on 18th January at J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (J&K IMPARD), Srinagar. The Capacity Building programme is part of the series jointly by elected women members of Panchayat Raj Institutions of all districts of Kashmir Valley including District Development Council Members, Block Development Council Members and Village Panchayat Members.

Anti-encroachment drive: B'pora Admin retrieves 1571 Kanal & 14 Marlas of State/Kahcharie land

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JANUARY 19: Acting tough against land grabbers, the Administration Bandipora retrieved around 1600 kanals of Government land in a single day during anti-encroachment drives carried out across the district, today.

With these 1571 Kanals, the total retrieved land has increased to around 28000 Kanals which includes 13217 kanals of State land and 15471 kanals of Kahcharai land.

It was informed that in the last one week around 3000 kanals of land was retrieved from the land grabbers including 500 kanals of land in Sumbal lying adjacent to Highway having industrial utility.

The retrieved land is also being earmarked for various public purposes like developmental projects, playgrounds, village centric amenities, industries, etc. by the Revenue officials in consultation with concerned villagers/PRI and sign boards are also erected immediately after the eviction drives.

It was given out that out of total 20887 of Kahcharai land, 15471 Kanals of land has been retrieved amounting to 75% of Kahcharai land in the district and the concerned Tehsilidars have already issued notices to the encroachers and the efforts for removal of encroachments on the rest of the land are underway in full-swing.

He said that the District has created a land bank of around 25000 Kanals out of which around 1500 Kanals have been earmarked for Industrial Estates, 2000 Kanals for Industrial Use (Out of which around 1377 Kanals stand already transferred), around 100 Kanals

for Handloom/ Handicraft and other agri-based activities and around 200 Kanals for setting up of Housing Colony in Watpora Bandipora.

At Sumbal 500 Kanals of prime land having industrial utility lying adjacent to highway was retrieved last week and anti-encroachment drives are taken to preserve Government land from illegal possession of land mafia and use the land for public good.

Dr. Owais also appreciated the efforts of concerned Tehsilidars and other field officials of Revenue Department in anti-encroachment drives and asked them to speed up the drives with added efforts and dedication.

MVD Reasi issues maiden All J&K Permit

DC hands over authorization document to beneficiary

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JANUARY 19: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal today handed over the First All J&K permit issued by the Motor Vehicle department in the district to the beneficiary Sheetal Singh of Ransoo in presence of ARTO, Rajesh Gupta.

The DC said that any person intending to operate a passenger transport vehicle under All J&K contract carriage segment can apply

online for grant of Route Permit (J&K) from the Motor Vehicle Department Reasi.

The DDC said that the permit procedures have been simplified as now onwards an applicant can apply directly for the permit online on the transport department website after registration of vehicle under contract carriages segment.

Explaining further, the ARTO said that the applicant has to apply for a Letter of Authority after the

approval of RTA/STA, which is mandatory for registration of vehicles and subsequent issuance of Route Permit under any commercial segment.

As per latest amendment in J&K Motor Vehicles Rules, the applicant can directly approach any concerned dealer, along with requisite formalities for registration of any commercial vehicle in compliance with BS-VI Emission norms (Approved Models Only) under Contract Carriage

DDC Rajouri reviews progress of RDD sector works

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JANUARY 19: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to review the performance of the Rural Development Department.

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed review of the implementation of PMAY-G, Awas plus, ODF plus, development of Amrit Sarovars and status of aadhaar seeding under

MGNREGA etc.

The meeting was informed that the work on 21699 PMAY houses and 1286 Awas plus houses have been completed in the district so far.

Similarly 101 Amrit Sarovars have been developed in different parts of the district to achieve the goal of water conservation.

Reviewing implementation of MGNREGA, the DC was informed

that Adhar cards of 87 percent job card holders have been seeded with their accounts. DDC stressed on achieving hundred percent aadhaar seeding under MGNREGA at the earliest and asked them to monitor progress in this regard on a daily basis. Similarly, the DC also reviewed the progress of other schemes being implemented by the department in the district.

Center approves Rs 135 Cr Apple Cluster for Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JANUARY 19: Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) today approved an "Apple Cluster" for Shopian district in Jammu and Kashmir under Cluster Development Programme.

This was announced during a daylong conference on 'India Cold Chain Conclave', organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in conjunction with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New

Delhi. During the conference, Secretary MoAFW, Manoj Ahuja, formally announced the decision with regard to setting up of the Apple Cluster for the district under Cluster Development Programme and nod to the 'Acceptance Letter' to J&K for implementation.

The Shopian Apple Cluster envisages development of Shopian Apple on three verticals including pre-production-production, post-harvest management and value addition

and logistics, marketing and branding to make it globally competitive.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, while highlighting broad contours of the project, said that Agriculture Production Department, with the technical support of National Horticulture Board and Grant Thornton (Ministry's Consultants for the CDP) invited RFPs for selection of Implementing Agencies (IAs) to execute the verticals in Shopian

district and M/s FIL emerged as the successful Implementing Agency for the project.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 135.23 crore, of which, about Rs 37.05 crore would be provided by the MoAFW as grant-in-aid. The IA shall provide an equity to the tune of Rs 29.91 crore and raise a term loan of Rs 68.27 crore.

The project is expected to be implemented in four years and it is expected to transform the landscape of the horticulture eco-system of Shopian district.

Court framed charges against three for disrupted assembly

JI NEWS SERVICE

JKUT (Jammu), January-19-2023-(JNF)- In a much publicized case in which three persons were arrested in the year 2012 for disrupted the assembly session, CJM Jammu Anjum Ara framed charges against Munish Kumar Khajuria, Ambedkar Gupta and Sunny Mahajan.

The case of prosecution is that on 10.10.2012 a letter was received from complainant (PW 1) stating therein that on 08.10.2012 during Assembly proceedings accused persons namely Ambedkar Gupta, Manish Khajuria and Sunny Mahajan had managed their entry into public gallery without any valid reason. During the question hour all the three suddenly stood up from their seats and started shouting slogans besides waving the flag of a newly established political party "JKDF" and two of them jumped into the well of the house from the height of approximately 7 ft. In an open view and committed trespass. One of the offenders reached near the seats of members in the front row at about distance of 22fts from the public gallery and shouted in an aggressive manner addressing the speaker in an unprecedented manner. Had they not been controlled by watch and ward staff, they might have hurt and assaulted Hon'ble members which was apparent from their aggressive gestures. They brought flags with them which clearly indicates their intention not only to disrupt the proceedings of the house but have come prepared to undermine its sanctity. During the course of trespass, accused persons physically assaulted

the watch and ward staff deployed on duty in the house and during the process of their eviction. They tried to flee from the legislature complex but were caught hold by the watch and ward staff. Thereafter orders were passed by the Hon'ble Speaker of handing them over to the Special security civil Secretariat pending decision into the contempt committed by them in an actual view of the house and they were ordered to be kept in police custody till 10.10.2012. On this application FIR was registered and investigation of the case comes into vogue. During investigation, public gallery pass, wallet Rs. 1400/- and JKDF flag were recovered from the accused persons and seized in the case. Site map was prepared. Statements of witnesses no. 1 and 4 under section 166-A Cr.P.C were recorded before the court. Accused were arrested on 10.10.2012 who were later on released on bail. On the basis of investigation offences under section 352/452 RPC were found made out against all the three accused persons.

CJM Jammu Anjum Ara after hearing both the sides observed that after going through the initial complaint filed by the complainant, contents of FIR/Challan and the statements recorded by the I/O u/s 161-Cr.P.C., and the material annexed therewith, it appears that prima facie the accused persons have committed offences u/s 452/352RPC as such they cannot be discharged at this stage. The contradictions if any in the prosecution case and in the statements of witnesses cannot be looked

into at this stage and same can be considered at final stage on the basis of evidence to be adduced during trial. Since there is prima facie sufficient material against the accused persons as such the material on record cannot be meticulously examined at this stage of framing of charge when only prima facie case is to be examined. It is settled law that at the stage of framing of charge, court is not required to undertake an elaborate enquiry for sifting and weighing the material on record. Once there is sufficient material against the accused persons which would ultimately result in conviction, the court should frame charges against accused persons without elaborating the evidence and other material on the file. It appears from the record on file that there is prima facie sufficient and enough material against the accused persons, therefore, the accused persons are as such liable to be charged for the offences alleged to be committed by them. Above case law relied upon by defence counsel is not relevant at this stage and does not support submissions of Id counsel. With all due respect to the case relied upon by defence counsel but the same is not applicable in present facts and circumstances of the case. In the backdrop of observation made above, this court is of the opinion that there exist sufficient reasons and grounds to proceed further in the case. Prima facie commission of offences u/s 452/352 RPC is made out against the accused persons. The accused are accordingly charged for the offences u/s 452/352RPC JNF

Chief Secretary directs officers to put STPs to optimum use

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today directed the officers to focus on optimum utilisation of all the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

He passed on these directions during a meeting here to review the functioning of the 30 MLD STP at Bhagwati Nagar Jammu. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development

Department (H&UDD) and other concerned officers.

While chairing the meeting, CS directed that our endeavour should not only be enhancing the treatment capacity of the STPs but on the quality of treatment done by them. He said that there is no point treating some waste water to a high degree and mixing it with untreated water.

He said that STP at Bhagwati Nagar should be put to its optimum use. He said that maximum benefits

will be reaped only when it reaches to its full capacity of 30 MLD. He said that it needs to be studied whether we have reaped the fruits we capable of from creation of such public assets.

Chief Secretary directed the officers to explore options of short term and intermediate solutions for sewage treatment where STPs are yet to be developed. He said that short term and long term solutions need innovations in their approach towards grey water and sewage management.

CS launches online services for Migrants & Employees

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today launched five services developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for the migrants registered with Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) and retiring government employees, seeking 'No Demand Certificate (NDC)' from the Estates Department.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT and Information Department; Secretary, GAD; Secretary, DMRRR; Directors of Estates Kashmir/Jammu; Scientists from NIC and many other concerned officers. Some of the officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing. Dr

Mehta stressed upon the officers to bring quality and promptness in the availability and delivery of all of the services. He enjoined upon them that any undue delay would be unacceptable. He remarked that the main objective for offering various services in online mode to public is their easy accessibility, timely delivery and transparency.

He maintained that when most of the services are provided online to public, the need is to integrate them with Auto-appeal system so that the same are provided within the period envisaged in the Public Services Guarantee Act. He observed that integration of relevant services with the auto-appeal facility would be a game changer in real sense and bring about utmost responsibility and accounta-

bility among the serving departments.

He urged the IT Department to set targets for itself for integration of these services with auto-appeal system and RAS, besides on boarding them on platforms like e-UNNAT, Service Plus and DigiLocker. He applauded them for performing yeoman's job by bringing about an IT revolution for taking the administration at the doorsteps of people. He directed them to sensitize the officials on ground to be the facilitators and friends of common people.

On the occasion it was said that all the services launched today have been developed by the scientists of local chapter of NIC and are integrated with RAS for seeking feedback from theapplicants.

Self defence training camp held at GCW Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 19: To train and impart knowledge of various martial skills to students, a one day Self defence Training Camp was held today in Government College for Women Udhampur.

The Camp was organized by Committee Against Sexual Harassment in collaboration with 1 J&K Girls BN under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and under the guidance and support of Principal of the college, Dr. Monika Sharma.

The objective of the Self defence Training Camp was to educate the students and NCC cadets of the college about the various self defence techniques required in our day to day life.

The resource persons cum trainers of the camp were Sensei Sheikh

Aftab, Hindustani 3 degree black belt in karate. Chief instructor/Technical director and President District Udhampur Karate association, Udhay Singh Second Don Black Belt in Karate and General Secretary District Udhampur Karate Association, Sneha student of Sena-V from GCW Udhampur, Suhana Bashir a national medalist in karate who learned karate from Government institute of Chhattisgarh, SAI (sports Authority of India), Mehak of class 10 most popular player of karate at National level, Shivi Badyal-first Don Black belt in karate who is also a multitaleanted Singer and anchor.

The program started with the formal welcome address by Prof. Shalla Jastrota, ANO (NCC). Sensei Sheikh Aftab started the first session by encouraging the students to use their right of self defence as a legal justification for the use of force in times of danger.

A group of students as well as teaching faculty of the college practically learned the techniques and various methods of Self defense as taught by the trainers. Resource persons/Trainers were honoured with mementoes and certificates of Appreciation. NCC Cadet Manvi Singh and Cadet Aastha of the college anchored the programme. More than 80 students attended the event. Prof. Sarika Mahajan, Dr. Kewal Kumar, Prof. Tania Akhtar, Prof. Yash Kumar and NCC Caretaker also graced the occasion with their benign presence.

The program ended with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Ashok Sharma, Co-convenor cash.

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Advisor Bhatnagar addresses workshop cum technical session for MGNF fellows

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JANUARY 19: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today said that formulation of Skill Development plans and upgradation of skilling ecosystem is need of the hour as it forms the core of development of any region.

Advisor stated this while addressing a workshop cum technical session and Academic Module program held for the fellows of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF).

Director IIM Jammu, Professor B S Sahay; Mission Director, JK Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Chairperson, Executive Education, IIM Jammu, Dr. Pankaj Agarwal; Program Manager, IIM Jammu, Dr. Shahid Jibrani; fellows of MGNF scholarship and other concerned per-

sons were present during the session.

While addressing the MGNF fellows, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized upon them to focus on solutions rather than dwelling on problems. He told them to make use of the fellowship and work hard to become the face of skilling in their respective districts.

Advisor further said that Skill Development plans prepared by the fellows will give tremendous boost to skilling and development scenario of different districts. He advised the fellows to utilise the expertise of IIM Jammu while drafting Skill Development plans. In his address, Director IIM Jammu, talked in detail about the initiatives being taken up by the fellows towards the skilling initiative and the way forward. He motivated

the fellows to work harder and face challenges with a broad and innovative mindset.

During the workshop, Program Manager, Dr. Shahid Jibrani, briefed the participants about MGNF program. He also spoke on the work done by fellows across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Leh, Pondicherry, West Bengal and Chandigarh, who were participating in the workshop.

During the workshop, the fellows talked about the district skill development plans that have been formulated besides sharing their experiences in the skilling sector. The fellows shared their experiences on the field and the work they have initiated in districts.

Later, Advisor had a constructive interaction session with the fellows.

DC Jammu reviews implementation of National Clean Air Programme

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JANUARY 19: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of National Clean Air Programme and status of works under City Action Plan.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the ARTO to robust the activities to improve air quality including development of EV charging infrastructure in the city to encourage e-rickshaws/e-vehicles, setting up of adequate number of PUC testing centres, registered vehicles with PUC certificates etc.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the J&K Pollution Control Committee to furnish year wise details regarding air quality improvement, number of industries complying with emission norms and number of industries shifted to clean fuel.

The Commissioner JMC was asked to submit the details of activities and expenditure incurred under NCAIP, capacity building and outreach programs, implementation of SBM plan and status of bio-mass burning etc.

The District Supply Officer was asked to submit the details regarding the number of fuel stations and

inspection of fuel adulteration.

The DC emphasized on the need for proactive action by the implementing agencies. She asked all the line Departments to submit detailed action taken reports regarding measures undertaken regarding Air Pollution Control.

She also stressed the Officers to ensure all hotspots related to air pollution are covered so that necessary measures are incorporated in the City Action Plan. Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav, besides senior officers of other concerned departments attended the meeting.

DC Poonch reviews progress of development works under SAMAGRA Shiksha

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JANUARY 19: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Inder Jeet today chaired a meeting here in the conference hall of DC Office to review the implementation of different components of SAMAGRA Shiksha.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director School Education Department Poonch-Rajouri, Mohammad Ashraf, Chief Planning Officer, Masood Ahmed, Chief Education Officer, Bishamber Dass, DEPO.

Narinder Mohan Suri, Executive Engineer Constt. Div. 4th SAMAGRA Shiksha, Sanjeev Kumar; AEE PWD Div. Poonch, Zonal Education Officer (All), AE Samagra Shiksha JE of PWD Div. Poonch as well as Construction Div. 4th, The Joint Director School Education Department Poonch-Rajouri gave a Power Point

Presentation on SAMAGRA Shiksha and briefed about the progress made under different construction/Non-construction components.

The District Dev. Commissioner Poonch issued directions for completion of all approved works within the stipulated time frame and utilization of allocated funds under different components at an earliest. The District Development Commissioner directed Executive Engineer PWD to immediately sort out the matter regarding held up buildings under erstwhile RMSA and submit a report stating the actual physical financial status along with approved cost, allotted cost, expenditure, date of allotment, name of contractor along with timeline of completion.

He was further directed to provide the pending items / material of Girls Hostel Sheesh Mahal Poonch. It was

also decided in the meeting that the Executive Engineer Constt. Div. 4th SAMAGRA Shiksha shall furnish the detailed report to the Chief Education officer regarding all works where land is not available and provide actual physical and financial status under all works being executed by the Construction Div. 4th.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed that the headquarters for JEEs of construction Division 4th be nominated at suitable places where they mark their attendance.

The Executive Engineer Div 4th was also directed to put the approved works for tenders and ensure completion of the same at an earliest.

The DDC issued directions to all the ZEOs to work with dedication and ensure implementation of all government schemes in their respective zones.

Chairperson DDC launches work of JJM scheme at Chak Rakhwalan; Assess damage to road, water pipes in Panchayat Sambal Sui

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 19: Chairman, District Development Council Udhampur, Lal Chand today kick-started construction work of the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme in Panchayat Chak Rakhwalan and assessed the damage to road and water pipe lines in Panchayat Sambal Sui.

At Panchayat Chak Rakhwalan, the DDC chairperson launched the work of the JJM scheme in presence of Chairperson Block Development Council Udhampur, Balwan Singh; Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti, R.K. Mahajan; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Ashok Sharma; Asstt. Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Sandeep Gupta;

Sarpanch Chak Rakhwalan, Shiv Dev Singh and other PRI Members and locals of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman DDC Udhampur said that construction of one more Jal Jeevan Mission project in the District Udhampur is a step towards the mission of providing safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural area.

He further said once completed, every home in the area will have access to clean drinking water ending the problem of scarcity forever. The said Jal Jeevan Mission project will be executed at a cost of Rs.740

crore. The Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur complimented the officers of Jal Shakti Department and called upon them to ensure that all the sanctioned projects were started and completed timely thereby facilitating provision of tap water to each house and habitation.

On the sideline of the tour, Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur also listened to the public grievances of Panchayat Chak Rakhwalan and assured timely redressal of the same. Meanwhile, following complaints of local public about damage of road and water pipe lines by a pri-

vaite telecom company, the Chairman, District Development Council, Lal Chand, Chief Executive Officer, District Development Council Udhampur Ghan Shyam Singh, SHO Udhampur visited Panchayat Sambal Sui and assessed the situation. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman DDC Udhampur stated that he was receiving continuous complaints from the public about damage being done to the road by the company by using machinery under the pretext of laying down fiber wires. He further said that during the visit, he has found that water pipes as well as road infrastructure has suffered considerable damage.

Nagaland fully prepared for free and fair Assembly poll : CEO

KOHIMA, JAN 19

Nagaland chief electoral officer V Shashank Shekhar Friday said that the state is fully prepared for a free, fair and violence-free election.

The state has sought 305 companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) of which 75 advance companies have already arrived. The rest will be coming in batches, he told reporters.

"We are fully prepared and confident as my team, including the state officers, district election officers and the police have been working on the election preparedness and have been reviewing the situation for the last several weeks," Shekhar said.

The Nagaland Assembly election is scheduled to be held on February 27. The official notification will be made on January 31 and February 10 will be the last date of filing nomination. The counting of votes will take place on March 2.

The first level check of the electronic voting machines (EVMs) has been completed and the EVMs have been stored and placed in strong rooms in the districts. Physical train-



ing of personnel assigned for election duties have already been conducted, he said.

"We hope to have free and fair elections in the true spirit of democracy," the CEO said.

State Director General of Police Rupin Sharma said the Central Armed Police Force has already started taking measures to prevent the transportation and distribution of illegal liquor, unauthorised cash, drugs, arms and ammunition and other contraband substances as per the EC's Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The state police will endeavor to initiate all confidence building measures

to ensure an atmosphere free of inducements and threats for the conduct of free and fair elections, he said.

The DGP also appealed to the people to coordinate and cooperate with the security forces and the election machinery in the state for ensuring the smooth conduct of elections.

Shekhar said Nagaland has total 13,17,634 electors, including 7,983 service voters, 36,403 above 80 years of age and, 6,970 with disabilities. There are no third gender voters in the state, he said.

There are total 2,315 polling stations in the state, which is an increase of 5.51 percent compared to 2019

when there were 2199 polling stations. Of the total, 680 have been marked as vulnerable and 920 as critical polling stations, he said.

The CEO said the Merapini polling station of Bhandari constituency in Wokha district has the lowest number of 37 voters. Ghaspani-1 in Chumoukedima has the largest number of voters at 74,395.

He appreciated the residents of two villages - Nihokhu in Niuland district and Khuzama in Kohima district who have resolved not to accept bribes or any form of inducement for casting their votes and hoped that more villages will come forward and take a similar step.

Nagaland has total 60 Assembly seats of which one is vacant after the death of an MLA on January 7.

The current strength of the parties in the House is Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) - 41, BJP - 12, NPF - 4 and Independent - 2.

The term of the present Assembly will end on March 12.

PM launches title deed distribution for over 52 000 nomadic families in north Karnataka



KALABURAGI JAN 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched the 'Hakku Patra' (land title deed) distribution drive for over 52,000 nomadic Lambani (Banjara) families in five districts in north Karnataka.

The Prime Minister distributed 'Hakku Patra' to five nomadic couples on the occasion. This Hakku Patra will secure future of thousands of people living in the 'Thandas' (Lambani habitats) in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgiri, Raichur and Vijayapura districts, he noted.

"It's a big day for the people of Banjara (Lambani nomadic) community as over 50,000 people will get their own roof by way of Hakku Patra", the PM said at a public meeting at Malkhed in this district.

Way back in 1995, it was recommended to give revenue village status to 'Thandas' but the political party that remained in power for the longest period used the Lambanis as the vote-bank and never tried to improve the living condition of these

backward families, he claimed.

"Those living in Thandas had to wage a long struggle for their rights and face many difficulties. They had to wait for a long time," Modi said.

"But now the depressing atmosphere is changing. I want to assure the Banjara mothers that their son (Modi) is sitting in Delhi."

Modi pointed out that the Banjaras were getting the title deed on the land they held for several decades in the 'auspicious' January as this was the month when the constitution was implemented and the countrymen got their fundamental rights. Today in this auspicious January, Karnataka has taken steps for social justice to the people, he said.

Invoking the name of 12th Century AD social reformer Basaveshwara, whose followers known as Lingayat form a dominant community in North Karnataka, Modi said the 'double engine government' (BJP government at the centre and Karnataka) has opened the way for good administration and harmony, which are the

basic fundamentals of the teachings of 'Basavanna'.

"The Banjara nomadic tribe had faced much inconvenience for decades. Now you got an opportunity to lead a life with honour and dignity," the Prime Minister said, referring to the BJP government's scheme in poll-bound Karnataka, which will go for Assembly elections in four months.

He also told the gathering that the Centre has introduced Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme under which property cards in land holders. Now, the Banjara community will also get the same facility enabling them to get toilet in every house, electricity, water, and cooking gas connection.

Slamming the Congress indirectly, Modi said even after so many decades of Indian independence, there are communities which are deprived of development and was outside the purview of government assistance. "Those who ruled the country for maximum years took votes from the deprived community but did not take concrete steps to uplift them," the Prime Minister charged. For the first time such downtrodden communities are getting their rights due to a clear strategy for their empowerment, Modi said.

He also apprised the crowd about the various pro-people measures such as Ayushman Bharat, free ration, loans through Jan Dhan account and PM SVANidhi scheme.

WHO says it backs global health agenda of Indian presidency set at G20 meet

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 19

The WHO on Thursday said it was a strong supporter of the Global Health Agenda being set by the Indian presidency at the G20 Health Working Group meeting here as it was focused, well-articulated and takes into account priorities of the day.

Stephanie Seydoux, WHO envoy for Multilateral Affairs at the G20 India Health Working Group Meet here, further said on the sidelines that the agenda being set by the Indian presidency was ambitious and well supported by G20 members and participants.

"The World Health Organisation (WHO) is a very strong supporter of the Global Health Agenda being set by the Indian presidency. It is indeed an ambitious agenda, but it is focused, well-articulated and it certainly speaks of the priorities of the

day," she said.

The first Health Working Group meeting under G20 India Presidency is underway presently and would conclude on January 20. India assumed the presidency of the G20 on December 1, 2022.

On the issues being considered in the meeting, Seydoux said the global health architecture, preparedness and response were being discussed.

Besides that, better, more equitable and efficient access to enough counter-measures like vaccines, medicines and diagnostics were also topics of discussion, she said.

"We are discussing how to improve access to vital vaccines, medicines and diagnostics," she said and added that India has a lot to say on that.

Seydoux said the framework which has to be at the basis of all future global improvement "has to be based on solidarity, cooperation and sharing

the best practices as well as transferring technology and capacity".

"That is definitely the WHO position," she said.

On Wednesday, India said emergency preparedness is an overarching priority that requires building of resilient health systems across the world to protect people in the face of similar crises.

The Health Track of the G20 India Presidency would comprise four Health Working Group (HWG) Meetings and one Health Ministerial Meeting (HMM).

The meetings would be held in different locations across the country, including Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Goa, Hyderabad (Telangana) and Gandhinagar (Gujarat), highlighting the Prime Minister's call to action to showcase India's rich and diverse cultures.

Noida : Aunt plans man's killing over domestic row, flees to Saudi Arabia

NOIDA, JAN 19

The police on Thursday said they have arrested two men who had allegedly shot at a private firm's employee near Noida two days ago and will be issued a look out circular for his aunt who had planned the murder but has now absconded to Saudi Arabia.

Abhishek (28), who works for an electronics firm, was returning from work in Bisrakh to his home in Surajpur when two unidentified bike-borne men opened fire at him and fled the spot on Tuesday evening, according to the police. He had suffered a gunshot injury near his waist and was hospitalized in a critical condition,

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Noida) Vishal Pandey said.

"The investigation in the case was taken up and today two people, identified as Jaivardhan Singh (28) and Amit Kumar (26), have been arrested by officials of the Ecotech 3 police station. During investigation, it also emerged that the whole episode was planned by victim's own aunt - his mother's sister Anjali," Pandey said.

"Anjali had been living in Abhishek's house as a tenant and had a lot of guests coming over there. However, Abhishek's family members had objected to some of Anjali's guests who

frequently visited her and owing to this she was asked to vacate the house," the officer said.

However, this did not go down well with Anjali who resolved about exacting revenge from the family over this and contacted Jaivardhan and Amit for the job, the Additional DCP said.

Ecotech 3 police station in-charge Sunil Dutta said the woman was asked to vacate the house in Surajpur area around three-four months ago and had been planning revenge on the family ever since then.

"She had roped in the two accused, who work at a salon, for the job. As the plan was all set and only left to be executed, Anjali left for Saudi Arabia some 10 days ago," Dutta said.

Meanwhile, Additional DCP Pandey said the police will be issuing a look out circular for Anjali. Abhishek's health condition has improved and he is out of danger now, the officer added.

Dutta said the accused have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections 307 (attempt to murder), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and under provisions of the Arms Act.

Both Jaivardhan and Amit were produced in a local court Thursday afternoon and have been remanded in judicial custody, he added.

Centre passing the buck by not deciding issue of "living will" : SC

NEW DELHI, JAN 19

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the Union government was abdicating its legislative responsibility and passing the buck by not taking a decision on "living will", an advance medical directive on end of life treatment.

The apex court's 2018 order on passive euthanasia wherein it recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right and an aspect of Article 21 (right to life) notwithstanding, people wanting to get a "living will" registered have been facing problems due to cumbersome guidelines. Observing that this is a matter where the chosen representatives of the country should debate, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said the court lacks the requisite expertise and is dependent on the information provided by the parties.

"The areas which are meant for the Legislature to exercise its powers, by not exercising the power and by actually sort of agreeing to the issues, you are actually passing the buck. Ultimately you will say we didn't do anything, the court passed the order. You are abdicating your legislative responsibility."

"Under the scheme of separation of powers, this is squarely a matter you should have taken up. This is a matter where the chosen representatives should debate and come out with meticulous guidelines. We don't have the expertise except the information you have provided," it observed.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, submitted that the issue was discussed and deliberated upon.

"Not passing any legislation was a categorical decision. The judgement has been accepted and we are not



aggrieved by the original directions," he said.

Expressing apprehension of possible misuse of "living will", the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and Justice C T Ravikumar, said there are chances that this might be abused and there needs to be a safeguard.

"We are concerned about absence of ethics and lack of morals which might drive profit driven people. Beware of that. Throughout we have seen. Relatives might be very enamoured by the idea that this person should not go through a particular treatment because of their wealth. So beware of it. There should be safeguards," it said, adding the matter should not be taken as adversarial.

Senior advocate Arvind P Datar, appearing for The Indian Society for Critical Care, submitted that the advance directive is declared when the person is fully conscious and there are safeguards like witnesses and putting the information in health records. Datar said the society has sought clarifications because those willing to

apply for advance directive could not do so as there were lots of hurdles. The top court asked the ASG and Datar to sit together and submit the final compilation by Monday.

The matter will now be taken up on Tuesday. The apex court had on Wednesday indicated that it might accept the suggestion to keep a Judicial Magistrate of First Class and district collector out of the process for making a living will. The top court had said that it will not review its 2018 judgement on passive euthanasia and only make the guidelines on "living will" more workable.

More than four years after their landmark order on passive euthanasia, the top court had on Tuesday said it is for the legislature to enact a law for terminally ill patients wanting to stop treatment but agreed to modify its 2018 guidelines on "living will".

Observing that the legislature is much more endowed with "skills and sources of knowledge" to enact a relevant law, the court said it will limit itself to improving the guidelines it had laid down on "living will".

Rajasthan : Bharat Jodo Yatra 'thaw' ends, Gehlot-Pilot power tussle resumes

JAIPUR, JAN 19

The power tussle between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his bete noire Sachin Pilot that seemed to have thawed briefly during the Bharat Jodo Yatra has resumed within days of the march crossing the state with the two leaders sparring again.

One of the stated aims of the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir yatra was to unify party cadres and while it may have done so in some states, Rajasthan's factional feud continues unabated with the Gehlot and Pilot camps picking up the cudgels from where they left them just ahead of the yatra. As the Bharat Jodo Yatra's Rajasthan leg ended on December 21, the Congress had heaved a sigh of relief as it passed the state without any face-off between the supporters of Gehlot and Pilot despite sloganeering on the roads.

But it proved to be just a brief thaw with Pilot announcing a series of public outreach events in the state which many see as a show of strength and a reminder to the high command that his grievances remain unaddressed.

In his remarks at the rallies, Pilot has cornered the Gehlot government over issues such as the repeated paper leaks and political appointments of retired bureaucrats while sidelining party workers.

At the same time, the demand from the Pilot camp to make him chief minister has also started again with leaders loyal to him openly calling for him being given the top job in the

state ahead of the elections later this year. With nearly 10 months left for assembly elections, Pilot is addressing 'Kisan Sammelans' in different districts, in which he is talking about how the party was able to form the government in 2018 after a five-year struggle on road when he was the party's state unit chief.

The former deputy chief minister is also highlighting that the number of Congress MLAs was reduced to 21 in 2015 elections that the party lost after Gehlot's second stint as CM.

A party worker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "The issues are still unresolved between the two senior Congress leaders which will certainly have an adverse impact on the prospects of the party winning the next elections."

Another party worker said it is necessary for all party leaders to be united and the Gehlot-Pilot fight is bound to weaken the party. The Congress leadership has been tight-lipped about the power tussle and only said that party president Mallikarjun Kharge and other leaders are working to find a solution to the issues there that will strengthen the organisation.

Political observers believe it would not be easy to solve the vexed issue with Gehlot digging his heels in against handing over the CM chair to Pilot, who is adamant about his demands, including action against Gehlot loyalist MLAs who had defied party directive for a legislative party meeting that was likely to authorise the AICC chief to decide on

the leadership change.

Sanjay K Pandey, political commentator and professor at the Jawaharalal Nehru University (JNU), said the Congress is in a "catch 22" situation in Rajasthan and would find it very difficult to resolve the issue. It is not easy for the Congress high command as Gehlot has dugged in his heels and it is difficult to dislodge him from the CM's chair, he opined. Both the leaders have their strengths and while Pilot was the state chief before the polls with a lot of appeal among the youth, Gehlot is very good at keeping his flock together, Pandey told agencies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Parshotam Kumar S/O Giridhari Lal R/O H.No.284, L.No.22, Jawahar Nagar, New Plot, Jammu have Purchased vehicle bearing registration No. JK02BH-0544, from Gulzar Ahmed S/O Mohd Mir R/O 333 Housing Colony, Jammu. New 1, am applying for transfer if any objection may be conveyed to concern authority within seven days from this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Raja Wazim Ahamed S/O Late Raja Gull Ahmed R/O Village Dallah Near, H.No. 71 Phase-II, Housing Colony, have changed my name from Raja Wazim Ahamed to Raja Wazim Ahmed, for all future purposes. Objections if any please contact the concerned department or undersigned.

G20 SUMMIT

Div Com Kmr conducts extensive tour of major Roads, Parks, Sites; takes stock of preparation for G20 Summit

JI NEWS SERVICE

Instructs for facade & visual improvement to enhance aesthetic aspect of roads, parks, sites, govt buildings, flyovers
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: In the run-up to host first ever G20 Summit in Srinagar in May, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today conducted an extensive tour of major roads and prime sites along these roads including parks, government buildings, commercial structures and under construction sites in Srinagar.

At the outset, Div Com Kashmir held a meeting of officers at Srinagar Airport during which he highlighted the importance of hosting G20 Summit at Srinagar and issued a set of instructions to enhance the facade of roads through development of foot paths, medians, traffic road furnishing, landscape improvement, installation of roadsides VMDs, installation of hoardings besides



removal of wooden poles, rusted plant guards, hanging cable wires and unnecessary road dividers and debris.

On the occasion, Div Com directed for painting of Government buildings and commercial buildings along the roads to increase the aesthetic value of those structures. He directed for pruning of trees, plantation of ornamental green plants on medians, removal of withered trees.

The meeting was attended by

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, VC LCMA, Chief Engineer PDD and officers of Tourism, Traffic, Hospitality & Protocol, FWD, NHAI, BSNL, Social Forestry, Urban Forestry, Floriculture, Airport Authority and other allied departments.

Later, Div Com commenced the extensive tour from the Airport and inspected ongoing works at several locations. During the tour he was accompanied by DC

Srinagar, Commissioner SMC and other officers.

In lieu of G20 Summit, the roads which are to be developed and upgraded by concerned agencies include Road from Srinagar Airport to SKICC, Residency Road, Boulevard Road, roads leading to Hotel Lalit, Hotel Taj and Nehru Guest House, roads leading to mutual gardens, Parimahal, Cheshmashahi, Botanical Garden, Srinagar to Gulmarg, Roads towards Zeesta Temple, Shankar Acharya, Dalgate to Hazratbal, besides beautification of spaces under flyovers. During the tour, Div Com directed PHIE to replace overhead water pipes through underground system to clear space on footpaths and roads.

He asked floriculture departments to replace the dried up flower plants from hanging flower pots with new plants and correct the orientation of pots.

To clear the visual pollution of

wires and cables, he directed for removal of cables and wire meshes. Pole asked traffic police for orientation of traffic signals and functioning of traffic signals besides installation of traffic signals.

Also, Div Com instructed for use of Swachh Bharat Mission symbols and boards with the ranking of the city on SBM. Besides, he underlined the installation of welcome signages and boards at different locations.

To meet the developmental requirements and upgradation works on time, Div Com set the time frame for all the departments and asked them to submit a compliance report of planned works after every 15 days. He fixed the deadline for all the works by 15 April, 2023 beyond which he said no work shall extend. He directed for homogeneous & synchronized display boards of commercial establishments at markets and along the said roads.

He also directed for uniformity in the display boards of commercial establishments at markets and along the said roads.

Republic Day: Security Jammu issues guidelines for visitors

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JANUARY 19: Security Jammu has issued guidelines for people participating in the Republic Day celebration this year.

In this regard, Senior Superintendent of Police, Security Jammu, Swarn Singh Kotwal, today issued a detailed information regarding do's and don'ts for general public in connection with observance of national event in the region.

He said that great public participation is expected in the Republic Day function on 26th January, 2023 so the Security Jammu has sought cooperation from the visitors to facilitate their safe and comfortable entry and parking in the event at M A Stadium.

As per a public notice issued in this regard, the public has been asked not to carry cell phone, camera, arms/ammunition, sharp edged weapons, hand bags, polythene bags, transistor, toys, tools, stop watch, any kind of powder, inflammable material like cigarettes, match boxes and lighter and related objectionable items while entering into the venue.

The general public has further been advised to extend full co-operation to the frisking/checking teams deployed at different gates, which is in fact meant for their own safety and peaceful culmination of the Republic Day function. Besides, the expected visitors have also been asked to maintain queue while entering the gates through Door Frame Metal Detector installed at the gates and avoid unnecessary altercation with security personnel.

The notice has also advised the public to ensure their presence well in time so that they could enter the venue and be seated comfortably without any inconvenience. "Do not hesitate to disclose your identity in case you are requested for the same by security personnel or the uniformed police personnel", notice explained to general public.

It was informed that proper parking slots have been earmarked for all categories/types of vehicles, the public can seek help from Traffic Police personnel for parking of their vehicles at the appropriate parking places.

Security Jammu has fervently appealed the public to immediately inform the police personnel on duty in case of any suspicious person or item is noticed without touching the same.

Chairman DDC Doda discusses formulation of District Capex Budget 2023-24 in Council meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JANUARY 19: A meeting of District Development Council (DDC) Doda was held here today under the chairmanship of its chairman, Dhanantr Singh Kotwal.

Among others, the meeting was attended by DDC Vice Chairman, Additional District Development Commissioner, CPO Doda, DDC Members, and BDC Chairpersons.

CEO of the Council (ADDC) Doda apprised the Council about the guidelines for the formulation of the plans under the District Capex budget 2023-24. The meeting discussed the developmental scenario of the district.

The Chairman urged the councillors and BDC Chairpersons to maintain close coordination with the officers and project only feasible developmental works as per the norms of the scheme. He asked them to submit technically feasible works for the approval from the competent authority by or before 31st of January. He further asked them not to take works, which can be covered/ taken up under other government sponsored schemes. He also urged them to take up community benefit works, with the scope of inter block or inter panchayat coverage, depending upon their requirement in the area.

The Chairman stressed that end result on ground must benefit the general public and avoid individual benefit works.

Members and Chairpersons were asked to utilize the grants judiciously in high priority sectors in coordination with the line departments. Dhanantr Singh said that the council was committed to make possible, the fruits of new era of development reach to the last man in the last row.

MD JKPC reviews development works in Kashmir division



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: Managing Director, JKPC Project Construction Corporation Limited, R K Sharma, conducted an exhaustive three day tour of Kashmir division to review status of major development works being executed in the region.

He had a detailed assessment of progress on several ongoing works in Srinagar and Anantnag districts with the concerned Deputy General Managers. He issued directions to the concerned DGMs to further gear up the pace of works ensuring completion of vital projects within the stipulated time.

MD also inspected development works being executed in Government Medical College Baramulla, Government Degree College, Boniyar with an estimated cost of Rs. 113.49 crore and Rs. 13.92 crore respectively.

DC Ramban reviews implementation of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JANUARY 19: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the Village Development Plan formulated by the line departments for holistic development of village Kanthi identified by the Union MoS and Member Parliament Udhampur- Kathua Constituency Dr. Jitendra Singh under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Among others, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Sharam, ADC, Harbans Lal Sharma, ACR, Giasul-Haq, ACD, Ashok Singh, CMO, CEO, CHO, CAO, DSHO, Executive Engineers JPDCI and Jal Shakti, DSWO, ARTO, BDO and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Discussing the basic objective of the scheme, the DC said it aims to keep the rural areas accessible while providing the local people access to quality basic amenities and opportunities to enable them to achieve desired developmental goals.

Mentioning that the scheme is unique and transformative as it has a holistic approach towards development of rural areas, the DC asked the officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, Education, Social Welfare, ICDS, Forest and all the departments dealing with job oriented schemes to saturate implementation of the same in Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana village Kanthi which envisages integrated development of the selected village across multiple areas such as.

The DC asked the officers that besides infrastructure development, the scheme aims at instilling certain values, such as community participation, Antyodaya, gender equality, dignity of women, social justice, spirit of community service, cleanliness, eco-friendliness, maintaining ecological balance, peace and harmony, mutual cooperation, self-reliance, local self-Government, transparency and accountability in public life in the villages so that they get transformed into models for others.

Dr Samoon reviews physical, financial progress under Capex Budget 2022-23

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the physical and financial progress under Capex Budget 2022-23.

The meeting was attended by Director Skill Development Department, Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir, Principals and Superintendents of Government Polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes while Managing Director, JKPC, Chief Engineer, R&B Jammu, Director State Motor Garages, General Managers of JKPC, District Executive Engineers and other officers participated online.

Threadbare discussion was held on latest work wise detail regarding both physical and financial progress achieved under Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the status of new Polytechnics of CAPEX Budget 2022-23 of the department.

Principal Secretary had a detailed project wise review besides enquiring about the present status of all the ongoing development works. He assessed physical and financial progress on projects taken up during



the current financial year 2022-23 under the Capex budget.

Dr Samoon asked the concerned heads of the executing agencies to expedite the remaining ongoing works so that the buildings would be handed over to the department at the earliest. He directed the concerned officers to take appropriate measures for execution of new works under both the sectors 'Polytechnics as well as ITIs' to ensure utilization of funds earmarked for the purpose under Capex Budget 2022-23.

It is pertinent to mention that the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development had sanctioned 18 new Polytechnics during 2009-2010 for uncovered districts of J&K under

'Sub-Mission on Polytechnic under coordinated action for Skill Development' Scheme.

Out of 18 Polytechnics, 09 are being constructed in Kashmir division including at Kupwara, Bandipora, Budgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama. Besides, 09 Polytechnics are being established in Jammu division at Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Udhampur, Reasi, Kathua, Samba and Rajouri.

Out of these 18, two (02) Polytechnics of Rajouri and Pulwama have been established in the campus of Baba Gulam Shah Badshah and Islamic University of Science and Technology Awantipora, Pulwama respectively.

PSPS Govt PG College for women shines in Yuvtarang competitions

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JANUARY 19: Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for women Gandhinagar has bagged first position in various inter-college competitions held under the aegis of Yuvtarang. The event witnessed a series of literary activities being held in Cluster colleges. Haspreet Kour of BSC sem 3rd of PSPS

Govt PG College for women bagged first position in Debate Competition, while Mansha Akhter of B.A Honours Sem 1st got First position in poetry and Mehak Sharma of BA Sem 5th got 3rd position in elocution.

The team of the College participating in Quiz competition bagged 3rd position.

The team comprised Kamna

Sharma, Jai Pathania and Shakhshi Sharma all students of B.A Sem 1st.

The students were mentored by Assistant professor Anupama Sharma. Professor Paramjeet Singh, Cultural coordinator, Dr Revika and Assistant Dean Student welfare Dr Javed Iqbal, Dr B.D Shergil Associate Professor lauded the students for bringing laurels to the college.

Joint efforts of Gram Panchayats, Social Forestry leading towards creation of green assets in rural areas

27932.25 qntl fodder, 17982.855 qntl fuel wood distributed among 29043 households in 20 districts of J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 19: The shared endeavors of Social Forestry Department and Gram Panchayats has substantially proved of huge magnitude towards creation of green assets in rural pockets of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir government, after successfully establishing three tier Panchayati Raj system in the Union Territory, devolved powers and responsibilities with respect to various departments, which marked the beginning of collaborated working between Department of Social Forestry and



Gram Panchayats.

Vacant community/state lands under the control of Gram Panchayats are being utilized for taking up plantations which are being maintained by Village Panchayat Plantation Committees

(VPPCs). Various successful plantation units have been established in Gram Panchayats during past 4 years under new decentralized working set up. The plantation assets are yielding benefits to local people in the form of Grass and

leaf fodder, fuel wood and small timber on equitable basis which is catalyzing the economic well being of rural people", stated Nazir Benazir, member of J&K Executive Committee, CAMPAA. The Executive Committee sanctions and monitors various afforestation activities being funded under CAMPAA in Jammu and Kashmir. Benazir, who recently conducted an extensive field visit of Jammu, Kathua and Samba districts along with senior officers of Social Forestry Department, met members of more than a dozen Gram Panchayats of these districts and inspected the plantation works established in various

Gram Panchayats. He interacted with members of VPPCs and local people. The collaborative working between Social Forestry and Gram Panchayats is an apt example of responsive local self governance which can help accelerate the pace of development in rural areas besides making GPs self reliant. Nazir was highly appreciative to note that afforestation activities are not only ensuring continuous flow of free benefits like fodder, fuel wood to villagers but Gram Panchayats are earning substantial funds as proceeds of mature plantations which are being used for development works by Gram Panchayats.